

Addressing unmet need in West Africa

West Africa has some of the lowest contraceptive prevalence rates and highest maternal mortality rates in the world. We began providing quality family planning and other sexual and reproductive health services in the region in 1998 when our Sierra Leone programme was opened in response to the massive unmet need in the region.

In more recent years we have established programmes in many more countries in West Africa, including Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Burkina Faso and Senegal and in 2014 we will initiate service delivery in Niger.

The potential for impact in the region is considerable. In Sierra Leone, where we estimate 18% of women of reproductive age use a method of contraception supplied by MSI, the recent DHS has shown that the contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR) has more than doubled over the past five years. In Senegal and Mali, preliminary DHS reports have shown CPR increasing by approximately 4 percentage points.



In West Africa, 225 women die each day in childbirth and the region has the highest rate of abortion related deaths in the world.

If you are a woman living in West Africa

In the region contraceptive prevalence is very low (for example, 10% – 16%) and on average 28% of women have an unmet need for family planning.

It's more than likely that you don't use any contraception; almost a third of you would like to but have no access.

There are an estimated 140 abortion deaths per 100,000 live births which is the highest of any region in the world.

In Burkina Faso, one third of unintended pregnancies end in termination; most of these terminations are unsafe and 40% end in complications or death.

A third of your pregnancies are unwanted.



You live in a pro-natalist and patriarchal culture where women have few rights and choices.

You are likely to have over 5 children and your risk of dying in childbirth is one of the highest in the world.

If you live in the Sahel, your difficulties are compounded by regular food insecurity, environmental distress and endemic poverty.

The average family size for women is 5.2 children; 225 women die each day in childbirth in the region and 30 suffer a related morbidity.

Our impact in West Africa in 2013

Number of clients served:

693,000



As a result we prevented:

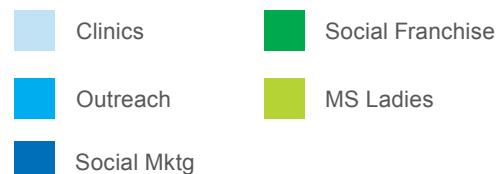
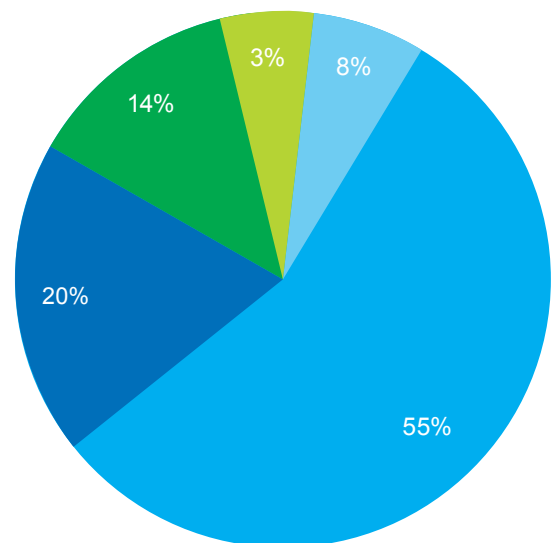
297,000 unintended pregnancies

2,500 maternal deaths

308,000 unsafe abortions



MSI Service Delivery by Channel in 2013 (CYPs)

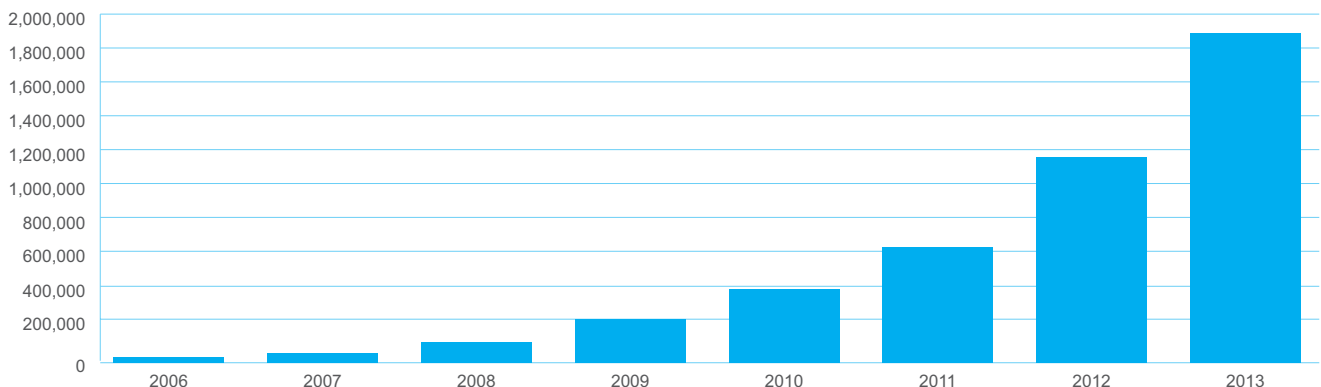


MSI's own service delivery is making great strides. In 2013, our programmes served nearly 700,000 clients, and delivered nearly 2 million couple years of protection (CYPs).

This is with only 13% of funds raised by MSI going to the region.

The great majority of services (in some countries, over 95%) are provided to the most vulnerable women and those with highest need in communities. 55% of MSI's services in the region are provided through mobile outreach and a further 3% by Marie Stopes Ladies (community based midwives), which means we are able to reach those least able to access services.

MSI growth in West Africa represented by CYPs*



*the totals include CYPs delivered in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra Leone

Looking to the future

We are deeply committed to dramatically expanding access to quality family planning and other sexual and reproductive health services in the region.

Our vision is to work in partnership with both governments and private providers, as appropriate, to radically increase access and choice for women, by tripling our current activities in the region by 2020.

With concerted effort and your help, we can do this and make a difference to the lives of millions of women, men and their families living in this vibrant region.