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EXPANDING FAMILY PLANNING OPTIONS

**Annual Meeting of the Inter-agency Working
Group on Reproductive Health in Crises**

**Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
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Use of Fertility Awareness Based Family Planning Methods in Areas of Conflict and Civil Unrest :

Examples of Haiti and the Democratic Republic of Congo

Presenters:

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IRH Background

- Founded in 1985 and focuses on:
 - Fertility awareness methods TDM, and
 - Fertility awareness and body literacy and
 - Reducing stigma and discrimination to improve HIV prevention and care



FAM Method Use in Crisis Settings

Advantages:

- Few to no commodities needed
- No need for frequent trips to health facilities
- Short counseling sessions to explain use

Innovations:

- Train providers using low literacy and low-technology approaches
- Work with and through local community groups
- Create a supportive policy environment

Haiti and DRC: Shared Experiences

- Long-lasting dictatorships
- Natural disaster
- Donor dependence
- Populations accustomed to violence, extreme poverty and poor health
- Outside interventions – military and humanitarian
- Lack of state and civil society rebuilding



Haiti and DRC: Family Planning

Contraceptive Prevalence:

- Modern methods

- Haiti: 24.8%

- DRC: 6%

- Traditional methods

- Haiti: 7.2%

- DRC: 15%

Unmet Need for Family Planning, Women 15 – 49:

- Haiti: 37.5%

- DRC: 50%

Total Fertility Rates:

- Haiti: 3.5

- DRC: 6.1

Contraceptive Prevalence: 2005-2006, DHS Haiti , 2007 DHS DRC

Unmet Need for FP: 2009 JSI Haiti Report, 2007 DRC DHS

Fertility Rates: Human Development Index, 2005 - 2010

IRH Work in the DRC

- GTZ evaluation found that the SDM was the most popular commodity after male condoms, and represented 33% of FP commodities sold
- MSI found couples continuing to use CBs 2 to 3 years after initial introduction to SDM
- Catholic church trained couples in CB use
- Joint Merlin – CARE project included SDM and LAM in FP method mix due to simplicity

IRH Work in Haiti

- IRH work with the Haitian Health Foundation (HHF) resulted in 600 new accepters of SDM between December 2004 and August 2007

- MSH and HHF provided training to providers and CHWs in various regions of Haiti



Conclusion



- FAM methods work well in crisis settings and offer distinct advantages over many other FP methods

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FAM
PROJECT



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Thank You!

