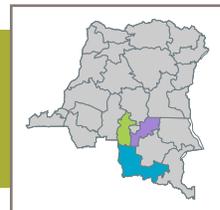


## Reaching the hardest to reach with family planning services in the Democratic Republic of Congo



The Evidence to Action (E2A) Project's community-based family planning project in DRC reaches rural populations with an integrated package of family planning and child health services where it is most convenient: in their homes and at communal public spaces. Because DRC is largely a rural country that spans more than 1 million square miles and has extremely poor roads and infrastructure, making these services convenient for rural populations is essential for improving health. In 51 health areas of 15 health zones in 3 provinces—Lualaba, Kasai Central, and Lomami—the project generates demand for the integrated services; builds the capacity of nurses and community-based distributors to provide free, quality services; integrates gender into demand-generation and service-delivery strategies; and strengthens health systems. The project has built on national momentum in DRC toward improving and expanding family planning services.

### RESPONDING TO URGENT NEEDS IN RURAL DRC

- Population: 73 million
- Projected population growth by 2050: 165%
- Total fertility rate, rural: 7
- Contraceptive prevalence, rural: 4-5%
- Maternal mortality: 846 deaths/100,000 live births
- Under-5 mortality: 104 deaths/1,000 live births

**2013**

Ministry of Health's Department of Reproductive Health holds first National Conference to Reposition Family Planning; creation of a National Family Planning Working Group

**2014**

Government adds a budget line item for family planning to national health budget

**2014**

E2A launches USAID mission-supported community-based family planning project

### About E2A

The Evidence to Action for Strengthened Family Planning and Reproductive Health Services for Women and Girls Project (E2A) is USAID's global flagship for strengthening family planning and reproductive health service delivery. The project aims to address the reproductive healthcare needs of girls, women, and underserved communities around the world by increasing support, building evidence, and facilitating the scale-up of best practices that improve family planning services. Awarded in September 2011, this project will continue for eight years, until September 2019. The project is led by Pathfinder International, in partnership with ExpandNet, IntraHealth International, Management Sciences for Health, and PATH.

[www.e2aproject.org](http://www.e2aproject.org)

### INTEGRATED SERVICES PACKAGE



Demand Generation

## E2A'S COMMUNITY-BASED FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM

Supervision, Accountability, Decision Making



**MoH National Program for Reproductive Health**  
• Set norms and policies



**Provincial Health Authorities**  
• Leadership in provinces



**15 - Zonal Health Management Teams**  
• Consist of zonal health chiefs, supervisors  
• Decision makers, leadership for health  
• Support to community-based distributors and nurses



**102 - Nurses**  
• FP counseling and provision of all FP methods  
• Oral rehydration salts, zinc, water purification tabs (ICMI)  
• Support to community-based distributors at outreach events in communities



**408 - Community-Based Distributors**  
• FP counseling & provision of nonclinical contraceptives  
• Referrals for implants and injectables  
• Oral rehydration salts, zinc, water purification tabs (ICMI)  
• Demand generation



**250** Health Development Committee Members (CODESA) + **250** Community Leaders + **175** Community Champions + **306** Youth Leaders

**Demand Generation**

Service Provision

### LATEST RESULTS

May 2015-September 2016

Total Population: 785,662

Women of Reproductive Age: 164,989

**448,642 people** reached with information about family planning.

**6,084 implants and 8,490 injectables** administered by nurses at outreach events.

**295,364 people** counseled by community-based distributors.

- 185,554 women
- 109,810 men

**103,932 people** became **new acceptors** of family planning methods.

**78,239 Couple Years of Protection** generated.

### OUTREACH EVENTS



At outreach events, organized bimonthly in each health area in communal spaces like markets, eight community-based distributors provide information and counseling on family planning and nonclinical contraceptives, lead public conversations about family planning, and refer people for counseling and clinical contraceptives to a temporary clinic set up for the day. Two nurses staff the temporary clinic, where they counsel and provide methods including contraceptive injectables and implants. They also offer implant removals. Health management teams from zonal health offices and E2A staff provide supportive supervision. At \$60 per outreach, the events are a cost-effective approach to providing services to rural populations.

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EXPANDNET

