Promising practices for men's involvement in family planning and SRH in Guatemala

Janeen Simon
WINGS Guatemala
Guatemalan Context
The work WINGS does
WINGS for Men program components
Strategies for Working with Men in SRH
The Need for SRH/FP

- TFR: 3.47 – 3rd highest in Latin America
- FR among the poorest 20%: 8 wealthiest 20%: 2.6
- Population growth rate: 2.5%, expected to double in 30 years
- Modern CPR: 34%, 28% unmet need
- Second highest MMR in LA: 290
- 1/3 of all pregnancies are unintended
WINGS creates opportunities for Guatemalan families to improve their lives by providing them with family planning education and access to reproductive health services.
Programs

- Family Planning
- Youth WINGS
- WINGS for MEN
- Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment
- Political Advocacy
Program Objectives:

- Increase knowledge of SRH among men using a gender lens.
- Increase access to FP methods & protection against STIs among men.
- Increase the ability of health providers to include and treat men more effectively in their practice.
- Increase the number of other organizations implementing SRH programs for men by offering technical assistance.
WINGS for Men
Program Activities

- Small group workshops for men
- Peer Education
- Communication campaign
- Training for health service providers
- Capacity Building
Strategies

- Improving male partners’ knowledge about SRH/FP
- Use of established male networks to diffuse information

- Participatory methodology
- Collaboration with community leaders and local health departments
Strategies continued

- Addressing underlying gender assumptions
- Encouraging joint decision-making and shared responsibility for FP
- Increasing gender awareness and sensitivity of health providers
Men's Family Planning Knowledge 2011

- Men with FP knowledge: 19% (Pre test) vs. 78% (Post test)
- Men who know how Jadelle is used: 9% (Pre test) vs. 43% (Post test)
- Men who know vasectomy is an effective FP method: 64% (Pre test) vs. 87% (Post test)
Men's Family Planning Attitudes & Behavior 2011

- Men who say a vasectomy does NOT decrease a man's strength:
  - Pre test: 15%
  - Post test: 60%

- Men who say they would definitely use a FP in the future:
  - Pre test: 25%
  - Post test: 51%

- Men who are now currently using a FP with their partners:
  - Pre test: 42%
  - Post test: 72%
Conclusions

- There is a great need and interest in involving men in SRH education and services
- Information should be targeted and specialized for men with an emphasis on gender and partner communication
- Community based & participatory strategies are successful for working with men in SRH
- Collaboration with other organizations and integration of male SRH is essential
- Promising practices have led to program expansion & could be used as models for other SRH male involvement programs
Thank You