Advocating for RH supplies in Ghana in 2008/09

RH Supplies situation in Ghana

- Policies are supportive of family planning and contraceptive security, weak on implementation.
- Only one contraceptive method listed in Essential Medicines List.
- Financial sustainability plan calls for rapidly increasing government funding of supplies.
- National Health Insurance Scheme does not cover contraceptives.

Country-driven RH supply security: ownership of agenda

Outcomes to date:

- Pushing for change
  - High level political support
  - Successfully advocated for contraceptive devices to be included in revised draft Essential Medicines List
  - New strategy plan of Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee on Contraceptive Security (ICC-CS) to revise number of contraceptives on the National Essential Medicines List
  - New strategic plan of Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee on Contraceptive Security (ICC-CS) has commitment to ensure contraceptives included in NHIS
  - Government of Ghana placed contraceptive devices on the RHSC

- Working together
  - UNFPA
  - National Population Council
  - National Health Insurance Scheme
  - Environmental Protection Association of Ghana
  - Media agencies
  - And others

- What we needed to do
  - Ensure access to Family Planning supplies is covered by the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS)
  - Increase the number of contraceptives on the National Essential Medicines List
  - Financial sustainability plan calls for rapidly increasing government funding of supplies
  - Policies are supportive of family planning and contraceptive security, weak on implementation

RHSC Innovations

- Forthcoming training: RHSC Advocacy Toolkit
- Forthcoming training: RHSC Interchange

Pushing for change

- Build capacity of district level advocates to raise awareness of family planning as a development issue
- Forthcoming training: RHSC Interagency Coordinating Committee on Contraceptive Security (ICC-CS)
- Message development - in process consultation process with stakeholders began, role out of messages through different channels to wide range of audiences scheduled for June onwards
- Engagement with media on radios, increased press coverage
- Work with district making bodies to increase Civil Society participation - Revision of EML 2008/09 - (MWA) task (ICC-CS) to participate in the process
- E.I. First Lady of Ghana, Ex. President, Minister for Women and Youth employment and former CEO of National Health Insurance Authority publicly supportive

UNFPA

National Population Council

National Health Insurance Association

Environmental Protection Association of Ghana

RH champion: leading RH consultant

Ghana Health Service

National and district level Civil Society Organizations

ILS donors – DfID and DANIDA

And others

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