Burden of abortion and post-abortion care costs: risks faced by low income households in Burkina Faso

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Background (1)

• 53 millions pregnancies end-up legally or illegally each year (Henshaw SK, 1996)
• 20 millions are unsafe abortion (WHO, 2005)
• High prevalence rate of unsafe abortion in SSA with 18-39/1000 (Rasch 2011)
• In Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), 40 out of 1000 women will have unsafe abortion (Rossier et al. 2006)
• 60% of these women will suffer from complications necessitating emergency treatment
• Previous studies highlighted medium to high households costs of abortion and post abortion care
Background (2)

- Nigeria: abortion costs to household estimated between US$26-95 (Henshaw et al. 2008)
- India: abortion costs to household estimated between US$11-22 (Sundar 2004)
- Pakistan: abortion costs to household estimated between US$20-560 (Rehan 2011)
- Costs are sensitive to different parameters
- **Hypothesis**: high costs of abortion and post abortion care in Burkina Faso?
- Studies in Burkina still have focused on socio-medical aspects
- We are left on a empty knowledge on the subject
Objective

To assess the cost and cost burden to women and their households of abortion and post-abortion care in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
Methods (1)

• We did a prospective study
• Data collected from April to May 2011
• Cases were identified by health personnel then referred to us
• We included both spontaneous and provoked abortion cases
• We obtained women consents in hospital for interviews
• We conducted community interviews with women by retrieving them at least 2 weeks later
Methods (2)

• Structured pilot tested questionnaire was used for data collection
• Sociodemographic characteristics
• Household composition, convenience and possession of some assets
• Direct and indirect costs of abortion and post abortion collected
• Coping strategies used by women and/or household to cope vis-a-vis costs
• Costs data collected by interviewing women or husband/male partner or accompany person (with consent)
• Clearances of norwegian and burkina ethics committees
Preliminary results (1)
## Preliminary results (2)

Table 1: Household cost of abortion and PAC in US$

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of abortion</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sample size</td>
<td>38</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>28.50</td>
<td>[19 – 42]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age induced abortion group</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>[23 – 29]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age spontaneous group</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>[19 – 42]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spontaneous abortion</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>[0 – 319]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAC cost</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>[0 – 319]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Induced abortion</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>[222 – 239]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abortion cost</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>[67- 192]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAC cost</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>[90- 200]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Preliminary results (3)

Coping strategies used by women and/or household to cope with abortion, PAC costs
• Borrowing from relatives and other household members
• Selling agricultural products
• Selling animals
• Women reducing their expenses and households expenses
• Using household savings still exhaustion
• Borrowing from banks
• Selling household assets
• Selling lands
Discussion

• High abortion and post abortion care costs
• Consistent with other studies (Rehan 2011)
• High burden on women and households (min wage EDS 2003 US$70)
• Do not include economic costs due to ill period!
• Distributive equity issues still to address!
Conclusion

• Accessibility to abortion can reduce cost and cost burden
• Promote contraceptive methods can reduce cost burden
• Assess economic loss following societal perspective
Thank you for your attention!