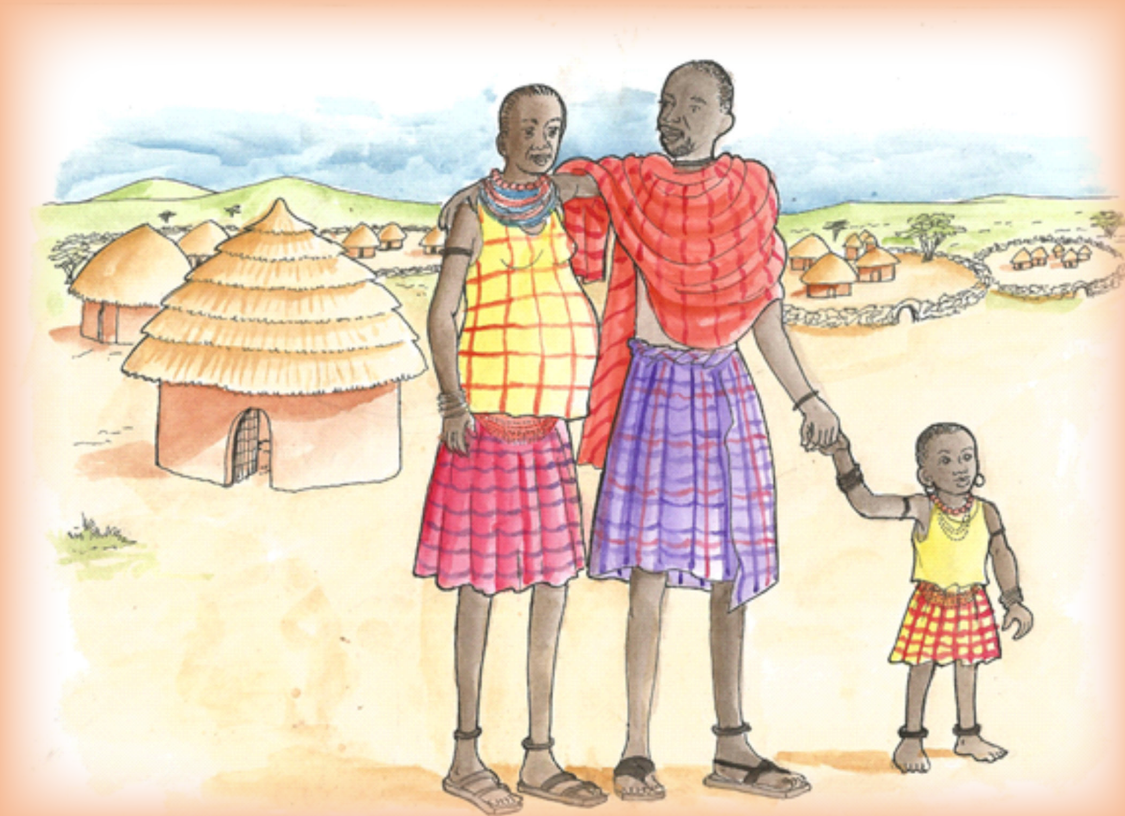
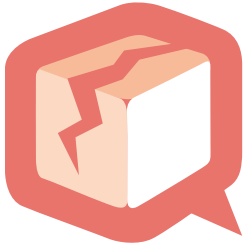


TOPIC 3: FERTILITY



TOPIC 3:
FERTILITY

SINGLE-GENDER PEER MEETING GUIDE

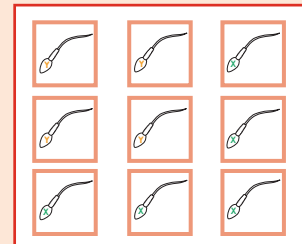
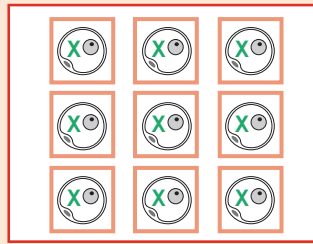
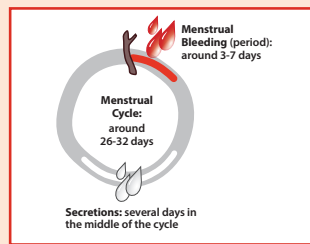
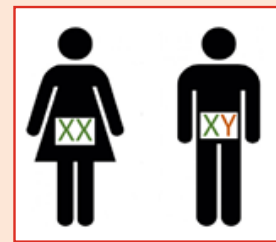
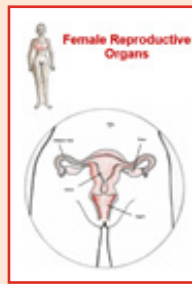


1. OPENING – Opening, Ice-Breaker

Time: 30 Minutes

Objective: The Peer Group will learn about male fertility, female fertility, and how pregnancy occurs.

Materials: Tarp for ground or chairs; Female Reproductive Organs Poster and Reminder Cards; Male Reproductive Organs Poster and Reminder Cards, Menstrual Cycle Poster; Poster of man and woman; Cards with picture of women’s egg; Cards with picture of man’s sperm; hat or a small box



Arrange chairs in a circle or sit in a circle on a tarp so that people are facing each other.

Welcome

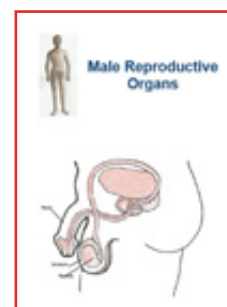
1. **Welcome** the group.
2. **Briefly discuss the theatre activities from the past few weeks.** What did you think about the theatre performances? What was your favorite part? Was there anything you did not like? Remind them that they can talk to you after the meeting to discuss anything they don’t feel comfortable sharing with the group.
3. **Tell** the group that for next several weeks, we will talk about Fertility. We will learn about men’s and women’s fertility, the reproductive systems and how pregnancy occurs.

Ice Breaker — Telephone

1. **Getting Started.** Ask the Peer Group Members to stand in a circle.
2. **Begin the Game.** Whisper a sentence into the ear of one person. The sentence should be something that is not easy to remember, such as “The old man slaughtered the goat for the feast to celebrate the beginning of the rainy season.” or “My mother bought a skirt at the market for my sister to wear to school.” Only whisper the sentence once.
3. **The Game Continues.** Each player whispers the phrase to their neighbors until it reaches the last player.
4. **The Conclusion.** The last player says the word or phrase out loud so everyone can hear how much it has changed from the first whisper at the beginning of the circle or line.
5. **Say the phrase that you began with.** Ask if anyone is surprised by how the phrase changed.
6. **Try the game again,** mixing the players up and allowing another person to think of a phrase and pass it on.
7. **Discuss** the game with the group.
8. **Ask:** Aside from having fun, what did this game show you?
Possible responses:
 - Game helps show how small changes to information can end up making a huge difference in a message.
 - It is important to listen very carefully to what someone else says.
 - Shows it is easy for rumors that are not true to spread as a message passes from person to person.
 - It is important to make sure that information you hear from someone else is true.

2. JUST THE FACTS — Overview of Male Fertility**Time:** 20 Minutes**Materials:** Male reproductive organs poster**Objective:** The Peer Group Members will learn basic facts about male fertility and the male reproductive organs.**Male Fertility**

1. **Show** the Male Reproductive Organs Poster
2. **Ask** if anyone knows what the picture shows.
3. **Tell** them the picture shows the **male reproductive organs**.

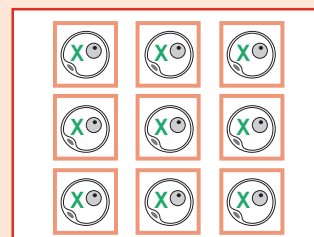
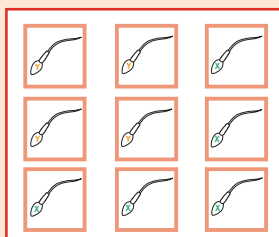


4. **Ask** if anyone can name the organs shown on the picture.
5. **Explain** the what each of the reproductive organs do:
 - **Penis:** This tubular, muscular organ fills with blood during arousal, making sexual intercourse possible.
 - **Scrotum:** This sac hangs below the penis and holds the testicles.
 - **Testicles:** These two oval-shaped organs produce sperm. Sperm are released during sex. This is called ejaculation. If the sperm meet a woman’s egg, she can become pregnant.
6. **Ask** the group the questions below. Give them time to respond, then tell them the correct answer.
 - **Question:** When does male fertility start?
Answer: *A male is fertile from the time of his first ejaculation. This happens during puberty, or adolescence, the time when a boy changes into a man.*
 - **Question:** When is a man fertile?
Answer: *A man is fertile every day from the time of his first ejaculation. This means he can always release sperm that could make a woman pregnant if the sperm meet with the woman’s egg.*
 - **Question:** How long can sperm live when they are ejaculated into a woman during sex?
Answer: *Sperm can live for up to five days inside a woman.*
 - **Question:** What determines if a baby is a boy or girl?
Answer: *A man’s sperm determines if the baby is a boy or girl.*
 Some people may give other responses. They may say that it is the women’s egg, or where the baby lies in the woman’s stomach, that determine whether the baby is a boy or girl. Explain that these are not correct. It is only the man’s sperm that determines whether the baby is a boy or girl. There is no way for the man or woman themselves to know or influence what sex the child will be.

3. TOPIC ACTIVITY – Sex of the Baby Game

Time: 10 minutes

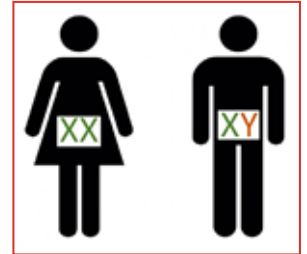
Materials: Poster of man and woman; Cards with picture of women’s egg; Cards with picture of man’s sperm; Hat or a small box for holding sperm cards



Objective: The group will understand how the man's sperm determines the sex of a baby.

- 1. Tell** the group that you are going to play a game to help everyone understand how the sperm determine whether a baby is a boy or girl.

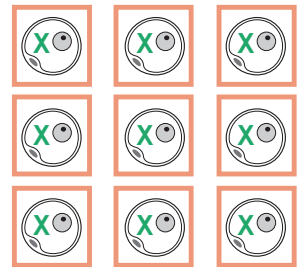
- 2. Show** the poster of the woman and man.



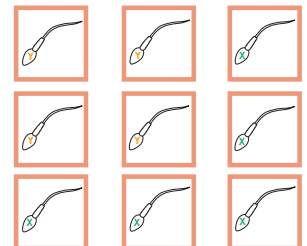
- 3. Explain** that the woman has two X chromosomes. All of her eggs have one X in them. The man has one X chromosome and one Y chromosome. Some of his sperm have an X chromosome, while the other sperms have a Y chromosome.

- 4. Ask** the group to form pairs. Each pair will pretend to be a couple. In each pair, one person will play the “woman” and the other will play the “man”.

- 5. Ask** the “woman” in each pair to raise their hands. Give each of them a card with a picture of the woman's egg. Tell them that this represents the egg that is released every month. The X is the chromosome that the woman contributes to the baby.



- 6. Show** the cards with the pictures of the man's sperm. Some of the sperm have an X and others have a Y. The X and Y represent the chromosome that the man contributes to the baby. Put all of the sperm cards in a hat, box, or other container.



- 7. Ask** the “man” in each pair to raise their hands. Bring the hat with the sperm cards to each “man”. Tell the person to close their eyes and pick a card.

- 8. Tell** each pair to put their cards together. This represents the sperm and the egg meeting when the couple has sex. The sperm and the egg join together and begin growing into a baby.

- 9. Ask** each pair if their baby is a boy or girl. If the pair has an X and an X, the baby is a girl. If the pair has an X and a Y, the baby is a boy. They can look at the picture of the man and woman and see that XX is a woman and XY is a man.

- 10. Explain** that when the man ejaculates during sex, some of the sperm have Xs and some have Ys. If one of those reaches a woman's egg, it can unite with the egg and begin growing into a baby. Neither the man nor the woman knows which sperm will meet with an egg. Neither the man nor the woman can influence or control whether a baby is a boy or a girl.

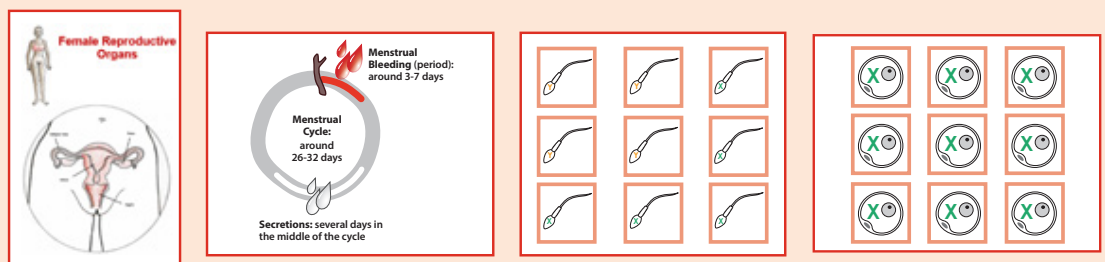
11. **Ask Peer Group Members** if they have any questions. Answer their questions using the poster of the male reproductive organs and the materials for the sex of the baby game. If there are questions that you cannot answer, write them down and tell the group you will answer them at the next meeting.

4. JUST THE FACTS – Overview of Female Fertility

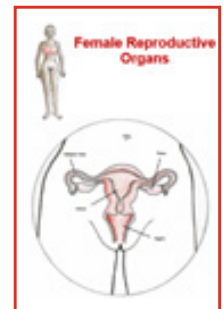
Time: 30 Minutes

Objective: The Peer Group Members will learn basic facts about female fertility and the female reproductive organs.

Materials: Female reproductive organs poster, Menstrual Cycle Poster, Cards with picture of women’s egg; Cards with picture of man’s sperm.



1. **Show** the Female Reproductive Organs Poster.
2. **Ask** if anyone knows what the picture shows.
3. **Tell** them the picture shows the female reproductive organs.
4. **Ask** if anyone can name the organs shown on the picture.
5. **Explain** the what each of the reproductive organs do:



- **Vagina:** this is a muscular tube about 7 to 10 centimeters long. It is where a man’s penis enters the woman during sexual intercourse. It is also the end of the birth canal, which a baby passes through during childbirth.
 - **Ovaries:** Ovaries produce the woman’s egg. An egg is released from the ovaries every month. If the egg meets with a man’s sperm, it grows into a baby.
 - **Fallopian tubes:** Fallopian tubes carry the woman’s egg from the ovary to the uterus.
 - **Uterus:** The uterus is where an egg that has been fertilized by a man’s sperm grows into a baby. The blood that lines the uterus gives nourishment to the baby. If the egg is not fertilized by a man’s sperm, the egg and the blood leave the uterus through the vagina during the monthly period.
6. **Ask** the group if they remember the menstrual cycle circle from the menstruation meetings. Ask everyone to draw the cycle on the ground.
 7. **Ask** for a volunteer to explain their drawing. The drawing and explanation should

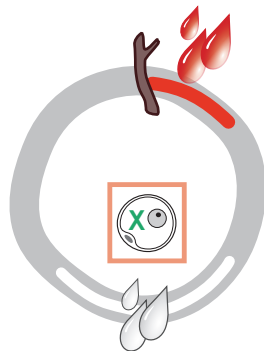
include the points below. If anything is missing or incorrect, ask the other Peer Group Members if they have anything to add to their friend's explanation. Be sure to add or correct anything that is missing or incorrect in the explanations:

- Menstrual bleeding lasts for 3-7 days
- There are a few dry days between menstrual bleeding and secretions
- Secretions last for several days in the middle of the cycle
- After secretions end, there are more dry days before the next menstrual bleeding starts
- There are usually about 26 to 32 days from the first day of the period to the first day of the next period

8. Tell the group you are going to learn a little more about the times when a woman can become pregnant. Go over these key points:

- The woman's egg is released around the middle of the cycle.
- Secretions keep the sperm alive in the woman's reproductive system. Sperm can only survive and fertilize the egg when there are secretions.
- Sperm can live up to five days inside a woman.

9. Return to the menstrual cycle circle. Take one of the women's egg cards. **Ask** when the egg will be released. The group should place it in the middle of the cycle, opposite where the period started.



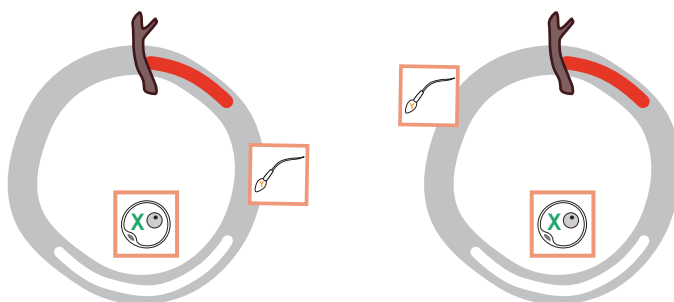
10. Take one of the man's sperm cards. Place it on different places on the cycle. Ask the group if the woman can get pregnant if she has sex at different times and why.

- **Question:** Can she become pregnant if she has sex and the man's sperm enter her on bleeding days?



Answer: No, she cannot get pregnant on bleeding days because the egg has not been released and there are no secretions to keep the sperm alive.

Question: Can she become pregnant if she has sex and the man's sperm enter her on dry days? (Remember that there are dry days at two different times in the cycle.)



Answer: No, she cannot get pregnant on dry days because there are no secretions to keep the sperm alive.

Question: Can she become pregnant if she has sex and the man's sperm enter her on days with secretions?



Answer: Yes, she can become pregnant on the days she has the secretions. It is during this time that the egg is released. If the egg meets with a man's sperm she can become pregnant.

11. Ask the group the questions below. Give them time to respond, then tell them the correct answer.

- **Question:** When does female fertility start?

Answer: A girl or woman is fertile, or able to have children, from the time of her first menstrual period.

- **Question:** When can a woman get pregnant?

Answer: A woman can get pregnant during her fertile days, the several days in the middle of the cycle when she has secretions. The egg is released during the time she has secretions. If the egg meets with a man's sperm, the woman can become pregnant.

- **Question:** What is the purpose of secretions?

Answer: Secretions keep the sperm alive in the woman's reproductive system. Sperm can only survive and fertilize the egg when there are secretions.

- **Question:** Can a woman become pregnant the first time that she has sex?

Answer: Yes, a woman can become pregnant the first time she has sex if it occurs during the middle of her menstrual cycle.

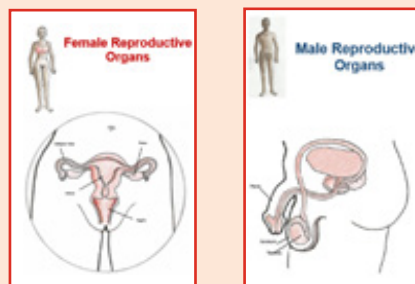
12. **Ask** peer group members if they have any questions. Respond to their questions showing where events occur in the menstrual cycle. If there are questions you cannot answer, note them and tell the group you will respond at the next meeting.



5. WRAP UP

Time: 10 Minutes

Materials: Male Reproductive Organs Poster and Reminder Cards, Female Reproductive Organs Poster and Reminder Cards.



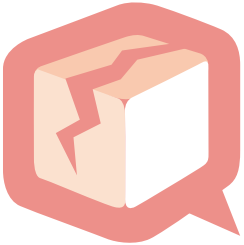
Objective: Encourage group to share the information discussed today, thank the group and build connection

1. **Ask** for group members to share something they learned today, or that surprised them.
2. **Ask:** What will you do with this information?
3. **Give** a Male Reproductive Organs Reminder Card and a Female Reproductive Organs Reminder Card to each participant. Go over the points on the back of the cards. Encourage participants to use the cards to explain fertility and the reproductive organs to other people.
4. **Ask** participants to think of three people who they will talk to about fertility. Ask each participant to tell the person next to them the names of the people they will talk to.
5. **Thank the group for a great discussion.** Make sure they know they are valued for their time and insight. Then, ask that each member turn to their left, look that person in the eyes, smile, and thank them for sharing their thoughts and ideas.
6. **Tell the group** that next week they will discuss the topic of fertility with the men and women together.

Closing - End with applause for all and a song or dance

TOPIC 3:
FERTILITY

MIXED-GENDER MEETING PEER GUIDE



1. OPENING – Welcome and Ice-Breaker

Time: 30 Minutes

Materials: Tarp for ground or chairs

Objective: The Peer Group will get warmed up to discussing the topic of fertility with women and men and review information from the last meeting.

Welcome and Icebreaker

1. **Welcome the group.**
2. **Introduce** each moderator, and explain that we'll be taking about menstruation together as a group.
3. **Tell** the group it is time for a Trivia Game on the topic of Fertility.
4. **Tell** the group that you will ask a set of questions. Everyone who thinks the answer to a question is True should move to one side. Everyone who thinks the answer to a question is False should move to the other side.
5. **The Moderators take turns asking the questions below.** Ask the participants to move to the True side or the False side.
6. **Ask** someone on each side to explain why he or she chose that answer.
7. **Read** the correct response and congratulate those who choose correctly.

Trivia Questions:

- **True or False:** Sperm is produced in the testicles.
Answer: True
- **True or False:** A girl's fertility begins at her first menstruation.
Answer: True
- **True or False:** All women's menstrual cycles are 30 days long.

Answer: False. *There is a range of cycle days. Most women have cycles between 26 and 32 days, but some cycles are shorter and some are longer.*

- **True or False:** A boy's fertility begins at first ejaculation.

Answer: True

- **True or False:** A woman's egg is released when she has her monthly bleeding.

Answer: False. *The egg is released in the middle of the cycle, during the time that she has secretions.*

- **True or False:** A woman can become pregnant the first time that she has sex.

Answer: True. *A woman can become pregnant the first time that she has sex if it occurs during the middle of her menstrual cycle.*

- **True or False:** A man is always fertile.

Answer: True. *A man is fertile every day from the time of his first ejaculation.*

- **True or False:** A woman can influence whether a baby is a boy or girl.

Answer: False. *The man's sperm determines whether the baby is a boy or girl. Some sperm have chromosomes which create a girl baby, while other sperm have a chromosome which creates a boy baby.*

- **True or False:** A woman can become pregnant during the middle of her menstrual cycle, about halfway between two periods.

Answer: True. *A woman can become pregnant in the middle of her menstrual cycle. This is the time when an egg is released.*

8. **Thank the group** for participating and congratulate them for remembering the content from last week's lesson.



2. STORYTELLING – Sharing Information about Fertility and Family Planning

Time: 30 Minutes

Objective: The Peer Group will listen to a story about fertility and family planning and reflect on possible solutions to a related scenario.

1. **Tell** the group you'll tell a story about fertility and then discuss it. Read the story slowly, twice.

Telo grew up in Karamoja in a local Manyata. When he met a woman named Angolere and married her, he had some cows from the dowry, but not enough to sustain them. Life has been difficult, and their three small children are often hungry. They have decided they will wait to have another child until they are

better able to provide food for all of their children. Angolere thinks she should start using a family planning method, but Telo says that isn't necessary. He says the only time a woman can become pregnant is just after she menstruates, so they can avoid that by practicing self-control. Angolere disagrees; she says that a woman can get pregnant at any time.

2. **Discuss** the story with the group using the following questions:

- Telo says a woman can only get pregnant just after she menstruates. Is this correct?
- Angolere says a woman can get pregnant at any time. Is this correct?
- What would you tell Telo and Angolere about when a woman can get pregnant?
- How can good communication help this situation?



3. TELL A NEW STORY!

Time: 30 Minutes

Objective: Men and women begin to understand how to use their knowledge of fertility to make decisions about family planning.

1. **Tell** the group they'll use the information they know about anatomy and fertility to help Telo and Angolere plan their family better.
2. **Tell** them to form 4 mixed groups.
3. **Tell** them that each group will create a drama about how Telo and Angolere learn more about fertility. This time, they will add one character, a VHT. The VHT advises the couple when they go to the health center to seek advice. The groups can also add other characters that they would like to have in the story. They should finish the story with a happy ending! They can use any of the information that they've discussed about good communication, menstruation, or fertility.
4. **Give** the groups 10 minutes to come up with a short drama about how Telo and Angolere learn more about fertility.
5. **Have each group perform** their version of the new story for the whole group to watch.

4. REFLECTION/DISCUSSION

Time: 20 Minutes

1. **After each group has performed their drama, lead a discussion using the following questions:**
 - Was all of the information in the dramas correct? Was any information incorrect?

- Is there any additional information that Telo and Angolere should know?
- What challenges might Telo and Angolere face in using the information that they learned from the VHT?
- If Telo and Angolere were your friends and came to you for advice, what would you tell them?

2. During the discussion, keep in mind the key facts below to make sure the group members remember the correct information.

- A woman is only fertile, or able to become pregnant, during the days that she has secretions. These come in the middle of the menstrual cycle. She is not able to become pregnant during or right after her menstrual period.
- The couple may find it easier to communicate if they follow the tips for good communication that we talked about in the first meeting. They can pick a good time, listen to each other, ask questions to understand what their partner thinks and feels, and decide together on the next step.



5. WRAP-UP

Time: 10 Minutes

Objective: Thank the group and prepare for next week

1. **Ask** for group members to share something they learned today or that surprised them.
2. **Ask:** What will you do with this information?
3. **Encourage** participants to use their Reminder Cards to talk to other people about what they learned today.
4. **Ask** participants to think of three people who they will talk to about fertility. Ask each participant to tell the person next to them the names of the people they will talk to.
5. **Thank the group for a great discussion.** Make sure they know they are valued for their time and insight. Then, ask that each member turn to their left, look that person in the eyes, smile, and thank them for sharing their thoughts and ideas. This will begin to build trust and connection amongst members.
6. **Tell** the group that next week they'll be preparing a drama to share this information with their community!
7. **Remind** them of their meeting time and place for next week.

Closing - End with applause for all and a song or dance

**TOPIC 3:
FERTILITY**

THEATRE REHEARSAL: CONTENT REVIEW

Refer to the Guidelines on Page 12 of the original manual for the instructions to follow when directing drama rehearsals and holding performances in the community.

In our meetings we've talked about Fertility. Today we're going to create a drama to share this information with other people in our community.

1. **What are some of the things you learned in the Fertility meetings?**
2. **What are three things related to fertility that you would like to share with other people in your community?**
3. **We learned about the parts of the female reproductive system. What do you remember about this?**
 - [If not already mentioned] The ovaries produce an egg every month. The egg moves through the fallopian tube to the uterus. If it is fertilized, it implants in the side of the uterus and grows into a baby. If it is not fertilized, the blood in the uterus will flow out during the menstrual period.
4. **We also learned about the parts of the male reproductive system. What do you remember about this?**
 - **Answer:** [If not already mentioned] The testicles produce sperm. These are inside the scrotum, the sack that hangs beneath the penis. During sexual intercourse, the sperm move through a tube from the testes to the penis and then into the woman.
5. **When can a woman become pregnant?**
 - **Answer:** during several days in the middle of her menstrual cycle.
6. **Can a woman become pregnant the first time she has sex?**
 - **Answer:** Yes. A woman can become pregnant the first time she has sex if it occurs during the time that she is fertile.
7. **When is a man able to make a woman pregnant?**
 - **Answer:** A man is able to make a woman pregnant every day, from the time of his first ejaculation on.
8. **What determines the sex of a baby?**
 - **Answer:** A man's sperm determines whether a baby is a boy or girl.

**TOPIC 3:
FERTILITY**

COMMUNITY THEATRE – STORYLINE 1



Characters

Angolere.....A woman who goes to a health clinic with her husband to learn more about the time when a woman can become pregnant

TeloAngolere’s Husband, who goes to the health clinic with her

Nurse Namer.....Nurse at the Health Clinic who informs the couple about fertility

Three women.....Friends of Angolere, who learn about fertility from Angolere and Telo

Three men.....Friends of Telo, who learn about fertility from Angolere and Telo

Scene 1

Telo and Angolere are at home with their three children. They don’t have food and the children are hungry. Angolere tells Telo she would like to talk about their family. She is concerned that they can’t provide enough food for their children or pay school fees for the older children. She wants to wait until things are better before they have another child so that all of the children will have enough to eat and be healthy. Telo agrees that they should wait some time before having another child. Angolere says she should start using a family planning method so that she does not become pregnant. Telo says that is not necessary. He says a woman only becomes pregnant right after menstruation, so they can avoid pregnancy by practicing self-control at that time. Angolere disagrees; she says a woman can become pregnant at any time. Telo turns and asks the audience what they know about this.

[Allow a few responses from the audience].

Telo suggests that they go to the health center to get more information on this.

Moderation Questions

1. Angolere and Telo are concerned about having enough food for their children. What do they decide to do?
2. Angolere and Telo disagree about when a woman can become pregnant. What do they decide to do to learn more about this?

Summary

After the audience has responded to the questions, the moderator gives a summary of the key messages:

Thank you for sharing your ideas. In this scene, we see that Angolere and Telo are concerned about feeding their children. They discuss this and decide together that they should wait to have another child. They have different thoughts on when a woman can become pregnant, so they decide to go to a health center to learn more.



Scene 2

Telo and Angolere arrive at the health center and greet Nurse Namer. They ask if Namer can explain more about how a woman becomes pregnant. Nurse Namer thanks the couple for coming and brings out a poster of the female reproductive system. She points to several organs and explains the function of each. The uterus is where a baby grows when a woman is pregnant. The ovaries produce eggs. An egg is released every month and travels down the fallopian tube to the uterus. If the egg meets with a sperm, it becomes fertilized, implants on the side of the uterus, and grows into a baby.

Angolere asks if it is true that a woman can become pregnant at any time. Nurse Namer explains this is not the case. A woman can only become pregnant during the middle of her menstrual cycle, the time about halfway between menstrual cycles. She will notice secretions during this time. The days with secretions are fertile days, days that she can become pregnant. If she has unprotected sex during the fertile days she might become pregnant, even if she has sex only one time.

Telo says he has been told that a woman can become pregnant just after she menstruates. Is this true? Nurse Namer explains that this is not true. The egg is released from the ovaries in the middle of the menstrual cycle. She can only become pregnant when the egg is present. Secretions are released for several days before and after the egg is released. These secretions are healthy and a sign that the woman is on her fertile days, days when she can become pregnant.

Telo and Angolere thank the nurse for this information.

Moderation Questions

1. What does Nurse Namer say about the time when a woman can become pregnant?
2. What does Nurse Namer say about secretions?

Summary

After the audience has responded to the questions, the moderator gives a summary of the key messages:

Thank you for sharing your ideas. In this scene, Nurse Namer explains that a woman can only become pregnant during the middle of her menstrual cycle. This is the time when the egg is released. Secretions are also released in the middle of the cycle. These are a healthy sign that the woman is on her fertile days and can become pregnant. A woman can become pregnant if she has unprotected sex on these days, even if she has sex only one time.

**Scene 3**

As Telo and Angolere walk home, they say that they are happy to have this new information and want their friends to know this too. They look for their friends and find three couples gathered under a tree. They greet the couples and Angolere tells them they have just learned important information about a woman's fertility at the health center. She tells them what she learned about the uterus, ovaries, egg, and fallopian tubes. Telo mentions that a woman can only become pregnant during the middle of the cycle, for this is when the egg is released. The woman will notice secretions during this time. Some of the friends ask questions, which Telo and Angolere help answer. Angolere advises the friends that they can also go to the health center to learn more about a woman's fertile time.

Moderation Questions

Split audience into age groups for this section. One Moderator can talk with each group.

1. What did you learn from today's drama?
2. Do couples in this community talk about when a woman can become pregnant?
3. Are there people in this community who have incorrect knowledge about when a woman can become pregnant? What advice would you give them?

Summary

After the audience has responded to the questions, the moderator gives a summary of the key messages:

Thank you for sharing your ideas. In the drama today, we learned that a woman can only become pregnant during the middle of the menstrual cycle, during the time about halfway between two periods. This is when the egg is released. A woman will have secretions for several days at this time. We also learned about the different organs in the woman's reproductive system. People can get more information on fertility and the woman's reproductive system from the health center.

Closing

- Ask the audience what they will do with the information they learned today and give them time to respond.
- Ask audience members to think of three people who they will talk to about fertility.
- Ask each audience member to tell the person next to them the names of the people they will talk to.
- Thank everyone for coming to the drama and passing on these messages to other people in the community.

**TOPIC 3:
FERTILITY**

COMMUNITY THEATRE – STORYLINE 2



Characters

LokwangA man whose wife is pregnant

Otiang.....A man whose wife is pregnant

KolibiA man who is knowledgeable about fertility

Chegem.....VHT

Three women.....Wives of Lokwang, Otiang, and Kolibi

Scene 1

Lokwang, Otiang, and Kolibi are sitting outside, playing a game and chatting about their children. Lokwang and Otiang's wives are both pregnant. Lokwang hopes that his wife will produce a boy for they already have two girls. Otiang hopes that his wife will produce a girl, as they already have three boys. Otiang wonders why it is that some women only produce girls, some only produce boys, and some produce both.

Kolibi speaks up to explain to his friends the role of the man in determining the sex of the child: "My friends, it is not the woman who produces a girl or a boy. It is actually the man's sperm that decides if the baby is a girl or a boy!" Lokwang and Otiang question this and discuss it with Kolibi.

Lokwang turns to the audience and asks what they know about this.

[Give time for a few audience members to respond].

Lokwang and Otiang are still unsure of this so they decide to visit a VHT.

Moderation Questions

1. According to Lokwang and Otiang, who determines whether a baby is a boy or girl?
2. According to Kolibi, what determines if a baby is a boy or girl?

Summary

After the audience has responded to the questions, the moderator gives a summary of the key messages:

Thank you for sharing your ideas. In this scene, we see that Lokwang and Otiang believe a woman determines whether a baby is a boy or girl. Kolibi gives them new information. He says that it is the man's sperm that determines whether a baby is a boy or girl.



Scene 2

Lokwang, Otiang, Kolibi greet Chegem, the VHT. Lokwang tells Chegem what they learned from Kolibi and asks if it is true that the man's sperm determine the sex of a child. Chegem confirms that this is true. "The man's sperm have two different types of material – some have the type which creates a boy baby and some have the type which creates a girl baby. The man can't control which the baby will be; it just depends which of those meets the women's egg."

Kolibi asks Chegem to explain more about sperm and where they come from. Chegem brings out a poster of the male reproductive system and explains the different organs. The testicles are where the sperm is produced. The testicles are inside the scrotum, the sack that hangs down below the penis. During sexual intercourse the sperm travel from the testicles to the penis and enter the woman.

Otiang asks how a man can know when he is able to get a woman pregnant. Chegem explains that a man is always able to make a woman pregnant every day from the time he has his first ejaculation during puberty. Anytime he has unprotected sex, he might make the woman pregnant. However, the woman can only become pregnant during certain days of her menstrual cycle. So if they have sex during those days, the man might make her pregnant.

The men thank Chegem for talking with them today.

Moderation Questions

1. What does the VHT say about how the sex of a baby is determined?
2. How does a man know if he is able to make a woman pregnant?

Summary

Thank you for your responses. In this scene, the VHT explains that the man's sperm determines the sex of a child. This is because sperm can have two kinds of material. One kind will create a male baby and the other kind will create a female baby. The man cannot control whether the baby will be a boy or girl. The VHT also explains that from the time of his first ejaculation,

he is fertile every day. So, the man could make the woman pregnant any time that they have unprotected sex. However, the woman is only able to become pregnant during certain days in her menstrual cycle.



Scene 3

Lokwang, Otiang, Kolibi encounter their wives as they walk home. The men tell their wives that they just met the VHT and learned interesting information about men's sperm. They learned that it is the man's sperm that determines the sex of the baby. They explain that a man is always fertile, so he is always able to make a woman pregnant if they have unprotected sex during her fertile time.

Moderation Questions (Split audience into age groups for this section)

1. What did you learn from the drama today?
2. Are there people in our community who think it is the woman that determines whether a baby is a boy or girl?
3. In this drama we learned that it is the man's sperm that determines whether a baby is a boy or girl. Is there any way for the man or woman to influence whether a baby is a boy or girl?

Summary

Thank you for your responses. In this scene, the VHT explains that the man's sperm determines the sex of a child. This is because sperm can have two kinds of material. One kind will create a male baby and the other kind will create a female baby. Neither the man nor the woman can influence what sex the baby is. The VHT also explains that from the time of his first ejaculation, he is fertile every day. So, they man could make the woman pregnant any time that they have unprotected sex. However, the woman is only able to become pregnant during certain days in her menstrual cycle.

Closing

- Ask the audience what they will do with the information they learned today and give them time to respond.
- Ask audience members to think of three people who they will talk to about fertility.
- Ask each audience member to tell the person next to them the names of the people they will talk to.
- Thank everyone for coming to the drama and passing on these messages to other people in the community.

TOPIC 3:
FERTILITYCOMMUNITY THEATRE:
CREATE YOUR OWN DRAMA!

Drama Prompt: A group of friends want to learn about how pregnancy happens and when a woman can become pregnant.

Moderator Questions for the Audience

Split audience into age groups for this section. One Moderator can talk with each group. Some standard questions are below. You can also add your own questions based on what happened in the drama.

1. What did you learn from watching this drama?
2. What advice would you give to the characters in this drama?
3. What are some challenges in our community related to understanding fertility?
4. How could we address some of these challenges?

Closing

- Ask the audience what they will do with the information they learned today and give them time to respond.
- Ask participants to think of three people who they will talk to about fertility.
- Ask each participant to tell the person next to them the names of the people they will talk to.
- Thank everyone for coming to the drama and passing on these messages to other people in the community.