



World Contraception Day 2025

Introduction

As we mark World Contraception Day 2025 under the theme **A Choice for All - agency, intention and access**, we are reminded that Kenya's vision for family planning by 2030 is to achieve universal access with zero unmet need. As a key consideration factored in during planning at the national level is not just a health right. It is also an indicator for development as recognised in Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality including reproductive health rights. The choice of how many children and when to have them is central to the survival of the children as well as their well-being and the participation of their mothers in other socio-economic activities.

Kenya has acknowledged family planning as

a socio-economic imperative and reduced its willingness to work towards accessible, acceptable, equitable and affordable quality family planning services in the FP2030 Kenya Government Commitment¹ since November 2021. FP2030 Commitments are pledges by countries to expand the voluntary and rights-based family planning services by passing policies, implementing programs and actions by 2030. This instrument contains eight commitment objectives through which Kenya intends to achieve this goal. In 2025 where we have seen geopolitical tensions with donors drastically reducing in funding of programs affecting availability of commodities and continuity of awareness campaigns, focus is on keeping up with Commitment Objective 3 and Financial Commitment Objective 8.

¹<https://www.fp2030.org/commitment-maker/kenya/documents/#tab>

Commitment Objective 3- A sustained availability of family planning commodities

Challenges in the supply chain management and ineffective forecast of family planning needs have been some of the issues underlying the constant stockouts reported in 2025. The United States Presidential Executive Order 14169 resulted in a 90- day and further indefinite pause in the USA foreign development assistance halting family planning programs all over Kenya. According to the UNFPA, the loss of donor funding may have resulted in no access to family planning services for over 6.2 million clients in Kenya in 2025. Given the complexities involved in supply chain management at the national level, it would be worthwhile to improve the capacity of counties to conduct forecasting and respond to the need at the sub-national level. Further, the FP 2030 Kenya Commitment created the Commodity Security Technical Working Group as a social accountability mechanism to ensure community led monitoring to supplement the logistical management information systems in place. Utilising the feedback from the monitoring activities of this Technical Working Group in planning would significantly reduce instances of stockouts.

Financial Commitment Objective 8 - Domestic financing for family planning commodities

Aimed at ensuring an effective coverage of 100% of the requirement by 2026, this last commitment aligns with the regional commitment to progressively increase financing

in the health sector to 15% of the total budget as per the Abuja Declaration. The Kenyan government allocated Kes. 138.1 billion to the health sector for the fiscal year 2025/2026², the larger percentage of which went into rolling out the novel systems for universal health coverage such as setting up the Social Health Authority. This choice of financial priorities for the year will reduce access to family planning services and commodities, leading to increased out of pocket expenditure for women and girls and unplanned pregnancies. The constant need for defence of the budget line for family planning by the National Council on Population and Development³ is a threat to the lives of the women and girls who rely on state run facilities to access family planning services. As a primary healthcare intervention, family planning can be integrated into the roll out of universal health coverage to remedy the competition for available resources.

Conclusion

A legal process challenging the Kenya Reproductive Health Policy 2020-2030 is still before the High Court, petitioning for a policy environment which supports actualization of the FP2030 Commitment. In the interim, we call for the utilization of all the social accountability mechanisms contained in the FP2030 Kenya Government Commitment in responding to unmet need for family planning. We also call upon the State Department for Medical Services, the National Council for Population and Development and the House Committees for Health in the National Assembly and the Senate to prioritize budgetary allocations for the budget line on family planning.

² <https://www.parliament.go.ke/node/24054>

³ https://www.dsw.org/en/__trashed-18/