

# Male involvement practice in Female Condom programming in Nigeria

Akoh Sunday

Society for Family Health, Nigeria

# Presentation Outline

- Introduction
- Female condom programming in Nigeria
- Why male involvement in FC programme
- Challenges to male involvement
- Male involvement: the strategies
- Impact of male involvement

# Introduction

- Many studies have shown that men show little or no interest in the reproductive health concerns of their partners.
- They have this misleading impression that getting pregnant and delivery are exclusive duties of a woman.

# Female condom programming in Nigeria

- The major objective is to reduce the incidence of HIV, AIDS, STIs and unintended pregnancies among males and females of reproductive age
- Recently, there has been renewed commitment by partners and the government of Nigeria in the promotion of female condom in Nigeria. The Federal Ministry of Health and UNFPA led in FC promotion and distribution before now.
- S&RH strategies, policies, and frameworks are in place

✓ Nigeria National Condom Strategy 2008-2010 (NCS)  
*creating change....enhancing lives*



# Why involve men in FC programming

- No female condom programme can be effective or successful without male involvement, previous FC interventions in Nigeria excluded men as a key target group
- In a patriarchal society like Nigeria, the effects of male dominance are felt across all aspects of life, including sexuality
- Women are more often than not unable to negotiate for safer sex in both spousal and non spousal encounters
- Most sexual encounters in Nigeria are heterosexual

# Why are the men not involved?

- Women are not expected to make decisions on male and female sexuality
- Fear of losing control
- Gender stereotype
- Social stigmatization
- The belief that women will become promiscuous if given the support

# Strategies for male involvement

- Deliberate efforts at involving a proportionate number of men in all programme areas
- At least, a third of the total number of community facilitators in the UAFC project are men
- Engagement with male groups e.g Uniformed services, trade unions, workplaces
- Male influencers and gatekeepers are engaged at various levels of advocacy and community mobilization
- IEC and mass media campaigns continuously emphasize positive role of men in FC

# Impact of Male involvement

- Increased male support and involvement
- Increased acceptance by both sexes
- The FC is now perceived as an available choice for both men and women
- Increased empowerment for women
- Greater reduction in the incidence of HIV and AIDS
- Reduction in unplanned pregnancies, hence a reduction in maternal mortality