

## Repositioning Family Planning in Rwanda

How a taboo topic has become priority number one, and a success story **Emile Sempabwa, MPH IntraHealth International Regional Meeting of Southern and Eastern Africa Parliamentary Alliance of Committees on Health** (SEAPACOH) September 27 – 30, 2010, Kampala, Uganda

## The story of the dramatic rise of family planning use in Rwanda and lessons learned

Rwanda's population, an estimated 11 million, is one of the most densely concentrated in the world...

# Selected health indicators in Rwanda, 1992—2008

	1992	2000	2005	2007/2008
infant mortality	85	107	86	62
under-five mortality	150	196	152	103
antenatal care (1 <sup>st</sup> visit)	94%	92%	94%	96%
skilled birth attendance	26%	31%	39%	53%
maternal mortality		1071	750	
total fertility rate	6.2	5.8	6.1	5.5
contraceptive prevalence rate	13%	4%	10%	27%

Source: Demographic and Health Surveys

## How did family planning become priority number one?

#### Multilevel evidence-based advocacy and policy efforts: family planning as issue of health <u>and</u> economic development

# Increased access to quality services

#### full range (implants and IUDs) integrated at health centers

#### permanent methods: vasectomy initiative

Increased access to wide range of methods



#### Learned

### Advocacy critical—multilevel and targeted district mayors, ministries, parliamentarians, military...

#### Lessons Learned

# Coordination is key, as is national implementation

plan

#### Lessons Learned

#### Choice of methods, confidentiality and improved logistics systems are essential

### Lessons Learned

#### Motivating providers works, but needs to be sustainable

Current challenge: keeping the momentum going

Repositioning-family planning in Rwandastrong political commitment and leadership, mechanisms to foster advocacy, widespread availability of high-quality family planning services

## Thank you



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