A QUALITATIVE STUDY OF THE USE OF LONG-ACTING AND PERMANENT METHODS OF CONTRACEPTION (LA/PMS) IN CAMBODIA, MALAWI AND NIGERIA

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FREE LISTING, PILE SortS AND MULTIDIMENSIONAL SCALING

These research approaches show how people talk about issues together. The process includes:
- Creating a list of major topics to be explored
- Conducting informal interviews to group the terms into clusters
- Conducting formal interviews to put the terms into a ranking according to the degree to which the group agrees

A different mixed methods approach was used to determine major factors to be explored.

RESULTS

To increase the test sample of women and men, programs need to better understand the people’s attitudes toward LA/PMS, and this information can be used to better tailor the approaches to the programmatic needs.

CAMBODIA
- 1.1 million women and men received contraceptive methods
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Malawi—March and April 2012
- 224 people participated in free-listing and 169 people in pile-sorting exercises
- 2 poor rural sites: Msakambewa in Dowa, and Gogode in Kasungu

Cambodia—August 2011
- 3 focus groups with several categories of respondents
- 1) Key informant interviews at the national or provincial level
- 2) Key informant interviews at the local level
- 3) Focus groups with several categories of respondents
- Key informants included women and men who had previously participated in family planning programs and those currently in need of services
- Children referred to the clinic often, they say they want to return because it is a place where they can receive good care

Background

Cambodia—August 2011
- In development countries, 41% of pregnancies are unintended, and 35% of maternal deaths result from these unintended pregnancies
- In addition, nearly 200 million women have an unmet need for family planning
- Unmet need results from these unintended pregnancies

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Female sterilization
- Many misconceptions, including that IUD:
  - Causes excessive bleeding
  - Requires physical examination
  - Is ineffective
  - Causes harm to fetus

Nigeria—July to September 2011
- In Oyo State, nonpoor and poor participants grouped family planning methods somewhat differently
- Nonpoor participants distinguished between long-acting and anti-microbial contraceptive methods in their pile sort and saw the condom as distinct from other methods
- Poor participants did not distinguish among these methods, indicating a generally lower level of understanding

To deepen qualitative understanding of the key factors that influence the decision to use LA/PMS in these countries with varying contraceptive prevalence rates and use of LA/PMS, the study will use a mixed methods approach that addresses the limitations of any one method and that draws on a variety of strategies and data collection methods to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the issues.