



The Role of the Private Sector in the Provision of Family Planning: Past, Present, and Future

Diana Silimperi, Division Vice
President, International Health, Abt
Associates



The private sector is a key partner



- Achieving universal access to FP product and services requires involving all actors: public, private and civil society

- The private sector offers valuable resources including:
 - Skilled health work force
 - Financing
 - Infrastructure needed to deliver services

Private providers are diverse



Private providers include:

- Doctors
- Nurses
- Midwives
- Paramedics
- Pharmacists
- Traditional practitioners



Private Ob/Gyn, Dhaka, Bangladesh



“More than two million people live in Uttara area but no significant public facilities are operating here...as such, irrespective of economic status, clients are seeking services from the private facilities.”



Private Chemist, New Delhi, India



“My shop is open 20 hours in a day and since it’s close to some of the large hospitals here the demand is very high...we stock emergency pills, condoms, injectables, OCP and POP pills. This area also has a heavy demand for condoms.”



Private Doctor and Clinic Owner Lagos, Nigeria



“Most medical schools do not give thorough training on family planning. Now we have training and do outreach in the community.”



Paramedic, New Delhi, India



“I belong to the community here. People have known me as ‘Didi’ (meaning sister)...most women from slums here are uneducated and even fear meeting a provider. My presence makes them comfortable when visiting a provider the first time.”



Private Nurse, Dhaka, Bangladesh



“Private sector services are available in our community, but not public sector. If someone wants to avail of public facility service, they travel 20 kilometers—spending money and almost whole day for travel. That’s why people irrespective of socio-economic class are seeking services from private sector.”



Private Doctor and Clinic Owner Lagos, Nigeria



“I counsel couples in my community on family planning. I offer many services, so I also talk to them about FP when they come in for other services. They come to me because over the years, I have earned their trust. I am close to their homes and they know I provide quality services.”



Panelists



Minki Chatterji, Abt Associates, SHOPS Project

The Use of Modern Contraception from the Private Sector:
An Analysis of 20 Years of DHS Data

Michael Holscher, Marie Stopes International

Engaging the Private Sector for Maximum Impact and Reach

Marguerite Farrell, USAID

Past Experiences and Future Directions:
USAID Investment in Private Sector Family Planning