The Benefits of Meeting the Contraceptive Needs of Women in Uganda and Ethiopia

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Overview

• Context: Fertility and health
• Objective of the study
• The methodological approach
• Impacts of contraceptive use – pregnancy, health, and financial outcomes
• Conclusion
Context and Objectives
Women are having more children than they want in Uganda and Ethiopia.
Maternal and child health situation is precarious

- **Uganda**
  - Maternal mortality rate of 550 per 100,000 live births
  - Infant mortality rate of 84 per 1,000 live births

- **Ethiopia**
  - Maternal mortality rate of 720 per 100,000 live births
  - Infant mortality rate of 80 per 1,000 live births
Contraceptive use is very low among married women in Uganda and Ethiopia

• Uganda
  – Only 24% of married women use a method; 18% modern
  – 41% of currently married women have an unmet need for family planning

• Ethiopia
  – Only 15% of married women used a method; 14% modern
  – 34% of currently married women have unmet need for family planning
Objectives of the study

• Help policymakers improve health and family well-being in Uganda and Ethiopia

• Estimate the costs and benefits of contraceptive use
  – Health benefits
  – Financial benefits

• Special emphasis on poor women and regions
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 level and pattern of method use
  - 50% of current unmet need for modern methods is met
  - 100% of current unmet need for modern methods is met
Impacts of Modern Method Use
EMBARGO

• Please note, the data for Ethiopia in this presentation are not yet released and are not to be cited beyond this conference

• Thank you
Modern method use reduces abortion and unplanned childbearing: Uganda

Millions of pregnancies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Intended pregnancies</th>
<th>Unplanned births and miscarriages</th>
<th>Abortions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No method use</td>
<td>0.95</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>0.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current method use</td>
<td>0.95</td>
<td>0.87</td>
<td>0.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50% unmet need met</td>
<td>0.95</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100% unmet need met</td>
<td>0.95</td>
<td>0.13</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend:
- Red: Intended pregnancies
- Gray: Unplanned births and miscarriages
- Green: Abortions
Modern method use reduces abortion and unplanned childbearing: Ethiopia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Intended pregnancies</th>
<th>Unplanned births and miscarriages</th>
<th>Abortions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No method use</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>0.57</td>
<td>0.041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current method use</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>0.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50% unmet need met</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>0.37</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100% unmet need met</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>0.68</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Millions of pregnancies

0.0 0.5 1.0 1.5 2.0 2.5 3.0 3.5 4.0 4.5 5.0

- Intended pregnancies
- Unplanned births and miscarriages
- Abortions
Modern method use averts maternal mortality and maternal DALYs

• If 100% of unmet need for modern methods were met in Uganda:
  – 3,300 fewer women would die each year
  – Maternal DALYs would decrease by 211,000

• If 100% of unmet need for modern methods were met in Ethiopia:
  – 6,674 fewer women would die each year
  – Maternal DALYs would decrease by 549,000
Expanding modern method use narrows the gap between poor and wealthy women

Maternal deaths averted per 100,000 women who want to avoid a pregnancy in Uganda

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Poorest</th>
<th>Wealthiest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current situation</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100% unmet need is met vs. current use</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Expanding modern method use narrows the gap between poor and wealthy women

Maternal deaths averted per 100,000 women who want to avoid a pregnancy in Ethiopia

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current situation</strong></td>
<td>17</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>100% unmet need is met vs. current use</strong></td>
<td>155</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Expanding modern method use saves money: Uganda

**Cost in million USD**

- **No method use**: 418
  - Health cost: intended preg: 269.9
  - Health cost: unintended preg: 147.6
  - Family planning cost: 41.3

- **Current method use**: 362
  - Health cost: intended preg: 191.9
  - Health cost: unintended preg: 147.6
  - Family planning cost: 23.7

- **50% unmet need is met**: 306
  - Health cost: intended preg: 110.8
  - Health cost: unintended preg: 147.6
  - Family planning cost: 47.2

- **100% unmet need is met**: 250
  - Health cost: intended preg: 72.2
  - Health cost: unintended preg: 147.6
  - Family planning cost: 29.6

Legend:
- Orange: Health cost: intended preg
- Light green: Health cost: unintended preg
- Dark green: Family planning cost
Expanding modern method use saves money: Ethiopia

Cost in million USD

- No method use: 531
  - Medical costs of intended pregnancies: 244.9
  - Medical costs of unintended pregnancies: 285.7
  - Family planning costs: 56.7

- Current method use: 489
  - Medical costs of intended pregnancies: 244.9
  - Medical costs of unintended pregnancies: 186.9
  - Family planning costs: 56.7

- 50% need is met: 474
  - Medical costs of intended pregnancies: 244.9
  - Medical costs of unintended pregnancies: 103.1
  - Family planning costs: 125.8

- 100% need is met: 460
  - Medical costs of intended pregnancies: 244.9
  - Medical costs of unintended pregnancies: 20.1
  - Family planning costs: 194.9

Legend:
- Medical costs of intended pregnancies
- Medical costs of unintended pregnancies
- Family planning costs
Conclusion

• Investing in contraceptive services leads to improved health for women and their infants and saves money

• All stakeholders should support programs that facilitate effective contraceptive use

• We hope these reports will have the same policy impact as we have seen in the Philippines
These studies were undertaken and this presentation was developed with support from The World Bank

For more information, visit www.guttmacher.org