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**HEALTH POLICY
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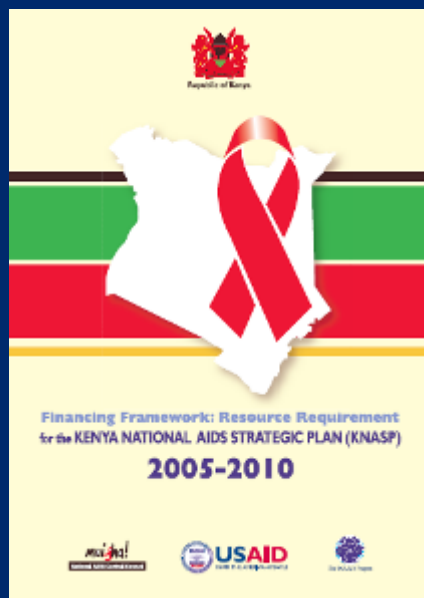
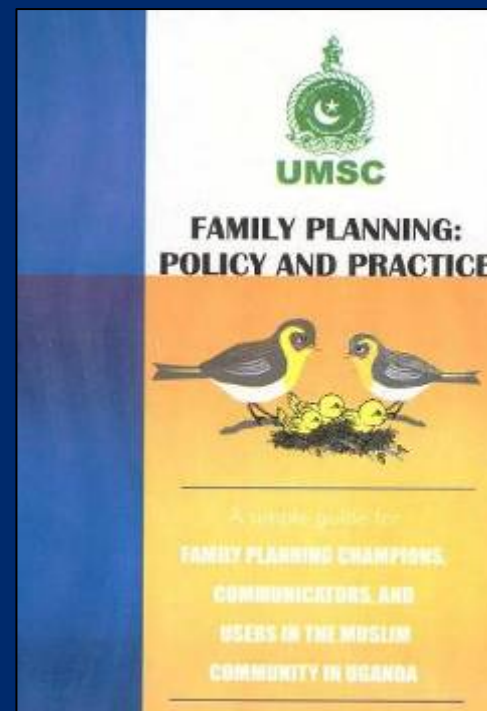
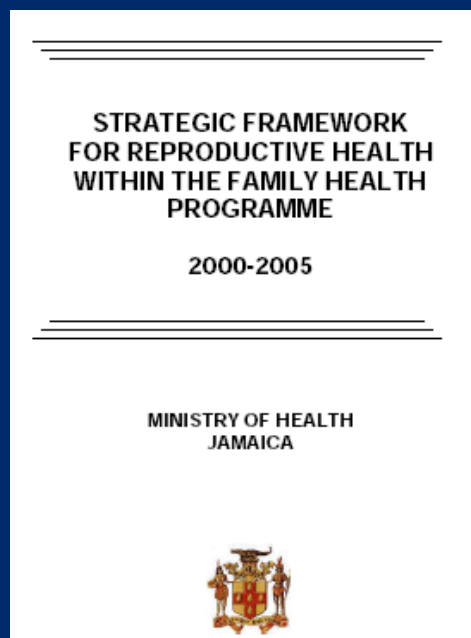
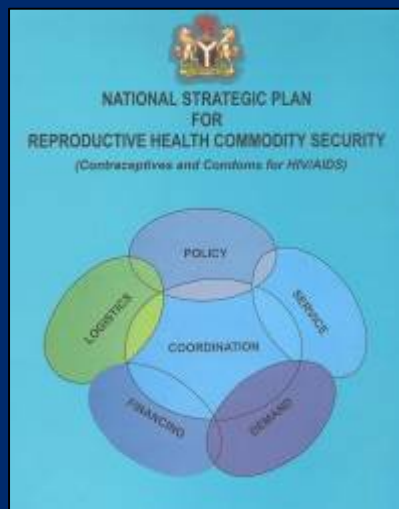
Integrating Equity Goals and Approaches into Policies, Plans, and Agendas



Suneeta Sharma, PhD MHA
Futures Group International

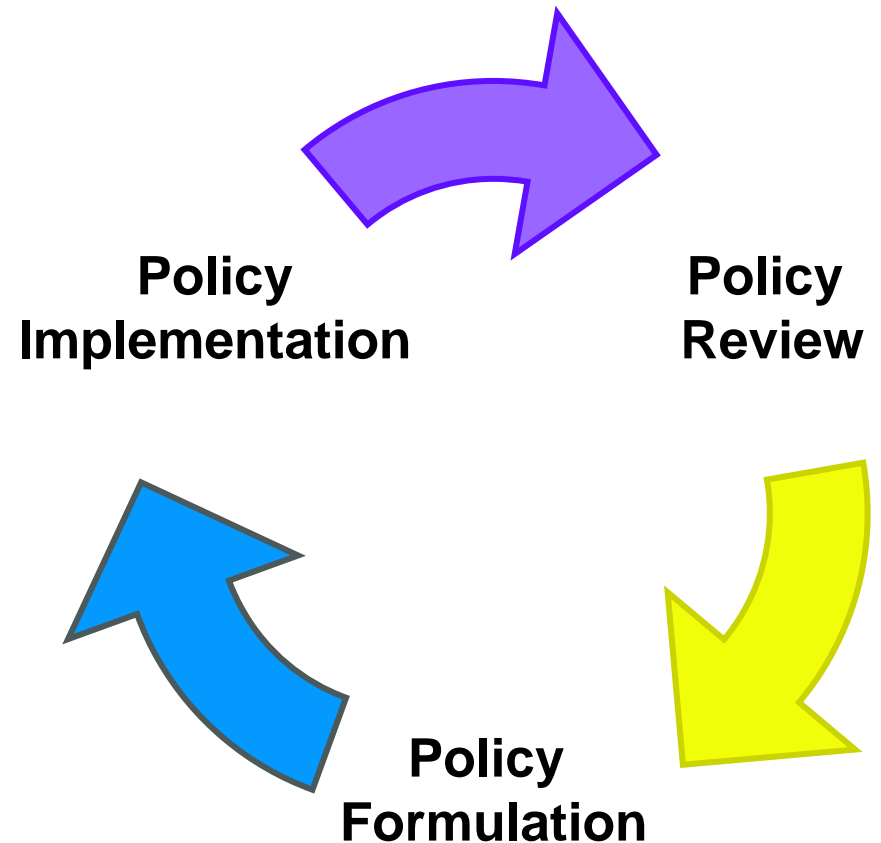
International FP Conference
Uganda, Nov. 15–18, 2009

Which Health Policies are Pro-Poor?



Making Health Policies Pro-Poor....

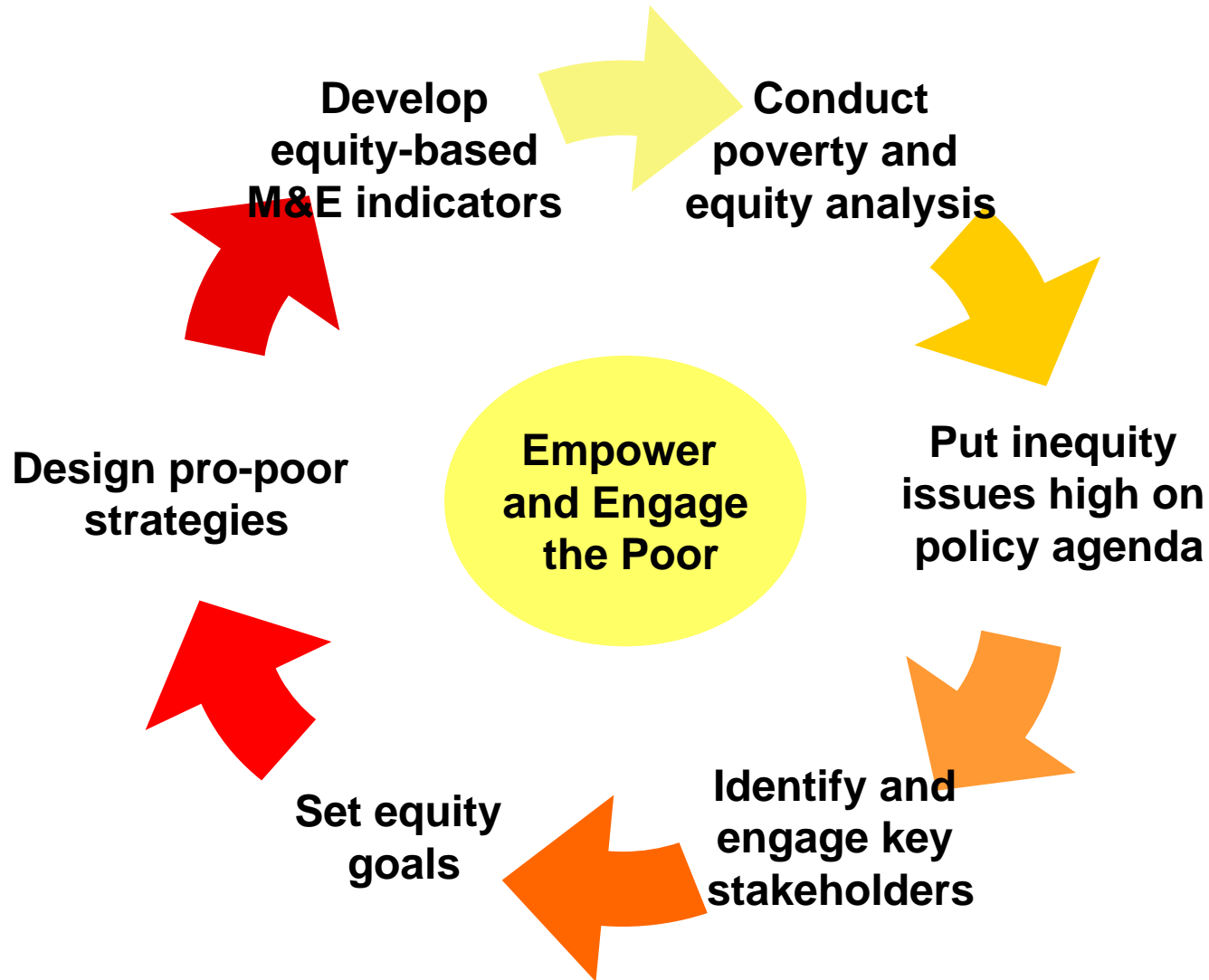
- **Setting goals for improved coverage and health outcomes among the poor**
- **Designing ways to achieve goals**
- **Allocating additional resources for the poor**
- **Monitoring access by the poor**
- **Empowering poor clients**



Policy Review

- Does the policy consider high level poverty and/or low access to healthcare among the specific target group a priority?
- Does the policy include specific strategies to improve access to healthcare services?
- Does the policy include explicit objectives to reduce inequities in service use or in health outcomes for the poor?
- How are objectives expressed?
 - *Increase contraceptive prevalence among the poor*
 - *Reduce gaps between rural and urban areas*
- To what extent does the policy consider level of poverty and inequities in allocating financial resources?
- Does the M&E plan include equity-based indicators?

Policy Formulation



Policy Implementation

- Develop an action plan
- Mobilize resources for the poor
- Allocate resources equitably
- Monitor progress using equity-based monitoring and evaluation indicators
- Establish accountability mechanisms: participatory monitoring
- Analyze unintended consequences and take actions to address evolving problems



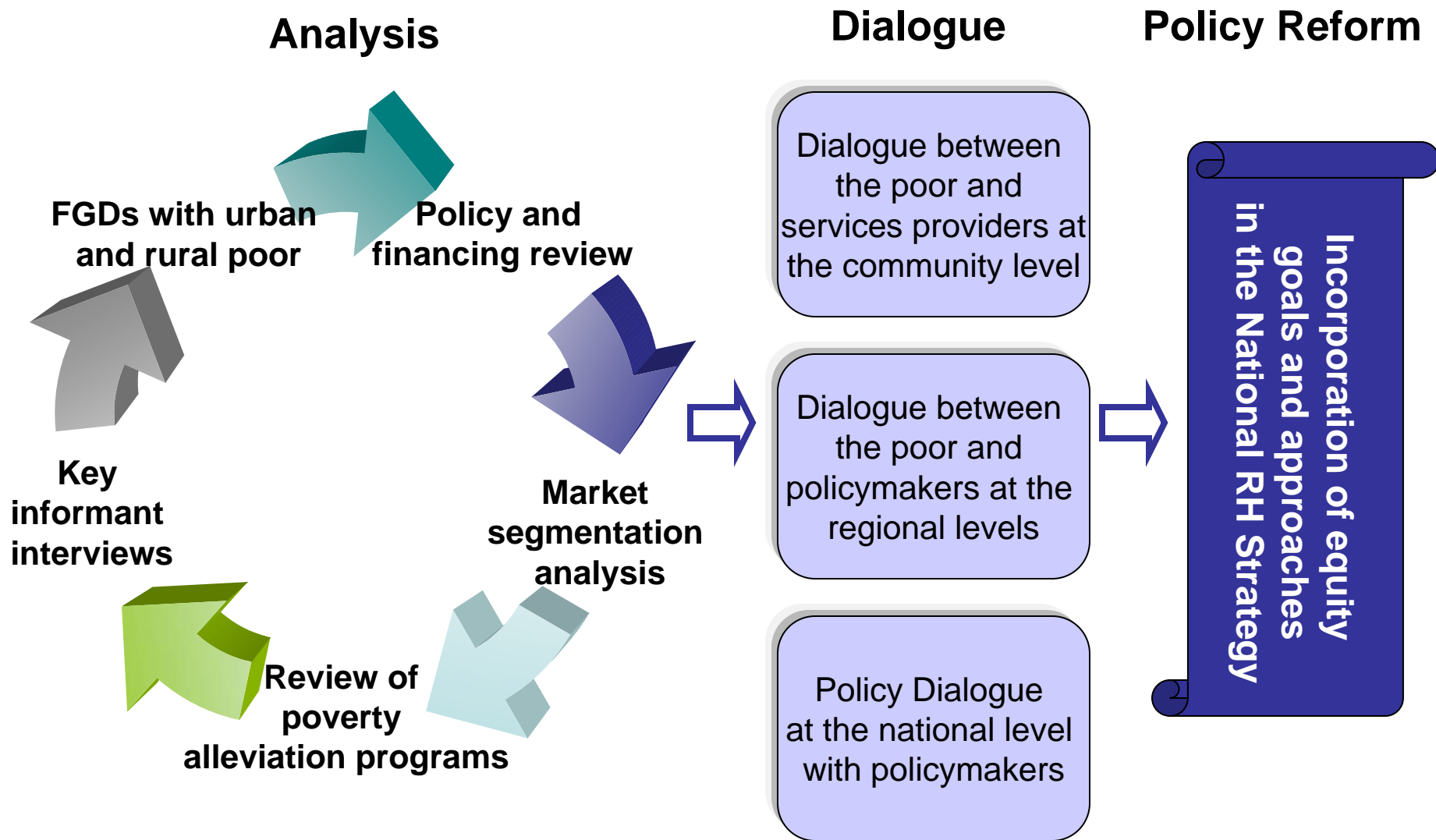
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Integrating Equity Goals and Approaches into the National RH Strategy in Kenya



Organizing Policy Dialogue in Kenya



Incorporating Equity Goals

- **Increasing equitable access to reproductive health services**
 - *Unmet need among the poor reduced by 20% by 2015*
 - *CPR among the poor increased by 20 percentage points from 12% by 2015*

Incorporating Equity Approaches

- Mobilize civil society to advocate for family planning in disadvantaged communities.
- Develop mechanisms for engaging the poor or community-based organizations representing the poor in problem identification, planning, and advocacy.
- Develop culturally appropriate communication strategies to communicate with communities and families about family planning and contraception, including mothers-in-law, husbands, and religious leaders.
- Shift resources from relatively well-served areas to areas of extreme poverty (poverty mapping) such as North Eastern Province, Nyanza Province, and the dry (and poor) northern parts of the country.
- Shift resources to arid areas, areas with pastoralist populations, and urban slums in major cities.



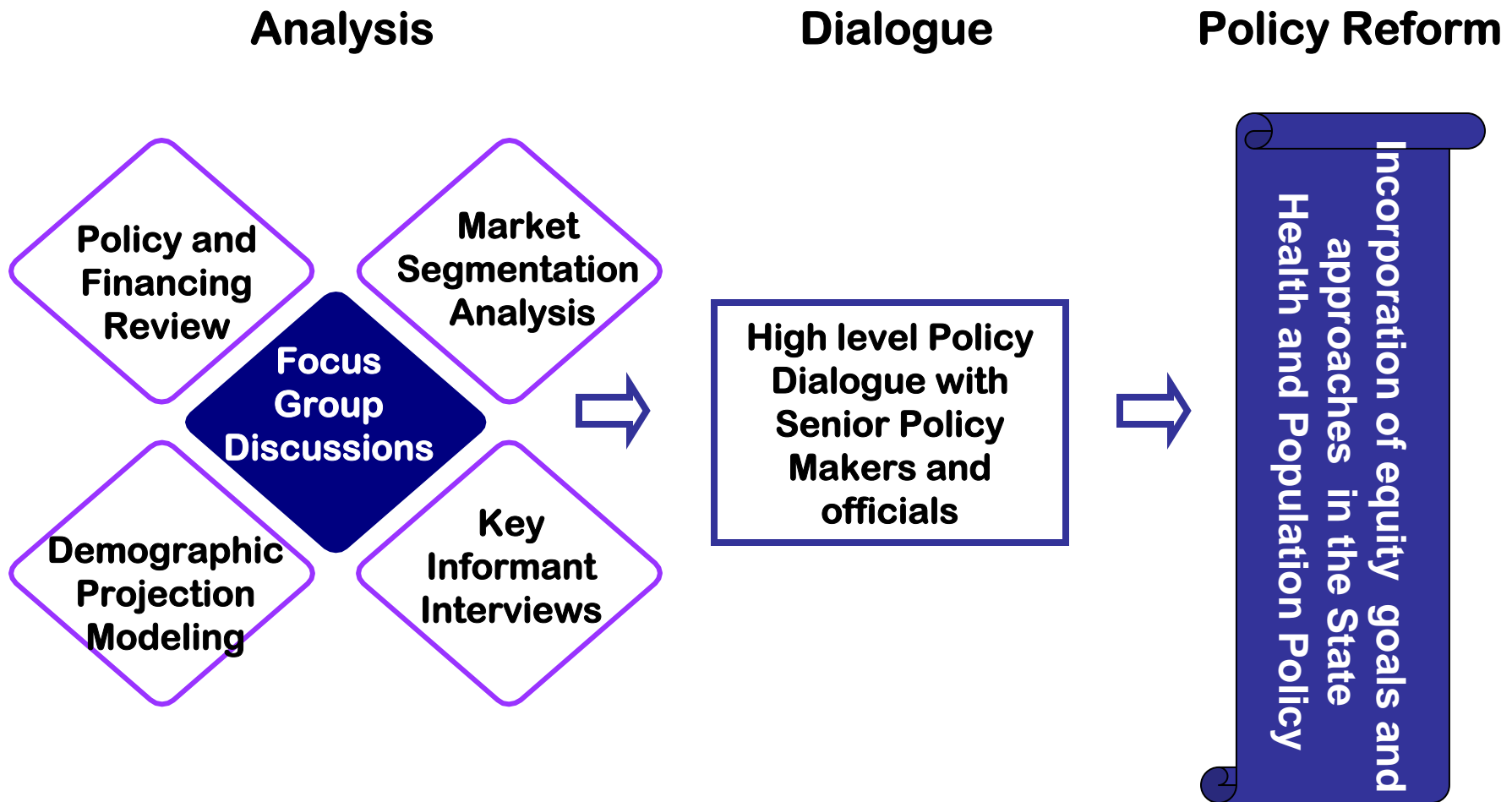
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Integrating Equity Goals and Approaches into the Health and Population Policy of Uttarakhand, India



Organizing Policy Dialogue in India



Policy Dialogue Outcomes

- Formation of the Policy Revision Coordination Committee within the Uttarakhand Health and Family Welfare Society
- Policy revision underway, with emphasis on:
 - Removing barriers to implementation
 - Equity (e.g., rural poor, urban slums, underserved hilly areas)
 - Data-driven strategies (e.g., interventions tailored to the plains and hills; addressing emerging health issues)
- Program implementation plan to be developed (beginning in November 2009)

Incorporating Equity Approaches

- Tailored approaches for
 - Urban
 - Rural
 - Hilly
- PPP models
 - Mobile health vans in remote rural areas
 - Community mobilization in rural plains
 - Contracting out in urban areas
 - Outreach for the urban poor
- Financing mechanisms
 - Health insurance
 - Voucher scheme
 - Community savings plans
- Equitable allocation of resources
 - Regional disparities
 - Level of poverty
 - Disease pattern
 - Underserved groups



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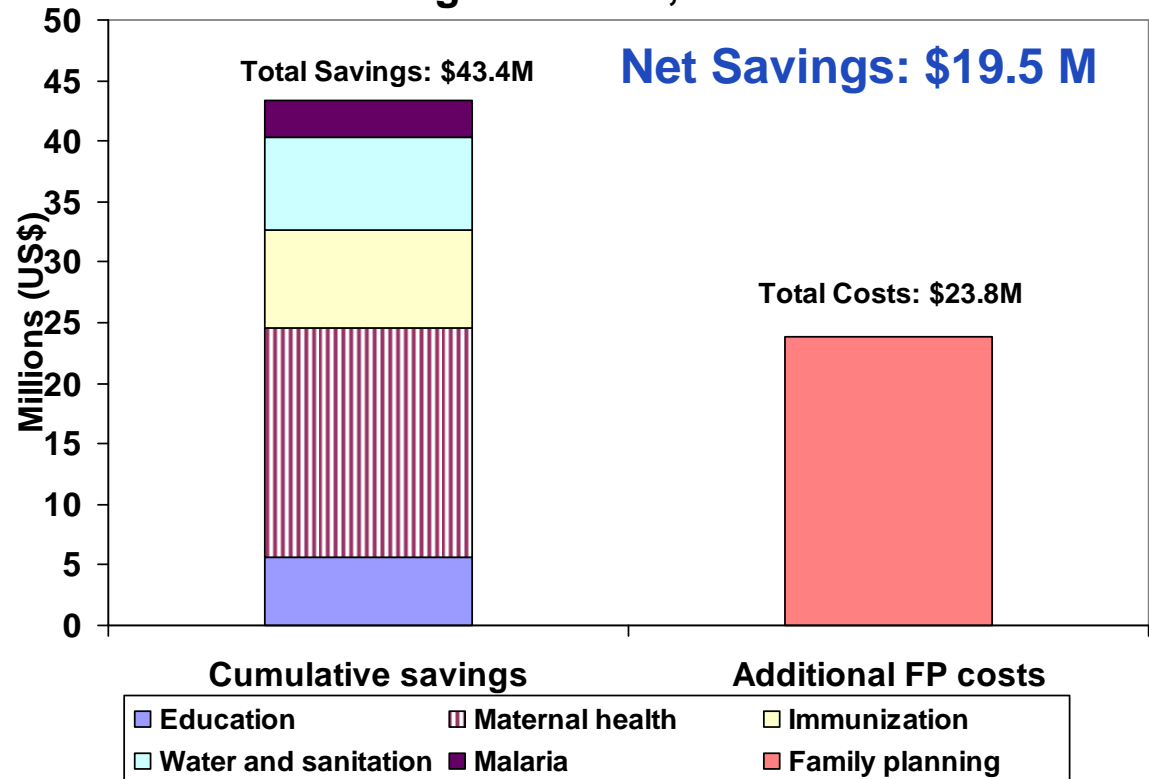
Linking FP to Development: Mali and Rwanda



Including FP into PRSP in Mali

- Engaged a champion
- Mobilized civil society to advocate for FP
- Conducted high-level evidence-based advocacy
- Prepared advocacy messages aimed to reach the Ministry of Finance
- Made presentation to President's chief advisor

Cumulative savings in achieving selected MDG targets in Mali, 2008-2015



Final Version of Mali PRSP-II



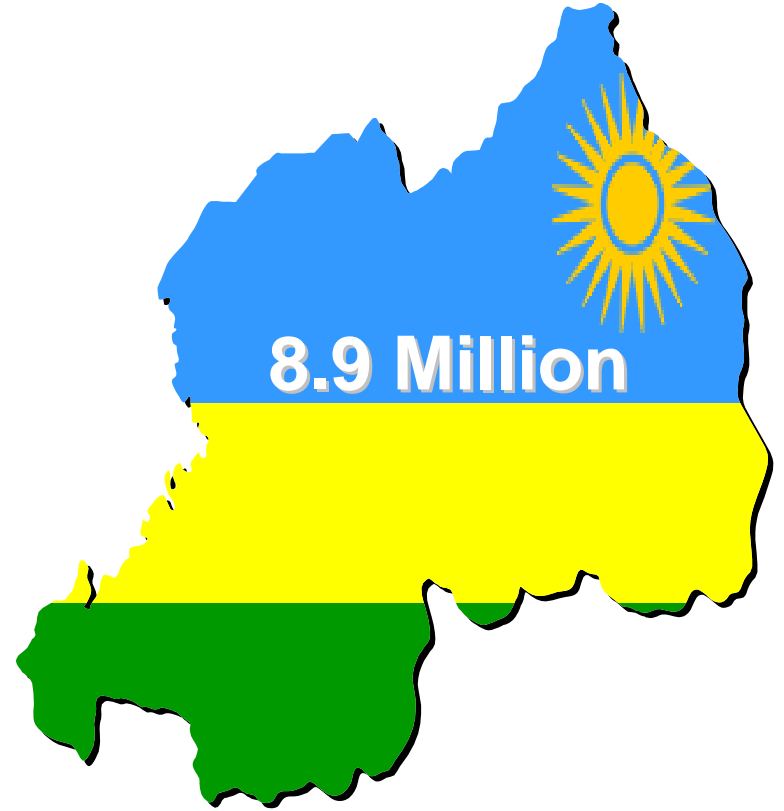
- **Population growth identified as impediment to economic growth and poverty alleviation**
- **Recognition of poor performance on FP in PRSP-I**
- **Meeting unmet need mentioned as important**
- **FP listed as a key intervention in the health sector**

Including FP into National Development Plans in Rwanda

Rwanda's fertility rate is 6.1 children per woman

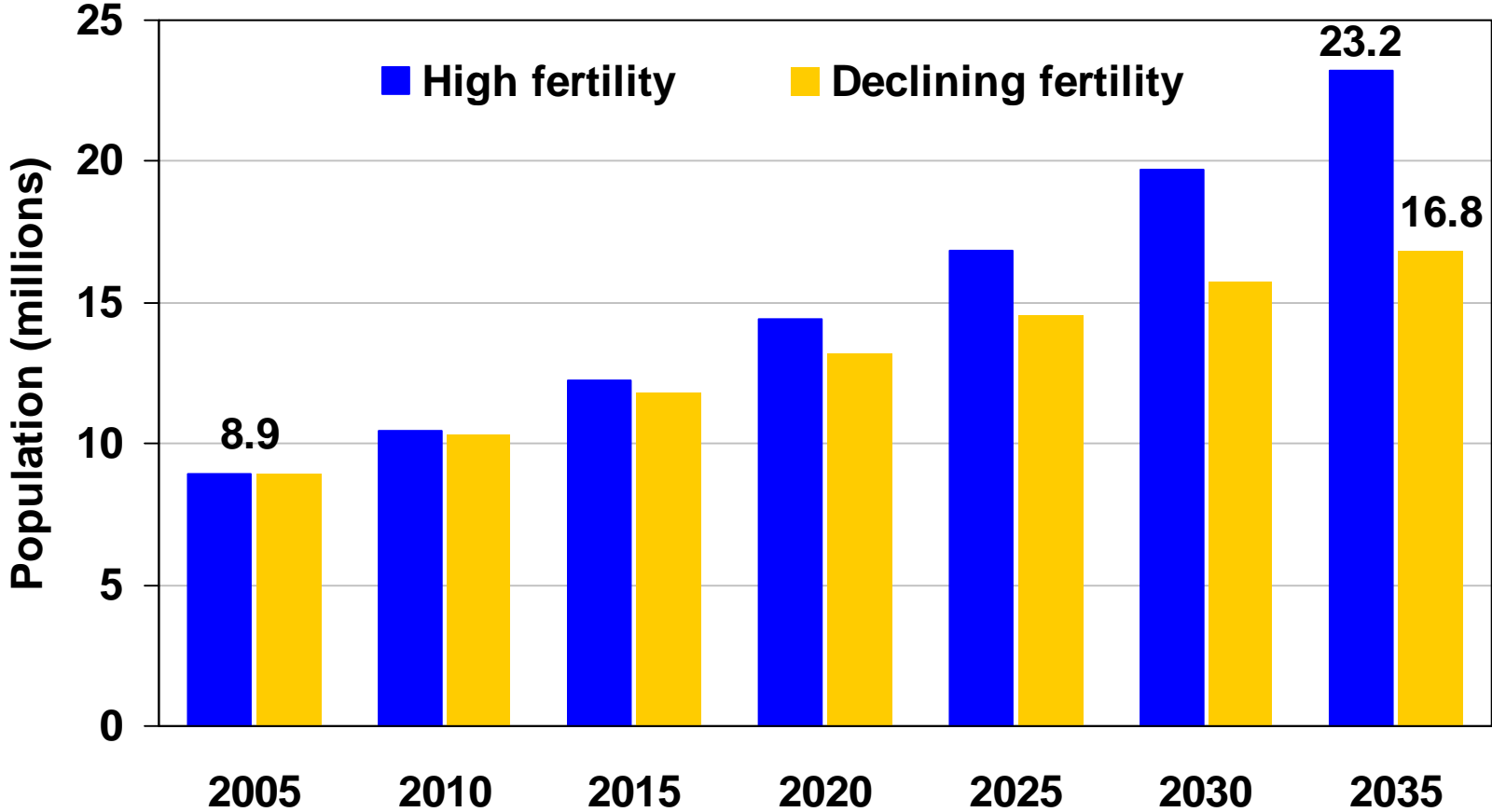


Photo source: USAID



Source: Enquete Demographique et de Santé 2005 Rwanda

Demonstrating the Impact of Population Growth on Different Sectors in Rwanda



Source: SPECTRUM 3.40 Projections

Population Affects Social and Economic Development in Rwanda



Education



Health



Economy



Food Security



Urbanization



Environment

- **Sparked Presidential-level commitment for:**
 - **Inclusion of family planning in Rwanda's Vision 2020**
 - **Development of a national FP strategy**
 - **Creation of an FP technical working group**
 - **Establishment of a population desk at the Ministry of Finance**

It can be done...

Engaging and empowering the poor

Quantifying the level of inequality in healthcare use and health status

Understanding the barriers to access

Integrating equity goals and approaches in policies, plans, & agendas

Targeting resources and efforts to the poor

Yielding public-private partnerships for equity



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Thank you!

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