The Power of Stakeholder Engagement: Pilot-Testing the Administration of Injectable Contraceptives by Patent Medicine Vendors in Nigeria

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Background

• CPR for modern methods – 10% for two decades
• Most popular: Injectable contraceptives 30% of contraceptive use (NDHS, 2013)
• Poor access for many women
• To improve coverage and access, community-based options are needed
Patent Medicine Stores (PMS)

- Community’s first point of contact for health care
- Patent Medicine Vendors (PMVs) are licensed to sell patent and proprietary drugs
- Are an integral part of the private sector, providing 60% of FP services
Advantages of PMVs

• Open 7 days a week
• Easily accessible
• Short waiting time
• Services are simple and cheaper than the formal health center
PMVs and Injectables

• Current regulations do not permit PMVs to sell or administer injectables because of lack of training. Can only refer clients.
• Yet some PMVs are selling and administering injectables in response to high demand.
Our Study:
Can PMVs play a larger role in meeting women’s demand for injectables?
Objective: Determine the feasibility of PMVs to:

Original
• sell
• counsel
• refer for administration
all injectables, including Sayana Press

Expanded:
• sell
• counsel
• refer
• administer
all injectables, including Sayana Press

How did we build support to expand our study to include administration of injectables by PMVs?
Engagement Process

1st Step: Get Protocol Approved

• Required approval by the National Reproductive Health Technical Working Group (RH TWG)

• RH TWG encouraged expanding the study to include administration of injectables
2nd Step: Gain Stakeholder Buy-in to Expand Protocol

Stakeholders Meeting

- Co-sponsored w/FMoH
  - 23 attendees
- Champions favored task shifting
- Detractors skeptical of PMV’s capabilities
- Evidence presented for piloting PMV administration
- Received overwhelming support despite initial skepticism
...and the study?

- Protocol revised and resubmitted to and approved by various review boards
- Study underway in 2 states; will be completed in October 2016
- FMoH asked us to develop and coordinate PMV training - 80 PMVs in each state being trained, supervised, mentored, and monitored
- Also exit interviews and follow-up of clients
Program Implications/Lessons

- Value of stakeholders’ engagement and dialogue cannot be overstressed.
- They identified potential administrative and implementation bottlenecks and pathways for results utilization.
- USAID considering scaling up the study to 4 more states.
- Study evolved to have potentially greater impact on how FP services are delivered and in meeting the national 2018 mCPR goal of 36%.
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