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**HEALTH POLICY
INITIATIVE**

Strengthening Political Support and Mobilizing Resources for Family Planning in Decentralized Settings



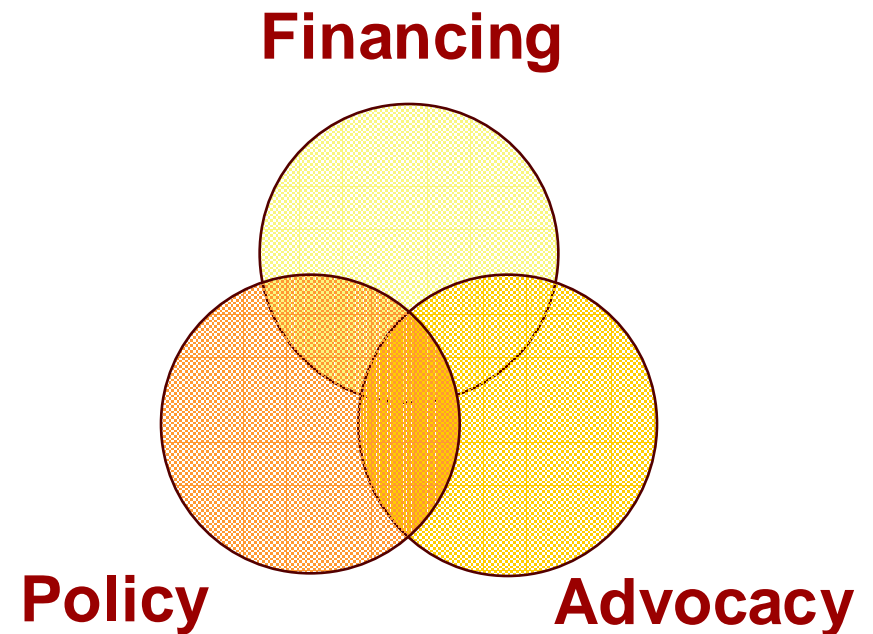
Maasai children, Rift Valley, 1995. © Children of the World, Corel Corporation.

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Methodology

- ❖ Review of literature on decentralization of health systems in Latin America
- ❖ Review of policy documents in Bolivia and Mexico
- ❖ Key informant interviews with policymakers and implementers

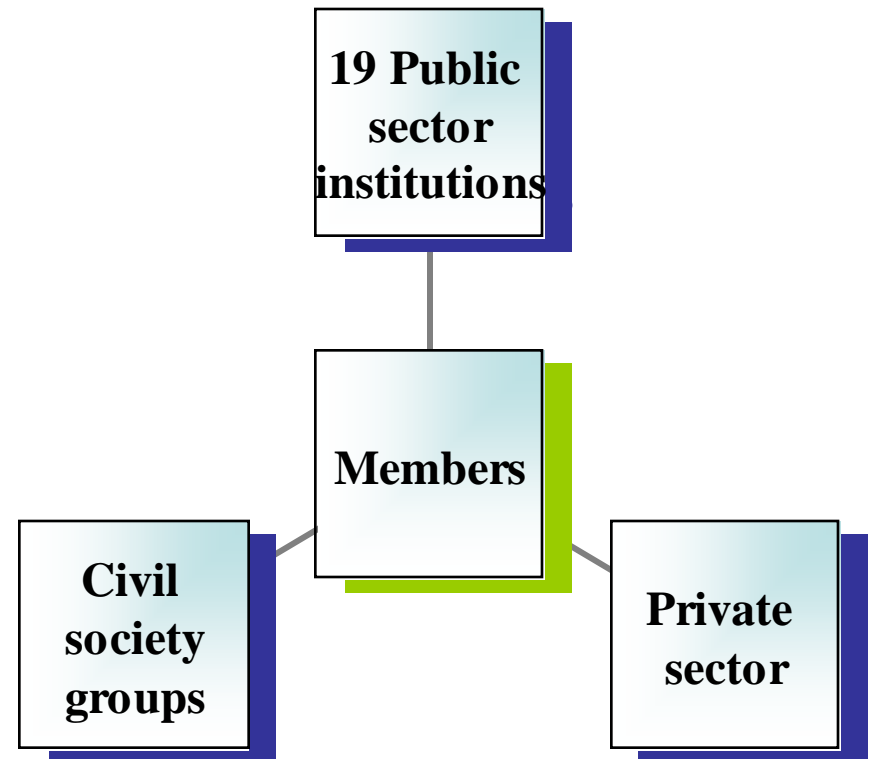


Strategies for increasing political commitment and strengthening policies

- ❖ Incorporate family planning within the context of developmental approaches
- ❖ Include family planning in social insurance programs
- ❖ Support strategic planning and coordination among national, regional, and local levels
- ❖ Establish technical committees
- ❖ Support policies of inclusion of gender diversity, indigenous groups, and marginalized groups
- ❖ Encourage civil society participation as a key element of decentralization

Inter-institutional coordination, information sharing, and networking in Mexico

- ❖ Inter-Institutional Reproductive Health Group – 1995
- ❖ Coordinate and integrate distinct programs with RH
 - Inter-institutional and inter-sectoral actions for RH
 - Monitoring of policies, norms, and procedures
 - Research on RH
- ❖ Support from the Commission on Equity and Gender
- ❖ Linkage with the National Health Council



Mobilizing public and private sector resources for FP

- ❖ Designate contraceptives as “strategic commodities”
- ❖ Establish a contraceptive budget line item at the decentralized level
- ❖ Introduce formulas/guidelines to ensure allocations for FP/RH
- ❖ Earmark funding for contraceptives through policies and regulations
- ❖ Mobilize resources through alternative financing mechanisms
- ❖ Reduce inefficiencies by clarifying responsibilities of different levels of government
- ❖ Work collaboratively with public, private, and NGO sectors at the local level

Mobilizing resources for family planning through social insurance and poverty reduction programs in Mexico

- Management, storage, and distribution of contraceptives

State budget for FP

- Capacity building
- Training

National Center for Gender Equity and RH and UNFPA

Mobilize resources for FP (Tabasco State)

Social Protection Program Opportunities (Oportunidades)

- RH 'charlas'
- FP counseling

Social Protection Program of Popular Insurance (Seguro Popular)

- Financial resources
- Contraceptives for the poor

Increasing access to family planning services at the local levels

- ❖ Use strategic approaches to education and information sharing at local levels
- ❖ Involve networks and coalitions in sharing information and best practices
- ❖ Implement outreach services through community-based distribution and mobile clinics
- ❖ Contract out FP services to the private sector and NGOs
- ❖ Use strategic approaches to social participation
 - Multisectoral participatory planning and implementation (health workers, community members, and stakeholders)
 - Advocacy with community leaders and champions
 - Awareness raising of policies and laws governing decentralization

Integrating gender issues and improving the inclusion of indigenous populations in Mexico

- ❖ Social educational program with integrated and culturally appropriate approach to RH family violence
- ❖ Nine marginalized indigenous communities, including Chiapas, Puebla, and Veracruz
- ❖ Objectives:
 - Identifying key necessities in RH, with a gender perspective and attention to family violence
 - Incorporating cultural diversity
 - Increasing the participation of men in decisionmaking on RH/MH
- ❖ Linked with inter-institutional coordination and development of local capacity

In summary.....

- ❖ Design and implementation of decentralization varies with:
 - Different types of decentralization
 - Different decision space changes
- ❖ Support for FP/RH
 - Policy
 - Financing
 - Access
- ❖ Strategic advocacy
 - Different audiences
 - Changing circumstances
- ❖ Information sharing and understanding of best practices

