What’s Next with the LNG-IUS?

Kate H. Rademacher, MHA
Technical Advisor, FHI 360
Project director, LEAP LNG-IUS Initiative

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Levonorgestrel Intrauterine System (LNG-IUS)

- Very popular in countries where available/accessible; helped revitalize the IUD market in some countries including U.S.
- In early introduction efforts in several FP 2020 countries, high acceptability demonstrated

- Additional non-contraceptive benefits:
  - Can make periods lighter/shorter
  - Treatment for heavy bleeding
  - May reduce iron-deficiency anemia
Access Remains Limited in FP2020 Countries

LNG-IUS added to the WHO Essential Medicines List in 2015

- First approved for use in 1990, the LNG-IUS has a nearly 30-year research-to-practice gap in FP 2020 countries

- Landscape may be changing as new products become available
Overview of LNG-IUS products

**LNG-IUS Products**

**BAYER HEALTHCARE:** Mirena, Skyla, Kyleena

**ICA FOUNDATION:** LNG-IUS

**MEDICINES 360:** Liletta/Avibela

Additional LNG-IUS products being introduced in some FP2020 countries such as Pregna International’s Eloira
LNG-IUS Global Learning Agenda

• Interagency LNG-IUS Working Group convened by USAID comprised of donors, implementing agencies and manufacturers

• Allows for coordination, developing shared learning agenda, and aligning research approaches and M&E questions

- Potential demand? Potential user profiles?
- Effective demand creation strategies?
- Service delivery strategies/ experiences?
- Cost effectiveness?
- Impact of non-contraceptive health benefits?
Implementing partners with current USAID-funded pilots/evaluation activities:

- FHI 360
- MCSP/Jhpiego
- MSI
- PSI/Society for Family Health
- WCG
USAID-funded study in Kenya among postpartum women showed high uptake and acceptability:

- Among 671 clients, **16% chose LNG-IUS**
- Approximately **one third of users** said if LNG-IUS had not been available, they would have chosen a shorter-acting method
- At 12 months, **89% continuation rate; 87% reported being very satisfied**

Kenya: Market Assessment

- In partnership with FHOK, conducted interviews with Mirena users (N=29) and their partners (N=9) in Nairobi
- Most common reason women opted for Mirena was the perception that method had fewer side effects than other FP methods. Specific side effects women wanted to avoid included weight gain and “hormonal imbalances”

“Even though hormones are involved, it is at a very minimal level....”

“I didn't want something.....which would interfere with...the whole body system, like the hormones”

Direct Service Delivery Costs per CYP in Kenya – with LNG-IUS at $15/unit and 5-year duration

Zambia: Market Assessment

- Market Assessment in 2016 in partnership with Society for Family Health, PSI and WCG included interviews with Key Opinion Leaders (KOLs), providers, and women
  - Majority of KOLs perceived that method has important advantages
  - All healthcare providers willing to use the method in their practice
  - Almost all of the potential users interviewed indicated that they would be willing to try the LNG-IUS

Following market assessment, Family Planning Technical Working endorsed public sector introduction of LNG-IUS

PSI, Society for Family Health, WCG and Jhpeigo currently leading pilot introduction efforts and ongoing research studies in collaboration with Ministry of Health
### Nigeria Assessment:
**Clients’ reasons for choosing the LNG-IUS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Total (n=348)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reduced menstrual bleeding</td>
<td>62.6% (218)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It lasts for a long time</td>
<td>54.0% (188)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very effective</td>
<td>51.1% (178)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nobody will know I’m using it</td>
<td>44.5% (155)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is convenient/don’t need to do anything</td>
<td>34.8% (121)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Won’t affect future fertility</td>
<td>34.2% (119)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Few side effects</td>
<td>30.7% (107)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommended by friend or family</td>
<td>24.1% (84)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t want more children</td>
<td>23.0% (80)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Want to delay pregnancy for at least 2 years</td>
<td>21.6% (75)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can use while breastfeeding</td>
<td>20.7% (72)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affordable here</td>
<td>17.2% (60)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>3.2% (11)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Providers instructed not to read list aloud; mark all that apply*
Learning about Expanded Access and Potential of the LNG-IUS (LEAP LNG-IUS) Initiative

Learning agenda includes:

- Describe LNG-IUS acceptors and rejecters;
- Estimate potential demand in 3 countries;
- Measure continuation rates at 6 and 12 months; assess client satisfaction;
- Evaluate cost-effectiveness compared to other LARCs;
- Describe providers’ and clients’ experiences;
- Identify potential strategies to accelerate national regulatory approvals.
Coming soon: Section of IUD Toolkit on K4Health focused on LNG-IUS

IUD Toolkit

www.k4health.org/toolkits/iud