Developing and Testing a Framework and Approach for Measuring Success in Repositioning Family Planning

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Goal of Repositioning FP Initiative

Increase political and financial commitment to family planning in sub-Saharan Africa, which will lead to expanded access and help meet women’s stated desires for safe, effective modern contraception.
How do we know a country has repositioned FP?

- Develop and test a framework by which countries and programs can monitor and evaluate their progress toward repositioning family planning
Stakeholder Involvement

Data gathering:
- USAID strategy
- Key informant interviews
- Document review
- Review frameworks, PMP

Develop framework:
- Draft framework and M&E approach
- Develop draft indicators
- Stakeholder review

Test and validate:
- Choose countries
- Share and test
- Evaluate and revise
Participatory process

- Key informants interviewed
- Global documents and PMPs reviewed
- Virtual review process
- Participatory review meeting – RFP Working Group
- MEASURE Evaluation and Advance Family Planning collaborated during pilot test
- Additional applications of framework funded through different mechanisms/donors
Through the participatory process

- Defined Repositioning FP
  - “everything it takes to get FP on the radar screen and keep it there”
- Identified challenges to repositioning
- Identified how we know when a country has repositioned family planning
- Compiled indicators
SO: Increase stewardship and strengthen enabling environment

IR1: Resources increased and spent on FP

IR2: Multisectoral coordination increased

IR3: Policies adopted and put into place

IR4: Evidence-based data or information used to inform decisions

IR5: Individual or institutional capacity strengthened
Accompanying materials

- Indicator table,
- Indicator reference sheets,
- Checklist for collecting all indicators,
- Semi-structured interview guide,
- Data management spreadsheet,
- Suggested list of key informants.
Pilot testing framework

- Objective: to verify and finalize framework
- Step 1: Desk review and preparation for field testing
- Step 2: Applying the framework; conducting interviews in Tanzania
- Step 3: Finalizing the framework and indicators following the pilot test
Step 1: Desk review and preparation for field testing

- Compiled Tanzania specific documents
- Document review to extract evidence of achievement
- Developed detailed list of key informants
- Arranged interviews
Step 2: Applying the framework; conducting interviews in Tanzania

- Collect evidence of achievement for each of the indicators through interviews
  - Conducted 31 semi-structured interviews
  - Informants represented gov’t, donors, international organizations and local NGOs
- Compiled evidence through documents and transcripts
Step 3: Finalizing the framework and indicators following the pilot test

- Revised framework, indicators and interview guides
- Revisions included:
  - Streamlined indicator language
  - Removed 3 indicators
  - Added 1 indicator
  - Changed wording of some indicators
KEY FINDINGS IN TANZANIA
Stewardship (SO)

- National FP Technical Working Group:
  - Stewardship functions - advocacy for resources, planning, policy development, revision and monitoring
  - Head of FP for RCHS of MOH is the Chair
  - Effective group, but “donor-driven”
- “Challenge remains in political leadership for FP”
Resources (IR1)

- Funding levels increasing for contraceptives, but primarily donor
- Basket funding mechanism, USAID pass-through

“Much of what we’re celebrating as increase in funds is really from the basket funds…not really from Gov’t own money.”
Multisectoral engagement (IR2)

- PRSP and other strategic plans include FP
- National FP TWG is multisectoral structure, but focused on health aspects
- FP not adequately considered as economic issue across sectors
- Few barriers to private sector, but “government could do more to support private sector role.”
Policies and plans (IR3)

- Adequate high-level policy framework
- Costed Implementation Plan helped mobilize additional resources
- Barriers to CBD of injectables remain
- Strong assistance at district level with CCHPs and advocacy
Evidence informed decisions (IR4)

- Data used to develop CIP and other documents
- USAID partner working with MOH to revise and publish clinical training manuals and FP guidelines
- No defined research agenda on FP – in FHI workplan
- FHI building country capacity in research – NIMR
- Partners building MOH capacity in M&E and evidence informed decision making
Capacity to support FP agenda (IR5)

- Parliamentary FP Club
- Religious leaders
- Weak local NGO and government capacity
- Few local NGOs working on FP
- Culture of advocacy by CSOs not strong
Progress and perspectives

- Revised framework and tools
- Included indicators in MEASURE Evaluation PRH’s Indicator Database
- Framework applied in Niger and Togo
- Will apply in six west African countries - Hewlett Foundation
- Interest from USAID Missions for use in monitoring and planning
- Additional work needed on presentation and communication of findings
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