

Acronyms, Abbreviations and Definitions

Acronyms and Abbreviations

AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ARV	Antiretroviral
ART	Antiretroviral Therapy
CARMMA	Campaign for Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa
CEDAW	Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
DALYs	Disability-Adjusted Life Years
FAMPOP	Family Planning Options Project
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GBD	Global Burden of Disease
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HPV	Human Papillomavirus
ILO	International Labour Organization
IITA	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture
IT	Information Technology
ITN	Insecticide Treated Nets
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MYWO	<i>Maendeleo Ya Wanawake</i> Organization, Kenya
MTCT	Mother-to-Child Transmission
NCDs	Noncommunicable Diseases
NGO	Nongovernmental Organization
NPCs	Non-Physician Clinicians
NUWODU	National Union of Women with Disabilities in Uganda
OOP	Out-of-pocket Payment
PHC	Primary Health Care
PMTCT	Prevention of Mother-to-child Transmission
ROSCAS	Rotating Savings and Credit Associations
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
STD	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
TB	Tuberculosis
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WHO	World Health Organization

Definitions

Adolescent	A female aged 10–19 years
Adult woman	A female aged 20–59 years
Badienou Gokh	A health care mentor/honorary aunt
Best practice	Knowledge about what works in specific situations and contexts, without using inordinate resources to achieve the desired results, and which can be used to develop and implement solutions adapted to similar health problems in other situations and contexts
Customary laws	Written or unwritten laws developed on the basis of traditions and customs of societies
Community health worker	A worker in the community who has received training in some elements of primary health care
Community-based distributor	A community health worker employed specifically for village-level distribution of family planning commodities
Determinant	A factor such as a personal characteristic, an environmental or a socioeconomic condition that affects health
Elderly woman	A female aged 60 years or more
Female Genital Mutilation	A procedure carried out on girls or young women in which parts of the external sexual organs are removed or reconstructed for social reasons
Girl child	A female aged 0–9 years
Gender	A social construct on roles of men and women in society, based mainly on biological and sexual characteristics of individuals
Human capital	The stock of competencies, knowledge and personality attributes embodied in the ability to perform work in order to produce something of economic value
Life course	A construct of physiological and social transitions in an individual's life from birth to death
Maternal death	The death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and site of the pregnancy, from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management but not from accidental or incidental causes
Multisectoral	A strategy of planning and implementation of approach programmes that involves many sectors of the economy
Non-physician clinicians	Health workers who are trained to acquire competencies so that they can provide the care normally given by doctors
Social capital	Connections within and between social networks that yield benefits
Skilled birth attendants	Health workers who have undergone a certifiable course and acquired a set of internationally recognized competencies in maternal and newborn care
Unsafe abortion	A procedure for terminating an unintended pregnancy carried out either by persons lacking necessary skills or in an environment that does not conform to minimal medical standards, or both
User fees	Out-of-pocket fees paid by clients for health care and related services
WHO Africa Region	Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome & Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe



Interventions to improve women's health that focus solely on public health issues miss the fundamental interconnectedness of health with other factors in society. Recognizing this interconnectedness is the starting point for the multisectoral rethinking of health care strategies that the Commission is calling for in the African Region.