

ZAMBIA

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 Planned Parenthood Association of Zambia (PPAZ, the IPPF Member Association in Zambia) 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 methods. The table shows achievements and failures in delivering on these promises.



Zambia's FP2020 pledges

Government of Zambia's progress on its FP2020 pledges

What has civil society achieved?

Expand family planning method mix and increase access

- Developed a national training database for long-acting and reversible contraceptive methods (LARCs) and a database of all trained providers.
- Trained over 500 health workers to deliver LARCs in 2014. Currently, 40% of facilities have at least one person trained on LARCs.¹

- PPAZ and other CSOs built capacity of over 300 community volunteers for FP in underserved areas.
- PPAZ trained 271 health providers from 14 districts on commodity logistics, procurement and management in 2014, in collaboration with DFID and UNFPA.

Support task shifting among community health workers to increase access to family planning and increase demand by engaging with religious and traditional leaders

- Announced guidance to support community-based distributors (CBDs) to deliver injectable contraceptives.
- In the process of engaging with religious and traditional leaders to reduce socio-cultural barriers to family planning.

- From 2013, CSOs successfully advocated for policy change to allow CBDs to administer injectable contraceptives.
- FHI 360 piloted a project to demonstrate that CBDs have the capacity to offer injectable contraceptives. The process is being reviewed by the Ministry of Community Development, Mother and Child Health (MCDMCH) and Medical Professional bodies
- CSOs are supporting task shifting by developing guidelines, a reporting system and a training curriculum, which are awaiting approval by the MCDMCH.

Utilize sub-district structures to generate demand for family planning

- Built demand for family planning between 2012 and 2013 by hosting dialogues and distributing information, education and communication (IEC) materials.
- Working at district level, hosted road shows and community dramas, conducted peer education and public talks, in partnership with UNFPA.

- PPAZ, with support from UNFPA, developed a network of champions for FP to conduct outreach activities in eight districts. These champions are raising awareness about the benefits of FP at national and district levels, including among traditional leaders.
- PPAZ distributed IEC materials to generate demand for family planning, particularly among young people and women.

¹ Source: Zambia Demographic and Health Survey 2013–14

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 Demonstrate that family planning is a top priority on its development agenda** by allocating more resources towards family planning. Currently, there are a lot of competing priorities resulting in fewer resources for family planning. Increases to the family planning budget should be sustained in subsequent budgets and the government should consult with civil society to decide how these resources can be used most effectively.
- 2 Create a dedicated budget line for family planning** to ensure that resources are appropriately distributed and used for family planning. CSOs must be involved in the discussion to help formulate clear aims for family planning funding that are informed by their experiences in communities, with the people who need access to services.
- 3 Allocate government staff and resources to engage with religious and traditional leaders and communities**, particularly in the poorest and most under-served areas, to reduce socio-cultural barriers to family planning.

Where we are now

The following nationwide statistics¹ reflect, in part, recent government improvements to family planning services.

Indicator measure in 2013



25.7% CPR (modern methods)
(increase of 0.9% from 2012)



180,000 unintended pregnancies averted
(increase of 12,000 from 2012)



35% of married women have an unmet need for family planning
(decline of 0.7% from 2012)

Method mix in 2013



Oral contraceptive: 30%



Injectable: 25%



Condoms: 20%



Long-acting contraceptives: 17%

PPAZ's contribution to SRH services

PPAZ fulfills an important role in meeting demand for sexual reproductive health services. For example:



PPAZ provided 54,556 couple years protection in 2014, a 47% increase from 2013



PPAZ services resulted in 19,302 unintended pregnancies being averted in 2014, a 58% increase from 2013



PPAZ provided family planning services to 18,714 new users in 2014, a 19% increase from 2013

Stories from the field



"I learned about PPAZ's family planning services through my local health facility. I decided to look into family planning to support my wife. It was not easy for us to plan the number of children we wanted to have, and it was stressful for both of us. It has been six years now that we have been using family planning. The nurses at the family planning service provided all the information and supplies we needed. I feel happy and relieved," said George, aged 38, a client at the Chongwe district health centre. "Men have come to appreciate the benefits of family planning services. Some have even started escorting their wives to health facilities to seek these services."

"I used to think that family planning is just for women and I never bothered as long as she never fell pregnant at the wrong time, but now I know better. I am now involved in a community outreach programme. I have the opportunity to share information about family planning with other men," said Rodwell, a community health worker in Chongwe district. "People in this community are making informed choices because they are now aware of family planning services. There are fewer unwanted pregnancies and unsafe abortions. Married couples are no longer having children every year because they have realized the importance of child spacing."

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 PPAZ: www.ppaz.org.zm

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

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