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Public-private partnership to introduce low-cost LNG-IUS

PRICE BARRIERS CHALLENGED

The Innovation Fund is supporting a new strategy to increase access in Kenya to a levonorgestrel intrauterine system (LNG-IUS), an increasingly popular contraceptive option, but whose high cost often puts it out of reach for the women who need it most. This grant will fund a public-private partnership (PPP) to pilot the introduction of LNG20 IUD, an LNG intrauterine device (IUD) developed by Medicines360.

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

The recipient of this grant, FHI 360, will lead the development of a PPP to support the introduction of LNG20 IUD into Kenya. FHI 360 will work with the product developer Medicines360 and Marie Stopes International (MSI)/Marie Stopes Kenya (MSK). MSK is Kenya's largest

reproductive health and family planning organization, with a well-established product distribution network of training centres and private and public providers. Leveraging the skills and contributions of each partner, FHI 360 will increase the availability of a high-quality, yet underused, reproductive health commodity.

PILOTING THIS APPROACH IN KENYA

Together with key product stakeholders, FHI 360 will conduct a market assessment that seeks to:

- Evaluate the potential for introducing this product across the public, private, and social marketing sectors
- Forecast demand across these sectors
- Develop a tiered pricing strategy to ensure equity of access, and
- Understand user preferences and needs



LNG20 IUD

LNG intrauterine device (IUD)
developed by Medicines360

Working with the Ministry of Health and other partners, FHI 360 and MSI will develop an effective roll-out plan for launching Medicines360's LNG20 IUD—at least initially—through MSK's distribution network. This plan will advocate for the inclusion of LNG20 IUD on Kenya's Essential Medicines List and culminate in the negotiation of a tiered pricing strategy that sets a maximum price that MSI can charge for government procured LNG20 IUD.

FHI 360

Throughout its 40-year history, FHI 360 has helped to increase contraceptive prevalence worldwide by evaluating and introducing a range of new contraceptive methods and by strengthening family planning services and programs for women, men, and youth. A member of the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition since 2007, FHI 360's research and development programs have contributed to the market introduction of more than 10 contraceptive products in over 30 countries.

Award

Recipient: FHI 360

Amount: US\$123,484

Date: May 2014 – October 2015

What is the Innovation Fund?

The Innovation Fund was established in 2008, through a generous grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Managed by the Coalition Secretariat, the Innovation Fund has to date made available more than US\$2.2M in small grants (maximum US\$200,000 per grant) to Coalition partners. The grants – more than 20 altogether – have yielded new tools, supported advocacy and research, leveraged millions of dollars in subsequent program funding, and launched a host of new initiatives across the Global South.

Traditionally, the Coalition has defined the concept of “innovation” broadly to include any promising new idea with the potential to bring about positive change. Innovation needn't mean a radical departure from previous practice. It could also include new approaches to existing processes or the implementation of an existing strategy in a new context, especially if this adaptation leads to replication or scaling-up at country level.

Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition

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