

## Family Planning and Reproductive Health

### HELPING WOMEN MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS ABOUT FAMILY PLANNING

#### BACKGROUND

Family planning and reproductive health are a critical underpinning to the overall health of a population.

Investing in women's access to and knowledge of family planning and reproductive health services reduces maternal and child deaths. By helping women make informed decisions about where and when to expand their family, FP/ RH services create healthier households. This work further strengthens a country's social and economic development, contributing to improvements in overall economic growth and employment, food security, education, and health. Despite the benefits however, fewer than 20 percent of women in Sub-Saharan Africa access and use modern contraceptives.

IMA assists governments in implementing national FP/ RH policies at the decentralized level in health facilities, strengthening infrastructure for quality service delivery, and training community and facility health care workers to provide FP/RH services for women within primary health care programs. IMA also helps health systems forecast and meet family planning commodity needs, connecting women to a variety of contraceptive methods.

IMA's work to expand family planning and reproductive health services is yielding results for thousands of women in the Democratic Republic of Congo and in South Sudan. In DRC, for example, the Access to Primary Health Care Project and the Women's Leadership Project linked more than 80,000 women to modern family planning methods in 2014 and educated nearly 150,000 men and women on the benefits of family planning.

#### OUR PROJECTS

##### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

##### Access to Primary Health Care Project (2012-2018)

IMA works in 52 health zones within five of the country's 26 provinces to ensure women access critical



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family planning services and commodities through the government's essential health package. In addition to improving service delivery through capacity building and training, IMA delivers family planning and reproductive commodities to hundreds of health facilities (more than \$16 million in medicines by the end of 2015). Funded by the Department for International Development, the project is also constructing 250 new health centers and rehabilitating 200 more, better equipping health facilities to address women's FP/RH needs.

##### Ushindi: Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Treatment and Prevention Project (2011-2017)

IMA ensures survivors of sexual and gender-based violence have access to quality FP/RH services. As part of the project's holistic approach, IMA links SGBV survivors to reproductive health care, family planning services, and counseling as part of overall Ushindi counseling and support. By the end of 2015, the USAID-funded Ushindi project counseled more than 24,793 survivors, providing critical FP/RH information for their health and well-being.

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Through the project, 14,730 SGBV survivors received medical support at the health center level.

### **Women's Leadership Project (2013-2014)**

The Women's Leadership Project, also funded by USAID, was designed and implemented as a two-year add-on (2013-2014) to Ushindi to promote women's empowerment through better control of their reproductive cycle, as well as community outreach on women's rights and good governance and leadership.

### **SOUTH SUDAN**

#### **Provision of Reproductive Health Services Project (2014-2016)**

IMA helps vulnerable populations and internally-displaced persons of Jonglei State access timely, effective, and quality reproductive health services. With support from UNFPA, the project provides newly established services through mobile clinics and outreach and through strengthening local capacity to implement the Minimum Initial Service Package for RH, including GBV and STI/HIV services. IMA also supports SRH outreach activities in partnership with community-based organizations or support groups. IDPs, who would have otherwise had no access to reproductive health services, are seeking services at an average of 200 patients per month at the temporary clinic in Mingkaman, one of the largest IDP sites in South Sudan. As a result of these efforts, 3,133 women received antenatal care and 765 delivered with the assistance of a skilled birth attendant in 2015.

#### **Rapid Results for Health Project (2013-2016)**

IMA ensured that health facilities in this World Bank-funded primary health care improvement project provided essential family planning services and commodities across 25 counties in Jonglei and Upper Nile states and

the Greater Pibor Administrative Area. Using innovative performance-based contracting, IMA encouraged health workers to provide quality FP/RH services and report their work to government in the appropriate monitoring and evaluation systems in order to track overall FP/RH access. From January 2013 through September 2015, antenatal services were accessed by 121,158 women and 27,009 delivered in health facilities.

### **TANZANIA**

#### **Cervical Cancer Screening and Treatment Project (2011-2015)**

Increasing access to cervical cancer prevention, detection, and treatment in high-prevalence areas in Tanzania, IMA has trained health care workers in visual inspection with acetic acid screening and cryotherapy treatment, provided screening equipment and supplies, and increased community awareness on the importance of screening and early detection. IMA's projects have screened more than 40,000 women and provided more than 300 women with same-day treatment.

