



## EXPAND COMMUNITY-BASED DISTRIBUTION OF INJECTABLE CONTRACEPTIVES IN KWARA STATE, NIGERIA

A CALL TO ACTION FOR COMMUNITY LEADERS

*Brief*

Photo credit: Banjii

Family planning helps women to space their children, giving them time to take better care of themselves, their spouse, and their children. Family planning also helps to mitigate the health risks associated with pregnancy and childbirth.

Despite the benefits of family planning, these services are not readily available in Kwara State, where only 16 percent of women use a family planning method to space or limit pregnancies.

### What Has Been Done to Improve the Situation?

The Federal Government of Nigeria is committed to increasing investment in family planning and ensuring that women of childbearing age have access to their desired family planning method. In 2012, the National Council on Health approved a policy change enabling community health extension workers to administer injectable contraceptives—one of Nigeria’s most preferred contraceptive methods.<sup>1</sup>

### The Potential for Impact

This policy change provides an opportunity to reach more women with the services they desire, but the change cannot be implemented without the support of community leaders.

With assistance from the Health Policy Project, funded by the United States Agency for International Development, the White Ribbon Alliance Nigeria (WRAN) used national- and state-level data to project the impact of fulfilling the goals and interventions set in the State Strategic Health Development Plan (2010–2015). WRAN estimates that Kwara State could reduce the number of women who desire to but are not currently using family planning services (unmet need) to less than 12 percent, as well as avert nearly 21,000 maternal and newborn deaths by 2030, if there is a sustained campaign to increase both the demand for and supply of contraceptive commodities.<sup>2</sup>

## What You Can Do as a Community Leader

Change cannot be implemented without the voice and action of community leaders to help dispel the myths and misconceptions about family planning. WRAN is calling on community leaders in Kwara State to

- Encourage women and men in the community to use family planning methods to space their children or limit pregnancies
- Convene culturally sensitive forums to promote family planning and its benefits
- Engage with the state government and other stakeholders to establish community-based family planning service delivery points
- Speak up for family planning in the council of chiefs and elders forums

## Resources

<sup>1</sup> Communique: 55th National Council on Health (NCH) Meeting, Sheraton Hotel & Towers, Abuja, Federal Capital Territory, 16–20 July 2012.

<sup>2</sup> Nwachwukwu, Emeka. Unpublished, 2013. Policy Analysis Of Benefits And Program Requirements Of Family Planning Scale-Up In Kwara State. Abuja: White Ribbon Alliance Nigeria.

WOMEN TAKE CARE OF THE  
COMMUNITY.....  
Support them to live healthier lives.

### Contact Us

Health Policy Project  
One Thomas Circle NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20005

[www.healthpolicyproject.com](http://www.healthpolicyproject.com)  
[policyinfo@futuresgroup.com](mailto:policyinfo@futuresgroup.com)

The Health Policy Project is a five-year cooperative agreement funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development under Agreement No. AID-OAA-A-10-00067, beginning September 30, 2010. It is implemented by Futures Group, in collaboration with CEDPA (part of Plan International USA), Futures Institute, Partners in Population and Development, Africa Regional Office (PPD ARO), Population Reference Bureau (PRB), RTI International, and the White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood (WRA).

The information provided in this document is not official U.S. Government information and does not necessarily represent the views or positions of the U.S. Agency for International Development.