

Increasing access and quality of FP service in private health sector in Ethiopia:

Experience from Private Health Sector Project (PHSP)

Authors: Dereje N., Mesfin E., Eshetu G., Asfawessen G/y., Mesfin H.

Significance/Background

The Private Health Sector project (PHSP) is a five Year (Oct. 2015 to Sept. 2020) USAID funded being implemented by Abt Associate Inc. The goal is to contribute towards mitigation of diseases of public health importance and supports health sector to enhance delivery of quality and priority services such FP.

It currently supports 125 facilities to provide Short acting (SA) and long acting (LA) methods by insuring client choice.

Contraceptives use had increased by 4.5 times between 2000-2016 (8% to 36%), and the total-fertility-rate (TFR) had decreased from 6.4 to 4.6, but the unmet need stands at 22% (13% for spacing and 9% for limiting) with skewed method mix toward SA; injectable (23 %), implants (8 %), IUCD, and the pill (2 %each). And according to ESDA+ of 2014, 78 % of the private facilities offer modern FP method mostly SA.

A range of factors contribute to the limited use of LA methods including the lack of trained providers and lack of commodities.

To address these gaps, FMOH is engaged in a range of efforts to improve the availability, accessibility, and quality of FP services. It also set an ambitious target of increasing the contraceptive prevalence rate to 55% and TFR to 3 with 50% of methods use being LA and permanent (PM) methods by 2020 the achievement of which requires a rapid scale up of service and partnership.

Program Intervention or activities

The program advocated and support the FMOH, PFSA and RHB's on the engagement of private facilities in the provision of FP service through the private-Public- Partnership model (PPPM) and created a common understanding so as to assure access to FP commodities. Moreover it conducted different capacity building trainings, adopted, printed and distribute IEC/SBCC materials and job aids and improved recording on HMIS registers and reporting by involving professional associations to provide technical support in a sustainable manner.

Methodology

Private health sector project provides technical assistance for private facilities to provide family planning services for their clients. As much as possible the service provisions are integrated with other programs such as PMTCT, HIV care and treatment, PPM DOTs and HCTs. The facilities are located in Addis Ababa, Amhara, Dire Dawa, Harari, Oromia, SNNPR and Tigray.

All service data from October 2015 –December 2017 collected using the national HMIS forms, abstracted and analyzed using Microsoft Excel version 10.

Results/Key Findings

Uptake of family planning has increased progressively almost across all supported facilities. At the end of March 2019, a total of 117 facilities provide family planning services (34 % of the total supported facilities i.e. 341). In From October 2015 –March 2019, a total of 118,048 clients utilized a family planning methods in which 15,827 (13.4 %) are long acting users. From those long acting users 12,563 (79 %) used implants and 3264 (21 %) IUD as a family planning method

There is a dramatic incremental in the utilization of long acting family planning methods which was 7.4 % at Dec 2015 , 14.3 % at Dec 2017 and 20 % at the end of March 2019 .An increasing trends in the beneficiaries of long acting methods documented from March 2017 to December 2017 (Fig 1).

Similarly, the number of implant and IUD users is more or less shows an increasing pattern from October 2015-March 2019 (fig 2).

Fig 1: Trends in Long Acting family planning users at the private health facilities: Oct 2015-March 2019

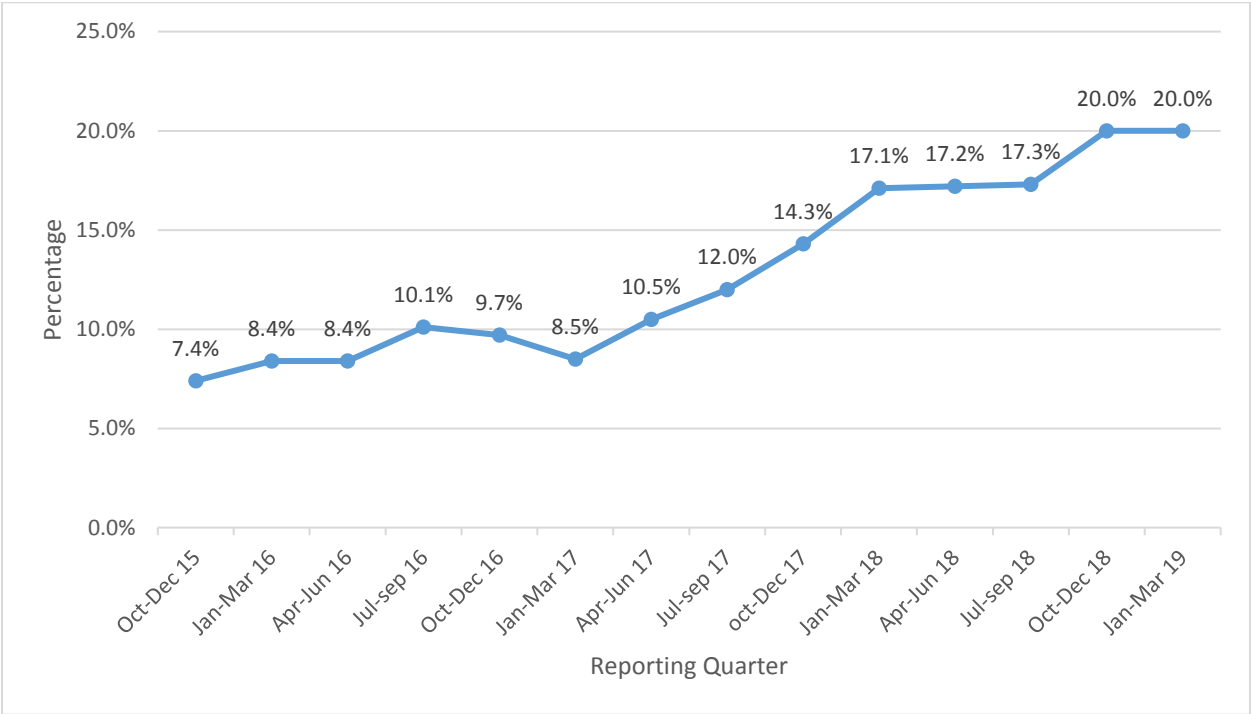
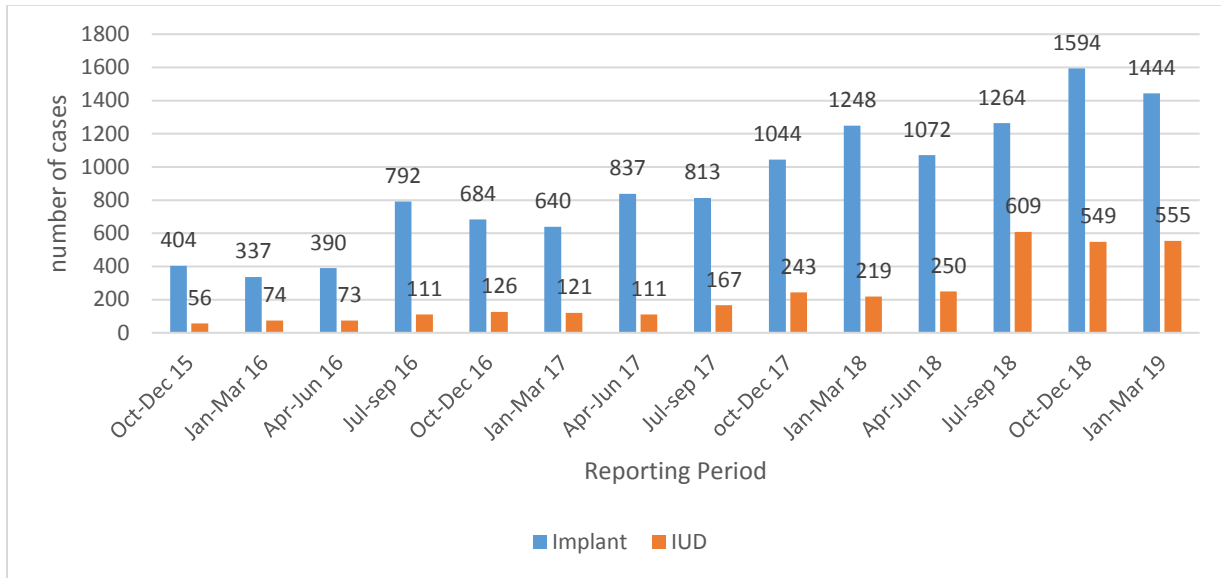


Fig 2 : Number of Implant and IUD users at the private facilities ;Oct 2015- March 2019



Program implications: The private health facilities have the potential for provision of quality and comprehensive FP service delivery if they are provided trainings, mentorship, Job Aids, IEC/BCC materials and securing commodity using the PPPM model. Scaling-up of access to high-quality family planning services, including LARC by involving the private sector is a promising model to help achieve the global FP2020 goal.