Envision FP

BACKGROUND

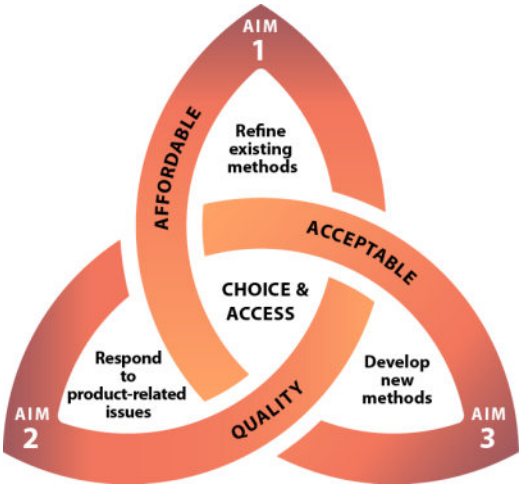
Awarded to FHI 360 in 2015, ***Envision FP: Transforming Contraception to Expand Access and Choice*** is the flagship project on contraceptive technology research for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). A five-year cooperative agreement, *Envision FP* recognizes that family planning (FP) options must reflect the changing needs of women and couples throughout their reproductive lives. The project goals are to develop, introduce, and expand understanding of contraceptive technologies to enhance choice and reduce unmet need. Research focuses on developing and introducing new or improved contraceptives that are safe and affordable and have fewer side effects.

The research agenda aligns with three specific aims:

1) Refine existing FP methods to enhance safety, use, and/or acceptability.

2) Respond to product-related issues from the field about current FP methods that could affect provision or uptake.

3) Develop new FP methods to address reasons for non-use and to fill gaps in the current method mix.



Aim 1: Refine existing methods to enhance safety, use, and/or acceptability

Refining existing family planning methods to enhance safety and/or acceptability can address factors that cause women to discontinue use or limit uptake. Under *Envision FP*, FHI 360 researchers are evaluating a lower-dose, subcutaneous depot-medroxyprogesterone acetate (SC DMPA) injectable contraceptive. A lower-dose version of SC DMPA may result in reduced side effects compared to currently available products, thereby enhancing acceptability and increasing continuation.

Recognizing the importance of meeting the contraceptive needs of postpartum women, *Envision FP* will also help facilitate the registration, introduction, and evaluation of an easy-to-use postpartum IUD inserter developed by Pregna International, PSI, and the Stanford Program for International Reproductive Education and Services (SPIRES). This pre-loaded, pre-sterilized inserter could increase convenience, reduce expulsions, and enhance safety.

Aim 2: Respond to product-related concerns from the field that impact provision or uptake

When concerns about contraceptives arise in the field, loss of trust can lead to disruptions in procurement, provision, and uptake. Under *Envision FP*, a Rapid Response unit of medical and scientific experts systematically responds to field-based product concerns, researches options for corrective action, makes recommendations to key stakeholders, and provides post-incident monitoring. USAID missions and country-based programs can submit concerns and/or requests for *Envision FP* Rapid Response support by emailing envisionfp@fhi360.org.

FHI 360 team members also are conducting product-related research, developing new resources, and implementing strategies to address knowledge gaps that affect FP program practice. This work includes developing a database on contraceptive drug-other drug interactions and assessing the potential impact of expanding access to the levonorgestrel intrauterine system (LNG-IUS) in low-resource settings.

Aim 3: Develop new methods to address reasons for non-use or to fill gaps in method mix

Under *Envision FP*, new product development includes research on innovative delivery systems with no market precedent. FHI 360 is collaborating with the Georgia Institute of Technology and the Population Council to evaluate delivery of three progestins—levonorgestrel, etonogestrel and Nestorone®—using a microneedle patch platform. Such an intradermal delivery system could allow for self-administration without generating biohazardous syringe waste, and provide women with an innovative, discreet, and easy-to-administer option.

In addition, FHI 360 researchers are studying initial interest in and barriers to adoption of a contraceptive microneedle patch among potential end-users in Nigeria and India. Work includes discrete choice experiments to measure preferred product attributes

Contact Us

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