



Adapting a Commercial-Sector Distribution System to Achieve Family Planning Goals in Zimbabwe

Challenge

Medicines and health products need to be available at service delivery points for health programs to effectively serve patients and reach goals for the reduction of maternal and child morbidity and mortality. However, product availability in developing countries is often not guaranteed due to forces that disrupt supply chain systems.

In Zimbabwe, years of socio-economic disruption led to an exodus of trained health sector staff, interruptions to donor-funded projects, and fuel shortages—factors that significantly contributed to public health supply chain failures.



Methods

In response, the USAID | DELIVER PROJECT and its partners assisted the Zimbabwe National Family Planning



Council to design and implement the Delivery Team Topping Up (DTTU) system. DTTU is a “rolling warehouse,” truck-based inventory control system adapted from vendor-managed inventory (VMI) principles used extensively in the commercial sector.

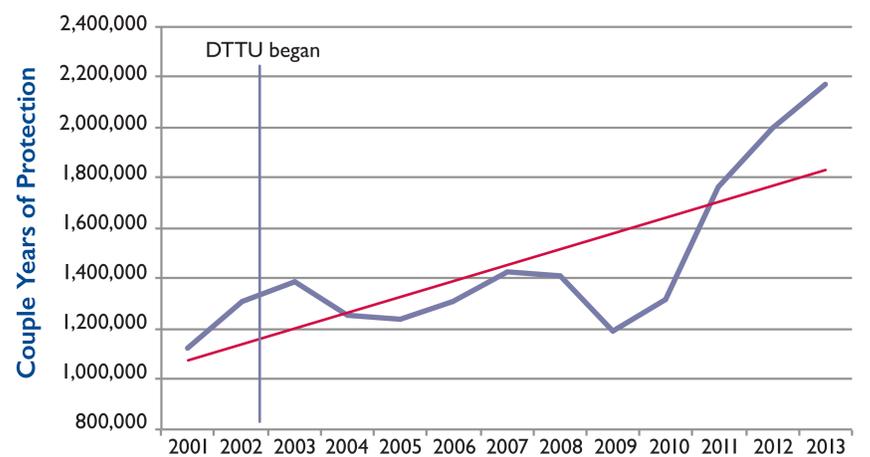
In the DTTU system, a team in the rolling warehouse—

- visits service delivery points (SDP) on a regular schedule
- debriefs facility staff about adjustments and stockouts
- conducts a physical inventory of stock-on-hand
- calculates resupply levels and provides required products
- recovers damaged or expired products.

Impact

- Achieved 99 percent coverage of nationwide SDPs and 95 percent availability of contraceptives and condoms.
- Condoms and contraceptives delivered using DTTU had the potential to prevent—
 - 4.9 million unintended pregnancies
 - 261,000 infant and child under five deaths.
- Couple years of protection increased 67 percent in 2002-2013.
- Stockouts of DTTU-serviced SDPs were at or below 5 percent since 2007.

Estimated Protection Generated by Condoms and Contraceptives, Before and After DTTU



Benefits of DTTU

- Reliably maintains high coverage and low stockouts in challenging environments
- Easily adaptable as emergency or temporary system
- Works with paper calculations or automated system
- Able to manage numerous products for various programs
- With automated system, eliminates calculation errors and makes data immediately available at the central medical store
- Decreases burden on facility staff and reduces cost of supply chain management training

