



## **Advancing Knowledge to Inform Program Design**

### **Video Transcript**

We have quite a wide range of different studies. Some of these studies are provider censuses, some of them involve secondary analysis of DHS data, and some of them are evaluations of interventions.

One interesting thing we've been doing in SHOPS is provider censuses, and these cases, what we've been doing is going into a region and enumerating all the private providers in an area.

With these efforts, we tried to really get a good sense of the size of the private health sector in a certain region, and what types of services they offer, what is the level of quality of those services? It's been really informative. We've done this in Nigeria, in Malawi, in Namibia, in Benin, and in the Caribbean.

So, in many cases, we've used findings to guide our own programs, but in some cases, the findings from our studies have led to national scale-up of interventions.

For example, in Madagascar, we did a study evaluating the impact of offering free pregnancy test kits to community health workers, and we wanted to see whether offering these free pregnancy test kits to community health workers would lead them to have more family planning clients.

The assumption was that, number one, family planning – women would be interested in learning their pregnancy status, and therefore, more of them would come to community health workers. Another assumption was that the community health workers themselves would feel more sure that their clients were not pregnant, and would be more willing to offer them family planning methods, and indeed, we found that the program was very effective.

Once these findings were disseminated, then USAID and the partners in the country decided to scale up that program, up to the national level. We're feeling really good about this. This is just starting now.

In pretty much all our cases, the information from our studies is being used to guide our own programs on the ground, our own SHOPS country programs. But in some cases, we're able to use the findings from our studies to influence programs beyond the SHOPS project

For example, in Madagascar, we did an evaluation where we looked at the impact of offering free pregnancy test kits to community health workers. We wanted to see if we offered these pregnancy test kits to community health workers, maybe, number one, they would get more clients, they would attract more women who were interested in knowing their pregnancy status, and also give the community health workers more confidence that their clients weren't pregnant, and give them more confidence to offer them a family planning method.

We found it was tremendously successful. We did a pilot study in three areas of Madagascar. We found that the venture was very, very effect. Then what happened is the partners on the ground decided to

scale up this intervention to the national level. It's just starting up right now. They're using the findings from our study to offer pregnancy test kits to community health workers throughout Madagascar.