

Translating Bellagio at the Country Level

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- Thanks to the Coalition on behalf of all developing countries for their interest and support
- Ghana has a RH commodity security strategy, yet the challenges in West Africa to FP are great, as there is low coverage of FP in the region.
- There is a very low contraceptive prevalence rate in Ghana and limited availability of abortion care services, making abortion complications the second highest cause of maternal mortality
- Stockouts have led providers to ration commodities such as Jadelle
- However, Ghana has a favorable policy and method mix, and free maternal health care. There is increased advocacy for FP and a vibrant committee on contraceptive security
- FP has become a national priority and strategies are in place to accelerate work towards achieving Millennium Development Goal 5
- The country's Ministry of Health has announced free FP in national health assurance
- Midwives and doctors can provide implants, and now a few community health workers have been trained. If successful, they will work to change the policy to allow health care workers to provide implants
- Work is also being done on improving quality of counseling, to increase awareness of side effects. This awareness increasing will decrease drop-off rates in contraceptive users
- Recommendations from Bellagio are very relevant to this issue