

Abstract title

Partnerships to Revitalize the IUD: the Kisii IUCD Repositioning Initiative

Key words

Partnerships, IUDs, Revitalization, Family planning, supply, demand

Learning objectives

By the end of this presentation, participants will be able to

- 1) describe activities implemented in Kenya to build partnerships for its IUD revitalization work;
- 2) list three challenges and benefits to working through partnerships; and
- 3) identify three lessons learned in working through partnerships.

Partnership model

The Kenya IUD Revitalization initiative includes partnerships with national and district level health offices, government, public- and private-sector providers, professional associations of doctors and nurses, nongovernmental organizations, community groups, cooperating agencies/projects and donors. The model focuses on maximizing resources, reducing competition and strengthening linkages between service sites and the communities they serve.

Background

While the percentage of Kenyan women using any modern contraceptive has more than tripled in the past twenty years, the IUD has virtually disappeared from the national family planning method mix. In 2004, under the auspices of the Implementing Best Practices Initiative, the Kenya's Ministry of Health initiated an effort to revitalize the IUD as a sustainable contraceptive option. The effort involves national advocacy efforts as well as targeted community outreach and capacity building in eight pilot districts.

Design/methods

The Kenya IUD Revitalization Initiative has used data for decision making and participatory programming, to foster ownership and sustainability and taken a holistic, systems approach that pays attention to both "supply side" and "demand side" interventions. The holistic process addresses the many factors that hinder access to and use of the IUD by building consensus at the national level, assessing client and provider knowledge, training providers, strengthening service delivery, reaching clients and communities, and improving logistics. Pilot districts were selected based on the presence of partners within these districts to support implementation and the geographic spread within the country - at least 6 of the 8 provinces.

Results/Outcome

Advocacy efforts have raised awareness about the IUD, and family planning in general, from the highest levels of government to villages and families across Kenya. Training and other capacity-building activities have improved service delivery and access to the IUD in the pilot districts. The largest increase in IUD uptake took place when supply interventions were linked with intensive community education programs, indicating that in addition to provider skills and knowledge updates, demand creation is essential for increasing IUD uptake. Overall, there has been a 38% increase in family planning uptake in all 8 districts. In Kisii district IUD use has increased more 150%.

Impact of partnership

This initiative has brought together a diverse range of stakeholders to work in partnership, not in competition, toward a common cause. It has brought national and international attention to the IUD as a safe, effective but underused method.

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