

Terms of Reference
National Family Planning Technical Working Group
DMPA-SC Sub-Committee
Sierra Leone

I. Background:

Sayana® Press (the subcutaneous form of depot medroxyprogesterone acetate, or DMPA-SC, in the Uniject injection system) is an all-in-one, lower-dose formulation and presentation of Depo-Provera® (DMPA-IM) and is manufactured by Pfizer Inc. It has been included in Sierra Leone's National Essential Medicines List since the year 2018.

DMPA-SC can improve contraceptive access because it is small, light, easy to use, and requires minimal training, making it especially suitable for community-based distribution and for women to administer themselves through self-injection.

Studies have found that the contraceptive efficacy and safety profile of DMPA-SC are equivalent to those of DMPA-IM. In late 2014, a public-private collaboration made Sayana Press available for US\$1 per dose to qualified purchasers in the world's 69 poorest countries—bringing the price much closer to DMPA-IM.

The Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MOHS) introduced DMPA-SC in 2018. Since then; a) DMPA SC trainings contents have been integrated into the national family planning provider training package; b) the national quantification and supply plan exercises embrace DMPA SC among other methods; c) DMPA SC is integrated into the Sierra Leone's DHIS2; d) So far over 100 public health facilities have the capacity to offer the method. The Planned Parenthood Association of Sierra Leone (PPASL) and Marie Stopes Sierra Leone (MSSL) are also offering the method through their clinics and outreach initiatives.

The MOHS is committed to national-scale up of DMPA-SC and has called for convening of a DMPA-SC sub-committee under the auspices of the national family planning technical working group in order to support its national scale-up and integration of self-injection in Sierra Leone's family planning service delivery.

II. Role of the sub-committee

The sub-committee performs an advisory role, providing engagement and strategic guidance to Sierra Leone MOHS and implanting partners on scale-up of DMPA-SC and integration of self-injection.

The views and recommendations of the sub-committee will be treated with the utmost seriousness; however, the authority and responsibility for final decisions will rest with the Ministry of Health and Sanitation and respective implementing partners.

III. Structure and Membership:

1. **Leadership:** the Director of RCH or the designate will chair the sub-committee meetings. The RH/FP programme of MoHS with the support of UNFPA will provide secretariat support including organization of the meetings.

2. **Membership:** The sub-committee will be comprised of the following members:
 - a) World Health Organization (WHO)
 - b) Planned Parenthood Association of Sierra Leone (PPASL)
 - c) Marie Stopes Sierra Leone (MSSL)
 - d) Jhpiego
 - e) Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI)
 - f) Caring for girls

IV. **Specific roles and responsibilities**

The sub-committee will review in detail and agree upon specific roles and responsibilities, which will likely include the following key elements:

- Assist in development and refinement of a national scale-up plan for DMPA-SC that will include partner roles, available funds, and funding gaps.
- Assist the national RH Quantification TWG in reviewing quarterly commodity requests and annual quantification and supply plan exercises
- Ensure the incorporation of up to date DMPA-SC training content and self-injection tools in provider training nationally.
- Monitor DHIS2 to ensure consistent service delivery reporting
- Engagement with donors to address identified funding gaps.
- Assist in planning and implementation of a pilot approach to self-injection; review results and implications for self-injection rollout.
- Support the expansion of contraceptive access through approaches such as task-sharing (e.g., community-based distribution, pharmacy/drug shop access) and self-injection.

V. **Modalities of the sub-committee meetings**

1. **Frequency of meetings:**
2. **Agenda and meeting minutes:** Formal minutes of each sub-committee meeting will be prepared, including specific recommendations. These minutes will be distributed to sub-committee members and FP TWG members as deemed necessary.
3. **Amendments to the TOR:** this TOR is provisional. It is subject to review as required.

DMPA-SC Sub-Committee
Freetown, Sierra Leone
April 2020