



## 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,

On behalf of the USAID SHOPS project, I would like to sincerely thank you for your participation and contributions to the e-conference on long-acting and permanent family planning methods in the private sector. Though we have concluded our final day of having a “live” presence online, we really see this as a start for participants to continue making connections, browsing the presentations and resources, exchanging ideas, and collaborating on the ground. The “**SHOPS Café**” will remain open for discussions, as will the entire site – hosting a rich collection of presentations, videos, and resources.

We set out to foster dialogue on what we’ve learned to increase private sector involvement in family planning and reproductive health. We heard from a variety of perspectives including those introducing and scaling up LA/PMs in the public, commercial, and NGO sectors. We also had the opportunity to hear from those who are evaluating programs to learn what has worked and what challenges remain. Many of you also shared resources, which are located in the “**Resource Center**” of the e-conference site.

Our seven speakers in Panels 3 and 4, which opened today, focused on strategies to increase access to LA/PM services in the private sector as well as country program experiences in providing and expanding access to LA/PMs. As each presenter described their experiences, it became clear that choosing an appropriate program model depends heavily on the local context.

An impressive diversity and number of registrants participated in the conference:  
**551 people from over 80 countries!**  
Participants included health care providers, researchers, programs managers, donors, NGOs, and students.

I personally enjoyed the fast pace of our *three live chats* including one in French. Feel free to review the full transcripts that are available under the e-conference “**Discussion Forum**”. All three chats discussed challenges and opportunities in LA/PM, however, today’s chat focused a little more heavily on costing as a barrier to LA/PM use. The chats also discussed postpartum family planning, quality of care, and health financing mechanisms surround LA/PM provision.

Tomorrow, the e-conference site will feature a closing presentation from USAID’s Patricia MacDonald as well as a full conference wrap-up. We encourage participants to continue to utilize the e-conference site to network and learn from one another as we all work to increase LA/PM use around the world. In addition to keeping the e-conference site open, all presentations will also be archived on the SHOPS project website ([www.shopsproject.org](http://www.shopsproject.org)).

I look forward to keeping in touch and to reading all your remarks in our discussion forums.

Regards,

**Susan Mitchell, Director**  
SHOPS Project