

# **The 'Last Mile' Challenges of Family Planning and Implications for SDGs attainment**

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# **Family Planning in Bangladesh's Transformation: 3 stories of impact**

- **A story of female empowerment:**
  - Expanding social and economic choice through reduction in TFR (from 6.3 in 1975 to 2.3 in 2014)
- **A story of growth contribution**
  - $\frac{1}{4}$  of incremental economic growth due to population decline
- **A story of communication innovation**
  - Multi-driver and multi-component social campaign approach

# **Commendable progress but new concerns ....**

- **Mission confusion**
- **Entrenched vicious circle:**  
Unmet need – Unwanted pregnancies – Unsafe abortions – Stalled MMR
- **‘Last Mile’ challenges**
- **Adverse implications for realizing ‘Demographic Dividend’ and SDGs**

# FP 2021 commitments & Reality Check

- FP 2021 commitments

- Reality check

- **Reduce Total Fertility Rate (TFR) from 2.3 to 2.0**

- **Increase Contraceptive Prevalence Rate**

- On current TFR, Population to hit 200 million by 2031, most growth will be in the cities and urban slums
- Demographic dividend window likely to close by early 2030s
- Annual rate of increase of CPR has to accelerate from 1.8% per annum to 2.7% per annum
- Exposure to FP messages declined from 47% to 30% during 1994-2014
- Disproportionate shares of unmet need are found among adolescent: 17% unmet need among 15-19 olds in 2014
- 28% of postpartum women have an unmet need for FP
- Rate of unwanted adolescent pregnancies highest in urban slums
- Unexplained jump in individual opposition to contraception among older women (30-49)

## **4 'Last Mile' challenges**

- **Addressing unmet demand among adolescents (15-19)**
- **Re-prioritizing FP social campaign for regional laggards: Chittagong and Sylhet**
- **Service gap for the growing number of urban poor**
- **Better understanding of spike in post-partum pregnancy and among 30+**

# Where are the entry points?

- **Rationalize FP service at the community level with a dual focus on strengthening FP service in community clinics with scope for door-to-door counselling**
- **Renewed information campaign for the 2 laggard regions**
- **Customized service for the urban poor: eg. after-work satellite clinics for counselling and services**
- **Focused program of teacher training on adolescent counselling in educational institutions**
- **Integrating FP services in health facilities to address post-partum pregnancy**
- **Innovations such as use of marriage registrars for couple counselling on FP**
- **Initiate new social campaign with combined focus on prevention of child marriage and linking FP to women empowerment and middle income realization.**

# **Urgency of 3 Policy Re-thinking**

- **Link up the FP agenda to accelerated realization of SDGs**
- **Prioritize the FP agenda on the 'Last Mile' challenges**
- **Refocus the implementation strategy from community versus institution to community and institution**