
MSI Factsheet – DMPA-SC (Sayana® Press) in the Sahel

With support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Marie Stopes International (MSI) began offering sub-cutaneous depomedroxyprogesterone acetate (DMPA-SC) in Burkina Faso, Niger and Senegal in 2016. By introducing DMPA-SC in our service delivery channels, we aim to expand contraceptive choice and support national governments in accelerating progress towards achieving their Ouagadougou Partnership and FP2020 commitments.

DMPA-SC is a sub-cutaneous injection that is non-invasive, discrete and easy to use. It has the potential to attract adolescents and young women who may have never used modern contraception before and can increase women's choice and autonomy, particularly if it is administered through self-injection. It is currently available as a Pfizer's branded product, Sayana® Press.

Results to date

MSI is offering DMPA-SC as part of a comprehensive range of contraceptive methods provided by our outreach teams, MS Ladies, centres and social franchises¹ in twelve regions in Burkina Faso, nine in Senegal and three in Niger.

Between July 2016 and April 2017 we provided just under **9,000** women in Burkina Faso, Niger and Senegal with DMPA-SC. Of these approximately:

- One third (28%) were aged 20 to 24 years old and 11% were under 20 years old
- More than half (55%) in Burkina Faso were using a modern method of contraception for the first time²
- More than half (55%) in Burkina Faso and two-thirds (67%) in Senegal were receiving DMPA-SC for the first time
- 13% in Burkina Faso and Senegal were switching from the intramuscular injection (DMPA-IM)

Looking Ahead

Between June and December 2017 MSI will:

- Carry out an assessment of the private sector market for DMPA-SC
- Use client insights to boost service delivery to youth through adaptation of our current channels
- Pilot an mHealth solution in Senegal to increase women's access to information about providers and possible side-effects and provide reminders about follow-up appointments
- Work with pharmacies in Senegal to prepare for the advent of self-injection

¹ Senegal is currently the only country where DMPA-SC is available through MSI's social franchises

² This data is from the period September 2016 to April 2017

- Interview women and girls to find out how they feel about DMPA-SC and the possibility of home / self-injection

Lessons learned

We have experienced challenges and learned lessons from our work to date:

- **Reaching as many women as possible** – It is difficult to achieve scale when DMPA-SC is not available at all levels of health system. Once the product is widely available, a short provider training (1/2 day) goes a long way in boosting uptake.
- **Supply chain and stockouts** – Between June 2016 and January 2017, Niger experienced a stockout which meant MSI was only able to start offering DMPA-SC in February 2017.
- **Storage temperature & waste management** – DMPA-SC needs to be stored between 15°C and 30°C and should not be frozen, refrigerated or exposed to extreme heat. This poses a challenge in rural areas of the Sahel where temperatures can exceed 50°C. It also needs to be safely disposed of after use. These issues will need to be addressed if this contraceptive method is to be scaled up and available for self-injection.



Alima Ouédraogo, one of MSI's social marketing agents, counsels women on the use of Sayana® Press at the Barkuintenga Health Centre in Burkina Faso's Plateau-Central region.