

# ADVANCING PARTNERS & COMMUNITIES

## EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION IN UGANDA



### FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT OF EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTIVE PILLS AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL IN UGANDA

The Uganda Ministry of Health (MOH) has approved the distribution of emergency contraceptive pills (ECPs) by village health teams, but rollout has been hampered by misinformation, limited training, and commodity shortages. WellShare International, along with USAID's Advancing Partners & Communities (APC) project, has undertaken a formative assessment of the existing consumer knowledge and use of ECPs, along with the capacity, supply, and barriers of public sector provision of ECPs in four districts across Uganda. The formative assessment includes quantitative surveys with village health team members and their clients, review of district-level HMIS data, along with qualitative interviews and focus groups with key informants and community men and women. The goal of this assessment is to generate information for the development of information, education, and communication materials for better integrating ECPs into existing community-based family planning programs.

#### OBJECTIVES

Key objectives for the proposed project include:

1. Establish Uganda MOH support for the formative assessment.
2. Assess the current knowledge, use, supply, and barriers to uptake of ECPs in four districts.
3. Document and disseminate experiences from the ECPs evaluation through the Uganda MOH Family Planning Technical Working Group.

#### KEY ACTIVITIES

Key activities in support of the objectives above include:

##### Objective 1: Support for assessment

**Activity 1.1** – Uganda MOH and district support for assessment of ECPs. WellShare will obtain MOH support for the evaluation and interview MOH staff about current use, supply, and scale-up plans for ECPs. WellShare will engage the District Health Officers to send introduction letters to the village leaders.

##### Objective 2: Assessment of ECPs

**Activity 2.1** – Conduct baseline assessment. Key components of the baseline evaluation will include:

- ▶ Develop assessment questionnaires and tools in partnership with APC and adapt for four districts.
- ▶ Meet with districts for evaluation introduction and plan for identifying and selecting community health workers and family planning clients, including users of ECPs, along with key stakeholders at the health facility and community levels to survey or interview.



- ▶ Train staff/research assistants on use of data collection tools and pre-test tools at district level.
- ▶ Collect qualitative and quantitative data from participants across four study districts and interview national-level stakeholders.
- ▶ Obtain national and district HMIS records to assess ECPs uptake.

**Activity 2.2** – Data transcription, entry, compilation, analysis, and report writing. Quantitative study data will be entered into datasets, and qualitative data will be transcribed and translated. Transcripts, datasets, and HMIS data will be analyzed and results used to produce a report/extended brief.

##### Objective 3: Dissemination of lessons learned

**Activity 3.1** – Participate in the Family Planning Technical Working Group monthly meeting and share experiences and preliminary findings from the formative assessment.

