Conducting a Pilot Project Using the Community-Based Access to Injectable Contraceptives Toolkit

Below is a summary of five critical steps in planning and implementing a community-based access to injectables (CBA2I) pilot project. The summary below links to materials assembled in the Community-Based Access to Injectable Contraceptives Toolkit: www.k4health.org/toolkits/cba2i

1. **Know the Global Evidence.** Before planning a pilot project, research and implementing organizations that will be involved need to be familiar with global and regional evidence on the safety, feasibility, and acceptability of CBA2I. The Global Evidence tab of the toolkit includes information from peer-reviewed journal articles, select presentations, and materials from the 2009 World Health Organization (WHO)-led technical consultation on CBA2I. Don’t miss Community-based health workers can safely and effectively administer injectable contraceptives: Conclusions from a technical consultation, the conclusions of the WHO consultation with endorsements by professional medical associations, major donors, and key family planning organizations.

2. **Get Familiar with Other Countries’ Experiences.** Experiences of other countries and organizations offer valuable lessons. Visit the Country Experiences tab of the toolkit to access reports, case studies, and lessons learned from countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America that have established CBA2I programs.

3. **Think about Advocacy.** Advocacy takes many forms, including:
   - engaging key stakeholders at the national and local levels before, during, and after the pilot project;
   - educating and sensitizing the community about CBA2I;
   - informing donors and potential partners that CBA2I is feasible, safe, and cost-effective; and
   - persuading the Ministry of Health to support the practice through policy, resources, and institutional structure.

   The Advocate tab of the toolkit contains valuable tools. The comprehensive Advocacy Guide outlines six steps for CBA2I advocacy, while the shorter Materials for Action contains information that can be used to help answer common questions and provide background information on the practice. The map depicting where in Africa CBA2I initiatives are being implemented can be used as a stand-alone tool to illustrate how the practice has expanded throughout sub-Saharan Africa. The tab also contains guidance and tools for other advocacy strategies such as the use of champions or south-to-south educational tours to promote CBA2I.

4. **Know What Steps to Take in Planning.** The Pilot tab of the toolkit houses resources tailored to the pilot phase of a CBA2I program. These include Key Indicators for Community-based Access to Injectable Contraception Pilot Studies, a document that presents illustrative process and outcome indicators with related evaluation questions, data sources, and measurement tools, as well as Beginning with the end in mind: Planning pilot projects and other programmatic research for successful scaling up, which provides 12 recommendations and a checklist to help build scaling up considerations into projects from the beginning. Another crucial resource located in the Pilot tab is the Implementation Handbook, a step-by-step guide that explains how to introduce injectable contraceptives into an existing community-based distribution program.

5. **Review Steps for Implementation.** As the pilot project is planned and then implemented, access the Implement tab of the toolkit. This tab, modeled on the nine steps in the Implementation Handbook, contains extensive guidance and tools for (1) determining feasibility and need for CBA2I; (2) evaluating the potential costs of a program; (3) updating service delivery guidelines and national health policy to support the practice; (4) community mobilization; (5) logistics and waste management; (6) training; (7) supervision; (8) monitoring and evaluation; and, finally, (9) scale-up. These materials include, but are not limited to, curricula, job aids, tracking form, costing worksheets, and much more.