

Community-Based Access to Injectable Contraception Educational Tour Guidance Package

Introduction

Educational tours can be an important component of an advocacy strategy that seeks to expand access to family planning services by introducing community-based access to injectables (CBA2I). In the past decade, educational tours have proven helpful in advancing community-based access to injectable contraceptives in a number of countries. The success stories included in this guidance package illustrate how international tours, during which representatives from countries considering CBA2I visit program sites in a country that has implemented CBA2I, can demonstrate the feasibility, safety, and acceptability of the practice and spark change.



In-country educational tours have also proven influential in countries such as Kenya and Uganda. These tours have allowed health decision makers and other stakeholders to witness firsthand successful CBA2I projects in their countries and to hear directly from supervisors, community health workers, and clients who have benefitted from the service. Because CBA2I might still be viewed by some as a controversial practice, this on-the-ground view of the service and its many benefits is crucial for obtaining acceptance and buy-in from decision makers, donors, and implementing organizations. In-country tours can have great influence on whether and to what extent a CBA2I program is scaled up.

The materials in this Educational Tour Guidance Package have been created and used by countries that have hosted or participated in educational tours in the past. The contents include sample communications documents; a sample agenda and tour program; a budget template; slides and documents to facilitate the formulation of learning objectives, reflections on the tour, and plans for moving forward; and examples of an executive summary and full summary report. Most of the items are available in Microsoft Word, Excel, or PowerPoint format so that they can be easily adapted.