



## HEALTHY PREGNANCIES, STRONGER FAMILIES

The impact of the International Family Planning Account

### QUICK FACTS

International Family Planning Account funding helps:

- » Ensure the availability of **voluntary family planning methods**, including natural family planning
- » **Train health workers** who provide knowledge to parents about the benefits of family planning
- » Speed community abandonment of **female genital mutilation or cutting**
- » Prevent **child marriage, domestic violence**, and other practices that harm girls and women

## Introduction

Preventable complications from pregnancy and childbirth kill over 800 women every day. However, funding for the U.S. International Family Planning Account, administered by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), contributes to saving the lives of 15,000 mothers and 230,000 babies each year by helping more than 25 million women in nearly 40 countries time and space their pregnancies so they are healthy and safe.

## Why it matters

We pray for a world where every pregnancy is healthy and every child can experience a full life. Unfortunately, lack of knowledge about the benefits of timing and spacing pregnancies and lack of family planning services can lead to poor health and even death for moms and babies. International Family Planning Account funds help protect precious lives, improve basic health, and strengthen families. Investments in family planning support outcomes such as improving nutrition for moms and children, preventing child marriage, combating gender-based violence, improving girls' education, and strengthening household incomes.

### ASK

The International Family Planning Account is a small yet highly effective portion of the global health budget\* which leverages the impact of many other global health programs to support a holistic approach to saving lives and improving health. Funding to this life-saving account should be maintained at no less than \$665 million.

\*The global health budget, in turn, is ~0.25% of the total U.S. federal budget.



## Success stories

- » *Tékponon Jikuagou*, which means “doing everything possible to prevent infant mortality” in Adja, a local language in Benin, used the power of social networks to reduce taboos around, and spread accurate information about, **voluntary family planning**. Couples reached by the program were 1.5 times more likely to use contraception.
- » A community mobilization effort in Yemen helped raise the average reported **age of marriage** from 14 to 17 among program participants. An additional effect was the appointment of the first-ever female school principal in the Al Sawd District, inspiring parents to keep their daughters in school.
- » The Grandmother Project in Senegal encourages elderly women to lead open discussions about reproductive health and traditions. In 60 villages reached by the project, which facilitates communal decision-making and problem-solving, approval of **female genital mutilation or cutting** dropped from 75 to 5 percent over five years. Now, with funding from the International Family Planning Account, the successful program is being brought to new areas.

### THE CRITICAL ROLE OF FAITH-BASED PARTNERS

In Garba Tulla, Kenya, an area with high rates of early marriage and adolescent pregnancy, an innovative partnership between World Vision and USAID is empowering faith leaders. During sermons, positive practices like breastfeeding and healthy timing and spacing of pregnancy are encouraged. The positive influence of trusted faith leaders is improving maternal and child health outcomes and strengthening the community.

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