Knowledge and Perceptions of IUD Use in Urban Areas of El Salvador

On behalf of:
Dr. Fredy Alvarenga, MD, MPH,
Mirian Henriquez, MPH, Dr. Juan Carlos Lovo, OB/GYN, Dr. Carlos Castaneda, OB/GYN

Presented by: Meg Galas
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Outline

- Context and program background
- Study objectives
- Methods
- Findings
- Recommendations
Significance

- Family planning is an essential strategy to reach Millennium Development Goals 4 & 5
- 20% of pregnancies are *unwanted*
- 40% of pregnancies are *unplanned*
- Of sexually active adolescents, 43% have had their first child by the age of 19.
Background

- IUD rates are low – 0.8%
  - 33% of women 15-30 use modern contraception
  - 64% know of IUD as a method

- Barriers to IUD use include:
  - Negative perceptions, myths and misconceptions
  - Lack of service availability
  - Lack of trained providers
  - Low quality service provision – esp. counseling
## PASMO´s Intervention Model

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Barriers</th>
<th>Solutions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Myths, misperceptions and religious beliefs</td>
<td>• Provide scientific information (doctors)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• IPC workers educating WRA</td>
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<td>• Doctors training doctors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lack of Training / Certification</td>
<td>• TOT for Master Trainers</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Master Trainers train doctors</td>
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<td>• Promote Certification to doctors (marketing!)</td>
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<td>Lack of Infrastructure / Equipment</td>
<td>• Bulk import of IUD kits – sell at cost</td>
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<td>• Sell Safeload IUDs at low cost – “new” product</td>
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<td>Lack of Promo Material</td>
<td>• Develop and distribute new IEC materials</td>
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<td>Limitations on services</td>
<td>• Advocate to change policy - allow more time for insertions</td>
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<td>• Increase # of private sector doctors trained</td>
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<td>• Introduce PPIUD services</td>
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Results of WHP Project to date:

- 12,000 IUDs Jan 2009 – Dec 2010
- 2000 PPIUD Jan 2009 – Dec 2010
- 200+ Doctors certified
- 150,000 women reached with IEC
- Collaboration with:
  - 5 universities
  - 85 garment and food factories
  - 30 public sector “mega” clinics
  - 13 maternity hospitals
  - National Employee Health Insurance (18% of pop)
  - 18 private sector clinics
  - 5 largest municipalities
Study Objectives

Among women of reproductive age (15-49):
- Measure perceptions of IUDs
- Measure exposure to PASMO’s FP project
- Correlate exposure with perceptions of IUDs
Methodology

- Quantitative, population-based survey in Dec 2010 (n=324)
- To identify differences in perceptions of IUDs, analysis was completed using univariate analysis of variance (UNIANOVA).
- Prompted exposure recall: pictures of PSI/PASMO FP pamphlets were shown to IUD users to help identify levels of exposure to PSI/PASMO campaigns and interventions
Findings
Findings (1/2)

- 80% of WRA agreed IUD is effective in birth spacing
- 50% of WRA had at least one misconception about IUD
- 90% of WRA know where to access information about IUD
- **Only 16% of WRA had a doctor recommend the method**
- 6% reported having used IUD
- 1.6% reported current IUD user
Findings (2/2)

- 58% reported exposure to PASMO FP program
- Women exposed to PASMO´s IEC were less likely to have misconceptions about IUD
- Women exposed to PASMO´s IEC were more likely to report that IUD is effective
- Women exposed to PASMO´s IEC were more likely to accurately name side effects
Recommendations

- **Continue** scientific conferences to increase providers’ knowledge of and recommendations of IUDs
- **Increase** number of providers trained on IUDs
- **Continue** IEC activities to decrease myths and misconceptions
- **Expand** PPIUD services
Gracias!

For more Information: mgalas@pasmo-ca.org