



HRH2030
HUMAN RESOURCES FOR HEALTH IN 2030



GENDER COMPETENCY FOR FAMILY PLANNING PROVIDERS

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Breakthrough ACTION Webinar

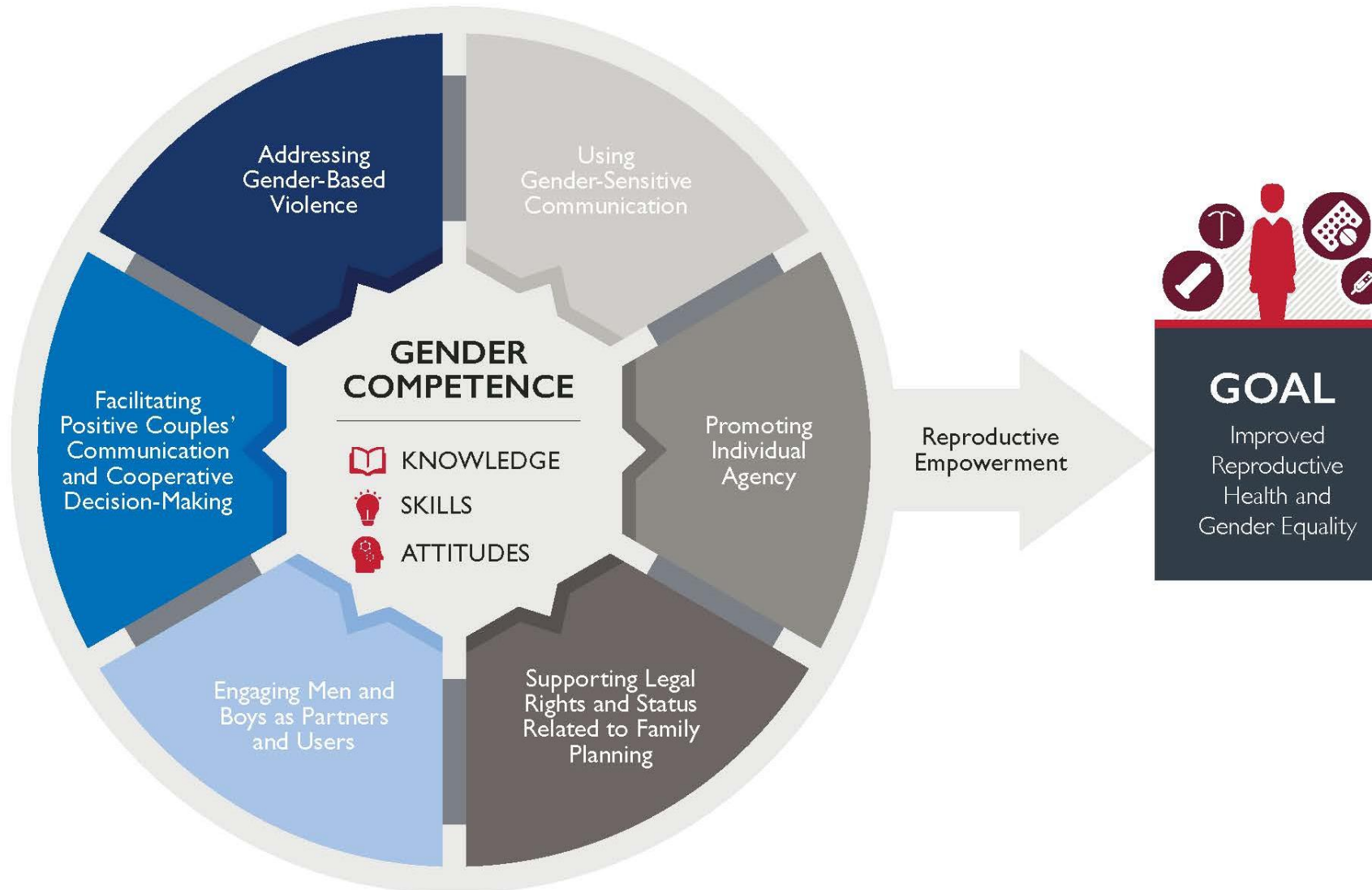
October 26, 2020

"We can't tell them about birth-control pills or contraceptives until they have had their first baby."

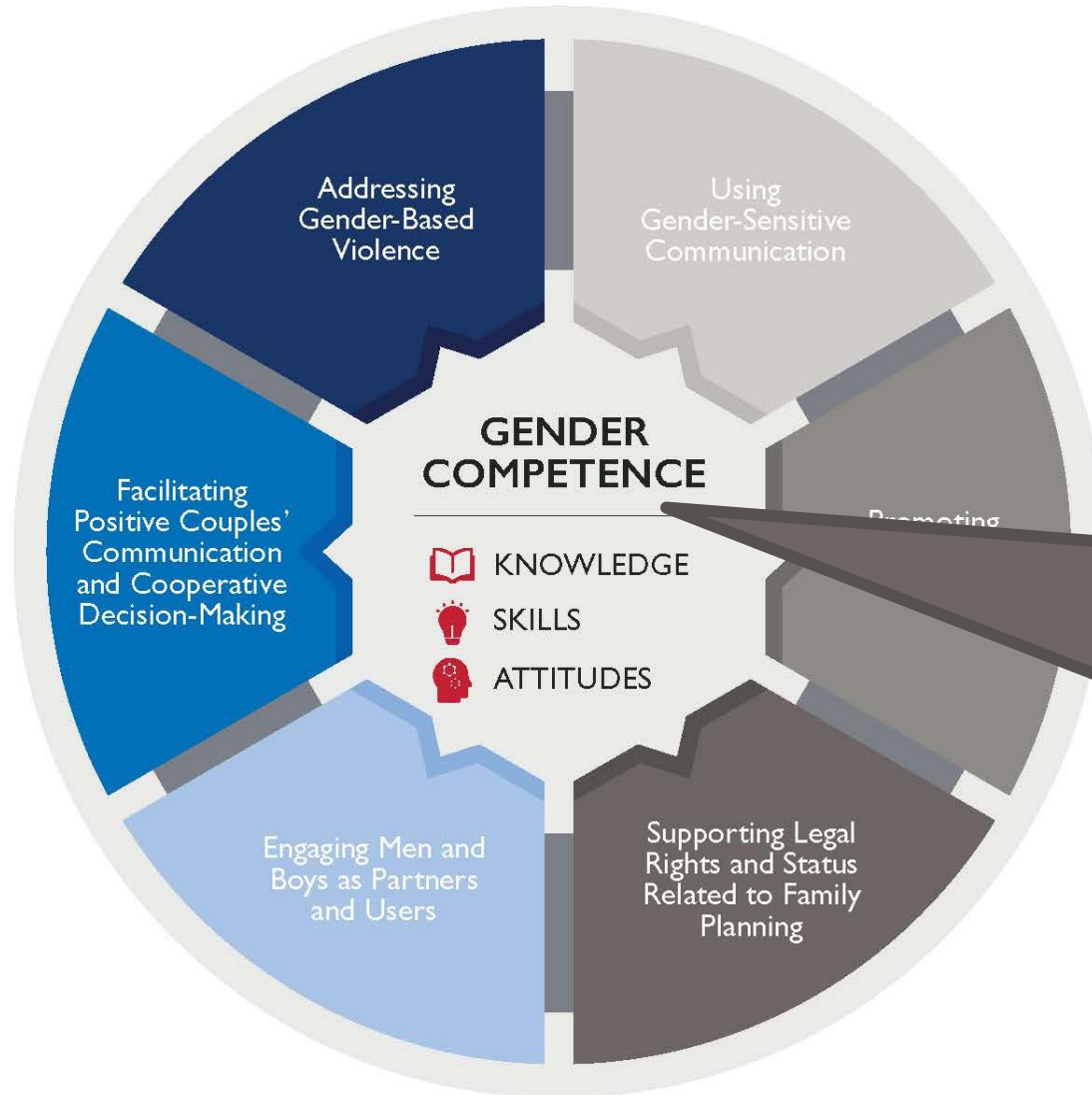
– Health worker in Pakistan, 2018



OVERVIEW OF GENDER COMPETENCY

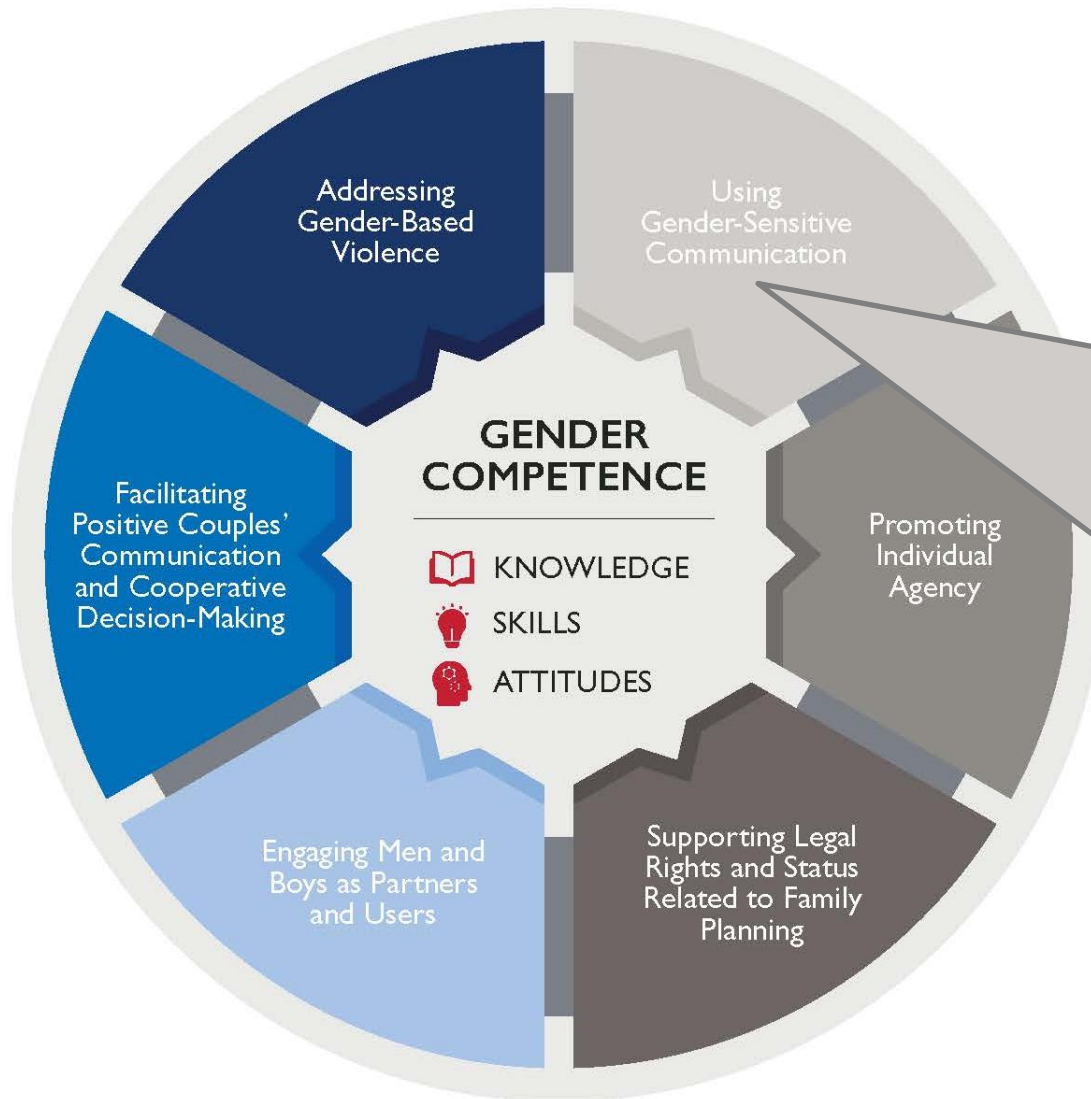


OVERVIEW OF GENDER COMPETENCY



A gender-competent FP provider strives to apply the needed knowledge, skills, and attitudes to create equitable opportunities for women, men, girls, and boys to make voluntary and informed FP/RH decisions based on their needs.

OVERVIEW OF GENDER COMPETENCY



















































Domain	Competency
I. Using Gender-Sensitive Communication refers to the provider's ability to transmit information through verbal and non-verbal communication in a way that recognizes unequal power structures and promotes equality for all clients; it is client centered.	a. Maintains relaxed, friendly, and attentive body posture and eye contact, as appropriate, to show respect for the client, regardless of gender.
	b. Identifies potential for unequal power among individuals that may exist because of gender, and impact access to information and services.
	c. Provides information to clients to obtain FP services, regardless of challenges created by the client's gender, including literacy, access to media and technology, and ability to attend counseling.
	d. Recognizes own gender and influence as a provider and the potential to interfere with the provision of quality and equitable FP services.
	e. Integrates questions about family planning and reproductive health goals while clients are seeking other health services.
	f. Identifies opportunities to provide information on family planning during many life stages such as before first birth.

GENDER COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK

GENDER COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK FOR FAMILY PLANNING SERVICE PROVIDERS

IMPORTANT: The competencies within this table focus on gender-related aspects of FP services and they do not address clinical competencies more generally. As such, they should be considered in conjunction with the most current comprehensive FP service guidelines and standards of care, such as the WHO Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use, fifth edition (WHO, 2015); Selected Practice Recommendations for Contraceptive Use, third edition (WHO, 2016); and Family Planning: A Global Handbook for Providers (WHO Department of Reproductive Health and Research and Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health/Center for Communication Programs, Knowledge for Health Project, 2018).

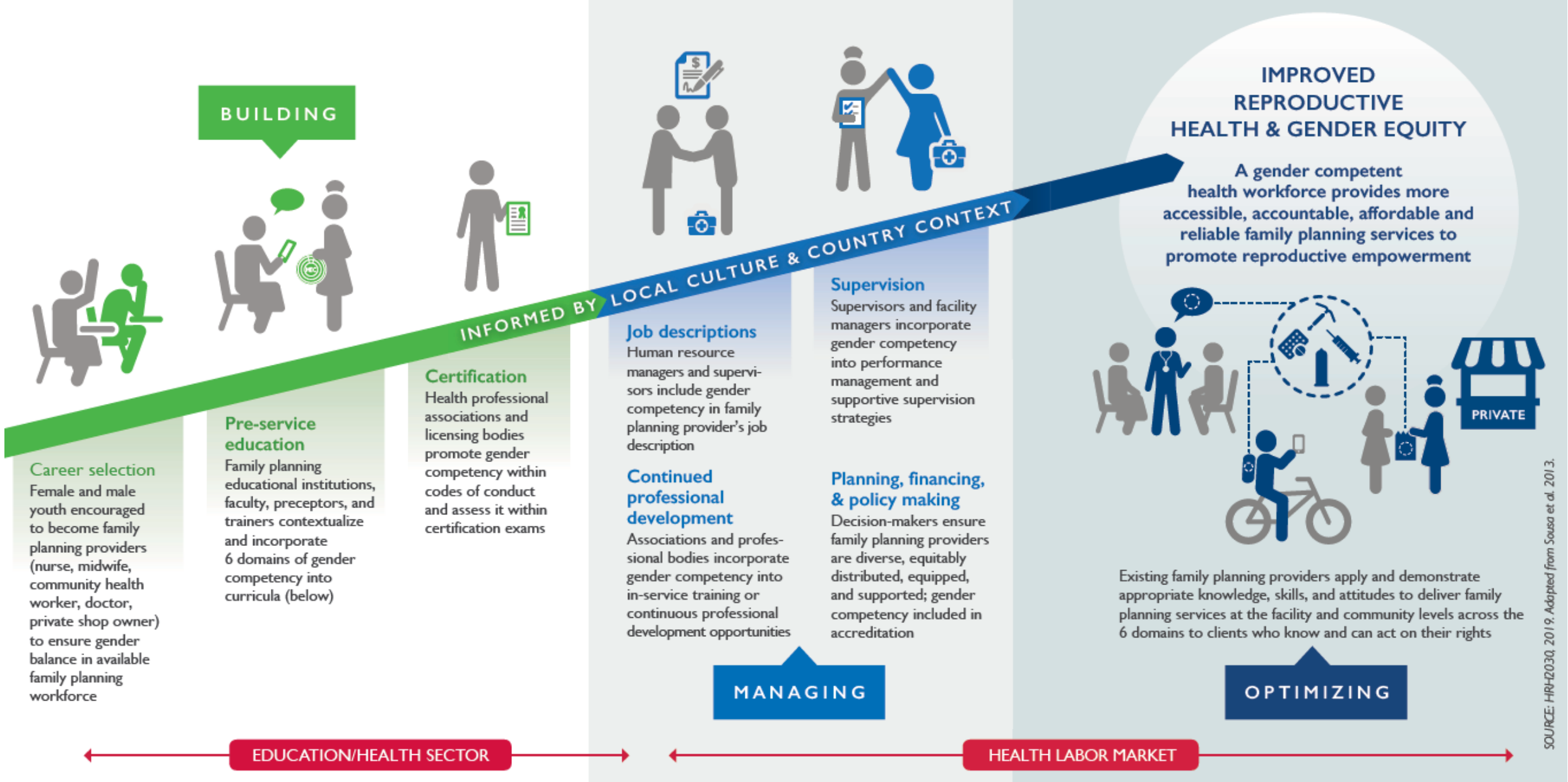
Key	Knowledge 	Skills 	Attitudes 
Domain	Competency		
1. Using Gender-Sensitive Communication refers to the provider's ability to transmit information through verbal and non-verbal communication in a way that recognizes unequal power structures and promotes equality for all clients; it is client centered.	 a. Maintains relaxed, friendly, and attentive body postures and eye contact, as appropriate, to show respect for the client, regardless of gender.	 b. Identifies potential for unequal power among individuals that may exist because of gender, and impact access to information and services.	 c. Provides information to clients to obtain FP services, regardless of challenges created by the client's gender, including literacy, access to media and technology, and ability to attend counseling.
	 d. Recognizes own gender and influence as a provider and the potential to interfere with the provision of quality and equitable FP services.	 e. Integrates questions about family planning and reproductive health goals while clients are seeking other health services.	 f. Identifies opportunities to provide information on family planning during many life stage such as before first birth.
	 a. Asks about reproductive goals to open conversation and emphasize reproductive decisions are a choice.	 b. Reviews with clients the varied reasons for method choice, including efficacy, longevity, accessibility, and tolerance of side effects that may vary by sex, gender, age, safety, and relationship status.	 c. Discusses with clients the economic, social, and logistical factors that vary by gender and impact individual informed and voluntary choice and decisions to be sexually active.
	 d. Explains safe sexual practices in context of gender and power.	 e. Encourages all clients to make their own informed and voluntary reproductive choices regardless of gender, age, relationship status, or consent by family members (consistent with national FP/RH policy).	 f. Evaluates with client the process and feasibility of client obtaining and using his/her method of choice including accessibility and potential challenges based on sex and gender.
	 g. Acknowledges that the client has a right to make the final decision about using or not using FP and method choice.	 h. Accepts the client's chosen method, if available and medically indicated, and continues to provide services regardless of whether the selection matches the provider's own personal judgment of the client.	
	 a. Understands and supports the client's individual rights related to FP services and decisions to use contraceptive methods or not.	 b. Helps the client understand his/her rights related to FP services and offers information on a full range of method options regardless of the client's gender, sexual orientation, relationship status, age, or occupation.	 c. Restates or translates the rights and policies related to FP service in comprehensible terms for all clients, when needed, to accommodate different literacy rates and according to gender.
3. Supporting Legal Rights and Status Related to FP refers to the provider's ability to provide information and services to clients in accordance with rights and local laws and without interference of personal bias.	 d. Provides equitable information, treatment, and services to all clients regardless of the type of relationship (ex: married, live-in partner, unmarried, non-monogamous).	 e. Maintains confidentiality and privacy regarding a client's choice or use of an FP method, including confidentiality and privacy with the client's partner or family, if desired.	

Key	Knowledge 	Skills 	Attitudes 	
Domain	Competency			
4. Engaging Men and Boys as Partners and Users refers to the provider's recognition of men and boys as supportive partners to women and as potential users of FP. It can be demonstrated with male or female clients and couples, but should always be anchored in women's preferences and consent.	 a. Recognizes how harmful displays of masculinity and femininity can result in unequal power between individuals and influence FP decision-making.	 b. Promotes positive male participation in method choice and use, including shared responsibility for FP and contraceptive use, while emphasizing the woman's right to voluntary and informed choice.	 c. Understands and can address myths and misconceptions about contraceptive use, including issues of power, control, and pleasure among men and women.	
	 d. Recognizes men as potential users of FP by providing men with information on methods, counseling, and obtaining methods of choice, including speaking confidently about vasectomy to clients.	 e. Pursues opportunities to engage men and boys who may not traditionally seek FP services, without decreasing women's voice, choice, and ability to act on decisions.	 f. Brings up and provides to both male and female clients information on male-controlled and cooperative contraceptive methods and provides referrals when male contraception is not readily available.	
	 g. Encourages men's sexual and reproductive health practices that respect women's rights and preferences with both male and female clients.	 a. Recognizes the potential for unequal power in decision-making between partners about FP choices before initiating couple communication and cooperative decision-making.	 b. Knows and can counsel on which contraceptive methods enable or require each partner's cooperation and decision-making.	
	5. Facilitating Positive Couples' Communication and Cooperative Decision-Making refers to the provider's capacity to help clients articulate, discuss, and come to an agreement on reproductive intentions and to make joint reproductive decisions as a couple.	 c. Encourages the client to discuss his/her FP needs and preferences with the partner.	 d. Practices or role-plays scenarios to strengthen the client's ability to use his/her chosen FP method and discuss method choice and use with the partner, as needed.	 e. Asks the client if his/her partner or family would like to participate in current and future visits, emphasizing that it is the client's choice.
		 f. Facilitates discussion and shared decision-making between the partners, as desired by the client.	 g. Gives equal attention to both partners during couple counseling.	 a. Knows the definition of gender-based violence and intimate partner violence.
		 b. Can list the common signs and symptoms of GBV or GBV risk factors.	 c. Informs on which contraceptive methods can be used covertly with less chances of being detected.	 d. Understands how method choice may unintentionally lead to harm such as intimate partner violence and counsels with a do no harm approach.
	6. Addressing Gender-Based Violence (GBV) refers to the provider's ability to understand and recognize GBV, incorporate principles of do no harm into family planning services, provide appropriate referrals and reinforce the right to be treated with respect and live free of violence.*	 e. Knows and understands the facility protocol for managing GBV, including referral for support services, reporting requirements, and whether the facility meets the minimum conditions for GBV screening.	 f. With all clients, reinforces a client's right to be treated with respect, free from threats, violence, or coercion by a partner, other family member, or a stranger; and free from victim-blaming and stigma.	 g. Offers clients compassionate and respectful counseling, including information about their right to choose the number and timing of children, and the right to live without sexual harassment or forced sexual relations.
 h. If client either discloses they have experienced violence or show signs and symptoms, asks about GBV.		 i. Using warm and compassionate counseling, refers the client to a provider trained in GBV response* and protects privacy and confidentiality (consistent with policy and law).		

*To reduce the risk of more harm, only providers trained in GBV counseling should counsel clients who report experiences with GBV. These providers should counsel using the GBV protocols or recognized standards that are consistent with policy and law.

For a version you can actually read...
<https://hrh2030program.org/gender-competency-tech-brief/>

Advancing Gender Competency for Family Planning Service Providers Across the Health System



BUILDING AND IMPROVING GENDER COMPETENCY AMONG FAMILY PLANNING PROVIDERS



After completing this module, you should be able to

- Define gender-sensitive communication
- Explain the importance of gender-sensitive communication
- Identify the competencies of the “gender-sensitive communication” domain
- Apply the competencies to your work



Scenario

Marisol is coming into the health facility to learn about family planning for the first time. You are a family planning provider. Consider your options.

Greet Marisol and welcome her

Have Marisol wait for a while. She is so young and unmarried, so she must not be serious

Ask Marisol to come back tomorrow when your colleague who is trained in adolescent-friendly services is available



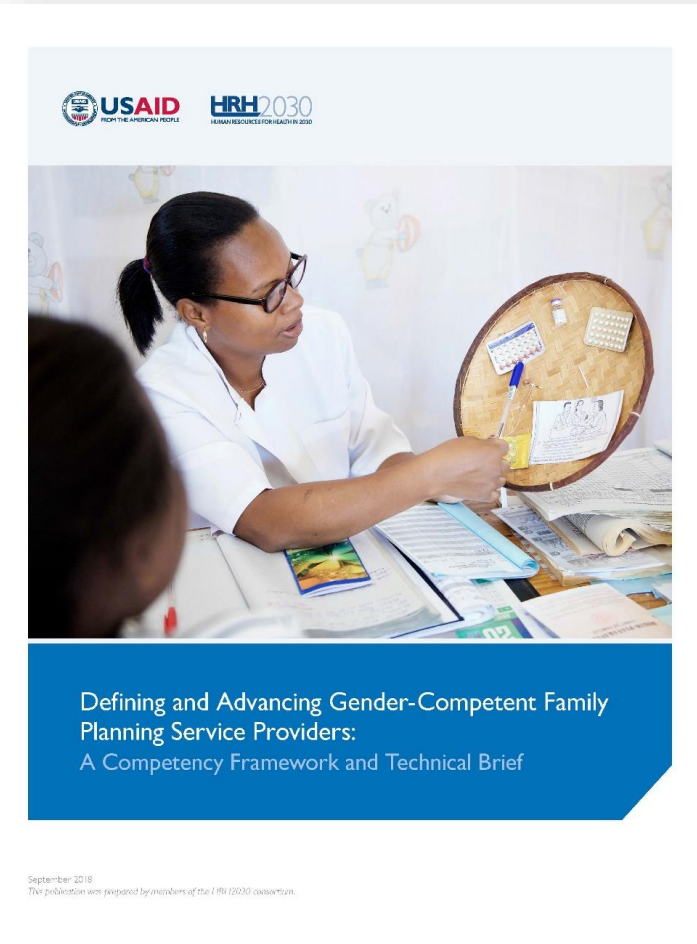
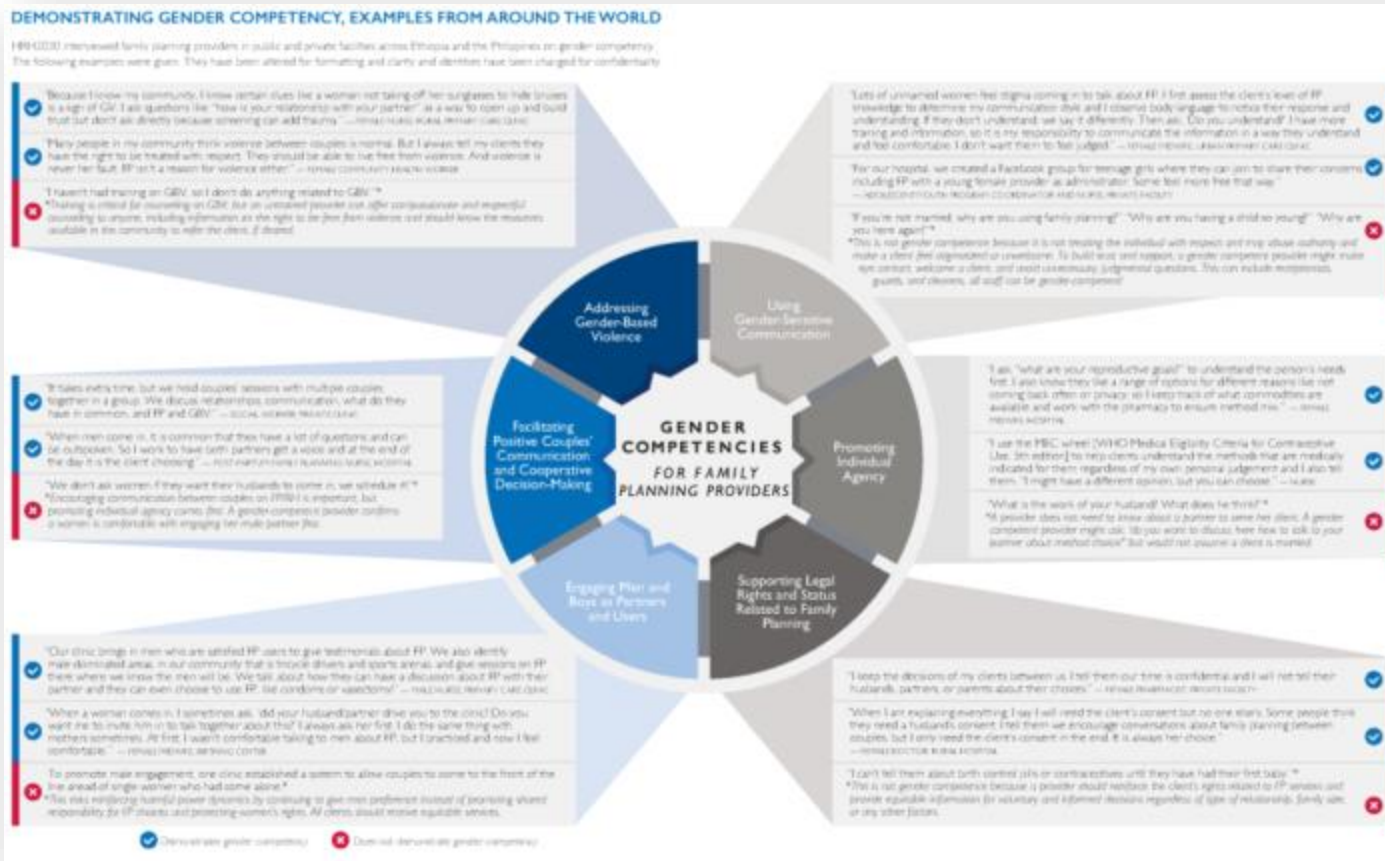
Pause and Reflect

Take a moment to reflect on what you have learned in this module, and think about how you can apply these concepts in your work.

OTHER RESOURCES

<https://hrh2030program.org/gender-competency-tech-brief/>

Examples of demonstrating gender competency from around the world!



Technical brief on gender competency