



BACKGROUND

In Rwanda, an estimated 58% of married women and 48.5% of sexually active unmarried women are using a modern method of contraception. Fourteen percent of married women and 37% of sexually active unmarried women have an unmet need for contraception.

The most popular methods are implants (27%), injectable (15%) and pill (7%) in Rwanda. Only about 3% of married contraceptive users use copper IUDs.

Access to a wide range of contraceptive products can help improve access to and use of contraception. The government of Rwanda made commitments under FP2030 and ICPD@25 to contraceptive expand method choice. As part of this commitment, the Ministry of Health decided to introduce the hormonal IUD.

The hormonal IUD is a highly effective, long-acting method of contraception that has additional non-contraceptive health benefits. In recent years, global efforts have led to inclusion of the product on UNFPA and USAID catalogues at a reduced price.

IMPACT

Training rollout began in 2022 and, over the course of just two years, the hormonal IUD has been fully scaled across the country. 51 hospitals and 513 health centers are now staffed with providers trained to offer hormonal IUD.

Since January 2022, 15,120 Hormonal IUD units have been procured and **10,316 women have been reached with hormonal IUD**, and monthly consumption has more than quadrupled between Q4 2022 and Q4 2023.

The use of copper IUD has also nearly tripled over the two-year period, indicated that training on hormonal IUD may be revitalizing the copper IUD market, perhaps by refreshing and strengthening provider skills on IUD insertions generally.

As next steps, CHAI Rwanda will continue to be among key partners to implement FP2030 country commitments and FP/ASRH strategic plan (2024-30). Thus, additional resources are needed to sustain the impact by supporting routine demand generation and awareness campaigns, clinical mentorships and service delivery to hard-to-reach communities through FP outreaches.

APPROACH

In 2020, the Ministry of Health initiated pre-introduction activities for hormonal IUD including:

- Product registration
- Development of a costed national plan
- Assessment of IUD equipment needs
- Integration of hormonal IUD into national health and logistics information systems
- Updating family planning training guidelines
- Revising national IEC materials
- Integration into health commodities national quantification and supply planning

The Ministry of Health also undertook a market assessment to understand key consumer segments interested in use of hormonal IUD and to assess barriers and enablers that would impact provider/client interaction.

Stakeholders, including CHAI, UNFPA, USAID, and the Rwanda Biomedical Center convened to coordinate around implementation of the national product introduction and scale up plan. UNFPA and USAID PSM supported procurement of the product, USAID leveraged its Ingobyi project with Intrahealth to support rollout in 20 districts, and CHAI supported rollout in the remaining 10 districts as a catalytic approach. Demand generation and community outreach campaigns activities were implemented in every district in tandem with training of health providers. These activities included national and community radio programs and community engagement through mass media campaigns.

Quarterly IUD Insertions

