HOW CHANGE AGENTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

SHARING MY EXPERIENCE ON INFLUENCING CHANGE IN POLICY ACTIONS

BY

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Why change

- Constant phenomenon in our world and key to development
- Provide opportunities to incorporate new experiences for better outcomes
- Catalyst to meeting specific objectives
Setting the stage for CHANGE ……

- Adoption of key components of RH
- Review institutional frameworks at levels of implementation
- Setting vision amongst key stakeholders
- Identify key champions and build their capacity
- Foster active partnerships (formal and informal)
- Mobilizing resources to finance and support change
Adoption of key components of RH Health Programme

- Input from different stakeholders
- Consensus on the areas of focus and approaches for intervention
  - Generating public discussion about RH issues (Convene a summit on “Reproductive health and sustainable development”)
  - Set up Technical Working/advisory groups to collate lessons learnt from ongoing interventions and joint workplans

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Review existing institutional frameworks

- Identify opportunities and gaps
- Provide functional structure within the relevant departments to support change
  - Develop standards of practice and service delivery protocols, guidelines, job aids
  - Strengthening supply chain using the SPHARCs tool and introducing cost recovery.
- Review of curricula
Setting the vision to drive change

- Understand the issues of RH and build consensus on entry point.
- What is in a name?......Family planning (FP) versus Child birth spacing (CBS), sexuality education versus family life education.
- “Zero tolerance to women dying from pregnancy related causes”, vision formulated by all stakeholders.
Identify Champions

- **Identify champions amongst target groups** (parliamentarians, academics, CBOs, faith based groups, policy makers, young people, women groups etc)

- **Explore opportunities to build capacity of champions and provide resource materials** (leadership training, study tours, etc)

- **Build network of champions and encourage forming coalitions for change.**
Active Partnerships

- **Build strategic partnerships** - (Interfaith forum on maternal mortality reduction)
  - Outputs are adaptation of national RH policy by faith based groups, and approval of pilot project on Standard Days Methods (cycle beads)
  - Partnership with the media- capacity building, mentoring of journalists
  - Other sectors- Women Affairs, Youth and development, finance etc
  - Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and child health(2007)

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Mobilizing resources to finance and support change

- Advocacy for a dedicated budget line for RH
- Retreat with Finance Ministry officials to understand criteria for allocation of funds
  * Allocations based on competing demands and perceived contribution of program
  * Political agenda and priority is important.

- RH components covered under Maternal Mortality reduction programme budget (allocation for MOH-service delivery and Women Affairs – advocacy)

- Explore opportunities of budget lines created for MDG programme- (Debt relief fund, special fund etc)
Summary

Change agents make a difference by exploring innovative ways to pursue the agenda irrespective of challenges that may come their way.

- In depth analysis of the environment and stakeholders is a key step to developing an agenda for change.

- Everybody has a role to play, so involve all stakeholders at different levels.
Thank You