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Harnessing Community Mobilization and Private Sector Partnerships to Expand Access to Family Planning Services

Abstract Topic : Leveraging the Private Sector for Investment and Expansion of Right-Based Quality Family Planning Services

Abstract Status : Pending Review

Submission Type :

Uchechi Onyewuchi ^{1 *}

Username : uonyewuchi@sfnigeria.org, **Email :** uonyewuchi@sfnigeria.org, **Status :** Published

Oluwabusola Oni ²

Username : oluwabusola658@gmail.com, **Email :** oluwabusola658@gmail.com, **Status :** Published

Anthony Nwala ³

Username : anwala@sfnigeria.org, **Email :** anwala@sfnigeria.org, **Status :** Published

Ezechukwu Nwokoma ⁴

Username : inwokoma@sfnigeria.org, **Email :** inwokoma@sfnigeria.org, **Status :** Published

Abstract Summary :

Background: Private facilities often have more flexible operating hours, shorter wait times, and can be more geographically accessible, particularly in urban areas. By integrating modern contraceptive methods like the hormonal IUD (HIUD), private facilities have the potential to increase access to quality Family Planning (FP) services, reducing unmet need for FP among Women of Reproductive Age (WRA).

Objective: This study explored community mobilization strategies to improve uptake of family planning services at private facilities.

Methodology: Interpersonal communication agents (IPCA) were selected and trained across 11 states (Edo, Abia, Imo, Kano, Enugu, Rivers, Oyo, Ogun, Lagos, Delta and FCT) employing IPC strategies including house visits and community dialogues, to sensitize WRA on different FP methods and refer them to private facilities. This guaranteed messages were brought to their doorsteps and places they often visited including ANC clinics at private hospitals.

Results: A total of 81,697 persons were reached with FP messaging across the 11 States. Of the persons reached, 38,771 indicated interest in taking up FP services and were promptly referred with 2,125 clients completing the referrals. Although clients received other FP methods depending on preference, a total of 399 H-IUD insertions were done at the Private facilities

Conclusion: Through the implementation of successful IPC strategies and positive experiences by WRA at private facilities, the intervention was able to demonstrate effectiveness of private sectors in delivering FP services. Subsidized HIUD services at the facilities also played a key role in bolstering outcomes and enabling access.

Keywords: Private sector, IPCAs, HIUD