

# Community Health Matters on the **JOURNEY TO SELF-RELIANCE**

Wednesday, May 1, 2019 | 9:30am-2:00pm  
Wilson Center, 6th Floor Flom Auditorium



# Why Community Health Matters

Community health affects the stability of nations and the prosperity of families. Access to health services and voluntary family planning allows women and men to take control of their health, which has far-reaching benefits. Strong community health systems can reach remote and underserved people. Community health workers (CHWs) convey important health information and link families to the formal health system. They can also mitigate infectious disease outbreaks; reduce isolation, stigma, and discrimination of marginalized people; and collect data and relay information that policymakers can use to inform health policy decisions.

Since 2012, the USAID-funded Advancing Partners & Communities (APC) project has worked in over 40 countries to improve community health systems and build the capacity of local nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to provide basic health services, expand access to voluntary family planning, and connect people to health facilities. By partnering with NGOs, faith-based communities, the private sector, and local governments and communities, APC has improved the delivery of critical health services, especially community-based voluntary family planning and infectious disease prevention. By training thousands of CHWs, APC has given women access to new contraceptive methods they desire, and by expanding HIV testing and treatment, the project has moved countries closer to ending the AIDS epidemic. APC is implemented by JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. (JSI), in collaboration with FHI 360.



“In the past, a mother would give birth and a little while later become pregnant again, even though her body was not yet ready to conceive. As a result, she might experience complications during delivery. But today with family planning, such occurrences are rare.”

— Rancar Kohonou, a CHW supported by Bupdos in Calavi, Benin

# Agenda

---

## 9:00am–9:30am Registration and Refreshments

6th Floor Flom Auditorium

---

## 9:30am–9:40am Welcome and Project Overview

**Sarah Barnes**, Project Director, Maternal Health Initiative, Wilson Center

**Elizabeth (Liz) Creel**, Project Director, Advancing Partners & Communities (APC) Project, JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc.

---

## 9:40am–9:45am Opening Remarks and Panel Introduction

**Ellen Starbird**, Director, Office of Population and Reproductive Health, USAID

---

## 9:45am–10:05am Ted-Style Talks: Introduction to APC's Work in Uganda, Benin, and Kenya

**Frederick Mubiru**, Chief of Party, APC Uganda, FHI 360

**A. Jean Affo**, Chief of Party, APC Benin, JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc.

**Susan Otchere**, Senior Technical Advisor, Family Planning and Reproductive Health, Birth Spacing and Advocacy, World Vision

---

## 10:05am–11:10 am Panel Session: Promoting Voluntary Family Planning and the Power of Partnerships

**A. Jean Affo**, Chief of Party, APC Benin, JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc.

**Frederick Mubiru**, Chief of Party, APC Uganda, FHI 360

**Susan Otchere**, Senior Technical Advisor, Family Planning and Reproductive Health, Birth Spacing and Advocacy, World Vision

**Tanvi Pandit-Rajani**, Senior Technical Advisor, APC, JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc.

MODERATED BY

**Ellen Starbird**, Director, Office of Population and Reproductive Health, USAID

---

## 11:10am–11:20 am Break

---

**11:20am-11:25am Welcome Back**

---

**Sarah Barnes**, Project Director, Maternal Health Initiative, Wilson Center

**11:25am-11:30am Panel Introductions**

---

**Walter Proper**, Director of Field Support, APC, JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc.

**11:30am-11:50am Ted-Style Talks: Introduction to APC's Work in Haiti, Liberia, and Laos**

---

**Dr. Florence Jean-Louis**, Director of Human Development, Fonkoze

**Dr. Rose Macauley**, Chief of Party, APC Liberia, JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc.

**James MacNeil**, Vice President, World Education

**11:50am-12:55pm Panel Session: Advancing Local Solutions for Lasting Impact**

---

**Dr. Florence Jean-Louis**, Director of Human Development, Fonkoze

**Dr. Rose Macauley**, Chief of Party, APC Liberia, JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc.

**James MacNeil**, Vice President, World Education

**Chamberlain Diala**, Senior Technical Director, APC, FHI 360

MODERATED BY

**Walter Proper**, Director of Field Support, APC, JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc.

**12:55pm-1:00pm Closing Remarks**

---

**Dr. Melissa Freeman**, Reproductive Health/ Family Planning Advisor, Office of Population and Reproductive Health, USAID

**1:00pm-2:00pm Reception**

---

6th Floor Board Room

# Speakers

## Introductory Remarks



### **Elizabeth (Liz) Creel**

is the Project Director of the USAID-funded Advancing Partners & Communities (APC) project at John Snow Research & Training Institute (JSI). Creel leads APC, which works in more than

40 countries to advance and support community programs in family planning (FP) and other areas. Over the past 25 years, Creel has worked in the areas of FP and reproductive health (RH), maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH), and environmental health. Prior to joining APC, Creel led a multidisciplinary communications team, in support of USAID's Global Health Bureau and managed and coordinated public policy, advocacy, and communications efforts for several NGOs working in MNCH and in the humanitarian sector. She served as a Senior Technical Officer on FP and population issues for the Population Reference Bureau and was a Project Manager for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on global efforts to address ozone layer depletion and climate change. Creel has an MA from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies and an MPH from the George Washington University School of Public Health.

## Panel 1: Promoting Voluntary Family Planning and the Power of Partnerships | Speakers



**A. Jean Affo** is the Chief of Party for APC Benin with JSI. He leads technical assistance to local NGOs supporting the High Community Impact Health Intervention Package. A public health expert, Affo has more than

25 years of experience managing community health programs in Benin and in West and Central Africa, specializing in FP and RH; maternal and child health; HIV and AIDS; and health communications. Prior to leading the APC project in Benin, Affo worked on the University Research Corporation's Center for Human Service's Integrated Family Health Project (PISAF), the Béninoise Association for Social Marketing and Health Communication, PSI's Social Marketing Program in Benin, and the USAID Action for West African Region project in Accra, Ghana. Affo holds an MPH from the University of Nancy in France and a Certificate of Management of Health Communication Programs from the Bob Minnis Institute of International Health.



**Frederick Mubiru** is the Chief of Party for APC Uganda with FHI 360. He leads the team to implement the community-based provisions of, the quality improvement of, and innovation grants for FP among other

sub-components. Previously, Mubiru worked as the Program Manager for the Gender Roles Equality and Transformations Project at the Institute for Reproductive Health, Georgetown University, in post-conflict Northern Uganda. Earlier on, he worked as the Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist for STRIDES for Family Health, a USAID-funded program in Uganda and as a Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Manager for Marie Stopes Uganda. He has over 15 years' experience in RH, FP, and gender programming in Uganda and is a member of several related working groups and committees. Mubiru holds a BS and an MS in Population and Reproductive Health Studies from Makerere University, Kampala.

## continued

---



**Susan Otchere** is a Senior Technical Advisor at World Vision U.S. She leads and guides the planning, development, implementation, and advocacy of projects on healthy timing and spacing of pregnancy and family planning and provides technical

guidance in acquisition of health grants. Prior to World Vision, Otchere served as Health Technical Director at Cardno Emerging Markets Ltd., and as a Maternal-Newborn Health Advisor at Save the Children. She has spent her career working on maternal, newborn, child, and RH in Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East, Eurasia, and Asia. Otchere is a nurse-midwife, has a BS in Nursing with Psychology from the University of Ghana and an MS in Maternal and Child Health from the University of London.



**Tanvi Pandit-Rajani** is a Senior Technical Advisor at JSI. She brings technical leadership and systems-thinking to a variety of projects across the globe. Under APC, Pandit-Rajani serves as the Team Lead for Community Health Systems. In

this capacity, she worked on the design team for a \$15 million USD post-Ebola program in Sierra Leone, supported national policy development using human-centered design, and advanced community health harmonization efforts through data and policy dialogue. Prior to joining JSI, Pandit-Rajani worked in a variety of roles, within USAID and with other implementing partners, designing, managing, and implementing programs to strengthen policy and the private sector role within health systems. She is a certified Leadership Coach and holds an MPH and a BS in Nutrition.

## Moderator

---



**Ellen Starbird** is the Director of USAID's Office of Population and Reproductive Health. She provides high-level leadership to the Agency's FP and RH agenda and portfolio, valued at approximately \$600 million USD annually and directs the Office's \$100 million

USD program. Starbird has over 25 years of experience designing, managing, monitoring, and evaluating international FP and RH programming. She joined USAID in 1989 and has spent her career in the Office of Population and Reproductive Health. The daughter of a Foreign Service Officer, she spent 11 years of her childhood in Hong Kong and Thailand. She is married and has two children. She has an MA in Development Economics from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, Massachusetts.

## Panel 2: Advancing Local Solutions for Lasting Impact | Speakers



**Chamberlain Diala** is the Technical Director for APC and serves in this role for FHI 360's Global Health, Population and Nutrition Division. He is driven to make a positive impact on vulnerable and disadvantaged populations through innovative strategy development, sound management,

partnership, and coalition building. Diala applies innovations and includes stakeholders in community development; supporting social transformation through capacity and skills strengthening. He has more than 20 years' experience in domestic and international program design, development, implementation, and management. With diverse experiences in research and management, Diala has led large and complex programs to achieve results aligned with donor goals and objectives. He has an MPH and PhD in Health Policy and Management from Johns Hopkins University.



**Dr. Florence Jean-Louis** is the Director of Human Development at Fonkoze in Haiti. Over many years, Dr. Jean-Louis has focused on HIV and AIDS, global health, human rights, and health systems strengthening. She has brought strong gender

dimensions to community health programs. Before Fonkoze, she worked as a Deputy Director at PADESS, a five-year Canadian initiative which helped to regulate and streamline the health service delivery provided by the government, private sector, and religious communities in Haiti. She also worked with Catholic Relief Services, the Red Cross, and as a Technical Director in an association of local NGOs specialized in health. Before 1998, when she returned home to Haiti, she worked in Mexico providing sexual and reproductive health support to Guatemalan refugees. Jean-Louis holds diplomas in medical sciences from Autonomous Metropolitan University in Mexico City, as well as an MS in Community Health, Rural Development, and Natural Resources Management from El Colegio de la Frontera Sur, Mexico.



**James MacNeil** is the Vice President of the Asia Programs and Special Projects Division at World Education. MacNeil provides oversight and technical assistance to basic education, youth and community development projects, and programs for persons with disabilities. He currently oversees World Education's Asia portfolio in four countries. He has overseen grant making programs

for 70 NGOs in Laos, Nepal, India, and Thailand and has advised on capacity development for these grantees. He has contributed to the establishment of new civil society organizations in Indonesia, Laos, and the United States. MacNeil has 25 years' experience working in education programming, education policy, and youth development in South and Southeast Asia and the United States. He holds a Doctorate of Education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, specializing in how to expand access to education among underserved populations.

## continued

---



**Dr. Rose Macauley** is JSI's Country Representative in Liberia and Chief of Party for the APC Ebola Transmission Prevention and Survivor Services Program. She is a physician and public health specialist with more than 25 years' experience in clinical and public health practice with a total of 18 years at

JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. Dr. Macauley began her public health career in the Liberia Ministry of Health as the Director of the Family Health Division. She worked as a Medical Officer responsible for the introduction of new and under-used vaccines and routine immunization in the World Health Organization's Regional Office of Africa supporting over 35 countries. In the past 10 years, Dr. Macauley has served as Chief of Party for various USAID-funded projects, including the Basic Services for Institutionalizing Child Health Service Survival and the Rebuilding Basic Health Services in Liberia. Dr. Macauley is a Fellow of the West African College of Physicians and a foundation Fellow of the Liberia College of Physicians and Surgeons. She is a member of the American Public Health Association, the Liberian Public Health Association, and a proud Rotarian. Dr. Macauley holds an MD from the A.M. Dogliotti College of Medicine, University of Liberia and a MPH from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

## Moderator

---



**Walter Proper** is the Director of Field Support for APC at JSI. He is involved in program and strategic planning, including collaborating and partnering with governments, NGOs, donors, and academic institutions. Through this work, Proper has also gained experience managing technical

teams and countries as well as on-the-ground experience working with local governments, the UN, and other NGO partners. Proper has worked extensively in the areas of family planning and reproductive health, HIV and AIDS, TB, Malaria and Essential Medicine Systems improvement. Prior to this, Proper served as the Country Director of JSI Zambia, and before that served as a Regional Director of JSI Logistics. His work experience includes more than 25 years as senior manager and supervisor of multicultural teams, as a capacity building and organization development advisor/facilitator and as a public health logistician. He holds a BA in History from the University of North Florida and an MA in International Administration from the School for International Training.

## Closing Remarks

---



**Dr. Melissa Freeman** is the USAID Agreement Officer's Representative for APC. She is a Family Planning and Reproductive Health Advisor in USAID's Office of Reproductive and Population Health (PRH), where she leads the Youth Team and

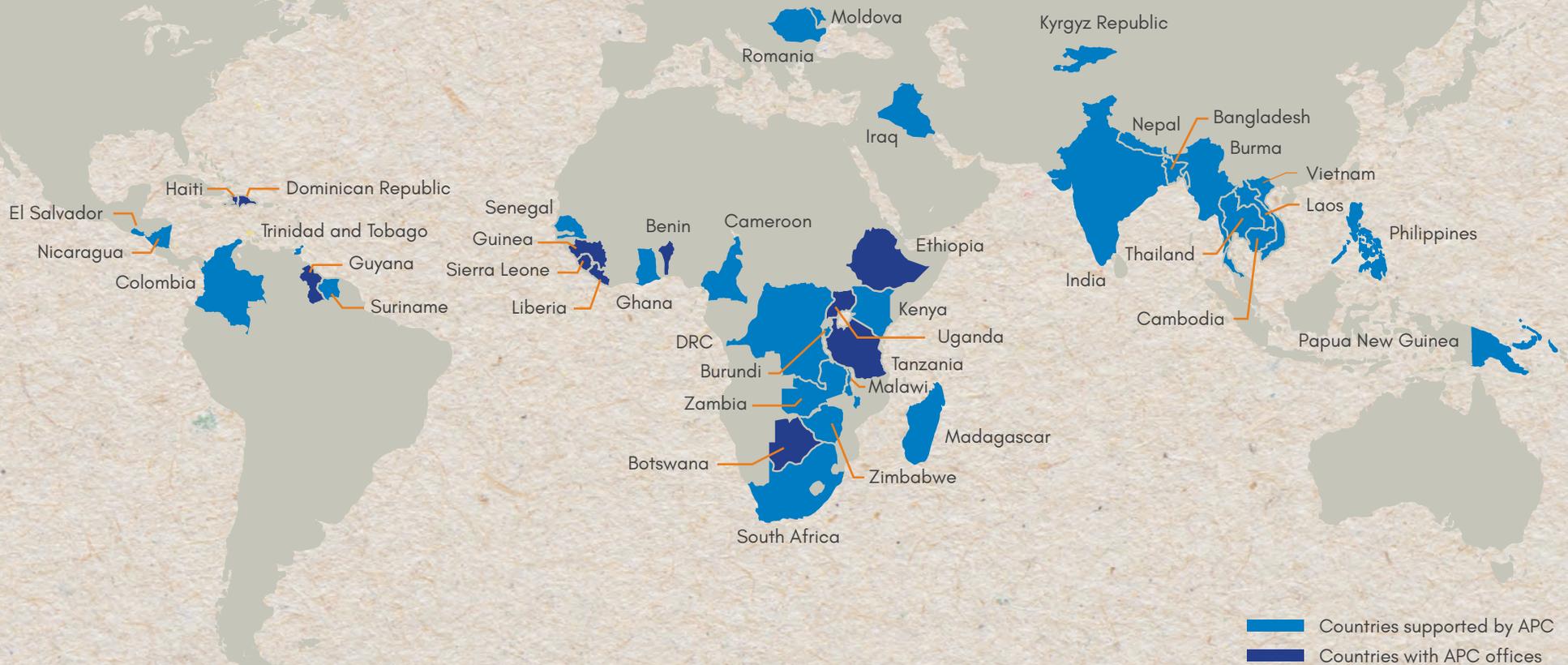
serves as PRH's point person for engaging with faith-based organizations (FBOs). Dr. Freeman also helps plan, implement, and develop programming for service delivery focused on community-based family planning and building the capacity of local partners. Prior to her position in PRH, she served in India and Ethiopia, where she led HIV and AIDS and TB programs, including working with local partners. She has worked with the Pan American Health Organization, Anne Arundel County Health Department, and several NGOs and FBOs focused on post-conflict and disaster relief settings. Dr. Freeman completed her residency in Preventive Medicine and an MPH at Johns Hopkins University, holds an MD from the Medical School for International Health (a collaboration between Ben Gurion University of the Negev and Columbia University Health Sciences), and a BS in General Science from Houghton College.

# Building Capacity in Health

## Journey to Self-Reliance

Strengthening local organizations formed by and for the people they support can empower and motivate communities, create local leadership, and fuel the innovation and learning processes that lead to self-reliance.

### Countries Supported by APC





“Government has its work to do. Civil society, the private sector have all got their parts to play, but NGOs are particularly vital because of their reach.”

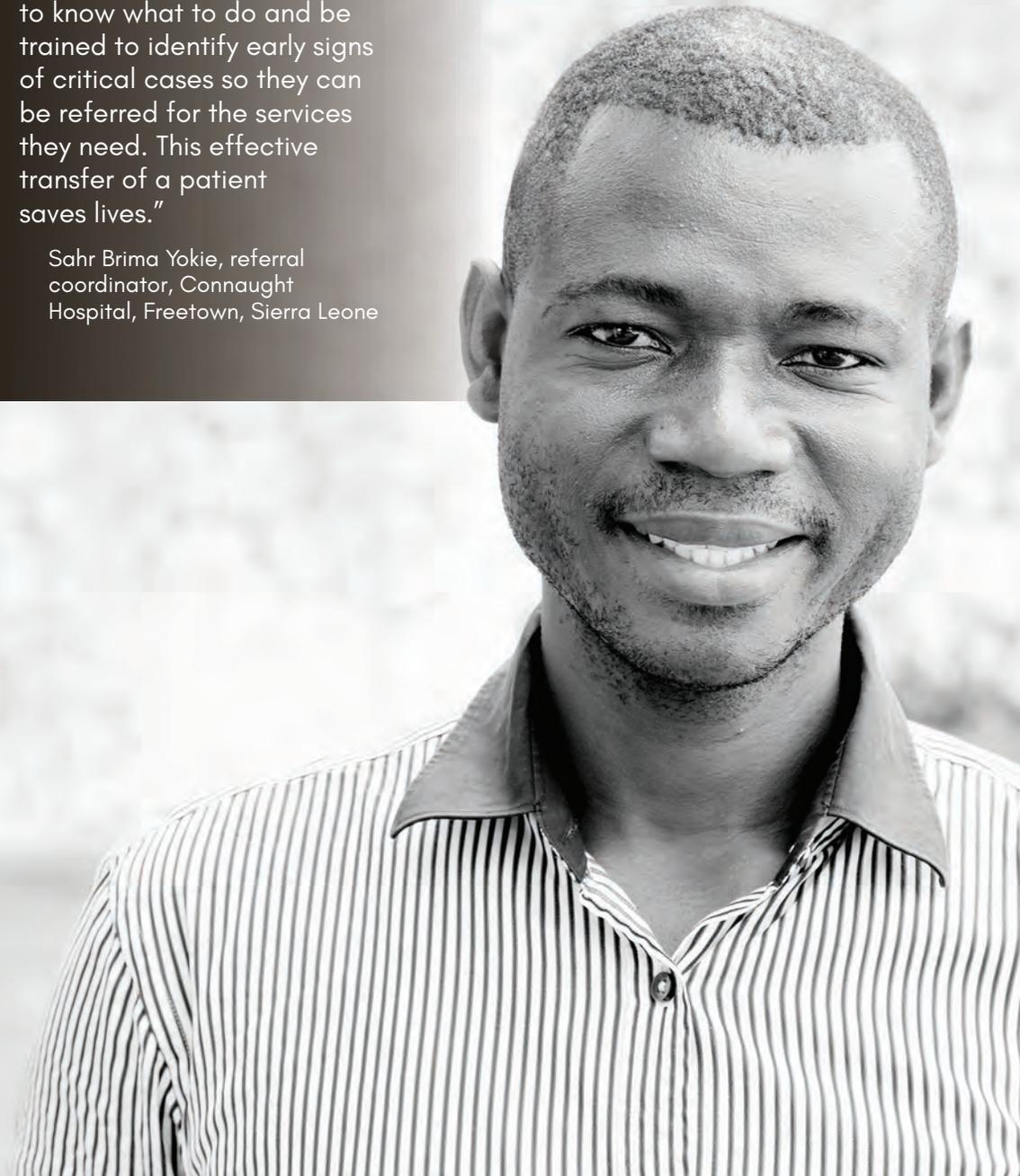
— Margaret Lawrence, executive officer,  
Merundoi Incorporated, Guyana

## Strengthening Community Health Systems

With a shortage of 7.2 million health care workers, the global health system cannot treat the world's population adequately. APC has generated and disseminated information that countries can use to strengthen community health systems and policies that support them. APC has helped ministries of health and NGOs in more than 40 countries revise and implement community health worker policies, enhance data systems and visualization tools that provide information for decision-making and health advocacy efforts, and build stronger referral systems that connect patients to services.

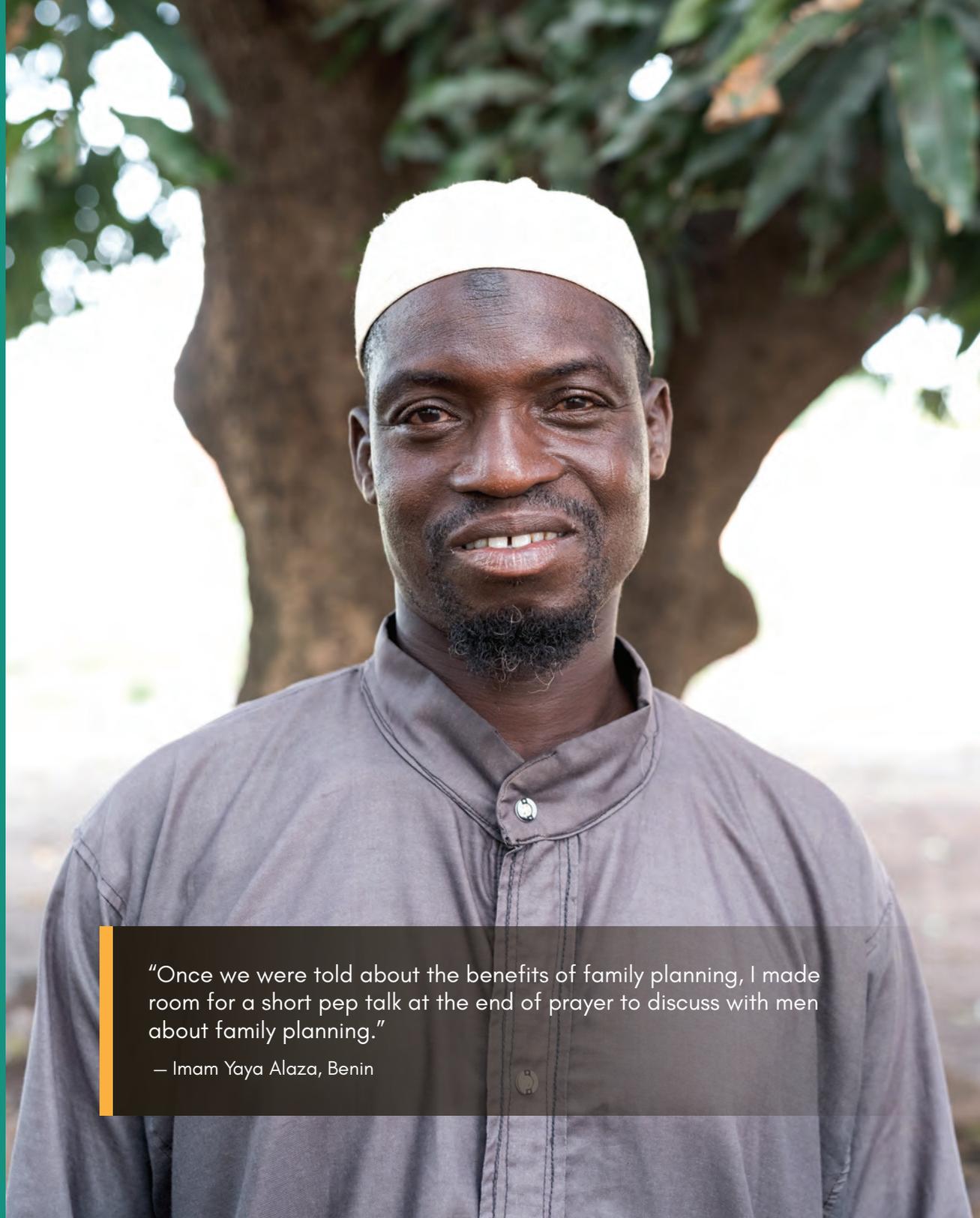
"It is important for health care workers to understand the health system. They need to know what to do and be trained to identify early signs of critical cases so they can be referred for the services they need. This effective transfer of a patient saves lives."

Sahr Brima Yokie, referral coordinator, Connaught Hospital, Freetown, Sierra Leone



## Advancing Voluntary Family Planning

For those who live many miles from a health facility, with little access to transportation, voluntary family planning is often out of reach, yet, it is a key to keeping communities healthy and prosperous. Ensuring that women and men can plan their families requires health systems to reach beyond the health facilities and into communities. In support of this goal, APC has worked with countries and partners to expand and integrate family planning services, increase access to a wide range of contraceptive methods, and scale up community-based initiatives. To reach new clients and gain support from communities, APC has introduced family planning programming to vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations, and enlisted faith communities and groups of men as advocates for contraceptive choice.



“Once we were told about the benefits of family planning, I made room for a short pep talk at the end of prayer to discuss with men about family planning.”

— Imam Yaya Alaza, Benin



“Before I enrolled in Emanzi, I used to think home chores like cooking, fetching water and firewood, digging, and even making a bed as activities only meant for women and not for men. I also never used to believe in family planning.”

— Mugisha, a 24-year-old Emanzi participant, Uganda



## Building Capacity within Local Organizations

Increasing local capacity is critical for countries on the journey to self-reliance, and is a central focus of APC. Through funding and technical assistance to local and international NGOs, APC has leveraged and enhanced local capacity, building a foundation for sustaining organizations that support countries' health systems. Through targeted assistance, APC has prepared organizations to receive USAID funds and implement successful programs. With APC's support, NGOs in more than 40 countries have expanded their health services and strengthened their organizational capacity.

"The training has sharpened me, I can now provide the service required by the client in need. Sericho is one of the areas in Isiolo that has a lot of maternal [and] child health issues, and this skill will therefore help me serve the women in my community so that they can space their pregnancies... I am happy that I can contribute positively to my community."

Ibrahim Ali, a CHV from Sericho, Kenya

## Supporting Post-Ebola Recovery

Recognizing how quickly a pandemic can spread in our interconnected world, as Ebola did in 2014, APC helped Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone strengthen their capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease threats. The project assisted these countries' post-Ebola efforts to rebuild health systems and support the more than 7,000 survivors, who continue to suffer Ebola-related health issues and stigma. APC also built the capacity of NGOs, faith-based organizations, ministries of health, and other local organizations to meet survivors' needs and prepare for future outbreaks. APC's work generated knowledge and lessons that can be applied to research and other health programs for infectious disease outbreak survivors.





"Before, no facility provided eye care in the entire county. We've recruited and started training health workers. I've worked with nurses who are very enthusiastic and have a passion to learn. They are trained in basic eye care, including eye-related emergencies. And we've trained them to train junior nurses and community health workers."

Dr. Inyene Edem Udofia, consultant ophthalmologist, Liberia College of Physicians and Surgeons, Liberia



## APC's Target Populations & Health Areas



**VOLUNTARY  
FAMILY PLANNING &  
REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH**



**POST-EBOLA RECOVERY**



**VULNERABLE  
POPULATIONS**



**HIV & AIDS**



**MATERNAL &  
CHILD HEALTH**



“Even though training others in rehabilitation medicine can be extremely challenging and exhausting, it is worth it when I see patients improving their lives and functionality through rehabilitative treatment.”

— Dr. Bouathep, Laos PDR



## VOLUNTARY FAMILY PLANNING & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

In 21 countries, APC strengthened voluntary family planning by training health workers, building capacity within local NGOs, advocating for policy change, and introducing new methods desired by clients.

Provided contraception to women and men, equal to almost **363,000** couple-years of protection

### A wide range of methods



Condoms



Fertility awareness methods



Injectables



IUDs



Oral contraceptives

Quality counseling ensured that clients were fully informed about all methods

### Reached over 258,000 new family planning users

By training CHWs, strengthening established public health facilities, and engaging community groups, APC reached clients who voluntarily chose modern contraception for the first time.



Trained over **11,000** health workers to deliver quality counseling on contraceptives and family planning

Strengthened the organizational and/or technical capacity of **23** NGOs, **5** of them faith-based organizations, to provide voluntary family planning

### Assisted 5 countries to advance policies that support community-based family planning

Advocacy efforts included supporting the full method mix, facilitating task sharing and task shifting that allow CHWs to distribute contraceptives and information, and scaling up voluntary community-based family planning

Reached almost **370,000** community members with information about a wide range of family planning methods



## HIV & AIDS

In 3 countries, APC supported more than 40 NGOs and public health facilities to expand testing and treatment of HIV and AIDS in an effort to reach the 95-95-95 goals and stem the AIDS epidemic.

### Provided HIV & AIDS services



- More than **250,000** people tested for HIV
- Over **5,500** defaulters found and re-enrolled on HIV and AIDS treatment

Supported NGOs in **14** countries and regions with organizational capacity building to conduct policy advocacy for HIV and AIDS

Helped NGOs in **3** countries build capacity to mobilize local government resources





## POST-EBOLA RECOVERY

In three West African countries (Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone), APC improved health services for Ebola survivors, strengthened health systems to prevent future outbreaks, and built capacity within NGOs, FBOs, ministries of health, and other local organizations.



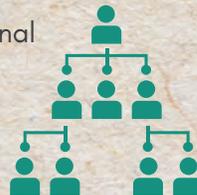
Rehabilitated and/or provided medical equipment to **342** health facilities

Trained more than **8,600** health workers to deliver better health services



Reached more than **1,000** community members with stigma reduction training

Supported **3** national Ebola survivor organizations and **33** local chapters



Provided more than **3 million** patient consultations through project-supported health facilities

- Almost **3,000** patients were referred to higher-level treatment
- More than **8,000** survivor visits to health facilities



## VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

In 12 countries, APC helped some of the world's most vulnerable populations through funding for 55 small, local organizations that support orphans, children and adults with mental or physical handicaps, children and adults with severe trauma from war or violence, and people who are incarcerated under extreme conditions.

### Helping the most vulnerable

Assisted **260,000** individuals with little previous access to rehabilitation, counseling, or health care

Almost **58,000** children in adversity received support



More than **11,000** people received assistive devices, including wheel chairs

Almost **50,000** people were trained to provide rehabilitative services or support to vulnerable populations



More than **70,000** primary health consultations for victims of war





TB N04 /2012/APE-AME/TISSIROU/CAEF/WORLD EDUCATION/LAFIA-ONG

TB N03 /2012/APE-AME/TISSIROU/CAEF/WORLD EDUCATION/LAFIA-ONG



# About the Organizers

The Wilson Center, chartered by Congress in 1968 as the official memorial to President Woodrow Wilson, is the nation's key non-partisan policy forum for tackling global issues through independent research and open dialogue to inform actionable ideas for the policy community. Through public meetings and events, broadcast media and social media, publications in print and online, and a wide range of outreach activities, the Wilson Center is engaged in the global dialogue of ideas.

John Snow, Inc., and the nonprofit JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc., are public health management consulting and research organizations dedicated to improving the health of individuals and communities in the U.S. and around the globe. For over 40 years, Boston-based JSI and its affiliates have provided high-quality technical and managerial assistance to public health programs worldwide. JSI has implemented projects in 106 countries, and currently operates from eight U.S. and more than 40 international offices, with more than 500 U.S.-based professionals and 1,600 host country staff.

FHI 360 is an international nonprofit working to improve the health and well-being of people in the U.S. and around the world. We partner with governments, the private sector, and civil society to bring about positive social change and to provide lifesaving health care, high-quality education, and opportunities for meaningful economic participation. We do this by using research and evidence to design and deliver programs that change behaviors, increase access to services, and improve lives.

[advancingpartners.org](http://advancingpartners.org)



@APC\_Project



@advancingpartners

Photo credits:

Cover photo and photo on page 15, Kristen Devlin, JSI. Photos on pages 3,11, and 13, Joshua Yospy, JSI. Photo on page 14, Leigh Wynne, FH 360. Photo on page 12 and 17, APC. Photo on page 19, Monthong, World Education Laos. Photo on page 22, Tishina Okegbe, FHI 360.

This publication was produced by Advancing Partners & Communities (APC), a cooperative agreement funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development under Agreement No. AID-OAA-A-12-00047, beginning October 1, 2012. The authors' views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

