

# 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 fiscal year 2023 (July 2022 to June 2023), EngenderHealth received **revenue of \$37 million**. During this period, EngenderHealth supported activities in **16 countries across Africa and Asia** through which we achieved the following results:<sup>1</sup>

- **1,164,500** individuals received contraceptive care
- **1,682,900** unintended pregnancies were averted
- **477,400** unsafe abortions were averted
- **31,300** child deaths and **2,300** maternal deaths were prevented
- **\$157,679,500** 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 CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality, the We Trust Youth Collective, 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-responsive 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 creating youth-friendly corners and posting signage aimed at 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 fiscal year 2023, we supported approximately 366,100 young people in accessing contraceptives.

<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 capacities and supports them as they implement their advocacy goals and plans—with a special emphasis on digital advocacy practices in response to 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.

### **Ethiopia: A Rights-Based Approach for Enhancing SRHR**

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency began funding EngenderHealth's implementation of this project in 2019 and, in 2023, extended its support through 2028. The project uses a rights-based approach to provide education and access to SRH services for young people. Initially launched in Addis Ababa, the project expanded to support humanitarian efforts in Afar and Amhara regions in 2022. In partnership with the Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association and key national government departments (including health, justice, education, and women and children affairs), we are working to develop legal frameworks, trainings, and a systems approach to coordinate GBV interventions. We are also training and supporting healthcare providers, teachers, and law enforcement personnel on SRHR, GBV, and gender, youth, and social inclusion. In its first phase, the project created a youth advisory council to inform programming, helped establish 17 one-stop centers for survivor-centered GBV care and services, supported SRH service restoration at 65 other health facilities, and aided 8 schools in establishing safe spaces for girls focused on menstrual hygiene management and peer empowerment. As a result of these activities, the project has helped 963,993 women and girls access comprehensive contraception and 88,020 access comprehensive abortion care. Further, 10,822 young people have benefited from SRHR education and 3,792 GBV survivors have been able to access comprehensive care and support services.

### **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.

Muskan, an 18-year-old, began working as a peer educator with our Tarunya project in July 2019. Initially apprehensive to discuss SRHR topics, after participating in our peer education training—which includes games, role-play exercises, and discussions—she gained a deeper understanding of the issues and emerged as a confident advocate able to lead peer group meetings and support school events on adolescent health and wellness days. Muskan is now a master trainer for new peer educators, a recipient of a Youth Dreamer Foundation scholarship, and an active EngenderHealth Youth Advisory Group member. Her evolution from a hesitant peer educator to a confident advocate and master trainer is a testament to the power of youth agency and its transformative impact on SRH awareness.

