Cost is one of the barriers that prevents youth from receiving the contraceptives they want. Contraceptive costs at public health facilities range widely based on method type. A contraceptive implant costs 16% of what an average family spends on food in a month. Youth often lack their own source of income or control over finances to pay for the transportation and fees needed to access contraceptives.

Meeting youth's need for contraceptive services saves lives and money.

The annual costs of unintended pregnancies and unsafe abortions in Central Africa are approximately 110 trillion CFA. If all young women ages 15 to 19 in Central Africa who want to avoid pregnancy were to use modern contraceptives, 289,000 fewer unintended births and 172,000 fewer unsafe abortions would occur.

Young Women in Cameroon Have Unmet Need for Contraception

The share of young women in Cameroon who want to avoid pregnancy but are not currently using any method of contraception varies by region. Rates are highest in the Center, East, and North regions.

Support Our Future
Provide Free Contraceptive Services for Cameroon’s Youth

Youth ages 15 to 24 need contraceptive services and products to protect their health.
Recognizing that adolescents and youth receive an inadequate supply of family planning services, the Cameroon Family Planning Operational Plan 2015-2020 seeks to prioritize their reproductive health, and the Cameroon FP2020 Commitment aims to “establish a mechanism to subsidize family planning services for... adolescents and youth” by 2020.

To improve the health of youth and fulfill national commitments, the Minister of Public Health should:

- **Sign a Circular** that requires all contraceptive services and products in all public health facilities be provided free for youth ages 15 to 24.
- **Establish a permanent monitoring mechanism to implement the Circular.**

**References**

1. Institut National de la Statistique (INS) and ICF International, Demographic and Health Survey 2011 Cameroon (Calverton, MD: INS and ICF International, 2012).

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