

STOP MATERNAL/INFANT DEATH; EMBRACE FAMILY PLANNING

(Fact Sheet)



BACKGROUND

Ogun state prides itself as a gateway state and the state anthem depict that hard work is very important for her citizens. The state also ranks among the states with high literacy level in Nigeria. Women, in particular, those of child-bearing age, about 20 percent of the state population of 7.1M people, contribute to the social economic development of the state, therefore, high number of maternal and infant death is unacceptable - 179 out of 100,000 women dying as a result of pregnancy and pregnancy related issues. This problem is pathetic and calls for quick intervention with all hands-on deck. Ogun State population stands at 7,100,000 and 1,420,000 are woman of reproductive age (NPC 2016 and State Central Department of Statistics, 2016).



ACTIONS REQUIRED

- ▶ Timely release of funds as at when due.
- ▶ Full integration of family planning into all platforms of the State Health Insurance Scheme.
- ▶ Recruitment and continuous training of Health Workers on FP.
- ▶ Regular maintenance of Health facilities, with attention to FP unit.

DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATOR	INDICATOR VALUE	DATA SOURCE
Number of public health facilities providing FP	458 (out of 483)	SMOH
Infant Mortality (rate)	61/1,000	NDHS 2013
Percentage of women age 15-19 currently pregnant	3.4%	NDHS 2018
Contraceptive prevalence rate	32.1%	NDHS 2018
Total fertility rate	4.5	NDHS 2018
Percentage of women with unmet needs (women without access to FP)	17.6%	NDHS 2018

Rights based family planning (FP) is essential for realizing reproductive intentions, saving lives and advancing economic growth. Though the state has a budget line for Family Planning, it can only boast of a few trained FP service providers in the State 229 CHEWs, 225 Nurse/Midwives trained on LARC services. To contribute to the national goal of 27 percent of FP uptake by 2020, Ogun state is to increase its FP uptake from 32.1 percent in 2018 to 46 percent by 2020. The underfunding of family planning at all levels and other systemic issues have prevented those who need the service from accessing it.

KEY ISSUES

- ▶ Cultural and Social beliefs about family planning.
- ▶ Low demand generation activities on family planning.
- ▶ Inadequate family planning equipment and consumables across the Service Delivery Points (SDPs).
- ▶ Irregular distribution of family planning commodities to SDPs.
- ▶ Inadequate fund allocation for FP.
- ▶ Uneven distribution of skilled personnel.

BENEFITS

- ▶ FP is cost-effective: Today, every Naira (N1) spent on FP in Ogun saves N1.70 in direct maternal and infant healthcare costs. Increased government commitment to FP in Ogun could increase these savings to N2.50 per N1 spent by 2020.
 - Unintended pregnancies carry a lot of associated healthcare costs. If the public sector at the state and LGA levels funds FP, Ogun could save N2.8 billion in direct healthcare expenses by 2020.
- ▶ FP saves lives: Increased government commitment to FP could save additional 52/100,000 Mothers' lives and 2,777 Children lives by 2020. By making these commitments, the state government would not only increase FP use, ultimately saving the lives of women and children, but also advance Ogun's overall development.
- ▶ FP or Childbirth spacing enables mothers regain their health, gives enough time and opportunity for mothers to love and provide attention to their husbands and children and give time for women personal development.



DEFINITION OF TERMS

- **Family Planning (FP):** Family planning refers to the planning of when to have children, and the use of birth control. It allows individuals and couples to anticipate and have their desired number of children, and to achieve healthy spacing and timing of their births.
- **National Population Census (NPC):** A complete process of collection, reception, assessment, analysis, publication and distribution of demographic, economic and social data, which relate, at a given moment in time, to all the residents of a country or of a well-defined partial geographic area.
- **National Demographic Health Survey (NDHS):** A survey designed to assist developing countries to collect data on fertility, family planning, and maternal and child health.
- **Service Delivery Points (SDPs):** These are designated health facilities providing health services to people.
- **Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR):** is the percentage of women of reproductive age who are currently using, or whose sexual partner is currently using, at least one contraceptive method, regardless of the method used. It is reported for women aged 15 to 49 who are married or in a union.
- **Total fertility Rate (TFR):** The number of children who would be born per woman (or per 1,000 women).
- **Long Acting Reversible Contraceptive (LARC):** are methods of birth control that provide effective contraception for an extended period without requiring user action. They include injections, intrauterine devices (IUDs) and subdermal contraceptive implants.

EMBRACE FAMILY PLANNING AND PREVENT MATERNAL/INFANT DEATH

(Role of the Legislature)



BACKGROUND

Ogun State legislature's mission is to ensure that public funds are appropriated to projects that will enhance the living standard of the people as well as ensuring that funds appropriated are expended prudently on projects which they were meant for. Strong legislature will strengthen implementation of key health programs, including Family Planning (FP) in the state and consequently improve access to FP service in all health facilities. Other enabling interventions for FP Programming in the state:

- Adoption and practice of Task Sharing/Shifting Policy in the State.
- Availability of Family Planning Costed Implementation Plan in the State.
- Availability of budget line for Family Planning in the State Budget.
- FP service providers in the State – 229 CHEWs, 225 Nurse/Midwives trained on LARC.
- Presence of State Health Insurance Scheme (OGHIS).
- Inclusion of FP in MNCH week.

There has been notable rise in population of Ogun state, especially that of women and by extension Women of Reproductive Age (WRA) in the last 5 years and 17.6% of these women do not have access to Family Planning services (NDHS 2018). Also, the report of 2013 National Demographic Health Survey (NDHS) shows that 179 women out of 100,000 women die as a result of pregnancy related issues which are preventable. Studies have shown that FP can avert high risk pregnancies and consequently reduce maternal death by 40%. Despite these facts, the state still records low budget allocation for FP programming and services.

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KEY ISSUES

- ▶ Inadequate fund allocation to FP and delays in the release of FP allocated funds.
- ▶ Inadequate number of trained or skilled health service providers.
- ▶ Periodic stock out of FP commodities and consumables across the service delivery points/health facilities.
- ▶ Inadequate family planning equipment and poor status of health facilities.



ACTIONS REQUIRED

- ▶ Appropriate more funds in the State Health budget for family planning to improve and upgrade all health facilities.
- ▶ Recruitment and training of health care providers.
- ▶ Procurement of Family Planning equipment, commodity logistics and management system.
- ▶ Ensure monitoring of allocated funds for FP (prudent use) through oversight functions.
- ▶ Foster FP program supports through constituency projects, especially at a community level.

BENEFITS

- ▶ FP is cost-effective: Today, every Naira (N1) spent on FP in Ogun saves N1.70 in direct maternal and infant healthcare costs. Increased government commitment to FP in Ogun could increase these savings to N2.50 per N1 spent by 2020.
 - Unintended pregnancies carry a lot of associated healthcare costs. If the public sector at the state and LGA levels funds FP, Ogun could save N2.8 billion in direct healthcare expenses by 2020.
- ▶ FP saves lives: Increased government commitment to FP could save additional 52/100,000 Mothers' lives and 2,777 Children lives by 2020. By making these commitments, the state government would not only increase FP use, ultimately saving the lives of women and children, but also advance Ogun's overall development.
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PREVENT MATERNAL/INFANT DEATH; EMBRACE FAMILY PLANNING

(Role of the Media)



BACKGROUND

The media in Ogun State plays a key role in public health situations. Behaviour change can be achieved through effective investigative journalism and their role of giving accurate, correct information and voice for those who cannot speak for themselves. There has been a notable rise in population of Ogun state, especially that of women and by extension Women of Reproductive Age (WRA) in the last 5 years. Ogun population pyramid shows that the population is growing at the base with more children, adolescents and youth while the productive population is thinning out.

Media has been able to enhance behaviour change while influencing policy makers to make change in policy that affects people. The "get it together" (GIT) media spots on Family Planning (FP) have been aired across the country at prime times both on TV and Radio in 2017. "Serigbo" a radio drama program was also aired in the state. More than half of the women and men engaged were exposed to the intervention on radio. Meanwhile, 29.4% and 34.1% of men and women surveyed in the State were exposed to GIT spots on television (Omnibus flexi track, 2017).

Findings from the omnibus survey indicated that promotion of FP by the media is still very low in the state. The media, therefore, needs to create awareness to correct erroneous beliefs about FP and encourage Family Planning service uptake.



ACTIONS REQUIRED

- ▶ Allocate free media spots, airtime and slots to project Family Planning.
- ▶ Write, produce, publish and air programmes that promote FP.
- ▶ Use media to highlight the gaps that exist in FP and engage the public on FP discourse.
- ▶ Use investigative journalism to regularly monitor and report on the state of facilities viz a viz services and commodities.
- ▶ Create awareness on the importance of FP.
- ▶ Promote and support advocacy for FP through the media.

BENEFITS

- ▶ Increased media contribution to the social wellbeing of the people.
- ▶ Increased accountability of decision makers to issues affecting human development.
- ▶ Increased accountability among policy makers on family planning/Child Birth Spacing.
- ▶ Improved level of awareness of public on Family Planning.

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KEY ISSUES

- ▶ Low media publicity on Family Planning myths and misconception.
- ▶ Low knowledge of FP and its benefits.
- ▶ Cultural and Social beliefs about family planning.
- ▶ Low demand generation activities on family planning.
- ▶ Low male or community influencers involvement and support for family planning methods.



Modern Family Planning Methods: Safe and Trusted



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PREVENT MATERNAL/INFANT DEATH; EMBRACE FAMILY PLANNING

(Policy Brief)



BACKGROUND

Ogun state prides itself as a gateway state and the state anthem depict that hard work is very important to her citizens. Women, in particular, those of child-bearing age, about 20 percent of the state population of 7.1M people, contribute to the social economic development of the state. Therefore, issues relating directly to the well-being of mother and child, should be one of the state's priority. Ogun population pyramid shows that the population is growing at the base with more children, adolescents and youth while the productive population is thinning out. According to the report of 2013 National Demographic Health Survey (NDHS), 179 women out of 100,000 women die as a result of pregnancy related issues.

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As at 2018, the ratio on Government spent between the highest sector (Education) when compared with the Health sector is 3.72; this implies that for every N4 spent on Education N1 is being spent on Health. Our per capital spending for Education in 2016 was N2,020.60 per person; while per Capital Spending for FP 2016 is N1.77. Ogun State Government has actually made some achievements in the health sector. The percentage share of the health allocation to the total budget for year 2018 is 6.16%; the highest, ever allocated to health, so far. However, this is still low, compared to the Abuja declaration and the per Capital Spending on FP. The underfunding of family planning at all levels has prevented those who need the service from accessing the service due to insufficient and irregular distribution of commodities, inadequate and uneven distribution of skilled health personnel and charging of what is usually called token amount to cater for consumables at health facilities. Hence, need to increase allocation to health and invariably to FP.

KEY ISSUES

- ▶ Low budget allocation to FP and delays in the release of FP allocated funds.
- ▶ FP services being rendered as a stand-alone and vertical service.
- ▶ Periodic out of stock of FP commodities in health facilities/service delivery points.
- ▶ Low knowledge of FP and its benefits.
- ▶ Low male or community influencers involvement and support for family planning methods.



ACTIONS REQUIRED

- ▶ State government to increase funds for FP and timely release funds for FP.
- ▶ Integration of FP into the appropriate health program of the state.
- ▶ Ensure availability and regular distribution of commodities to the service delivery points.
- ▶ Improve and upgrade all health care facilities.
- ▶ Capacity Building and even-distribution of skilled health care workers.
- ▶ Sensitization to generate demand for modern family planning methods and address myths and misconceptions on FP in the community among male groups and community influencers.
- ▶ Engage media on FP policy and services awareness.

BENEFITS

- ▶ FP is cost-effective: Today, every Naira (N1) spent on FP in Ogun saves N1.7 in direct maternal and infant healthcare costs. Increased government commitment to FP in Ogun could increase these savings to N2.5 per N1 spent by 2020.
 - Unintended pregnancies carry a lot of associated healthcare costs. If the public sector at the state and LGA levels funds FP, Ogun could save N2.8 billion in direct healthcare expenses by 2020.
- ▶ FP saves lives: Increased government commitment to FP could save additional 52/100,000 Mothers' lives and 2,777 Children lives by 2020. By making these commitments, the state government would not only increase FP use, ultimately saving the lives of women and children, but also advance Ogun's overall development.



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PREVENT MATERNAL/INFANT DEATH; EMBRACE FAMILY PLANNING

(Role of Religious/Community Leader)



BACKGROUND

In Ogun State, religious and community leaders are the custodians of community values and tradition. They command a great deal of respect and influence peoples' behavior and attitudes, within and out of their circles. Speaking publicly in favor of FP has been established to increase FP uptake. In Ogun, 27.9% and 34.7% of men and women respectively think they cannot use FP if their religious leaders did not think so (omnibus flexi track, 2017). Meanwhile, acceptance or use of modern family planning is being hindered by some cultural and religious beliefs and norms, thereby generating a lot of myths and misconceptions in the society. Also, household or family decision-making process is not helping largely due to the culture of the land. It has been reported that out of every 100,000 women, 179 will be victims of pregnancy related death in Ogun State (NDHS 2013).



ACTIONS REQUIRED

- ▶ Speak publicly in favor of FP at family/religious/community/social gatherings.
- ▶ Advocate to and engage peers/other Religious and Community leaders to garner support for FP and child survival on the inclusion of FP messages.
- ▶ Encourage the mainstreaming FP into key life (social and religious) events.
- ▶ Champion the provision over sight functions to PHCs for seamless FP services.
- ▶ Organize or support FP demand generation activities with religious bodies or communities to ensure community members have access to correct information, health and development services.
- ▶ Engage legislators to enact laws for the provision of free comprehensive maternal and child health services, including FP services at all community and primary health care facilities.
- ▶ Advocate for funding, equipping of FP units and provision of skilled health personnel at all primary health care facilities.
- ▶ Encourage community members to utilize FP services to reduce maternal mortality and improve the health of mothers and babies.

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BENEFITS

- ▶ Studies have shown that all family planning methods are safe if provided by skilled provider at approved/designated health facilities which are in our community.
- ▶ If our revered Religious and Community leaders who have significant influence on their members and community and also being the custodian of culture and tenet of faith can lend their voice to openly speak in support of family planning and child spacing. Mothers will be protected from all forms of maternal illness and death.

SCRIPTURAL BASIS

Christian beliefs that God from the beginning gave commandment man to manage and control their affairs and live well in the world, "... be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion (control) ..." - Genesis 1:28

"Islamic teaching is ever in support of family planning in that it is meant to create a conducive family set up that will make you live well in this world and as well be able to perform good"

Further readings: Qur'an, 2:233; Qur'an 2:286



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