Why do 222 million women have an unmet need for contraception?

222m
Women around the world want to control whether and when they have children, but they’re not able to.¹

But there are other barriers to women controlling their fertility.

Others simply cannot afford it.
So we harness health financing options, such as voucher schemes. This allows people to use our services regardless of their level of income.

Myths and misinformation play a role.
Therefore our community health workers talk to women and educate them, countering these rumours.

As do stigma and prevailing attitudes of partners, families or communities.
So as well as girls and women, we engage with men, community and religious leaders, to help them become advocates for family planning.

And other times side effects lead to women stopping using a particular method.
We make sure we tell women about possible side-effects so they know what to expect.

Sometimes stockouts mean a wasted journey.
We carefully manage our supply chains, and work hard to make sure that we never run out of supplies.

38%
of women with an unmet need have previously used contraception. It’s crucial that we break these barriers for good and give women the choice of a full range of contraceptive options, so they can decide whether and when they have children by using the method that’s right for them.²

For some women, contraception is out of reach because they cannot get to a place that provides it.
That’s why our outreach teams take contraceptives to remote communities, in 4x4s, boats and planes.

Find out more about how we’re breaking down these barriers at www.mariestopes.org