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If all unmet need for modern contraception were satisfied, unintended pregnancies would drop by 70%, from 74 million to 22 million per year; and unsafe abortions would decline by 74%, from 20 million to 5.1 million.†*

What are High Impact Practices?

High Impact Practices (HIPs) are effective service delivery or systems interventions that when scaled up and institutionalized, will maximize investments in a comprehensive family planning strategy. This “HIP list” is *not* intended to constitute or replace a strategy, which should be informed by the [Elements of Success in Family Planning Programming](#) and driven by country context. The HIP briefs are concise summaries of these evidence-based practices to help focus FP resources and efforts.

In an effort to support the renewed focus on evidence-based programming a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on High Impact Practices for family planning was formed. The TAG is made up of over 25 international experts in family planning research, programming, and implementation. TAG members are identified from donor agencies, research institutions and service delivery organizations. The TAG meets once a year to review evidence and ensure High Impact Practices meet the criteria established by the endorsing partners.

How are practices identified and selected?

HIPs are identified based on demonstration and magnitude of *impact* on contraceptive use and continuation and potential application in a wide range of settings. Consideration is also given to evidence on *replicability, scalability, sustainability, and cost-effectiveness*.

Creating an Enabling Environment

Creating an Enabling Environment facilitates implementation of a comprehensive family planning program. The following HIPs are identified based on expert opinion and demonstrate correlation with improved health behaviors and/or outcomes. These outcomes include improvements in unintended pregnancy, fertility, or one of the primary proximate determinants of fertility (increased modern contraceptive use, delay of marriage, birth spacing, breast feeding).

- **Galvanize commitment** to support family planning programs.
- Develop, implement, and monitor supportive government **policies**.
- Support **financing for family planning services and supplies** at the national and local levels.
- Develop an effective **supply chain management** system for family planning so that women and men can choose, obtain, and use the contraceptive methods they want throughout their reproductive life.
- Implement a systematic, evidence-based **health communication** strategy that includes communication through multiple channels to enable people to make voluntary and informed health care decisions.
- Develop and support capacity to **lead and manage** family planning programs.
- **Keep girls in school** to improve health and development.

* The World Health Organization/Department of Reproductive Health and Research and The Implementing Best Practices Initiative have contributed to the development of the technical content of HIP briefs.

† Adding It Up: Investing in Sexual and Reproductive Health, Fact Sheet (UNFPA & Guttmacher Institute, <http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/FB-AddingItUp2014.html>, 2014).

High Impact Practices in Service Delivery

The TAG categorizes service delivery practices based on the strength and consistency of the evidence-base. The categories (*Proven, Promising, Emerging*) are adapted from criteria used by the World Health Organization Department of Child and Adolescent Health as part of a similar exercise.¹

Proven: Sufficient evidence exists to recommend widespread implementation, provided that there is careful monitoring of coverage, quality and cost, and implementation research to help understand how to improve implementation.

- Integrate trained, equipped, and supported **community health workers (CHWs)** into the health system.
- **Postabortion family planning:** Provide family planning counseling and services at the same time and location where women receive services related to spontaneous or induced abortion.
- Support distribution of a wide range of family planning methods and promotion of healthy contraceptive behaviors through **social marketing**.
- Support **mobile outreach service** delivery to provide a wide range of contraceptives, including long-acting reversible contraceptives and permanent methods.

Promising: Good evidence exists that these interventions can lead to impact; more information is needed to fully document implementation experience and impact. These interventions should be promoted widely, provided that they are implemented within the context of research and are being carefully evaluated both in terms of impact and process.

- Train and support **drug shop and pharmacy** staff to provide a wider variety of family planning methods and information.
- **Integrate family planning and immunization:** Offer family planning information and services proactively to women in the extended postpartum period during routine child immunization contacts.

Emerging: Although *emerging HIPs* have a strong theoretical basis, they have limited evidence to assess impact. Therefore, emerging HIPs should be implemented within the context of research or an impact evaluation. For a complete list of emerging practices, see the HIPs website.

Endorsing partners also identify *HIP enhancements*.

An “enhancement” is a practice that can be implemented in conjunction with HIPs to further intensify the impact of the HIPs. While there are some initial experiences implementing these practices, more research and documentation is needed to better understand the potential and limitations of these approaches.

For more information visit www.fphighimpactpractices.org or contact fphip@k4health.org

¹ Preventing HIV/AIDS in Young People: A Systematic Review of the Evidence from Developing Countries, UNAIDS Inter-agency Task Team on Young People (World Health Organization: Geneva, 2006).