



Rwanda

In 1995, the Ministry of Health of Rwanda began health sector reforms in accordance with the Lusaka Declaration. These reforms included decentralization of the health system, development of the primary healthcare system, and community participation in managing health service financing.

Improved availability of family planning commodities and services is a priority intervention in Rwanda's framework for development, Vision 2020. Rwanda's National Reproductive Health Policy is based on six priority areas: safe motherhood and infant health; family planning; prevention and care of genital infections and sexually transmitted infections (STI) including HIV/AIDS; adolescent reproductive health; prevention and care of sexual violence; and social change for empowerment of women.

Innovations in Policy and Financing

Key policy advances include:

- development of the National Family Planning Policy, in which all government ministries are responsible for developing action plans for population issues;
- increase in Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) to support contraceptive commodity security, including the Ministry of Health's Pharmacy Task Force, which provides free contraceptives through pharmacies and drug shops;
- strengthening public sector service provision (government health centres, hospitals and other public entities), now serving almost 90% of all family planning users.

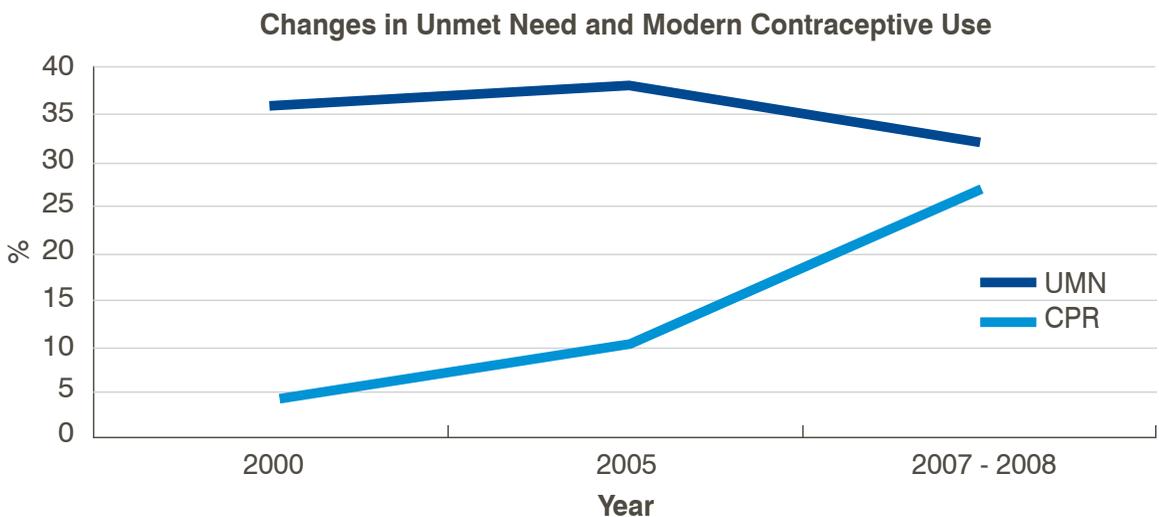
Results

These advances have led to improved outcomes, most notably an increase in modern contraceptive use from 10% in 2005 to 27% in 2007–08.

Challenges

Further efforts are needed towards:

- ensuring contraceptive security, including steady national and donor funding for contraception;
- increasing the share of modern contraceptive methods within the method mix;
- reducing disparities between urban and rural populations;
- provision of services for underserved populations, young and unmarried women.



Source: Rwanda DHS (2005; 2007–08)

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References available at: www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/monitoring/rhr_hrp_11_19



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