Advocating for RH supplies in Ghana in 2008/09

RH Supplies situation in Ghana

- Policies are supportive of family planning and contraceptive security, weak on implementation
- Only one contraceptive method listed in Essential Medicines List
- Financial sustainability plan calls for rapidly increasing government funding of supplies
- National Health Insurance Scheme does not cover contraceptives

What we needed to do

- Strengthen the Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee on Contraceptive Security (ICC-CS)Increase the number of contraceptives on the National Essential Medicines List
- Ensure access to Family Planning supplies is covered by the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS)

Country-driven RH supply security: ownership of agenda

Outcomes to date:

- Successfully advocated for contraceptive devices to be included in revised draft Essential Medicines List
- Govternment of Ghana joined the RHSC
- New strategic plan of Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee on Contraceptive Security has commitment to ensure contraceptives included in NHIS

Working together

- UNFPA
- National Population council
- National Health Insurance Association
- Environmental Protection Association of Ghana
- And others
- RH champion: leading RH consultant
- National and district level Civil Society Organizations
- Bi lateral Donors – DfID and DANIDA
- Ghana Health Service
- Media agencies

Pushing for change

- Build capacity of district level advocates to raise awareness of family planning as a development issue
- High level political support
- Ex First Lady of Ghana , Ex President, Minister for Manpower and Youth employment and former CEO of National Health Insurance Authority publically supportive
- Message development – in process consultation process with stakeholders begun, role out of messages through different channels and to wide range of audiences scheduled for June onwards
- Strengthen Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee on Contraceptive Security (ICC-CS)
- Engagement with media – debates on radio, increased press coverage
- Work with decision making bodies to increase Civil Society participation – Revision of EML 2008/09 – PPAG first CSO to participate in the process

RHSC Innovations

- **Forthcoming training:** RHSC Advocacy Toolkit Training of trainers – will be disseminated to district level partners
- **Forthcoming training:** RH Interchange – it will be a good source of data for evidence based messages

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