

INDIA

Spotlight on Family Planning: Tracking Progress on the FP2020 Pledges

The Spotlight on Family Planning series offers a snapshot on progress governments have made in delivering on their FP2020 pledges, made at the London 2012 Family Planning Summit.

The Family Planning Association of India (FPA India), the IPPF Member Association in India) and other civil society organizations (CSOs) have identified a number of 'high priority' pledges: progress towards these pledges is critical for increasing access to modern family planning (FP) methods. The table shows achievements and failures in delivering on these promises.



India's FP2020 pledges

Government of India's progress on its FP2020 pledges

What has civil society achieved?

Provide family planning supplies free of cost to 200 million couples

- Provides family planning supplies free of cost through public health facilities and has revised its strategies to involve the community in meaningful ways.
- For example, public health services in Jharkhand state now offer a wider range of contraceptive methods and promote informed choice. Jharkhand state has introduced measures to involve community stakeholders in health services.
- Approved the introduction of an injectable contraception in the public FP programme in 2015.

- FPA India and CSOs advocated to the government to offer injectable contraceptives through public health services and for effective and safe family planning supplies to be kept affordable, through public and private health facilities.
- FPA India estimates that its advocacy has resulted in 3 million people accessing family planning services for the first time, by the end of 2013.

Provide family planning supplies free of cost to 234 million adolescents

- Launched the National Adolescent Strategy (2014) and published the draft National Health Policy in 2015, which has a focus on adolescent health.
- Failed to track unmet need for contraception among unmarried women and adolescents.
- Many state governments have introduced comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) programmes (including content on FP) for adolescents, both in and out of school.
- The states of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh have banned CSE because of the term 'sexuality'.

- FPA India, government policy makers and National Service Scheme Officers formed Red Ribbon Clubs for young women to increase their access to sexual and reproductive health services, including family planning.
- FPA India and other CSOs advocated to the government to make Adolescent Reproductive Health Clinics more youth friendly.
- FPA India and other CSOs advocated for the public provision of comprehensive sexuality education.

Create physical infrastructure that strengthens health systems

- Finished constructing 35 new district hospitals (2014), 287 community health centres, 936 primary health centres and 12,068 health sub-centres. Construction has begun on many more new facilities, and thousands of existing facilities are being renovated and updated.
- Established Adolescent Reproductive Health Clinics in government hospitals across the country, but adolescents' use of these clinics is limited due to inconvenient hours, judgmental attitudes among service providers, poor monitoring and lack of accountability systems.

- FPA India and other civil society organizations (CSOs) advocated for increased government investment in health facilities, equipment and infrastructure.
- FPA India established Adolescent Friendly Health Centres and advocates to the government to address young people's needs.

Ensure that essential medicines are available in the most remote areas

- Over 820,000 Accredited Social Health Activists have been trained, hired for positions in under-served areas and equipped with drug kits.
- Committed to equip 50,000 Accredited Social Health Activists with drug kits, to hire 3,200 new nurse midwives to staff health sub-centres, and to build 800 new health sub-centres, among other measures.

- FPA India and other CSOs advocate to government Accredited Social Health Activists to ensure that essential medicines are reaching the most remote areas.
- FPA India with other CSOs advocated to government to expand the range of FP methods available in remote areas.

Gaps in the FP2020 pledges and recommendations for government action

The government has made some progress towards its pledges, but existing efforts are not enough to deliver on its promises by 2020. In addition, other problems and gaps have emerged. The government must address these problems urgently.

Civil society calls on the government to:

- 1 **Increase the budget allocation for young people's sexual and reproductive health services**, including family planning, to reduce unmet need in this under-served group.
- 2 **Engage civil society organizations at every stage of health service delivery**, from strategic planning through to evaluation. Currently, civil society engagement often occurs only from the implementation stage.
- 3 **Invest resources to monitor and improve the quality of care in public health services**, to promote client-centered, non-discriminatory and confidential care to all.

Where we are now

Indicator measure in 2013¹



38.7% CPR (modern methods)
(decline of 0.5% from 2012)



36,116,000 unintended pregnancies averted
(increase of 870,000 from 2012)



20.3% of married women have
an unmet need for family planning
(0% change from 2012)

FPA India's contribution to SRH services

FPA India fulfills an important role in meeting demand for SRH services. For example:



FPA India provided 770,406 couple years protection in 2014



FPA India services resulted in 378,220 unintended pregnancies being averted in 2014



FPA India provided family planning services to 214,300 new users in 2014, a 38% increase from 2013

Stories from the field



"FPA India field workers educated us about contraceptive methods like IUDs and even handed out birth control pills and condoms. Earlier, husband and wife would keep trying till they bore a son," explained Ratnabai about previous attitudes towards family planning in her rural village. "But the field workers gave us examples of actors like Sachin Pilgaonkar, who has a single child, a daughter... they told us about women who have become doctors and lawyers. We realized that even girls are capable of achieving." Ratnabai continued, "Still, who will listen to the woman of the house alone?"

FPA India also conducted meetings with the men in the village. With husbands and wives side by side, family planning discussion was smooth and without opposition. Couples started waiting until the first child grew up to have another.

"Today, no matter if we have two sons or two daughters, most families in the village will stop at two children," observes Ratnabai.

¹ Avenir Health (nd) Track20. Available from: www.track20.org. [Accessed: 25/08/2015].

Joining Voices is an advocacy project that aims to safeguard and strengthen financial commitments to reproductive health and family planning, and reinforce political leadership on universal access. *Joining Voices* is facilitated on behalf of civil society by IPPF and the Countdown 2015 Europe Consortium, led by IPPF European Network.

For more information about FPA India: www.fpaindia.org

For more information about Joining Voices: www.joiningvoices2020.org

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