Lessons learnt from the successful introduction of the Hormonal Intrauterine Device (HIUD) in Zambia during the COVID-19 pandemic

Waza Bright Mhango

20th October 2023
Introduction

- MOH had decided to scale up Hormonal IUD to all facilities in 2020 following successful piloting in over one hundred health facilities.
- The scale up was planned in a phased manner to account for global commodity availability and enable MOH focus limited resources to specific geographies at a given time.
- Zambia MOH’s long-term vision is to have hormonal IUD available at every public sector facility that is eligible to provide LARC.

Hormonal IUD Provincial Phasing

- Phase 1 Provinces
- Phase 2 Provinces
- Phase 3 Provinces
Approach

• Working with and under the leadership of MOH, the SRH product Introduction Technical Committee (PITC) was formed.
• The PITCs main goal is to standardize the best practice processes for effective and efficient introduction of SRH products in the health sector.

PITC Membership

• Ministry of Health
• Zambia Medicines and Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA)
• Zambia Medicines and Medical Supplies Agency (ZAMMSA)
• Zambia National Formulary Committee (ZNFC)
• Academic/research institutions - University of Zambia, Apex Medical University
• Professional bodies - Zambia Association of Gynaecology and Obstetrics (ZAGO), Midwifery Association of Zambia (MAZ), Pharmaceutical Society of Zambia (PSZ)
• Cooperating and implementing partners
Approach

PITC Objectives

• To review end user and country needs for SRH products in Zambia
• To develop product introduction strategy and approach for new SRH products
• To coordinate activities relating to the development and review of policies and guidelines with respect to the introduction of SRH in Zambia
• To advise stakeholders on processes relating to the introduction of new and existing SRH products in Zambia
• To coordinate, monitor and evaluate the introduction, scale-up, and performance of all SRH products in Zambia
• To inform the broader and future global product development agenda for SRH products

How PITC fits into the MOH structure

- Product Introduction Technical Committee (PITC)
  - Selection of new products to introduce
  - Supporting new product registration and other regulatory requirements
  - New product introduction coordination

- Family Planning Technical Working Group (FP TWG)
  - Resource mobilization for hormonal IUD commodities and activities

- FP TWG Supply Chain Subgroup
  - Forecast and quantify for hormonal IUD needs
  - Facilitate hormonal IUD distribution

- Zambia National Formulary Committee (ZNFC)
  - Review and update the Essential Medicines List, standard treatment guidelines and Zambia national formulary
Approach

PITC Interventions

- The PITC worked to:
  i) Develop the introduction and costed implementation plan for Hormonal IUD
  ii) Coordinate the roles stakeholders played
  iii) include hormonal IUD in supply chain tools
  iv) Include hormonal IUD to HMIS and other data collection tools
  v) Monitor hormonal IUD roll out
Results - New Product Introduction Guidelines

Selection Criteria
What are the needs of the clients?
What supply chain challenge, market gap or market opportunity will the new product solve?
What are the new product’s unique value propositions for clients?
What are the new product’s unique value propositions for the health program?

Regulatory Requirements
Administrative and prescribing information
Overview of quality, non-clinical and clinical presentation
Chemical, pharmaceutical and biological data
Non-clinical (Pharmaco-toxicological) data
Clinical study reports

New Product Integration
National level planning, budgeting and resourcing
Supply chain and data management
HCW training and Mentorship
Demand generation
As training continues, insertions in Zambia are increasing and about 6156 hormonal IUDs were inserted in the last 3 months.
Trainings - Phase 1 Provinces

Number of facilities with at least 1 trained provider

- Central: 155
- Northern: 123
- Western: 169
- Copperbelt: 520

Legend:
- Number of Eligible facilities
- Facilities with at least 1 trained provider
Hormonal IUD trainings (for existing LARC providers) and comprehensive LARC trainings (for new LARC providers) have been conducted for 690 health workers. 360 CBVs have been oriented on hormonal IUD to help with demand creation.

Training has been conducted in all the 4 provinces Phase 1 provinces, reaching 71%-78% coverage of hospital and health centers with at least one trained provider.
Conclusion

• The PITC provided leadership that eased the introduction of the HIUD during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, they have continued to provide oversight and coordination for new SRH product introduction in Zambia beyond the pandemic.

• Only strong systems can produce resilient supply chain systems.
The end