

## Saving and Improving Lives through Increased Access to Contraceptives

By helping women delay, space, and limit pregnancies, family planning is a cost-effective intervention that saves the lives of mothers and their children and also saves thousands of dollars in healthcare spending every year. Despite recent impressive gains in contraceptive use, 20 percent of all women in Malawi currently have an unmet need for family planning.<sup>1</sup>

In 2010, approximately 706,000 Malawian women wanted to avoid or delay pregnancy, but they were not using an effective method of contraception.<sup>1,2</sup> As a result, more than 203,000 women experienced an unintended pregnancy which can have serious consequences for mothers and children.<sup>3</sup> In 2010 alone, out of those unintended pregnancies that resulted in a live birth, an estimated—

- **500** women died from pregnancy-related causes<sup>2,4</sup>
- **9,000** infants died in their first year of life<sup>2</sup>
- **4,000** children likely died before their fifth birthday due to below-optimal birth spacing.<sup>5</sup>

### USAID Contraceptive Investment

At the request of the Government of Malawi, the U.S. Government (USG) has provided assistance to improve the country's health commodity supply chains and to better serve those who need family planning. **From FY2009 to 2013**, the USG has spent over **\$12.8 million** to purchase more than—

- **6.2 million** doses of Depo-Provera<sup>®</sup> (DMPA) injectable
- **3 million** cycles of oral contraceptives
- **260,000** implants (Implanon<sup>®</sup> and Jadelle<sup>®</sup>)
- **69,000** sets of CycleBeads
- **7,500** Copper T-380A IUDs.<sup>6</sup>



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From FY2009-2013 USAID invested

**\$12.8** MILLION  
of commodities:

**886** THOUSAND  
unintended pregnancies  
**PREVENTED**

**49,000**  
infant deaths **PREVENTED**

**2,300**  
maternal deaths **PREVENTED**

**\$67** MILLION  
in direct  
healthcare spending  
**SAVED**

## USAID Investment Impact

From FY2009 to 2013, USAID-funded contraceptives had the potential to meet the needs of more than **2.7 million** Malawian couples.<sup>7</sup> In the hands of women and men who need them, these contraceptives prevented approximately—

- **886,000** unintended pregnancies
- **126,000** induced abortions
- **49,000** infant (under the age of one) deaths
- **21,000** child (under age five) deaths due to improved birth spacing
- **2,300** maternal deaths.

During this time, by avoiding the direct costs of unintended pregnancy and delivery care, and of treating complications from unsafe abortions, Malawian families and the public health system saved an estimated **U.S. \$67 million** in direct healthcare spending.<sup>8</sup>

## Why Invest in Supply Chains?

USAID is a leader in efforts to meet the reproductive health needs of women in Malawi and other countries in the developing world. Improving **access to modern methods of contraception** is crucial to meeting these needs. As the Malawian government expands its efforts to improve the health of its women and children, continued USAID investment in **procuring contraceptives and strengthening the national supply chain systems** is essential to increasing access and reducing the unmet need for family planning.

Through implementing partners, and in partnership with ministries of health and other organizations, USAID develops and strengthens reliable and sustainable public health supply chains by implementing robust logistics solutions, promoting supportive commodity security environments, procuring health commodities and building lasting local capacity, all to ensure that contraceptives make it into the hands of the women and men who need them.

**Table 1. Estimated Impact of USAID Contraceptive Commodity Support in Malawi, by Fiscal Year (FY)<sup>8</sup>**

	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	Totals
<b>Couple-years of protection (CYP) generated by commodities shipped</b>	329,000	479,700	429,100	553,600	1,007,900	<b>2,799,300</b>
<b>Unintended pregnancies averted</b>	103,700	120,100	114,500	192,500	354,900	<b>885,700</b>
<b>Unintended Live births averted</b>	71,400	82,700	78,900	132,700	244,500	<b>610,200</b>
<b>Abortions averted</b>	14,800	17,100	16,300	27,400	50,600	<b>126,200</b>
<b>Infant (U1) deaths averted</b>	6,100	6,900	6,400	10,500	18,800	<b>48,700</b>
<b>Child (U5) deaths averted due to improved birth spacing</b>	2,500	2,900	2,700	4,600	8,500	<b>21,200</b>
<b>Maternal deaths averted</b>	300	300	300	500	900	<b>2,300</b>
<b>Direct healthcare costs savings (\$U.S.2013)</b>	\$7,857,000	\$9,098,900	\$8,673,600	\$14,591,800	\$26,892,300	<b>\$67,113,600</b>

This brief was prepared for USAID by the USAID | DELIVER PROJECT.

For more details on the impact calculations, please contact [askdeliver@jsi.com](mailto:askdeliver@jsi.com).

1 National Statistical Office (NSO) and ICF Macro. 2011. *Malawi Demographic and Health Survey 2010*. Zomba, Malawi, and Calverton, Maryland, USA: NSO and ICF Macro.

2 U.S. Census Bureau, International Programs. *International DataBase*. (<http://www.census.gov/population/international/data/idb/region.php>) accessed Oct 29 2013

3 Figure calculated using conversion factor from Darroch, J. E., and S. Singh. 2011. *Estimating unintended pregnancies averted by couple-years of protection (CYP)*. New York: Guttmacher Institute. (<http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/2011/01/24/Guttmacher-CYP-Memo.pdf>)

4 WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, and World Bank. 2012. *Trends in maternal mortality: 1990 to 2010*. WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, and the World Bank estimates. Geneva: World Health Organization.

5 Marie Stopes International. 2012. *Impact 2: An innovative tool for measuring the impact of reproductive health programmes*. London: Marie Stopes International. Available at <http://www.mariestopes.org/impact-2>

6 USAID | DELIVER PROJECT. 2013. *My Commodities* database from <http://deliver.jsi.com/dhome/mycommodities>

7 Coverage is calculated using couple-years of protection (CYP). USAID. "Couple Years of Protection (CYP)" from [http://transition.usaid.gov/our\\_work/global\\_health/pop/techareas/cyp.html](http://transition.usaid.gov/our_work/global_health/pop/techareas/cyp.html)

8 Most figures were calculated using the Marie Stopes International *Impact 2* tool and data from the *My Commodities* database. For infant deaths averted, the figures were calculated using the *Impact 2* tool, *My Commodities* database, and the annual infant mortality rates (IMR) listed in the U.S. Census Bureau *International DataBase*.