

## SINDH FP2020 WORKING GROUP PAFP SUBGROUP

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

#### 1. Background

Due to stagnant Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR) and high unmet need for family planning, significant number of women have to go through unintended pregnancy in Pakistan. The stigma attached with abortion, ambiguity in understanding the abortion law and lack of knowledge among providers and communities of the availability of comprehensive abortion services (within the existing legal framework that abortion is legal under two conditions- “to save the woman life and provide necessary treatment”), many of the women with unintended pregnancy resort to unsafe abortion every year with resultant high morbidity and mortality. Lack of adequate counseling and low use of post abortion family planning (PAFP) results in repeated abortions and indicates a ‘missed opportunity’ by the health system to better meet the needs of the women during postabortion care. Currently 6 to 13 % of maternal deaths are attributed to unsafe abortions; Correct and consistent use of family planning particularly the PAFP (given early fertility return within 8 days of an abortion) is essential to prevent a significant proportion of maternal mortality in Pakistan; and would be a major contribution in achieving the Goal 3 of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)– promoting good health and well-being.

#### 2. PURPOSE

2.1 The subgroups were made in late 2016 under Sindh FP2020 Working Group with the purpose to provide technical assistance to the FP2020 Working Group. PAFP subgroup has been carved out of PFP subgroup keeping in view the importance of the subject. As per design, each subgroup will provide technical assistance (TA) to the FP2020 working group in closer coordination with CIP. Iпас will also provide technical assistance to PAFP subgroup and will be working in close coordination with CIP and other members, for the effective achievement of FP2020 high-quality deliverables and goals.

2.2 The key drivers of the PAFP subgroup during August-September 2020 will be:

- Building upon the previous work, PAFP subgroup will assess the experiences, lessons learnt, best practices of FP2020 initiative/CIP in Sindh
- Bringing in country, regional, and international experiences to review the PAFP situation comparatively
- The PAFP subgroup will be identifying the impediments, in the access, uptake, and service provision of postabortion family planning in the context of Sindh during implementation
- The subgroup will be assessing the impact of COVID-19 on PAFP service provision and will be giving innovative ideas to enhance and ease the access of women & girls to FP and PAFP
- The subgroup will be brainstorming and working for the improvement of PAFP service provision; keeping in view the gaps in the existing structure and will be proposing strategies for rectifying the challenges

- Recommending to the CIP for the next phase based on short term (2020-21), medium term (2025) and long term (2030)

### **3. MEMBERSHIP**

The subgroup will be technically supported by Ipas, and the head/representative of the following organizations will be participating in the subgroup meetings. The members are expected to collaborate and cooperate to provide their insights on the agendas under discussion of the PAFP subgroup meetings.

1. Department of Health (DoH) - Member
2. Population Welfare Department (PWD) - Member
3. Costed Implementation Plan (CIP) - Member
4. Ipas - Member (TA)
5. People's Primary Healthcare Initiative (PPHI) - Member
6. National Committee for Maternal and Neonatal Health (NCMNH) - Member
7. Pathfinder - Member

### **4. MEETING SCHEDULE**

The subgroup will meet twice in a quarter. The meetings will be held before the Sindh FP2020 Working Group Meeting, which is held quarterly.

### **5. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT**

Technical assistance and administrative support for the subgroup meetings, and preparations will be provided by the Ipas office in collaboration with CIP.