



Integrating Family Planning Services Family Planning HIV Integration Among Entertainment Workers, Cambodia

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significance/background

In Cambodia, the HIV prevalence among adult populations aged 15 to 49 gradually decreased from 2% in 1998 to a projected 0.7% in 2013. Despite this decline, high prevalence still exists among members of most-at-risk populations (MARPs): female entertainment workers (FEWs), men who have sex with men (MSM), transgender people (TG), and people who inject drugs (PWID). The majority of HIV transmission in Cambodia is primarily due to unsafe heterosexual sex. The 2010 HIV Sentinel Surveillance (HSS) study shows that HIV prevalence was estimated at 14% among FEWs who have more than 7 sexual clients per week and 4% among FEWs who have fewer than 7 sexual clients per week. The 2013 Behavioural Surveillance Survey showed that consistent condom use among FEWs with commercial partners is still limited at about 80%, and condom use with sweethearts in the past 3 months remains low and continues to decline from 39% (2010) to 36% (2013). Furthermore, 77% FEWs reported ever having an abortion, further evidence of inconsistent use of family planning (FP). In addition, some FEWs practice overlapping risk behaviours: 6% reported ever using drugs. In addition, anecdotal evidence suggests that some FEWs are threatened by clients to not use condoms and some FEWs choose to not use condom with clients in exchange for more money. FEWs in Cambodia at highest risk of acquiring HIV, experience disproportionately high rates of unintended pregnancy and abortion, low condom use particularly with regular partners, and rely on condoms as their sole contraceptive method.



Condom Plus Event at Koh Pich

program intervention

The Flagship program, which runs from 2013-2017 and is funded by USAID, is working closely with Centers of Excellence (CoE) to introduce innovations in voluntary family planning HIV integration into the SMARTgirl program, targeting FEWs in 3 selected provinces. Throughout year 1 of Flagship program, PSK provided technical assistance to CoE, including introduction of Condoms Plus behavior change communication tools, unmet need screening, informed choice counseling, and development of a referral system to improve FEWs' access to the full range of family planning products and reproductive health (RH) services available nearby.

methodology

PSK has designed a series of Condoms Plus events at targeted entertainment establishments in order to promote FP/HIV integration. The events aim to bring together a large number of FEWs to increase their exposure to the complete SMARTgirl package of integrated FP/HIV prevention, including immediate and on-going availability of emergency contraception (EC) and oral contraceptives (OCs), and services for FP/HIV counseling. The aim is to increase:

- FEWs' exposure to Condoms Plus messaging as part of the SMARTgirl FP/HIV prevention package
- awareness of FP product and health service availability and to promote nearby RH providers, including public, NGO, and private clinics
- the number of FEWs who use condoms plus a second contraceptive method

In 2014, PSK in collaboration with Flagship consortium organized six Condom Plus events in 3 sites in Phnom Penh, Kampong Cham and Siem Reap provinces reaching 1,869 FEWs.

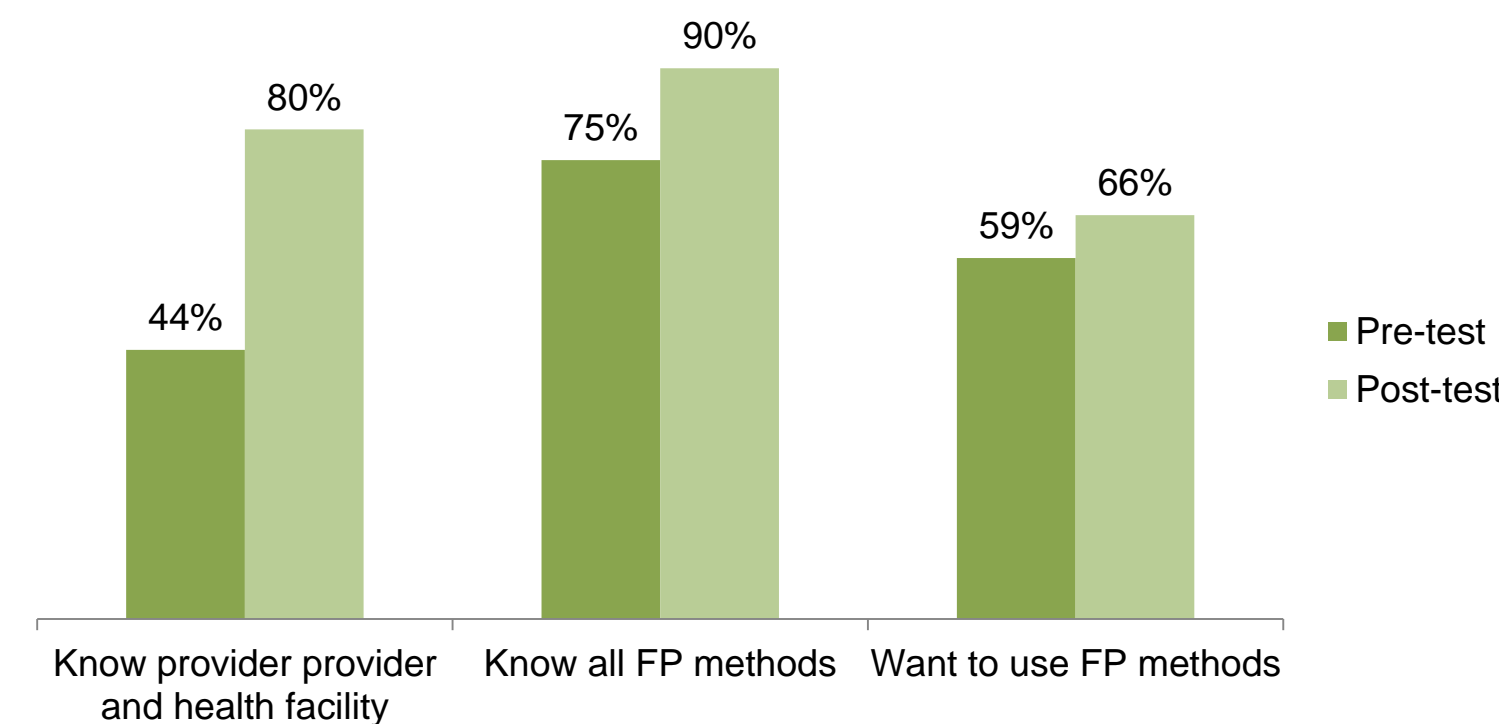
results & key findings

To promote family planning HIV integration among FEWs, Condom Plus events have been identified as the best approach to reach FEWs to promote condom and contraceptive methods. Pre-tests and post-tests were conducted before and after the event in order to measure the impact of the Condom Plus events. It was found that:

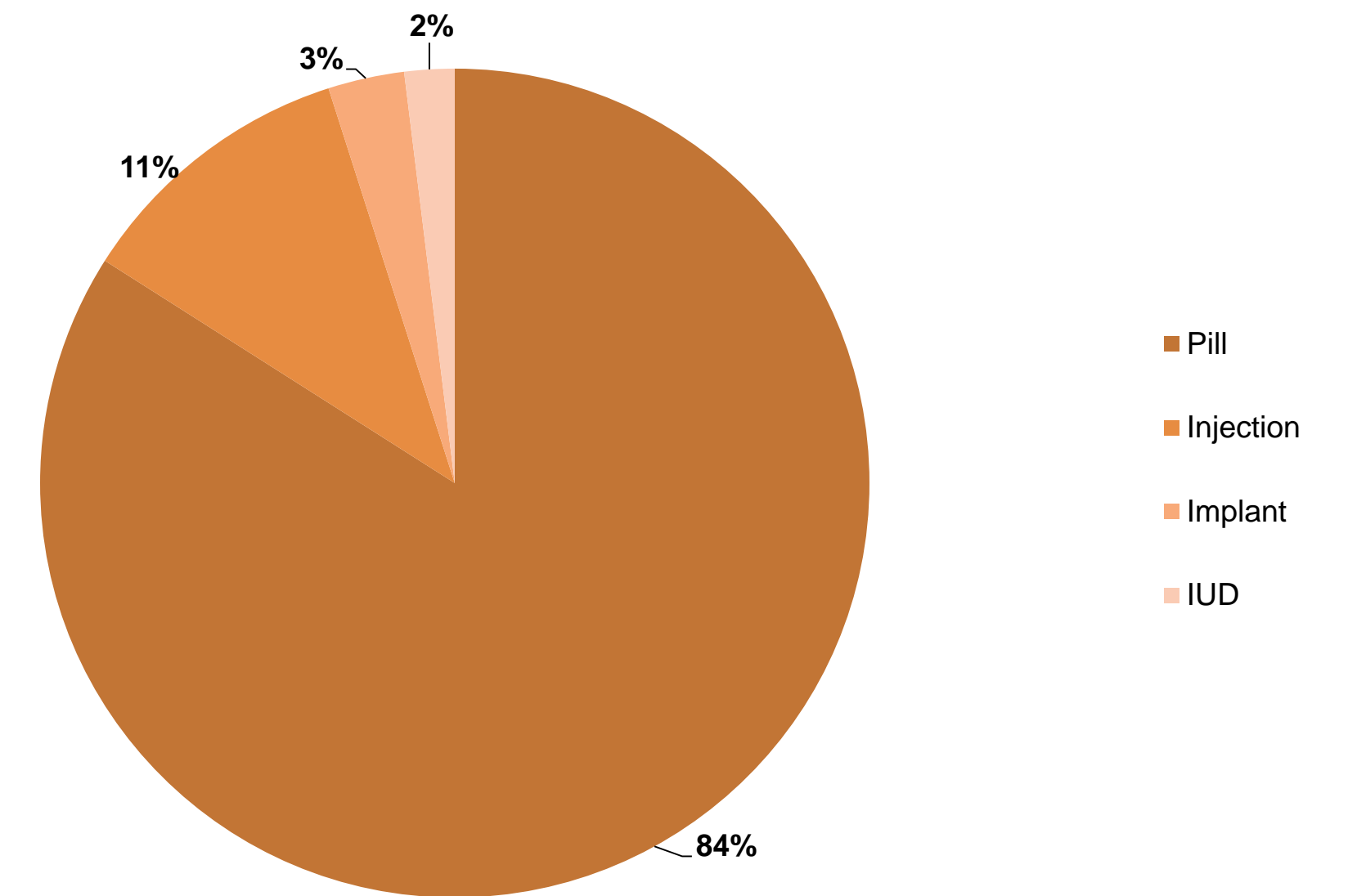
- the intention of FEWs wanted to use any modern FP method increased from 59% to 66%
- the percentage of FEWs who know all modern FP methods has increased from 75% to 90%
- the percentage of FEWs who know providers and health facilities which offer FP methods has increased from 44% to 80%

The combination of knowledge increase about FP products, the increase in the intention to use, and the knowledge about where to find providers and health facilities are all important aspects in increasing family planning use. Following the Condom Plus events, between October 2014 and March 2015, 1,076 out of 3,415 FEWs (32%) obtained family planning products excluded condom whereas only 7% FEWs obtained family planning products in 2013 before program started.

condom plus event outcome



percentage of FP products used by type



lessons/program implications

The events were productive, engaging, entertaining and informative, and were an effective way to bring large groups of FEWs from high-risk venues and hotspots together to discuss their needs. EWs in Cambodia have an unmet need for contraception that the SMARTgirl FP/HIV innovation is effectively addressing. PSK will also provide technical assistant to CoE to document lessons learned and best practices from this innovation and plans to roll out to non-Flagship sites.

One of the biggest successes of this innovation is that it has been **integrated and replicated in the National HIV/AIDS strategic plan for 2014-2020** as part of the core activities under the prevention package for key affected populations. Moreover, it has also been **replicated under the Global Fund New Funding Model for 2015-2017** as part prevention best practices.