



COUNTING WHAT COUNTS: TRACKING ACCESS TO EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION

Niger is one of the world's poorest countries and has the highest fertility rate globally.¹ Modern contraceptive use is extremely low and EC is almost unknown by women in Niger – fewer than 5% of women have ever heard of it.² Most national policies and guidelines do not incorporate EC.

ABOUT NIGER

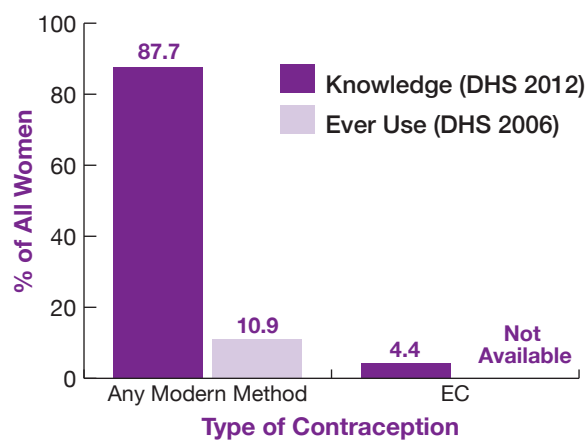
Niger is a landlocked country in West Africa with a population of 17,466,172. Almost half of the population is under the age of 15. 17.8% of the population lives in urban areas.³ More than 72% of women have no education at all, and only 0.1% of women have completed the secondary level of schooling.² The United Nations Development Program's 2013 Human Development Index ranked Niger at the bottom of its list⁴ due to extremely low levels of education, high levels of malnutrition and the highest fertility rate in the world.¹

CONTRACEPTIVE & EC KNOWLEDGE AND USE

- **Total fertility rate:** 7.6 (8.1 rural, 5.6 urban)
- **Unmet need for contraception (among currently married women):** 16%
- **Current contraceptive modern method use (among all women):** 11%

Source: Demographic and Health Survey, Niger 2012²

KNOWLEDGE AND EVER USE OF MODERN CONTRACEPTION AND EC



Source: Demographic and Health Survey, Niger^{2,5}

POLICIES

Essential Drug List: Unable to obtain information.

National norms and guidelines: The 2011-2015 Health Development Plan⁶ and the 2012-2020 Family Planning Action Plan do not include EC.⁷

Prescription status and who is authorized to dispense: EC is available in pharmacies. Levonorgestrel (LNG) EC pills (ECPs) are available without a prescription from pharmacists. Ulipristal acetate (UPA) ECPs are only available with a prescription.

Post-rape care: Unable to obtain information.

PRODUCT AVAILABILITY

Registered Products: Two levonorgestrel-alone ECP products are registered and distributed: NorLevo 1.5 (HRA Pharma) and Pregnon (FamyCare). One ulipristal acetate ECP product is registered and distributed: ellaOne (HRA Pharma).

Locally manufactured products: None available.

Poor quality or counterfeit EC products: Given the extensive pharmaceutical trading among West African countries, some of whose markets are known to have counterfeit products, poor quality or counterfeit commodities may also exist in Niger.⁸ Nigeria is thought to be the second largest producer of counterfeit medicines,⁹ and reports of counterfeit EC specifically have emerged in

Nigeria; many countries, including Niger, purchase drugs from the Nigerian market.⁸

WHERE WOMEN CAN ACCESS EC

EC in the commercial sector: 5.4% of women who use oral contraceptive pills or injectables (the two most commonly used contraceptive products in Niger) obtain these methods in the private sector.² The proportion of women using EC who obtain it in the private sector is not known.

EC in the public sector: The public sector provides oral contraceptive pills and injectables to 85.3% of women using these methods.² The proportion of women using EC who obtain it in the public sector is not known.

EC in the NGO, social marketing and social franchising sectors: The national social marketing organization Animas-Sutura distributes condoms and oral contraceptives, but not EC.¹⁰

Community-based distribution of ECPs: There is no community-based distribution of EC.¹¹

MEDIA COVERAGE OF EC

According to the 2012 DHS, 46.9% of women were exposed to a family planning message through television, radio or print media in the months before the survey.² It is not known whether any media coverage was specific to EC.

DONOR SUPPORT

UNFPA is the only donor importing contraceptives into Niger, as of 2014.¹² According to RHInterchange, no donors purchased EC for family planning programs between 2000 and 2014.¹³

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This fact sheet has been prepared by the International Consortium for Emergency Contraception and represents the best information we have been able to gather. We welcome your input for future revisions. Please contact us at info@cecinfo.org. Visit our website at www.emergencycontraception.org for more information on EC.