



Nigeria: Improving Availability of Commodities in Resource-Constrained Settings

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Background

To develop effective and efficient supply chains for the reproductive health program in Nigeria, the USAID | DELIVER PROJECT, and other implementing partners and donors, provide technical assistance to the federal and state ministries of health. By 2007, Nigeria’s well-defined contraceptive logistics management system (CLMS) was in place, but it was hard to distribute the commodities from the states to the service delivery points (SDPs), especially in the most resource-constrained areas.

Service providers used funds from the cost recovery system to collect commodities from their local government area (LGA) stores, but they were not always successful, because—

- funds rarely covered the cost of transporting service providers to and from their stores
- the system was unreliable
- most facilities in project-supported states had prolonged periods of stockouts
- obtaining any data for forecasting and decisionmaking was very difficult.



Methods

To improve the availability of contraceptives at SDPs, and provide accurate and timely data for decisionmaking, the project funded regular review and resupply meetings. The meetings—piloted in Nasarawa, Bauchi, and Kano states—coincide with the end of the review periods for the state, LGA stores, and SDPs.

Results

Service providers now travel to their LGA headquarters to meet with the LGA maternal and child health (MCH) and state family planning coordinators; they present their—

- Family Planning Registers
- Daily Consumption Records
- Requisition, Issue, and Report Forms.



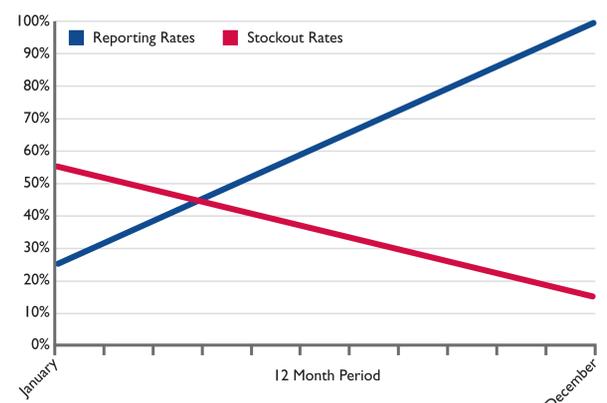
The LGA MCH coordinators and project staff review and validate their forms and calculations. Based on the results, they resupply the commodities.

At these meetings, providers—

- receive the same-day resupply of commodities
- can discuss program developments
- share best practices for service provision
- provide feedback about staff logistics performance
- receive on-the-job training.

The meetings help ensure the correct and timely use of the CLMS tools. Also, project staff and state family planning coordinators can identify service providers that may need to strengthen their logistics skills; staff then develop a supportive supervision schedule to visit the facilities.

In Nasarawa state, for example, the project recorded a marked increase in reporting rates and a decrease in stockout rates. Within one year, reporting rates improved from 25.7% to 100%; the same year, stockout rates decreased from 55.6% to 15.2%.



Next Steps

Based on the outstanding successes in project-supported states, the United Nations Population Fund is funding the roll out of this distribution model for contraceptives to all states in the country that are not supported by the project.