Revolutionizing Reproductive Health Supply Chains: Funding & Strategy Insights

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From Allocation to Utilization: Lessons Learned from FP Budget Advocacy in Pakistan during Covid and Beyond

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RAFIA RAUF

Forum for Safe Motherhood (White Ribbon Alliance Pakistan Chapter)
How It All Began
**2019 - The Pandemic Arrives...**

**Status:**
Pakistan – A Middle Income Country with a fragile health system, faced with an added burden of a pandemic

**What Was Visible:**
Government’s Shifting Priorities – From ‘Non-Essential Services to Emergency Resource Management’

**The Result:**
Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) cuts down Resource Allocation to Family Planning (FP) in FY2020-21
What Women Want Campaign

1.2 Million Women in 114 Countries
250,000 Women in Pakistan
35,000 Women from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP)

Q: “What is Your Top Request for Your Maternal & Reproductive Health Care?”
Family Planning as the Top 10 Demand in KP

- Availability: 41%
- Accessibility: 24%
- Information: 9%
- Quality: 2%
- Others: 24%
The Venture Starts
January – July 2021
Maximizing Budgetary Allocations for FP
Our Timeline & Strategy

- Getting Government on Board from Inception
- Landscaping Analysis
- Working with the Right Partners
- Advocacy Meetings with Key Decisionmakers
- Consultative Sessions with relevant Departments
- Women Engagement & Strategic use of Media

Timeline:
- JAN: Budget Planning Window
- MAY
- JUN: Budget Announcement
Our Success

56.8% increase in overall budget for Family Planning Programming in KP
September 2021 – July 2022
Maximizing Budgetary Utilization for FP
Our Strategy

- Strong Working Relationship with Population Welfare Department (PWD)
- Working with the ‘Right’ Partners, at the National and Provincial levels
- Reliance on Evidence – Trend Analysis of Budgetary Allocations & Utilization over 4 Financial Years
- Consultative Sessions with relevant Departments (Finance & Planning) for addressing bottlenecks
- Advocacy Meetings with Key Decisionmakers at Population Welfare Department (PWD)
- Strengthening PWD’s capacity
Our Success

❖ Importance of Maximizing Resource Utilization highlighted at the highest decision-making forums in the province, such as KP FP2030 Working Group and KP Development Partners’ Group;

❖ Strengthening of PWD’s Capacity in Increasing Budgetary Spending in the long term;

❖ An Unprecedented Increase in Utilization from last FY2020-21:
  - 145% for Development Programs
  - 224% for Procurement of FP Commodities
Thank You!
Engaging, Informing & Adapting: Lessons Learned from Multi-Country Integrated Family Planning Programme on Strengthening Commodity Security in Selected Countries

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Women’s Integrated Sexual Health (WISH) programme

Sustainability pillars

Pathways of change

Sustainable demand of integrated SRH/FP services

Social behavior change communication

Human Centred Design (HCD) and youth

Sustainable supply integrated SRH/FP services

Private sector strengthening

Public sector strengthening

Inclusivity for all to access SRH/FP services

Enabling environment for SRH/FP

Policies & Planning: favourable SRH/FP policy and planning environment

Accountability: systems to influence and track commitments and policies

Health financing: improved public sector investment in SRH/FP

Quality: national stewardship over SRH/FP quality management

Inspiring action. Transforming health.
Women’s Integrated Sexual Health (WISH) programme

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OUR APPROACH
Our approach

• Other WISH Partners supports - High Impact Practices (HIP)
  o Increase data visibility and use for continuous improvement
  o Speed up product flow through the supply chain
  o Build and support a competent, professional supply chain workforce
  o Capitalize on private sector supply chain capacity, where appropriate

• Options interventions strengthen enabling environment to achieve HIP
Our approach

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OUR INTERVENTIONS
Political Economy Analysis (PEA)

Nigeria

- Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) provides free FP commodities nationally
- State government distribute within the state
- The stock-out seems to be prevalent, persistent and getting worse
- Kano state: 60% of Budget released for distribution of commodities in 2017

Malawi

- Government created a Family Planning (FP) commodity budget line in fiscal year (FY) 2013/14
- Proportion of domestic funding for FP commodities remains extremely small
- Challenges for the timely release and full utilization
  - Delayed payment
  - Inconsistent and unpredictable supply of commodities
  - Poor coordination between MoH, MOF and medical supply agencies

Zambia

- FP is a central pillar of Zambia’s SRH programme and the wider national health priorities
- Primary sources of funding for commodities: mainly USAID, UNFPA, UNDP and FCDO.
- Increased stock out of one or more contraceptive methods: from 73% in 2018 to 93.5% in 2020
- Limited capacity of ZAMMSA to conduct distribution to the last mile to resupply health facilities

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WISH program interventions 1/2

**Governance**
- All countries: Capacity building of State-Led Accountability Mechanism (SLAM)
- All countries: Ongoing engagement with decision-makers
- Madagascar: Use of government champions (Prime Minister)

**Financing**
- All countries: Presented the investment case
- All countries: Tracking Allocations, Disbursement and Utilization
- Nigeria: Inclusion of FP in Insurance
- Madagascar: Public-private partnerships between MoPH and Health Mutual Insurance

**Policy**
- South Sudan: National FP Policy
- Madagascar: Taxation of FP commodities

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WISH program interventions 2/2

Malawi: Strengthening FP commodity task force

Malawi: Strengthening monitoring of FP commodities

Zambia: Joint bottleneck analysis with CSOs, MOH, ZAMMSA and other stakeholders

The supply chain
RESULTS
Results

Nigeria
- Creation of a budget line for FP in Jigawa and Kano
- Increased yearly allocation and release
- Inclusion of FP in Jigawa insurance benefit package

Zambia
- Disbursement and expenditure increased from 41% in the whole year of 2019 to 67% up to Q3 of 2020
- National wide action plan developed
- A budget scorecard developed (3 supply chain indicators)

Malawi
- Increased FP commodity budget by 137% from MK200 million in FY2021/22 to MK475 million in FY2022/23
- Shift procurement of commodities to UNFPA to ensure timeliness and cost-effectiveness
- Functional FP commodity task force with more effective monitoring

Madagascar
- Zero-rated contraceptives in Madagascar averting approx. £75 000 MOPH was paying in Tax per year since 2020
- FP included in insurance benefit package to broaden access to SRH/FP. Estimated to open FP access for over 123 985 families (September 2023 estimates)
Increased budget allocation and release

Allocation and release of funds for FP in Kano, 2020, 2021 and 2022 (millions)

Allocation and release of funds for FP in Jigawa, 2020, 2021 and 2022 (millions)

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Lessons

Lessons from Nigeria, Zambia, Malawi, Madagascar, and other countries, emphasize the importance of evidence generation, stakeholder engagement, targeted advocacy, and government accountability to strengthen the resilience of health supply chains.

Even in countries with favorable policy environment for SRH/FP, constant engagement with key decision-makers and evidence-based advocacy is important to ensure an effective supply chain.

Financing is a key enabler of the commodities supply chain and efforts need to focus on increased domestic resources to ensure sustainability.

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Thank you for listening

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Faced with Persistent Procurement Funding Gaps, the Global Family Planning Visibility and Analytics Network (VAN) Guides Responsive Action and Supports Resilience

RAJ GANGADIA, CHAI
VAN Country Analyst
Better aggregate, share, and align country demand data with production, procurement, and funding to avoid stock imbalances and maximize use of limited resources to ensure continuous availability and choice of family planning products in developing countries.

- **Better** = technology
- **Aggregate** = process
- **Share** = policy
- **Align** = people
VAN offers a global-level commodity security Working Group | VAN Consensus Planning Group (CPG)

1) Execute against immediate country supply plan needs
   • Monitor orders, shipments and inventory against the supply plan (across USAID, UNFPA, SMOs, national procurements, etc.)
   • Discuss recommendations for action to global donors to resolve projected overstocks, shortages, or stockouts
   • Build scenarios
   • Support donors with prioritization of limited funding resources
   • Support allocation of supply-constrained products

2) Share longer-term plans with global partners
   • Share supply plans for better global forecasting and production planning with manufacturers and donors
   • Communicate annual funding gaps across all products for global action
2021 - Leveraging the VAN to Mitigate the Impact of Donor Funding Cuts^  

April
- United Kingdom (UK) announced reduction in foreign aid budget  
- ~85% cut to UK funding to UNFPA Supplies; rescinded 2021 funds already committed*

June-August
- VAN Control Tower used data in the VAN and collaborated with UNFPA to estimate the procurement funding gap for 48 UNFPA Supplies Partnership countries.  
- Estimated $91.8 million funding gap through March 2022

Jul-Dec
- USAID announces an additional $17.5 million for 10 countries informed by gaps identified by VAN  
- UNFPA mobilized $8.8 million from other sources, including $3.8 million worth of products from Bayer; VAN analysis supported allocation/targeting of these resources

2022 - Operationalizing the VAN Procurement Funding Gap Analysis and Expanding Access to Results

• To ensure the analysis could become a routine VAN analysis and be accessed by users via the VAN platform:
  • scope was shifted to only VAN Member countries; added % estimate for shipping costs
  • launched “self-service” dashboard for country, regional, and global users

2023 - Creating efficiencies for the VAN Procurement Funding Gap Analysis and Responding to User Needs

- Implemented a new module to make the analysis easier/faster
- Estimated $147M gap for 32 countries through Mar. 2024
- Results informed recommendations to UNFPA Supplies for additional funding*
- Self-service dashboard provides more flexibility to users on timeframe and visualization of results

* Amount of funding allocated still to be determined as of Oct 3, 2023
2023 - Self-Service Dashboard Example

Funding gap - Value from August 2023 to December 2024

- Funded Value as $8,901,609
- Unfunded Value as $15,773,618
Examples of how the Analysis Results are Used

• Inform USAID and UNFPA resource mobilization efforts and allocation of available resources (within and between countries)

• Internal resource mobilization/allocation discussions within other key global donors (ex. BMGF) and global-level financing committees

• By the West African Health Organization (WAHO) and other regional coordination mechanisms:
  • WAHO’s review of country requests for commodity funding
  • West Africa Regional Committee for Data Visibility which monitors contraceptive security in the region in collaboration with the VAN CPG
  • During a WAHO Regional Meeting with ECOWAS countries on funding for procurement of contraceptives (2022)
Thank you!
Merci!

Come visit the VAN booth at the Innovation Expo to see our poster and learn more!
Questions?