2020 LEADERSHIP REPORT

Our Journey Forward.
Together.

EngenderHealth
for a better life

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A Bold New Vision and Mission

Over our 75+ year history, EngenderHealth has been at the forefront of the sexual and reproductive health movement. We have remained relevant because we are constantly challenging ourselves to respond to the changing needs of women and girls, and men and boys, in ever more holistic ways. That is why over the last few months, we took time to examine and refine our vision and mission to better reflect the work we do and the people we serve.

We believe that girls and women should be empowered and engaged, and live in supportive communities. We believe health systems and institutions should provide high-quality, gender-equitable sexual and reproductive healthcare supported by appropriate policies, laws, and processes. Only then will women and girls realize their reproductive rights and be able to participate as equal members of society.

Simply put, we recognize that reproductive freedom is inextricably linked to the equal treatment of everyone. So we want to effect change for women and girls around the globe, improve the communities where they live, and enhance health systems and policies to make the world a better place for all of us. This clarity of purpose will further position EngenderHealth among the leading innovators in the field.

I am pleased to share this new vision and mission with you and hope you will continue to embrace and support our important work. As we deliver on our mission, we are grateful for supporters like you whose generosity makes it all possible. Thank you for taking this journey with us.

Traci L. Baird
President, CEO, and Fellow Supporter

Transforming lives, one person at a time

Tattu Michael, age 20, only recently learned about contraception. As a young mother of three, married to an older man from her community in Tanzania, Tattu never imagined she could determine her own future through the power of family planning—until after she got pregnant for the third time.

“My husband comes from a tribe which believes having many kids is a pride to their community. I had to satisfy him by bearing many kids without knowing that my health is [jeopardized] due to poor birth spacing and I lacked information to understand all of that. My husband ended up marrying another young girl like me, which was a challenge [for our household],” says Tattu.

Then something happened that changed the way she viewed the world and her place in it. At the health center where Tattu delivered her third baby, she met a nurse, trained by EngenderHealth, whose counseling about sexual and reproductive health and rights empowered Tattu to make her own informed decisions.

Other women at the health center, who were either expecting a baby or had already given birth, joined in these family planning sessions with Tattu. Together, they began to understand the importance of family planning and the contraceptive choices that allow them the reproductive freedom every woman and girl deserves. Among all the contraceptive options, Tattu opted for a five-year implant, which she received within 24-hours of the birth of her baby.

“I decided to use long-acting contraception after bearing many children at an early age, I chose a five-year implant, to help me recover and stabilize my health,” shares Tattu. “I wish I knew earlier. I would have spaced my children better and remained healthier.”

Many women like Tattu, particularly young women in rural areas, lack access to contraceptive services to help them delay or space their births. Often they are unaware of available options, believe in myths and misconceptions about modern contraception, or have no access to reproductive health counseling and services at a nearby care facility.

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But with your help, all this is changing. EngenderHealth, its global partners, and committed donors are increasing access to contraceptive services by supporting public health facilities across Tanzania and elsewhere in the world—and in the process are expanding quality family planning programs that are making a lasting difference.
EngenderHealth is committed to building stronger communities in order to make real change possible for sexual and reproductive health and rights. We see the impact in places like the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples’ Region of Southern Ethiopia.

Consider Yemegnushal. She knew early on that she wanted to be a midwife—a passion that only grew after learning there was a scarcity of midwives in Ethiopia. Upon completing secondary school, Yemegnushal was accepted to nursing school where she was steered toward public health nursing.

It was a perfect fit for a woman like Yemegnushal who aspired to serve as a problem-solver for people with maternal health challenges. She had hopes of improving her community, and dreams of helping women have healthy deliveries and healthy babies. “My belief is that when you are a midwife, you help two lives at once—a mother and her baby,” she says.

When Yemegnushal joined a nearby health center as one of three midwives, she began to live her dream. With the training she received from EngenderHealth, Yemegnushal’s interest in providing women a full suite of reproductive health services continued to expand.

“I know that I have helped so many women…I have served so many people,” says Yemegnushal of what she’s learned spanning everything from contraceptive services to safe abortion care, thanks to EngenderHealth. “This was my dream, and I believe I am doing it.”

Yemegnushal is quick to add that EngenderHealth’s support for health professionals like her is essential, comprehensive, and rigorous. She appreciates that EngenderHealth’s staff in Ethiopia develop action plans and work closely with health center staff to ensure they are effectively serving clients and demonstrating the competencies taught in training. Yemegnushal sees EngenderHealth as a unique partner that also helps fill gaps in resources such as supplies and equipment. The transformative benefits to women and girls are tremendous.
Improving health systems

At EngenderHealth, our multi-dimensional approach to advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights builds on more than 75 years of experience working in more than 100 countries around the world. With the help of donors like you, we support individuals, communities and health systems, implementing life-changing programs in countries across Asia and Africa as well as in the United States. As a result, millions of women and girls are becoming empowered to stay healthy, live the lives they choose and reach their full potential.

You can see the incredible progress we’re making together in places such as Ethiopia, where Yemegnushal (featured inside) and thousands of other care providers in health facilities around the country are greatly benefitting from EngenderHealth’s training. Thanks to you, we are ensuring greater access to contraception and reproductive health services for all.

At the heart of this progress is our ability to engage local governments in order to implement new policies and improve health systems. In partnership with the government of Ethiopia, for example, EngenderHealth’s work to introduce long-acting and permanent methods of contraception in the context of comprehensive family planning has been felt by millions of women and men to date. At the national level, EngenderHealth and the Ethiopian Federal Ministry of Health continue to collaborate closely on a number of key initiatives designed to provide high-quality, gender-equitable sexual and reproductive health services—and arm healthcare workers like Yemegnushal with the information and tools necessary to create positive change for women, families, and communities.

Create your legacy

You can change what you want to see in the world by empowering women and girls everywhere to determine their futures—and plan for your own financial future at the same time.

By including EngenderHealth in your estate plans, you will bring hope, reproductive freedom, and opportunity to others for many years to come. A gift through your will or other estate planning instrument allows you to increase your support for reproductive health and rights and create a meaningful legacy of positive change for women and families across the globe, all while taking care of yourself and your loved ones.

The difference you can make through your legacy gift will be far-reaching. In the end, you’ll transform the lives of women and families in perpetuity. For more information on how to include EngenderHealth as a beneficiary in your will, trust, or retirement account, please contact Audrey M. Johnson at ajohnson@engenderhealth.org or +1 202 902 2037.