

# 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, 20.2 percent of all women in Nigeria currently have an unmet need for family planning.<sup>1</sup>

In 2010, approximately 7.6 million Nigerian women wanted to avoid or delay pregnancy, but they were not using an effective method of contraception.<sup>1,2</sup> As a result, about 2.2 million 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—

- **7,400** women died from pregnancy-related causes<sup>2,4</sup>
- **90,800** infants died in their first year of life<sup>2</sup>
- **65,800** 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 Nigeria, 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 **\$23.2 million** to purchase more than—

- **7.6 million** doses of Depo-Provera<sup>®</sup> (DMPA) injectable
- **40.6 million** cycles of oral contraceptives
- **93,600** implants (Jadelle<sup>®</sup>)
- **380,400** Copper T-380A IUDs
- **115,000** sets of CycleBeads.<sup>6</sup>



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From FY2009-2013 USAID invested

**\$23.2** MILLION

of commodities:

**2.1** MILLION  
unintended pregnancies  
**PREVENTED**

**113,000**  
infant deaths **PREVENTED**

**8,000**  
maternal deaths **PREVENTED**

**\$142** 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 **6.8 million** Nigerian couples.<sup>7</sup> In the hands of women and men who need them, these contraceptives prevented approximately—

- **2.1 million** unintended pregnancies
- **234,000** induced abortions
- **113,000** infant (under the age of one) deaths
- **84,000** child (under age five) deaths due to improved birth spacing
- **8,000** maternal deaths.

During this time, by avoiding the direct costs of unintended pregnancy and delivery care, and of treating complications from unsafe abortions, Nigerian families and the public health system saved an estimated **U.S. \$142 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 Nigeria and other countries in the developing world. Improving **access to modern methods of contraception** is crucial to meeting these needs. As the Nigerian 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 Nigeria, by Fiscal Year (FY)<sup>8</sup>**

	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	Totals
<b>Couple-years of protection (CYP) generated by commodities shipped</b>	669,000	1,446,800	1,240,700	2,153,100	1,376,700	<b>6,886,300</b>
<b>Unintended pregnancies averted</b>	230,200	363,900	344,400	622,700	565,900	<b>2,127,100</b>
<b>Unintended Live births averted</b>	162,100	256,200	242,500	438,400	398,400	<b>1,497,700</b>
<b>Abortions averted</b>	25,300	40,000	37,800	68,400	62,100	<b>233,600</b>
<b>Infant (U1) deaths averted</b>	12,700	19,800	18,400	32,600	29,100	<b>112,600</b>
<b>Child (U5) deaths averted due to improved birth spacing</b>	9,100	14,400	13,600	24,600	22,300	<b>83,900</b>
<b>Maternal deaths averted</b>	1,000	1,400	1,300	2,300	2,100	<b>8,000</b>
<b>Direct healthcare costs savings (\$U.S.2013)</b>	\$15,420,300	\$24,375,100	\$23,066,100	\$41,705,200	\$37,902,800	<b>\$142,469,400</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 Population Commission (NPC) [Nigeria] and ICF Macro. 2009. *Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey 2008*. Abuja, Nigeria: National Population Commission 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*.