ADDRESSING POLICY BARRIERS TO CONTRACEPTIVES AVAILABILITY: THE CASE OF TANZANIA’S PUBLIC PROCUREMENT ACT, 2016.

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Background and context

- Tanzania has had persistent contraceptive stock-outs for many years, impacting on service delivery at the Last Mile

- A study in 2011 attributed the situation to long procurement lasting six to 18 months.

- Also, procurement contraceptives was similar to that of other products e.g. machinery, metal or furniture
Flow of funds for procurement
Institutions involved in procurement

- DPs
- MoHCDGEC (PSU)
- MoFEA (Treasury)
- Tender Board
- Suppliers
- Procure Contraceptives (MSD)
- WB
- TBS
- TFDA
- MoHCDGEC (RCHS/FP)
- AG
- GPSA
- TRA
- TPA
What did AFP do?

Attaining a change in the Public Procurement Law
What Advance Family Planning (AFP) did:

- Assessed the procurement process under the 2014 Public Procurement Regulations

- Bottlenecks were based on the 2011 Public Procurement Act and its Regulations

- Bottlenecks included multiple and overlapping roles of government departments and agencies in procurement, importation, and distribution

- Proposed fast-tracking for life-saving commodities including contraceptives
Advocacy process

- December 2015: President ordered an overhaul the procurement law

- Tanzania’s Law Reform Commission (TLRC) called for public views on the law

- AFP utilized this advocacy opportunity: submitted opinions and recommendations
Main proposal: a *Special Provision to fast-track the procurement of lifesaving health commodities including contraceptives*

- Showed evidence on possible savings in time and costs from fast-tracking commodities.

- Project team rallied Members of Parliament to work closely with, used example of procurement of military equipment in the law
MPs who Championed the change
Results: change attained!

• In June 2016, Parliament passed the Bill containing the Special Provision

• President signed it into Law, a month later.

• As a follow-up, AFP advocated for drafting corresponding regulations to operationalize the Law - another win was scored

• The Provision provides for procurement procedures that account for commodities’ nature and purpose.
“... if commodities are delayed for more than four months, the results may be unwanted pregnancies for a woman using family planning. I therefore, call upon Members of Parliament to support the inclusion of this article in the Act.”

Hon. Hawa Ghasia. - Chairperson for the Parliamentary Budget Committee, Member of Parliament for Mtwara Rural Constituency, and Former Cabinet Minister.