

CHILD BIRTH SPACING FOR HEALTHY FAMILY AND A HAPPY STATE

(Fact Sheet)



BACKGROUND

Niger State has a total population of 5,900,257 of which 1,298,057 (22 percent) are women of reproductive age (15-49 years). The MMR (table below) is unacceptably high and should be addressed as a matter of urgency by the Government and people of Niger State. In addition, women engage in high-risk childbirths by too frequent and closely spaced pregnancies. Government funding of Child Birth Spacing (CBS) programs is inadequate at all levels; this is further worsened by the inadequate number of skilled health providers. Though CBS commodities are free, service providers still charge clients because of the non-availability of consumables, which are necessary for the provision of quality family planning services.

MATERNAL HEALTH INDICES

Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR)	576/100,000 live births (NDHS, 2013)
Infant Mortality Rate	67/1000 live births (NDHS, 2018)
Total Fertility Rate	6.1 (NDHS, 2013)
mCPR	6.4 (NDHS, 2018)
Unmet needs	19.2 (NDHS, 2018)

KEY ISSUES

- ▶ CBS services are yet to be prioritized in the State.
- ▶ Low funding of CBS at State and LGA levels.
- ▶ Myths and a misconception on childbirth spacing services in the communities.
- ▶ Prevailing cultural and religious barriers limiting the uptake of CBS services.
- ▶ Most of the media professionals have limited knowledge of Childbirth spacing and its benefits.
- ▶ Public private partnership for health is not yet supporting childbirth spacing programmes.



ACTIONS REQUIRED

- ▶ Create budget/funding for CBS activities at the State Primary Healthcare Development Agency.
- ▶ Strengthen public private partnership for childbirth spacing programmes and services.
- ▶ Traditional/religious leaders and public office holders should speak publicly in support of CBS uptake.

BENEFITS

- ▶ Avert over 179,152 unintended pregnancies between January 2019 and December 2020.
- ▶ Prevent 64,484 unsafe abortions between January 2019 and December 2020.
- ▶ Save the lives of 942 mothers between January 2019 and December 2020.
- ▶ Prevent the death of 4,937 children between January 2019 and December 2020.
- ▶ Save N1.548 Billion in Healthcare cost.



DEFINITION OF TERMS

- **Childbirth Spacing:** An informed decision by an individual or a couple on how many children to have and when to have them and using modern contraceptive methods to adequately space pregnancies.
- **Maternal Mortality:** Death of a woman while pregnant, within 42 days of childbirth or termination of pregnancies.
- **Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR):** Percentage of women between 15-49 years who are practicing or whose sexual partners are practicing any form of contraception.
- **mCPR:** modern CPR.
- **Unmet Needs:** The percentage of persons of reproductive age who want to use contraceptives but do not have access to them either due to unavailability or lack of information.
- **High Risk Childbirth:** This is a childbirth situation involving a mother who is younger than 18 years or above 35 years or where the time from last birth to the next is less than 24 months apart or where the parity (number of pregnancies resulting in delivery) is 5 or higher.
- **Reproductive Age:** Generally defined as women aged 15-49 years and men aged 15-59 years.



CHILD BIRTH SPACING FOR HEALTHY FAMILY AND A HAPPY STATE

(Role of Legislators)



BACKGROUND

Niger State has a total population of 5,900,257 of which 1,298,057 (22 percent) are women of reproductive age (15-49 years). The MMR (table below) is unacceptably high and should be addressed as a matter of urgency by the Government and people of Niger State. In addition, women engage in high-risk childbirths by too frequent and closely spaced pregnancies. Despite the efforts of government towards improving access to quality family planning services, there is still inadequacy of fund. The family planning goal of the state is to increase the CPR from 8.1 percent to 25 percent in 2020 (Niger State CIP 2017 - 2020).



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Unmet needs	19.2 (NDHS, 2018)

KEY ISSUES

- ▶ Childbirth Spacing program is not prioritized in the state health agenda.
- ▶ There is no budget line for CBS at State and LGA levels.
- ▶ The prevailing Socio-cultural/Religious barriers limit uptake Childbirth spacing services.

ACTIONS REQUIRED

- ▶ Appropriate budget/funding of CBS activity at the State Primary Healthcare Development Agency.
- ▶ Track spending and utilization of CBS funds as part of the legislative oversight functions.

BENEFITS

- ▶ Avert over 179,152 unintended pregnancies between January 2019 and December 2020.
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CHILD BIRTH SPACING FOR HEALTHY FAMILY AND A HAPPY STATE

(Men's Talk)



BACKGROUND

Niger State has a total population of 5,900,257 of which 1,298,057 (22 percent) are women of reproductive age (15-49 years). The MMR (table below) is unacceptably high and should be addressed as a matter of urgency by the Government and people of Niger State. In addition, women engage in high-risk childbirths by too frequent and closely-spaced pregnancies. Traditionally men have determined household decisions which include access to health care. Evidence has shown that when men are knowledgeable about the benefits of childbirth spacing, they support, prioritize women's health and embrace childbirth spacing. It follows that men can actively take responsibility for reducing maternal death.



ACTIONS REQUIRED

- ▶ Men to know more about childbirth spacing by talking to experts about it.
- ▶ Men to talk about CBS with your partner(s) and peers.
- ▶ Men to encourage other men to use suitable CBS methods and women to access CBS services available in health facilities.
- ▶ Actively drive change as CBS champions.

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Unmet needs	19.2 (NDHS, 2018)

KEY ISSUES

- ▶ The prevailing Socio-cultural/Religious barriers limit CBS uptake.
- ▶ False belief that wives who access CBS services are promiscuous.
- ▶ Low male involvement in CBS and maternal health program.
- ▶ According to the omnibus survey, 64 percent of men in the rural areas and 56.2 percent of men in the urban areas of the state have never heard of CBS from the media (Omnibus, 2017).

BENEFITS

- ▶ Improved quality of living of the family.
- ▶ Save the lives of 942 mothers between January 2019 and December 2020.
- ▶ Prevent the death of 4,937 children between January 2019 and December 2020.
- ▶ Allow for career development of both men and women.



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CHILD BIRTH SPACING FOR HEALTHY FAMILY AND A HAPPY STATE

(Media Brief)



BACKGROUND

Niger State has a total population of 5,900,257 of which 1,298,057 (22 percent) are women of reproductive age (15-49 years). The MMR (table below) is unacceptably high and should be addressed as a matter of urgency by the Government and people of Niger State. In addition, women engage in high-risk childbirths by too frequent and closely-spaced pregnancies. The media is known to set the agenda therefore play an important role in saving women's lives by giving priority to the reportage on CBS. In all the five (5) radio stations and two (2) TV stations in Niger state, there is no regular program targeted at educating the populace about childbirth spacing (CBS). It would be nice to have dedicated weekly or daily programs for CBS.



ACTIONS REQUIRED

- ▶ Allocate airtime and slots for Childbirth Spacing program in state and private media outfits.
- ▶ Media to engage in strategic dialogue with policy makers and other stakeholders on CBS issues.
- ▶ Monitor and track government investment and actions on CBS and disseminate information to the public on government's performance.
- ▶ Communicate public perception of government's support of CBS activities.
- ▶ Actively drive change and be the key source of information on the benefits of CBS for the public using the media.
- ▶ Cover more stories on childbirth spacing.

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Unmet needs	19.2 (NDHS, 2018)

KEY ISSUES

- ▶ The prevailing Socio-cultural/Religious barriers limit Childbirth Spacing uptake.
- ▶ According to the omnibus survey, 64 percent of men and 76.4 percent of women in rural parts of the state have never heard of CBS on media (Omnibus, 2017).
- ▶ Low media coverage and reporting on Childbirth Spacing (CBS) services on media outfits in the State.
- ▶ Most of the media professionals have limited knowledge of Childbirth spacing and its benefits.

BENEFITS

- ▶ Increase visibility and public awareness on Childbirth spacing and maternal health.
- ▶ Contribute to the following benefits:
 - Avert over 179,152 unintended pregnancies between January 2019 and December 2020.
 - Prevent 64,484 unsafe abortions between January 2019 and December 2020.
 - Save the lives of 942 mothers between January 2019 and December 2020.
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CHILD BIRTH SPACING FOR HEALTHY FAMILY AND A HAPPY STATE

(Policy Brief)



BACKGROUND

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ACTIONS REQUIRED

- ▶ Create budget line/funds for CBS activities at the State Primary Healthcare Development Agency.
- ▶ Strengthen public private partnership for childbirth spacing programmes and services.
- ▶ As a public office holder speak publicly in support of CBS uptake.

BENEFITS

- ▶ Avert over 179,152 unintended pregnancies between January 2019 and December 2020.
- ▶ Prevent 64,484 unsafe abortions between January 2019 and December 2020.
- ▶ Save the lives of 942 mothers between January 2019 and December 2020.
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KEY ISSUES

- ▶ Childbirth Spacing program is not prioritized in the state health agenda.
- ▶ There is no budget line for CBS at State and LGA levels.
- ▶ The prevailing Socio-cultural Religious barriers limit uptake Childbirth spacing services.
- ▶ Public private partnership for health is not yet supporting childbirth spacing programs.

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CHILD BIRTH SPACING FOR HEALTHY FAMILY AND A HAPPY STATE

(Role of Religious/Traditional Leaders)



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Unmet needs	19.2 (NDHS, 2018)

KEY ISSUES

- ▶ The prevailing Socio-cultural/Religious barriers limit CBS uptake.
- ▶ False belief that wives who access CBS services are promiscuous.
- ▶ There is low knowledge on CBS in the State. According to the omnibus survey, 78.1 percent of men and 77.6 percent of women in the state have never heard their religious/traditional leaders speak in favor of CBS uptake (Omnibus, 2017).

ACTIONS REQUIRED

- ▶ Traditional leaders actively drive the change by speaking publicly in favor of CBS uptake.
- ▶ The Traditional leaders use their influence on policy makers ensure the funding of CBS program in the state.
- ▶ Use every opportunity and platform to draw attention to the health of women and children, their rights and the resources needed to improve CBS services.

BENEFITS

- ▶ Improved quality of living of the family and the community at large.
- ▶ Avert over 179,152 unintended pregnancies between January 2019 and December 2020.
- ▶ Prevent 64,484 unsafe abortions between January 2019 and December 2020.
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