

State Funded Procurement of Family Planning Commodities (Gombe State)

Family Planning has been shown to contribute to the reduction of maternal and infant mortality, as well as accelerate economic growth and development. Access to contraceptives is recognized to play a key role in the achievement of national and international development goals including the Sustainable Development Goal 3, FP2030 targets and objectives and harnessing the demographic dividend. For every dollar invested in family planning and maternal health in developing countries, benefits to families and societies are estimated to be around US\$ 8.40.

In Nigeria, Sustainable Financing for family planning is acknowledged as the responsibility of all three tiers of government (Federal, States and LGAs). However, the Federal Government has hitherto been responsible for most of the domestic resources contributed for procurement of contraceptives. It is noteworthy that these resources have been insufficient, as evidenced by a widening funding gap for the procurement of FP commodities. This funding gap is considered by most stakeholders to be the most significant threat to the attainment of the national FP2030 commitments and the targets of the National FP Blueprint (2020-2024). The gap was 12.1 million USD in 2021, 25 million USD in 2022 and estimated to be 29 million USD in 2023. The significant increase in the gap is a consequence of the global economic downturn, economic recession and funding cuts by donors largely precipitated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Domestic resource mobilization is essential for sustainability of FP Financing particularly for RH Commodity security. Reliability of supply of quality FP commodities to meet clients' needs and prevention of stock-outs, addressing the sustainable supply of quality FP commodities at all levels of the supply chain is crucial towards addressing the unmet need for FP and achieving zero maternal mortality. Procuring needed family planning commodities however, comes with a heavy financial burden.

Gombe State is located in the North East of Nigeria with a population of 3,733,100 and growth rate of 3.2%. Women of reproductive age are 44.8% of the population, Total Fertility Rate is 6.6, Modern Contraceptive Prevalence (mCPR) is 16.2 and Unmet Need for Family Planning is 16.8. Gombe State has worked in close partnership with relevant stakeholders including UNFPA to address challenges aimed at reducing unmet need for FP, Maternal mortality and improving Contraceptive Prevalence Rate in the State, especially in ensuring availability of essential FP commodities and reaching the last mile. The government in Nigeria is committed to ensuring that reproductive health services are accessible to all Nigerians especially the most vulnerable women and adolescent girls. Over the last decade, over 1.07-billion-naira worth of family planning commodities have been issued to Gombe state from the Central Contraceptive Warehouse. This translates to averting 130,056 unintended pregnancies; 94,576 unintended births; and 794 maternal deaths.

In line with this, Gombe State government however made a commitment and demonstrated leadership as the first state in the country to facilitate the procurement of family planning commodities (N35million) to further address the wide gap in funding for FP commodity procurement with a view to increasing modern contraceptive prevalence rate, reducing the unmet need for family planning and consequently reduction of maternal mortality in Gombe State. Leveraging on the long-term partnership with UNFPA in line with the National Guidelines for State-Funded Procurement of FP Commodities, Gombe State Primary Health Care Development Agency supported the procurement of Male Condom, Noristerat, Depo Provera and Implanon. The impact will include 7,818 Unintended pregnancies averted, 3,238 Abortions prevented, 38 Maternal Deaths averted and 195 Child Deaths averted.

The official Handover of the commodities will also include ensuring it reaches the last mile to the benefit of the beneficiaries at the various service delivery points in the various communities in the 11 LGAs in the state.

TALKING POINTS:

- i. Government's commitment to achieving the SDGs – In line with State's 10 Year Development Plan & Strategies
- ii. Leveraging on Effective Partnership & Collaboration (All Stakeholders- Local & International Development Partners)
- iii. Ownership & Sustainability- Current Administration has demonstrated significant support through Government Counterpart Funding, State Funded Procurement of Family Planning Commodities (1st State in Nigeria to make commitment to State-Funded procurement of FP commodities)
- iv. State Cash Backing for State Funded Budget line for FP commodities and commitment of at least 7% of total budgeted cost for LMD & other related activities
- v. Political Will: this administration under the able leadership of the Executive Governor has shown tremendous support to intervention by UNFPA in the State
- vi. Implementing the output from the Gombe state Quantification of FP commodities need for 2023 and 2024