

## Yes or No? It's my choice!

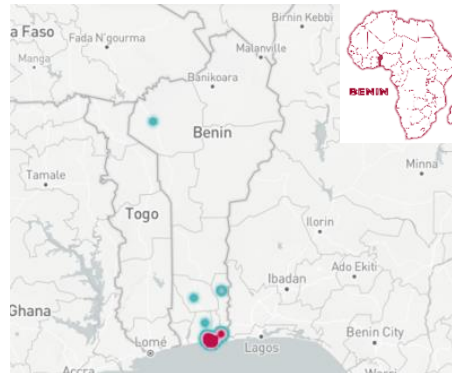
A collaboration to provide Safe Abortion Care to adolescent girls and women through sexual and reproductive healthcare professionals in Benin

Maternity Foundation and Plan International have worked together since 2015 in Benin and developed a Benin version of the Safe Delivery App (SDA). The aim of this collaboration is to contribute to sexual reproductive healthcare professionals' (HCP) learning, and consequently, their provision of quality care to women, leading to improved neonatal and maternal health outcomes. After years of planning and advocacy, in April 2023, Benin took a bold stance and legalised abortion. Benin took the position of passing this law on abortion primarily to protect and save the lives of adolescent girls and women.

To contribute to ensuring that healthcare professionals have the necessary knowledge, attitudes, practices, and skills to provide safe abortion care (SAC), Maternity Foundation, PlanBørnefonden and Plan International Benin (PiB), together with subject-matter experts from the Ministry of Health, developed a Benin-specific safe abortion care module for the SDA. The SAC module was published in the Benin SDA in July 2024. Maternity Foundation developed a context-specific 3-day Training of Trainers (ToT) package as well as the training material for subsequent trainings on SAC. The primary aim of the training was to improve the knowledge, skills, and confidence of HCPs in facilitating training on SAC. Subsequently, 60 midwives were trained by the participants of the ToT on providing safe abortion care to adolescent girls and women.

The SAC module usage was observed from July 2024 (launch of the module) until October 2024 (completion of cascading training).

The total number of new users in the period who created a profile in the Safe Delivery App is 162, of which 155 (95.7%) are healthcare professionals.



Location of SDA users active in the past 180 days with GPS coordinates in Benin

Knowledge assessments of the ToT participants revealed an increase in knowledge levels from 54% to 65% on the adult learning principles topic. The knowledge assessments conducted with the 60 participants of the clinical SAC training showed an increase in knowledge levels of safe abortion care from 70% to 88%. Positive feedback was received on the training from both the participants of the ToT as those from the cascaded training sessions.



*We need to make the Application more widely available in all our health facilities, schools and universities. ~ToT participant*

In partnership with Plan International Benin, the training program was carefully tailored to meet the unique needs and context of the participants. This collaboration injected a fresh,

dynamic perspective into the training making the learning experience not only more relevant but also more engaging and impactful.



Group picture of sexual reproductive healthcare professionals who were part of the Training of Trainers

The participants were introduced to a forward-thinking approach to teaching that seamlessly blends theory with hands-on application. By the end of the programme, a comprehensive training package had been developed, ready to be rolled out to more midwives in real-world settings, ensuring that the newly acquired knowledge and skills gained could immediately be applied. Feedback from the participants has been overwhelmingly positive, highlighting that this type of ToT is both highly appreciated and much-needed, especially for those working with adult learners. The training efforts proved to be invaluable for all the partners involved, laying the groundwork for enhanced future training initiatives. Moving forward, it is expected that this collaboration will not only improve the quality of future training sessions but also strengthen the ongoing partnership in implementing safe abortion care in Benin.