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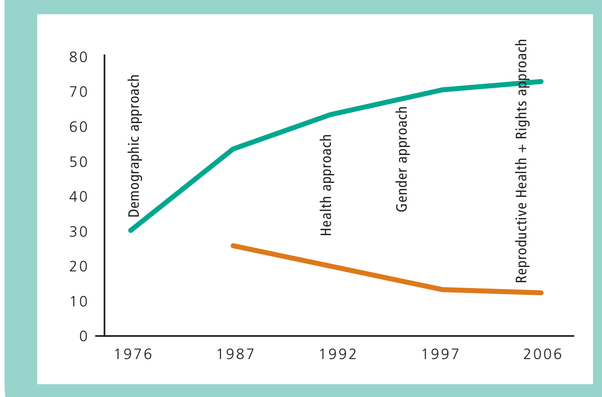
Family planning in Mexico: where did it all go wrong?

Last 10 years

- Phasing-out of donated contraceptives
- Rise of the political right wing
- Decentralization process
- Unmet need and contraceptive prevalence indicators stalled
- Increased civil society participation

Contraceptive prevalence and unmet need among women in union at reproductive age



Challenges

- Family Planning is no longer prioritized
- Decentralization creates bureaucracy for RH supplies
- RH supply budget reduced
- Family Planning programme has a lack of transparency and poor accountability
- Unmet need for family planning is high among youth

Current results Unmet need:

- Adolescents, 15–19 36%
- Young adults, 20–24: 24%
- Indigenous communities: 22%
- Rural areas: 20%
- Marginalized communities: 27%

Opportunities

- FP programme supported by central law and federal constitution
- New SRH programme for adolescents targets unmet need for FP
- Strong RH civil society
- On going advocacy with congressmen and FP central level officials

Actions

- Surveillance and follow up with congressmen and executive officials regarding FP budget allocation and transparency
- Permanent monitoring for possible modifications to state level FP programme and law
- Building a committee to follow up FP process and result indicators State level network to act as watchdog
- Work with Mexican Women's Health NGO Coalition (allies) and SRH Government and NGO Inter-institutional Group (targets) to reposition accountability of the FP Mexican agenda

Outcomes to date

- Gurrero state authorities endorsed declaration calling for increased funding for contraceptives and increased transparency over budgetary allocations
- Forums of thought leaders and decision makers 2008 and 2009 to raise awareness and increase political priority for Family Planning
- State level network – building advocacy capacity at state level, watchdog for contraceptive security
- Increased dialogue – united CS positions on FP. For the first time budget tracking groups interested in RH supplies budgets

How the RHSC can strengthen our advocacy

- Forthcoming training on Advocacy Toolkit and RH Interchange
- Training cascaded to state-level partners

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