

Panel's activities during 2022–2025

The IUSSP Panel on [Rethinking Family Planning Measurement with a Reproductive Justice and Rights Lens](#) has had an active first couple of years. The panel organized global webinars, an in-person expert group meeting, held convenings at regional population conferences, and is now undertaking a global survey of family planning (FP) measurement experts. These activities are designed to advance scientific conversations, convene key experts working to advance new measures, and engage a diverse range of voices from all regions, to work towards recommendations for new measures that the FP field can use.

The panel kicked off its work by leading two global webinars in May of 2023 and June of 2023. The first was meant to provide a historical perspective on fertility and family planning (FP) measurement and considerations for moving forward (title: [Why do we measure what we do? Reflecting on the history and current use of demand-side family planning indicators](#)). The second was meant to push the conversations into new directions around measurement and introduce novel measures (title: [How should we define and measure demand for and use of family planning? New directions and frameworks for family planning measurement](#)). These webinars included presentations from 12 global experts on FP measurement and were attended by over 400 participants.

The second key activity of the Panel was an Expert Group Meeting in Mombasa, Kenya in March 2024 with 53 participants from over 16 countries. The goal of this meeting was to review and discuss novel measures of FP demand, as part of the panel's larger process of moving towards recommendations for new FP measures. Over 100 people applied to participate in the meeting, including over 50 abstract submissions. The planning for this meeting included putting out a call for papers and participants, selecting relevant papers, developing a scientific program that engaged all 50+ participants in the meeting, and coordinating logistics, which was done in collaboration with Population Council Kenya. The meeting was co-funded by the Gates Foundation and USAID. The objectives of the meeting were to: 1) Convene researchers, program implementers, policymakers, advocates, and other civil society members to examine measures and measurement approaches with a reproductive rights and justice lens. 2) Identify measures that can be used to assess FP progress, opportunities, and gaps in a way that is reflective of individuals' self-identified needs and goals (i.e., person-centered). 3) Discuss ways forward to advance global FP measurement. The meeting was organized around the following key themes: grounding frameworks; methodological approaches and innovations; data sources; and engaging data users. The meeting surfaced rich discussion and debate around new directions of measurement, and the evaluations completed by meeting participants were exceedingly positive about their experience at the meeting and the time devoted to discussion. The full meeting report can be found [here](#) and a short summary of the meeting can be found [here](#).

Building on the momentum from the expert group meeting, the IUSSP panel steering committee identified a number of follow-up steps. These were focused on bringing a larger diversity of voices into the conversation around priorities and the need for new measures, and disseminating the work of the panel, both with an aim to support the panel in its work towards producing recommendations for new directions in FP measurement.

To engage a larger diversity of voices in the discussions on rethinking FP measurement, the steering committee organized follow-up meetings at regional population conferences. This included sharing findings at the Population Association of America meetings in Columbus, Ohio in April 2024, undertaken in collaboration with the USAID-funded project Agency for All which provided an opportunity to dig deeper into issues of agency and empowerment as part of an improved measurement agenda. In collaboration with an AFIDEP-led BMGF-funded project on traditional methods, findings from the Mombasa meeting were shared at the African Population Conference in Lilongwe Malawi in May 2024. We led a session at the Population Association of Latin America (ALAP) in Bogotá, Colombia where we

shared the work of this Panel and thoughts on the Mombasa Meeting, and invited all the participants to engage with the online survey that was launched in November (see below). All of these meetings provided an opportunity to engage a broader community in discussions of the importance of reconsidering what we measure and why in the field of family planning.

In late 2024 we also began working with *Studies in Family Planning* on a special issue on rethinking FP measurement with a rights, justice, and person-centered lens. The special issue will make publicly available a lot of the content and conversation from the expert group meeting, including publishing a number of the papers presented at the meeting, along with additional commentaries reflecting debates and conversations generated in the Mombasa meeting. The special issue will be released in September 2025 and includes over 15 articles and commentaries related to the work of the panel.

Finally, in fall of 2024, the Panel launched a Delphi/consultative process to engage the global community in examining priorities for improved FP measurement with a reproductive rights and justice framing. As part of the process, we launched an advisory group of 15 FP experts to inform the process. This group helped to develop a diverse pool of expert stakeholders to send the survey to; the final list included 350 people. A web-based survey in English, French, Spanish, and Portuguese was sent to about 350 people in November 2024; we received responses from 220 individuals, with about 150 who completed the full survey including the demographics at the end. The findings from the survey were shared back with the advisory group in May 2025 and will be discussed and shared at a Research Leaders session at the International Population Conference in Brisbane in July 2025. At this juncture, the Panel is identifying next steps for moving from lessons learned through this survey to more specific recommendations for future FP measurement. This will be the key activity in the upcoming period.