Among 1.8 billion adolescents and youth (ages 10–19 and 20–24, respectively) worldwide, 90% live in developing countries. Young people, especially girls, face a significant risk of unplanned pregnancy, HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs), gender-based violence, and other serious health issues. Pregnancy- and childbirth-related complications are the leading cause of death for girls aged 15–19. In Sub-Saharan Africa, young women (ages 15–24) are eight times more likely to have HIV than are young men. Young people are often marginalized and their rights and needs neglected, resulting in poorer outcomes for their health, well-being, education, and economic opportunities.

EngenderHealth’s approach to youth programming is unique, placing youth front and center as experts in their own lives and working in partnership to meet their diverse needs. Incorporating a youth lens across all program design and implementation efforts, we are increasing access to comprehensive sexuality education, improving the quality of youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services, and educating communities to delay early marriage and address harmful practices across Asia, Africa, and the United States.

Renalyn recounts her story to teenage girls.
At 17, Renalyn Bagot is already a mother of two. In the Philippines, thousands of adolescent girls find themselves in Renalyn’s shoes. To support young girls, EngenderHealth leads a Program for Young Parents (PYP) to help young expectant mothers like Renalyn get a second chance to finish school, keep their children healthy, and ultimately pursue their dreams.
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:
In **Bangladesh**, an estimated 60% of Bangladeshi women are married before age 18, and the median age at first pregnancy is also 18. To help young married couples reach their reproductive intentions, we are improving their access to family planning services, including long-acting contraceptive methods. We are educating communities through peer educators and drama troupes and are training health care providers to engage young married couples about family planning.

In **India**, we are training health care providers on adolescent health needs, educating youth about sexual and reproductive health, and advocating for policies to ensure a safe environment for young people accessing services. To date, we have seen a three-fold increase in the use of services by young people and greater state funding to expand the project.

In **Tanzania**, we partner with local groups, including universities, to provide contraceptive information and services to reduce unwanted pregnancies, abortion, and STIs. We also work with vulnerable populations, including sex workers, men who have sex with men, and young women to reduce HIV and STIs.

In **Togo**, we work with policymakers and health care providers to ensure that youth are free from early marriage, unintended pregnancy, HIV, sex trafficking, female genital mutilation, and other harmful practices. In collaboration with young people, we are also creating a comic book series that follows the lives of Togolese girls, showing how sexual and reproductive health–related choices can impact their lives and futures.

In the **United States**, we implement innovative approaches to prevent teenage pregnancy, STIs, and relationship violence through our Gender Matters (GenM) and Re:MIX projects. GenM engages all genders together in small groups as a synchronized approach to explore rigid societal messages about masculinity and femininity, examine harmful norms, and redefine healthy and equitable norms that could lead to healthier outcomes.

Re:MIX pairs youth parent peer educators with adult clinic-based health educators to cofacilitate a game-based, interactive sexuality education curriculum for young people. They learn and practice crucial skills that teens need to make responsible, healthy, and safe life decisions. This program is currently being tested in Austin, Texas, where teenage pregnancy rates are disproportionately high.

We are also developing an intensive workshop curriculum to prevent teenage pregnancy, sexual violence, and STIs among **American Indian/Alaskan Native youth**, a group that shows higher rates of early childbearing, sexual violence, and HIV than others.

EngenderHealth is a **leading global women’s health organization committed to ensuring that every pregnancy is planned and every mother has the best chance at survival. In nearly 20 countries around the world, we train health care professionals and partner with government and communities to make high-quality family planning and sexual and reproductive health services available—today and for generations to come.**

For more information, please visit engenderhealth.org, e-mail us at info@engenderhealth.org or call 1-800-564-2872 or 212-561-8000.