

## ISSUE BRIEF

# EFFECTIVENESS OF THE FP ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM IN THE NIGERIA FAMILY PLANNING BLUEPRINT



## CONTEXT

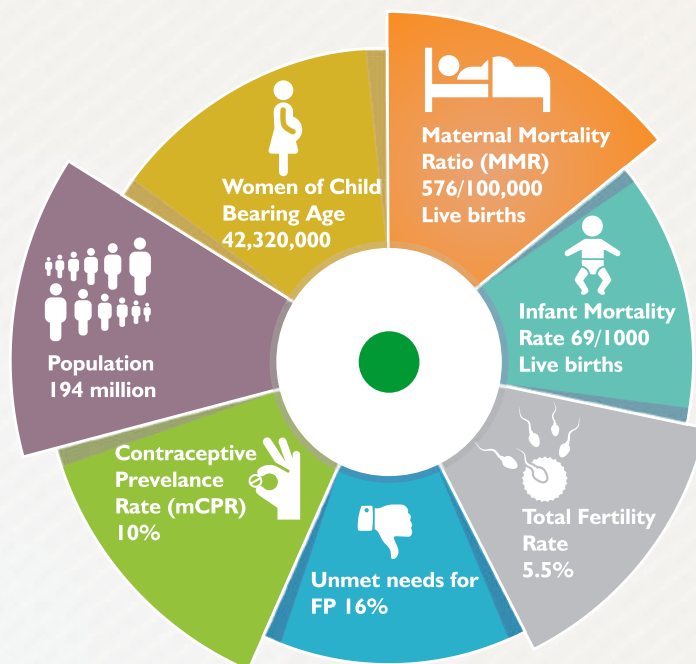
The Nigeria Family Planning Blueprint (Scale-Up Plan – 2014 -2018) was developed in 2013 as a way of achieving the goal to increase the modern contraceptives prevalence rate (mCPR) from 10% to 36% by 2018 the commitment made at the FP 2020 London Summit of July 12, 2012. This commitment made in order to rapidly reduce maternal mortality ratio (MMR) by 75 percent and infant mortality rate by 66 percent across Nigeria. The Blueprint provides the necessary tool to achieve improvements in coordination, funding, commodity security, logistics management, demand creation, service delivery and accountability for the national programme that would achieve the increase.

Achieving the FP2020 FP goal of 36% modern Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (mCPR) would mean that additional:

- 8 million women would be reached with FP
- 120,000 mothers' lives would be saved
- 101, 000 children's lives would be saved



Nigeria is currently the most populous country in Africa and ranks tenth in the world, with a population of over 190 million people with an annual population



growth rate of 3.2 percent, Nigeria is projected to becoming the third most populous country next to India and China by 2050. The use of modern family planning methods in Nigeria has consistently remained very low over the past three decades with the country reporting a 10% Contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR –National demographic and Health Survey [NDHS] Reports 2008, & 2013); though with marked differences between the urban and rural areas (17% versus 6%) and a wide regional variation across the geopolitical zones. The unmet need for FP at 16% (NDHS Report 2013) is about one and a half times much more than the mCPR.

This low use of modern family planning services contributes to Nigeria's poor maternal and child health situation and also accounts for the high total fertility rate of almost six children per woman which effectively contributes to the high population

Family planning is a way that allows individuals and couples to anticipate and attain their desired number of children and the spacing and timing of their births. It can be achieved through use of contraceptive methods and the treatment of involuntary infertility

It is universally acknowledged as one of the most cost effective ways of achieving reduction in maternal mortality, improved maternal health and demographic dividends. Evidence from research studies show that successful FP programs contribute to about 30% reduction of MMR.

**Progress of the Implementation of the Blueprint:** The Government of Nigeria with support from FP stakeholders has made considerable progress to implement the interventions enumerated in the Blueprint. This has succeeded to increasing the mCPR increased marginally to xxx. Figure less than half of the target

Consequently, at the 2017 summit, Nigeria, renewed its commitment revising the goal downwards to achieving 27% mCPR by 2020. Investing in a robust accountability system that tracks and reports annually, real-time domestic resource on FP expenditures at national and state levels is one of actions geared toward achieving the renewed goal.

**What is Accountability?** Accountability is the obligation of an individual or organization to account for its activities, accept responsibility for them, and to disclose the results in a transparent manner. It also includes the responsibility for money or other entrusted property. Accountability links resources to results, i.e. the outputs, outcomes and impacts they produce.

#### Elements of Accountability The 4r's

- **Responsibilities:** All parties in an accountability relationship have obligations that imply responsibilities and consequences
- **Review:** Analyzing and reflecting on the reported results, the means used, and then taking appropriate action.
- **Result:** Focused on whether the outputs and outcomes are accomplished or not accomplished
- **Reporting:** The results that have been achieved and the appropriateness of the means used

#### What is FP Accountability?

FP Accountability refers to a FP program that has mechanisms that monitors and evaluates both financial resource flows to family planning, as well as the quality of the information, services and contraceptives delivered through programs to determine the efficiency and effectiveness of a FP programming.

The right based programming is fundamental to the implementation of many health programs including FP. Thus, the right based approach model for FP can be used as a good mechanism to address accountability. This is because focus is centered round the people the program is meant for rather than numbers with the goal to fulfill the rights of individuals to determine freely but responsibly the number and timing of children with access to quality information and services, free from discrimination or coercion.








In addition, human rights principles guide the program policy from design to evaluation and empowers clients or potential clients to know and claim their human rights.



The Conceptual Framework of a voluntary, rights-based family planning program and how effectively to implement developed by the Futures Group, Engenderhealth, BMGF is summarized below:

## Right principles of Family Planning and their Implication

### Rights Principles      Example Family Planning Implications

|   |  |
|---|--|
|    | <b>Availability</b><br>Broad choice of FP methods offered in sufficient numbers and needs-based distribution of functioning service  |
|    | <b>Accessibility</b><br>Program is covered by Policy, FP information available in language/terms people can understand, services provided where they can access it, including convenient service hours   |
|    | <b>Acceptability</b><br>Cultural acceptability of FP and specific methods<br>Community/family supports women's right of choice   |
|    | <b>Quality</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clinical quality/technical competence</li> <li>• Client satisfaction with services</li> </ul>  |
|   | <b>Privacy and Confidentiality</b><br>Clients interactions cannot be observed or heard by anyone else<br>Client records are not shared with anyone and information is not disclosed  |
|  | <b>Informed Choice</b><br>Decision whether FP and what method to use is made voluntarily, based upon accurate information and understanding, without barriers or coercion  |
|  | <b>Equality and Non discrimination</b><br>Equal access to quality information and services for everyone<br>(inclusive of age, ethnicity, class, urban/rural/economic/marital status discrimination other vulnerable groups) to be treated without bias and equitable |

### Why is Effective Accountability Mechanism Important for the FP Blueprint?

Accountability and right based programming are mutually exclusive; consequently an effective implementation of policies, commitments and plans is the pivot of accountability.

Consequently, accountability would ensure that progress of the implementation of the FP Blueprint is tracked towards results as well as monitors and assesses the protection of human rights. It would provide government with valuable information about the impact of interventions outlined in the FP Blueprint while providing rights-holders with information they need to participate meaningfully in FP decision making and hold government accountable for realizing their right to health.

### Accountability Mechanism In The Current Family Planning Blueprint

A desk review of the document and linking it to the principles described above revealed the following gaps.

- Less than optimal application of right principles and accountability mechanisms and standards as part of priority in the FP landscape
- The monitoring and evaluation plan is deficient of indicators to monitor the extent of quality care received by beneficiaries and the effectiveness of FP commodities received.
- Virtually no participation of the Non-health actors.

**Conclusion:** Effective FP accountability mechanism will increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the

implementation of the FP Blueprint. This will happen through monitoring and evaluation of the right of the FP client to available, accessible, acceptable, qualitative, privacy and confidentiality, equitable FP service and in addition monitor how financial resource flows to family planning, how they are used.

This will result to:

- FP Services reaching to vulnerable groups and hard to reach
- People centred programmes and services that would result to increased client satisfaction
- Evidence based decision-making
- Increase in mCPR with subsequent reduction in maternal deaths
- Increased community demand for services

#### References:

1. <http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/accountability.html>
2. Nigeria Family Planning Blueprint (Scale-Up Plan) October 2014
3. Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey 2013
4. Understanding Right-Based Approach to Family Planning – Presentation by Kaja Jurczynska Palladium, February 2018

*The Association for the Advancement of Family Planning (AAFP) is a registered national coalition of Family Planning (FP) advocates in Nigeria comprising government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), development partners, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), as well as the private sector.*

*AAFP envisions a Nigeria where every person has access to quality FP information and services as a right.*



#### About PAS Project

The Partnership for Advocacy in Child and Family at Scale, PACFaH@Scale, (PAS) is a social accountability project which aims to strengthen the capacity of Nigerian Civil Society Organizations, (CSOs) at national and state levels to hold decision-makers (in the executive and legislature) to account on, 1) Health policies/laws; 2) Financial commitments; and 3) To bring down regulatory barriers related to child and family health. PAS is anchored by the development Research and Project Center, (dRPC), and implemented by a coalition of 8 indigenous health NGOs/professional associations and supported by 2

