

Managing Demographic Dividends through Family Planning for a Safer Healthier and Empowered Future – A Round Table Discussion on 11th July 2017 at DFID South-West Regional Office in Lagos, Nigeria



Participants @ FP event @DFID Lagos Office, Nigeria – Youths, Media, State & Non-State Actors

London was brought to Lagos, as Youths and Media engaged both State and Non-State actors in a round table discussion on “Managing Demographic Dividends through Family Planning for a Safer, healthier and Empowered Future.

Representatives of the Commissioners of Health from Lagos and Ogun States, as well as the representatives of the Commissioner for Economic Planning and Budget; gave insight as to what efforts government has put in place to manage the opportunities and challenges of the Youthful population bulge in their States and plans to continue to improve access to Family Planning in the ir respective States. The ministries of Health however noted that they were challenged with funding targeted at Family Planning interventions, and called on both Private sector and Donors to support government’s efforts at get to scale.



The discussions, as well as questions and answers that ensued highlighted the following:

- FP commodities should be made readily accessible and affordable to both public and private Health Facilities > Also FP commodities side effects should be flagged upfront, so women and girls can be better informed and make the right choice for usage.
- FP messaging should not be focused on women and girls alone, but also importantly targeting men and boys to achieve greater impact. Without carrying men along who are largely the decision makers, women and girls may be disempowered and unable to make right choices for their health and wellbeing.
- Events such as the FP summit empowers Youths to thrive , informing them and educating them, government and donors must therefore actively engage the media for greater awareness and behavioural change communication – as this will address misconceptions and myths around FP.
- The Ministries of Health needs to collaborate with the Ministries of Education to improve, enhance and sustain Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE), particularly for primary and secondary institutions. Also Parents need to be supported with appropriate CSE documents and information so they know how to educate their children.
- FP education ought to start from the homes, with Parents taking the lead and not leaving it to Teachers/Schools. It is the Parent's responsibility to ensure that their children understand basic facts about their sexuality.
- Government, Donors and NGOs must also actively support the development of such CSE material and communication/education leaflets and tools to bridge the knowledge and communication gap..
- Government must also through a deliberate effort fund family planning along with other Health interventions, as this will go a long way towards the management of our demographic dividends.



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DFID Lagos Office, 11/07/2017**