Rapid assessment tool for integration of in/fertility care

### Objectives and Background

Providing care to assist and better ensure a healthy start to pregnancy will help to fill the gap in the continuum of care between traditional family planning, sexual and reproductive health care (FP/RH), AND antenatal, maternal, perinatal and child health care (MNCH). Integrating a fertility care program in this time gap could address needs related to a healthy pregnancy start as well as the needs of individuals and couples with fertility problems. To assist individuals and couples with their unmet need for access to fertility care, programmes need to be established in a well-coordinated manner to provide a coherent and integrated response to the needs of their clients. The outstanding problems are to establish appropriate and effective programmes for fertility care (awareness, management and support) and ensure adequate access for all persons, including at-risk and marginalized populations. Assessments at country level are the first stage in a process which has proved to be highly effective, flexible and adaptable, and ensures country ownership. As it is an important mechanism for policy change, countries can therefore begin with “the end in mind:” scaling-up with sustainability and monitoring of integrated services. A draft tool is being developed based upon the innovative Rapid Assessment Tool for SRH and HIV linkages. Subsequent implementation research utilizing this adaptable SRH-HIV tool has resulted in numerous case studies and research reports, resulting in integration of best practice. For the tool in infertility, field testing is required through an operations research approach in order to determine applicability, acceptability and efficiency of implementation, prior to development of key questions for implementation research.

### Geographic location

Proposed: Zambia, Sudan

### Main deliverables

Adaptable tool for research, with recommendations for operational implementation research.

### Partners

Ministries of Health, WHO Country Offices

### Sources of funding

Queensland University of Technology; Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation

### Date Issued

February 2012 – December 2015, with outcome and continued operational research if additional funding is secured in 2016

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