



Dr. Samukeliso Dube, FP2030 Executive Director, Remarks

FP2030 Press Briefing, 16 November 2022

- Thank you, Katherine.
- As Katherine mentioned, my name is Dr. Samukeliso Dube, and I am the Executive Director of FP2030, a global partnership working towards a future where all women and girls have the freedom and ability to lead healthy lives, make their own informed decisions about using contraception and having children, and participate as equals in society and its development.
- As the only global partnership centered on family planning, our singular focus allows us to bring together the widest possible range of partners across disciplines and sectors, while situating family planning at the crossroads of the global health, development, and gender equality agendas.
- I am thrilled to be here this week, and to witness renewed commitments and action towards providing rights-based, voluntary contraception to women all over the world.
- The past ten years have been full of obstacles for country health systems, from global pandemics and natural disasters to political upheaval and armed conflict – yet through it all, women everywhere have continued to seek out and use modern contraception in ever-growing numbers.
- You'll hear from my colleague Jason shortly about just how much that demand has steadily grown since 2012. Today, an estimated 371 million women of reproductive age are using a modern method of family planning— 87 million more than just a decade ago.
- What do these figures mean? Well, in just one year, use of family planning prevented an estimated 135 million unintended pregnancies and 28 million unsafe abortions and saved the lives of 140,000 women.
- Women and girls seek out modern contraception because it is the key that unlocks their lives.
- Think of the young adolescent girl whose whole future depends on delaying childbearing until she can finish school and start a career. Think of the young mother for whom adequate birth spacing is literally the difference between life and death—for her and her babies. Think of the hardworking farmer or business owner who relies on contraception to keep her world on track: feeding her family, sending her children to school, lifting herself and her loved ones out of poverty. Women all over the world want to be safe, healthy, and in control of their lives.
- We are at a pivotal moment in history, and the world now needs to step up to ensure that we can meet this demand. None of this should be controversial. But it often is, because at a fundamental level, access to family planning is about shifting power. It's about expanding the ability and freedom of individuals to exercise power in their own lives.
- We are encouraged by the dozens of actors who are part of our movement, who share our passion and who have already committed to expanding access to voluntary, rights-based, high-quality family planning. You will hear about some of these commitments today.
- But now is the time to be even bolder and go bigger, and ensure that we have reliable, robust, and stable funding streams to finance our family planning programs for years to come. For the past two years, funding for family planning has been essentially flat, but substantially lower than the peak achieved in 2019. Given current financial instability and inflationary trends around the world, there could be further funding cuts in the future.



- Failing to adequately fund family planning efforts would be a missed opportunity for millions of women. We need not only to hold the line, but also to secure new funding to accommodate the surge in demand for family planning.
- To ensure that the world stays on track to meet the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030—including the intersecting goals of gender equality, health and prosperity—investments in family planning must be safeguarded and strengthened.
- Because ultimately, we cannot talk about meeting any of the Sustainable Development Goals the world has set out to achieve without talking about family planning—it is part and parcel of the solution to so many of the challenges facing the world today.
- As we sit here today, for example, scientists, Indigenous People, local communities, and world leaders meeting in Egypt for COP27 are desperately seeking solutions to the climate crisis. Those discussions must not only include and involve women in a meaningful way; they also cannot overlook the importance of reproductive health, services, and rights, and the transformational power of family planning.
- This gathering this week provides us with an opportunity to reflect, to reimagine, to challenge the status quo and to ensure that everybody puts all hands on the plow, with a renewed sense of determination and energy.
- We owe it to women all over the world who are demanding control over their own bodies and the ability to shape their own destinies.
- We have a great deal of work ahead, but I’m heartened by the incredible strength of this community.
- Thank you