



an evidence-based advocacy initiative

Ensuring Access to Family Planning for All in Uganda

What Can Be Done—Fulfill the FP2020 Commitment

In July 2012, as part of the Family Planning 2020 partnership, the Ugandan government committed to ensuring voluntary, quality contraceptive information, services and supplies. Uganda has committed to universal access to family planning and to reduce unmet need for family planning from 40% to 10% in 2022. The government will increase its annual allocation for family planning supplies from US \$3.3 million to US \$5 million over the next five years and improve accountability for procurement and distribution¹.

Use and Need for Family Planning

There are more than 6.5 million Ugandan women of reproductive age (ages 15-49)². Among them, 39% use any method of contraception, and 31% use a modern, more effective method³. The most commonly-used methods are contraceptive injectables (15.5%) and oral contraceptive pills (4.6%)⁴.

An estimated 37% of Ugandan women want to prevent a pregnancy, but do not use modern contraception—this is unmet need³. Of those women with unmet need, 57% desire to wait at least two years before having a child (or another child), and 43% want to stop childbearing altogether². In spite of government actions to increase coverage, two out of every three women Ugandan women who want family planning do not have access to modern methods of contraception³.

Key strategies for Uganda to fulfill its commitment include:

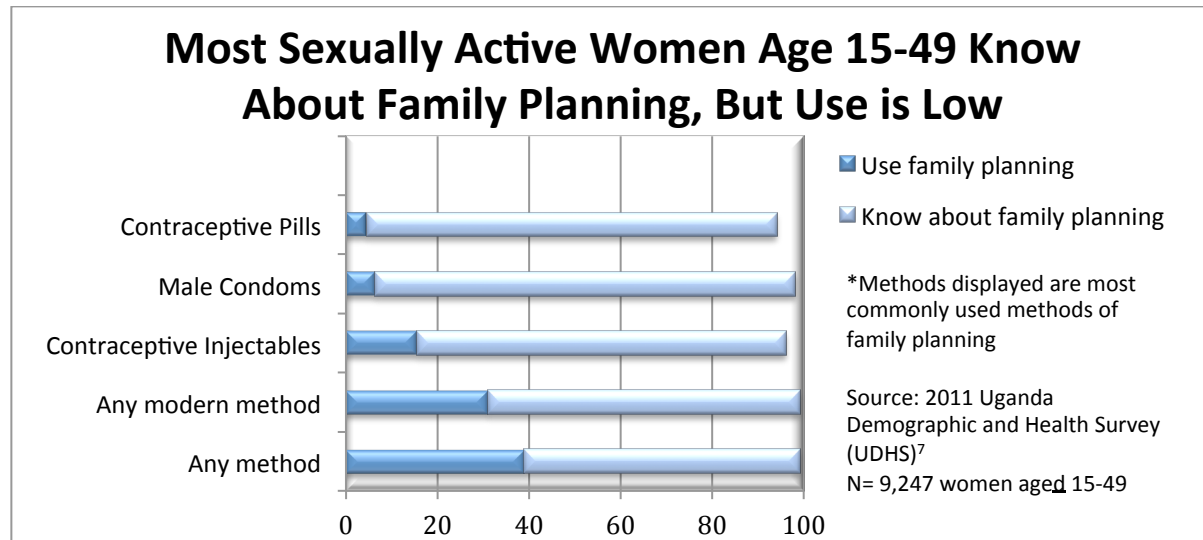
- Integration of family planning into other services, including partnerships with the private sector;
- Support for an alternative distribution channel for the private sector and scale up of innovative approaches; and
- Strengthening institutional capacity of the public and community-based service delivery points to increase choice of contraceptive methods and quality of care at all levels.

The Context

Uganda is the third fastest-growing country in the world, with a population of 36.9 million⁹. Forty-eight percent of the population is under the age of 15⁴. On average, women will have approximately 7 children (6.9) if contraceptive and fertility patterns do not change³. Nearly half of all pregnancies in Uganda are unplanned⁵. For every 100,000 live births, 435 women will die as a result of pregnancy-related causes (maternal mortality ratio). It is estimated that 8,200 Ugandan women die annually from pregnancy-related causes².

Saving the Lives of Uganda's Women

It is estimated that for every 100,000 babies born, 435 women die in Uganda, giving Uganda one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world⁶. Unsafe abortion also takes a toll Uganda's women, resulting in a decline in household well-being, as well as economic stability⁸.



Partner with Us—Advocacy and Policy Priorities for Advance Family Planning

Uganda's commitment to improving access to family planning rests on increasing the budgetary allocation for family planning and providing the services and supplies needed to achieve national goals and the aims of FP2020. AFP aims to work in partnership with others to secure:

- An annual 10% incremental increase in the national budget for family planning, reflecting the presidential pledge of \$5 million towards family planning;
- An improved policy environment for family planning;
- Prevention of stock-outs of family planning supplies through strengthening the alternative distribution channel; for example, by having a National Population Council in place; and
- Increased resources for family planning at the district level.

About Advance Family Planning

Advance Family Planning (AFP) aims to increase the financial investment and political commitment needed to ensure access to quality family planning through evidence-based advocacy. An initiative of the Bill & Melinda Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health with the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, AFP works to achieve the goals of the FP2020 initiative: to enable women and girls in some of the world's poorest countries to use contraceptive information, services and supplies, without coercion or discrimination.

Advance Family Planning

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