

WAHO BRIEF

The West Africa Health Organization (WAHO) and the Global Family Planning Visibility and Analytics Network (VAN)

“The VAN was the central mechanism for data sharing and communication between government stakeholders, donors, and VAN Analysts. Thanks to Niger’s active supply chain management, the VAN’s collaborative platform and WAHO’s mandate, 40,000 IUDs were successfully transferred to Nigeria in 2023, thereby helping to fill a critical funding gap and providing an estimated 185,000 couple-years of protection to people in Nigeria.”

[Read the full story](#)



10 🔍

CONTRACEPTIVE METHODS MONITORED

Including Combined Oral Contraceptives, Copper-bearing Intrauterine Devices, Emergency Oral Contraceptives, Female Condoms, Implantable Contraceptives, Injectable Contraceptives, Male Condoms, Progestogen Only Pills

958 📊

ORDERS TRACKED

1159 📦

SHIPMENTS TRACKED

204 ★★

DATA QUALITY ISSUES RESOLVED

To ensure accurate and streamlined decision-making

15 👥

ECOWAS MEMBERS

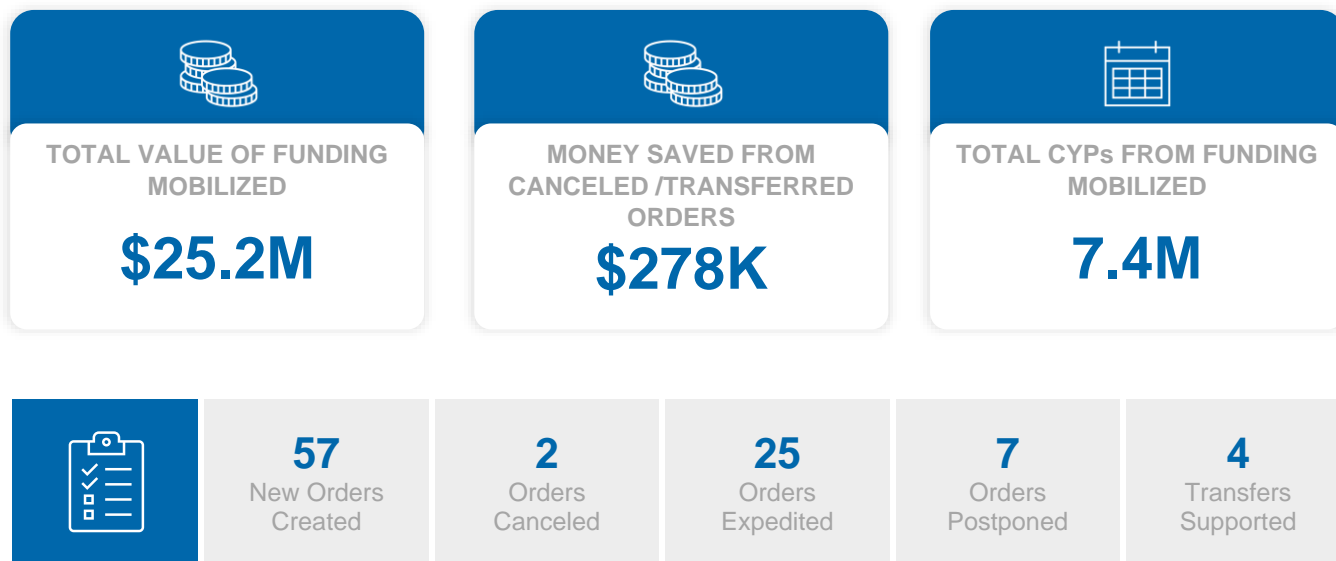
Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo

What is the VAN?

The Global Family Planning Visibility and Analytics Network (VAN) offers the RH community a single, comprehensive platform to assess and prioritize supply needs, communicate with one another, and act when supply imbalances loom. The VAN is the first fully scaled public health control tower, offering supply chain players the visibility needed to procure and distribute contraceptive supplies effectively and efficiently. Its over 100 members can track more than 7,500 orders and shipments of 71 products across 145 countries in near-real time, thereby allowing them to see where products are in the supply chain and overcome any impediments to their movement. This collective vision enables all partners to track shipment status, resolve data inaccuracies, and make more efficient and cost-effective supply decisions. Over the last three years, the VAN helped mobilize more than \$70 million in new orders for member countries, avoided waste by supporting product reallocation worth \$4.67 million in cancelled and transferred orders, and expedited 86 orders to mitigate supply shortages. In 2022 alone, the VAN identified a critical procurement funding gap of \$100 million for member countries and helped mobilize and allocate \$33.3 million in new product procurements to avert pending shortages and stockouts.



Impact of VAN's continuous monitoring of supply chain data in the WAHO region in 2021 and 2022



The VAN helps countries better quantify and forecast need, plan for and manage orders, track shipment status, resolve data inaccuracies, and make more efficient and cost-effective supply decisions. Continuous monitoring of supply chain data in the VAN is used to address any immediate supply imbalances identified as well as help plan ahead and prevent future imbalances.

Zeros in any of the boxes above mean that the combination of planning and continuous monitoring meant no supply imbalances had to be corrected through that particular action. Numbers represent each time a country used the VAN to advocate to fill procurement gaps and minimize the effects of supply chain disruptions. The results are money saved, stockouts avoided, and products getting into the hands of women and men who need them.

WAHO uses VAN to facilitate country-to-country transfers

WAHO has a rich track record when it comes to facilitating transfers of products between countries with too much stock to those in need. In recent years, WAHO has conducted 12 successful transfers in response to country requests. The VAN Analysts play a critical role in reviewing data in the VAN and making recommendations to the VAN's Consensus Planning Group (VAN CPG), including WAHO, that support WAHO's transfer accomplishments.

When the Niger Ministry of Health flagged to the VAN CPG that they had available stock of copper IUDs to transfer to another country in need, WAHO immediately stepped up to provide funding for the transfer and coordinated with other VAN CPG members to determine the feasibility of the transfer from one country to another. Nigeria was approached by their assigned VAN Analyst regarding receiving the transfer, as they were projected to be stocked out at the central level for much of 2022.

In October 2022, Nigeria officially requested support from WAHO for the transfer. Transferring products from Niger to Nigeria involved a multi-layered coordination at the VAN CPG level between WAHO, UNFPA, key government officials, VAN Analysts, and VAN country teams. WAHO funding facilitated the transfer of product between countries and supported translation of the transfer documentation from French to English.

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