

## Emergency Contraception Talking Points

- Emergency Contraception primarily refers to the use of a regimen of oral contraceptives (ECPs) within 72 hours of unprotected intercourse to prevent pregnancy.
- According to the US government definition\* and scientific studies, ECPs prevent pregnancy: they do not interrupt an established pregnancy and will not harm a developing fetus should ECPs be taken when a woman is already pregnant.
- ECPs serve a vital need for women and have become an integral part of the voluntary service delivery mix that USAID supports in a number of countries.
- USAID programs supply information about ECP in technical and training materials; share information with family planning clients about this contraception option; and support research relating to ECP provision, use and effectiveness.
- USAID does not currently and does not plan to purchase a dedicated ECP product. USAID's oral contraceptives are included in the formulations that have been approved by the USFDA for use as ECP. Other donor organizations, such as UNFPA, provide a dedicated ECP product.
- ECPs are meant for one-time, emergency protection and should not be used as a primary contraception method.
- For more information, contact Tabitha Keener ([tkeener@usaid.gov](mailto:tkeener@usaid.gov)) or Jeff Spieler ([jspieler@usaid.gov](mailto:jspieler@usaid.gov)) from RTU.

\* *"pregnancy encompasses the time from confirmation of implantation ... until expulsion or extraction of the fetus ..."* U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, 1983