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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FAMILY PLANNING
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2022 International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP)
Key Messages

About Thailand's Family Planning Commitment

- Thailand, through its partnerships with local organizations, political will of the government, and bold imagination in designing its family planning program, increased contraceptive use among all women from 15 to 70 percent since passing its national population policy in 1971. What started as a pilot study among rural women transformed into a full-fledged national family planning program over the two decades following its implementation, reducing the population total fertility rate from 6.1 to 1.5.
- Thailand's family planning program has been so successful, in part, because of the novel ways in which it popularized family planning early in its launch (*wherever you see cabbages you see condoms*), and the critical role that the government played in making services available closer to the people, especially through district hospitals linked to community-based programs.
- Thailand illustrates to other low- to middle-income countries the great strides that are possible in reproductive health, HIV, and other development indicators.
- The availability and accessibility to family planning services has greatly contributed to the success of Thailand's FP program. All government hospitals have a family planning clinic, and midwives, nurses, and doctors all receive family planning training. The Thai population program has evolved from a purely family planning contraceptive service to a community development program designed to improve the productivity of individuals. This could be a model for many other countries.
- This strong and determined community-supported model also helped to stem the rapid spread of HIV in Thailand, which has experienced a 90 percent decline in new HIV infections since the start of the epidemic.
- Situating the 2022 ICFP in Thailand at this critical juncture allows us to learn from Thailand's successful family planning and reproductive health programs that showcase what is possible when government, public health groups, and civil society organizations work in tandem on health, rights, and poverty issues and invest in women by investing in family planning. The 2018 ICFP theme, "Investing for a Lifetime of Returns," highlighted the multitude of ways countries can benefit when they consider the economic implications of population growth, as Thailand has over the last four decades.