

# EngenderHealth Capabilities in Adolescent and Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

## Organizational Overview

EngenderHealth offers **expertise in sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and family planning, maternal health, and gender equity**. EngenderHealth is committed to creating transformative, sustainable change by advancing SRH rights as human rights, expanding access to critical health information and training, and delivering quality services. With funding from various donor agencies, private foundations, and other funding institutions, EngenderHealth collaborates with governments, private sector partners, local organizations, and communities to achieve such change. In program year 2020–2021, EngenderHealth implemented an **annual revenue of \$36 million**. During this period, EngenderHealth supported activities in **14 countries across Africa and Asia** through which we achieved the following results:<sup>1</sup>

- **2,919,000** individuals received contraceptive care
- **3,821,700** unintended pregnancies were averted
- **918,600** unsafe abortions were averted
- **74,200** child deaths and **5,000** maternal deaths were prevented
- **\$326,914,800** in direct healthcare costs were saved

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

## Technical Expertise

Our **adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health and rights (AYSRHR) programs** aim to increase access to comprehensive adolescent sexuality education, expand and improve the quality of youth-responsive SRH services, and support communities to promote AYSRHR and eradicate harmful traditional practices that impact the health of adolescents and youth. We partner with youth-led organizations, including the We Trust Youth Collective, CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality, and the YIELD Hub, and participate in global fora such as the Child Early Forced Marriages and Unions and Sexuality Working Group. We view young people as experts in their unique needs and desires and employ a **participatory, youth-centered approach** to engage them in all phases of programming to ensure our interventions recognize and respond to those needs. EngenderHealth incorporates a youth lens in designing, implementing, and monitoring **youth-transformative programs**. We recognize the impact that families, communities, institutions, and policies have on youth attitudes and behaviors and apply a multifaceted approach to target these spheres of influence. For example:

- We help governments develop strategies, policies, and guidelines to increase access to AYSRHR.
- We support facility improvements, including creation of youth-friendly corners and posting of signage targeting youth, and develop and disseminate AYSRHR materials for use at the facilities.
- We train and support providers to deliver youth-responsive counseling and services.
- We engage community and religious leaders and partner with youth-led organizations and youth peer educators to develop and disseminate messages to youth and their families aimed at addressing stigmas about AYSRHR and eliminating harmful gender and social norms (such as early marriage and early pregnancy, female genital cutting, and sexual violence).

In 2020-2021, we supported more than 600,000 young people in accessing contraceptives and more than 12,000 in accessing comprehensive abortion care.

<sup>1</sup> EngenderHealth trains healthcare providers and supports health facilities in partnership with governments and local organizations to offer quality SRH services. These data represent the results of those services. Data on reduced deaths and cost savings estimated using the Marie Stopes International Impact 2 Model.

## Select Program Highlights

### Benin, Burkina Faso, and Côte d'Ivoire: Equitable Partnership with Youth-Led Organizations for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and Gender-Based Violence Elimination

With funding from the Hewlett Foundation, this three-year (2021 to 2023) project supports networks of young feminist activists and organizations, strengthens collaboration between sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and gender-based violence (GBV) activists, and advocates for improved laws, standards, guidelines, and procedures for SRHR in Benin, Burkina Faso, and Côte d'Ivoire. The goal of this project is to ensure women, girls, and young people exercise their SRHR and live in a world free from violence. The project has established equitable partnerships with nine youth-led organizations (three in each country) and EngenderHealth enhances these organizations' advocacy capacity and supports them as they implement their advocacy goals and plans—including with special emphasis on digital advocacy practices in light of the COVID-19 crisis. These efforts are strengthening grassroots and regional SRHR and GBV movements and amplifying the voices of young feminist activists and organizations for more effective advocacy of SRHR at all levels.



*"By building the capacity of youth advisory committee members (like me!), A'AGO enables young people to represent the youth and contribute their views and perspectives to shape the programs in ways that addresses our AYSRHR needs the best."*

Lulit, Youth Advisory Committee Member

### Ethiopia: A'AGO—Improving Sexual and Reproductive Health Outcomes of Young People

With funding from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the five-year (2017 to 2021) A'AGO ("hope" in Afari) project contributed to improved AYSRHR outcomes in four regions of Ethiopia. We are increasing access to SRH care by supporting health facilities to provide quality AYSRHR information and services, including comprehensive abortion and contraceptive care, and strengthening referral mechanisms. EngenderHealth has also integrated comprehensive sexuality education into a locally adapted version of Aflateen's Youth In-Charge Curriculum, which is designed to equip young people with critical skills to plan for successful futures. We are also meaningfully engaging young people through 38 youth advisory committees, which help shape programming to better address local AYSRHR needs. These youth groups have reached more than 130,000 community members through AYSRHR messages. To date, we have supported 260 health facilities and 34 schools. The project also trained 1,963 health professionals and 3,815 health extension workers, resulting in health facilities serving 2,176,169 clients with comprehensive contraceptive services, 11,628 clients with comprehensive abortion care, and 8,008 clients with skilled birth attendance.

### India: TARUNYA Adolescent Health Development Program

EngenderHealth has been implementing the TARUNYA project with support from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation since 2008. In partnership with the government of India and local nongovernmental organizations, TARUNYA supports adolescents with the AYSRHR information, services, and the enabling environment that they need to live healthy lives. In 2020, with additional funding from UNICEF, we launched the adolescent girl champion initiative, through which we trained more than 1,000 adolescent girls as peer educators (champions) to improve newborn health outcomes in their communities. In its most recent phase (2017 to 2020), TARUNYA strengthened 18 adolescent-friendly health clinics, organized 909 adolescent health days, and established 899 community youth groups. As a result, 109,388 adolescents received high-quality healthcare, including AYSRHR care, from project-supported facilities and providers.



*"People recognize us; family members listen to us carefully and make an effort to assimilate what we tell them."*

Roopam, Adolescent Girl Champion