

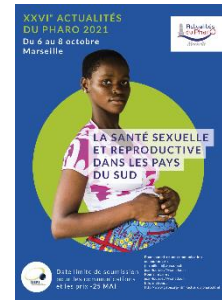
Actualités du Pharo 2021 – Session 3

Capacity building of hairdressers on short term family planning methods in Mali

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Assitan Baya SIDIBE

assitanbsidibe@yahoo.fr



Family planning (FP) has long been recognised in sub-Saharan Africa as an essential means of maintaining the health and well-being of women and their families.

Mali has joined global movements in addition to its internal policies for the improvement of maternal and child health, such as the Campaign to Accelerate Reduction of Maternal and Newborn Mortality in Africa (CARMMA), the Ouagadougou Partnership (OP) and the FP2020 Initiative, with the aim of ensuring better rights-based access to quality FP services.

Also as part of the repositioning of FP, at the international level, particular emphasis was placed on Youth at the London Conference on Family Planning.

In the area of reproductive health of young people under 18 years of age, i.e. 53% of the population in Mali, the situation is alarming. Early marriage and inadequate sex education are major challenges leading to high rates of early pregnancy, clandestine abortions and many deaths.

In addition, RH/FP services are not youth-friendly in most cases. Young people's access to FP services and products remains a challenge due to limited access to social communication tools for FP change. These factors are compounded by the persistence of socio-cultural and religious constraints, the weakness of community dialogue on FP, the lack of parent-child dialogue and finally the weak advocacy for young people's sexual and reproductive health rights.

According to the sixth Mali Demographic and Health Survey 2018, the use of modern contraception methods is 16%.

The region of Sikasso, the second most populous region, has low FP indicators both in terms of service use (19.2%) and unmet need (23%).

Faced with these numerous challenges, Mali has developed its National Budgeted Action Plan (NBSAP 2019-2023) which takes into account all the challenges identified and the regional and international commitments, the objective of which is 30% by 2023.

Thus, at the regional level, with the support of the French Muskoka Fund, an annual work plan has been drawn up by all the actors in the sector (health, social development and promotion of women) and one of the innovative activities is capacity building for hairdressers on short-term family planning methods to boost the use of FP services by young people.