Every two minutes, a woman dies from complications related to pregnancy, childbirth, or unsafe abortion. Nearly all of these deaths—289,000 each year—occur in developing countries. And for every woman who dies in childbirth, another 20 to 30 survive but suffer devastating injuries, such as obstetric fistula. Nearly all of these deaths and injuries could be prevented if women had access to high-quality reproductive health care and simple lifesaving technologies.

OUR APPROACH
EngenderHealth trains health care professionals to provide high-quality prenatal and obstetric services, including preventing and treating childbirth complications such as eclampsia and postpartum hemorrhage, treating fistula, providing family planning, and offering HIV treatment and care, including prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV. We also ensure that hospitals and clinics are equipped with well-trained staff and supplies. We partner with governments and communities to expand access to family planning and to lifesaving postabortion care. (And in places where abortion is legal, we help ensure that it is safe.)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
Restoring Women’s Hope and Dignity
EngenderHealth leads Fistula Care Plus—the largest U.S. government–funded effort focused on preventing and treating obstetric fistula, a devastating injury caused by prolonged, obstructed labor without timely access to cesarean section.

SNAPSHOTS OF PROGRESS

Because of EngenderHealth, last year:

- 6 million women received high-quality family planning and maternal health services at EngenderHealth-supported sites.
- 7 million people received vital health messages.
- 37,600 health care professionals were trained on family planning and reproductive health care.
- 8,000 hospitals and health centers were supported to deliver better care.

“Women are not dying because of diseases we cannot treat. They are dying because societies have yet to make the decision that their lives are worth saving.”

—Mahmoud Fathalla, MD, PhD, former EngenderHealth Board member
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS (continued)
In addition to equipping health facilities, EngenderHealth trains health care professionals to surgically repair fistula, provide high-quality obstetric services, and counsel clients. We also work with communities to promote prenatal care and assisted delivery, raise awareness of fistula, and reduce its stigma in Bangladesh, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Niger, Nigeria, and Uganda. We also work in Guinea with support from private funders. To date, EngenderHealth has supported more than 27,000 fistula repair surgeries, in partnership with institutions and medical teams in 14 countries.

Improving Access to Safe Abortion
An estimated 47,000 women die from complications of unsafe abortion every year. In some parts of the world, unsafe abortion accounts for one-third of maternal deaths. The deaths and disabilities can be prevented with safe abortion, post-abortion care, and quality family planning services.

EngenderHealth's ABRI project is working to reduce maternal death and disability in Ethiopia by increasing contraceptive use and expanding access to comprehensive abortion care—services that can save mothers’ lives and enable women to freely determine the timing, spacing, and number of children they have. To increase women’s access to these services, we strengthen the links between health facilities and communities by building referral systems, powered by a network of community health workers and volunteers who are trained by EngenderHealth.

In Tanzania, EngenderHealth is training doctors and midwives to provide postabortion care, and decentralizing services so that women can receive treatment at local health centers close to where they live—which can be a matter of life or death. In places where abortion is legal, EngenderHealth trains health care professionals to ensure that services are safe.

Preventing Postpartum Hemorrhage
Postpartum hemorrhage (excessive bleeding following birth) is the leading cause of maternal death. In Bangladesh, where 85% of births occur at home without skilled birth attendants, EngenderHealth worked to prevent and treat postpartum hemorrhage and other childbirth complications. We trained government and nongovernmental health workers to distribute the lifesaving drug misoprostol to pregnant women, which helped contribute to a 40% drop in maternal deaths in Bangladesh during the past decade.

Expanding Access to Contraception
Research shows that about 100,000 women who die every year from a preventable pregnancy-related complication did not want to be pregnant in the first place. In nearly 20 countries, EngenderHealth is increasing women’s contraceptive access so that getting pregnant will not cost them their lives.

EngenderHealth is a leading global women’s health organization committed to ensuring that every pregnancy is planned and every mother has the best chance at survival. In nearly 20 countries around the world, we train health care professionals and partner with governments and communities to make high-quality family planning and sexual and reproductive health services available—today and for generations to come.

For more information, please visit engenderhealth.org, e-mail us at info@engenderhealth.org or call 1-800-564-2872 or 212-561-8000.