

*Access to comprehensive reproductive health care, including family planning (FP) and safe abortion, is essential to the wellbeing of women, girls, and their families. When women are able to decide if and when they get pregnant, as well as the size and spacing of their families, they are ultimately better able to provide for themselves and the children they choose to have. Studies have shown that when women are able to make informed decisions regarding their family planning needs, their families are more economically secure, educated, and healthy. Yet, it is estimated that worldwide there are 215 million women and girls whose FP needs are not being met (CHANGE 2012). As a result, it is estimated that there are 75 million unplanned pregnancies each year, which has negative health outcomes for women and their families.*

## Benefits of Dimagi's Technology for Reproductive Health

Dimagi and partners have been working together to develop programs and technologies that increase women's access to reproductive health care, specifically to FP and safe abortion. By using mobile applications, CHWs are better able to share sensitive messages, track FP commodities, and ensure safe and efficient follow-up of patients after procedures.

## Reproductive Health Programs

*Reproductive health programs often rely on difficult-to-manage paper-based records systems to track patients, commodities, appointments, and adherence to prescriptions, which can result in loss to follow-up, incomplete patient records, and out-of-date data.*

- Mobile applications enable CHWs, supervisors, and project managers to **track** data related to FP commodities, contraception prevalence rates, patient appointments, and pregnancies.
- **Real-time data** can be used to improve programs by informing procurement of the commodities women wish to use and monitoring progress over time of unmet need within a project.

## Health Workers

*In many communities, reproductive health remains a sensitive topic, complicated by stigma, religion, and gender roles. CHWs may encounter difficulties in sharing appropriate information for different family members or face challenges in engaging individuals on sensitive subject matter.*

- **Complex form logic** enables separate messages to be given within a household so that women, their husbands, and other family members such as mothers-in-law, receive different messages from CHWs based on cultural and gender **sensitivity**.
- **Multimedia**, such as audio and visuals, which provides for a more **engaging counseling** session and may help ease any discomfort around discussing sensitive topics directly with a CHW and may serve as a more authoritative voice for listeners or observers.

## Health Facilities

Many health facilities experience low stock or stock-outs of FP commodities, further limiting women's choices in contraception. Women who use contraceptive methods that require refills may experience lapses in their drug adherence due to limited supply at their local clinic.

- **CommCare Supply**, Dimagi's commodity tracking system, allows clinics to monitor their **drug availability rates**.
- **SMS capabilities** enable clinics to report limited supply immediately, resulting in **fewer stock-outs**.

## Patients

Women may travel many miles only to reach a clinic and learn that the contraception they desire or need is out of stock. They may also be required to travel back for follow-up appointments after certain procedures, such as abortions or IUD insertions, even when they aren't experiencing any complications.

- **SMS notifications** give women **advance notice** of stock-outs, so they can plan to visit another clinic or wait until commodities have been restocked before traveling.
- **SMS interactions** allow CHWs to **communicate across distances** with their patients, so women can be reminded of appointments and prescriptions, as well as alert their CHW to any complications they may be experiencing.

## Highlighted Projects

### URC ANCRE, Benin

URC and Dimagi have launched a CommCare and CommCare Supply application that will equip 300 CHWs in 10 health zones of Benin to promote family planning methods, alerting them of stock outs, providing checklists and decision making support. The project also focuses heavily on supportive supervision, monitoring the frequency and duration of CHW visits to clients and behavior change counseling using multimedia.

### IntraHealth Informed Push Model for Family Planning, Senegal

IntraHealth and Dimagi have worked together to develop and deploy a CommCare Supply application for the management of all family planning commodities in 1,400 facilities across Senegal. In this deployment, mobile logisticians equipped with commodities travel to each facility to perform inventory management tasks, track indicators, calculate resupply levels, and deliver commodities on the spot. Each logistician is equipped with a tablet running CommCare Supply which allows them to easily record, manage, and review stock information for hundreds of facilities. This intervention is currently being scaled nationally in Senegal.

### D-Tree Family Planning Application, Tanzania

D-Tree International and Dimagi have developed a CommCare application that monitors geographical demand for specific kinds of family planning methods. CHWs collect information on which method of contraception a woman is using versus which method she would have chosen had it been available. This data can inform programs on which forms of contraception are preferred.