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Using a Systems Approach to Improve Method Choice in West African Private Health Facilities

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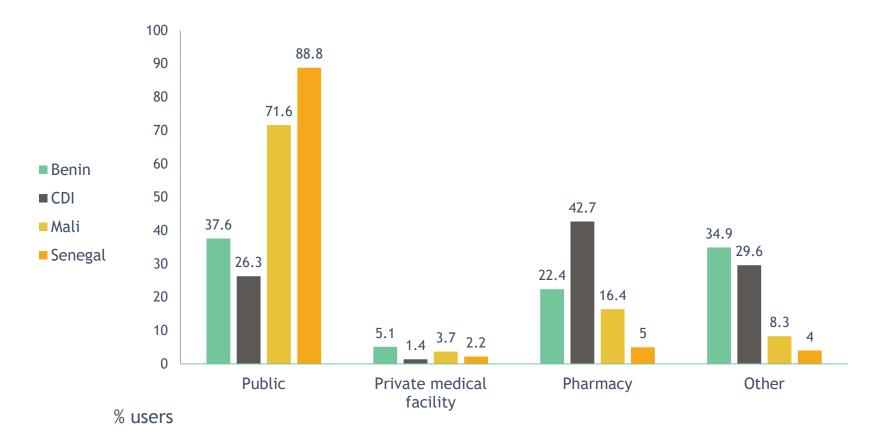


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Presentation topics

- Data from Demographic and Health Surveys in West Africa suggest very low use of private health services for family planning (FP)
- Findings from private health sector assessments point to systemic constraints that affect the provision of FP services by these facilities
- What systems-based approaches can be used to improve the availability of a full method mix through the private sector?

Sources of modern FP methods in four West African countries

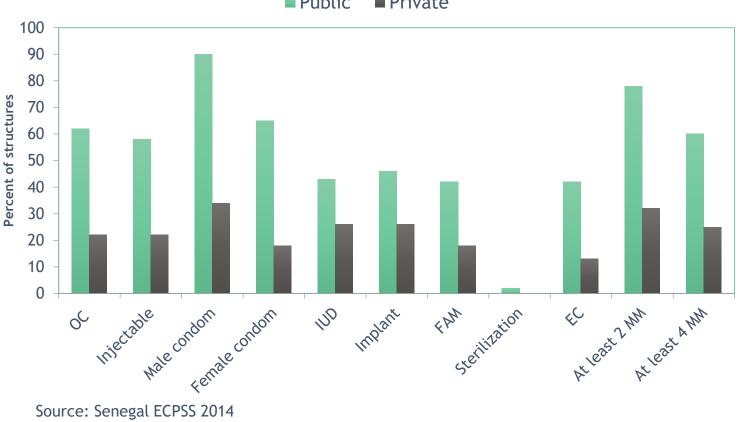


Sources: Benin EDS 2011-2012; Côte d'Ivoire EDS 2011-2012; Mali EDSM 2012-2013; Sénégal EDS 2016

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Private clinical facilities are less likely to offer FP services than public facilities

Availability of FP methods in public and private facilities in Senegal



Public Private

Systemic factors and impact on FP services

	Key factors	Impact
Service delivery	 Demand-driven practice Emphasis on profitability High use of specialists 	 Confinement of FP services in gynecology No guarantee of full mix
Health workforce	 Reliance on part-time providers Limited access to training 	 Weak integration of FP in private practice Inconsistent availability
Access to Products	 Medicines can only be sold through pharmacies 	 Delayed access to FP Limited availability of implants
Financing	Poorly financed facilitiesWeak insurance coverage	Unmet demand for FPLow demand for LARC
Governance	Highly regulated sectorWeak oversight	 Inconsistent quality of FP services

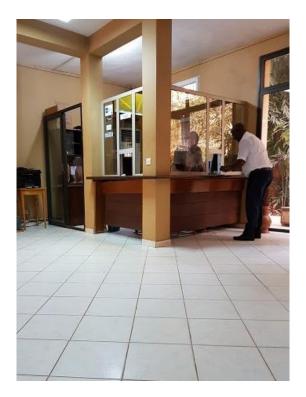


Helping private providers offer comprehensive FP services



A systemic approach to FP services

- No change to basic service delivery model for most practices
- Emphasis on improving FP training for all GPs and specialists
- Creation of an implant access program for independent facilities with trained providers
- Advocacy for inclusion of (at least) post-partum FP in private insurance
- Contracting of private clinics under voucher scheme or public insurance



Polyclinic in Bamako, Mali

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Patients paying for services covered by Mali's public Health Insurance program

Addressing systemic constraints

	Key barriers	System solution
Service delivery	 Confinement of FP services in gynecology No guarantee of full mix 	 No change to model, focus on financing and human resources
Health workforce	 Weak integration of FP in private practice Inconsistent availability 	 FP training at pre-service level and included in mandatory CME
Access to Products	 Delayed access to FP Limited availability of implants 	 Develop private sector supply system for implants
Financing	 Unmet demand for FP Low demand for high-cost FP services 	 Lobby for coverage of FP methods under private and public insurance
Governance	 Underutilized service delivery potential Inconsistent quality 	 Short-term: various models of franchising Long-term: policy reforms

Networking and franchising

- Organizes facilities around a service delivery model that overcomes systemic constraints
- Facilities provide same-day access to a full method mix at affordable prices
- Network/franchise operation trains providers, facilitates access to low-cost products, and helps promote services
- Donor-dependent but can be combined with a voucher program or a loan scheme



Medical center affiliated with DfID supported network in Gonzague-Ville, Côte d'Ivoire.

Discussion

- Not all private providers face the same limitations in providing FP methods, but they share common systemic constraints
- Many would probably offer these services if access to commodities, training, and contracting under health insurance were expanded
- A system-strengthening approach has the potential to sustainably improve access to FP and other priority services through the private health sector

Sources

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Thank you!



