



Photo credit: GHSC-PSM

## Saving Lives and Improving Health Outcomes in Zambia through Increased Access to Contraceptives

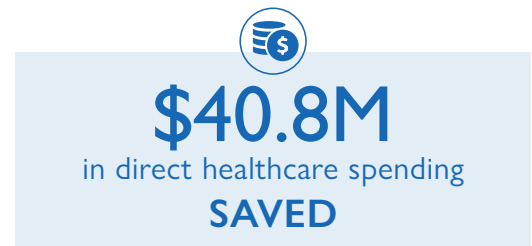
Access to voluntary family planning and reproductive health (FP/RH) services is vital for safe motherhood and healthy families. Having a choice of modern contraceptives allows couples to plan and space births, ensuring families have the means to properly care for their children. USAID ensures an uninterrupted supply of quality FP commodities worldwide through the USAID Global Health Supply Chain Program-Procurement and Supply Management (GHSC-PSM) project.<sup>1</sup>

Zambia has a population of 16.4 million.<sup>2</sup> In 2019, approximately 20 percent of Zambian women had an unmet need for FP - meaning they wanted to avoid pregnancy but were not using a modern method of birth control.<sup>3</sup>

The average woman in Zambia gives birth to 4.6 children in her lifetime.<sup>4</sup> In terms of maternal mortality, Zambia has a ratio of 213 per 100,000 live births, compared to 534 for sub-Saharan Africa, on average.<sup>5</sup> The child mortality rate in Zambia is 62 deaths among children under 5 per 1,000 live births, compared to 76 in the sub-Saharan region.<sup>6</sup>

The Government of Zambia is collaborating with USAID and other partners to address the country's maternal and child health needs. This includes increasing investment in FP/RH to reach a projected modern contraceptive prevalence rate of 35.8 percent among all women aged 15 to 49, regardless of marital status, by 2020.<sup>7</sup>

Estimated health impacts from USAID procurement investments



<sup>1</sup>Unless otherwise noted, all figures reported in this brief are over the life of the GHSC-PSM project and do not reflect USAID's contraceptive investment prior to FY 2017. The figures reflect delivered commodities, not shipped commodities, and may not be comparable to figures reported in previous materials.

<sup>2</sup>USAID: "Acting on the Call: A Focus on the Journey to Self-reliance for Preventing Child and Maternal Deaths." (2019). [https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1864/USAID\\_2019\\_AOTC.pdf](https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1864/USAID_2019_AOTC.pdf) Accessed July 27, 2020.

<sup>3</sup>Family Planning 2020. "FP2020 Core Indicator Summary Sheet: 2018-2019 Annual Progress Report." [http://www.familyplanning2020.org/sites/default/files/Data-Hub/2019CI/Zambia\\_2019\\_CI\\_Handout.pdf](http://www.familyplanning2020.org/sites/default/files/Data-Hub/2019CI/Zambia_2019_CI_Handout.pdf) Accessed July 27, 2020.

<sup>4</sup>Fertility rate, total (births per woman). <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SPDYN.TFR.TN>

Accessed July 27, 2020.

<sup>5</sup>World Bank Maternal Mortality Ratio. <https://datatabank.worldbank.org/reports.aspx?source=2&series=SH.STA.MMRT&country=> Accessed July 27, 2020.

<sup>6</sup>World Bank. Child Mortality Rate. <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.DYN.MORT> Accessed July 27, 2020.

<sup>7</sup>Family Planning 2020. [http://www.familyplanning2020.org/sites/default/files/Data-Hub/2019CI/Zambia\\_2019\\_CI\\_Handout.pdf](http://www.familyplanning2020.org/sites/default/files/Data-Hub/2019CI/Zambia_2019_CI_Handout.pdf) Accessed July 27, 2020.

# USAID Contraceptive Investment



In partnership with the Government of Zambia and other in-country stakeholders, USAID has supported the procurement and distribution of more than 10 million FP/RH products to USAID-supported health facilities and organizations in Zambia from FY 2017-2020 despite challenges with last-mile distribution. Throughout these challenges, staff at some individual health facilities have worked to ensure that clients continue to have the full range of choices. The contraceptives, when combined with proper counseling and correct use, are estimated to provide approximately 1.4 million couple years protection<sup>8</sup> and to help prevent:

- 520,000 unintended pregnancies
- 700 maternal deaths
- 153,000 abortions
- 12,500 child deaths<sup>9</sup>

These investments in contraceptives have the potential of saving approximately **\$40.8 million** in direct spending on healthcare—resources that can be reinvested in Zambia's health system.

Through its investments in contraceptives and supply chains, USAID and other global and in-country partners are helping Zambia meet its people's FP/RH needs. Countries that partner with USAID to invest in FP/RH can achieve greater self-reliance by improving their overall health systems and empowering families to plan for their futures.

## Methodology

The indicators presented in this brief were calculated by entering procurement data from the GHSC-PSM project database<sup>10</sup> into the Impact 2 model,<sup>11</sup> a socio-demographic mathematical model used to measure the impact of FP/RH programs.

The FP/RH impact indicators, as reported in this brief, estimate the global demographic, health and economic impact of the GHSC-PSM project thus far. To make these calculations, GHSC-PSM adjusted certain criteria in the model. For more information, please contact [PSMMonitoringandEval@ghsc-psm.org](mailto:PSMMonitoringandEval@ghsc-psm.org).

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“We were able to increase the number of FP days to three per week, from morning to afternoon, unlike in the past where we used to do it only once per week, and only in the morning. This has helped us a lot because we were able to attend to marketeers and other women's groups who used to have challenges in accessing FP services previously when it was only in the mornings.”

—Nurse Nasilele Kalima, FP provider



Last mile deliveries of medical supplies from Nalolo District Health Office to Nakatwelenge Health Post in Nalolo District. Photo credit: Evaristo Chola

CONTRACEPTIVE METHODS <sup>12</sup>	TOTAL PRODUCTS DELIVERED FY 2017-2020*
Combined oral contraceptives	7.9M
Emergency oral contraceptives	44K
Progestin only pills	133K
Implantable contraceptives	55K
Injectable contraceptives	2.6M
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF CONTRACEPTIVES DELIVERED</b>	<b>10.7M</b>
<b>TOTAL VALUE OF COMMODITIES</b>	<b>\$4.9M**</b>

\*Data through Q2 of FY 2020

\*\*This figure represents solely the calculation of the value of commodities and does not include shipment or other associated costs.

<sup>8</sup>CYP is the estimated protection provide by contraceptive methods during a one-year period, based upon the volume of all contraceptives sold or distributed free of charge to clients during that period. <https://www.usaid.gov/global-health/health-areas/family-planning/couple-years-protection-cyp>

<sup>9</sup>This indicator only estimates reduction in deaths as a result of improved birth spacing. The data linking the contraceptive prevalence rate, birth spacing and child mortality is currently limited.

<sup>10</sup>GHSC-PSM's Automated Requisition Tracking Management Information System (ARTMIS) is used to enter, manage, process and track orders throughout the supply chain.

<sup>11</sup><https://www.maristopes.org/what-we-do/our-approach/our-technical-expertise/impact-2/>, Accessed March 16, 2020. The number of preventable deaths, abortions and unintended pregnancies averted is calculated by entering into the model the number of FP/RH commodities delivered by GHSC-PSM across a selected time period.

<sup>12</sup>Units of measurement for contraceptives: combined oral (cycle); implantable (implant); standard days (piece); injectable (device); condoms (piece); progestin only pills (cycle); copper-bearing intrauterine (device); emergency oral (package)