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 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 equality and 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.

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

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 1.3 million unsafe abortions were averted. Nearly 1,000 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 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 for more information.

Thank you for supporting this lifesaving work.

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.