

POPULATION COUNCIL RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION

Emergency contraceptive pills (ECPs) are contraceptives taken after unprotected intercourse or contraceptive failure (such as condom breakage) to prevent unplanned pregnancy.

- The Population Council has played a critical role in the introduction of emergency contraceptive pills into national family planning programs and essential drug lists in a number of developing countries. Our collaboration at the ministerial level with Bangladesh, India, Mexico, Nepal, and other countries^{i, ii, iii} has helped make policy more evidence-based, encouraged over-the-counter access, increased awareness among providers, and encouraged distribution within the public sector. Our assistance has demonstrably increased women's access to ECPs.
- The Population Council has expanded the availability of quality ECP services for women by training thousands of health professionals in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, increasing their knowledge and awareness of ECPs and educating them about proper distribution and counseling techniques^{iv, v}.
- The Population Council has documented successful ECP provision by a range of health care providers.^{vi, vii} We have encouraged the distribution of ECPs at multiple health system levels, including provision and counseling by physicians, paramedics, pharmacists, and community workers. This diversity of service delivery has helped increase women's access to ECPs, particularly in rural settings.
- The Population Council has spearheaded information, education, and communication (IEC) programs. We have focused on increasing awareness about ECPs among potential users and providers, correcting misunderstandings and myths, and improving communication between potential users and providers. Our efforts have included mass-media



The Population Council has encouraged the distribution of ECPs at multiple health system levels, including pharmacies.

campaigns and the creation of a variety of communication approaches, such as the *ECAfrique* newsletter and a telephone hotline for young people.

- The Population Council's operations research findings and lengthy experience in ECP programs have led us to produce ECP training manuals and a handbook. These manuals and comprehensive handbook help to train providers and assist in the initiation and expansion of ECP provision in developing countries.^{viii, ix}
- The Population Council is a leader in the International Consortium for Emergency Contraception (ICEC) steering committee.* The ICEC unites a number of international organizations with an overall mission to increase access to emergency contraception worldwide. The ICEC also works to ensure the safe and locally appropriate use of emergency contraception within comprehensive family planning and reproductive health services.
- The Population Council collaborates with policymakers, program managers, and other stakeholders, advocating evidence-based policies and programs to increase women's access to ECPs and improve women's health.

* International Consortium for Emergency Contraception (ICEC). <http://www.cecinfo.org/>

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">i FRONTIERS Project: Introducing Emergency Contraception (EC) in Bangladesh.
www.popcouncil.org/frontiers/projects/ane/Bangl_ECPScaleup.htmii FRONTIERS Project: Strengthening Emergency Contraception in Nepal.
www.popcouncil.org/frontiers/projects/ane/Nepal_EC.htmiii FRONTIERS Project: Introduction of Emergency Contraception into Ministry of Health Programs.
www.popcouncil.org/frontiers/projects/ane/Pakistan_EC.htmliv FRONTIERS Project: Dissemination of Knowledge of Emergency Contraception (EC) Among Service and Factory Workers.
www.popcouncil.org/frontiers/projects/lac/Mexico_EC.htmv FRONTIERS Project: Training Latin American Ministry of Health Service Providers on Emergency Contraception.
www.popcouncil.org/frontiers/projects/lac/LAC_EC.htmvi Kumar S, Chander S, Gupta NK, Roy M, Khan ME, Sebastian MP, Idnani R, Bhargava A, Salvi V. "Provision of emergency contraceptive services through paraprofessionals in India," <i>FRONTIERS Final Report</i>. Washington, DC: Population Council. November 2007 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">vii FRONTIERS Project: Technical Assistance for Studying the Utilization of Emergency Contraceptive (EC) Services through Paramedics.
www.popcouncil.org/frontiers/projects/ane/India_ECParamedics.htmlviii Khan ME, Hossain SMI, Rahman M. Introduction of Emergency Contraceptives in Bangladesh: Using Operations Research for Policy Decisions. Washington DC: Frontiers/Population Council. December 2004ix FRONTIERS Project: Production of an Emergency Contraception Guidance Tool and Summary Article.
www.popcouncil.org/frontiers/projects/interreg/Interreg_EC.htm |
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**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE POPULATION COUNCIL'S
WORK ON EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION,
PLEASE VISIT WWW.POPCOUNCIL.ORG/RH/EC.HTML**