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DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

SUCCESS STORY

Implant provides quiet mind

USAID distributes implants to women of reproductive age through family planning social franchising.



Photo: Igor Kallumba, PSI/ASF, DRC

Angelique (left) and her husband happily present the appointment card that they no more need to consult to check dates for DMPA injections. They are now engaged in the use of the Jadelle® implant, a long term method, proposed by one of the USAID-supported clinics.

During FY2011, thanks to USAID funds, the Jadelle® implant was added to the existing range of modern methods. It is distributed within the Confiance®-branded social franchising network in DRC. After the implant training funded by the Dutch SALIN project for all Confiance® sites, the approval by the DRC's Ministry of Health (MoH) for the distribution of this new product and the "willingness to pay survey" (to fix consumer price), distribution has been progressively organized in the 133 clinics of the Confiance® network.

"Papa" Jacques and "Maman" Angelique live in Ndjili, one of the most populous areas of the DRC capital, Kinshasa. The first time Angelique had contact with family planning messages was in 2000. "I was very happy to receive information about family planning because I had so closely spaced pregnancies", she said. With her eight children from 28 -for the oldest- to 12 years old -for the youngest-, her two miscarriages and one child death before the age of five, she was desperately looking for a sustained solution. And for her husband Jacques, the 3-month injectable that they adopted when their youngest child was one year old was a solution, but not "the" solution. Indeed, he had all the time to carry on him the appointment card, since he knew that his wife often got pregnant before the resumption of her menses and that he did not want to have a ninth child.

"I was so reassured when one of my friends met at church told me that there was a solution to my husband's headache due to the constraint of the 3-month injection", said Angelique. "I immediately told Jacques about it, and he approved this solution", she added. Angelique visited the *Bomoi* health center, one of the Confiance® clinic supported by USAID in the "Advanced Social Marketing for Health in DRC" project and supplied with the implant *Jadelle®* provided by *Association de Santé Familiale* (ASF), a partner of *Population Services International* (PSI), with USAID/DRC's stock. After counseling related to false rumors about implant and its benefits as a non invasive and long term method, an implant was inserted in Angelique's forearm by the trained service provider. She is one of the 1,308 women who have benefited from this modern method in this project which will continue implant distribution, promotion and insertion until September 2013.

The quiet mind came back in Jacques's family: "Now, we are at ease. We no more mind about pregnancy and we can have sexual relationship without stress". Since she has received the implant, Angelique gives testimonies in her church to encourage and convince her friends about implant efficiency. "For those who don't believe that implant is a safe method, I ask them to touch my forearm. After touching it, they can see that the implant is inside me, under my skin, but I feel good. So no problem", said Angelique. "I have already convinced my little sister who has already received her implant, and I will continue to accompany my friends from my church and my area to the *Bomoi* center". And Jacques concluded, by saying: "If we had known implant earlier, we would only had 4 spaced children".