Nigeria: Effective Coordination Creates an Enabling Environment for Availability of Reproductive Health Commodities

Background

In 2011, although the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and other donors pledged U.S.$10.7 million to procure contraceptives in Nigeria, contraceptive availability remained sporadic; stockouts were reported at all levels of the system. A particular concern was the central-level gap in coordinating the procurement and supply management of contraceptives.

Methods

In 2012, to correct this gap, the Government of Nigeria, with support from the USAID | DELIVER PROJECT (the project), created the Contraceptives Procurement and Supply Management Sub-Committee. Members included—

- stakeholders in the procurement and supply of contraceptives: UNFPA— the procurement agent for the Government of Nigeria
- donors: DFID, CIDA, USAID
- other government agencies: National Agency for Food and Drugs Administration and Control, Nigeria
- Subsidy Re-investment and MCH), National Primary Health Care Development Agency
- manufacturers/suppliers: MSD, Bayer Healthcare
- implementing partners: Marie Stopes International, Planned Parenthood Federation of Nigeria, Clinton Health Access Initiative, the USAID | DELIVER PROJECT
- others.

Results

After meeting monthly for the past two years, the sub-committee achieved significant results:

- Coordination among stakeholders improved significantly.
- Procurement lead time went from 12–18 months to 6 months.
- From December 2012 until May 2014, the Central Contraceptive Warehouse had no stockouts.
- The funding now provides adequate quantities of commodities needed.
- Funds are released faster.
- Orders are placed on time and are based on the supply plan, ensuring the timely arrival of adequate quantities of contraceptives at the warehouse.
- Potential shortages, due to the manufacturer’s production capacity, have been flagged and steps taken to mitigate potential stockouts that would have resulted.
- Shipments are tracked from the time orders are placed until they are delivered to the warehouse.
-nonatomic and UNFPA can now identify bottlenecks in the procurement process and resolve them.
- The average fill rate for all commodities has steadily increased from 53 percent in 2011 to 90 percent in 2013 (see graph).

Conclusion

Effective coordination and pipeline monitoring at the central level provide visibility into the processes of supply chain management. It highlights the areas that are potential bottlenecks in the logistics system and provides an opportunity to mitigate these issues, or to prevent a reoccurrence. These activities contribute to increased commodity availability at the lower level.