

Supplemental file S1: Procedures of enrolment of women of reproductive age in the RECIPAL study

All women of reproductive age (WRA), whatever their gravidity, living in the study area were eligible to be included in the study. To be recruited, they should met the following criteria: negative urinary pregnancy test, 18 to 45 years old, no current contraception, no previous fertility issues, in willingness to become pregnant, no planned travel for more than 2 months within the next 18 months, acceptance of RECIPAL protocol and signed written informed consent. Possible fertility issues were: primary or secondary amenorrhea; women unable – but wishing – to become pregnant for 10 years or more; and past history of three or more successive spontaneous abortions.

Three different procedures were used concomitantly to enrol WRAs:

👉 **First procedure:** Sensitization events were organized in each of the 35 selected villages for presenting the study to all inhabitants. If interested, women were invited to register with the head of the village and were visited at home the day after for their inclusion. The field investigators were in constant contact with the head of the villages to inquire about women registration and to know whether women or other inhabitants had shown interest in the study. Sensitization events were repeated several times throughout the study in villages with a low level of recruitment. Moreover, information sessions were organized in the different certified and accredited health centres in the area, whether or not participating in the study, in order to increase community involvement to and acceptability of the study.

👉 **Second procedure:** Specific sensitization events were organized along with the community leaders (local elected and health authorities, crowned head families), religious authorities (traditional, muslim and christian) and mass-media (mainly through radio messages) for supporting the study and mobilizing WRAs during masses, women's or young's association meetings, church sessions, etc. Women's population was also informed about the project during health facility activities such as antenatal care visits and routine EPI's (expanded programme on immunization) sessions. Then, WRAs interested in the project could meet the study team (including field investigators and community health workers) to be registered.

👉 **Third procedure:** The last way of recruitment consisted of going door-to-door to identify eligible and interested women with the assistance of a network of community health workers. Community health workers are members of the community, they are selected by the community and are answerable to the communities for their activities. They must be endorsed by the health centre, but do not necessarily belong to it, and have a shorter training than professional workers. "Trackers", who are community members usually solicited by the health centres for advanced EPI's sessions and national vaccination campaigns, were identified and involved in WRAs identification and enrolment after being trained.