

## **Funding for Family Planning Commodities, Challenges and Way Forward**

Family planning is a development tool that is essential for a country's socio-economic progress and prosperity. Ghana's development policy has long recognised the critical need for Family Planning, but the government has always depended on international funding agencies to provide most of the funding for Family Planning in Ghana.

Family planning is the planning of when to have children, and the use of birth control and other techniques to implement such plans. Other techniques commonly used include sexuality education, prevention and management of sexually transmitted infections, pre-conception counseling and management, and infertility management.

In Ghana funding for Family Planning are used to purchase Family Planning Commodities to support Reproductive and Child Health units of the Ghana Health Service and private health facilities providing Family Planning Services. Thus Family Planning commodities are not included in the normal commodity supply chain within the Ghana Health Services.

Furthermore, they are sold at subsidized prices to clients who come to seek Family Planning services. Hence supply and distribution of Family Planning Commodities does not provide enough cost recovery to facilitate reordering of stocks. The foregoing suggests that any reorder needs fresh funding from the Donor Partners and the Ministry Of Health to support the consignment.

### **Benefits of family Planning**

Benefits of Family Planning include reduction of unsafe Abortions, Maternal and Infant mortality.

To achieve MDGs 3, 4, and 5 it is important that are never stocks of any Family Planning commodity especially both male and female condoms which provide dual protection.

### **Funding For Family Planning In Ghana**

In Ghana, Family Planning since its inception in the 1960s have traditionally been paid for by International Funding agencies such as USAID, Dfid, UNFPA, with the government of Ghana contributing a small quota. Funding has dwindled over the years and there is a clarion call for the state to take charge of funding for Family Planning by Planned Parenthood Association in their Book "It is time to take charge" launched earlier in 2010.

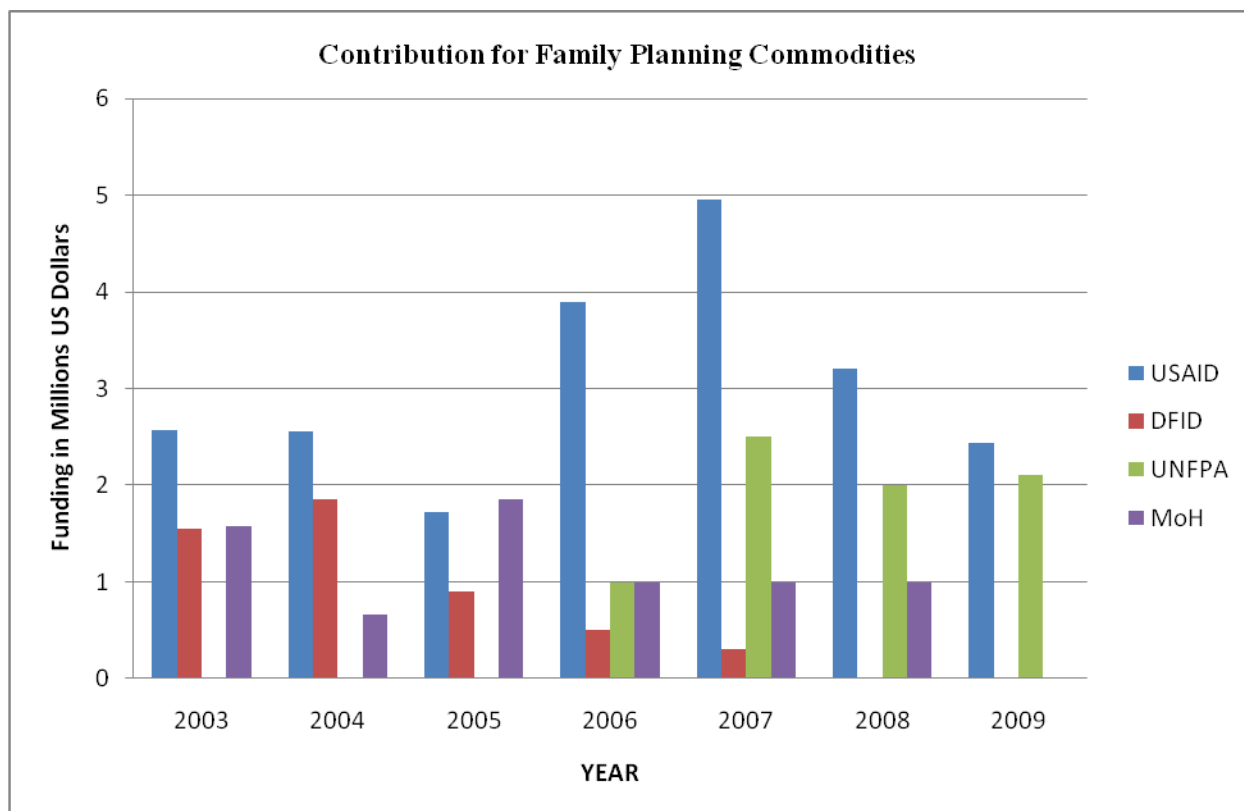
### **Unmet Need for Family Planning**

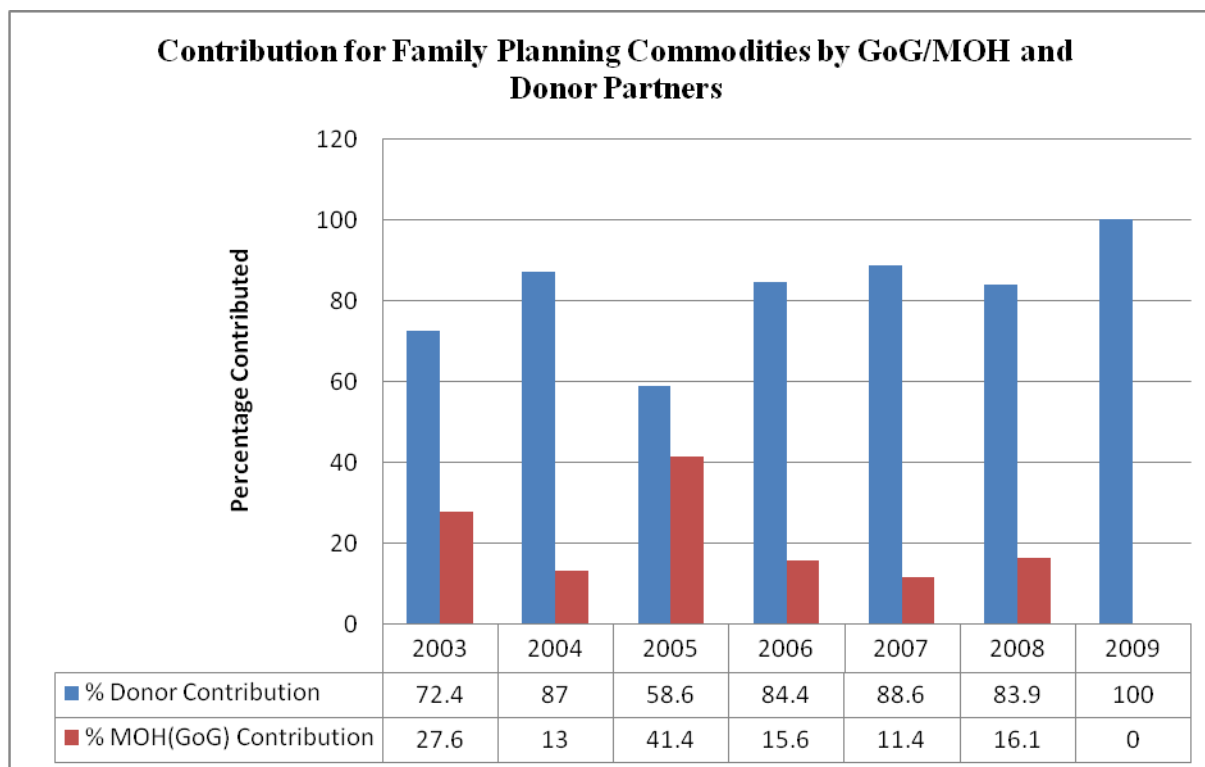
The Ghana Demographic and Health Survey 2008 suggests that unmet needs for contraceptives has risen from 34%-36% from 2003-2008. To address this issue there is the need for Family planning security.

**Table 1: Contribution for Family Planning Commodities for Funding in millions from 2003-2009**

YEAR	USAID (US\$)	DFID (US\$)	UNFPA (US\$)	MoH (US\$)	TOTAL (US\$)	% Donor Contribution	% MOH(GoG) Contribution
2003	2.57	1.55	0	1.57	5.69	72.4	27.6
2004	2.55	1.86	0	0.66	5.07	87.0	13.0
2005	1.72	0.90	0	1.85	4.47	58.6	41.4
2006	3.90	0.50	1.00	1.00	6.40	84.4	15.6
2007	4.95	0.30	2.50	1.00	8.75	88.6	11.4
2008	3.21	0.00	2.00	1.00	6.21	83.9	16.1
2009	2.44	0.00	2.10	0	4.54	100	0.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21.34</b>	<b>5.11</b>	<b>7.60</b>	<b>7.08</b>	<b>41.13</b>	<b>82.8</b>	<b>17.2</b>

Source: Deliver/RHI/UNFPA 2008 Reports, Courtesy PPAG “It is time to take charge”





### GAPS in Funding

As per table 2 below there is a current funding deficit of Ghana is 8.8 million US Dollars. In addition to previous gaps in funding it is important that the Government finds innovative ways of managing funding of Family planning commodities to prevent stock outs.

**Table 2: Table of Requirements and Gaps (2008 – 2010)**

Year	Total Requirement (US\$)	Commitments (US\$)	Funding Gap (US\$)
2008	9.95	6.21	3.74
2009	9.48	4.44	5.04
2010	8.85	0	8.85
2011	7.80	0	7.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36.08</b>	<b>10.65</b>	<b>25.43</b>

Source: Deliver/RHI/UNFPA 2008 Reports, Courtesy PPAG “It is time to take charge”

### **The Role of Private Sector**

Given the minimal funding by government, it is important that the government of Ghana encourages others to support the funding. One way of ensuring this is to include Family Planning Commodities into the National Health Insurance Scheme. Also, It is therefore important that the government encourages private sector participation in the manufacture of Family Planning commodities. This action could prevent stock out of commodities. In addition to promoting sustainability of Family Planning could also provide job opportunities. However, it is important to start now

### **Conclusion**

Family Planning as a development tool is essential for a country to ensure prosperity in the socio-economic development in the country. It is anticipated that adequate and alternative funding by the government of Ghana would build a stronger happy bond of family with concomitant responsible parents who have had children by choice and not by chance. A government that believes in a better Ghana and investing in people should invest in Family Planning.

### **Reference:**

1. "It is Time to take Charge" An advocacy strategy for Reproductive Health supplies in Ghana PPAG 2010.
2. Ghana Demographic and Survey Health (GDHS) 2003-2008
3. Deliver /Reproductive Health International/ UNFPA reports 2008