





# Programming for Long-acting and Permanent Family Planning Methods in Community Settings: Overview

Roy Jacobstein, MD, MPH, Clinical Director, The RESPOND Project, EngenderHealth First WHO Global Symposium on Health Systems Research, Montreux, Switzerland, November 17, 2010



Managing Partner: EngenderHealth; Associated Partners: FHI; Futures Institute; Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Center for Communication Programs; Meridian Group International, Inc.; Population Council







#### The long-acting and permanent methods (LA/PMs)

- Long-Acting Reversible Methods
  - IUDs:
    - > CuT380A, ML-375
    - > LNG-IUS
  - Implants:
    - > Jadelle
    - > Sino-implant II
    - > Implanon
- Permanent Methods
  - Female Sterilization
  - Male Sterilization (Vasectomy)









### Health system requirements to provide quality LA/PM services in community (and clinical) settings

- Suitable service settings
- Supportive service subsystems
  - Logistics; training; supervision; management & structure of work
- Knowledgeable, skilled, motivated, well-supervised providers (& not overworked, unbiased toward LA/PMs, adequately-rewarded: "No provider, no program")
- Empowered, knowledgeable clients & communities
- Contraceptives (implant or IUD)
- Equipment, instruments, expendable medical supplies, essential drugs
- Good counseling; free and informed choice; privacy
- Infection prevention, emergency preparedness
- Follow-up mechanisms & good side effects management







### Many health system barriers to LA/PM services at community and clinic levels: "The brick wall to access"

# Barriers to effective family planning services

#### **Physical** Medical Location Knowledge Cost Political **Process** Inappropriate eligibility criteria Gender Regulatory Socio-cultural norms Time **Provider** Legal bias Poor CPI Stigma

Outcomes when barriers are overcome:

- → ↑↑ Access to services
- → ↑↑ Quality of services
- → ↑↑ Contraceptive choice
- → ↑↑ **FP use** (including LA/PMs)





#### Systems thinking: The "What" of LA/PMs

- Intrinsic ("objective") characteristics of the LA/PM itself
- How these characteristics are perceived by system actors
  - Clients, potential clients, community leaders, other "influentials"
  - Providers, policymakers, decisionmakers, program leaders, donors
- Are the methods beneficial? In what way?
- Does the method represent a big comparative advantage—to them?
- Is it compatible (with "our world," & "the way we do things")?
- Is it "simple"?: easy to introduce, adopt, scale-up?
- Can I try it out?







#### Systems thinking: The "Who" of LA/PMs

- Who accepts: clients and potential clients, and communities
  - Reproductive intention?: Limiters / spacers / delayers
  - Do they have (accurate) knowledge of LA/PMs?
  - Other variables with programmatic & health system implications:
    - > Age and parity / Marital status / Urban rural / Income level
- Who provides: level (cadre), gender, skills, motivation of providers
  - Need to factor in what makes providers behave in their given service setting and situation
- Who allows, facilitates, advocates, champions
  - Sociocultural and community factors
  - Site and program factors and dynamics
  - Focus on early LA/PM adopters





Clients outside clinic in Bangladesh

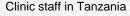




#### Systems thinking: The "Where" of LA/PMs

- Country: amplitude of health system resources; political will for FP
- Physical location (urban, periurban, rural)
- Level of facility
  - Clinical setting (hospital, referral center, primary care clinic)
  - Community setting
- Nature and dynamics of medical(ized) settings
- Policies, guidelines, standards, norms, rules
- Provider-level factors
  - Workforce (composition, adequacy, readiness)
  - Deployment / workload
  - Remuneration & "reward"











### Systems thinking: The "How" of LA/PMs: Service modalities and approaches

- LA/PM service modalities and approaches
  - Provided onsite / referral
  - Fixed sites, daily / fixed sites, special days
  - Within stand-alone FP services, or integrated with other services (MCH, HIV)
- Mobile services; "outreach"
  - Several models
    - > Transport providers to clients
      - Lower-level facility
      - Community ("facility," "van")
    - > Transport clients to providers
  - Context-dependent
  - Can have sizeable service impact
  - Requires community mobilization
    & same Quality of Care









### Systems thinking: The "How" of LA/PMs: Involving the community

- Important to involve "influentials":
  - Community & religious leaders
  - Women's groups
  - Men (as partners, clients, change agents)
- Important to use multiple channels:
  - Mass media
    - > Messaging
    - > Listener call-ins
  - Community events
  - Print
  - Interpersonal (community workers)













## Systems thinking: The "How" of LA/PMs: Creating demand in the community

- Create a positive image / "normalize" method / dispel myths & misconceptions
- Provide information on where and when to get services
- Communicate messages relevant to clients' and communities' concerns



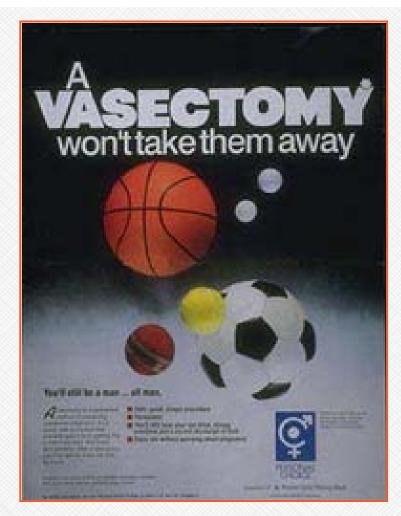




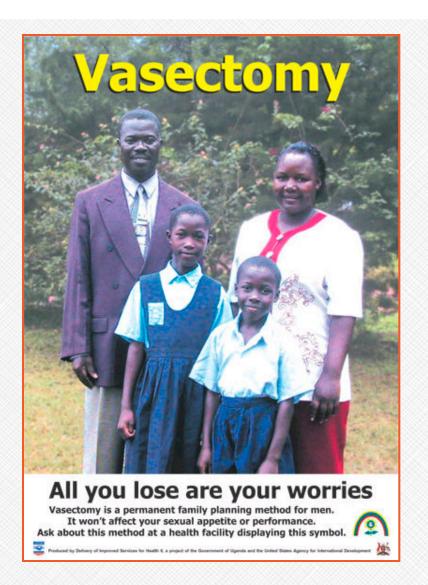




### Messages need to be relevant to the concerns of communities and clients (address their "truths")











### Systems thinking: The "How" of LA/PMs: Other considerations

- Task-shifting / task-sharing
- Costs and financing of LA/PM services
  - Public sector / private sector
  - Social marketing
  - Franchising
  - Vouchers
  - Insurance modalities
- Timing of LA/PM service delivery
  - "When":
  - Related to pregnancy:
    - postpartum / postabortion / interval
  - Nulliparous women: don't forget about them! (for implants and IUDs)
  - Seasonality of demand for services



CBD agents, Kisii, Kenya



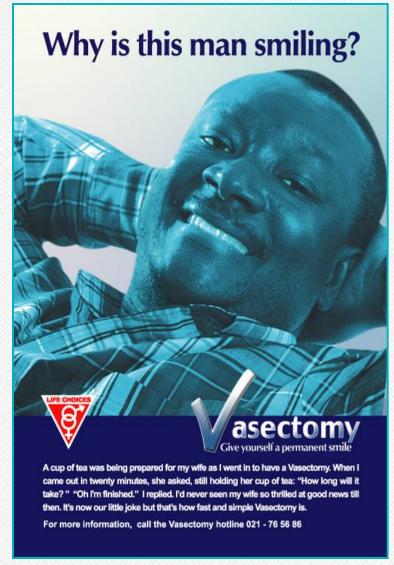




### Community-level champions are essential











#### Repetition is the key to LA/PM program success



















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