



AMREF INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH

HSR 701

INTRODUCTION TO PRINCIPLES OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THEIR LINKAGES TO SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHTS (SRHR)

**END OF TERM 1 SEMESTER EXAMINATION
(JANUARY – APRIL 2025)**

SECTION A (COMPULSORY QUESTION)

QUESTION 1: (15 marks)

Paradoxically, inequalities in health persist, with reproductive health in particular described as a “Continental State of Emergency” by ministers of health as they moved actions in October 2005 as they debated and adopted “The Continental Policy Framework on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in Africa, during their 2nd Ordinary Session of the Conference of African Ministers of Health in Gaborone, Botswana.

Health issues have been a consistent item on the agenda of African government meetings since 2001. The revised Maputo Plan of Action (MPOA) 2016 - 2030 on Sexual and Reproductive Health remains consistent with Africa’s Agenda 2063 which calls for a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development. The revised plan recognizes the unique circumstances of Africa Union member states.

Elaborate measures African Governments could put in place to fully implement the following key strategies in the MPOA to meet the desired obligations:

- a) Improving political commitment, leadership and good governance. **(3 marks)**
- b) Ensuring gender equality, women and girls' empowerment and respect of human rights. **(4 marks)**
- c) Improving strategic communication for SRHR **(4 marks)**
- d) Investing in SRH needs for adolescents, youth and vulnerable and marginalized populations. **(4 marks)**

SECTION B- ANSWER ANY 3 QUESTIONS OF YOUR CHOICE - (TOTAL 45 MARKS)

QUESTION 2 (15 marks)

It took **Madam P** six years to get justice for her daughter's murder, but her pursuit of justice led to a historic precedent in prosecuting sexual offences for minors in her country **XXX** based in Africa. The UN Women has approached you with their desire to support the government and civil society organizations in county **XXX**, so that together they can raise awareness and end impunity towards crimes and violence against women and girls.

- a) Discuss the challenges of prosecuting sexual offences including femicide in your country in the category of legal and systemic gaps, social and cultural and access to justice. **(5 marks)**
- b) Suggest key elements to include in the discussion paper to present to UN Women stating reasons why the approach is preferred for Government and CSOs.
 - i. Government **(5 marks)**
 - ii. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to end sexual violence targeted to women and girls in your country **(5 marks)**

QUESTION 3 (15 marks)

In the last thirty years after the adoption of the ICPD Programme of Action, a series of international commitments and initiatives have pledged to reduce maternal mortality globally. While many countries have made progress in reducing maternal mortality, progress has stagnated or has been reversed in many of the countries with the highest burden of

maternal mortality. Most parts of Africa are off-track to meet the SDGs' target of reducing maternal mortality. It is often said that maternal mortality is overwhelmingly due to a number of interrelated delays which ultimately prevent a pregnant woman from accessing the health care she needs. Each delay is closely related to services, goods, facilities and conditions which are important elements of the right to health including sexual and reproductive health and rights. Three delays have been identified.

The right to health connotes the criteria elements described as 3 A's and Q, namely; **Availability, Accessibility, Acceptability and Quality of** health facilities, goods and services and their relevance to maternal mortality. Reflecting on any county in Sub Saharan Africa, respond to the following:

- a) What are the known causes of maternal mortality in the country? **(3marks)**
- b) Using the elements in the 3 A's and Q, discuss what the country you have selected needs to do to meet the international criteria on AAAQ? **(3 marks)**
- c) Elaborate three (3) delays that contribute to maternal mortality and morbidity in your country. **(5 marks)**
- d) For each of the delays identified in (c), discuss three (3) corresponding SRHR and freedoms that need to be promoted and protected **(4 marks)**

QUESTION 4 (15 marks)

The United Nations agencies and Governments largely are adopting ***a right-based approach to replace the former 'basic needs' approach.*** Under human rights-based approaches, governments are primary duty bearers, while citizens are rights holders. Rights holders have a right to demand accountability and implementation from duty bearers.

- a) Elaborate the African Regional Policy Framework on SRHR adopted by Heads of States and Governments over a couple of years. **(5 Marks)**
- b) Discuss (10) rights relevant to Sexual and Reproductive Health as enumerated by the international and regional treaties and conventions that African States have signed onto to protect and promote women and girls' rights. **(5 marks)**

- c) Using examples drawn from your country, discuss what implementation measures a government may consider putting in place to ensure that all people requiring access to safe abortion do so without further barriers that are discriminatory in any way. **(5 marks)**

QUESTION 5 (15 marks)

Agnes is a 15-year-old girl in junior school and she has been elected to represent the school in a Sexual and Reproductive Health Promotion Conference, representing the interests of the adolescents and the young persons. Her topic of deliberation is how to make age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education in school a reality.

She approaches you as a Sexual Reproductive Health Rights expert in the Ministry of Health to discuss issues to include in her memorandum, including how to frame the issues from a human rights perspective.

Respond to the questions below in order to offer Agnes some expertise advice.

- a) Discuss 5 (five) human rights challenges that adolescents and young people in Africa continue to experience in accessing SRH services. **(5 marks)**
- b) Elaborate five (5) key communication messages you would give to Agnes on behalf of the adolescents and young people to include in her memorandum to present to the authorities seeking to end violations by omission or commission by the government. **(5 Marks)**
- c) Discuss legal and policy reforms you would suggest to the Government as a means of ensuring that boys and girls access comprehensive age-appropriate sex education in Africa. **(5 marks)**

QUESTION 6 (15 marks)

The overarching goal of the Maputo Plan of Action is for African governments, civil society, the private sector and all multisector development partners to join forces and redouble efforts so that together, the effective implementation of the continental policy framework on SRHR is achieved in order to end preventable maternal, newborn, child and adolescent

deaths, expand contraceptive use, reduce levels of unsafe abortion, end child marriage, eradicate harmful traditional practices including female genital mutilation and prevent gender-based violence and ensure access of adolescents and youth to SRH by 2030 in all countries in Africa.

You are recruited as a SRHR expert to draft an implementable MPOA Action plan for your county, covering its relevant key elements.

- a) Elaborate five (5) sexual and reproductive health and rights elements that are promoted in the ICPD Cairo 1994 platform of action. **(5 marks)**
- b) Discuss five (5) barriers in your country that women and men face in accessing comprehensive Family Planning services. **(5 marks)**
- c) Propose five (5) human rights policy actions whose implementation would eradicate Female Genital Mutilation as a harmful cultural practice. **(5 marks)**