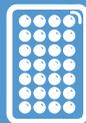


## At the right time in the right place Ensuring Reproductive Health Commodity Security in Uganda

### Our results in 2017:

123,112

New users  
reached with  
modern  
contraceptives



3 Million

Male Condoms  
procured and  
distributed



450,000

Female Condoms  
procured and  
distributed



1,184,797

Unplanned  
pregnancies  
prevented



292,363

Unsafe abortions  
prevented



### Background

UNFPA supports the Ministry of Health in Uganda to ensure that every woman, girl, boy and man can access Reproductive Health (RH) commodities of their choice whenever they need them. UNFPA also supports the country's humanitarian response by procuring and distributing Emergency reproductive health kits to refugee-hosting districts.

In addition, the government of Uganda and partners have employed various approaches in an attempt to promote reproductive health commodity security. These include increased financing for procurement of commodities, introduction of new commodities into the supply chain, building the capacity of providers, introducing pre-packaged essential medicines kits for lower level public facilities, strengthening the logistics management information systems (LMIS), and developing redistribution guidelines to minimize stock outs and expiries.

The 2016-17 Annual Health Sector Performance Report for indicates that while the overall availability of health commodities dropped to 83% in 2016/17 from 87% in 2015/16 the Reproductive, Maternal, New-born, and Child Health Commodities were widely available. A total of 88% of facilities reported availability of these commodities in the last quarter of the financial year.

However, monitoring reports from the Government of Uganda /UNFPA Country programme have consistently revealed intermittent stock outs of some commodities and overstocks of others, both at central level and service delivery levels.

### Of specific concern are the following:

1. Recurring stock-outs of some methods of family planning in both the public sector and the Alternative Distribution Strategy (ADS) channel managed by the Uganda Health Marketing Group (UHMG).
2. Imbalance of stocks between the public warehousing and distribution system by the National Medical Stores (NMS) and the ADS and among service delivery points
3. Inadequate redistribution system with reports of stock-outs of some commodities and over-stocks of the same commodity (mostly Depo-Provera) across facilities.
4. Failure to provide full method mix, especially in the public sector (only Depo-Provera is universally accessible).
5. Limited resources to procure adequate supplies of essential RH commodities. This is specifically attributed to inadequate domestic financing to match contributions from development partners.
6. Low post-shipment capacity for testing condoms at the National Drug Authority (NDA), a challenge that Government is now addressing through procurement and installation of higher capacity equipment to boost output of tested male and female condoms.
7. Challenges in securing clearance of imported globally pre-determined Emergency Reproductive Health (ERH) kits that contain medicines not registered in Uganda
8. The existing Logistics Management Information system (LMIS) is yet to go to scale and is unable to transmit real-time facility logistics data to Ministry of Health to inform decision making.
9. Limited human resource capacity for quantification, forecasting and stock management, especially at service delivery points.

## UNFPA engagement in Reproductive Health Commodity Security in Uganda

### Vision

To see all Ugandans accessing quality and affordable essential RH commodities and services that they need.

### Strategic Objectives

To strengthen coordination of reproductive health commodity assessments, quantification, forecasting, planning, distribution and management at national and district levels, including to alternative channels.

To provide support in strengthening capacity of Government and relevant stakeholders in RH commodity management including forecasting, quantification, procurement, storage, distribution, tracking and reporting as well in research and demand creation

To contribute to procurement of essential RH drugs and supplies based on nationally identified commodity gaps.

To support evidence-based advocacy and policy dialogue for RH commodities (including on increased domestic financing, equitable access and adherence to national commitments).

To contribute to generation of Strategic Information (SI) for advocacy and programming including commodity and financial tracking, documentation of impacts and good practices

To support the designing, testing and rolling out of innovative approaches/interventions towards universal access to RH commodities.



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The purpose of this Strategic Note therefore is to highlight key issues in Reproductive Health Commodity Security (RHCS) in Uganda and define roles of the UNFPA Uganda Country Office as lead partner to the Government of Uganda in ensuring an effective and efficient RH logistics management system to guarantee universal access to essential RH commodities and services. This note is also purposed to propose a UNFPA-initiated and led set of initiatives and innovations to revitalize RHCS in Uganda

## UNFPA strategic engagement

### UNFPA:

Provides technical and financial support to ensure an uninterrupted supply of reproductive health commodities to enhance availability and accessibility to acceptable and quality reproductive health services.

## Coordination

### UNFPA:

- Supports coordination of the national quantification process for Reproductive Health/ family Planning commodities through the Uganda Family Planning Consortium (UFPC.)
- Participates in commodity Technical Working Groups at Ministry of Health including the FP/RHCS Technical Working Group; Medicines, Procurement and Management Technical Working Group; and Maternal and Child Health Cluster (MCH) as well as related ad hoc committees. UNFPA participation in these working groups ensures provision of technical guidance on monitoring RHCS program implementation and central level stock status, as well as clearance of RHCS-related policies.

- Participates in the RHCS task team composed of USAID, DFID, UNFPA, the Ministry of Health Reproductive Health Division, Pharmacy Department, UHMG and NMS. The team leads the process of quantification and forecasting and regularly review the supply plans based on the stock status and pipeline information. It also advises on inter-warehouse stock transfers to address in-country stock imbalances. UNFPA also champions coordination and advocacy for condom programming at the AIDS Development Partners Forum.
- Participates in the National Condom Coordination Committee, a multi-stakeholder coordination platform that supports the Ministry of Health oversight role in the delivery of the national comprehensive condom program.

## Procurement & supply chain management

### UNFPA:

- Participates in the monthly Commodity Security Meeting at the Ministry of Health, where central warehouse stock status and inter-warehouse transfers are discussed.
- Supports roll-out and scale-up of a variety of cost-effective quality-assured RH commodity alternatives such as Sayana Press, Implanon NXT and Levoplant to increase overall RH commodity security. UNFPA is specifically supporting scale up of the procurement of self-injectable Sayana Press through the Community Health Extension Workers (CHEWS) system to increase access at community level and decongest health facilities.
- Champions advocacy for resource mobilization for commodity procurement through major funding streams including Global Fund.

## Capacity strengthening

### UNFPA:

Support the Ministry of Health to strengthen redistribution of commodities at both central and service delivery points by establishing stock buffers at the district level and other service delivery implementing partners (NGOs, PNFPs etc)

Provides technical leadership for the development and dissemination of technical publications and other material on pertinent RHCS issues for the attention of partners and government .

Conducts supportive supervision to poorly performing districts as guided by synthesis reports and supports implementation of improvement plans at various levels.



## Advocacy and Policy Dialogue

### UNFPA:

- Generates evidence, advocates for and supports review/development of RHCS policies, strategies and implementation guidelines. UNFPA is currently spearheading advocacy for:
  1. Fast-tracking implementation of the strategy on long-acting and reversible methods (LARCS) to increase availability and access to a method mix
  2. Expedited transition from the Village Health Teams (VHTs) approach to the Community Health Extension Workers (CHEWs) Strategy to avoid creating gaps in commodity distribution and tracking at community level
- Supports the Alternative Distribution Mechanism for RH commodities to increase distribution coverage, access and equity.
- Produces regular (bi-monthly) commodity gap analysis, for resource mobilization, to inform donors and Government budget allocation. What is the gap analysis
- Advocates for provision of full Family Planning method- mix in the public sector and introduction of new proven methods such as Sayana Press

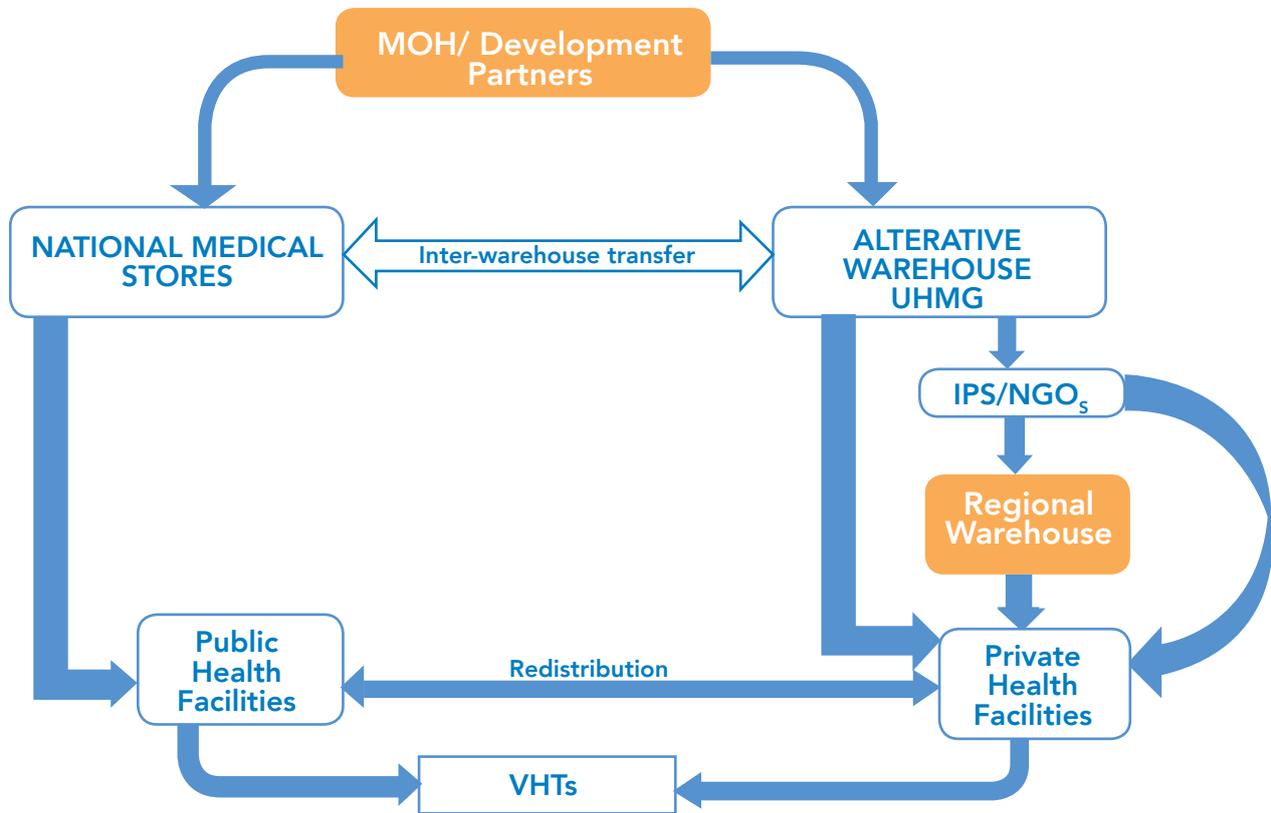
## Strategic Information

### UNFPA:

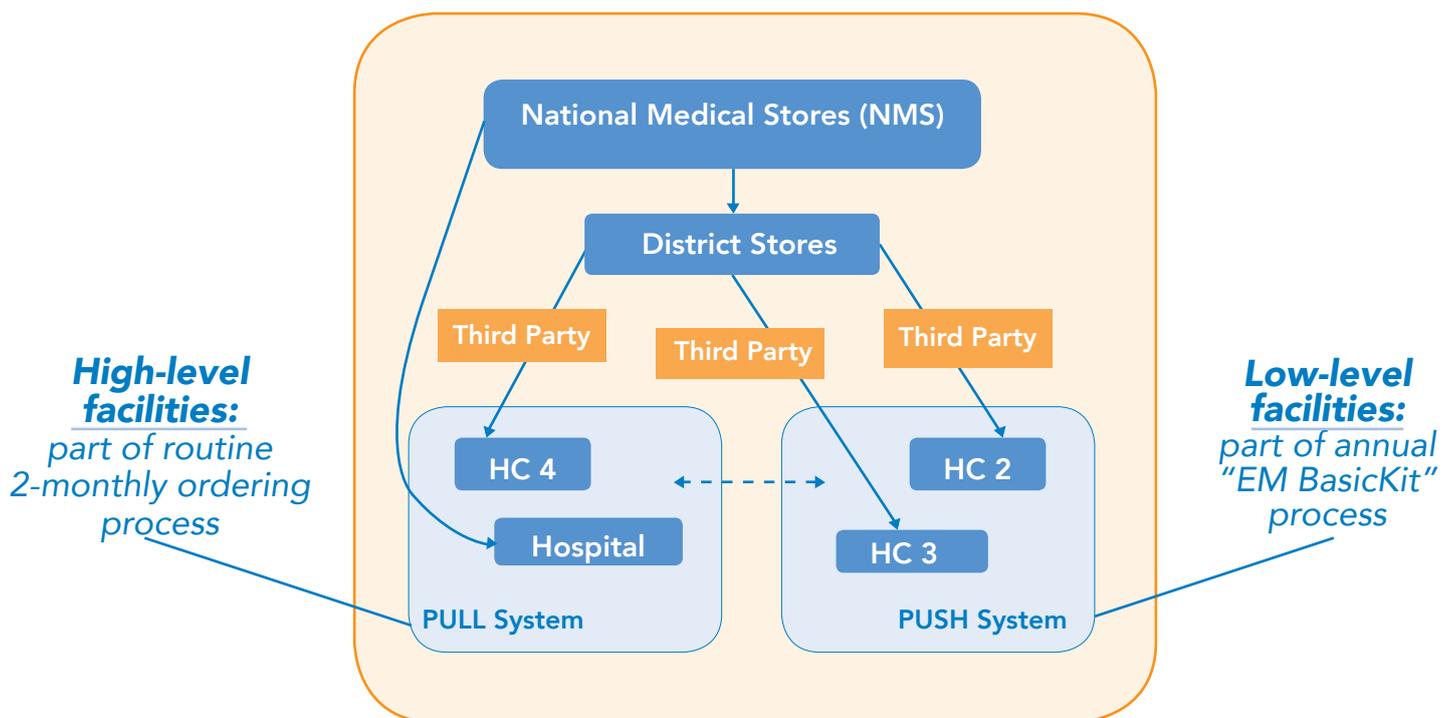
- Supported the development and provides ongoing technical support to ensure functionality of logistics management informational system (LMIS) at all levels of the supply chain to ensure end-to-end supply chain visibility. Acknowledging the unique needs for handling the condom, UNFPA supported development and is facilitating piloting and roll out of the Condom Logistics Information System (CLMIS)
- Supports Ministry of Health to coordinate the review and update national demand forecasting, supply planning and gap analysis for resource mobilization.
- Supports Ministry of Health to conducts data quality audit at service delivery levels and strengthen supply chain management.
- Publishes bi-monthly stock status report for RH commodities and updates the online Country Commodity Manager (CCM)
- Support modelling and documentation of missed opportunities from inadequate investment in universal access to RH commodities



# RHCS- Uganda Country Context



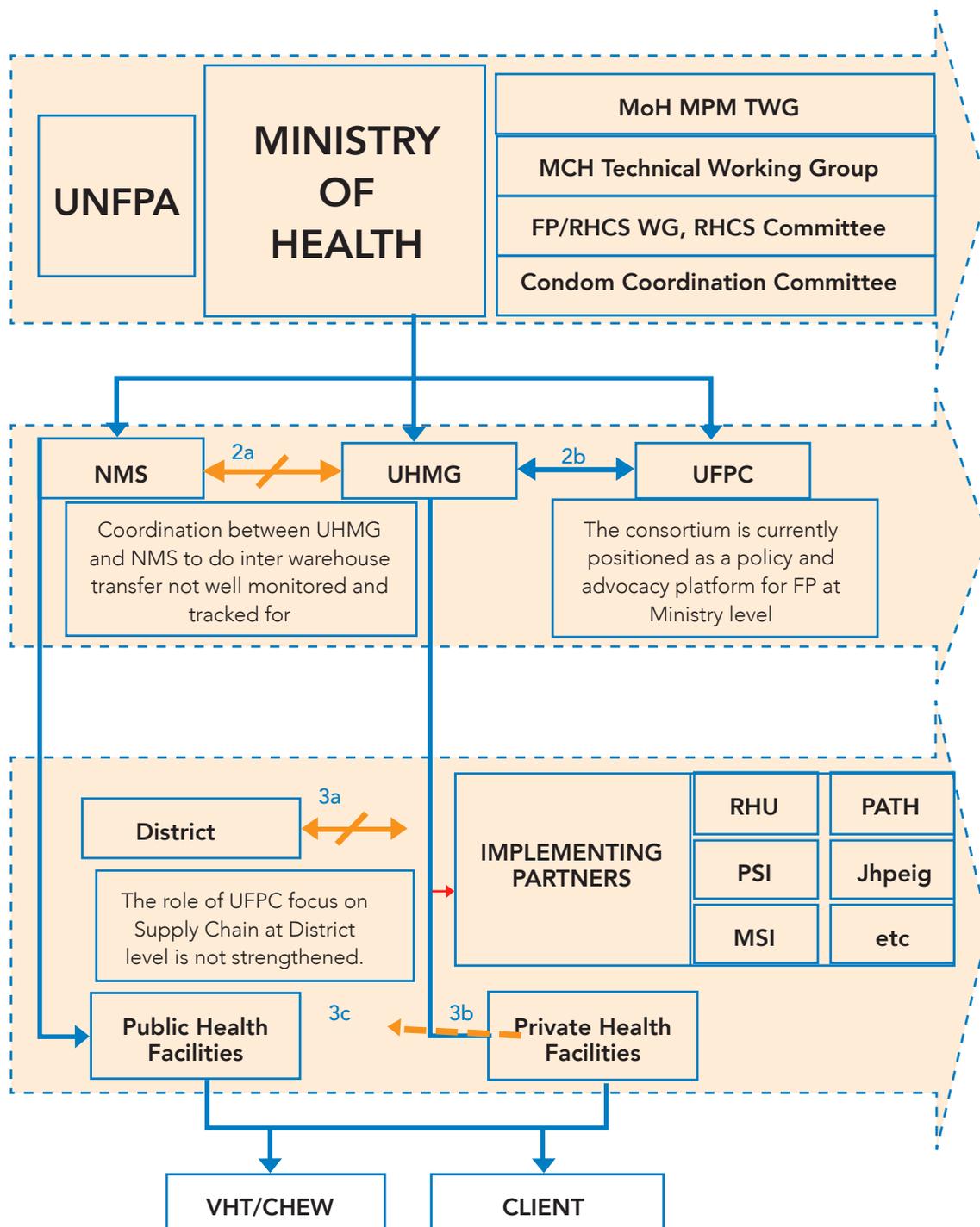
## Public sector context



## Looking forward: UNFPA RHCS revitalization plan

Recognising the ongoing efforts by the Ministry of Health and other stakeholders, UNFPA proposes implementation of a RHCS revitalization plan and processes with clear and precise actions intended to trigger a more fluid planning, coordination, implementation process of ensuring availability and uptake of RH/FP commodities.

The figure below illustrates a summary of the revitalisation plan:



## Policy, Planning & Coordination

- Pharmacy division as a custodian of planning, forecasting and planning for medical supplies works with other committees to maintain regular information flow of the supplies status.
- UNFPA takes the leadership to support MoH and ensure RHCS is a priority on the agenda on all the committees and Working Groups.
- UFPC supports districts during the planning period to ensure RHCS items are budgeted and planned for.
- Mobilise resources to build capacity and track RH/FP commodity tracking by districts.
- Introduce an RH/FP focused district level score-card that is designed to influence behaviour of RH/FP consideration among DHOs and Health Facility in-charge to increase management and monitoring of FP activities in the district
- Establish s RHCS focused platforms which engage various stakeholders such as Government, Parliament, Development Partners and Private Sector in discussion, planning and action on RHCS:
  - Add an RHCS- focused pre-event to the Bi-annual Family Planning Conference.
  - Work with Media Houses, UFPC, NMS and UHMG to conduct regular public dialogues on FP and RHCS.
  - Fast-track implementation of the strategy on long-acting and reversible methods (LARCS) to increase availability and access to a method mix
  - Expedite transition from the Village Health Teams (VHTs) approach to the Community Health Extension Workers (CHEWs) Strategy to avoid creating gaps in commodity distribution and tracking at community level

## Supply Chain Handling

- Formalise UFPC coordination and follow-up of supplies movement between NMS and UHMG to ensure that there is full availability of the full range of FP commodities at both arms of the chain.
- Put in place specific resources to effect and monitor inter warehouse transfer regularly and report.
- UFPC to be visibly represented at the relevant TWG and Committee meetings
- Work with Ministry of Health to revise terms of reference for UFPC to focus more on leadership, planning and monitoring of family planning interventions at district level and among implementing partners.
- Facilitate UFPC to increase presence at district level to support in quantification, forecasting, stock management and reporting on family planning. This will involve training, mentorship, supervision and provision of computers in selected districts to enhance commodity handling up to the lowest level health service delivery points.

## Lower Level Supplies Planning & Management

- Facilitate UFPC work more directly with districts to support the District Health officers manage planning, budgeting, forecasting, buffering and redistribution of FP commodities.
- Facilitate and test the ability of IPs to deliver FP commodities and build capacity in supply chain management at Public health facilities where they provide services.

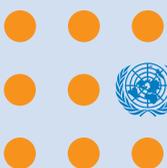
## Partnership engagements

UNFPA acknowledges the engagement and commitment of the various partners in the field of RHCS within their mandates and roles as detailed below:

- Uganda Family Planning Consortium:
- Ministry of Health: overall leadership, policy guidance, resource mobilization, systems and services oversight and coordination
- National Drug Authority): regulation and quality assurance
- National Medical Stores: procurement, storage and distribution of health commodities for the public facilities
- Joint Medical Stores: procurement, storage and distribution of health commodities for Faith-based facilities
- Uganda Health Marketing Group: procurement, custom clearance, storage and distribution of health commodities to non-profit, private facilities and for social marketing
- Other Health Development partners such as DFID and USAID: financing, procurement and demand creation.
- Social Marketing Agencies such as MSI, PACE, UHMG, Uganda Cares: for demand creation and promoting access to subsidised RH commodities
- Implementing partners and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs): advocacy, service delivery, and capacity building and demand creation.



The Vision of UNFPA engagement in Reproductive Health Commodity Security in Uganda is to see all Ugandans accessing quality and affordable essential RH commodities and services that they need.



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