



The Long and Short of It: Long-acting and Permanent Family Planning Methods in the Private Sector



e-Conference
May 8-10, 2012

Dear e-conference participants:

Thank you for joining us on the first day of this e-conference on long-acting and permanent family planning methods in the private sector.

We designed this event to foster discussion on LA/PM challenges and opportunities in both the public and private sectors. We hope that this e-conference has helped to connect you with new ideas and networks – and we have a lot more in store for tomorrow!

We had a good turnout today, with over 540 people logging in from 87 countries!

Here are a few highlights:

- ▶ We had a lively chat this morning that was focused generally on opportunities and challenges in LA/PM service provision. Our featured panelists James Harcourt of MSI and Elaine Menotti of USAID shared their perspectives on LA/PM provision and the strategies that have proven most effective in increasing private sector involvement in the introduction of LA/PM in various countries. Thank you to our 27 participants for engaging in the conversation. For those interested in that discussion the transcript is now available on the site under "***Discussion Forum***".
- ▶ There was much to take in from the two expert panels that focused on overcoming provider barriers and key challenges and opportunities in family planning and LA/PM. It was striking that while many of us have implemented in different contexts, for varying durations of time, and with different levels of scale, many of the findings of what works and what challenges remain are consistent across settings. These findings include client demand, availability of supplies, and training of providers especially for those in the private sector.
- ▶ Besides the extremely rich set of technical presentations that went live today, our introductory panel provided important contextual analysis. Dr. James Shelton of USAID noted in the e-conference introductory presentation that LA/PMs have a variety of advantages such as their long-term effectiveness, a wide eligibility for women, and their overall effectiveness; however, Dr. Shelton also notes that a major challenge for LA/PMs lies in overcoming myths and misperceptions of these methods, including eligibility and side effects on the demand side and provider bias on the supply side. As we look to scale up existing LA/PM programs and begin new ones a variety of strategies, data, and lessons learned can be gleaned from the experiences and strategies shared in this e-conference.

Finally for those of you who took the time to introduce yourselves in the SHOPS Café, or participate in the chat, it was a pleasure to meet you and to get to hear your perspective.

As you navigate the e-conference site, I would encourage you to engage in discussions with your colleagues. You can do this in several ways, by, for example:

- ◆ **Introducing yourself and starting a discussion thread in the SHOPS Café**
- ◆ **Directly commenting or posting questions on participant's presentations**
- ◆ **Joining the next live chat session in French scheduled for 8:30am EST or in English scheduled for 10:00am EST tomorrow.** Our featured speakers include Maaïke van Min from MSI Senegal, Thierry van Bastelaer of Abt Associates, Dr. Blami Dao of Jhpiego, Aisha Talib of Abt Associates, Meira Neggaz of MSI, and Holly Blanchard of Jhpiego. It promises to be a fast-paced and informative discussion and we look forward to participants sharing their experiences and opinions with us.

Thank you all for your active participation, and I look forward to seeing you online again tomorrow!

Regards,

Susan Mitchell
Project Director, SHOPS