

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

In 2011, approximately 1.8 million Ugandan 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 518,000 women experienced an unintended pregnancy which can have serious consequences for mothers and children.<sup>3</sup> In 2011 alone, out of those unintended pregnancies that resulted in a live birth, an estimated—

- 800 women died from pregnancy-related causes<sup>2,4</sup>
- 18,800 infants died in their first year of life<sup>2</sup>
- 12,000 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 Uganda, 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 almost **\$28 million** to purchase more than—

- 16.3 million doses of Depo-Provera® (DMPA) injectable
- 10.5 million cycles of oral contraceptives
- 383,000 implants (Implanon® and Jadelle®)
- 194,000 Copper T-380A IUDs.<sup>6</sup>

From FY2009-2013, USAID invested

**\$28**  
MILLION  
in commodities

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

**94** THOUSAND  
infant deaths  
**PREVENTED**

**3,700** maternal  
deaths  
**PREVENTED**

**\$153** 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 **7 million** Ugandan couples.<sup>7</sup> In the hands of women and men who need them, these contraceptives prevented approximately—

- 2.1 million unintended pregnancies
- 299,000 induced abortions
- 94,000 infant (under the age of one) deaths
- 61,000 child (under age five) deaths due to improved birth spacing
- 3,700 maternal deaths.

During this time, by avoiding the direct costs of unintended pregnancy and delivery care, and of treating complications from unsafe abortions, Ugandan families and the public health system saved an estimated **U.S.\$153 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 Uganda and other countries in the developing world. Improving **access to modern methods of contraception** is crucial to meeting these needs. As the Ugandan 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 Uganda, by Fiscal Year (FY)<sup>8</sup>**

	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	Totals
<b>Couple-years of protection (CYP)</b> generated by commodities shipped	978,100	875,700	1,516,900	1,271,200	2,372,800	<b>7,015,000</b>
<b>Unintended pregnancies</b> averted	271,400	281,000	474,400	381,750	693,700	<b>2,102,200</b>
<b>Unintended live births</b> averted	186,800	193,400	326,500	262,800	477,400	<b>1,446,900</b>
<b>Abortions</b> averted	38,600	40,000	67,550	54,400	98,800	<b>299,300</b>
<b>Infant (U1) deaths</b> averted	13,000	13,100	21,500	16,900	29,800	<b>94,300</b>
<b>Child (U5) deaths</b> averted due to improved birth spacing	7,900	8,200	13,800	11,100	20,200	<b>61,300</b>
<b>Maternal deaths</b> averted	500	500	800	700	1,200	<b>3,700</b>
<b>Direct healthcare costs</b> savings (\$U.S.2013)	\$19,790,300	\$20,493,100	\$34,592,500	\$27,838,200	\$50,584,000	<b>\$153,298,100</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 Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) and ICF International Inc. 2012. *Uganda Demographic and Health Survey 2011*. Kampala, Uganda: UBOS and Calverton, Maryland: ICF International Inc.

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*.