

# EngenderHealth Capabilities in Maternal and Obstetric Care

## Organizational Overview

EngenderHealth offers **expertise in sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and family planning (FP), 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

EngenderHealth's maternal and obstetric care programs aim to improve access to high-quality, patient-centered services across the continuum of care—from promoting safe pregnancy and childbirth to managing and treating obstetric complications. This includes antenatal care, essential and emergency obstetric care (including safe and appropriate surgical obstetric care), postnatal care, prevention and management of iatrogenic and obstetric fistula, and comprehensive abortion care (i.e., safe induced abortion, emergency treatment of abortion-related complications, and postabortion contraception).



- Our **health systems strengthening** interventions promote quality, ownership, and resilience at national, subnational, facility, and community levels. We work with ministries of health and other key government partners to develop and update national strategies, guidelines, and training curricula and support implementation of these across all levels of the health system.
- We **support quality improvement** by equipping health facilities and training providers to be able to offer clinically appropriate, efficient, safe services. Our skills development support for facility administrators, healthcare providers, and community health workers includes promoting gender-sensitive and youth-transformative counseling and strengthening high-quality clinical service delivery.
- Our **community engagement** approaches include generating awareness, fostering connections and partnerships, and supporting local health systems. We mobilize community and religious leaders, facilitate peer education programs, conduct community outreach events, and support digital interventions to promote health-seeking behaviors and forge connections with local providers and facilities.

**Approximately 810 women die every day from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth.<sup>2</sup>**

<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.

<sup>2</sup> Source: World Health Organization (<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/maternal-mortality>).

### Select Program Highlights

#### Fistula Care and Fistula Care Plus

EngenderHealth received \$70 million from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to implement the Fistula Care project in 2007. Building upon the success of this project, USAID awarded EngenderHealth an additional \$75 million (award ceiling) for the follow-on *Fistula Care Plus* project in 2013, which ended in 2021. Working in 14 countries (Bangladesh, Benin, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Togo, and Uganda) through *Fistula Care*, EngenderHealth supported more than 24,000 fistula repair surgeries and trained more than 24,400 people in fistula prevention, fistula repair, and advocacy for fistula care. Working in seven countries (Bangladesh, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Togo, and Uganda) through *Fistula Care Plus*, EngenderHealth trained 10,654 healthcare providers in fistula repair and 3,387 community volunteers and educators in fistula prevention and care. We reached more than 2 million people through approximately 66,000 community outreach events and more than 57 million via mass media campaigns. As a result of these activities, *Fistula Care Plus* supported approximately 1.5 million FP counseling sessions and approximately 15,230 surgical fistula repairs and 1,127 non-surgical repairs. The two projects contributed significantly to the standardization of quality fistula care and its integration into routine healthcare systems in high-burden countries and project research generated valuable learning on topics such as post-operative care, iatrogenic fistula, and effective strategies to connect those most in need to fistula care. *Fistula Care Plus* generated 37 peer-reviewed manuscripts and hosted 11 webinars through its *Fistula Community of Practice*.

#### MOMENTUM Safe Surgery in Family Planning and Obstetrics

Building upon the success of our *Fistula Care* and *Fistula Care Plus* programs, USAID awarded EngenderHealth the \$80 million (award ceiling), five-year (2020–2025) MOMENTUM Safe Surgery in Family Planning and Obstetrics project, which aims to increase the capacity of national health systems and local organizations to strengthen surgical safety within maternal health and FP programs by promoting evidence-based approaches and testing new innovations. We are currently working in nine countries (Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, India, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, and Senegal), with programming that encompasses safe and appropriate surgical obstetric care, prevention and treatment of obstetric and iatrogenic fistula, and access to and uptake of long-acting and permanent voluntary family planning methods. In Nigeria, for example, we are strengthening the capacity of surgical teams, mobilizing communities to seek appropriate and timely care, expanding holistic fistula care to incorporate rehabilitation and reintegration, improving the availability and use of surgical data for quality improvements, and engaging local stakeholders to prevent and mitigate the adverse effects of female genital cutting.

**“After the surgery, my recovery brought happiness and joy to my heart and a huge transformation to my life... Now I am free.”**

Michael Joy, *Fistula Care Plus* patient



After a prolonged and obstructed labor, a past pregnancy left Michael Joy with the loss of a child and a resulting fistula. The injury had a devastating impact on her life, affecting her business, her marriage, and her self-esteem. It is a common story in West Africa, where many women cannot access or afford care. Michael Joy eventually connected with a local hospital offering fistula repair surgery for free, as part of a partnership with the *Fistula Care Plus* project. Today, Michael Joy has two healthy children and is grateful for the care she received, for her doctor, and for EngenderHealth, “for putting an end to [her] sorrow” and creating the opportunity for her to receive the life-changing treatment.

*“It’s incumbent on all actors to support health systems to strengthen the quality of childbirth services, so that women and newborns are safe at this essential moment of contact with healthcare.”*

Vandana Tripathi, MOMENTUM Safe Surgery in Family Planning and Obstetrics Director