



**STRONGER HEALTH SYSTEMS.  
STRONGER WOMEN AND CHILDREN.**





PHOTO: WARREN ZELMAN

## INTEGRATED HEALTH PROGRAMS SERVE FAMILIES BETTER

Integrating health services ensures healthier mothers and children and leads to a more efficient, effective, and sustainable health system. MSH works with women at all levels of the health system to support healthy timing and spacing of pregnancy, antenatal care, safe delivery, and postpartum care. We link these activities to newborn and child health interventions as well as services for HIV & AIDS and other health conditions such as chronic disease.

### OUR GLOBAL COMMITMENTS TO SAVING WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S LIVES

- **Child Marriage Coalition:** MSH is a partner in the Girls Not Brides coalition to end child marriage by amplifying girls' voices and defending their right to health and education. <http://girlsnotbrides.org/>
- **Clinton Global Initiative:** For CGI, MSH pledged \$15 million to bring community health shops, which provide supplies for maternal and child health, to 70 million people in Africa by 2015. <http://www.clintonglobalinitiative.org/>
- **Diarrhea Declaration:** MSH joins a consortium of private and public organizations scaling up access to affordable treatment for childhood diarrhea and pneumonia. <http://www.apromiserenewed.org/>
- **Every Woman, Every Child:** For this United Nations campaign, MSH committed \$200 million to meet the health needs of women and children in several fragile states. <http://www.everywomaneverychild.org/>
- **Frontline Health Workers Coalition:** As a member, MSH urges U.S. investment in community health workers who bring maternal and child health care to households. <http://frontlinehealthworkers.org/>
- **Universal Health Coverage Call to Action:** MSH joins civil society organizations from around the world in pledging to support universal health care. <http://www.actionforglobalhealth.eu/>
- We design **gender-sensitive programs** that strengthen health systems at every level to respond better to the needs of populations in developing nations around the world. We also advocate for mainstreaming gender into national policies, strategies, and programs. <http://msh.org/our-work/initiative/gender>



## WOMEN LEAD

For more than 40 years in over 150 countries, MSH has trained and empowered women to be effective health leaders and managers in households, communities, district hospitals, and government ministries. Working shoulder to shoulder with women who understand the health needs of their communities, we maximize the effectiveness of aid dollars by strengthening health services and the capacity of communities to support those services.

### NURSES BUILD AWARENESS FOR FAMILY PLANNING

Zakia, a nurse in Afghanistan, became a leader in her health center. After participating in an MSH leadership development program, Zakia led a team of nurses in building community awareness about family planning, resulting in a doubling of the use of contraceptive pills and an eight-fold increase in the number of condoms distributed in two years. MSH supported this success with a range of initiatives in Afghanistan, such as improving access to pharmaceuticals and training community health workers.



# MATERNAL, CHILD, AND NEWBORN HEALTH

Each year the world loses nearly 300,000 mothers as a result of preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth and another 7.6 million deaths occur among children under age 5. Ninety-nine percent of these deaths occur in developing countries and many could be averted by known, affordable interventions. Malnutrition alone contributes indirectly to more than one-third of child deaths.

## ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE BEGINS IN THE COMMUNITY

By engaging communities in managing their own health, MSH improves access to and demand for health services for women and their families. MSH trains and supports community health workers, including skilled birth attendants, who provide care at the household level—from ante- and postnatal care to newborn health interventions to management of childhood illness and nutrition. Those health workers also connect communities to health centers. MSH works to expand health outreach to include community health workers, local authorities, and religious and traditional leaders, in addition to private and public service providers. When we mobilize entire communities, we strengthen health care at all levels.



PHOTO: WARREN ZELMAN

### HEALTH WORKERS BUILD TRUST IN CHILD HEALTH SERVICES

Celine Edjeou, a community health worker in Benin, is one of more than 1,000 volunteers trained by MSH and partners to treat childhood illness in rural areas. Celine can diagnose and treat major childhood diseases at the household level before they become life-threatening, saving families long trips to health centers. As part of an integrated community case management program, Celine also builds trust in health services among her neighbors. They respect her, allowing her to initiate discussions about proper immunization and good nutrition for children. MSH also supports community organizations that promote community-based child health practices.

# FAMILY PLANNING AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Quality family planning and reproductive health services are critical to solving many of the challenges developing countries face, such as pervasive poverty and high mortality rates. MSH develops user-friendly management systems so that service providers and managers are equipped with the information and tools they need to increase the quality and use of family planning and reproductive health services. To expand access to services, MSH integrates family planning and reproductive health services within maternal and child health, adolescent health, HIV & AIDS, and nutrition services. We mobilize communities to provide services that support client-centered reproductive health decision making. We build providers' capabilities and leadership for sustainable local solutions, including effective contraceptive supply management and screening, prevention, and treatment of cervical cancer.

## HEALTH WORKERS BRING CARE CLOSE TO HOME

Martin Mutombo, a community health worker in Democratic Republic of the Congo, often travels long, rough roads to bring family planning services to rural areas. MSH helped provide bicycles to health workers in his province, dramatically increasing their reach. MSH also helps community health workers organize family planning events to reach many people with tailored messages: for parents they focus on birth spacing and for adolescents on avoiding unwanted pregnancies. In fragile states like DRC, frontline health workers are effective for improving child health as well. MSH implements ICCM—integrated case management of childhood illness programs—to bring services for malaria, diarrhea, and pneumonia to communities.



## BETTER FINANCING FOR MORE FAMILY PLANNING CHOICES

Faridah Kawuda, a 28-year-old mother of five children in Uganda, did not want more children. After using short-term contraception for some time, she chose one of several long-acting or permanent methods that only recently became available to her through an MSH family health program. The program supports local private-sector organizations with performance-based financing grants—rewarding results instead of processes—that have helped increase access to all methods of contraception in remote Ugandan communities.

# INNOVATION SPOTLIGHT: OPTION B+



The link between maternal survival and child survival is clear: children whose mothers die are more likely to die themselves. MSH has pioneered innovative solutions that link health interventions, including a new approach to treating HIV-positive mothers that protects them and their children beyond birth and breastfeeding.

The Option B+ is a model of truly integrated services for maternal health, child health, and HIV prevention. It could reduce rates of mother-to-child HIV transmission to rival those in the world's wealthiest countries and significantly reduce overall maternal and child mortality.

With MSH support, Malawi has begun offering lifelong antiretroviral treatment to all pregnant women with HIV, regardless of their levels of infection (CD4 count). They found this approach easier to administer than the WHO-recommended approach of providing different treatment regimens for different levels of infection. The new "Option B+" (building on the WHO's "B Option"), also addresses the long-term health of mothers, which directly affects the health of all children, newborn and older.

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