



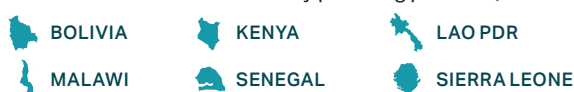
FAMILY PLANNING

ABOUT EXEMPLARS IN GLOBAL HEALTH

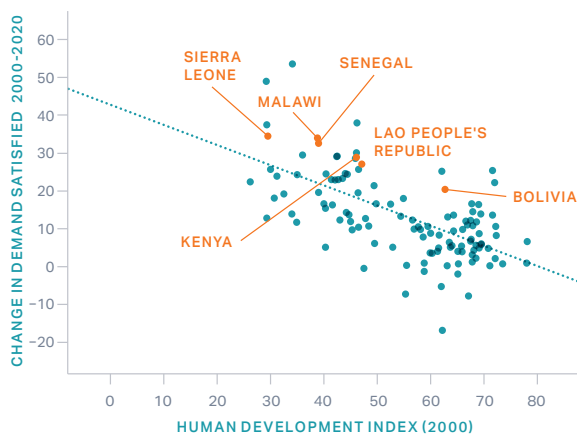
The Exemplars in Global Health (EGH) program is a global coalition of partners including researchers, academics, experts, funders, country stakeholders, and implementers. Our mission is to identify positive global health outliers, analyze what makes countries successful, and disseminate core lessons so they can be adapted in comparable settings. We aim to help country-level decision makers, global partners, and funders make strategic decisions, allocate resources, and craft evidence-based policies. A small, core team supporting EGH is based at Gates Ventures, the private office of Bill Gates, and closely collaborates with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

COUNTRY SELECTION PROCESS

We identified outliers by assessing countries' modern contraceptive prevalence rates and demand satisfied for modern family planning (current levels, recent increases, and sustained progress) relative to the Human Development Index. From these outliers, we selected Exemplars by considering geographic diversity and the transferability of the findings. (We also excluded countries with coercive family planning policies.)



Difference in demand satisfied vs. HDI



Disclaimer: This graph is an example and representative of multiple analyses conducted on mCPR and demand satisfied outcome variables across time periods: 2020, 2010–2020, 2010–2015, 2015–2020

Performance

Assess performance in modern contraceptive prevalence rate (mCPR) and family planning demand satisfied over multiple time periods (2020, 2010–2015, 2015–2020, 2010–2020) to look at current levels, recent increases, and sustained progress relative to the Human Development Index (HDI)

Representativeness

Identify countries most impactful to study based on transferability of findings and relevance across contexts (e.g., geographic spread, population >5M, no coercive FP policies)

Equity

Analyze equity patterns in country deep dives as part of mixed-methods research on drivers of progress (e.g., contextual factors, policies, programs)

TOPIC OVERVIEW

Family planning encompasses all the ways in which people who want to avoid pregnancy can do so safely and effectively. That includes not just access to modern contraceptives but also enabling social and cultural norms, supportive health policies, and the availability of high-quality health services and information. Voluntary family planning leads to better health outcomes for women and children, including lower maternal and infant mortality rates. It also advances gender equality and promotes poverty reduction by allowing more girls to attend school and women to join and remain in the workforce.

Researchers estimate that 160 million women have an unmet need for family planning and more than 100 million unintended pregnancies still occur every year, mostly in low- and middle-income countries. Half of pregnancies occurring in those aged 15 to 19 in low- and middle-income countries are unintended.

Barriers to family planning include social norms, discriminatory laws and policies, inadequate financing, uneven access to high-quality care, and contraceptive methods that do not meet women's needs.

EGH research in family planning aims to identify and quantify the major societal factors that have driven increased voluntary modern contraceptive use. The research also seeks to gain an in-depth understanding of the strategies and programs, including Family Planning High-Impact Practices (HIPs), that led to a rise in voluntary family planning use and reached vulnerable groups in positive outlier countries.

TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP

Research for every Exemplars in Global Health topic is guided by a Technical Advisory Group (TAG), consisting of a diverse range of topic-specific experts.

Nyovani Madise (Chair, Country Director and Director of Development Policy, AFIDEP), **Carmen Barroso** (Former Regional Director of International Planned Parenthood Federation, Western Hemisphere Region), **Alex Ezeh** (Dornsife Professor of Global Health, Drexel University Dornsife School of Public Health), **Mahmoud Fathalla** (Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Assiut University), **Asha George** (Professor, University of the Western Cape), **Dr. Georges Guiella** (Deputy Director, Institut Supérieur des Sciences de la Population, University of Ouagadougou), **Annie Haakenstad** (Assistant Professor, Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation), **James Kiarie** (Coordinator of Human Reproduction, World Health Organization), **Ellen Starbird** (Director of the Office of Population and Reproductive Health, USAID), **Ann Starrs** (Director of Family Planning, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation)

RESEARCH PARTNERS

Our consortium of research partners includes researchers from The Aga Khan University, Population Council, The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids), International Centre for Reproductive Health (ICRH), African Institute for Policy Development (AFIDEP), Université Cheikh Anta Diop (UCAD), Institute of Health Research Education and Development (IHR-ED), Center for Community and Public Health Improvement (CPHI), and Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN).



SickKids



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