

RH commodity Security in Uganda

By

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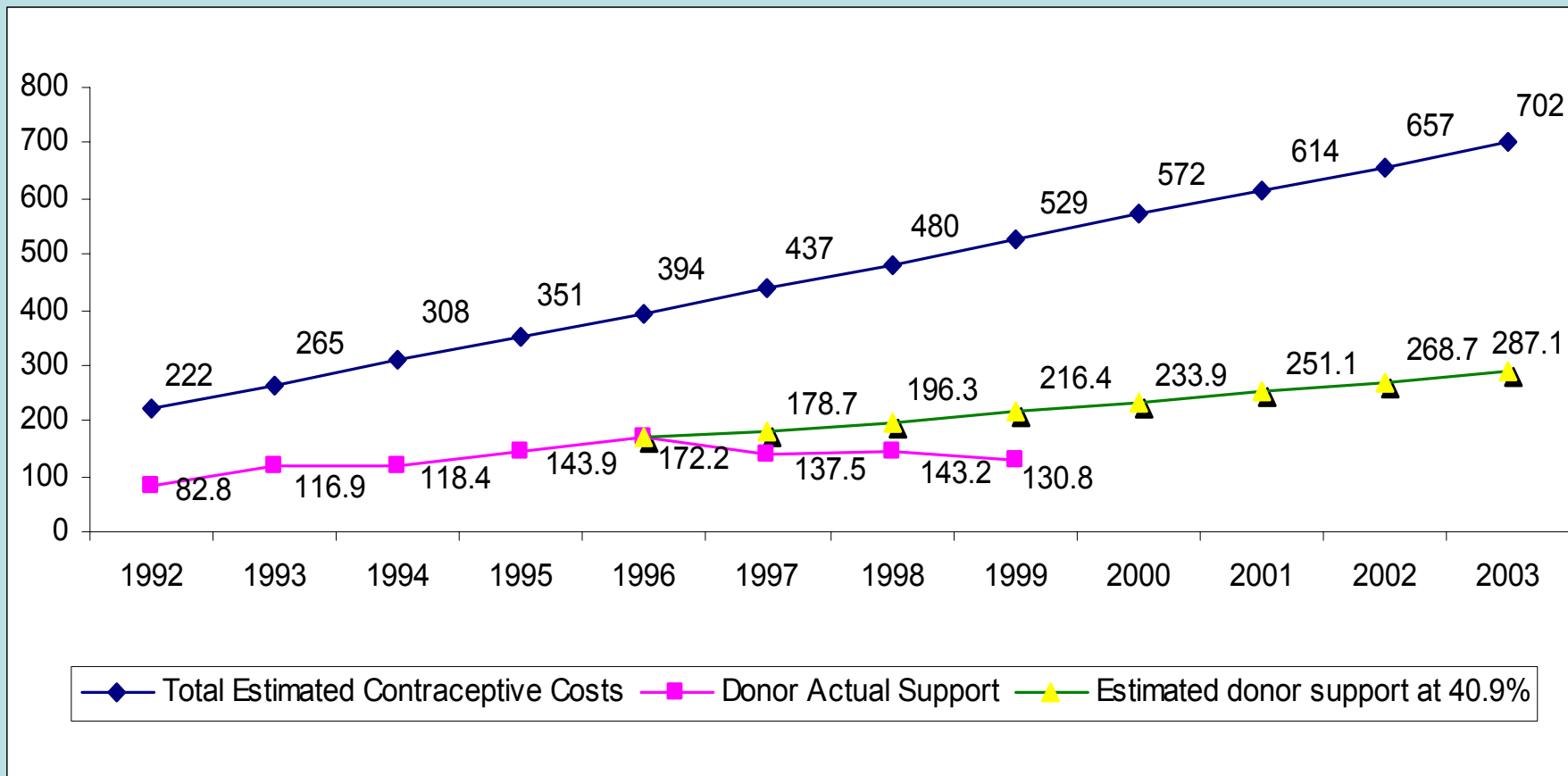
Generic RHCS Roundtable

Beijing, China

on

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Trend of Reported Donor Support for Contraception compared with Estimated Requirements (in millions of dollars)



Each \$1 million shortfall in commodity support for contraceptives means an estimated:

- 360,000 more unwanted pregnancies;
- 150,000 additional induced abortions;
- 800 maternal deaths;
- 11,000 infant deaths;
- 14,000 additional deaths of children under 5.

Every Minute in the World

- 650 people are infected with a curable STD.
- 380 women become pregnant.
- 190 of these women did not plan or do not wish to have the pregnancy.
- 110 women experience a pregnancy-related complication.
- 40 women have an unsafe abortion.
- 10 people are infected with HIV.
- 1 woman dies from a pregnancy-related cause.

Commodity Security

Reproductive Health Commodity Security (RHCS) exists when every person is able to choose, obtain and use quality contraceptives and other essential Reproductive Health products, whenever one needs them.

The “Six Rights” of RHCS

Commodities should be:

1. Of the right quantities
2. Of the right products
3. In the right condition
4. In the right place
5. At the right time
6. For the right price

What is causing shortage?

- Increasing population of reproductive age
- Increased demand
- Insufficient donor funding
- Inadequate management capacity

National Level Actions

- Capacity building for:
 - Financing
 - Forecasting
 - Procurement
 - Distribution
- Advocacy:
 - Remove barriers to RHCS including policies, legal and taxation issues, etc.

National Level Actions (cont'd)

- Sustainability
 - Government commitment
 - Partnerships
 - Cost recovery mechanisms
 - Social marketing
 - Efficiency
- Coordination
 - Role of Government, Partners etc.
 - Working Groups (WGs)

What is the Evidence for RHCS?

- A number of studies consistently show that contraceptive commodity availability at health facilities is an important supply side factor for utilizing family planning services
- Adequate supply chain management systems are necessary to ensure commodity availability
- When drugs are available, patients have more confidence in the public health system
- Availability of pharmaceuticals has been shown to motivate health professionals.

RHCS Status

What is the situation in Uganda?

Current Initiatives for RHCS

- SWAP-has improved coordination across sectors
- Maintenance of government dedicated budget line for contraceptives and other RH commodities
- Annual contraceptive procurement forecasts
- RH Interagency Coordination Committee

Current Initiatives for RHCS (Cont'd)

- Functional RHCS committee monitors and responds to threats to RHCS
- Strong MOH-NGO collaboration-NGOs access free contraceptives from MOH
- Zero tolerance for contraceptive stock outs by MOH

Challenges

- Divided political will on Family Planning in spite of FP central position in HSSP and PRSP
- Uncertain longer term donor and MOH commitments to assure supplies in an environment of increasing demand
- Quarterly Budget releases-Budget line not fully actualized
- Donor coordination-different planning and budgeting cycles
- Procurement processes different.

Challenges (cont'd)

- Decentralisation-districts/HSDs decide on procurement priorities
- Logistics capacity issues-distribution, information systems, skills
- Demand and utilization is weak
- Health clinic structure does not integrate FP-missed opportunities
- How do we assure contraceptive security when attention is on HIV&AIDS?

Way forward

Need to advocate for:

- Increased national/local leadership and commitment for RH/family planning services
- Increased MOH budgets and also attract other donors for contraceptives
- Ring fencing the national budget for contraceptives and ensuring the actual commitment of funds to allow purchasing

Way forward (cont'd)

- Ensuring that the role of private and nongovernmental sectors are considered and stakeholders are engaged
- Increased national supply chain management capacity, including forecasting skills, ability to coordinate between different funding sources, strengthened procurement capacity, and better product delivery

Way forward (cont'd)

At the operational level:

- Position RH programmes to counter the crowded-out effect on RH of donor funds by HIV/AIDS, TB, Malaria etc.
- Join the “bigger lobby” for HR crisis-incentives, etc.

THANK YOU