2020 Impact Update

A Year We’ll Never Forget

The pandemic changed all of our lives. Our donor community came through with support for a series of awesome achievements.
Dear Friend,

At this time last year, I was looking forward to an exciting 2020 for EngenderHealth. We went on to work with our donors, partners, and healthcare professionals—pulled together. We are a great team!

As we look ahead, there is ground to make up. Restrictions implemented to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 have created increases in unplanned pregnancies, unsafe abortions, gender-based violence, and forced child marriages. Your continued support will give you a closer look at the progress of some key EngenderHealth programs in 2020 and show how your support helps people around the world enjoy reproductive health and human rights.

### The Pandemic Pivot

As the pandemic swept around the world, two points became crystal clear: First, this was an emergency that required EngenderHealth’s immediate and all-out response. Secondly, we needed to act swiftly and decisively to address the long-term consequences of COVID-19, which will linger for girls and women. UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, predicts a massive increase of COVID-19 unplanned pregnancies and an upward trend in gender-based violence due to the stresses and close confinement of lockdowns.

We are committed to mitigating the impact of the pandemic and supporting people’s health and rights, and we will need your help.

### Pandemic or No, Vital Programs Moved Forward

#### Côte d’Ivoire

You might remember helping create a critical mass of support for an innovative program, Les Femmes Veulent, “Women Want,” designed to give women and girls a voice when decisions are made that affect their reproductive health choices. Nènè Fofana-Cissé, EngenderHealth’s Regional Representative based in Côte d’Ivoire, says young male and female bloggers brought together by EngenderHealth have been very effective. “By working with an effective and engaged blogger community,” she says, “We can amplify their voices and help them advocate for change.”

#### Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

As part of the global Fistula Care Plus program, funded by USAID, EngenderHealth worked with the Ministry of Health to develop new guidelines for prevention and treatment of obstetric fistula, to effect long-term change.

#### India

In Bihar, EngenderHealth trained 2,308 peer educators who reached more than 12,000 adolescents with information on reproductive health and assisted the state government in organizing adolescent health days.

### The Projected Pandemic Aftermath

We know the devastation of the disease itself and its effects on the global economy, but the full impact on family planning, maternal and child mortality, and gender-based violence is yet to be seen. UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, has projected these staggering consequences:

- 47 million women living in low- and middle-income countries, with limited access to modern contraception
- As many as 7 million additional unintended pregnancies
- 31 million additional cases of gender-based violence

Be part of a global team working to reduce those numbers and their potential tragic damage to human lives and rights.

### A 2020 Recap

The column on the right of this page shows what our EngenderHealth donor community has accomplished this year. As you read it, please remember that the numbers tell only part of the story. The “snapshots” that follow will give you a closer look at the progress of some key EngenderHealth programs in 2020 and show how your support helps people around the world enjoy reproductive health and human rights.

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Dear Friend,
At this time last year, I was looking forward to an exciting 2020 for EngenderHealth. We went, “full-speed ahead” because all of our progress, with a global staff working hard and smart to translate well-laid plans into action, and a generous donor community committed to supporting those plans. When COVID-19 changed day-to-day realities in every country where we work, we worked closely with local organizations, healthcare providers, governments, and communities to adjust how to achieve our shared goals. Looking back on those changes, we learned some important lessons:

You, our donors, have real resilience and dedication to our mission. Even when the pandemic touched your lives, you persisted in your support of better lives for girls, women, and communities, and I am personally grateful to you.

- **Flexibility is essential.** There is enormous value to being able to respond nimblly to sudden, pressing needs. So we are especially grateful to the donors who give us funds without restriction. Those funds not only let us respond to crises, but also facilitate the planning and research necessary to secure grants for specific projects.

- **Most importantly, we never give up.** While we had to make adjustments, 2020 was still a year of major achievements because all of us—donors, staff, partners, and healthcare professionals—pulled together. We are a great team!

As we look ahead, there is ground to make up. Restrictions implemented to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 have created increases in unplanned pregnancies, unsafe abortions, gender-based violence, and forced child marriages. Your continued support is indispensable. With it, I know we can succeed together. Together.

All the best,

Traci L. Baird
President, CEO and Fellow Supporter

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**The Pandemic Pivot**

As the pandemic swept around the world, two points became crystal clear: First, this was an emergency that required EngenderHealth’s immediate and all-out response. Secondly, we needed to act swiftly and decisively to avoid decades of gains.

We knew right away that we had to do more, faster; to address the pandemic-related upswing in unintended pregnancies, maternal and child deaths, and gender-based violence.

EngenderHealth staff worked closely with their national ministries of health, and we continued our support by serving as a COVID-19 task force. When masks and sanitizing supplies became scarce, we and our partners helped fill the gaps, helping distribute more than 1 million masks in Côte d’Ivoire and personal protective equipment and thermometers to 2,000 healthcare facilities in Ethiopia.

In every service location, EngenderHealth professionals became teachers and communicators of COVID-19 prevention guidelines. And in areas where access to healthcare facilities was limited, we supported increased access to self-managed contraception.

As 2021 begins, the pandemic will persist until enough people are vaccinated. But its consequences will linger for girls and women. UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, predicts a massive increase in unplanned pregnancies and an upward trend in gender-based violence due to the stresses and close confinement of lockdowns.

We are committed to mitigating the impact of the pandemic and supporting people’s health and rights, and we will need your help.

**Pandemic or No, Vital Programs Moved Forward**

**Côte d’Ivoire**

Your generosity helping create a critical mass of support for an innovative program, Les Femmes Veulent, “Women Want,” designed to give women and girls a voice when decisions are made that affect their reproductive health choices. Nènè Fofana-Cissé, EngenderHealth’s Regional Representative based in Côte d’Ivoire, says young male and female bloggers brought together by EngenderHealth have been very effective. “By working with our blogger community,” she says, “We can amplify the voices of girls and women.”

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**GIVE NOW.**

Visit www.engenderhealth.org or mail your gift in the enclosed pre-addressed envelope. Text EngenderHealth to 80888 to receive a secure giving link.

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**Najma Gani’s job was never easy, but it is always rewarding. She is an EngenderHealth community promoter working among internally displaced people (IDPs) in the Tuli Guled town in Ethiopia. IDPs have been driven from their homes by conflict, violence, or persecution. They often have very limited resources and frequently live in substandard conditions. Najma goes from door to door, providing information on reproductive healthcare services and, when appropriate, referral to the local health facility. She is aware that her job puts her and her family at risk of COVID-19, so she takes every precaution. But she carries on. Her community needs her! And she has a wonderful source of inspiration: you and other friends who provide financial support to EngenderHealth.**

**Najma sends her heartfelt thanks!**

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**Beautiful souls we have met along the way.**

Traci L. Baird
President, CEO and Fellow Supporter

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**EngenderHealth**

**Najma Gani**

**EngenderHealth Community Promoter in Ethiopia**

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**OUR GLOBAL IMPACT: WHERE WE WORK**

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GIVE TODAY.

Impact Update

At the Heart of Everything We Do: YOU

You are making a world of difference for women and girls.

Government bodies and grantmaking groups provide funding for many specific EngenderHealth-led programs. But your gifts, made without restrictions, help EngenderHealth address needs that those grants do not. You help hire professionals with impeccable credentials whom governments and grantmakers will trust to lead complex projects.

Your support was invaluable in helping us continue to function effectively during the pandemic.

You help us teach and reteach our own, so they will communicate the best and latest techniques and practices to their peers—wherever they might be.

Your gift helps us maintain rigorous oversight of every one of our initiatives and work prudently and productively.

EngenderHealth leads the advancement of reproductive health and rights because you care and give—generously, repeatedly, and with no strings attached.

We are honored to include you among our partners in building a better future for millions of people and communities around the world.

Direct Service Data

- 19,580 healthcare providers trained
- 2.5 million people received contraceptive method of choice
- 125,940 clients reached with comprehensive abortion/post-abortion care services
- 851,000 people educated directly on SRHR, plus hundreds of thousands more reached through mass media outreach

Impact Calculated

- 1.15 million unsafe abortions averted
- 4,700 maternal deaths averted
- 4.2 million unintended pregnancies averted
- $276 million saved in direct healthcare costs

EngenderHealth Impact Highlights for FY2019-2020

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