



OUR PROGRESS IN A CHANGING WORLD



A New Reality



As we pursue our vision of a gender-equal world in which all people achieve their sexual and reproductive health and rights, we continue our internal efforts to “walk the talk” and ensure we have policies,

practices, and an organizational culture in place to be an equitable and highly effective organization. During the past year we have published our first gender pay gap report, expanded our parental leave policies, improved our recruitment processes, and developed a new gender, equity, diversity, and inclusion policy.

As we implement this new policy, we are committing to creating an inclusive and equitable workplace that enables employees to bring their true selves to work and to reach their full potentials. I am looking forward to continuing our progress in this area and to learning from and with our diverse and talented global staff who are the driving force of our organization.

We also continue to promote the health and safety of our staff, who are working tirelessly during the COVID-19 pandemic to support individuals, communities, health systems, and local governments. We know from experience that during public health crises, resources are often diverted from reproductive health services when people need these services the most. Existing inequalities for women and girls worsen, and systems designed to support sexual and reproductive health and rights are weakened. There are spikes in the incidence of gender-based violence, gaps in necessary health services and supplies, and lost economic opportunity—all of which affect individuals profoundly.

In the countries where we work, COVID-19 is widening existing gaps and magnifying problems for those we serve, including the unmet need for contraception, the lack of choice or quality in health services, limited access to hotlines and shelters, and delays in provision of services like fistula repair or cancer screening.

EngenderHealth is joining our partners around the globe to ensure that sexual and reproductive health services, including contraception, are considered essential and provided safely. We continue to share clinical guidance, support continuity of supply chains, disseminate information to healthcare providers and communities, and develop creative ways to accelerate our critical programs.

We are committed to exert every effort to ensure that sexual and reproductive health and rights and gender equality remain front and center in the pandemic response, the upcoming recovery phase, and the new reality still to come. On behalf of everyone here and the millions of people we support, please know we are extremely grateful for the many ways you support equality, justice, and health, including your generous partnership and support of EngenderHealth.

Traci L. Baird
President, CEO, and Fellow Supporter

How We're Responding

Throughout the COVID-19 response and recovery, EngenderHealth's global work to implement high-quality, gender-equitable programs continues to be as critical as ever. Despite these extraordinary circumstances, people still need—and deserve—access to contraceptive services, safe abortions, HIV and cancer screenings, and support if experiencing violence.

With the investments of loyal philanthropic supporters, we are working non-stop to ensure that sexual and reproductive health services are kept at the forefront during the crisis. And we're strengthening our relationships with our partners around the world, from national authorities to community leaders in places like Tanzania, Malawi, Ethiopia, and India to address the critical needs and unique challenges.

Here are a few steps we're taking to reach, engage, and support health systems, communities, families, couples, and individuals, including youth:

- **Disseminating information** on sexual and reproductive health and how to prevent transmission of COVID-19 through multiple media, such as radio and local blogs, and through peer health education.
- **Supporting governments** to address supply chain issues so that contraception and other supplies are available when and where they're needed; advocating for sexual and reproductive health services to be uninterrupted and deemed essential.
- **Developing and sharing guidelines** and materials with policymakers and health and social workers that prioritize specialized care for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV).
- **Encouraging governments** to support SRHR self-care interventions, such as self-injectable contraceptives and emergency contraception.
- **Supporting community health workers'** ability to provide clients with sexual and reproductive health information and services, and helping to ensure that relevant commodities remain in stock.
- **Distributing information** in local languages on SRHR self-care options, as well as guidance and resources for mental health care.
- **Donating menstrual hygiene products** to women and girls at quarantine centers and facilitating the production and distribution of cloth facemasks for community members.

Strengthened by a long history of collective experience, our teams across African and Asian country offices strive every day to determine how we can best mitigate the impacts of the pandemic, while fueling substantial progress on sexual and reproductive health and rights around the world. Thank you for helping to make this vital work possible.



The Power of Choice



Even in these unusual times, new stories of hope and transformation are being created every day for girls and women like Naomi Lugomi of Tanzania, thanks to individual and foundation supporters.

Wife, mother of two, and an entrepreneur from the Nzihi Village in Tanzania's Iringa Region, Naomi got married when she was 20 years old. At the start of her marriage, Naomi's husband wouldn't allow her to use any modern contraceptive methods, preferring the calendar method instead. Naomi wanted something else.

While Naomi didn't know much about modern contraceptives, she believed they would be more reliable than the calendar method. After the birth of the couple's first child, Naomi brought up the subject of family planning again, urging her husband to agree to using modern contraception for healthy birth spacing. Still her husband said no, and Naomi got pregnant a second time when her first child was just over a year old.

Naomi refused to give up. She continued trying to convince her husband to approve the use of modern contraceptives—without proper spacing of their children, running her business would become impossible. As a result, Naomi's family would end up relying solely on her husband's income.

After receiving EngenderHealth-supported health education in her community, Naomi was armed with

the knowledge to assure her husband that modern contraceptives aren't harmful. Finally, he agreed. An elated Naomi immediately visited the Nzihi Health Centre for counseling by an EngenderHealth-trained healthcare provider, and soon left with a contraceptive method of her choice.

Naomi's story is not unique. Many women in Tanzania are denied the right to choose contraceptive methods by their partners, as it's the cultural norm there for a man to be the family's sole decision maker. In an effort to change this practice, EngenderHealth and our local partners are working directly with men in communities to encourage male involvement in sexual and reproductive health services.

Through this ongoing work at the community and facility levels, EngenderHealth is helping to change gender beliefs and customs that limit women's access to family planning services. Wonderfully, more men are beginning to understand the importance of allowing their wives to make decisions about their own health... more women are determining their own futures... and more families are benefiting because of it. Committed donors like you are an important part of this promising progress.

“Now I will be able to manage my business and take care of my children, because I no longer worry about having any unplanned pregnancy. I will be able to space my children. I recommend that more family planning education should continue to be provided to both women and men.” — NAOMI LUGOMI

THE GLOBAL IMPACT ON SRHR

A comprehensive report recently released by UNPF (United Nations Population Fund) has confirmed what we already suspected: The COVID-19 pandemic could dangerously undermine progress being made on a number of key fronts, including:



Contraceptive services

If COVID-19 lockdown or related disruption continues for 6 months

- ▶ **47 million women will be unable to access modern contraceptives**

For every 3 months lockdown continues with high levels of disruption

- ▶ **Another 2 million women will be affected**

Continued lockdown for 6 months with major service disruptions will mean

- ▶ **An additional 7 million unintended pregnancies**



Ending Gender-based violence (GBV)

If lockdown continues for 6 months

- ▶ **31 million more GBV cases are expected**

For every 3 months lockdown continues

- ▶ **An additional 15 million GBV cases are projected**



Preventing child marriage

COVID-19 is anticipated to disrupt efforts to end child marriage

- ▶ **An additional 13 million child marriages are expected as a result**



Stopping female genital mutilation (FGM)

Pandemic-related disruptions are anticipated to disrupt global progress

- ▶ **As a result, 2 million more girls will experience FGM**

We appreciate UNFPA's leadership in raising awareness of the broad impact of the global pandemic on sexual and reproductive health. These projections underscore the profound importance of our work and your continued support.

Mentoring to Make a Difference



In Tanzania, your support is helping the *Respond Tanzania Project* and the *National on the Job Training Curriculum* to increase access to and quality of reproductive health services provided by EngenderHealth-supported facilities. This innovative program offers job trainings off-site or on the job.

Our approach involves transferring broad skills from trained healthcare providers to those who have never attended national trainings or to those who have received training but lack practical experience and skills in the area of reproductive healthcare. The duration of mentorship and coaching continues until trainees are able to practice independently—and effectively.

It's already proving to be a great success, both by strengthening healthcare systems and increasing the number of providers who are now readily equipped to offer high-quality sexual and reproductive health services to women and girls.

Program participants are talking about the impact*:

“I have never attended any physical family planning training since I was employed as a nurse... However, through mentorship and coaching at the facility, I can now provide short-term and long-term methods of family planning. Before the coaching, I had challenges in providing those services to clients... I can now practice what I learned from school.”

— Erick Mjuva, Nurse, Labor Ward
Lugala Hospital Malinyi, Morogoro

“I have never attended any of the national trainings but through my co-workers at the facility, I have been mentored and coached and currently I can provide all contraceptive services, including implant removals.”

—Yobias Masonda, Clinical Instructor and Mentee
Lugala Hospital, Malinyi, Morogoro

“... I attended training on family planning short-term methods, but through mentorship and coaching at the facility, I also learned about long-term methods. This has helped me to be capable in providing all contraceptive services which was a challenge before.”

— Caroline Mushi, Nurse and Mentee
Kibaoni, Morogoro

“I was mentored and coached on providing family planning methods. I am now mentoring other providers to offer the same services. Before this mentorship, I was overwhelmed with facility work, but now my colleagues support me... and clients are assured of receiving family planning services even when I am not around as they will be served by my mentees.”

— Esther Siaga, Nurse and Mentor
Kibaoni HC Ifakara TC, Morogoro

**Quotes edited for length and clarity.*

Helping 7,885 hospitals and health centers

Together, we are training more healthcare providers to put the power of family planning in the hands of women and girls everywhere. Together, we are accelerating sexual and reproductive health and rights worldwide—and transforming lives.

VISION

A gender-equal world where all people achieve their sexual and reproductive health and rights.

MISSION

To implement high-quality, gender-equitable programs that advance sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Thank you for supporting our lifesaving work, especially in these extraordinary times.



EngenderHealth
for a better life

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