The Benefits of Meeting the Contraceptive Needs of Women in the Philippines

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Overview

• Context: Fertility and health
• Objective of the study
• Methodological approach
• Impacts of contraceptive use – pregnancy, health, and financial outcomes
• Conclusion
Context and Objectives
Filipino women are having more children than they want, especially if they are poor.

Births per woman, 2003

Wealth Quintiles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wealth Quintiles</th>
<th>Philippines</th>
<th>Lowest</th>
<th>Second</th>
<th>Middle</th>
<th>Fourth</th>
<th>Highest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wanted fertility</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actual fertility</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Maternal and child health situation needs improvement

- Philippines
  - MMR of 230 per 100,000 live births (2005)
  - IMR of 30 per 1000 live births (2003)
  - Maternal DALYS of 503,000 (2004)
Contraceptive use in the Philippines is inadequate

- Contraceptive use is relatively low
- Use has not changed much in recent years
- Many contraceptive users rely on traditional methods that have high use-failure rates
Objectives of the study

- Help policymakers improve health and family well-being in the Philippines
- Estimate the costs and benefits of contraceptive use
- Special emphasis on poor women and regions
Methodological Approach
Definition: Women at Risk for Unintended Pregnancy

- Sexually active
  - Married women 15-49
  - Unmarried women 15-49 who had sex in last 3 months
- Fecund
  - No evidence of infecundity from women’s reports
  - No long period of sexually activity with no contraceptive use, but no pregnancy
- Do not want a(nother) child soon:
  - Not in the next 2 years (Spacing)
  - Want no (more) children at all (Limiting)
Data input and their sources

- Number of women 15-49, by region, in 2008
  - Philippines censuses and projections

- Distributed women 15-49 in each region by marital status and DHS wealth index
  - 2003 DHS

- Distributed women by risk and contraceptive use status, according to their region, marital status and DHS wealth index
  - 2003 DHS

- Cost from various sources: DKT, PhilHealth, DOH, PRISM publication, etc.
Unintended pregnancies according to contraceptive use and nonuse

Numbers of women at risk in each region using each method or nonuse

×

Use-failure/pregnancy rates for each method and nonuse adjusted to regional unintended pregnancies

Numbers of unintended pregnancies in each region by method used or nonuse
Alternate scenarios show impacts of contraceptive use

- Assuming the desire for pregnancy, sexual exposure and risk for unintended pregnancy remain the same, we considered a number of scenarios:
  - No contraceptive use
  - Current method use
  - Natural methods used by all women at risk
  - Current method mix used by all at risk
  - Modern methods used by all at risk
Impacts of contraceptive use
Women not using modern methods account for 9 in 10 unintended pregnancies

Women at risk for unintended pregnancy

- Modern methods: 49%
- Trad. methods: 22%
- No method: 29%

Unintended pregnancies

- Trad. methods: 24%
- No method: 68%
- Modern methods: 8%
Contraceptive use reduces abortion and unplanned childbearing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Millions of pregnancies</th>
<th>No method use</th>
<th>Current method use</th>
<th>NFP methods used by all</th>
<th>Current method mix used by all</th>
<th>Modern methods used by all</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>1.8</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.5</td>
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<td>0.6</td>
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- Intended pregnancies
- Unplanned births and miscarriages
- Abortions
Contraceptive use protects health

Maternal deaths

- No method use: 8,200
  - Intended pregnancies: 2,060
  - Unplanned births and miscarriages: 3,641
  - Abortions: 2,480

- Current method mix (71% use): 4,600
  - Intended pregnancies: 2,060
  - Unplanned births and miscarriages: 1,636
  - Abortions: 946

- NFP methods used by all women at risk: 4,400
  - Intended pregnancies: 2,060
  - Unplanned births and miscarriages: 1,406
  - Abortions: 958

- Current method mix used by all women at risk: 3,000
  - Intended pregnancies: 2,060
  - Unplanned births and miscarriages: 387
  - Abortions: 571

- Modern methods used by all women at risk: 2,500
  - Intended pregnancies: 2,060
  - Unplanned births and miscarriages: 163
  - Abortions: 249
Improving contraceptive use saves money

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost in million USD</th>
<th>No method use</th>
<th>Current method use</th>
<th>NFP methods used by all</th>
<th>Current method mix used by all</th>
<th>Modern methods used by all</th>
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<tr>
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<td>209.1</td>
<td>224.8</td>
<td>184.4</td>
<td>191.2</td>
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<td>90</td>
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<td>36</td>
<td>13.5</td>
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- Red: Medical costs of intended pregnancies
- Light grey: Medical costs of unintended pregnancies
- Dark grey: Family planning costs
Conclusion

- Increasing contraceptive use promotes health and welfare
- Investment in contraceptive services has financial benefits
- The case for additional funding of contraceptive use is compelling
This study was undertaking and this presentation was developed with support from AusAID.

For more information, visit www.guttmacher.org