



ECSACONM 16th Biennial Scientific Conference Summary of Family Planning/Reproductive Health Sessions

Knowledge
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The East, Central and Southern Africa College of Nurses and Midwives (ECSACONM) held their 16th Biennial Scientific Conference in September 2024. This year's theme was, *The role of evidence-based practice and innovations in nursing and midwifery in combating emerging and re-emerging pandemics.*

This forum brought together professionals, researchers, policymakers, and practitioners from across the region to engage in crucial discussions surrounding the evolving landscape of healthcare, particularly in the context of nursing and midwifery during pandemics. It addressed four sub-themes:

1. Advancing innovation and technology in nursing and midwifery
2. Nursing and midwifery, research and implementation effectiveness
3. Policy making, leadership and advocacy in Nursing and Midwifery
4. Midwifery and women health nursing as an outcome for maternal and infant

The conference sessions touched on a variety of topics from clinical learning and practice to improving care for infants and mothers. There were also eight sessions that highlighted programmatic information and findings from five East and Southern Africa countries on family planning/ reproductive health topics. Read a brief summary of each, with information on how to access the full abstract.

Every year, approximately 7.3 million girls experience pregnancy before reaching the age of 18. The occurrence of teenage pregnancy is influenced by the denial of girls' rights to make decisions regarding their sexual health and overall well-being, highlighting the issue of gender inequality.

Learn more about a study that investigated the experiences of **adolescent pregnancy** in the rural villages of the Mopani District, Limpopo in **South Africa**.

Page 11 of the [Abstract Book](#).

The utilization of sexual and reproductive health services by adolescents aged 15 to 19 years old has drawn much attention but little is known about parental and guardians' roles in optimizing utilization.

Learn more about a study that explored the perceptions and experiences of parents and guardians regarding **contraception use by adolescents to prevent teenage pregnancy** in the Leribe district in **Lesotho**.

Page 77 of the [Abstract Book](#).

Unplanned pregnancies account for over half of total pregnancies in Lesotho with youth pregnancies contributing to a vast percentage overall.

Learn more about a study that assessed which factors are associated with **unplanned pregnancy among youth** who sought antenatal and postnatal care services at a selected government hospital in **Lesotho**.

Page 49 of the [Abstract Book](#).

The Ministry of Health and Wellness, Botswana, conducted a strategic assessment to understand the sociocultural and economic factors associated with **unintended pregnancies and contraception use**.

The assessment placed emphasis on reproductive rights, equity, gender equality, empowerment, and quality client-centered services. Learn more about the key findings from eight of **Botswana's** thirteen administrative districts.

Page 108 of the [Abstract Book](#).

Understanding the fertility intentions of adolescent girls and young women serves as a crucial first step in addressing their unmet sexual and reproductive health needs. It also acts as a valuable tool for improving their access to sexual and reproductive health services (SRH).

Learn more about a study that assessed the fertility intentions and determine the factors associated with **fertility intentions among adolescent girls and young women** living with HIV in **Eswatini**.

Page 122 of the [Abstract Book](#).

The government of Eswatini has provided free contraception to those visiting the public primary health care facilities. However, the prevalence of unintended pregnancies remains high at 60% in the country despite government efforts to make contraception available to prevent it.

Learn more about a study that investigated community perspectives on **contraception and unintended pregnancy** in **Eswatini**, that resulted in eight main themes.

Page 172 of the [Abstract Book](#).

In an effort to improve the sexual health, reproductive rights, and access to care, Eswatini conducted a study to assess the knowledge of family planning methods and sexual and reproductive health services among adolescent girls and young women living with HIV infection.

Learn more about this study across all four regions of **Eswatini** that found a majority of participants had an **unmet need for family planning**.

Page 121 of the [Abstract Book](#).

In Tanzania, teenage pregnancies are a major public health concern. In 2017, TCI a "business unusual" approach to scaling up and sustaining proven urban reproductive health solutions, was introduced in Tanzania to enable governments to scale up family planning and AYSRH high impact interventions.

Learn more about this program that sought to expand **access to quality youth-friendly services** for in-school and out-of-school youth in **Tanzania**.

Page 209 of the [Abstract Book](#).

Photo Blog of Project Activities

In September 2024, the Knowledge SUCCESS East Africa team attended the 16th Biennial Scientific Conference, hosted by ECSACONM. During the conference, the team embarked on an FP insight Challenge, sponsored a booth to showcase the project, and engaged audiences through the X platform.

The FP insight Challenge ran for 3 days with nearly 60 people creating a new account. We awarded 9 of those people, who had engaged the most on FP insight, with project swag and had the honor of announcing the winners and presenting the first place winner their prize on stage prior to the closing ceremony.

The goal of the FP insight Challenge was to bring awareness to the platform and the broader project's KM activities, contributions, and resources. The project was able to share insights and learnings on the impact KM has had in regional FP/SRH programs with nurses, midwives, partners, donors, and other experts from across the region attending the conference.

To further enhance the project's presence prior to and during the conference, we used the X platform to bring visibility to the team's participation at the conference, highlighting our KM session and FP insight challenge, amongst other posts. This was meant to amplify interaction and excitement around the regional KM interventions showcased at the conference.



Conference participants visit the Knowledge SUCCESS Exhibition Booth. Photo Credit: Irene Alenga



Collins Otieno facilitating a KM Plenary Session. Photo Credit: Catherine Ombasa

AmrefICD @AmrefICD

Don't miss our featured KM session at the ECSACONM 16th Biennial Scientific Conference. Learn from the panel of experts and engage in meaningful discussions. #LesothoNursing24 @fprhknowledge @ecsacon

Knowledge SUCCESS

"GOING BEYOND WHAT WORKS: KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT THROUGH APPRECIATIVE ENQUIRY A SESSION IN PRACTICE."

Join us for an exciting plenary session at **ECSACONM's 16TH BIENNIAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE**

An interactive session that will highlight what's working well in nursing and midwifery in the region to elevate **best practices** and **success factors** for the well-being of the community.

12 September @ 09:00-10:00 SAST

#KMInPractice
#AppreciativeEnquiry
#ECSACONM16

4:44 PM · Sep 6, 2024 · 149 Views

PROMOTION ON X PLATFORM



One of the FP insight Challenge finalists. Photo Credit: Irene Alenga

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Share your FP/SRH knowledge and learnings from #ECSACONM16 - stop by the Knowledge SUCCESS conference booth @fprhknowledge @ecsacon Join our Challenge and stand to win a prize!

FP insight at #ECSACONM16

Powered by Knowledge SUCCESS

At #ECSACONM16?

Participate in the FP insight Challenge for chance to win fun prizes!

⚡ Visit the Knowledge SUCCESS booth to learn more ⚡

Over 1,200 FP/RH professionals are using FP insight.

Join them today at www.fpinsight.org

Questions? Email us at info@fpinsight.org

Sign up here: 

10:28 AM · Sep 11, 2024 · 62 Views



Knowledge SUCCESS Team at ECSACONM's 16th Biennial Scientific Conference in Maseru, Lesotho. Photo Credit: Knowledge SUCCESS

AmrefICD @AmrefICD · Sep 11

Wise words shared this morning at #ECSACONM16 from Dr Glory Msibi: The work we do here will not only shape the future of nursing and midwifery but also transform the health outcomes of midwives across the continent

ECSACONM @ecsacon · Sep 11

Dr. Glory Msibi, President of ECSACONM, addressed the 16th ECSACONM Biennial Conference, highlighting the event as a pivotal platform for learning, sharing, and collaboration.

@fprhknowledge @Jhpiego @AmrefICD @NCKenya @cosecsa ...
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PROMOTION ON X PLATFORM

AmrefICD @AmrefICD · Sep 11 Promote

Key note by DPM, Chief Justice Nthomeng Majara remarked its critical we strengthen capacity of evidence based practice so that nurses&midwives have skills, resources & support to apply research findings in their work to improve patient outcomes & enhance health systems resilience

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Additionally, the project exhibition booth showcased and organized Knowledge SUCCESS resource and promotional materials for further engagement and visibility for KM and project activities.



Lesotho university students engage with project staff at the Knowledge SUCCESS exhibition booth. Photo Credit: Irene Alenga



The Knowledge SUCCESS team engages with conference participants at the exhibition booth. Photo Credit: Willie Ngumi



Knowledge SUCCESS's Wairimu Muthaka with the second place winner of the FP insight Challenge. Photo Credit: Irene Alenga



The FP insight Challenge 1st place winner, Rahaba Mahomaile, receives her award on stage prior to the closing ceremony. Photo Credit: Catherine Ombasa