

Reproductive Health Literacy Scale: A Tool for Refugee Women Empowerment

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Background

- ❖ One of the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations is fighting against the disparity in women's reproductive health (RH) outcomes.
- ❖ This is achieved through improved reproductive health literacy (RHL) which is the degree to which individuals have the ability to find, understand, and use reproductive health information and services to inform health-related decisions and actions for themselves and others.
- ❖ Existing health literacy (HL) scales do not focus on RH.
- ❖ Refugee women are among the most vulnerable populations in the case of RH literacy due language barriers, unfamiliarity with the healthcare system, and financial and access barriers.

Alpha coefficients of 68 Dari and 54 Arabic RHLT pre-tests

| Scale | Total | Arabic | Dari |
|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| HLS-EU-Q6 | 0.772607 | 0.819401 | 0.743753 |
| eHeals | 0.90796 | 0.914137 | 0.907015 |
| C-CLAT | 0.838416 | 0.817863 | 0.849175 |
| Repronet HL-Scale | 0.927475 | 0.92314 | 0.929618 |

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References

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Objective:

To develop a linguistically and culturally appropriate RH literacy scale that assesses the impact of a refugee RH literacy training on Afghan and Arab refugee women's ability to understand and use RH information.

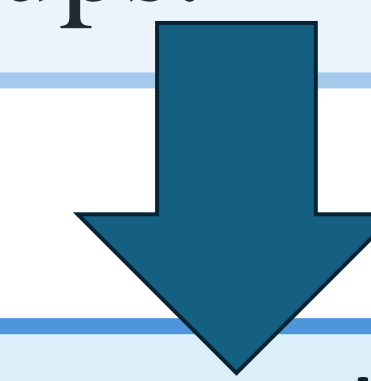
Conclusion

- ❖ We developed and piloted a unique reproductive health literacy scale for refugees. This tool will provide a baseline of reproductive health literacy among various refugee groups and thus inform planning and monitoring of public health literacy interventions.

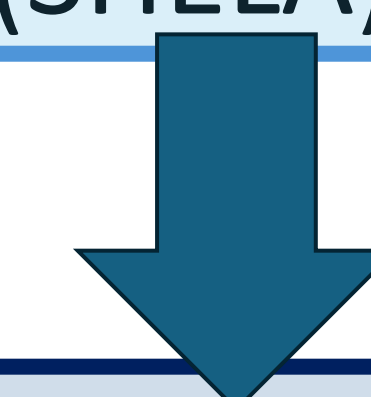


Methods

- ❖ Literature review of scales that:
 - cover the three health literacy topics covered in the RHLT: cervical cancer, family planning and maternal health.
 - address health literacy according to the Healthy People 2030 definition ,
 - were validated in diverse cultural and linguistic groups.



- ❖ The research team evaluated reading level.
- ❖ Adopted scales:
 - General Health Literacy*: European Health Literacy Survey Questionnaire 6 (HLS-EU-Q6) [5]
 - Digital Health Literacy*: e-Health Literacy Scale (eHEALS) [2,9]
 - Cervical cancer health literacy*: Cervical Cancer Literacy Assessment Tool (C-CLAT) [6]
 - Postpartum and family planning health literacy*: ReproNet health literacy scale, selected items from the Iranian Adult Sexual Health Literacy Assessment Standard Questionnaire (SHELA).



- ❖ Translation of items into Dari, Arabic and Pashto by bilingual ReproNet scholars
- ❖ Administered to 68 Dari and 54 Arabic RHLT participants

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