

# 2016 FP2020 ANNUAL COMMITMENT UPDATE QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSE

INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR RESEARCH ON WOMEN

[HTTP://WWW.FAMILYPLANNING2020.ORG/ICRW](http://www.familyplanning2020.org/ICRW)



*In July 2016, the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) shared an update on progress in achieving its Family Planning 2020 commitment in the 2015-2016 timeframe (commitment included for reference below).*

## POLICY & POLITICAL UPDATES

- The International Center for Research on Women (ICRW), during the year 2015-2016 leveraged new evidence from its own study conducted in Bihar, India on the quality of care conducted during 2014-15 to develop and further refine indicators for family planning (FP) programming related to the provisioning of IUD insertion and sterilization and advocated for the use of new quality of care indicators in national and state level policies and programs on family planning. These indicators were also promoted to generate new evidence in UP and Bihar as part of Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation initiatives in these two states.
- During 2015-2016, ICRW worked closely with the UP state level population policy formulation – as a member of the core drafting committee -- and advocated for the use of the above indicators to both design and evaluate the state level programs. ICRW was instrumental in center-staging women's empowerment and gender equality in the new UP State Population Policy which will be released soon.
- During the year 2015-2016 ICRW initiated a three-year study to generate new evidence on both public and private sector investments in family planning in the states of UP and Bihar. The key objectives of the study are as follows:
  - To what extent, in what contexts and among whom has public and private sector engagement in family planning programs accelerated mCPR growth? Has it improved method-mix, addressed unmet need, improved retention of method choice and intention to use in future through improved equitable access and quality of services?
  - How effective are innovative PPP models in enhancing access, equity, quality and use of FP services? What are the potentials for sustainability and scalability?
  - Do the different programmatic initiatives offer value for money – clients, governments, and development partners?
  - We are using the following measures to assess the program reach and effectiveness in this study
    - Access – physical, social and economical
    - Equity – Social, economic and demographic equity
    - Quality – Facility preparedness
      - Technical competence of providers
      - Clinical practices
      - Infection prevention practices
      - Respectful care
      - Providers' attitude
      - Client satisfaction
    - Scalability
    - Sustainability

- We expect that the findings from these studies will inform the framing of development assistance programs and corporate social responsibility programs.

## **PROGRAM & SERVICE DELIVERY UPDATES**

In the study on family planning in UP and Bihar mentioned above, ICRW has a component of need-based studies for undertaking specialized studies to address issues of socio-cultural barriers—including intimate partner violence, stigma, and partner involvement. Some of these studies will be initiated this year and we hope to complete them over the next two years.

- The framework of the family planning MLE program mentioned above which ICRW is leading in the states of UP and Bihar is framed from the social and economic equity perspective and we expect that several of our findings will shine a light on the importance of economic empowerment linked to family planning acceptance.
- Besides this study, however, we have not undertaken a specific study linking women's economic empowerment to family planning and SRH.
- ICRW is currently engaged in a major adolescent girls sexual and reproductive health program in Rajasthan called PAnKH –The Wings. The program aims to strengthen reproductive health services for the adolescent girls through an inter-sectoral programming effort and working at multiple levels including adolescent girls, parents, community, schools, and health system. The program works closely with the new government of India initiative on Adolescent Health Program called RKSK (National Adolescent Health Program)
- In yet another landmark initiative, ICRW is working with GO, NGO and corporate partners to promote adolescent girls agency and voices through a convergence of employability, education, and SRHR platforms. Known as Plan-It Girls, the program builds on our own previous work and evidence on what works with the girls.
- The PAnKH program described above strengthens the connection between adolescent girls' education and sexual and reproductive health outcomes, including delayed marriage and childbearing. The overall objectives of the PAnKH initiative are to create safe space for the adolescent girls free from violence, enhance their agency, retain them in school, delay marriages and increase knowledge and awareness around SRH. The program is reaching out over 4000 girls their families and communities in over 90 village clusters in Rajasthan.
- During the year 2015-2016, ICRW completed the baseline survey and working closely with the adolescent girls and community-based organizations in Dholpur, Rajasthan ICRW finalized the intervention programs and ways of assessing them moving forward.

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*The following text is the commitment made by the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) at the 2012 London Summit on Family Planning. To review the commitment online, please visit:*  
<http://www.familyplanning2020.org/icrw>.

The International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) works to empower women, advance gender equality and fight poverty in the developing world by conducting empirical research, building capacity and advocating for evidence-based, practical ways to change policies and programs.

## **POLICY & POLITICAL COMMITMENTS**

ICRW will leverage new evidence to inform the framing of national reproductive health/family planning policy, development assistance programs and corporate social responsibility programs.

## **PROGRAM & SERVICE DELIVERY COMMITMENTS**

ICRW commits to expanding the evidence base on the importance of addressing socio-cultural barriers—including intimate partner violence, stigma and partner involvement—when striving to meet women’s demand for reproductive control and use of family planning services. ICRW will expand the evidence base linking women’s social and economic empowerment to family planning and sexual and reproductive health.

ICRW will also produce new evidence related to adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights and strengthen the connection between adolescent girls’ education and sexual and reproductive health outcomes, including delayed marriage and childbearing. This new evidence will help inform the design of family planning and sexual and reproductive health programs and services delivered through governments, the private sector and civil society. In addition, ICRW will develop and validate metrics to improve its understanding of the benefits that education brings to women’s access to and correct use of family planning.