

AED's Africa's Health in 2010 project, in collaboration with the East, Central and Southern Africa Health Community (ECSA-HC), brokered a major policy reform on gender-based violence (GBV) and child sexual abuse (CSA). The Health Ministers of the ECSA region passed their first resolution on GBV, urging member states to address GBV/CSA by developing or reviewing existing legislation, policies, strategies and adequately resourcing multi-sectoral implementation plans. In response to this call, Tanzania's Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MOHSW) Reproductive and Child Health Services (RCHS) unit established a Gender and Reproductive Health desk to coordinate country-level actions.

**HIV/AIDS increasingly wears a woman's face, and AED is addressing this issue through its Center on AIDS & Community Health.** In Botswana, AED's CDC-funded *Expansion of HIV Prevention, Counseling, Psychosocial Support and Outreach Service Project*, is using **peer mothers and partners, community leaders and service providers** to ensure improved access for



HIV-positive women who need PMTCT services. The peer mothers also **support these women through pregnancy, labor, delivery and the post partum periods.**

**Also, in Kenya, AED's 'Speak for the Child' program works with households (mainly headed by widowed women), support groups, and community based organizations on income generation to create sustained sources of income and food security while equipping young people with life and survival skills.** This initiative is giving hope to women who seemed to have none left.



# Improving Women's Health



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# Improving Women's Health



**AED promotes the continuum of care for maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH) globally through multiple projects. This is helping improve women's health, especially in developing countries.**

## WHY?

Women are vital to a country's wellbeing; yet over 500,000 women die annually in the process of reproducing life. More than 90% of these maternal deaths occur in developing countries largely due to causes that are preventable—postpartum hemorrhage, maternal anemia and lack of access to family planning (FP) services and commodities.

When women survive childbirth, they can nurture their infants; children can thrive and go to school, and families can be productive.



## KEY ACTIVITIES & RESULTS

Africa's Health in 2010 project, funded by USAID, partnered with the USAID Postpartum Hemorrhage Prevention Initiative (POPHI) project to study postpartum hemorrhage in Ethiopia, Tanzania and Uganda. Using the evidence-base, these countries are training and improving skills of health care workers at both in-service and pre-service institutions on the **active management of the third stage of labor (AMTSL)**. Implementation of AMTSL can help prevent 25-30% of maternal deaths.

AED's A2Z project, the USAID Micronutrient and Child Blindness Project, raises awareness on the magnitude of the problem of maternal anemia among development partners. The project has demonstrated how scaling up a **maternal anemia reduction package (MARF)** in Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh States in India could save the lives of women during pregnancy, delivery and postpartum.

As a result of the scale up, registration of pregnant women for antenatal care services increased from 54% in December 2007 to 92% in February 2009 in Jharkhand, while it increased from 36% to 92% in Uttar Pradesh.

AED's C-Change project, funded by USAID, is supporting three local NGOs in Kenya's Western and Nyanza provinces with programming to promote healthy behaviors to prevent the spread of malaria in vulnerable populations, including pregnant women. **Malaria in pregnancy** is a major contributor to maternal anemia and maternal deaths.

**The high unmet need for FP negatively impacts maternal and child health survival.** AED is improving women's lives by tackling this problem through the C-Change and Africa's Health in 2010 projects. In Albania AED's C-Change is implementing communication activities (mass media, interpersonal communication and advocacy) to empower women to take control of their reproductive health and increase uptake

of modern contraceptive methods. Also, the project focuses on strengthening the integration of FP and MNCH services to improve health outcomes for women and children.

**Family Planning Advocacy Toolkit**—jointly produced by AED's Africa's Health in 2010, WHO/Africa Regional Office and the Population Reference Bureau—is being used in all regions of the world to create a critical mass of family planning champions.

**Men's violence against their female partners and wives, or intimate partner violence (IPV)**, is a significant global health problem, with a wide range of adverse physical, psychological, social, and economic consequences, for women and their children. The AED Empowerment of Women Research Program funded by the National Institutes of Health, is conducting research to develop better methodological tools for understanding women's and men's attitudes about IPV and their perceptions of norms about IPV in their communities.