

Universal Access to Modern Contraception in Côte d'Ivoire (UAMC-CI)

In October 2024, the Ministry of Health in Côte d'Ivoire signed a decree making family planning (FP) services free in the public sector.

With support from the Gates Foundation, Pathfinder and Jhpiego are collaborating with the MOH to realize the Ivorian government's vision of universal access to modern contraception by 2030.

Context

Over the past two decades, Côte d'Ivoire has significantly improved affordability of reproductive health services in the public health system. Beginning with free HIV treatment in 2008 and expanding to free perinatal care in 2011, these efforts laid the groundwork for institutionalizing free FP services in 2024.

Pathfinder Côte d'Ivoire has been a trusted MOH partner in their efforts to make public FP services more affordable. In 2020, following sustained advocacy from Pathfinder and civil society partners, the MOH approved a free FP program pilot that included free medical consultations, contraceptives, and consumables. Between 2021 and 2023, Pathfinder led pilot program implementation across 10 health districts with promising results. Over 18 months of continuous support, mCPR increased from 7% to 25% in Agboville, the department where the 10 pilot districts are located. Additionally, adolescents and young women under the age of 25 made up 52% of all new FP users since the pilot began.

The pilot's success led to the official decree making FP services free in the public sector in October 2024. To support rollout of free FP services, the Gates Foundation funded the Universal Access to Modern Contraception in Côte d'Ivoire (UAMC-CI) project. A three-year and \$4M USD investment, Pathfinder leads UAMC-CI in 67 health districts in partnership with Jhpiego and the MOH.



Photo credit: Courtney Boudreau

UAMC-CI Overview

Donor: Gates Foundation

Technical Partners: Pathfinder and Jhpiego

Government Implementing Partner

Programme National de la Santé de la Mère et de l'Enfant (PNSME) within the Ministère de la Santé, de l'Hygiène Publique et de la Couverture Maladie Universelle

Budget: \$4,170,000 USD (2,502,000,000 FCFA)

Duration: April 2025 – March 2028

Intervention Areas

- 67 of 113 health districts across 19 regions
- Rural, peri-urban, and urban areas

Objectives

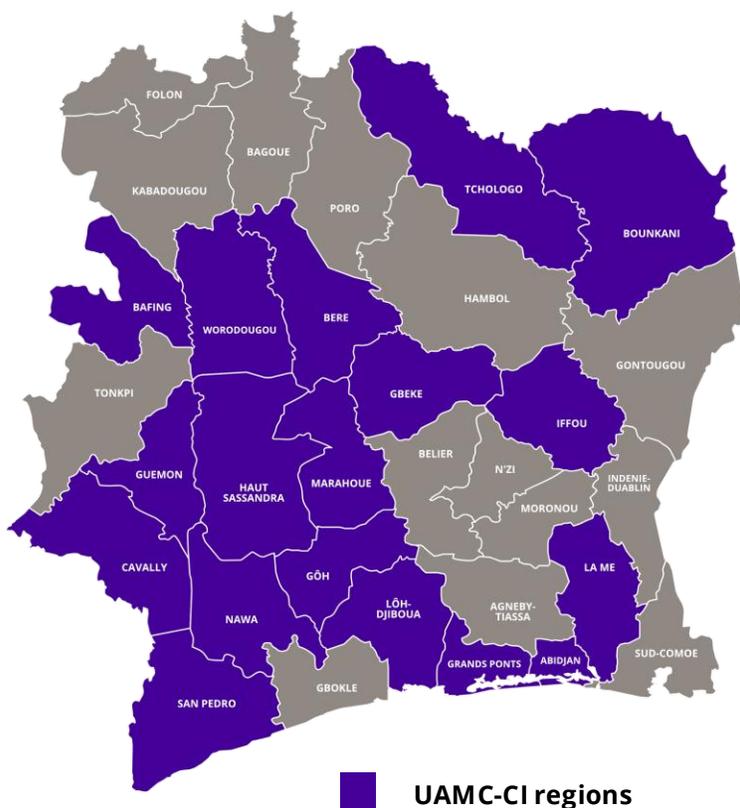
Goal: Support the Ivorian MOH in extending free FP services nationwide while advancing the government's commitment to improving reproductive health outcomes.

Objective 1: Provide technical assistance to the MOH to implement a national resource mobilization plan, revise existing national clinical guidance, improve national supply chain mechanisms, and strengthen national and subnational coordination mechanisms, all to ensure the sustainability of free FP services beyond the life of the project.

Objective 2: Support public health facilities in the 67 health districts to provide free FP services that are high-quality, client-centered, and offer a diverse method mix.

Objective 3: Implement national and subnational campaigns to increase public awareness of free FP services and improve clients' ability to hold facilities accountable in offering services at no-cost.

Intervention Areas



Key Interventions

Objective 1

- Collaborate with the PNSME to update all relevant policies and procedures at national level to enable successful implementation of the free FP program
- Support the government to secure adequate financing for FP commodities and services from national and international public and private donors
- Collaborate with other partners to oversee a responsive and effective national quantification and procurement system for FP commodities and consumables
- Support the PNSME to establish additional leadership and governance mechanisms to oversee free FP program implementation nationally
- Strengthen PNSME coordination of the free FP program

Objective 2

- Improve facility and community-based FP service provision in intervention areas based on baseline assessment results and developed action plans
- Strengthen district and regional health authorities' capacity to successfully implement the free FP program

Objective 3

- Implement a multi-level communications plan to inform the public that FP services are free in the public sector
- Disseminate project results to advance national and international understanding of best practices for scaling free FP services

Expected Results

By 2028, UAMC-CI will achieve the following:

1. Raise \$4,000,000 (2,000,000,000 FCFA) to support the free FP program beyond the life of the project
2. Provide contraceptive services to 2,403,639 women, including 844,400 new users
3. Generate 2,379,215 Couple-Years of protection
4. Inform more than 5,000,000 people about free FP services