

# DMPA-SC Access Collaborative

Putting a new type of injectable contraception within reach



Increased access to contraception is one of the best ways to build strong economies, create healthy families, and advance the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women. Subcutaneous DMPA, or DMPA-SC, is an innovative injectable contraceptive that can dramatically expand access and choice for women and adolescent girls when offered as part of a broad method mix. Because it is easy to use and requires minimal training, DMPA-SC is a simple addition to service delivery channels in both the public and private sectors, and even enables women to self-inject. An initiative called the DMPA-SC Access Collaborative is helping bring DMPA-SC within reach in several countries by working with ministries of health and partners across sectors to strengthen scale-up and build toward a robust global market for the product.

The Access Collaborative is led by PATH and John Snow, Inc. and funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Children's Investment Fund Foundation.

## A novel contraceptive option is transforming access and use

Injectable contraceptives are widely used in many Family Planning (FP) 2020 countries because they are effective, safe, and private. DMPA-SC makes injections simpler because it is injected into the fat under the skin, rather than into the muscle like intramuscular DMPA (DMPA-IM). The DMPA-SC product available today (Sayana® Press ) combines the contraceptive drug and needle into a single device that is small, light, and easy to use. As of May 2017, it can be purchased at US\$0.85 per dose for qualified buyers—a price similar to DMPA-IM.

Incorporating DMPA-SC into a country's FP program and method mix can help:

### Promote expanded contraceptive choices, women's empowerment, and autonomy.

DMPA-SC is appealing for many users and has the advantage of empowering women to manage their own pregnancy protection. Studies confirm that women can safely and effectively self-inject DMPA-SC with training and support.

### Advance national and global FP goals, especially those related to access and use.

Evidence suggests that DMPA-SC:

- Can be delivered through all levels of the health system and is uniquely suited for task-shifting, remote distribution, and harder-to-reach populations.



PATH/Gabe Bienczycki

## Key global family planning goals

**FP2020:** 120 million more women and adolescent girls use contraception by 2020. (More on the emerging vision for 2030 is available at: [www.familyplanning2020.org/Beyond2020](http://www.familyplanning2020.org/Beyond2020).)

**Ouagadougou Partnership:** Increase the number of women using modern contraception by at least 2.2 million in nine countries by 2020.

### Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

Achieve universal sexual and reproductive health and rights (targets in SDGs 3 and 5).

- Can reach new FP users, including young women and adolescent girls.
- Has the potential to promote continued contraceptive use, as self-injection with DMPA-SC may support women using injectable contraception longer than injections from providers.

### Strengthen delivery systems and markets for all FP methods

DMPA-SC represents the first time in more than a decade that a new contraceptive is being scaled up globally. Investments made in expanding access to DMPA-SC through public and private delivery channels—including community-based distribution and pharmacies and drug shops—can be used to increase access to other FP methods.

## The Access Collaborative is working to ensure sustainable access to DMPA-SC as part of a broad contraceptive method mix

Launched in 2017, the Access Collaborative is a three-year initiative working to accelerate scale-up of DMPA-SC, while strengthening health systems and markets for family planning. The initiative provides health ministries and country partners with a range of support, including dedicated technical assistance to integrate the product alongside other methods into national FP programs.<sup>1</sup> It also shares information gathered across countries with international donors to help shape the global market for DMPA-SC, with the ultimate aim of the product being consistently available at affordable prices. The Access Collaborative has supported nearly two dozen countries to facilitate DMPA-SC introduction and scale-up planning and implementation of each country's total market plan.

The Access Collaborative is a coordination and technical assistance initiative that offers:

### The latest evidence and best practices on DMPA-SC, including self-injection

- Learning and Action Networks (Francophone and Anglophone) for peer-to-peer learning exchange, joint problem solving, and the dissemination of evidence, best practices, and program results.

### Technical assistance and tools to accelerate introduction and scale-up of DMPA-SC within the FP system

- Access Collaborative experts can provide support in the development of costed introduction and scale-up plans, self-injection program design, policy landscaping, supply planning, monitoring and evaluation of scale up progress, and training design, curricula, and materials.

### Increased connection between country priorities and needs and global priorities

- The Access Collaborative helps monitor global supply and in-country demand, assess funding gaps and communicate needs to key donors, and highlight country-level success stories, innovative approaches, and challenges that need urgent attention.

## The bigger picture: Why collaboration matters

A reliable supply of DMPA-SC at affordable prices will only be achieved if country partners—including ministries of health, FP technical working groups, implementers, and civil society groups—work together.

A strong global market starts at the country level. Equipped with tools and analysis supported by the Access Collaborative, such as costed scale-up plans, evidence-based forecasting, and consumption monitoring, partners can build well-functioning public- and private-sector markets in-country. Without these pieces, countries are at greater risk of stockouts and product expiry in warehouses and on shelves.

Growing country demand for DMPA-SC will help shape a robust global market for this product. The Access Collaborative and partners are well-positioned to track overall demand from countries and communicate insights to global stakeholders. This information is critical to ensuring the amount of product produced matches global demand and is made available at ideal prices.

## Join our efforts to increase access

Ensuring women and adolescent girls have access to a wide range of contraceptive methods, including DMPA-SC, requires coordination and partnership across all levels. We encourage new country partners to join our efforts. For more information, contact Kaitlin Christenson, Director, DMPA-SC Access Collaborative, [kchristenson@path.org](mailto:kchristenson@path.org).

<sup>1</sup> The Access Collaborative currently provides in-person technical assistance and coordination support in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Madagascar, Nigeria, Senegal, Uganda, and Zambia, with virtual assistance provided to a range of other geographies.

#### PATH

PATH is a global organization that works to accelerate health equity by bringing together public institutions, businesses, social enterprises, and investors to solve the world's most pressing health challenges. With expertise in science, health, economics, technology, advocacy, and dozens of other specialties, PATH develops and scales solutions—including vaccines, drugs, devices, diagnostics, and innovative approaches to strengthening health systems worldwide. [www.path.org](http://www.path.org)

#### John Snow, Inc.

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#### More information

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