

Contraceptive Technology Update (CTU) as a tool for quick wins in Family Planning/Reproductive Health Services: Example of Kano State, Nigeria

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Introduction

Contraceptive Technology Update (CTU) is a technical update targeted at key stakeholders on the situation of Family Planning (FP) programming and investment in the state and the country.

CTU provides the opportunity for up-to-date information on FP to be shared with FP Program Managers and Implementers. FP Implementing partners sometimes leverage on these updates to disseminate key findings or deliberate on issues around FP in order to improve the quality of FP interventions.

The Challenge Initiative (TCI) is a Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) funded project of the Johns Hopkins University positioned to promote sustainability, local ownership and demonstrate the feasibility of long term investment in Reproductive Health.

Aim

To leverage on CTU as a tool for disseminating information on FP issues in the State to stimulate interest and commitment.

Intervention

Two CTUs for two different audiences were conducted after key project implementation milestones.

This opportunity was leveraged on to disseminate the findings from the assessment of FP facilities as well as share the improvement plans developed, with the key stakeholders in the state.

Methods

- Two CTUs conducted in November and December 2017
- First CTU was targeted at policy makers – Commissioner for health (CoH), Executive secretaries (ES) – State primary health care management board & Hospitals management board (HMB), and Directors in the ministry
- Second CTU targeted at State & LGA reproductive health/family planning coordinators, relevant technical officers.



Results

- CoH requested for regular and direct update on FP situation in the State, as was presented in the CTU.
- The CoH also initiated a memo to the Executive Governor to seek his support for the evidenced-based high impact interventions of TCI, and the need to commit resources to jointly implement these interventions.
- The ES HMB requested for the assessment results and improvement plans developed, which resulted in plans and intervention for FP and general services in facilities under HMB, especially in prioritization of repairs for water supply and sanitation facilities.
- Several attendees at the CTU for technocrats enrolled into the TCI-University (TCI-U) after its introduction as tool for learning and for continuous improvement of services in the State.
- Time needed for policy decisions was shortened since CTUs brought key actors together.

Program Implication

CTU is a useful tool for quick wins in FP landscape in Kano State, and can potentially serve similar purposes in similar geographies