

FP2020

CIVIL SOCIETY PLAYS A CRITICAL ROLE IN ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARDS FP2020 GOAL



THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN ACHIEVING THE FP2020 GOAL

FP2020 is building new partnerships and driving new commitments to enable an additional 120 million women in the world's poorest countries to use modern contraception by 2020. Civil society champions are forging strong relationships with donors and governments, supported by FP2020. These partnerships are resulting in: high-quality service delivery, outreach to the most vulnerable populations, increased community support and engagement, and program accountability to the people served. Partnerships that include civil society are often more successful, with an emphasis on inclusiveness and results.

As we approach 2020, the family planning community must build strong sustainable partnerships between governments and civil society organizations, strengthen the role of civil society groups in promoting family planning, and hold governments accountable for the commitments they have made through FP2020.

A cornerstone of FP2020's country support approach is the focal point structure in each commitment-making country. Focal Points – representing Ministry of Health, UNFPA, USAID or DFID – serve as critical partners in achieving countries' FP2020 goals. To accelerate action and impact, in 2017 FP2020 expanded the focal point structure to include a representative from civil society in each country.

WHAT IS CIVIL SOCIETY?

Civil society refers to a wide array of groups including nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), youth-led organizations, faith-based organizations, and community-based organizations that help shape policies, implement and monitor programs, and engage in advocacy to hold governments accountable for their duty to fulfill human rights and global commitments.

ADVOCACY SPOTLIGHT: CAMEROON

Issue: As of 2017, many district and municipal policymakers had yet to designate specific budget lines for family planning (FP). The months leading up to the 2017 budget cycle presented a vital opportunity for advocates to secure funding for FP programs.

Action: With funding from FP2020's Rapid Response Mechanism, Youth Health International (YHI) engaged policymakers, religious leaders, and civil society representatives in 15 municipalities and supported them to prioritize FP in their budgets. YHI coordinated the development of municipal-level action plans to ensure that FP is well-positioned in programming and budgeting through 2020, in line with the country's FP2020 commitment.

Impact: For the first time in the country, 15 mayors allocated portions of their 2018/2019 budgets to family planning activities, including the purchase of contraceptives ranging from 2 million CFA (\$3,700) to 5 million CFA (\$9,000). This was estimated to benefit more than 330,000 women of reproductive age in these communities.

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FP2020 ENGAGEMENT WITH CSOs

Global Advocacy: FP2020 collaborates with partners to set the global family planning advocacy agenda and supports promotion of evidence and best practices among global advocates. Through strong collaboration with partners such as Advanced Family Planning, The Advocacy Collaborative, and the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition, FP2020 advances the alignment of advocacy efforts among global CSOs to respond to chronic and time-sensitive family planning issues effectively.

Country-level CSO Engagement: FP2020 is driving country progress through mobilizing key stakeholders and advocating for civil society's priorities during meetings and planning discussions. FP2020 CSO focal points aim to facilitate transparent flow of information between focal points and civil society organizations on issues that impede progress on commitments, such as funding gaps, limited contraceptive choice, and poor-quality service provision. Through the CSO focal points, FP2020 strengthens country level family planning CSO coalitions and ensures a well-coordinated partnership that effectively engages with the CSOs.

Country-level Advocacy for Resource Mobilization and Policy Change: The FP2020 partnership prioritizes country-level advocacy through supporting advocates, including youth, to identify and prioritize advocacy opportunities to accelerate progress toward FP2020 country commitments. FP2020 works closely with data expert partners, such as Track20, to ensure that CSO-led advocacy efforts are actionable, targeted, and supported by relevant and recent data.

Technical Capacity: FP2020 connects CSOs with technical experts, mobilizes implementing partners, and identifies opportunities for cross-learning and strengthening FP programs. In addition, FP2020 facilitates partner consultations and knowledge exchange on promotion and implementation of High Impact Practices (HIPs), Postpartum Family Planning (PPFP), Rights-Based Family Planning, and the use of data for effective advocacy.

Monitoring and Accountability: CSO-led accountability efforts play a significant role in meeting FP2020 commitments and helping countries achieve their FP2020 goals. FP2020 enhances the role of CSOs in monitoring and accountability of FP2020 commitments. Through partner consultations and collaboration, FP2020 is broadening the understanding of collaborative accountability, promoting scale-up of best practices, strengthening capacity of local CSOs to implement effective accountability efforts, and ensuring that recent and reliable country-specific FP data is accessible to local advocates and supporting them to use it effectively to foster accountability.

“The CSO community has been advocating for funding for the National Health Act and ensuring that family planning is included on items to be paid for. We are training and empowering CSOs to track and monitor funds appropriated for and released for FP in the budget. Our advocacy efforts have led to the government committing \$4 million annually to FP services, funding which had previously been provided by donors.”
Dr. Ejike Oji, Chairman, Association for Advancement of Family Planning (AAFP) and FP2020 CSO Focal Point – Nigeria

“When governments make global commitments, there are rarely country-level mechanisms to help civil society organizations learn about, understand, and track those commitments. CSOs are powerful forces to monitor and hold governments accountable to their promises. As we take stock of historic progress made so far, the role that CSOs play has become critical to move from commitments to tangible progress in countries”. ***Dr. Moses Muwonge, SAMASHA Uganda***

When mobilized, civil society plays a critical role in successful implementation of FP2020 commitments and ensures that women and girls in high burden countries have access to high-quality, rights-based family planning information, services, and commodities.