Sexual and Reproductive Health Commodities in Burundi

Report by HAI, Twitezimbere and ABS Burundi | Download

Access to medicines and medical products is a critical component of health systems, and sexual and reproductive health (SRH) is an area of care that underpins healthy societies. Unfortunately, Burundi, with a maternal mortality rate of 334 deaths per 100,000 live births and a low prevalence rate of modern contraceptive methods estimated at 15% among women aged 15 to 49, faces challenges in the adequate provision of SRH services and products.

This study was therefore conducted to measure the availability, stock-outs and financial accessibility of 26 SRH products in 179 health facilities in the public, private, religious and associative sectors in eight provinces (Bubanza, Bujumbura Rural, Bururi, Cibitoke, Makamba, Mwaro, Rumonge and Rutana). Stock-outs were defined as the number of days when a normally available and stocked product was not available in the health facility, over a period of 12 months preceding the day of data collection. Affordability was calculated using the national monetary poverty line (MPL) of 1,580 BIF per day. If the treatment or cure cost more than the daily MPL rate, it was considered unaffordable. The results of this study can be used to develop evidence-based policies to improve SRH.

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