The availability and use of condoms and lubricants is essential for preventing the spread of Sexually Transmitted Infections (HIV and STIs) and unplanned pregnancies. In recent times, experts have sought to draw the attention of policy and decision-makers to the strong linkage between family planning (including condom use) and development. In Ghana, this recognition has led to the development of several national policies, plans and strategies. Unfortunately, this knowledge has not been effectively translated into sustainable programming to expand family planning services including condom use. Thus, while there is almost universal knowledge of family planning in Ghana, uptake is relatively low.

The National Condom and Lubricant Strategy (NCLS) 2016-2020, represents the Government of Ghana’s commitment to ensure quality sexual and reproductive health for all Ghanaians. This is critical given the dual protection condoms provide. The NCLS will support the decrease of HIV and STIs; increase access to condoms (male and female) and lubricants, and foster a supportive social and political environment for HIV and FP programming prevention in the country.

The Strategy is aligned to existing national strategic frameworks, in particular, the National Strategic Plan for HIV and AIDS (2011–2015); the National Strategic Plan for Most At Risk Populations (2011–2015) and the National Reproductive Health Commodity Security (RHCS) Strategy (2011–2016). It specifies the complementary roles of all partners in ensuring an effective, sustained programme to grow the condom and lubricant market to meet the demands of different segments of the sexually active Ghanaian population.
THEMATIC AREAS

In keeping with the globally accepted Comprehensive Condom Programming (CCP) framework, the NCLS is structured under five (5) thematic areas:

1. Leadership, coordination and partnership
2. Demand, access and utilisation
3. Supply and commodity security
4. Programming support and services
5. Financing

LEADERSHIP, COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIP

To improve the environment for condom and lubricant programming

Create a leadership, coordination and policy environment that supports and ensures availability of condoms and lubricants to the population in Ghana.

- Strong policies, focused strategies and clear written processes to provide an enabling environment in which to operate a comprehensive condom programme.
- Strengthened leadership and coordination of comprehensive condom programming.
- Harmonised roles and responsibilities.

SUPPLY AND COMMODITY SECURITY

To guarantee the timely and continuous supply of condoms and lubricants

Develop evidence-based programmes, with focused promotion and distribution, encompassing free, subsidised and commercial condoms for maximum coverage and efficiency.

- Condoms (male & female) and lubricant supply chain strengthened to enable smooth distribution and flow from the central level right down to the end user.
- Robust methodologies used for routine condom and lubricant quantification and procure of needs.

PROGRAMMING SUPPORT AND SERVICES

To establish a national mechanism for comprehensive condom programming

Improve national level planning and management of resources to ensure availability and use of safe and effective condoms and lubricants to all sections of the population based on an equitable distribution criteria.

- Functional strong coordination and other support services to provide a supportive environment for CCP.
- Improved public, private and social marketing sector involvement in condom (male and female) and lubricant programming.

FINANCING

To ensure sustainable funding for comprehensive condom programming

Improve funding to ensure availability and use of safe and effective condoms and lubricants to all sections of the population.

- Expanded and sustained funding for comprehensive condom programming in country.
- A functional national mechanism for comprehensive condom programming.

ANNUAL COSTS

The Strategy recognises that condom programming requires more than just financing for commodities; there must also be funding for promotion activities, behaviour change communications activities, operational costs, capacity building, as well as research, monitoring and evaluation. Funding must also take into account critical supply chain components such as: intensified female condom roll-out, appropriate warehousing, transportation, logistics, staff development, waste management and a strong Logistics Management Information System.

The estimated total budget for implementing the NCLS is approximately 2,956,799 U.S. Dollars.

Estimated Total Budget (US $) For Implementing Ghana’s Comprehensive Condom and Lubricant Programming over the Next Five Years (2016-2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THEMATIC AREAS</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leadership, Coordination &amp; Partnership</td>
<td>149,839</td>
<td>105,626</td>
<td>58,625</td>
<td>60,090</td>
<td>61,593</td>
<td>435,773</td>
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<tr>
<td>Demand, Access &amp; Utilisation</td>
<td>578,120</td>
<td>384,431</td>
<td>236,496</td>
<td>242,408</td>
<td>273,503</td>
<td>1,714,958</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Market Approach</td>
<td>88,100</td>
<td>11,480</td>
<td>11,767</td>
<td>12,061</td>
<td>8,058</td>
<td>131,466</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supply &amp; Commodity Security</td>
<td>96,700</td>
<td>81,180</td>
<td>87,727</td>
<td>85,290</td>
<td>92,168</td>
<td>443,065</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programming &amp; Support Services</td>
<td>51,320</td>
<td>27,365</td>
<td>27,947</td>
<td>28,645</td>
<td>29,361</td>
<td>164,538</td>
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<td>Financing</td>
<td>25,440</td>
<td>41,559</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>66,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>989,519</td>
<td>651,541</td>
<td>422,561</td>
<td>428,495</td>
<td>464,683</td>
<td>2,956,799</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Government of Ghana, while committed to implementing the NCLS, recognises the role of various stakeholders in the attainment of national health and socio-economic development priorities. The Ministry of Health is grateful to all stakeholders who have been part of the development of this strategy and calls for their continued engagement in the implementation of the NCLS. It is important to note that, this strategy is to be used hand-in-hand with the Ghana Family Planning Costed Implementation Plan (GFP-CIP), 2016 - 2020 which in particular provides details of strategies and costs for condoms in the context of family planning.