

USAID GLOBAL HEALTH SUPPLY CHAIN PROGRAM  
Procurement and Supply Management

# Protecting Access to Contraceptives during COVID-19: An Assessment of Supply Chain Resilience in over 40 countries

October 2023 – Suzanne Gold, Isadora Vigier de Latour, Mohab Dawoud

CONTRACEPTIVE SECURITY  
INDICATORS SURVEY



Photo: GHSC-PSM



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

# Contents

- Contraceptive Security (CS) Indicators Survey: Background and purpose
- 2021 COVID-19 impact:
  - Quantitative findings
  - Qualitative findings: How did COVID-19 impact FP access, and how did countries respond?
- Promising Practices
- Current status of resiliency-building practices
- Conclusions

# Background

## CONTRACEPTIVE SECURITY INDICATORS SURVEY



### Purpose:

Enables decision makers in countries and the global health community to monitor progress toward CS, inform program planning, and advocate for improved policies and resources.

➤ More than **100 quantitative** and **qualitative** indicators covering:

- Leadership/coordination
- Finance/procurement
- Commodities
- Policy
- Supply chain
- Product quality
- Private sector engagement
- Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on FP

Data collected in 63 countries between 2010-2021



- National-level assessment of a country's policies and practices related to access to contraceptives
- Developed by the USAID | DELIVER Project; first conducted in 2010
- Currently implemented by USAID Global Health Supply Chain (GHSC-PSM) project every 2 years

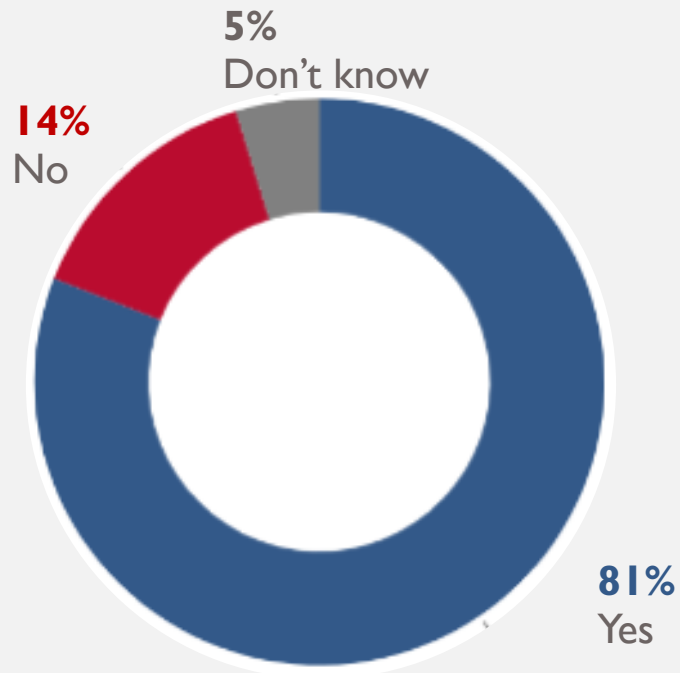


# COVID-19 Impact: Quantitative Findings from 2021 CS Indicators Survey

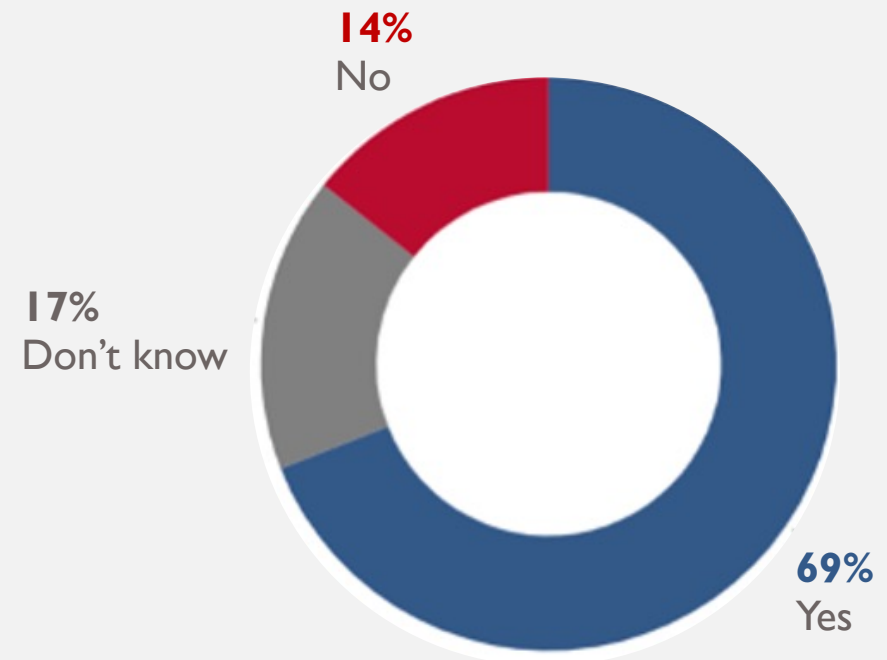
# As of 2021, most countries had an emergency plan with measures to protect family planning services



% Countries with a pandemic-related emergency preparedness plan (that includes impact on FP)



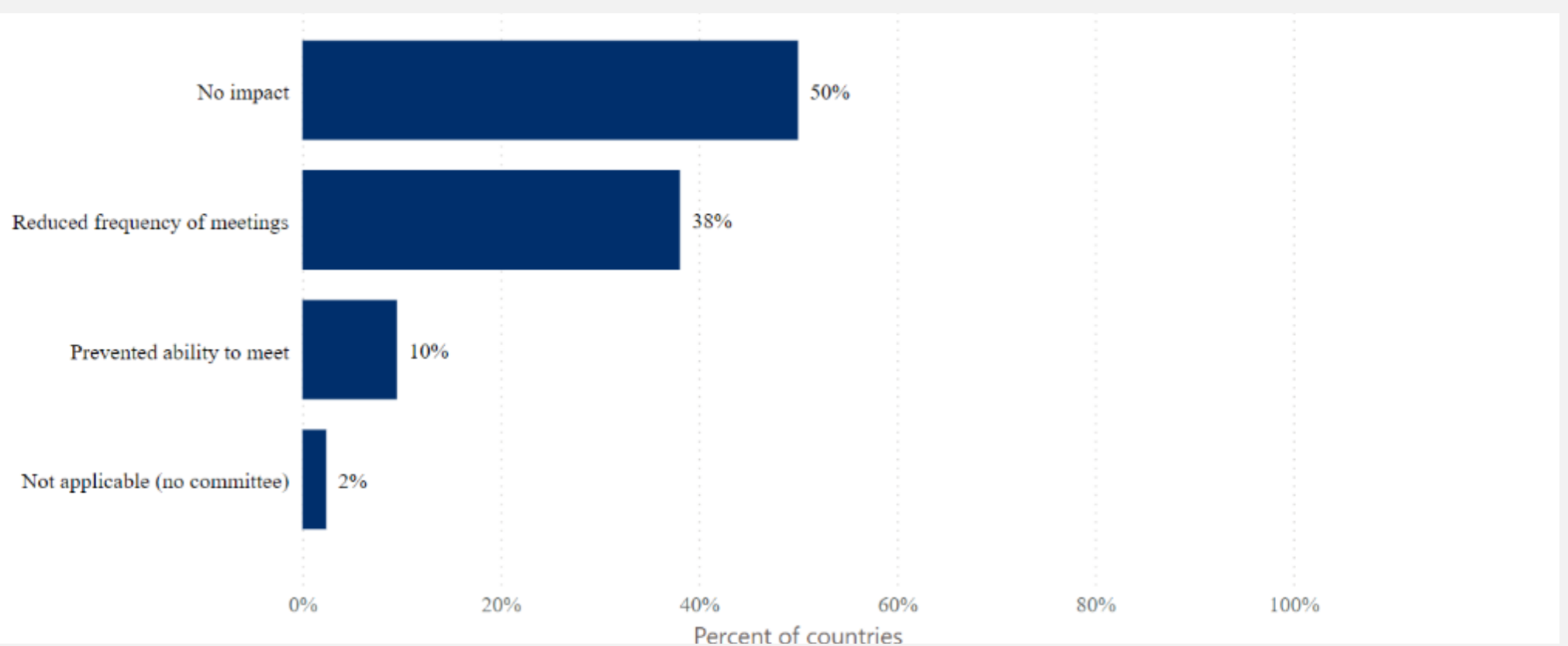
% Countries with a non-pandemic-related emergency preparedness plan (that includes impact on FP)



# Most contraceptive security committees continued to meet in 2020, but some met less frequently



Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on frequency of CS committee meetings in 2020

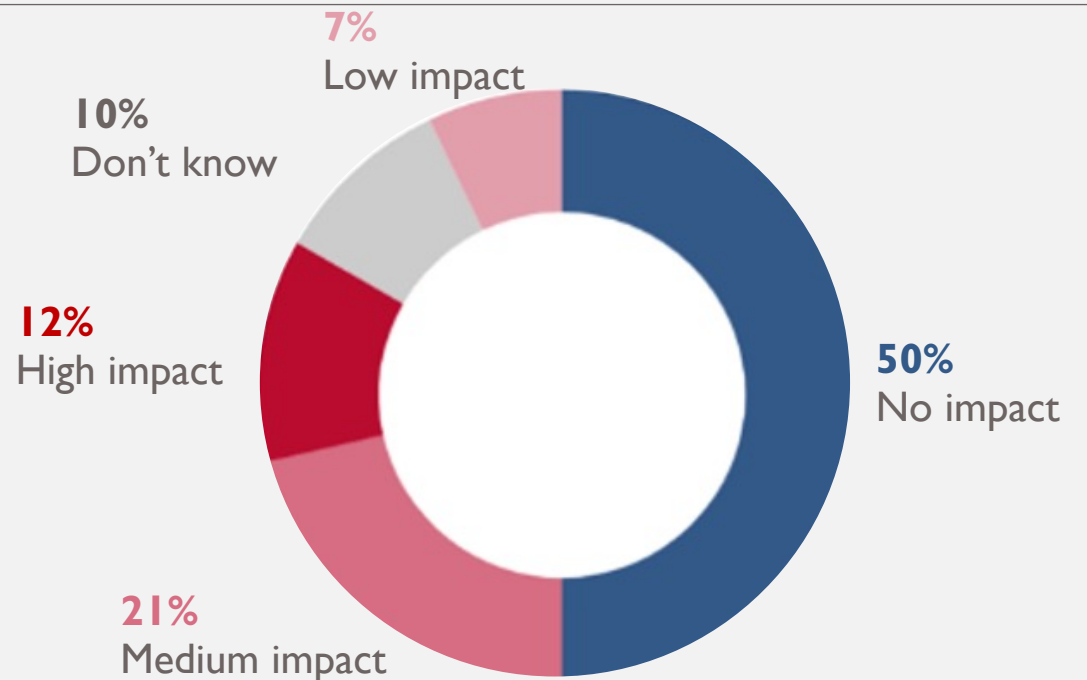
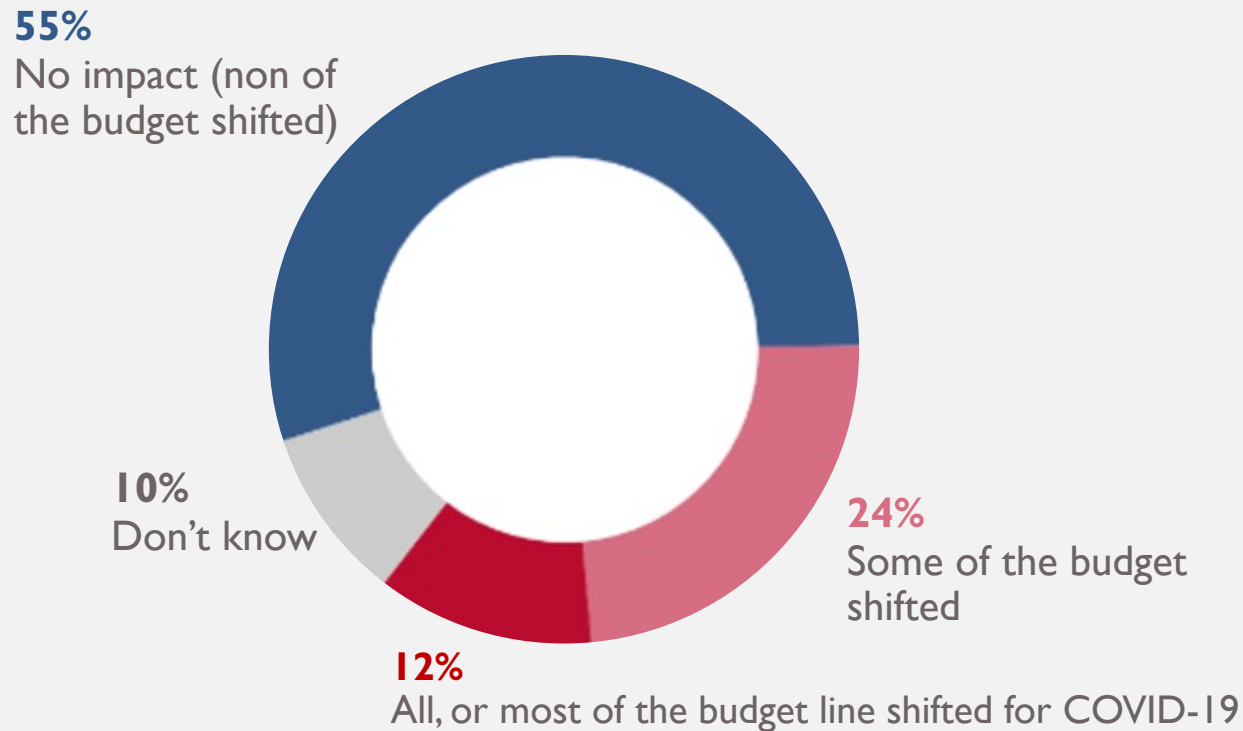


# Only 5 countries reported that COVID-19 severely impacted their domestic budget for contraceptives



Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the approved budget line for contraceptives

Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the amount of government spending for contraceptives



# COVID-19 Impact: Qualitative Findings from 2021 CS Indicators Survey

How did countries protect access to family planning during the COVID-19 pandemic?



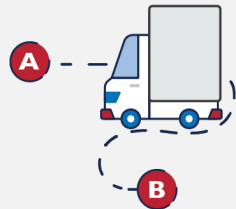
# What COVID-19 disruptions were reported?

## Upstream to downstream impacts



### Global level

- Global supply chain disruptions
- Financial challenges



### National level

- In-country supply chain disruptions
- Financial challenges
- Reduction in face-to-face coordination meetings



### Health facility level

- Personnel shortages, overwhelmed facilities
- Ineffective/underperforming technology platforms
- Personnel not experienced in online counseling/use of telehealth technology



### Community and client level

- Reduction in large gatherings
- Suspension of some FP promotion and dissemination activities
- Clients fearful of going to health facilities
- Reduction in FP commodity demand

# Overcoming supply chain challenges

## Disruptions from COVID-19 pandemic



## Resilience building practices

- **Global supply chain challenges**
  - **Financial challenges**
  - **In-country supply chain disruptions**
  - **Personnel shortages, overwhelmed facilities**
  - **Challenges with telehealth technology and online counseling**
  - **Reduction in large gatherings**
  - **Clients fearful of going to health facilities**
- Enhanced coordination and risk management
  - Advocated to prioritize FP funding/commodity supply, allowed decentralized financing
  - Analyzed risks, allowed decentralized procurement, alleviated bottlenecks through more frequent resupply, etc.
  - Task shifting and task sharing, multi-month dispensing, integrated contraceptives with other health services
  - Trained providers in online counseling, upgraded telehealth platforms
  - Telehealth, mobile clinics, community and home-based distribution, small group consultations, self-care, used mass communication channels to note health facility safety measures, allowed emergency contraception without facility visit, free products offered

# Promising Practices – Policy & Finance



Advocate for a larger share of **domestic financing of contraceptives**



Allow for **flexible policies**

- Task shifting and sharing
- Multi-month dispensing
- Self-care options – community-based distribution of injectables
- Integrate the offer of contraceptives into other health services
- Promote long-term FP methods
- Facilitate access to emergency contraception

# Promising Practices – Structural



Build structures for **coordination** and **risk management** (across partners, sectors, geography, and health system levels)



Build **robust data platforms** (LMIS)



Strengthen **telehealth platforms**



Expand **mobile clinics**



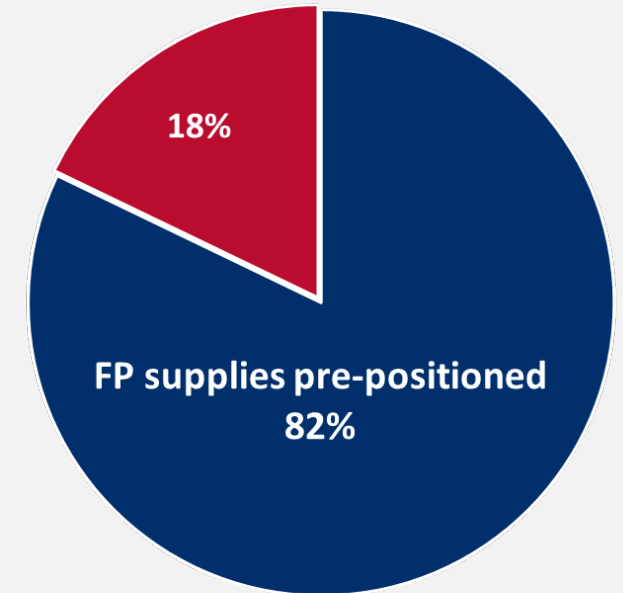
Use existing **mass media channels** to communicate alternative access points/health facility status and safety measures

# Current status of resiliency-building practices

## 2023 CS Indicators Survey

Most of the resiliency-building practices implemented during the peak of COVID-19 have been **maintained**

More than **80%** of responding countries have FP supplies pre-positioned in case of future emergencies



# Contraceptive Security = Resilient Systems



A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a blister pack of pills. The person is wearing a white lab coat. The blister pack contains several rows of white and red pills. The background is blurred, showing a desk with papers and a computer monitor.

# Thank you!

**To learn more and explore survey data, please visit:**

<https://www.ghsupplychain.org/CSI-Survey-Landing-Page>

The USAID Global Health Supply Chain Program-Procurement and Supply Management (GHSC-PSM) project is funded under USAID Contract No.AID-OAA-I-15-0004. GHSC-PSM connects technical solutions and proven commercial processes to promote efficient and cost-effective health supply chains worldwide. Our goal is to ensure uninterrupted supplies of health commodities to save lives and create a healthier future for all. The project purchases and delivers health commodities, offers comprehensive technical assistance to strengthen national supply chain systems, and provides global supply chain leadership. For more information, visit [ghsupplychain.org](https://www.ghsupplychain.org).

The views expressed in this presentation do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the U.S. government.