

PROGRESSIVE ISLAM IN PRACTICE



# FAMILY PLANNING IN ISLAM

PART II

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# FAMILY PLANNING IN MUSLIM COUNTRIES (2004)

Country	% of married women using contraception
Afghanistan	5
Algeria	64
Bangladesh	54
Burkina Faso	14
Egypt	60
Gambia	10
Guinea	6
Indonesia	60
Iran	74
Jordan	56
Kyrgyzstan	60
Malaysia	55

# FAMILY PLANNING IN MUSLIM COUNTRIES (2004)

Country	% of married women using contraception
Mali	8
Mauritania	8
Morocco	63
Nigeria	12
Oman	24
Pakistan	28
Saudi Arabia	32
Senegal	11
Somalia	11
Tajikistan	34
Turkey	64
Yemen	21

2004 World Population Data Sheet; United Nations, World Population Policies, 2003; and UNFPA, UNICEF, Statistical Center of Iran, and the Iranian Ministry of Health and Medical Education, Population and Health in the Islamic Republic of Iran—DHS, October 2000

# BANGLADESH

- Across Bangladesh, family planning is carried out by the Directorate General of Family Planning, a government entity, and several NGOs.
- One of the major issues facing family planning in Bangladesh is underage marriage, which sees 60% of child brides giving birth before the age of 19.
- Although contraceptives are available in 86% of the country's health facilities, only 62% of married women use contraception.
- Of these 62%, 52% of women use modern contraception and the remaining 10% practice a form of traditional birth control, like herbal remedies.



# EGYPT

- Egypt has a government-led family planning program across the nation.
- in 2014, approximately 59% of married women across the country used contraceptive methods.
- This number varies across the country, with women in urban areas more likely to use modern contraception methods, while women in rural areas used traditional methods of birth control or did not use birth control at all.
- Across age groups this number also varies, with only 21% of married girls and young women aged 15–19 using contraception, compared to 79% of women in their 30s.



# IRAN

- In the 1990s, the government of Iran initiated a comprehensive family planning program, which saw the government declare that "Islam favored families with two children".
- The program, was criticized for its stringent nature but was widely successful in bringing down the birth rate of the country.
- In recent decades, the government has pushed a pro-natalism approach, cutting the budget for subsidized condoms and family planning.
- A proposed bill sought to criminalize vasectomies and tubectomies, punishable by a jail term of up to five years.



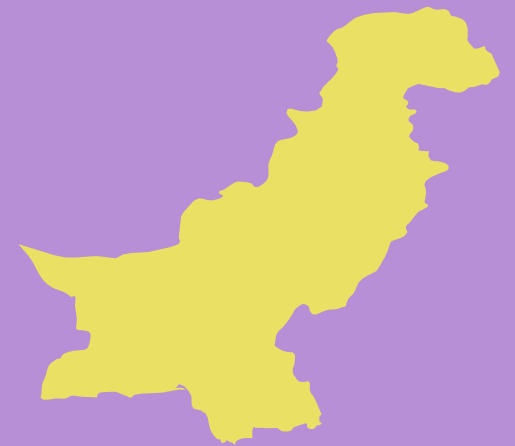
# MALI

- In Mali, just 8.1% of married women use family planning.
- The majority of these women used modern contraception methods, with just 1.1% using traditional methods of birth control.
- Despite this low number, 37% of married women in Mali expressed a desire for family planning to limit births or practice birth spacing.
- One 2020 study found that the main reason women avoided engaging in family planning was pressure from their husbands, who sought large families or didn't believe women had the right to use contraception without her husband's permission.



# PAKISTAN

- A 2006–07 government study found that 30% of married women were using family planning methods.
- A study from that same year sought to identify why women chose not to engage in family planning, with many citing a belief that fertility is determined by God alone (28%) or a perceived religious prohibition (23%).
- The government has done little to combat this campaign of disinformation but studies show that religious leaders across the country are supportive of family planning and have begun to promote the cause within their own communities.





# SENEGAL

- In Senegal, approximately 11% of married women use some sort of family planning.
- The government using community outreach and peer education to promote services
- Although the government has sought to expand family planning services across the country, many women rely on services from NGOs, whose visits are irregular.
- Women in a 2020 study identified their husbands as one of the limiting factors to seeking family planning methods or counseling despite the fact that the government eliminated a rule that required husbands to authorize their wives use of family planning.



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