

Anambra State's Support of Family Planning In-Reaches Allows Approach to Expand Statewide to 63 Facilities

The Challenge Initiative (TCI) in Nigeria is implementing a highly effective approach called family planning in-reaches, where community mobilizers encourage potential clients to visit a particular facility, usually a primary health center (PHC), on designated days of the week.

In Anambra State, family planning outcomes improved after TCI partnered with the State Ministry of Health (SMOH) to implement in-reaches over a period of 18 months in the seven local government areas (LGAs) supported by TCI. Those results impressed the SMOH and led to the adoption of the in-reach approach across all 21 LGAs in the state.

According to the State Family Planning coordinator, Stella Ekweozor, 5,968 persons accepted services through in-reaches in October 2019 and 6,133 persons accepted in November 2019. Because in-reaches are facility-based, they help promote health facilities within the in-reach area. She added that in-reaches provide an opportunity for on-the-spot mentoring and coaching on identified gaps with their 100 service delivery coachees (as of December 2019). The in-reaches also provide verifiable data, a notable advantage over outreaches conducted in the community that can be marred by poor documentation due to limited number of personnel in the field.

Because of the increase in family planning service uptake in October and November, the Anambra SMOH adopted the strategy and funded 63 in-reaches across all 21 LGAs in the state. This expansion of the in-reach approach has spread beyond the 30 facilities TCI is supporting in seven LGAs.

TCI worked with the Family Planning Coordinator and Saving One Million Lives (SOML) to plan these



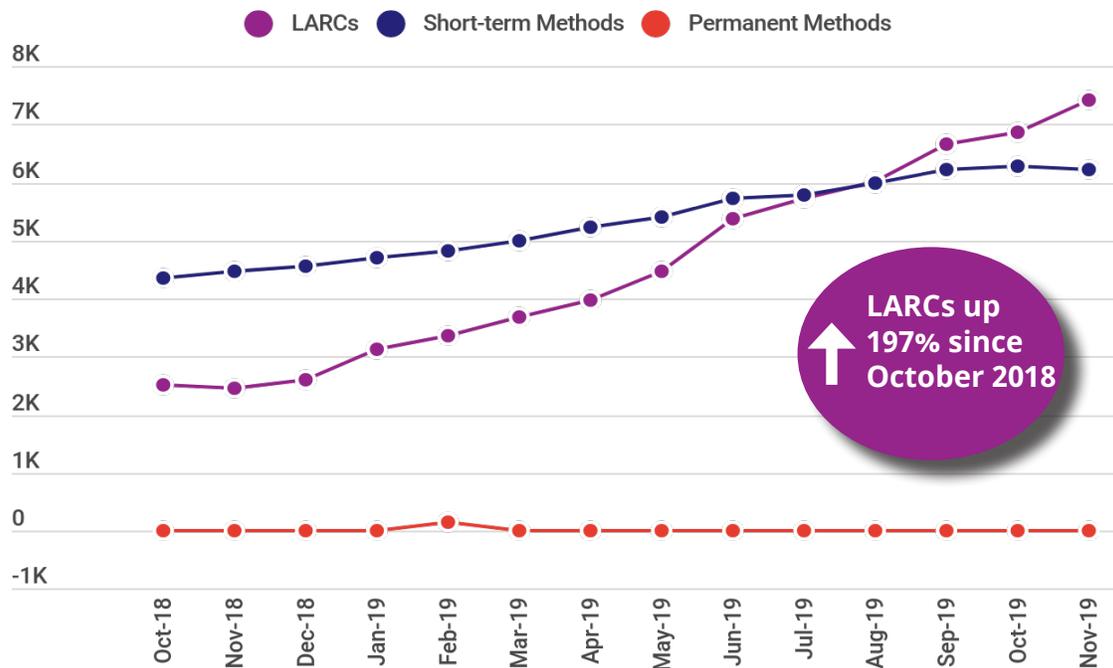
Women gathered for an in-reach in Anambra state.

first-ever, state-funded in-reaches as part of broad activities to increase access and reach to family planning services across the state.

This entailed providing technical assistance on a diverse range of activities, such as facility selection using specific criteria to maximize impact; sourcing competent service providers and other relevant personnel to ensure adequate human resources on the day of the in-reach; ensuring provision and distribution of adequate consumables and

"The state adopted the in-reach strategy because [it] is highly effective and results-oriented as it increases FP service uptake dramatically."

– Stella Ekweozor



This graph represents the increase in annual family planning client volume (Source: HMIS). To prevent overestimation of short-term methods, the HMIS data has been adjusted using standard “couple-years of protection,” (CYP) which is the total estimated protection provided by contraceptives in a one-year period. To account for seasonal variations, the data represents a 12-month average for short-term methods and a 12-month rolling sum for long-term. Thus, an increase in the trend means that the latest month outperforms the same month from last year.



As a result of this TCI proven intervention along with support from Anambra state, TCI has contributed to an overall increase of 99% in annual family planning client volume when comparing November 2019 with its lowest point in October 2018. For this same time period, TCI contributed to a 197% increase in annual LARC acceptors, accounting for 4,910 LARC acceptors.

Going forward, TCI will assist the Family Planning Coordinator in using the data from the in-reaches to justify further investment by the state in continuing family planning in-reaches across Anambra.

“I am thanking the state government for providing us with free FP services which has helped me to finally take up a method and am very happy and pray God to richly reward them for remembering us and I pray they will sustain the good work.”

**– Mrs. Ngozi Blessing
A satisfied user**

commodities to avoid stocks-outs; supervision including on-site coaching and mentoring during in-reach days; documentation of in-reach activities including collation, analysis and dissemination and mobilization of the community for the in-reaches; and using tailored strategic behavior change communication materials and messages.

The state appreciated TCI’s step-by-step guidance and coaching support and found the tools for implementing the approach easy to use. In fact, the state adopted TCI’s in-reach template to aid in documentation of the intervention.

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