



Ensuring Access to Family Planning for All in Tanzania

What Can Be Done—Fulfill the FP2020 Commitment

In July 2012, as part of the Family Planning 2020 (FP2020) partnership, the Tanzanian government committed to ensure access to voluntary, quality contraceptive information, services and supplies. This commitment was affirmed at the 2013 Tanzania Family Planning Conference, where the government and other stakeholders committed to increase the Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR) to 60% by 2015, which represents an increase from 2.4 million to 6.6 million women using contraceptive methods¹.

Use and Need for Family Planning

There are nearly 11 million Tanzanian women of reproductive age (ages 15-49)¹. Among them, 34% use any method of contraception and 27% use a modern, more effective method³. The most commonly used methods are contraceptive injections (11%) and oral contraceptive pills (7%)². Modern methods are used by 34% of married women in urban areas, compared to 25% of women in rural areas². Modern contraceptive use ranges from a low of 7% of married women in Unga North to a high of 50% in Kilimanjaro².

Key strategies for Tanzania to fulfill its commitment include:

- Ensuring contraceptive commodities security;
- Building capacity;
- Advocating and creating demand;
- Improving service delivery systems; and
- Improving management, measurement, and evaluation.

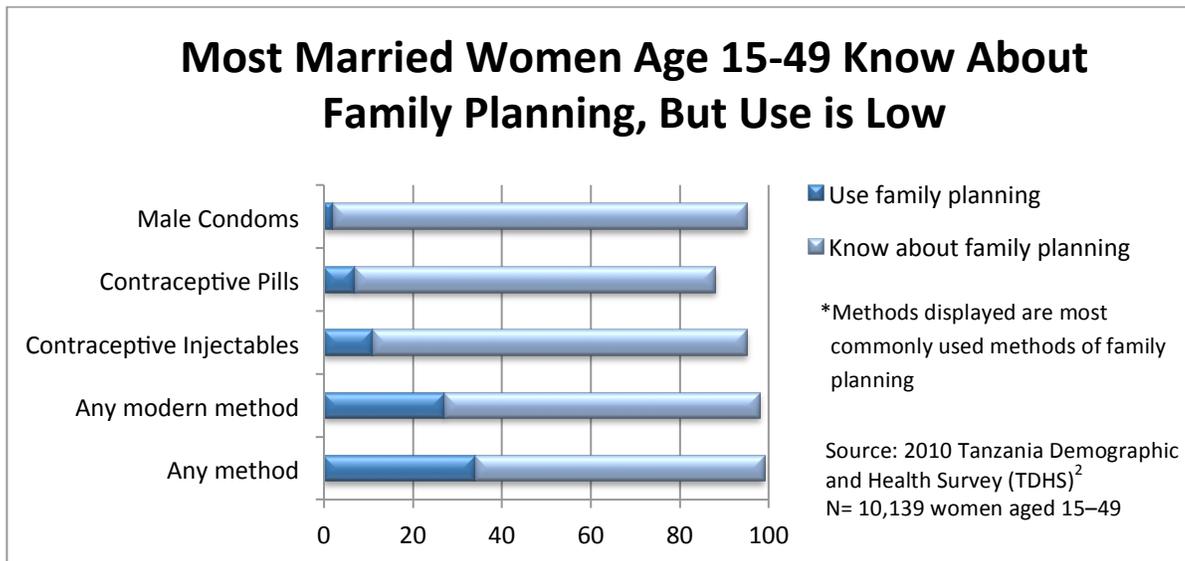
An estimated one in four Tanzanian women want to prevent a pregnancy, but do not use modern contraception—this is unmet need⁴. Of those women with unmet need, 63% desire to wait at least two years before having a child (or another child), and 37% want to stop childbearing altogether². Generally, the average number of children that are born to a woman during her childbearing age (Total Fertility Rate) is 5.4, but the wanted number is 4.7, indicating difficulty in achieving desired fertility. Public sources, such as government hospitals, government health centers, and clinics currently provide contraceptives to two-thirds (65%) of current users, while the private sector, such as pharmacies, provide methods to 26% of users².

The Context

Tanzania is the sixth largest country in sub-Saharan Africa, with a population of 49 million⁷ and an annual population growth rate of 2.7%². Forty-five percent of the population is under the age of 15⁴. Twenty three percent of pregnancies are unintended, with the majority mistimed (18%) and the remainder unwanted (5%)⁵. Women with an unintended pregnancy will either have an unplanned birth or seek an abortion¹¹. Unsafe abortion represents one of the leading causes of maternal deaths in Tanzania⁸. Tanzania ranks eighth in the world⁶ in numbers of maternal deaths³. It is estimated that 8,500 Tanzanian women die annually from pregnancy-related causes⁶.

Family Planning Access for All to Improve Reproductive Health

Contraceptive use is still fairly low, but it has increased over the last decade. Only 20% of married women were using a modern method in 2004-2005, compared to the 27% today². This is primarily due to a continued increase in use of contraceptive injectables³. Consequently, the fertility rate has decreased in Tanzania.



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

Tanzania's commitment to improving access to family planning rests on stabilizing the environment for funding, financing, and contraceptive availability to achieve national goals and the aims of FP2020. To aid in fulfillment of the FP2020 commitment, Advance Family Planning aims to work in partnership with others to secure:

- Government and the private sector contributions of resources towards the implementation of the *FP2020 Action Plan for Lake and Western Zones*.
- Release of the Public Procurement Act Regulations to fast track importation and delivery of essential commodities including contraceptives.
- A directive by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare to all district councils to allocate funds for family planning in their budgets.
- Inclusion of family planning in National Health Insurance Fund benefits.
- Family planning is prioritization at the regional and district level through stronger services and increased access to contraception for young people.

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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