

Contraceptive Security Indicators Survey

Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic Budgets and Government Spending

The 2021 Contraceptive Security (CS) Indicators survey asked respondent countries to provide information on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, specifically on the family planning/reproductive health (FP/RH) sector. One of the most important aspects of the success of a health sector is the resources they have available and how those resources are used. The survey requested information on how national contraceptive budgets and/or government spending on contraceptives were impacted to measure the overall effect of the pandemic.

HOW MUCH HAS BEEN APPROVED?

To fully understand the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on national contraceptive strategies, the 2021 CS survey asked respondents to provide information on whether approved budget lines for contraceptives shifted. Within the countries surveyed, **63%** reported that **none of their designated budgets shifted**.

The common themes among surveyed countries for how they were able to maintain designated budgets included the following:

- ✓ **Contraceptive spending had been allocated prior to the pandemic**
- ✓ **Government advocacy and coordination prevented budget deficits**
- ✓ **Budgets were met in full, but upcoming budget cuts are expected**

Surveyed countries that observed changes to their approved budget lines for contraceptives noted the following:

- ✓ **Sufficient stock for 2021 allowed for countries to shift budget lines to COVID-19 response**
- ✓ **Parts of the dedicated budgets were shifted to provincial departments**
- ✓ **Large sections of contraceptive budgets shifted to COVID-19 response**



“Significant advocacy, coordination with UNFPA and budget reprogramming occurred to fulfil the [contraceptive] budget deficit.”

Ethiopia 2021 CS Indicators Survey Response

Among the five countries that reported having shifted a large portion of their contraceptive budgets to the COVID-19 response, two still reported a surplus of funding when including donor funds. The remaining three countries faced severe budget shortfalls for contraceptives in 2020.

HOW MUCH IS BEING SPENT?

The survey also requested information on overall government spending patterns on contraceptives: 59% of countries surveyed reported no impact, 12% reported high impact, and 22% reported medium impact. This is a higher rate of COVID-19 impact than the previous indicator suggested.

The common themes among surveyed countries included the following:

- ✓ **Supply chain disruptions globally affected governments' abilities to spend on contraceptives**
- ✓ **Procurement processes were affected by COVID-19-related restrictions and delays**
- ✓ **Spending was not affected, as governments had previously increased spending on FP and contraceptives, minimizing the recent impacts of the pandemic**

Most countries surveyed did not provide specific reasons for the impact of COVID-19 on their contraceptive spending, even if they noted high or medium impact.

To find more information about how COVID-19 affected country's contraceptive security priorities, refer to the CS Indicators 2021 report and dataset.

Each of the indicators reported related to COVID-19 Impact is listed below:

- Emergency preparedness plans that include FP**
- COVID-19 impact on the frequency of CS committee meetings (in 2020)**
- COVID-19 impact on approved budget lines for contraceptives**
- COVID-19 impact on government spending for contraceptives**
- Operational practices to facilitate access to FP services**
- COVID-19 disruption of availability of FP/RH commodities**

