



## 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 SHOPS project, I would like to thank you for making the LA/PM e-conference a success.

More than 550 of you from 80 countries participated with Nigeria, Senegal, and Kenya accounting for the countries with the most number of participants.

This event built on the family planning conference held in Dakar last year and was designed to facilitate the sharing of experiences in increasing private sector involvement in LA/PM. It is a broad topic that to succeed requires the involvement of a wide range of actors. That is why it was exciting to see the diversity of participants representing government, donor agencies, NGOs, individual private providers, training and research institutions and manufacturers.

We had a large of variety of presenters and Patricia MacDonald of USAID's closing remarks give an excellent summary of the main themes including suggestions for the way to move forward.

Based on your comments, there is consensus that increasing the role of the private sector in family planning and reproductive health is an important aspect to expanding access to LA/PMs worldwide. Key challenges mentioned were cost as a barrier, stable supplies, and task shifting. For us to be successful we need to come together as a community and collaborate. We look forward to continuing this dialogue, at least in the short-term through the conference website at [www.shopslapm.org](http://www.shopslapm.org). It will remain open until July 15, 2012, so that you may continue to discuss these issues and connect with one another. All presentations and remarks will also be archived on the SHOPS project website at [www.shopsproject.org/lapm](http://www.shopsproject.org/lapm) should you want to view them again.

Best regards,

Susan Mitchell  
Project Director  
SHOPS Project