



Providing Data and Information for Contraceptive Security

Egbert Bruce, Country Director; Irene Agyemang, Team Leader for Public Health Programs; Philip Kwao, M&E & Communications Officer; Afua Aggrey, Program Officer for Family Planning; USAID | DELIVER PROJECT, Ghana.

Background

Effective supply chains that contribute to contraceptive security rely on information and data that supports decisionmaking at all levels of the health system. To improve data visibility and support decisionmaking, the USAID | DELIVER PROJECT (the project) supported Ghana's Ministry of Health (MOH) and Ghana Health Service (GHS) in implementing interventions that provide data and information from all levels of the in-country supply chain.

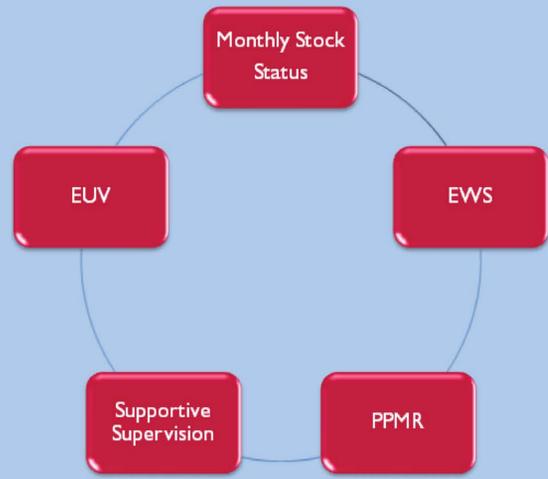
The Challenge

Decisionmaking in the Ghana public health commodity supply management system depends on routine logistics data. However, reporting, visibility, availability, and usage through the established reporting system continues to be weak and is insufficient for supporting effective decisions that impact contraceptive security.

The Solution

The project, in collaboration with the Ghana Health Service and other family planning implementing partners, used a combination of data collection and dissemination formats to provide supportive data for contraceptive availability (see figure 1).

Figure 1. Data Collection and Dissemination Channels



- Stock status reports—central and regional stock status reports are shared on a monthly basis.
- Early Warning System (EWS)—a short message service (SMS)/web-based EWS provides a weekly snapshot of contraceptive availability at any level, based on tracer contraceptives: Microgynon, Depo-Provera, Jadelle, and male condoms.
- Supportive supervision reports.
- End-Use verification (EUV) for service delivery points.
- Family Planning Procurement Planning and Monitoring Reports (PPMR).

Where is the information disseminated?

- Facility heads
- District health managers
- Regional Health Directorate
- National family planning program
- Procurement and Supply Management Coordination Meeting
- Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee for Contraceptive Security (ICC/CS)
- Development partners
- Coordinated Assistance for Reproductive Health Supplies (CARhs) Group.



How is the information used for decisionmaking?

- Redistribution of contraceptive supply
- Mitigation of overstock and expiry
- Shipments scheduling and transfers
- Annual quantifications and reviews
- Procurement planning
- Shipment monitoring
- National pipeline monitoring for contraceptives.

What are the accrued benefits?

- Improved forecast accuracy
- Stockouts averted
- Overstocks minimized
- Improved information visibility and transparency
- Improvements in coordination among stakeholders
- Contributed to effective management and early crisis response during aftermath of central warehouse fire disaster
- Increased access to contraceptives
- Informed contraceptive redistribution among family planning implementing partners.

Did we learn anything from this? Yes, we did!

To impact decisions, collected data must be shared meaningfully.

- Sending data electronically was not enough to motivate timely and informed action.
- To make optimal context-relevant decisions, decisionmakers needed qualitative information and interaction in connection with the data.
- Using various coordinating mechanisms—procurement and supply management, ICC/CS, the development partner coordination forum, CARhs—improves responsiveness; and engenders and strengthens collaborative information sharing, visibility, and transparency.

