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What price for peace of mind?

Boosting equitable access to emergency contraception

ADDRESSING AFFORDABILITY GAPS FOR EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION

The Innovation Fund will assist the International Consortium for Emergency Contraception (ICEC) apply a total market approach (TMA) ensuring more equitable access to emergency contraception (EC). It will do so by collecting price information for emergency contraception pills (ECP) in more than 60 developing countries, tapping national level economic data to determine the relative affordability of ECPs in these countries, and subsequently selecting two countries for the development of TMAs that promise to close the affordability gap and ensure more equitable access to EC.

Research to date suggests that throughout the developing world, women pay a wide range of prices for EC, and that price remains a critical barrier affecting access to this commodity. The Innovation Fund grant will allow ICEC to compile and analyze point-of-sale pricing data for EC across 60 developing countries. The project will then compare that data to various macro-economic indicators in order to understand where the price of EC is particularly high and most unaffordable to poor and vulnerable women.

UNDERSTANDING THE TOTAL MARKET

Mapping total market provision of EC is an important step in understanding where market-based interventions can improve access. ICEC will compile data from a variety of sources across the public, private, and social market sectors to create total market snapshots of countries in which data is available. Selecting two focus countries—in part based on their need for a market intervention—ICEC will complete in-depth TMAs in these countries and write up case studies that explore EC pricing across different sectors. It will review gaps in access and explore opportunities to address these gaps through social marketing or public sector interventions that meet the needs of women who cannot afford EC in the private sector.

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International Consortium for Emergency Contraception

The International Consortium for Emergency Contraception's (ICEC) mission is to expand access to and ensure safe and locally appropriate use of emergency contraception worldwide within the context of family planning and reproductive health programs, with an emphasis on developing countries. A member of the RHSC since 2008, ICEC has more than 2,500 members from over 130 countries. ICEC and its member organizations play a key role in introducing EC in a wide range of settings and in addressing emerging issues related to EC access.

Award

Recipient: International Consortium for Emergency Contraception

Amount: US\$76,522

Date: May 2014 – April 2015

What is the Innovation Fund?

The Innovation Fund was established in 2008, through a generous grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Managed by the Coalition Secretariat, the Innovation Fund has to date made available more than US\$2.2M in small grants (maximum US\$200,000 per grant) to Coalition partners. The grants – more than 20 altogether – have yielded new tools, supported advocacy and research, leveraged millions of dollars in subsequent program funding, and launched a host of new initiatives across the Global South.

Traditionally, the Coalition has defined the concept of “innovation” broadly to include any promising new idea with the potential to bring about positive change. Innovation needn't mean a radical departure from previous practice. It could also include new approaches to existing processes or the implementation of an existing strategy in a new context, especially if this adaptation leads to replication or scaling-up at country level.

Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition

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