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Infographic: Vouchers are Transforming Reproductive Health Access Worldwide

Population Council

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ABOUT VOUCHERS

WHAT IS A VOUCHER?

A voucher is a simple way for women to access quality, essential reproductive health services at low-cost or no-cost.

WHO USES VOUCHERS?

Reproductive health voucher programs target women who, because they are poor or living in rural areas, cannot access the care they need.

WHEN ARE VOUCHERS USED?

Women and couples use vouchers to help them decide when they have children and then ensure that the pregnancy, delivery, and followup are safe.

WHERE ARE VOUCHERS USED?

Reproductive health voucher programs target women who, because they are poor or living in rural areas, cannot access the care they need.

WHY DO WE NEED VOUCHERS?

Nearly **800** women per day, **287,000** per year, die because they don't have proper access to family planning and because they don't receive the care they need during pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum.

LIFETIME RISK OF MATERNAL DEATH

TANZANIA 1 IN 38

UGANDA 1 IN 49

CAMBODIA 1 IN 150

BANGLADESH 1 IN 170

HOW DO VOUCHERS WORK?

Women receive vouchers at low-cost or no cost and redeem them for specific services at their choice of pre-qualified health facility.

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IMPACT OF VOUCHERS

KENYA: TARGETING THE POOR

Vouchers help narrow the access gap between poor and non-poor women.

FACILITY DELIVERY

+5% in Non-Voucher Sites
+13% in Voucher Sites

POSTNATAL CARE

+29% in Non-Voucher Sites
+29% in Voucher Sites

LONG-TERM FAMILY PLANNING

+30% in Non-Voucher Sites
+50% in Voucher Sites

These figures show the uptake of services in voucher sites and comparable non-voucher sites over a 12-month period.

BANGLADESH: CREATING DEMAND FOR SERVICES

Vouchers create demand for life-saving services among those who would not otherwise use these services.

In Bangladesh there were **349,327 SAFE DELIVERIES** thanks to vouchers, between 2009-2011

Among poor women:

Deliveries assisted by a trained provider increased by a factor of **3.7**

Institutional deliveries increased by a factor of **9.0**

UGANDA: INVESTING IN INFRASTRUCTURE

Facilities participating in voucher programs invest more in infrastructure, with some organizations investing in facility upgrades and others investing in improvements to services.

Learn more about reproductive health voucher programs and the impact that they are having at RHVouchers.org

The Population Council with the support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is evaluating the efficacy of using vouchers to improve access to quality reproductive health services for poor women.

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DATA SOURCES

Who uses vouchers? Gorter, Grainger, Okal & Bellows, 2012 • *When are vouchers used?* Ibid.
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