Linking Family Planning to Development Plans, Programs, and Agendas

Examples from Mali and Rwanda

Presenter’s Name

Date

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Population and Development

Several economic growth and demographic models suggest that

• High population growth
  ▪ Diminishes availability of limited resources across populations
  ▪ Causes investment diversion from infrastructure to basic needs
  ▪ Leads to higher costs for maternal and child health

• Population from now until 2050 will become
  ▪ Larger
  ▪ Older
  ▪ More urban

Virtuous and Vicious Growth Cycles

**The Virtuous Cycle**
- Low fertility
- Economic growth
- Poverty

**The Vicious Cycle**
- High fertility
- Slow growth
- High inequity
- High poverty

Source: Berkeley University, 2005
Including Family Planning in Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers in Mali

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Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers

- Outline macroeconomic and social policies to
  - Alleviate poverty
  - Accelerate progress on Millennium Development Goals
- Form the basis for loan or debt relief from the World Bank and International Monetary Fund
- Include high-dollar budgets
  - Ghana: $1.821 billion, 2003–05
  - Malawi: $530 million, 2002–03
Why Include Family Planning in the PRSPs?

- Reinforces a government’s commitment to fund and implement FP initiatives and to achieve the MDGs.
- Meets FP needs to foster socioeconomic progress and reduce poverty.
- Makes other socioeconomic goals easier to reach.
Do Current PRSPs Include FP?

- As of November 2004
  - 11 of 45 PRSPs mentioned FP
  - 19 made only a cursory reference to FP
- Even if FP is mentioned, financing for FP is rarely discussed.
Moving Toward Including FP in PRSPs: A Mali Case Study

Mali

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First Draft of Mali PRSP-II

- Language was vague and seemed to assume population growth would slow.
- Did not link demographic pressure and poverty reduction.
- Did not mention family planning as a strategy to address population and poverty issues.
Health Policy Initiative Strategy for Including Family Planning in the PRSP

- Mobilize civil society to advocate for FP
- Conduct high-level advocacy
- Engage a champion

Cumulative Savings in Achieving Selected MDG Targets in Mali, 2008–2015

Total Costs: $23.8M
Total Savings: $43.4M
Net Savings: $19.5M

Source: DHS 2006 Mali
Key Steps

1. NGO coordinating organization supported the effort.

2. Country director made a presentation to the President's chief advisor.

3. The project’s policy champion showed up at every event where PRSP revisions were discussed, in which they
   - Identified allies in the process;
   - Wrote alternative language; and
   - Read every draft carefully.
Final Version of Mali PRSP-II

• Identified population growth as an impediment to economic growth and poverty alleviation

• Recognized poor performance of family planning in PRSP-I

• Mentioned meeting unmet need as important

• Listed family planning as a key intervention in the health sector
Lessons Learned

- Understand the PRSP process
- Prepare advocacy messages targeted at the Ministry of Finance (MOF)
- For the MOF, growth and poverty reduction are more important messages than delivering health services to the poor
- Show up early and often in the process
Guide for Integrating FP into PRSPs

• Purpose
  ▪ Promote family planning as a national priority
  ▪ Foster an enabling environment for FP

• Content
  ▪ Step-by-step instructions
  ▪ Extensive, Internet-accessible resources
Including FP in Development Plan in Rwanda

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Rwanda’s Population, 2005

Rwanda’s fertility rate is 6.1 children per woman.

8.9 Million

Source: DHS 2005 Rwanda

Photo credit: ©iStockphoto.com/Lucian
Rwanda’s Population Will Grow Rapidly with Continued High Fertility

Rwanda’s Population Growth

Contraceptive Use Is a Key Determinant of Fertility

Rwanda’s modern contraceptive prevalence rate in 2005: 10.3%

Source: DHS 2005 Rwanda
A Very Large Unmet Need for Family Planning Already Exists

38% of married women want to space or limit births, but are not using contraceptives.

Source: DHS 2005 Rwanda
Satisfying the unmet need for family planning inevitably leads to

- Lower fertility
- Lower rate of population growth

even when the goal is to space births rather than to limit their number
A Realistic Strategy to Address Unmet Need

To satisfy unmet need, a realistic strategy is to ensure that all Rwandan couples who want to space or limit their births have access to high-quality reproductive health services, including a full range of contraceptives consistently available at affordable prices.
Population Is Linked with Social and Economic Development in Rwanda

RAPID projections sparked presidential-level commitment for:

- Inclusion of FP in Rwanda’s Vision 2020
- Development of a national FP strategy
- Creation of an FP technical working group
- Establishment of a population desk at the Ministry of Finance

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