



## Redefining access to women's health.

Digitisation of women's health, family planning and ending period poverty for African Communities.

Presentation By:  
Asonele Kotu  
Founder of FemConnect  
[www.femiconnect.com](http://www.femiconnect.com)

28 Sept 2022





## POPULATION TRENDS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA AND EAST AFRICA REGIONS:

- In **2010**, the estimated population of the East and Southern Africa region was just over **400 million**. This is projected to more than double to **944 million by 2050** (75 million in Southern Africa and 870 million in Eastern Africa).
- Result of **greater numbers of people living to reproductive age, coupled with changes in fertility rates, and the processes of urbanization and migration**
- In **South Africa**, more than **23,000 girls under 18 gave birth between April 2020 and March 2021** – of which **934 were under 14** - compared to **14,577 girls aged 19** and under having babies in the same period a year earlier.

# The Problem:



Overburdened Health system = lack of access quality healthcare for all especially those in marginalised communities



Lack of access to equitable SRHR/menstrual health services and a shortage of digital solutions to bridge this gap.



Waiting times involved in dependency on donations for period products and access to family planning in public clinics.



Lack of WASH facilities for those in rural communities. Public schools and communities do not have adequate sanitation



3.7 million girls experience period poverty and are dependant on funding stripped schools based programs who closed down due to COVID, inaccessibility to WASH



There is a need for digital tools with educational content around menstrual health, SRHR and family planning for disempowered communities.

# About us

FemConnect is a digital platform that enables easier access to SRHR telehealth services, period poverty support and GBV support for women in Sub-Saharan Africa in line with SDG3 and SDG5. As part of our #WegotuGirl campaign to end period poverty, we believe no girl/woman should be missing out on life due to menstruation and poverty. We providing supportive services and education from puberty to sexual maturation stages.

Our femtech solution responds to health access issues experienced by women to ensure that their SRHR needs are catered for conveniently, discreetly and flexibly - delivered to their doorsteps!



## What do we currently have?

CBO's, NGO  
Schools, Youth  
Clubs

Police, Hotlines,  
Helplines, SMS  
Lines

Private  
Clinics, Doctors,  
Pharmacies

Civil Society  
Organisations,  
Shelters, Safe  
Houses

Public Clinics



## How can we enhance the services?

Virtual medical  
assistance for FP  
(Telehealth)

Online support  
systems - stigma &  
Taboo free

Online apps  
catering to  
women's SRHR  
products and  
services

Online menstrual  
health support  
platforms

Access to diverse  
self-administered  
contraceptive mix

Digital Advocacy  
and Education  
around SRHR



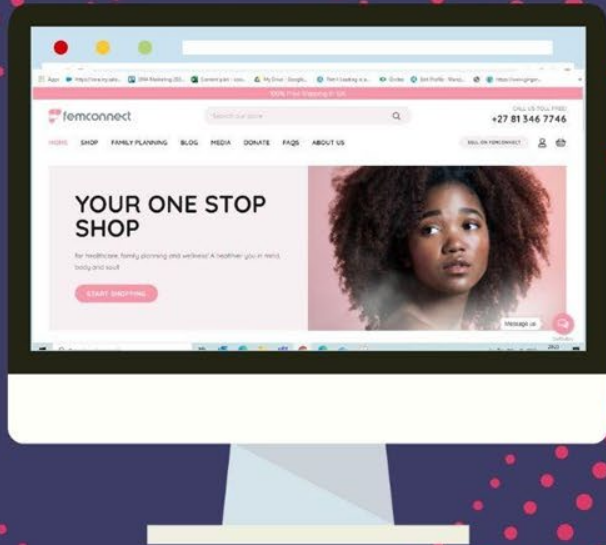


## TECHNOLOGY CHALLENGES

- There is no blanket solution for all: what works for developed countries might not work for developing countries.
- There is little investment being done towards developing tech infrastructure in rural communities.
- High data and connectivity costs.
- Lack of devices, equipment and connectivity.
- Lack of funding for the development of innovative SRHR solutions for family planning

# What should technologies be focusing on?

- intensifying advocacy and policy dialogue for maternal health
- strengthen health systems to improve access to quality services
- providing easy access to community-based information and services on family planning and other reproductive health services.
- Support comprehensive sexuality education to prevent child marriages, teenage pregnancies, unsafe abortions, HIV infections, etc
- Connecting users to service providers at time of their own convenience





Azonele Kotu

EMAIL ADDRESS

[kotuasonele@gmail.com](mailto:kotuasonele@gmail.com)

[info@femiconnect.com](mailto:info@femiconnect.com)

PHONE NUMBER

+27 81 346 7746

+27 83 989 6880

**Thank you!**