



PFHS 380.665 FAMILY PLANNING POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

FINAL TEAM ASSIGNMENT

Your team has been requested to serve as family planning program consultants to _____ .

TEAM ASSIGNMENT

In preparation for your consultation, your team will need to gather some information about the political, socioeconomic, demographic, health and family planning situation in the country. You do not have access to a university library and must find all the required information on the Web. For this assignment, you may "cut-and-paste" materials directly from the web, but you must set the selected material off in quotes or as a sub-paragraph, and cite the exact web site and the date the material was found on that web site.

TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Questions 1 and 2 must be answered as a collective response by the entire team.
- B. Each team member then must select one of the questions 3- 11 below that are most directly relevant to the specific country and write an individual signed report that will be submitted for the individual grade. This report must be reviewed and approved by all the team members before submission.

Answers to all questions must cite relevant literature that supports your conclusions and recommendations.

Your team is to give guidance to the Government on how to strengthen and improve the family planning program. To do this you must answer the following questions:

TEAM QUESTIONS:

1. **To be addressed by the group prior to working on the individual papers: (PowerPoint presentation only)**
What is the general demographic and socio-economic picture in the country and the recent indicators of family planning program performance? What is the evidence that there is an "unmet need" for family planning in the country? Does the measure of unmet need actually capture all of the potential "demand" for family planning services? How would you go about getting a better understanding of why there is such a



high level of unmet need – that is, what are the key determinants? What are some other related reproductive health indicators and what do they show? Be specific, citing specific examples of research on this topic.

2. To be addressed by the group after the individual papers have been drafted: (PowerPoint presentation only)

Based on your assessment of the unmet need for family planning, and relevant related RH issues that have been identified and addressed by answering the individual questions, briefly outline a program strategy for strengthening the FP program, using the following outline:

1. What is the future situation you would like to see in the country by 2015 as it relates to the specific component(s) of the national FP program that you would like to change.
2. What is the situation now (already done above)?
3. What do you see as the main barriers to reaching that desired future?
4. What are your recommendations for overcoming those barriers and what groups in the government or the private sector should be involved in taking actions?
5. What kinds of measurements do you think will be practical for local people to do to demonstrate that progress is being made toward reaching your goals?

QUESTIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL PAPERS

3. You are concerned about the quality of care provided in the delivery of family planning services. What is meant by quality of care? Describe at least three different approaches you would use to get some measures of the quality of care provided in the service delivery program in the country? Be specific, referring to research by others. Assuming providers were found to be poorly motivated and disrespectful of clients, what strategies could you use to improve the situation?
4. The Minister of Finance, concerned about rapid population growth, is strongly supporting a proposal to add abortion as a cost-effective family planning method. There are strong objections to any provision of abortion by some conservative religious and political groups. What scientific evidence would you bring to this debate, and what would be your recommendations regarding approaches to resolve this issue in the local cultural context? (Note: if abortion is legal and widely practiced in the country, describe the abortion trends and determinants, and recommend strategies that might be implemented to reduce the demand for abortion services)
5. Another consultant has proposed that to strengthen the program performance, acceptor targets should be introduced for all workers

with bonuses paid for exceeding targets. In addition to improve acceptance rates women should be paid a cash incentive equivalent to 3 weeks daily wages to be sterilized. The rationale for the bonuses and incentive payments is that this would still be highly cost-effective. Furthermore, the bonuses would just be compensation for time lost at work. What are the pros and cons of this proposal? What would you recommend and why? Be specific, citing references.

6. Based on the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development, you believe that the family planning program should be integrated with the Maternal and Child Health program to provide the full range of maternity care. In addition you believe that the program should begin to offer services for infertile couples. The director of the national family planning program objects, saying that there are not enough resources to provide both family planning services and maternity care much less consider adding infertility services, and besides this would be too much work for the FP staff, and dilute their attention from focusing on birth prevention. What is your recommendation, and why? Be specific, taking into account the local situation but also citing relevant international experience.
7. The Minister of Health is considering a social marketing program to sell pills and injectable contraceptives over the counter without prescriptions. The pharmacists would be trained to administer the injections. The local medical society strongly objects, considering pills and injectables to be too dangerous to provide to women without a medical examination. What is your recommendation for how to address this problem? Be specific, citing the scientific evidence in support of your proposals. (Note: if social marketing already is active in your country, choose another question.)
8. The ob-gyn association believes that the family planning program could be greatly strengthened by introducing into the national program one of the newer contraceptives or a new sterilization technique that has been recently approved by the US FDA. The proposed contraceptives are:
 - A hormonal contraceptive vaginal ring - NuvaRing (Approved Oct 2001)
 - A hormonal contraceptive patch - Evra (Approved Feb 2002)
 - Lea's Shield vaginal barrier contraceptive (Approved Aug 2002)
 - A fallopian tube (tiny) blocking device for transcervical sterilization - Essure (Approved Nov 2002)
 - A monthly injectable - Lunelle (Approved Oct 2000)Select one (or another new product), explain its mode of action, delivery requirements and the rationale for your choice of this method for this country. Describe how you would conduct an ethically acceptable experimental trial to assess the method acceptability, continuation of use and effectiveness in this country.



9. The National Women's Organization is very concerned about adolescent sexual activity, unintended pregnancies, abortions and unwanted births. What empirical data are available that describe the levels and trends of these events among unmarried (and married) adolescents, and the trends in marriage, and what do these show? Is this a growing problem in terms of an increase in the rate of these events in recent years? Describe your proposed strategy to begin to address this problem that is based on the data available. This may be a research project or an intervention program or a combination of the two. Be specific, citing the relevant literature.
10. The National AIDS Control Committee believes that the growing AIDS epidemic is going to be such a national crisis that all reproductive health resources should be allocated to AIDS control and treatment. In particular, they want all family planning resources to be reallocated to AIDS treatment and control, under the assumption that FP services will not be needed since AIDS mortality may deplete the population, and more children are needed. What will be your response to this argument? What data will you use? What are your specific recommendations regarding how the National AIDS Program and the national family planning program could work together to achieve mutually desirable goals? Be specific but realistic, considering resource constraints. Cite the relevant literature.
11. You believe that gender issues are an important factor constraining the expansion of the family planning program. What are the data on this issue in the country, and what does it show? If there are no data, how would you go about getting some information, using primarily the existing resources in the country? What are the kinds of questions you would want to explore to show that this is important and that some interventions are necessary? What groups would you want to involve in data gathering, analysis and interpretation of the findings and why? Be specific, citing relevant literature that gives example of issues and strategies for interventions.

General instructions: A single complete team report must be submitted by the deadline; partial team reports are not acceptable.

Each person preparing the answer to the individual question must sign their responses to their individual question. The text of the individual signed reports must be at least 4 pages long, double-spaced, 12-point type. Any references, charts, figures, etc., are to be on separate pages.

The Teams will make 30-minute PowerPoint presentations on Monday, March 7 and Wednesday, March 9, 2005. In fairness to all, every Team must be prepared to make their presentations by Monday, March 7. The order of



presentations will be determined by a random procedure on that day/ The full class is expected to attend the presentations on both days.

The completed Team assignments are due as a consolidated Final Report in the office (4503 Hygiene) by Friday, March 18, 2005 at the latest. Papers and the PowerPoint files must be sent as an e-mail attachment in MSWord files to hmosley@jhsph.edu. (Note - when sending the e-mail, send a copy to yourself to be sure it comes through correctly.)

The grade on this assignment will be based on the following:

Individual written assignments – 50%

Team presentation – 50%