

Brief overview of FP supply chain systems in Ghana-Perspectives from Ghana Health Service



Outline

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Background



Improving access to family planning commodities is critical for reducing maternal mortality, optimizing birth spacing and promoting the economic empowerment of women.



Over the last decade, use of modern contraceptive methods in Ghana has increased from 10% in 1993 to 28% in 2022 owing to investments made by the Government of Ghana, development partners and other stakeholders. (Ghana Demographic Health survey, 2022)

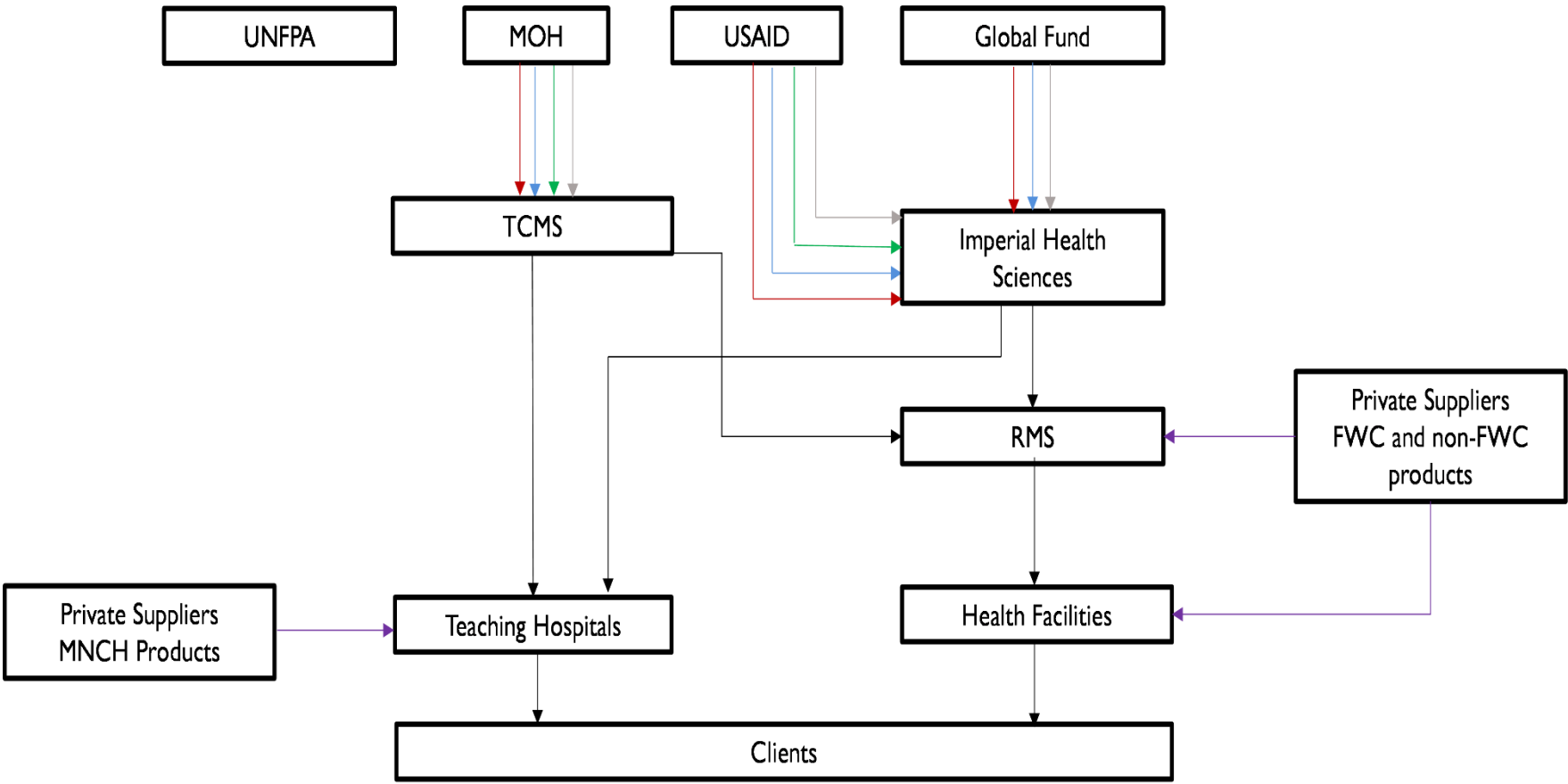


Despite this improvement, the unmet need for contraception is still high. Several women continue to lack access to contraception due to supply-side barriers such as poor access to health facilities, disproportionate distribution of reproductive and child health staff and limited availability of contraceptive methods.



This highlights the need to address bottlenecks and improve availability of family planning commodities to promote informed choice.

Ghana's Flow of Commodity Pipeline



Legend

- HIV
- Family Planning
- Malaria
- HIV Laboratory

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Family Planning in Ghana -Role of Ghana Health Services (GHS)

Objectives of the GHS FP Program

1. To reduce the unmet need for modern contraceptives in Ghana
2. To increase demand for modern contraceptives in Ghana

A well-functioning supply chain is crucial for ensuring the availability, accessibility, and affordability of contraceptives.

Role of Ghana Health Services (GHS) in Family Planning

- GHS coordinates and implements the FP programs
- GHS partners with other stakeholders, such as donors and NGOs.



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Family Planning Methods In Ghana

Methods	Durations
Short acting reversible methods	
Pills	Daily
Condoms (Male and Female)	Per sexual act
Injectables	1/3 month(s)
LAM/Natural method	1 month
Spermicides	Per sexual act
Long acting reversible methods	
Intra Uterine Contraceptive Device	
Copper T (CuT380A)	12 years
Levonogestrel Intra Uterine System (LNG-IUS)	5 years
Implants	
Jadelle	5 years
Implanon NXT	3 years
Permanent methods	
Vasectomy	For life
Female sterilization	For life



Male Condom



Female Condom



The Pill



Injectable



Implant



IUD



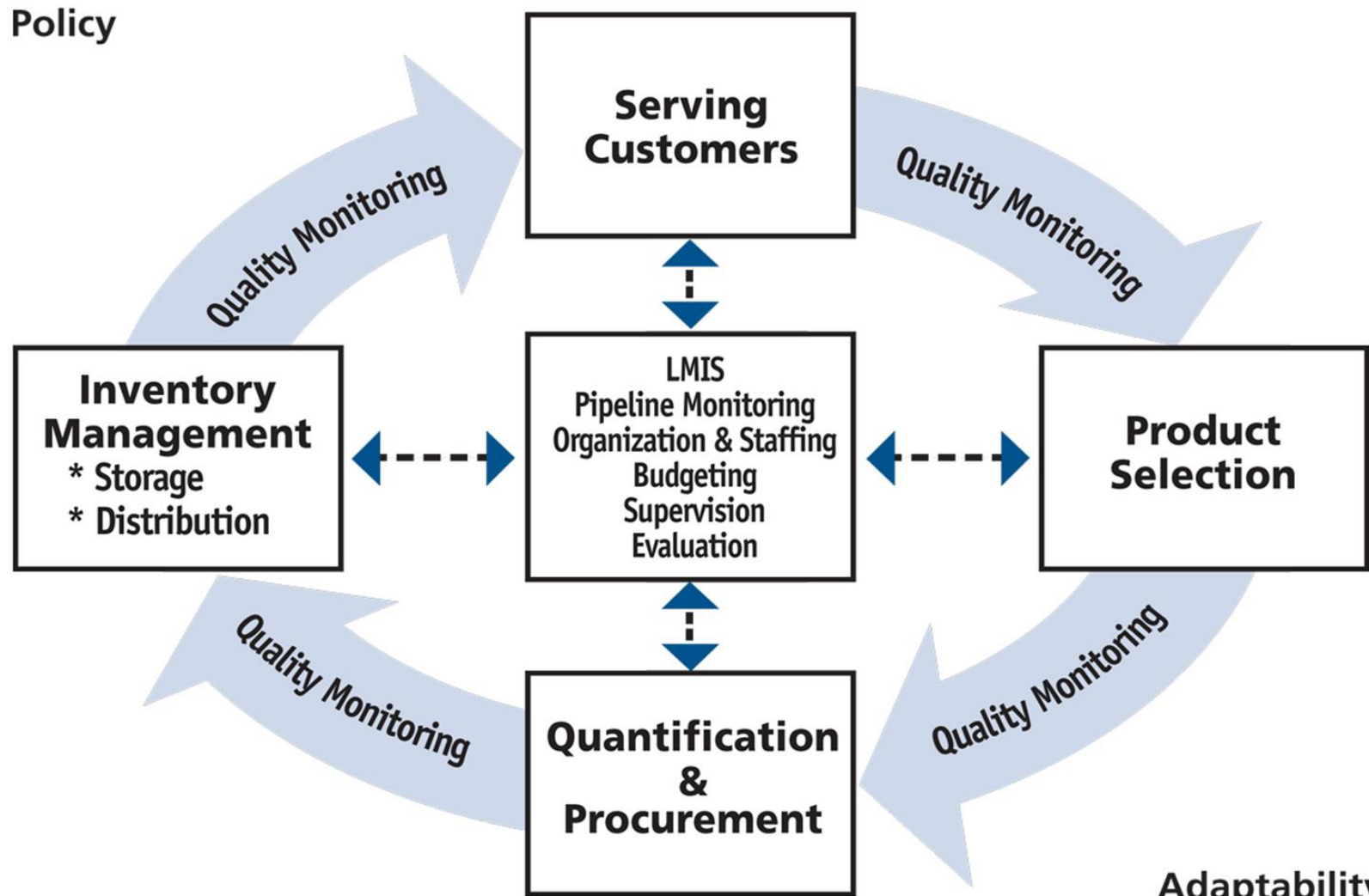
Sterilization



CYCLE BEADS



Supply Chain Systems in Ghana-The Logistics Cycle



Adaptability



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Roles of stakeholders in the Supply Chain Systems in Ghana

- **Ministry of Health (MOH):** MOH sets policies and guidelines for healthcare delivery, including FP. It provides strategic direction for FP programs, ensuring alignment with national health objectives.
- **Ghana Health Services (GHS):** GHS plays a central role in coordinating and implementing FP programs in Ghana. It oversees the procurement, distribution, and monitoring of contraceptives to health facilities across the country. GHS also provides training and support to healthcare workers involved in FP services.
- **Donors –USAID, UNFPA, WAHO:** Donors, including international organizations and development agencies, provide financial support for FP supply chain programs in Ghana. They contribute funding for procurement, training, technical assistance and infrastructure development.
- **NGOs/SMOs:** They complement government efforts by implementing FP programs at the facility and community level. They provide education, outreach, and support for FP services.



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Supply Chain Systems in Ghana - Challenges

Stockouts: Frequent stockouts of contraceptives can occur due to inadequate forecasting, procurement delays, or distribution inefficiencies.

Inadequate Storage Facilities: Many health facilities lack proper storage facilities, leading to product deterioration, wastage, or stockouts.

Data Management Issues: Inaccurate or incomplete data on contraceptive usage, stock levels, and demand can hinder effective supply chain management. The GhILMIS challenge is where facilities request but do not consume in the system.

Ongoing Systems Strengthening Initiatives

GhILMIS introduced for digital tracking systems, increased training for staff, and better forecasting methods.

Continued training of health workers and FP actors for effective service delivery

Community Involvement

- **Increased Awareness and Access:** Active community participation raises awareness about the importance of FP and available services. Communities engaged in FP outreach programs are more likely to utilize contraceptives, leading to improved access.
- **Achievements in Promoting Access to Contraceptives:** CHPS workers play a pivotal role in educating communities about the benefits of FP.
 - They provide counseling, distribute contraceptives, and facilitate discussions on family planning.
 - Mobile clinics and outreach programs under CHPS ensure that even remote communities have access to contraceptives.
 - The role of local NGOs like TFHO and HKN in community outreach.



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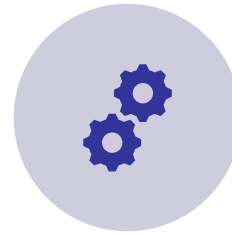


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Future Directions



Reducing Transportation Bottlenecks: Addressing transportation challenges, such as inadequate infrastructure to improve the timely delivery of contraceptives to remote communities.



Enhancing Data Management:

Implementing advanced data management systems to help lead to more accurate forecasting, reduced wastage, and better supply chain decision-making. Role out of GhiLMIS lite for CHPS.



Continuous Capacity Building: Ongoing training for healthcare workers in supply chain management to enhance their skills and ensure efficient FP commodity handling.



Engaging Private Sector:

Continuous collaboration with the private sector for the procurement and distribution of contraceptives to supplement government and donor efforts.

Conclusion

Improvement in the FP supply chain system can lead to better service delivery, increased access to contraceptives, and improved maternal and child health outcomes.

This requires all hands-on deck.



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