

WINGS FOR WOMEN REPORTS / 2016

From our partners in Uganda:

WHY there is limited use of contraceptives:

-Myths. There are A LOT of myths surrounding the communities. The people think contraceptives cause cancer, give children deformities, cause you to gain weight, etc. These myths are deeply rooted in their minds and it takes a lot of education to un-myth them.

-Ignorance. Most women have little or no idea on the existence of these services.

-Cost. Cost of getting these services

-Safety. Mistrust of the getting help needed incase something went wrong.

-Most Rural communities are hard to reach and have no public health center facility.

-Unsupportive husbands and families.

-Some women believe in traditional birth control methods. They use particular herbs and sorcery.

The ministry of health offers Family Planning education and services on a small scale. What it does on a larger scale is to partner with local and international organizations to promote and provide education on Family Planning.

There are other organizations offering FP education. Reproductive Health Uganda, Marie Stopes, Health Marketing Group, MildMay among others.

Rachel, our liaison in Uganda, says that what she normally sees is that the above organizations are hired out by government, organizations/ communities/ groups to go and offer education and services to hard to reach areas. The same is what we did with our outreaches.

-These organizations are moving away from just offering FP education to breast and cervical cancer screening, STD management and counseling. These conditions are kind of related.

-These organizations ONLY offer education/ sensitization. In case somebody needs drugs to manage a condition, they are asked to buy for themselves.

We Partnered with Reproductive Health Uganda, a non-profit to a small extent, in the 2016 outreaches or Women's Clinics.

W4W and WID partenering with PBAU Outreaches in 2016:

In May, 14 ladies received free contraceptive implants.

In Sept, 15 ladies received free contraceptive implants.

It was an exciting time for them.

Rachel's Report on the Women's Outreaches WID and Wings for Women partnered with:

How many women attended?

We had over 200 women attend the seminar on September 5-6/2016.

Attendees ages were 14-70 years.

They were in Bunakijja and Lulagwe villages.

What response did we get about teaching?

The teaching was received with enthusiasm. So many questions were asked.

How many women desired the implant and how many actually got the implants?

We had 14 in May and 15 in September get implants.

How and who is following up with the women?

A nurse at our Ntanzi clinic is the major point of contact for the women and incase the problem is bigger than her, (we haven't had any yet) we pay the cost of for a bigger hospital.

When is the next event?

We have applied to visit another site but the leaders there are yet to give us a response .

Challenges encountered?

Wrong age group shows up.

When announcing the event, we invite women and therefore they show up in all ages. After the educational seminar is when most of the women are turned away from receiving the service for being too young or too old or they just had a baby or are in their menses.

Services are meant for women in the reproductive age group.

Late coming.

Timing has been a real problem. These women being located in villages have to cultivate their gardens and make meals for their families first thus coming late.

-Women with same sex children will continue to give birth until the sex changes and those in polygamous marriages give birth out of competition. If the co-wife is pregnant, the other will get pregnant too.

What are the Topics discussed/ Services offered?

Family planning, breast and cervical cancer screening and STI. Several family planning methods were offered which included implant insertion and removal and injection of Depo Provera.

In May, 59 women were screened for breast cancer, 48 for cervical cancer and 21 for STI.

In September, 68 women were screened for cervical cancer, 57 breast examination and 20 screened for Sexually Transmitted Infections and referred for treatment.