

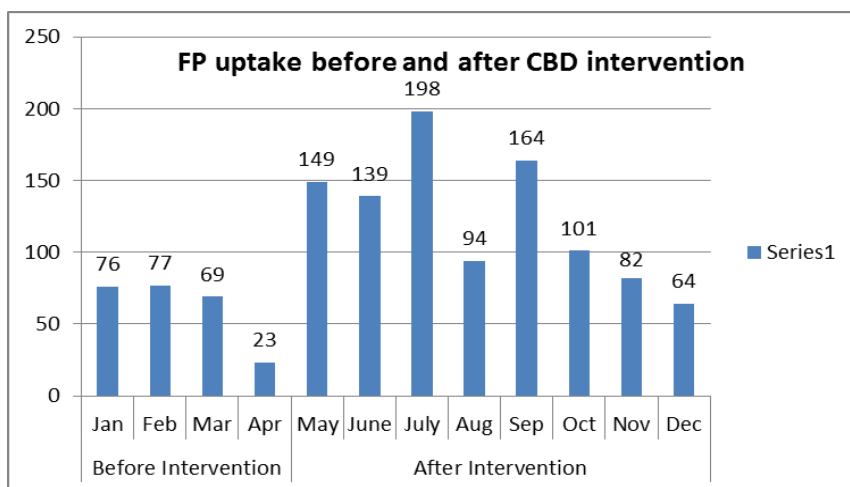


Community Based Distributors double FP uptake in Bukiro Village of Ngara District sustainably



The community at Bukiro village in Ngara District has doubled uptake for family planning modern methods from an average of 61 (January to March 2014) to 124 (May to December 2014). This change happened due to revitalization of community based distributors service which was identified as a priority intervention towards improved health of the mother and child.

Health Promotion Tanzania and Ifakara Health Institute jointly implemented a program known as Participatory Reflection and Action (PRA) which intends to engage and empower the community in identification and prioritization of health interventions in ensuring health systems remain accountable to the target population. The team therefore facilitated dialogue, action and accountability for health which community based distribution (CBD) program was identified to be a priority. CBD is recognized as an effective strategy for strengthening primary health care (PHC) provision of family planning services using community structures that include home visits by trained agents with the aim of promoting the use of safe contraceptive methods. Bukiro Village is one of the areas with highest fertility rates, lowest contraceptive use and highest proportion of teenage pregnancies in the district.



The project started in February 2014, and by April community based distributors were equipped with skills to promote use of family planning methods directly and indirectly through referrals to the health centre. The graph indicates the difference in uptake of FP services before and after the intervention. It is reported that, in July 2014 many clients registered

for Norplant method and therefore a reason for reduced numbers between August and October. More numbers were reduced in November and December because of stock out. CBD monitoring therefore raises an alarm to respective authority.