Since 2012, the Advancing Partners & Communities (APC) project has provided global leadership and support to 22 countries to overcome barriers to accessing voluntary family planning (FP) by strengthening community-based service delivery systems. APC’s community-based FP achievements are rooted in tailored, flexible approaches to meet the range and diversity of challenges across and within countries.

**APC SUPPORT FOR FAMILY PLANNING**

**SCALING UP FAMILY PLANNING ACCESS AND CHOICE**

To improve FP access for underserved women worldwide, APC generated evidence to expand contraception options in communities; introduced new FP delivery channels; advocated for policy change to expand the community-based method mix; and strengthened health worker capacity in FP.

In Benin, APC and the Ministry of Health trained 1,164 community health workers (CHWs) and 331 other health workers to deliver DMPA-SC, an easy-to-use injectable that provides contraceptive protection for 3 months. Subsequently, 7,997 women adopted the method, including 3,111 new FP users.
ADDRESSING FRAGMENTATION IN COMMUNITY HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING

In support of strong and harmonized community health systems that enable quality FP service delivery, APC created global resources offering data and best practices to help fill information gaps; provided technical assistance in policy analysis, development, and implementation; and built local capacity in community health systems strengthening.

Tanzania & Sierra Leone

To support optimal implementation of community health policies and programs, APC used a human-centered design approach to inform national policy development in Tanzania and Sierra Leone, ensuring that community voices were included in the process.

ENGAGING FAITH AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Partnering with faith and community organizations ignites dialogue in communities that traditionally have limited choice or access to FP. APC engaged the faith community, collaborating with partners across religions globally and within countries. This included providing technical support to faith groups working on community-based FP programs; engaging religious leaders and faith-based civil society as FP champions; and creating an enabling environment for faith partners to extend FP programming through consultation and working groups.

Kenya

In five small communities in northern Kenya, APC grantee World Vision engaged Muslim and community leaders as champions of healthy timing and spacing of pregnancies and FP. In 2018, the project reached 13,753 men and women with FP information while improving women’s access to a range of contraceptive methods through community- and client-centric strategies.

INTEGRATING FAMILY PLANNING INTO OTHER PROGRAMMING

Service integration, or the availability of information and services across multiple health areas in one location or through one program, is a common practice but documentation on the most effective integration models is poor. APC’s portfolio of 11 integration projects sought to design and document effective strategies for integrating FP into existing health, environment, and livelihoods programs, especially in low-resource settings. APC’s work adds to the emerging evidence that integration can advance community-based FP in many settings, and that integration increases acceptance of and commitment to FP among communities and providers.

Ghana

In Ghana, APC awarded a grant to a local NGO working in conservation and sustainable fisheries management to build on their relationships with coastal communities to add FP and health programming to their ongoing activities. The NGO trained and supported 34 champions to share integrated population, health, and environment messages and information across 10 communities, reaching more than 5,000 people.

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