China Experiences in Youth and LARC (supported by RHSC)

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Children by choice, not chance
Why Youth and LARC in China?

• 13 million abortions every year
• 47.5% for women aged 25 and under
• 49.7% for unmarried
• 55.9% repeat abortions
• condoms, withdrawal and calendar methods plus EC most popular
• LARC use almost non-existent because of lack of knowledge, misconceptions of LARC being solely for mums, provider bias and unfamiliarity
What has been done in this project?

From supply side

Translation and publication of international documents supporting youth and LARC
What has been done in this project?

From supply side

Development of the ‘Guidelines for Youth Access to a Full Range of Contraceptives’
What has been done in this project?

From supply side

Test the Guidelines in six pilot hospitals by providing LARC services to unmarried youth
What has been done in this project?

From demand side

- pamphlets for youth LARC
- posters for youth LARC
- animation video “LARC makes LUCK”
- educational sessions
What have been the initial results?

- From Jan 1\textsuperscript{st} to July 31\textsuperscript{st}, 2017, 18,293 surgical abortions in 6 pilot hospitals, 3,937 (21.5\%) for women under 25 years old
  544 LARC provided with LARC use from 0 to 13.8\%
- Additional USD85,000 mobilized to continue the pilot in 6 hospitals and to support 8 operational researches relating youth and LARC
- The Youth Expert Group of FP Committee within China Medical Association taken Youth and LARC as one of their operational research and advocacy priority topics
- An introduction to the 8 Youth and LARC operational researches will be presented in April 14\textsuperscript{th} National FP Conference and a new round of operational research application will be announced with a new funding of USD50,000.
What have been the challenges?

• Limited access to LARC products eg. Implants
• The informed consent for youth LARC services in hospitals needs to be revised (the present requirement is that unmarried youth need signatures from parents to receive LARC services)
• Service providers training needs to be scaled up
• Lack of awareness on LARC for unmarried young people
The very first important step. There is still a long way to go. Let’s go together!

Thank You