

## BRINGING GLOBAL FAMILY PLANNING POLICY INTO FOCUS

This is the first in a new series of global family planning policy insight and analysis from Population Action International. It will cover issues ranging from FP2020 and the Post2015 agenda to reproductive health supplies to budget advocacy. To sign up, visit [www.populationaction.org/signup](http://www.populationaction.org/signup).

### FP2020 Progress

A year after its launch at the London Summit on Family Planning, FP2020 has raised the profile of women's needs for contraceptives and helped to garner political attention and significant resources for global family planning efforts. A diverse group of stakeholders has become engaged in FP2020 to form its complex organizational structure, including a consultative network. Country governments have also moved closer to realizing the commitments they made at the London Summit.



During this past year, the four working groups have advanced their memberships and agendas, and are now working to actively engage one another and country partners to address the full range of barriers to access and use of family planning by women in developing countries.

At this time, the specific activities FP2020 will undertake to achieve the outcome of 120 million new women and girls with access to family planning are unclear. Countries can, however, access additional money mobilized through FP2020 through a Costed Family Planning Implementation Plan. These plans are program planning and management tools developed by countries' commodity security committees with support from the

FP2020 Country Engagement Working Group. Once completed, the plans are intended to be used by government officials to plan their budgets and mobilize resources from donors.

When governments have exhausted their own fundraising, they can liaise with FP2020 focal points that can connect them with additional sources of revenue to fill funding gaps. To date, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Gombe state (Nigeria), Guinea, Kenya, Niger, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo, and Zambia have developed Costed Implementation Plans. However, FP2020's level of involvement with the development, implementation and funding of these plans has yet to be put into practice. Additionally, it remains unclear if any new money has actually been mobilized to date. This raises questions about how countries will execute these national plans to reach the global goal of 120 million additional women and girls using family planning.

### FP2020 in the Years Ahead

FP2020 has built momentum towards realizing the rights of 120 million women and girls to use family planning by 2020. Now that a stable and well-functioning infrastructure is in place, FP2020 must continue to think outside the box for ways to achieve its agenda. For success, FP2020 must focus on the following:



### Advocacy

Based on currently available information, there is a lack of commitment to advocacy as a catalyst for changing policy and shaping an enabling environment for family planning. To expand access to family planning information and services, supportive policies, financial commitments and effectively



implemented service delivery models need to be in place. More high-level agreements between donors and governments will not effectively engage Southern partners and advocates. Without local leadership, systemic changes may not be achieved. Strategic, locally-led advocacy efforts can target specific issues related to expanding access, and improving equity and quality. Policy represents an overarching mechanism through which all the gaps that are subsequently discussed can be affected.

To reach its desired impact, FP2020 should build off of the "quick win" approach to advocacy by investing in advocacy efforts that yield short-term results but have lasting impact. FP2020 will need to invest in locally-led efforts by Southern civil society organizations to create sustained advocacy on a range of policy and budgetary issues affecting their countries abilities to make family planning accessible.

### Equity

FP2020's focus on adding new family planning users could create an incentive to prioritize easy-to-reach populations without addressing inequities. Adolescents, marginalized groups, the urban poor, and ethnic minorities face unique barriers to accessing family planning. The social determinants that affect the use of family planning among these groups are often population-specific. As a highly publicized initiative with significant donor support, FP2020 is in a unique position to move beyond simply disaggregating indicators based on rural vs. urban, or wealth quintile and work to prioritize hard-to-reach groups. Embedding a rights-based framework into FP2020 also requires special attention to those who are disproportionately marginalized. In many lower-



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and upper-middle income countries, internal disparities among some of the above-mentioned groups must be addressed in order to satisfy unmet need for family planning.

## Comprehensive Monitoring & Evaluation

It is admittedly easier to measure the success of an initiative like FP2020 with quantitative indicators.

However, the early prominence of strictly numerical outputs (e.g. number of users of voluntary family planning, modern contraceptive prevalence growth rates) raises the question of what will be prioritized to achieve these outcomes. There are a variety of ways to increase uptake of family planning, but quality programmatic approaches and service delivery are crucial. FP2020 has the opportunity to promote evidence-based interventions that focus on quality. However, FP2020's guiding principles fail to acknowledge quality in relation to provision of information and services. FP2020's reporting should capture inputs—embodying rights, equity, and quality—in order to enable countries to expand access to family planning.



## Integrated Approach to Reproductive Health

Even as an initiative dedicated to family planning, FP2020 should not reinforce a silo approach. Every contact with a service provider can be taken as an opportunity to discuss a woman's fertility intentions. In addition, a significant evidence base supports the feasibility, acceptability, effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of integrating family planning into other maternal, infant and child health services. Meeting a woman's reproductive health needs relies on a comprehensive approach throughout the course of her life: family planning, post-abortion care, antenatal



care, safe delivery, post-partum family planning, and family planning during well child visits. FP2020 has not currently explored these integrated approaches and/or interventions to increase the availability and accessibility of family planning.

## Coordination with other Global Initiatives

The next few years will be an exciting time for global health and international development. The growing attention to women's health through initiatives like Every Woman, Every Child, The UN Commission on Life Saving Commodities (UNCOLSC), and FP2020 are opportunities to improve the health and lives of 50 percent of the world's population. Additionally, the review of ICPD and the creation of a post-2015 development agenda present openings to galvanize global commitment to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), including family planning. But to effectively capitalize on these global processes, they must move in concert with one another for mutually supportive outcomes rather than as individual initiatives working in isolation. A lack of coordination can result in a weaker platform for each initiative by increasing confusion about where donors and national governments should prioritize their limited resources. FP2020 should coordinate with other initiatives developing country plans around family planning and reproductive health—particularly those like the UNCOLSC—to ensure that resources are effectively dispersed and national governments are not overly burdened.



## Accountability and Sustainability

FP2020 recognizes the need to monitor the progress of donors and participating governments on the commitments made at the London Summit on Family Planning. There is a monitoring and accountability working group as part of the FP2020 structure and indicators have been developed to track this progress. FP2020 has also made the important step of developing indicators on rights and empowerment to ensure that these 120 million new users access and receive family planning in a non-coercive, voluntary manner that furthers rather than hinders rights. While these steps should be commended, how donors and governments will be held accountable, and who will hold them accountable, is still unknown. There are further questions about how to sustain any gains generated by FP2020 once the initiative has run its course.



FP2020 needs to fully articulate how donors and national governments will be held accountable for their commitments, beyond the collection of indicator data. FP2020 also needs to articulate its plans to sustain, particularly at the national level, women's access to family planning after 2020. FP2020 can do a better job of engaging and communicating about this effort with civil society at the national level to help both hold governments accountable and create an invested body of advocates and implementers who can carry the momentum forward.

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