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Vasectomy Programming and Research in Low-Resource Settings
Why vasectomy? Why now?

- 2015 ICFP search
  - 49 presentations including the term “Male Involvement”
- Demand for permanent methods is increasing
  - Desire to limit family size exceeding desire to space in 18 countries
  - Limiters are getting younger
    - Van Lith, et al., 2013
- We will never reach the FP 2020 goals without increasing the role of men as users and/or supportive partners.

Men’s global share of contraceptive use

- Men, 27%
- Women, 73%

It hasn’t changed since 2005, and may be going down.
Where do men fit into this picture?
Goal: Synthesize common barriers and facilitators to vasectomy uptake and identify recommendations to strengthen future vasectomy promotion efforts

- Extensive review conducted
  - Dynamic search terms,
  - Multiple search engines,
  - Personal outreach by team to implementers
- 75 documents reviewed (peer-reviewed and gray literature)
- Applied SEED model to several documents
Demand

- Knowledge, attitudes, and intention
- Examples of increasing demand
  - Promote the benefits, community-based and mass-media campaigns, employer-based promotion, group counseling
- Market segmentation
  - Different messages with different goals for different audiences
Supply Findings

- Providers’ knowledge and attitudes
- Increasing/improving provision
  - Promoting the evidence-based techniques, whole site trainings (male friendly services), exploring task shifting, cascade training, mobile outreach, tools to assist in program planning
Enabling Environment Findings

- Barriers to adoption
  - Social norms against vasectomy
- Facilitators
  - Multi-level engagement, gender transformative messaging

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Current Method Mix*</th>
<th>Method Mix* including 5% vasectomy CPR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cost per CYP</td>
<td>$5.51</td>
<td>$4.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total CYP</td>
<td>9,036,214</td>
<td>10,485,275</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unintended pregnancies averted</td>
<td>2,602,430</td>
<td>3,019,759</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maternal deaths averted</td>
<td>17,592</td>
<td>20,414</td>
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<tr>
<td>Infant deaths averted</td>
<td>153,543</td>
<td>178,166</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unsafe abortions averted</td>
<td>467,917</td>
<td>542,953</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abortion case-fatality averted</td>
<td>2,433</td>
<td>2,823</td>
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Discussion

• Need to include men in a comprehensive RH agenda, without undermining the gains made for women
  • Increase reproductive health education for young men on the range of methods, their side effects and effectiveness

• Improve intake counseling
  • Reduce provider bias and ease conversations about men’s reproductive health

• Explore new demand generation activities
  • Explore social media’s full capacity
  • Serial dramas
  • World Vasectomy Day