

# 2019 LEADERSHIP REPORT



**PUTTING WOMEN  
AND GIRLS FIRST**



EngenderHealth  
for a better life

## A Brighter Future for Women Worldwide



Every day at EngenderHealth, the work we're doing across the globe—and the depth of expertise and relationships that enable our teams to be effective—are all made

possible through the generosity of donors like you.

Take, for instance, our *Fistula Care Plus* team that operates the most preeminent program of its kind in the world, partnering with healthcare providers to repair fistulas, an often-debilitating condition that most commonly results from obstructed labor. In the last year, we've supported more than 3,400 fistula repairs and trained 27 surgeons and 1,369 other healthcare workers. We have helped educate the public about fistula through community events and media—reaching tens of millions. These numbers aren't just statistics. They represent real people who are able to live healthier lives with greater opportunity, thanks to you.

In Ethiopia, at a university near Addis Ababa, peer educators described how support from EngenderHealth enables their fellow students to understand their own bodies, their rights, and their options for ensuring their own sexual and reproductive health. In a country that has developed rapidly in recent decades, these young people are committed to creating change.

As EngenderHealth embarks on more than seven decades of dedicated work reaching more than 90 countries, we celebrate promising stories of transformation for the millions of lives we've touched along the way. At the same time, we look forward to expanding our reach even further in the years ahead. To that end, we've relocated our headquarters to Washington, D.C., as part of our strategic plan to be better positioned to advance global sexual and reproductive health and rights, so all women and girls can participate as equal members of society.

We know that when women have access to family planning services and quality reproductive healthcare, they can determine their own futures, receive an education, earn a living, send their children to school—and be an integral part of improving the communities in which they live. All of this combined makes the world a brighter place. Your generosity is key to our success, thank you.

  
Traci L. Baird  
President, CEO, and Fellow Supporter

### ■ MALAWI, AFRICA



Bertha Namala proudly displays the new sewing machine she received after successfully completing our vocational course.

## Tackling Gender-Based Violence & Promoting Gender Equality

In the southeast African country of Malawi, reports show that one out of five girls below the age of 18 has been a victim of gender-based violence. The violence is linked to poverty and lack of economic independence among young women and girls, which subject them to all types of gender-based violence.

EngenderHealth is working to change all that through our women's economic empowerment intervention. Since its inception less than a year ago, more than 500 beneficiaries from the four districts of Mzimba, Kasungu, Chiradzulu, and Blantyre have graduated from the program, gaining valuable vocational skills. By helping these vulnerable out-of-school girls and young women learn to become economically self-reliant, this initiative is a crucial part of their journey to empowerment. And it's giving them the necessary tools to reduce their vulnerability to gender-based violence. Because once girls and women can generate their own income, they find the freedom to determine their own futures. In turn, the risk of abuse is lowered, and women are better positioned to challenge attempted abuse.

One of EngenderHealth's directors in Malawi speaks to the incredible progress made so far: "All the graduating beneficiaries have shown a great interest and capacity in pursuing their vocation skills in order to uplift their socio-economic lives. Apart from the vocation skills, we have also equipped them with basic gender knowledge to promote gender equity and equality among these graduating women and men in their respective communities, which is critical in reducing gender-based violence overall."

**"... I will be able to start and run my own business and support my family."**

— Bertha gained vocational skills and economic empowerment because of EngenderHealth

After graduation, beneficiaries are offered start-up capital or materials to initiate and sustain small-scale businesses. The impact is palpable among program graduates like Bertha Namala. She says the skills she has gained will enable her to support her children and family, as well as the community. "I did not go far with my education and, as such, I did not have skills that would enable me to generate any stable income. With the skills I have acquired through this training, I will be able to start and run my own business and support my family," shares Bertha.

### ■ KISSIDOUGOU, GUINEA



Kadiatou Diallo, fistula survivor, thanks to EngenderHealth and our generous supporters.

## Greater Hope in the Fight to End Fistula

Kadiatou Diallo is a mother of two living in Kissidougou, Guinea. In between the births of her eldest child and her youngest, Kadiatou endured a heartbreaking delivery of a stillborn baby.

Kadiatou had suffered from obstetric fistula, an often life-threatening, but largely preventable condition. It is all too common in the developing world, affecting an estimated more than 2 million girls and women today. For women with fistula, the consequences can be devastating. The baby usually dies during labor, and the mother is left with chronic incontinence, often leading to isolation from family and community life, and neglect or abandonment by male partners. Without surgical repair, a woman's prospects for work or family support are greatly diminished, and she is often left to rely on charity.

Fortunately, in up to 90% of cases, fistula can be surgically repaired. Through the *Fistula Care Plus* project, EngenderHealth works to restore health to women with fistula and prevent other women from developing the condition. Today, we have become the number one provider of fistula care in the developing world.

And the impact is truly transformative for women like Kadiatou: "I experienced this painful situation for seven months, until one day my neighbor told me that she learned that my illness could be treated without paying anything. I came out healed," says Kadiatou. "I thank all those near or far, who have helped to positively change my life. I encourage other women suffering from the same illness to go for treatment... and especially not to lose hope." Kadiatou has since had another baby, who is healthy, happy, and thriving.

**"I thank all those near or far, who have helped to positively change my life."**

— Kadiatou is inspired to encourage other women with fistula to go for treatment

### ■ SITAMARHI DISTRICT, INDIA



With the help of a counselor trained by EngenderHealth, Manisha (on right) delayed her marriage.

## Standing Up Against Child Marriage

Manisha's story is no different than that of many young girls in her small village in India. She had to leave school early—after finishing the third grade—to help her mother take care of the household. And like many girls in her village, she was expected

to marry early through an arrangement dictated by her parents.

When Manisha's parents identified a boy for her to marry from a nearby village, she was just 17 years old. The boy had not been formally educated and worked as a laborer like her parents. Manisha did not want to get married at such an early age, especially to someone she didn't even know and who had no education.

That's what prompted Manisha to turn to her peer group and its educators for help. After hearing Manisha's distress, the group sought further guidance from a counselor trained by EngenderHealth in the area of adolescent health and development. The counselor visited Manisha's village, meeting with peer educators and influential community members to discuss the ill effects of child marriage and urge the group to take action to save Manisha's life by confronting Manisha's parents. It's important to note that this EngenderHealth-supported effort follows the principle "Do No Harm" to ensure interactions with families remain sensitive to this subject and other long-held cultural norms.

**"... I think all young boys and girls should focus on their education."**

— Manisha, on standing up against child marriage

In the end, Manisha's mother agreed to delay her daughter's marriage. And today, Manisha continues to help other girls in her village stand up against early marriages. She says, "I could not complete my studies, but I think all young boys and girls should focus on their education."

**In the last year, because of dedicated partners and supporters like you, EngenderHealth:**



**Worked in nearly 8,000** health facilities worldwide



**Ensured that 6.2 million people** had access to family planning services, including counseling on modern contraceptive methods



**Trained more than 17,000 healthcare** providers in 18 countries



**Offered more than 4 million people** a contraceptive method of their choice

**AS A RESULT,** 3.5 million unintended pregnancies and 1.35 million unsafe abortions were averted. Nearly 51,000 child deaths and 5,500 maternal deaths were prevented. Your generosity is a driving force in this amazing global progress, thank you!

## Meet our New Development Team Leader



Audrey is an avid runner, reader, and world traveler.

When it comes to EngenderHealth's incredible work to safeguard reproductive rights and health for millions around the world, your generosity makes all the difference. EngenderHealth receives only a little more than half of its funding from

the US Agency for International Development (USAID) for specific projects around the globe. This means securing private gifts from individuals like you is critical to fueling other key initiatives that are not government priorities, but are truly transformative and lifesaving.

That's why we are so pleased to introduce Audrey M. Johnson, Director of Individual Giving, who joined EngenderHealth this past May. Audrey brings with her more than 20 years of professional experience nurturing relationships with supporters eager to help improve the lives of others through their philanthropy. Most recently the head of development at one of the nation's leading National Public Radio stations, WAMU in Washington, D.C., Audrey has hit the ground running in an effort to build EngenderHealth's capacity to better engage stakeholders like you in strengthening our crucial work.

We are thrilled to have her on board and hope you will join us in welcoming her to the EngenderHealth team. Please feel free to contact Audrey at [ajohnson@engenderhealth.org](mailto:ajohnson@engenderhealth.org) or +1 202 902 2037. She looks forward to getting to know you!

## Create a Legacy of Change

Transform the lives of women and girls around the world by including EngenderHealth in your estate plans. Gifts through your estate are simple to arrange and are meant to preserve your legacy and your financial security, while providing for your loved ones. For more information on how to include EngenderHealth as a beneficiary in your will, trust, or retirement account, please contact Audrey M. Johnson at +1 202 902 2037.

## EngenderHealth is a leading global women's health organization...

*committed to striving for a world in which all women and girls exercise their rights to gender-equitable sexual and reproductive health services and participate as equal members of society. We do so by helping to drive critical changes in the communities and countries where we work—all in an effort to "EngenderHealth for a better life" for women and girls across the globe.*

Visit [www.engenderhealth.org](http://www.engenderhealth.org) for more information.

**Thank you for supporting this lifesaving work.**



**EngenderHealth**  
for a better life

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## OUR VISION

*A world where sexual and reproductive rights are respected as human rights, and women and girls have the freedom to reach their full potentials.*