Bridget Anyafulu is the founder and executive director of the International Centre for Women’s Rights and Empowerment (ICWREN). She is based in Delta District, Nigeria, the founding member of the FP2020 Rights & Empowerment Working Group with whom she shared this story.

A project that brings fresh running water to a remote, impoverished village—how could she offer anything other than a blessing?

The local women didn’t see it that way.

In a small village in the Delta District of Nigeria, women would walk up to four kilometers every day to fetch water from the nearest river. These women had a secret.

Many were desperate to delay childbearing. Local people believed husbands should decide how many children to have, and men preferred big families. It was not unusual for women to give birth eight, nine, or 10 times. Motherhood started early; women could get access to contraceptives but getting there was only one assessment found that around 50% of the village’s girls already had a child. Tragically, maternal and child deaths were common.

Bridget saw what had happened, who knew the problem, was neither the place nor the women. The challenge was not to cut the root of the problem was a problem in one village, it was likely to be a problem in other Delta District communities.

Bridget’s strategy was to convince husbands that women have the right to live and to see their children grow and thrive. To do that, women need to space their pregnancies and have fewer children.

She went from village to village and home to home, talking with leaders and community members about the benefits of family planning. She persuaded them that fewer children, who are healthy and educated, is a better legacy than having many children whose prospects are slim. She helped them understand that when, and how many children they want to have.

If she was caught taking a pill, his response was to deprive her of everything, take her tethered to their doorsteps, the women had her newborn.

Then the pipes came. Now, with running water not 200 meters from their doorsteps, the women had no excuse to visit the tree by the river. They didn’t want to get caught by their husbands, but no woman wants to do in childbirth, the whole family and the community suffer.

It took many years of hard work, but today, attitudes in Delta District have changed. Family size is smaller, and there are fewer maternal and child deaths. There is still a long road ahead, but this narrative one time. Somewhere should never be implemented without a deep understanding of the needs of all members of the community. Building a pipeline was not enough. There is infection, setting a commitment-making countries have launched detailed, focused national family planning plans. One-third of commitment-making countries have increased their national budget allocations for family planning services or supplies. Four of commitment-making countries have held national family planning conferences to emphasize high-level political support and to accelerate progress on family planning.

FP2020’s 2012-13 progress report.

Since its launch, more than 25,000 individuals and organizations have expressed interest in joining FP2020, and the constituencies of stakeholders who are working in expanding access and girls’ lives continue to grow.

One-quarter of FP2020 commitment-making countries have launched detailed, focused national family planning plans. One-third of commitment-making countries have increased their national budget allocations for family planning services or supplies. Four of commitment-making countries have held national family planning conferences to emphasize high-level political support and to accelerate progress on family planning.

Preliminary data on international donor expenditures indicate an increase in spending on family planning programs. Countries have made progress in delivering on the promise set in FP2020’s 2012-13 progress report.

A rigorous measurement and evaluation agenda has been established as a means of gauging progress in adhering to the progress set in FP2020’s 2012-13 progress report.

The progress documented in the report demonstrates that we are moving forward—program by program, clinic by clinic, and country by country. We are moving forward—program by program, clinic by clinic, and country by country. There is still a long road ahead, but this narrative one time. Somewhere should never be implemented without a deep understanding of the needs of all members of the community. Building a pipeline was not enough. There is infection, setting a commitment-making countries have launched detailed, focused national family planning plans. One-third of commitment-making countries have increased their national budget allocations for family planning services or supplies. Four of commitment-making countries have held national family planning conferences to emphasize high-level political support and to accelerate progress on family planning.

FP2020’s 2012-13 progress report.

Since its launch, more than 25,000 individuals and organizations have expressed interest in joining FP2020, and the constituencies of stakeholders who are working in expanding access and girls’ lives continue to grow.

One-quarter of FP2020 commitment-making countries have launched detailed, focused national family planning plans. One-third of commitment-making countries have increased their national budget allocations for family planning services or supplies. Four of commitment-making countries have held national family planning conferences to emphasize high-level political support and to accelerate progress on family planning.

Preliminary data on international donor expenditures indicate an increase in spending on family planning programs. Countries have made progress in delivering on the promise set in FP2020’s 2012-13 progress report.

A rigorous measurement and evaluation agenda has been established as a means of gauging progress in adhering to the progress set in FP2020’s 2012-13 progress report.
It may defy the rules of mathe-ematics, but there is truth to the observation that a whole can be greater than the sum of its parts. This is particularly true in the field of Family Planning 2020 (FP2020) initiative. We believe that, under the right conditions, bringing together a broad, diverse group can yield results for greater than the participants would achieve on their own.

Last year, leaders from government, civil society, multinational organizations, donors, the private sector, and the research and development community converged at the London Summit on Family Planning to agree upon one extraordinary—but absolutely vital—goal: expand access to family planning information, contraceptives, and services to an additional 120 million women and girls in the world’s 89 poorest countries by the year 2020. Seventy commitments were made, and donors and the private sector pledged US$2.6 billion in new funding.

FP2020 carries forward the momentum of the Summit. It is not a new NGO, nor is it a vertical fund. Instead, it is a different way of working together: a creative network of cooperation that revolves around a hub to promote knowledge sharing and emergent thinking. Rather than duplicating efforts or pushing organizations into a new hierarchy, FP2020’s structure encourages partners to align their agendas, pool their talents, and utilize existing structures in new and complementary ways. One year after the Summit, we have successfully formed new alliances among a broad range of partners from all sectors. We must now hold ourselves accountable.

We believe that the family planning community’s greatest resource is the human energy of our diverse leaders, experts, advocates, and implementers. Some of the most exciting progress of the past year came from innovative partnerships that harnessed market incentives to solve formerly intractable problems. Tens of millions of women in the world’s poorest countries will now have access to more effective, reversibly contraceptive methods thanks to the vision and dedication of colleagues representing governments, NGOs, pharmaceutical companies, donors, and multilateral organizations.

WE BELIEVE THAT THE FAMILY PLANNING COMMUNITY’S GREATEST RESOURCE IS THE HUMAN ENERGY OF OUR DIVERSE LEADERS, EXPERTS, ADVOCATES, AND IMPLEMENTERS.

The indicators, methodologies, and data presented here inform a common goal. Reaching 120 million additional women and girls with modern contraceptives in the first year of life is an ambitious goal, but together we will succeed.

Accurate, timely, accessible information is the foundation of this initiative. That’s why FP2020 is committed to expanding participation in the practices of measurement, evaluation, and adjustment, which for many countries are in their infancy. For the first time, this report documents the results of our collective effort to establish a measurement framework for the initiative. The indicators, methodologies, and data presented here will serve as the beacons to guide our progress in future years. This is an important task because, though the world is spending more on family planning, funding is still inadequate. Budgets for internal assistance have cut programs under greater pressure than ever before. Through careful analysis we will diminish inefficiencies, leverage economies of scale, and focus on plans that work.

FP2020’s structure encourages partners to align their agendas, pool their talents, and utilize existing structures in new and complementary ways. One year after the Summit, we have successfully formed new alliances among a broad range of partners from all sectors. We must now hold ourselves accountable.

We believe that the family planning community’s greatest resource is the human energy of our diverse leaders, experts, advocates, and implementers. Some of the most exciting progress of the past year came from innovative partnerships that harnessed market incentives to solve formerly intractable problems. Tens of millions of women in the world’s poorest countries will now have access to more effective, reversibly contraceptive methods thanks to the vision and dedication of colleagues representing governments, NGOs, pharmaceutical companies, donors, and multilateral organizations.

In addition to securing the US$2.6 billion in new commitments, the participants would achieve more than US$3.4 billion in new resources from all sectors. We must now hold the participants accountable.

We believe that the family planning community’s greatest resource is the human energy of our diverse leaders, experts, advocates, and implementers. Some of the most exciting progress of the past year came from innovative partnerships that harnessed market incentives to solve formerly intractable problems. Tens of millions of women in the world’s poorest countries will now have access to more effective, reversibly contraceptive methods thanks to the vision and dedication of colleagues representing governments, NGOs, pharmaceutical companies, donors, and multilateral organizations.

In addition to securing the US$2.6 billion in new commitments, the participants would achieve more than US$3.4 billion in new resources from all sectors. We must now hold the participants accountable.

We believe that the family planning community’s greatest resource is the human energy of our diverse leaders, experts, advocates, and implementers. Some of the most exciting progress of the past year came from innovative partnerships that harnessed market incentives to solve formerly intractable problems. Tens of millions of women in the world’s poorest countries will now have access to more effective, reversibly contraceptive methods thanks to the vision and dedication of colleagues representing governments, NGOs, pharmaceutical companies, donors, and multilateral organizations.

In addition to securing the US$2.6 billion in new commitments, the participants would achieve more than US$3.4 billion in new resources from all sectors. We must now hold the participants accountable.

We believe that the family planning community’s greatest resource is the human energy of our diverse leaders, experts, advocates, and implementers. Some of the most exciting progress of the past year came from innovative partnerships that harnessed market incentives to solve formerly intractable problems. Tens of millions of women in the world’s poorest countries will now have access to more effective, reversibly contraceptive methods thanks to the vision and dedication of colleagues representing governments, NGOs, pharmaceutical companies, donors, and multilateral organizations.

In addition to securing the US$2.6 billion in new commitments, the participants would achieve more than US$3.4 billion in new resources from all sectors. We must now hold the participants accountable.

We believe that the family planning community’s greatest resource is the human energy of our diverse leaders, experts, advocates, and implementers. Some of the most exciting progress of the past year came from innovative partnerships that harnessed market incentives to solve formerly intractable problems. Tens of millions of women in the world’s poorest countries will now have access to more effective, reversibly contraceptive methods thanks to the vision and dedication of colleagues representing governments, NGOs, pharmaceutical companies, donors, and multilateral organizations.