

# GHANA

## 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 Ghana (PPAG, the IPPF Member Association in Ghana) 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.



### Ghana's FP2020 pledges

Revise national health insurance benefits package to include free FP services and supplies

Expand contraceptive choices including a wider range of long-acting and permanent methods

Provide adolescent-friendly services for sexually active young people

### Government of Ghana's progress on its FP2020 pledges

- The Ministry of Health wrote to the National Health Insurance Authority to request that a range of long-acting FP methods (e.g. implants, vasectomy) be included in the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) benefits package.
- The government has yet to provide the policy directive and implementation guidelines necessary to make these methods part of the NHIS package in practice.

- Trained health workers to deliver Implanon NXT and to train others to deliver the product, in August 2015.
- Coordinated the Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee for Contraceptive Security (ICC/CS) to ensure that FP forecasting and procurement are conducted effectively.

- Expanded health and development services for adolescents, including family planning services, in the Brong Ahafo Region.
- Invested in public communications to raise awareness of sexual and reproductive health and rights, including FP, among adolescents through a website and newsletter (by the Ghana Health Service), an information pack (Family Health Division) and a TV series (National Population Council).
- In the process of developing a new national Adolescent Reproductive Health and Rights Policy.

### What has civil society achieved?

- Since 2008, PPAG has convened and mobilized civil society organizations to demand that the NHIS package include family planning.
- PPAG and partners continue to advocate with the Parliamentary Select Committee on Health, the Committee on Gender, Children and Constitution, and others, to operationalize the inclusion of family planning in the NHIS package.

- PPAG and partners are advocating to the ICC/CS to promote the provision of a more varied mix of contraceptive methods.
- PPAG represented CSOs in the consultation process for the government's Family Planning Costed Implementation Plan and its National Condom and Lubricants Strategy.

- PPAG provided expert guidance for the national Adolescent Reproductive Health and Rights Policy.
- PPAG mobilized CSOs, and is working in partnership with the Ghana Health Service and the Ghana Education Service, to advocate for school-based comprehensive sexuality education in the national Adolescent Reproductive Health and Rights Policy.

# 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 of Ghana to:

- 1 Implement the Family Planning Costed Implementation Plan (CIP) and the National Condom and Lubricant Strategy, 2016–2020 (NCLS),** in consultation with civil society organizations. The CIP and the NCLS are comprehensive, complementary plans that, if realized, would deliver on many FP2020 objectives.
- 2 Increase the national budgetary allocation for family planning and protect funds for procuring and delivering family planning services.** From 2003 to 2010, on average, the government funded only 23% of contraceptives, while donors funded 77% (USAID/Delivery project, CPT 2010).
- 3 Facilitate the implementation of comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) in schools,** including by mandating CSE in the Education Policy on Adolescents.

## Where we are now

The following improvements<sup>1</sup> were recorded from 2012 to 2013.

### Indicator measure in 2013

-  15.5% CPR (modern methods) (decline of 0.9% from 2012)
-  260,000 unintended pregnancies averted (decline of 9,000 from 2012)
-  37.5% of married women have an unmet need for family planning (decline of 0.5% from 2012)

### Method mix in 2013

-  Injectable: 37%
-  Oral contraceptive: 28%
-  Implants: 15%
-  Condoms: 8%
-  Others: 12%

## PPAG's contribution to SRH services

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

-  PPAG provided 89,534 couple years protection in 2014, a 39% increase from 2013
-  PPAG services resulted in 30,783 unintended pregnancies being averted in 2014, a 38% increase from 2013
-  PPAG provided family planning services to 277,523 new users in 2014, a 151% increase from 2013

<sup>1</sup> Avenir Health (nd) Track20. Available from: [www.track20.org](http://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 PPAG: [www.ppag-gh.org](http://www.ppag-gh.org)

For more information about Joining Voices: [www.joiningvoices2020.org](http://www.joiningvoices2020.org)

For more information about IPPF: [www.ippf.org](http://www.ippf.org) UK Registered Charity No. 229476

## Stories from the field



Matilda, 17, is a single mother of twins. She lives in a farming community in Sunyani.

"I used to think about what my life might some day be like, I never once pictured myself as someone who would get pregnant early. Most of my colleagues in the community and at school were dating, so I did too," she says. "Despite high levels of awareness of family planning and its benefits, there still remain misconceptions and ever-changing myths."

Matilda, and others like her, access support through the ASK programme, run by IPPF. ASK is a partnership programme, funded by the Dutch government, that aims to increase access to sexual and reproductive health and rights for vulnerable young people. Without support from the ASK programme, Matilda would likely have delivered her babies at home where the complications of her delivery would not have been detected, and could have resulted in tragic consequences.

**JOINING VOICES**



Sexual Health For Quality Life