**Reaching Rural Reproductive Women in Kintampo, Ghana with Family Planning: Evidence from the EquityTool**

**Authors: Kwame Adjei, Irene Azindow, Andrea Sprockett, Felix Oppong, Yeetey Enuameh, Kwaku Poku Asante, Nirali Chakraborty, Seth Owusu-Agyei**

**Institutions: Kintampo Health Research Centre, Metrics for Management**

**Introduction**

Family Planning (FP) is an important investment to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. It is also a recommended priority area for most sub-Saharan countries in their quest to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC). In Ghana, use of FP remains low (22%) as reported in the most recent (2014) Ghana Demographic Health Survey (GDHS).

In Kintampo North and South districts, use of FP as last reported in 2013 was 25.3%. Recent efforts to improve this in these districts was facilitated through an implementation research known as the Continuum of Care (CoC) Card for Family Planning (2017). The main intervention was the CoC card. Women (15-49) who came for services on time were encouraged using gold stars.

The EquityTool for Ghana was used to measure socio-economic status (SES) of CoC FP participants at project endline. The EquityTool is an easy to use set of questions and analysis guidance that simplifies the DHS wealth index questions by collecting a reduced number of highly significant country-specific questions. The tool benchmarks results to national or urban wealth distribution. Quintile 1 is the lowest (poorest) and quintile 5 the highest (wealthiest).

**Objectives**

* To identify SES of participants so as to understand equity in FP use
* To determine the relationship between wealth quintile and FP use amongst participants (15-49)

**Methods**

We conducted a cross sectional survey carried out from February to March 2018 using Research Electronic Data Capture (REDCap) with the EquityTool questions incorporated. Women of reproductive age (15-49) were sampled using the Kintampo Health Demographic Surveillance System, which covers predominantly rural communities in Kintampo North and South districts where the CoC study was implemented. The relationship between FP use and wealth quintile was assessed with a logistic regression model controlling for the effect of other explanatory variables.

**Results**

A total of 949 women participated in the survey. Their mean age was 29 years (SD = 9.97). Use of FP amongst women was 30.7%. When benchmarked to the national distribution, study participants were predominantly in quintile 3 (33.0%) and quintile 2 (26.5%). From the univariate analysis, FP use was associated with an increase in wealth quintile. There was, however, no significant relationship between FP use and wealth quintile after controlling for other explanatory variables such as age and marital status.

**Conclusion**

FP use amongst participants was not dependent on SES. To better achieve UHC in Ghana, factors like age must also be considered in FP programs targeted at predominantly rural communities