

ZIMBABWE

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 Zimbabwe National Family Planning Council (ZNFPC, the IPPF Collaborating Partner in Zimbabwe) 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.



Zimbabwe's FP2020 pledges	Government of Zimbabwe's progress on its FP2020 pledges	What has civil society achieved?
Increase the family planning budget from the current 1.7% to 3% of the health budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expressed support for increasing budget allocations to family planning but has failed to follow through. The allocation for family planning remains stagnant at 1.7% of the health budget. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSOs advocated to the Ministry of Health to increase its budgets for long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARCs). UNFPA is supporting the delivery of the contraceptive pill called Marvelon.
Increase access to a comprehensive range of family planning methods at private and public health facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surpassed their training target for LARCs in 2014. The uptake of LARCs is relatively low; most dominant method is oral contraceptive. The Ministry of Health and Childcare (MOHCC) scaled up procurement of LARCs and is distributing them to private services and public facilities such as hospitals and clinics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ZNFPC is delivering training on LARCs (including tubal ligation and vasectomy) in the private and public sectors, in collaboration with the MOHCC and UNFPA.
Increase the availability of male and female condoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All public health facilities provide male and female condoms at no cost to the client. Commodity distribution is dependent on donors who assist the government to procure these commodities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ZNFPC coordinates civil society advocacy to demand improved access to integrated family planning services.
Integrate family planning services with prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) and maternal and child health (MCH) services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated FP services within existing PMTCT and MCH services, using donor funds. This involved training and building capacity in supervision and support. More resources are needed to ensure that all health facilities offer a comprehensive range of services (e.g. Pap smears, voluntary counselling and testing). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ZNFPC and other CSOs are advocating for increased resources to strengthen community outreach and integrate family planning services with PMTCT and MCH.
Improve and scale-up gender-sensitive family planning services for vulnerable groups, especially adolescent girls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failed to improve and scale-up government youth facilities. The MOHCC Strategy for Adolescent Health (2010-15) does not include improving and scaling up youth facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ZNFPC is expanding and improving youth centres at the community level. ZNFPC is scaling up services in primary and secondary education by training teachers and peer educators on adolescent sexual and reproductive health.
Eliminate user fees for family planning services by 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removed user fees for family planning in public facilities. Many non-governmental organizations rely on government funding to deliver services, but this financing is often insufficient to cover their overheads and therefore they are unable to offer family planning for free. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ZNFPC and other CSOs advocated for the removal of user fees for family planning, including meetings with parliamentary portfolio committees.

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 Facilitate the active participation of girls and young women**, including those who are marginalized and those living with HIV, in all aspects of national programming and decision-making relating to HIV and AIDS.
- 2 Strengthen commitment to women's health** by responding to the health impact of unsafe abortion, a major public health concern, by scaling up post-abortion care and reducing unintended pregnancies through expanded and improved family planning services.
- 3 Implement evidence-based HIV prevention programmes** that address the needs of girls and young women, especially those living in prison or detention centres, those involved in transactional sex or child marriages, survivors of gender-based violence and orphans.

Where we are now

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

Indicator measure in 2013

-  41.9% CPR (modern methods) (increase of 0.4% from 2012)
-  376,000 unintended pregnancies averted (increase of 18,000 from 2012)
-  15.5% of married women have an unmet need for family planning (decline of 0.1% from 2012)

ZNFPC's contribution to SRH services

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

-  ZNFPC provided 1,858,531 couple years protection in 2014, a 3,823% increase from 2013
-  ZNFPC services resulted in 701,108 unintended pregnancies being averted in 2014, a 4,183% increase from 2013
-  ZNFPC provided family planning services to 15,415 new users in 2014, a 183% increase from 2013

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 ZNFPC: www.znfpc.org.zw

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

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