



Photo: PATH/Eric Becker

Reducing Stockouts: understanding the elusive human factors

The Innovation Fund will support a new initiative by the International Centre for Reproductive Health (ICRH) to understand the link between stockouts and health worker motivation. Strengthening health worker capacity is a component of reducing stockouts and increased understanding of human motivation is expected to have a significant and positive impact on family planning service delivery. The project builds on the results of an ongoing five-year project¹ by ICRH Mozambique designed to build health worker capacity and innovative service delivery models, as well as improve product availability.

MEASUREMENT AND INTERVENTIONS

The project to be funded by the Innovation Fund will measure and enhance health worker motivation in 15 health facilities. Interventions will include health staff training, financial incentives to providers, non-material incentives, and motivational training. Data on motivation will be collected through surveys and analyzed; the project will closely examine the impact of individual – as well as combinations of – interventions. This data will support the investigation of the role of staff motivation in preventing stockouts.

A national and international learning and dissemination plan will be rolled out to maximize uptake of the research findings. Dissemination will include an international webinar to discuss project findings; at least one submission to a scientific journal; and presentations at national and international events. Policy briefs will be prepared throughout the duration of the project to communicate research progress and results to scientific audiences and to policymakers at local and national level.

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¹ Building knowledge for improved quality of services and community involvement to increase use of family planning (IQSC)

International Centre for Reproductive Health/Ghent University

The International Centre for Reproductive Health—a WHO Collaborating Centre and multidisciplinary centre of Ghent University—has vast experience with research in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights in low-income countries. Its sister organization, ICRH Mozambique, is an autonomous research organization with a diverse research portfolio in this field and the lead organization of the IQSCI project.

Award

Recipient: International Centre for Reproductive Health/Ghent University

Amount: US\$196400.45

Date: TBD

What is the Innovation Fund?

The Innovation Fund was established in 2008, through a generous grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Managed by the Coalition Secretariat, the Innovation Fund has to date made available more than US\$2.2M in small grants (maximum US\$200,000 per grant) to Coalition partners. The grants – more than 20 altogether – have yielded new tools, supported advocacy and research, leveraged millions of dollars in subsequent program funding, and launched a host of new initiatives across the Global South.

Traditionally, the Coalition has defined the concept of “innovation” broadly to include any promising new idea with the potential to bring about positive change. Innovation needn’t mean a radical departure from previous practice. It could also include new approaches to existing processes or the implementation of an existing strategy in a new context, especially if this adaptation leads to replication or scaling-up at country level.

Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition

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