# Because of You...





Removing the barriers

to contraceptive choice in India? It took a partnership between EngenderHealth, state governments, and you. And the results are truly impressive.

(Continued on Page 3.)

# **Program Update**

Dear Friend,

Throughout the COVID pandemic, EngenderHealth has remained committed to strengthening existing health systems and community mechanisms to provide highquality services that are integrated from the client's perspective.



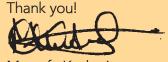
Mustafa Kudrati Vice President, **Programs** 

EngenderHealth's Family Planning by Choice project in Ethiopia, the Scaling-up Family Planning project in Tanzania, and the A'Ago project in Ethiopia are the best examples of our integrated approach. These projects integrate contraception, abortion/postabortion care, cervical cancer screening and treatment, adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health, and maternal health programming. It is through projects like these that women like Tesfanesh in Ethiopia (who is featured in this newsletter) can take control of their lives by determining the timing and number of children they want.

In India, the COVID pandemic has taken a tremendous toll on the population, including our staff. Despite this challenge, EngenderHealth's EAISI (Expanding Access to Intrauterine Device Services in India) project helped train thousands of heathcare providers in IUD insertion techniques and provision of other contraceptive methods, increasing access and options for women and their families. Although the project has ended, its success will continue through the increased skills of the EngenderHealth-trained healthcare providers and the improved follow-up and mentoring systems within local governments.

Institutional partners like those who funded the EAISI and A'Ago projects provide the critical infrastructure needed to sustain our programs. However, it is individual contributions that enable the flexibility needed to respond quickly in times of crisis — like equipping our staff to protect themselves and clients during the pandemic so they can continue to help those who need our expertise and services. Such support will continue to be important to meet the challenges of COVID, which are even more pronounced in the countries where we work.

Your continued support and generosity are making all the difference.



Mustafa Kudrati Vice President, Programs

Mustafa brings more than 20 years of first-hand experience in international health and development to EngenderHealth, where he oversees the development of strategies and programs at all levels — global, national, and local. Among his academic credentials — a Master of Public Administration from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.



You're invited to join EngenderHealth President and CEO Traci L. Baird via Zoom or phone for a cup of tea and inspired conversation with a small group of like-minded supporters.



"As you are someone who cares about sexual and reproductive health and rights, I welcome the opportunity

to update you on EngenderHealth's groundbreaking programs to impact the life-changing and lifesaving work for women and girls in Africa and Asia. I would love to hear how you came to be part of our family, what interests you about our work, and answer any question you may have. It would be lovely to hear from you over a cup of tea. Won't you join me?"

- Traci

Join the conversation by Zoom or by phone. Select the date and time that suits your schedule:

Sept 21 8 AM Pacific Time 9 AM Mountain Time 10 AM Central Time 11 AM Eastern Time

Sept 23 7 AM Pacific Time 8 AM Mountain Time 9 AM Central Time 10 AM Eastern Time

Oct 6 **Noon Pacific Time** 1 PM Mountain Time 2 PM Central Time 3 PM Eastern Time

Oct 7 1:30 PM Pacific Time 2:30 PM Mountain Time 3:30 PM Central Time

4:30 PM Eastern Time

To RSVP, please email development@engenderhealth.org or call 202-902-2036.

# Removing the Barriers (Continued from Page 1.)



A BRIGHTER FUTURE — Projects like EAISI will benefit women and girls for years to come by training healthcare workers to provide contraceptive counselling.

The success of the recently completed project, Expanding Access to Intrauterine Device Services in India (EAISI), demonstrates just how much can be accomplished when there's true partnership and planning.

Consider this: In just six years and working in only two Indian states — Rajasthan and Gujarat — the EAISI partnership made it possible for nearly a half-million women to gain control over their reproductive lives by electing to use intrauterine devices (IUDs).

It was the result of a carefully planned, multifaceted project involving training of healthcare professionals, providing women with information on IUDs, and making sure the devices were available when requested.

Over the course of the program, 359 facilities participated, 2,793 professionals learned best practices for delivering IUD services, and 802



YOU'RE PART OF THIS PICTURE — Your gifts to EngenderHealth provide young parents with services that protect the mother's health and the health of their children.

providers became effective and knowledgeable family planning counselors.

The training took place "on the ground" in the facilities where services would be provided. Counselors learned how to help a client assess her personal needs and lifestyle so her chosen contraceptive solution — whether an IUD or another available method — would be workable and appropriate for her needs.

Even after the formal conclusion of the project, the success continues as healthcare providers apply what they learned and teach their colleagues and peers. Your support is creating a ripple effect that will spread outward, saving and changing lives for months to come.

Thank you!



## WITH YOUR SUPPORT

# Tesfanesh and Her Family Look Forward to a Better Life

Without access to family planning information, Tesfanesh, 35, gave birth to seven children. Unable to adequately feed the children she has, Tesfanesh dreaded the possibility of giving birth to more. You stepped up to help her.

"What could be more painful for a mother?" asks Tesfanesh as she recalls her daily struggle to provide enough food for her children. Displaced from their home by conflict in the Guji zone of Ethiopia, she and her husband tried their best, but it was nearly impossible to provide the children with an adequate diet. Two children had already been diagnosed with malnutrition.

Another child? It scared Tesfanesh to even think about it. Her last child was born prematurely, her own health had suffered, and the children she had were already hungry.

But now, through the A'ago project implemented by EngenderHealth and our partners, Tesfanesh can focus on taking care of the family she has. By training health workers to provide contraceptive services, women like Tesfanesh can now get information



LOOKING FORWARD — Displaced from their home by conflict, Tesfanesh's family was often hungry. Freed from worry over an unplanned pregnancy, she now has a job to supplement her husband's earnings.

and referrals for care. Now she has a contraceptive method of her choice—and she no longer worries about unwanted pregnancy.

It has already changed her life. Freed from the stress of an unplanned pregnancy, she obtained a job with a local coffee processing and exporting association. With the added income, her children have more nutritious food—and the possibility of a healthier future.

"I am a living witness," she says. "There are many women like me [who want] to avoid multiple unplanned pregnancies."

Working and giving together, we are changing their lives for the better every day.



Julie Ehlers Senior Gifts Specialist

## **Meet Julie**

## She's Looking Forward to Meeting You

A lifelong supporter of women's and girls' issues, Julie Ehlers recently joined EngenderHealth as a senior gifts specialist. She brings with her a wealth of experience from the University of Richmond and Johns Hopkins University. She earned a master of business administration degree from Loyola University of Maryland. Julie looks forward to connecting with supporters about our work.

#### **Our Vision**

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

#### **Our Mission**

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

### Our Promise to You

We will use your gift in the best possible way: prudently, thoughtfully, and where it does the most good.



Engender**Health** 

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Visit **EngenderHealth.org** or text EngenderHealth to **80888** to receive a secure giving link to your phone.







EngenderHealth is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization, and your gift is tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.