

International Expert Group Meeting on

Assessing approaches to demand-side family planning measurement with a reproductive justice and rights framework

Organized by the [IUSSP Panel on Rethinking Family Planning Measurement with a Reproductive Justice and Rights Lens](#)

March 5-7, 2024 , Kenya

Call for Papers and Participating Experts

Deadline for submission of abstracts: October 22, 2023

Alongside the growing availability of family planning (FP) services and increasing use of contraceptive methods globally, there is increasing attention to supporting equitable access to FP services and to meeting individual's reproductive needs and goals. Yet the most common measures the FP field and researchers rely on— such as contraceptive prevalence, unmet need and demand satisfied— do not capture important aspects of equity or of individuals' needs, goals, preferences, and behaviors. **While there has been a long history of critique of these measures; recognition of the imperative to improve FP measures and measurement has become more widespread. This is in response to well-founded concerns that reproductive autonomy is threatened by an intense focus on contraceptive uptake and the call of the reproductive rights and reproductive justice movements to reframe goals and programmatic intentions to prioritize and reflect individual's values and preferences.**

In this context, there is a need for researchers, program implementers, policy makers, advocates, and other civil society members to come together and examine measures and measurement approaches that can be used to assess family planning progress, opportunities, and gaps in a way that is reflective of individuals' self-identified needs and goals and supportive of the global goal of universal access to sexual and reproductive health.

This expert group meeting will bring together a multi-disciplinary community of researchers, advocates, and thinkers from different regions and countries to navigate a path forward for future measurement of population-based family planning demand-side indicators [i.e., measures of needs, goals, preferences, and behaviors related to fertility and family planning]. This expert group meeting will include presentations on novel measures already developed, thought pieces on considerations for future measurement, and group discussions of ways forward for family planning measurement.

The Need for New Measures

Researchers have identified problems and limitations with key family planning indicators, including contraceptive prevalence, unmet need, and demand satisfied, and concerns have been raised with other core indicators used to monitor progress of different international initiatives and political commitments. Problems identified include those with conceptualization (e.g., stability of fertility intentions), questionnaire design (e.g., respondent understanding of "current use"), measurement (e.g., who is in the numerator or denominator), interpretation, mathematical models, data gaps, the periodic exclusion of traditional methods, failure to consider the user (or non-user) perspectives, exclusion of partner preferences, and relevance across contexts, including low contraceptive use settings.

The **key areas of interest** for submission for the expert group meeting include:

<p>Demand-side family planning indicators and measurement approaches</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Improvements to measurement approaches for demand-side indicators (i.e., using existing data sources) ● New demand-side measures of FP being tested, including person-centered measures and measures to better capture equity ● Novel demand-side FP measures for different data sources (e.g., routine vs. survey data) ● Measures to capture desires, wants, needs, and demands for fertility and FP ● Intention to use FP - what it means and how it is measured and used ● Assessing the full range of contraceptive use, including traditional method use, coital dependent use, self-care use, and partner use
<p>Demand-side measurement considerations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Life course considerations for demand-side FP measurement ● Improved measures that address men’s and couple’s preferences, desires, needs, etc. ● Incorporation of traditional methods as part of FP measurement ● Measures that bring an intersectional perspective and/or focus specifically on inequities ● Infertility and inability to achieve fertility/reproductive goals as part of measurement (e.g. unwanted FP) ● Reproductive justice-specific considerations in fertility and FP measurement
<p>Person-centered measurement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Person-centered measurement – what do we mean and what are the implications for FP indicators ● Agency and autonomy and what role they have in person-centered FP measures ● Considerations for how norms or self-efficacy affect FP choices/options ● Role of social, policy and community context in shaping FP desires, wants, needs, preferences and use ● Role of person-centered measurement for program monitoring and evaluation
<p>Fertility and FP preferences</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Alignment or misalignment of fertility preferences and contraceptive behaviors ● Measurement of FP preference (preference stability, constraints on preference, method-specific preferences, strength of preferences etc.) ● How information and agency shape FP and fertility preference formation ● Fertility preferences versus FP preferences ● Measuring fertility preferences and FP use in low-fertility settings ● Meaning, measurement, and interpretation of fertility and FP preferences among young people

Participation:

There are two ways to participate in this expert group meeting:

- a) present a paper in a focused area;
- b) serve as a discussant with an emphasis on programmatic, policy, and/or advocacy implications of measurement.

There are two submission mechanisms: 1) submit a paper; 2) submit an expression of interest to be a participating expert. Papers may be country-specific or comparative, empirical, methodological or conceptual, but should all consider demand-side FP measurement (i.e., not supply-side FP measurement). This seminar will bring together demographers, public health specialists, sociologists, economists and anthropologists, as well as experts from other related disciplines interested in exchanging the latest knowledge on family planning measurement.

The IUSSP Panel on Rethinking Family Planning Measurement with a Reproductive Justice and Rights Lens invites interested individuals and teams to submit through one of the two mechanisms (submit a paper or submit as an expert). Details of the submission criteria for the two mechanisms can be found at the link below and are briefly summarized here.

Those wishing to **present information or research** related to the key areas listed above are asked to submit a detailed abstract up to 1000 words (and if the author(s) wish, a full paper) and fill out the online submission under the category “submit a paper.”

Those wishing to **participate as an expert** will fill out the submission form and provide information on their background and experience in informing family planning measurement and/or how they use family planning measurement for their current program, policy, and/or research work.

All interested presenters and participants will be asked to also provide their perspectives on various roles they foresee playing in the meeting including as presenters, discussants, and ideas for informing the sessions and focus of the meeting. Submissions are due by October 22, 2023 and instructions can be found on the IUSSP website at:

<https://iussp.org/en/call-papers-assessing-approaches-demand-side-fp-measurement-reproductive-justice-and-rights>.

Please submit to only one of the two submission mechanisms. Those invited to present research will also be considered as a potential expert if their abstract is not accepted for the meeting. Deadline is October 22, 2023.

→ [Submit a paper](#)

→ [Submit interest in being an expert participant](#)

Applicants will be informed whether their paper or submission of interest is accepted by: December 1, 2023.

Participants must submit their complete paper by two weeks before the meeting.

The seminar will be limited to about 20 contributed papers and 10 invited experts/discussants. If a paper or commentary is co-authored, please indicate the names of co-authors at the end of the abstract. Submission should be made by the author who will attend the seminar.

Abstracts and papers may be submitted in English, French or Spanish.

In addition to dissemination through posting on the member-restricted portion of the IUSSP website, seminar organizers will discuss with participants the possibility for publishing the papers/presentations in a journal or report format, after the seminar.

Funding is available for presenting authors and invited experts to participate in the expert meeting. If you do not require funding, please indicate that in your submission. Participation and financial support to attend the meeting for presenting authors is contingent upon submission of a complete paper of acceptable quality by the deadline for papers. For invited experts, participation and financial support is contingent on active engagement in meeting design and development.

For further information, please contact Elizabeth Sully (esully@guttmacher.org) or Ilene Speizer (ilene_speizer@unc.edu).

IUSSP Panel on Rethinking Family Planning Measurement with a Reproductive Justice and RightsLens

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