

IMPLANT ACCESS PROGRAM

John Snow, Inc. (JSI)'s Implant Access Program (IAP) funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (the foundation) has provided support to the Jadelle Access Program and Implanon Access Initiative since 2013 and to the Sayana Press initiative since early 2015. Jadelle and Implanon are contraceptive implants that provide five and three years of protection, respectively, and Sayana Press is a three-month injectable depot medroxyprogesterone (DMPA) contraceptive product packaged in the Uniject™ injection system, a small prefilled auto-disable device.



The IAP initiatives were brought about by minimum volume guarantees that the foundation signed with the two implant manufacturers, Bayer and Merck/MSD, in order to reduce the public sector purchase price of implants and thereby increase global access to the products. The Family Planning 2020 initiative (FP2020) which brought about these agreements also declared that the partnership would work to increase access to Sayana Press, manufactured by Pfizer. Based on JSI's success with the IAP initiatives, the foundation decided to leverage its experience and resources to provide similar services for Sayana Press. Since the inception of FP2020, IAP, and the Sayana Press initiative, significant progress has been made to increase access to and availability of these products.

JSI's work is implemented under two mechanisms: a contract and a grant, described below.

Under the contract, JSI monitors global shipment volumes and related supply information for implants

and Sayana Press and uses this information to support countries in strengthening their supply chains to deliver family planning (FP) products. As part of this exercise, JSI reviews order data from various sources including:

- Ministries of health,
- UNFPA,
- USAID,
- Bayer (Jadelle),
- Merck/MSD (Implanon Classic/Implanon NXT),
- Pfizer (Sayana Press), and
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

JSI also analyzes country data to anticipate future product availability including stock on hand and average monthly consumption, which are reported through the central Procurement Planning and Monitoring Report (PPMR) database or obtained through direct communication with country contacts. JSI shares updated information with in-

country stakeholders especially regarding new, cancelled, or changed orders to ensure all partners share visibility into the data. JSI also makes recommendations for actions such as delaying or splitting shipments and adjusting or placing new orders.

As part of this contract, JSI works with the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition's Coordinated Assistance for Reproductive Health Supplies group (CARhs), the Coordinated Supply Planning group (CSP), and other partner organizations, including the manufacturers, to ensure a rational distribution of supplies to countries. CARhs manages PPMR and provides a platform for global procurers and country partners to coordinate and share information, promote transparency and country ownership of supply management, generate evidence-based decisions, and take effective action to balance contraceptive supplies when unexpected situations occur. At its monthly meetings, group members identify pending supply shortages or overstocks, investigate their underlying causes, develop solutions, and where possible, apply interventions.

While CARhs focuses on emergency management and short-term issues, CSP is a newer group designed to improve data sharing and provide longer-term supply outlooks to donors, partner organizations, suppliers, and countries to better anticipate and prevent supply challenges before they would reach the CARhs forum. CSP assists in vetting

requests and orders for implants and injectable products and suggest adjustments in quantities or reallocation of shipments when needed. CSP also produces global forecasts for implants and DMPA to share with suppliers. JSI currently fills the Coordinator role for CSP under the contract.

Additionally under the contract, JSI has provided quantification training and technical assistance to national FP programs in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Liberia, Mozambique, Senegal, and Tanzania.

Under the inSupply grant, the foundation has asked JSI to use data and develop analytical methods to facilitate a proactive approach to demand generation for quantification technical assistance, not only for contraceptive implants and Sayana Press but all FP products available in country. JSI will leverage its experience and resources to identify where and how improved quantification can have an impact. Activities will focus on optimizing the use of data for decision making, using existing data sources and an analytical framework to identify a cost-effective method for determining whether contraceptives are reaching target populations, and using data routinely collected in countries to establish a methodology with benchmarks for evaluating contraceptive accessibility. All future quantification technical assistance will be conducted under the grant.

These JSI-supported efforts are fostering much needed attention and support for FP programs worldwide. To continue to ensure an uninterrupted supply of these products and ensure programs are able to deliver comprehensive FP services, strong supply chains are essential and JSI continues to support supply chain strengthening activities globally to achieve international contraceptive goals.

