Executive Summary

WHEN WOMEN ARE able to decide for themselves whether and when to have children, everyone benefits. The power to plan one’s own family lies at the very root of human freedom, and of our ability to thrive, prosper, and build a sustainable future. Use of modern contraception makes family planning possible, yet more than 225 million women and girls in developing countries—particularly the poorest and most vulnerable—still have an unmet need for this basic health care service.

Family Planning 2020 (FP2020) is dedicated to changing that fact. This initiative is built on the premise that modern contraception should be available everywhere to every woman and girl. As an outcome of the 2012 London Summit on Family Planning, our goal is to enable 120 million additional women and girls to use contraceptives by 2020. Achieving this goal is critical to ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health care service.

In Eastern and Southern Africa, for the first time ever, more than 30% of women and girls are using a modern method of contraception.

In West Africa, where contraceptive use has been historically low, the Ouagadougou Partnership has set up a goal of reaching 1 million additional users between 2011 and 2015, and is now aiming to reach 2.1 million additional users between 2015 and 2020.

There are now more than 390 million women and girls using modern contraception in the world’s 69 poorest countries—a milestone that reflects the substantial progress of the FP2020 initiative, and is central to accelerating progress on the Sustainable Development Goals, and rights by 2030, as laid out in the promise of the London Summit. At year end 2020, we are off-track for our overall goal. When women are able to decide for themselves, we are likely to reach 2.2 million additional users by 2020.

Halfway through the FP2020 initiative, we have an opportunity to accelerate progress by focusing on the challenges and opportunities that have already emerged. This knowledge is part of the toolkit we have into the second half of the initiative. We also bring with us a deeper understanding of how family planning services reach, fail to reach, specific sub-populations of women and girls. The evidence base is growing for a wide range of factors and interventions, including youth-oriented approaches, method mix diversity, stock-outs, contraceptive discontinuation, rights-based programming, and postpartum family planning. The resulting insights can help us shape more effective programs, investments, and policies to reach women and girls with the services they need. The data process is guiding our actions: we are learning from the evidence and it provides strength accounting and improvement coordination between partners also have the potential to yield important gains.

The path to 2020 is underway, and with the tools and knowledge at our disposal, we’re poised to quicken the pace. The FP2020 platform represents an unprecedented global commitment to the rights and well-being of millions of women and girls, to strengthen the global family planning and supplies system, and to improve the current models and tools that have emerged, we can deliver on the promise of the London Summit.

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WHAT EMERGES is a distinctly varied landscape of progress. A number of countries have registered gains in contraceptive use; other countries are just starting to experience gains; and some countries have seen slow growth or even stalled. The situation is illustrated by an S-Curve, which depicts the general path of contraceptive uptake that countries have taken over the course of their development. The S-Curve, which is based on historical patterns, suggests that countries grow at different rates based on their levels of contraceptive use.

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The framework for understanding the progress and challenges of the FP2020 initiative, and the obstacles that are facing us as we work to accelerate progress, is provided by the S-Curve, which depicts the general path of contraceptive uptake that countries have taken over the course of their development. The S-Curve, which is based on historical patterns, suggests that countries grow at different rates based on their levels of contraceptive use.

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MORE THAN 300 MILLION WOMEN & GIRLS ARE USING MODERN CONTRACEPTION IN 69 FP2020 FOCUS COUNTRIES

FROM JULY 2015-JULY 2016:

CONTRACEPTIVE USE AS A RESULT OF MODERN GOVERNMENTS PROVIDED:

IN 2015, DONOR AT THE MIDPOINT OF FP2020 AS OF JULY 2016

124,000
25 MILLION
82 MILLION
30.2 MILLION

IN BILATERAL FUNDING FOR FAMILY PLANNING
US$1.3 BILLION IN 2015, DONOR

Core Indicator Data
Self-Reported Updates on Commitment Progress
Country Action; Opportunities, Challenges, and Priorities
Costed Implementation Plan or National Strategy
Postpartum Family Planning Country Action Plan
Global Financing Facility Material

Country Pages

EACH COUNTRY PAGE on the FP2020 website serves as a dynamic repository of family planning information, with key documents, data, and resources. Visit familyplanning2020.org/countries and either click on the map or a country name to view each country’s webpage. Available resources include:

FP2020 Commitment
Core Indicator Data
Self-Reported Updates on Commitment Progress
Country Action; Opportunities, Challenges, and Priorities
Costed Implementation Plan or National Strategy
Postpartum Family Planning Country Action Plan
Global Financing Facility Materials

FP2020 MOMENTUM AT THE MIDPOINT 2015–2016 in the print version of the Fourth Annual Progress Report from FP2020


In 2015, donor governments provided:

82 MILLION UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES WERE PREVENTED
25 MILLION UNSAFE ABORTIONS WERE AVOIDED
124,000 MATERNAL DEATHS WERE AVERTED

As of July 2016, the world is at a momentous juncture. FP2020 partners and focus countries have already delivered on the promise to reach an additional 120 million women and girls with contraceptive services that meet their needs and circumstances. Today’s 300 million users of modern contraception is an extraordinary milestone, and testament to decades of dedicated work by the health and development sectors.

But unless we accelerate progress now, we will fall short of our goal of reaching an additional 120 million women and girls by 2020. A recurring theme throughout this report is what we can do better—whether that means strengthening a platform, broadening an evidence base, or expanding a service component. In the continuing spirit of the London Summit, we invite the entire family planning community to join us in this discussion. What can we all do better? Looking ahead, we suggest three key areas of focus:

Accountability: What can we do to build better accountability mechanisms into our work, from tracking investments to assessing the impact of specific programs? How can we strengthen donor and government accountability for resource allocation, commodity security, and rights-based programming? On an individual level, what can each of us do in our institutional capacities to deliver on our commitments?

Partnerships: How can we coordinate more strategically and efficiently to support country objectives and tackle challenges that persist throughout the sector? How can we be more innovative in our funding, ensuring that a larger portion of our resources can support family planning services to the most marginalized populations? How can donors be more effective partners to countries and in better alignment with each other?

Youth: What can we do to keep our promise to the world’s young people? How can we translate increased interest and donor commitment to youth into evidence-based programs at scale in both the public and private health sectors? How can we find innovative approaches to support meaningful partnerships with young people to deliver high-quality contraceptive services that meet their diverse needs and circumstances?

These are not questions that any one organization or country can answer alone. They will require the energy and cooperation of leaders, experts, advocates, and implementers throughout our global community. But that, too, is in the spirit of the London Summit.

Together we have already achieved great progress; together we can achieve even more. The promise we made in London four years ago is still compelling, still urgent, and still unfulfilled. Millions of women and girls are waiting.