

**Discussion Notes from the Contraceptive Security Taskforces Presentations**  
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**Specific points of discussion:**

- CS committee meetings seem to be good fora for addressing technical issues and providing solutions, mainly for the public sector.
- These committees also get to sit at the same table as representatives from different sectors, and encourage discussions around CS issues, especially those that affect public sector services.
- A major concern is the sustainability of these committees without donor support.
- Countries have mentioned budget line items. However, do they really translate into protected funds for contraceptive procurement? Why would they compete with other priorities if countries have budget line items? So, what's missing? More analysis of in-country situation needs to be done in order to ensure mid and long-term funding for contraceptive procurement.
- Market segmentation analyses, in some cases, have been very effective for engaging other sectors that have not actively participated in the provision of FP services, such as health insurance companies, and social security systems. However, there is a need to identify strategies that will allow public sector institutions to focus on underserved populations, and move clients in high quintiles to private sector services.
- Main efforts and discussions of these committees focus on public sector supply and financial issues. What about other sectors? Doesn't Commodity Security affect all sectors?
- In order to be effective, commodity security needs to be part of an expanded effort that includes support to other areas of RH and FP such as Information, Education, and Communication (IEC), supervision, monitoring, information management, system strengthening, service delivery, etc.
- Countries still have to struggle with identifying reliable sources of supply, especially when they have to procure using government funds. Getting high quality, low-priced contraceptives is still an issue.
- Procurement capacity. Most countries rely on donor agencies (e.g. UNFPA in LAC) or third-party logistics services (e.g. Crown Agents) to do their own procurement using government funds. They also have a long history of procuring essential drugs, but efficiency of the process is still a concern. In addition, there's no common vision on how to strengthen procurement capacity at the country level, and optimize the limited resources available in this area.

**General points of discussion/conclusions:**

- There is a need to expand the membership of these committees to other sectors (such as the private commercial sectors), and define their roles.
- Ensure that members have the political clout, the technical expertise, and the credibility (just to mention a few) to influence decision makers.
- By integrating of contraceptives into, at least, the basic tracer drugs list gives higher visibility to RH supplies, once countries are "mature" enough to consider FP as a key pillar to reduce maternal and child mortality, and a basic component to achieve the MDGs.

- Should “universal access” apply to all RH commodities, meaning, should these products be dispensed free-of-charge to the end-users? Countries which now have high CPRs adopted from the beginning a “universal access” policy to ensure that men and women would not have any access barrier to RH supplies, such as contraceptives. If countries with low CPRs adopt a cost-recovery policy for FP services, these countries will delay even further their ability to reach a level of prevalence that empowers and enables civil society to advocate strongly for their reproductive health rights. This also may put pressure on key stakeholders to allocate adequate funding for RH supplies, and provide enough funding to maintain the systems that support programs such as FP.
- Should countries integrate systems (e.g. information system, inventory system), before they even consolidate individual programs? Experience in some countries show that before integration can be done successfully, individual programs (e.g. FP) and their supporting sub-systems (e.g. supply chain) need to be functional first, in order to successfully integrate them into a larger system in order to be sustainable over time.