

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT



OVERVIEW

Women around the world face greater challenges to health care access, economic resources and food security. PfD aims to empower women to find sustainable solutions. For example, PfD specifically targets women as benefactors of microcredit programs. By setting target percentages, PfD demonstrates a desire to provide women with equal opportunities to develop financial and business skills. PfD's programs educate women on reproductive health and other issues that provide them with the necessary knowledge to lead the healthiest lives possible, which is especially important as women are awarded more responsibility as care-givers and family providers.

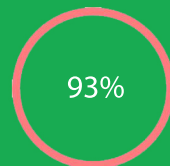


LOCAL PARTNERSHIP EXAMPLE

As part of the Anne Johnson Memorial Scholarship Fund to benefit girls at the secondary level in Nigeria, PfD works in partnership with the Lift Above Poverty Organization (LAPO) to ensure these girls receive the economic support necessary to achieve their full potential. PfD's collaboration with LAPO to improve education is positioned to benefit individuals and families living in low-and middle-income households in Nigeria, particularly young girls; the ripple down effect of educating young girls will help to advance the health and socioeconomic wellbeing of families and society at large.

PROGRAM IMPACT

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH THROUGH WOMEN'S MICROCREDIT NETWORK IN NIGERIA



of borrowers
were women



received reproductive
health and STI
education



trained in reproductive
health services and
education

"In the developing world, it's about time that women are on the agenda.

For instance, 80 percent of small-subsistence farmers in sub-Saharan Africa are women, and yet all the programs in the past were predominantly focused on men."

Melinda Gates
Co-Chair, Gates Foundation

"In 2011 I took my first loan with PfD...Within the three years since my loan I have tripled my number of fruit trees and added chili, eggplant, corn, and sesame seeds to my crop. I have over 15 staff and collaborate with my husband to manage our business...and plan to continue expanding my business to ensure the security of my family in the future."

Tes Run, 2014
Loan Recipient



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Integration of Microcredit and Health Education: In Nigeria, PfD aims to increase and sustain the integration of reproductive health services into microcredit programs, and to provide women with the knowledge necessary to make informed decisions about their health. Our work empowers women through two forums: provision of microcredit loans to increase business capacity and income contribution as well as education on personal health.

Improving Equality of Relationships: PfD's micro-enterprise program in Cambodia, KREDIT, empowers women by providing them with loans coupled with business development skills to establish themselves as income-earners in their households and improve equality in household relationships.

Increased Capacity of Health Workers: In Nigeria, reproductive health and family planning were essentially synonymous in community-based clinics. Therefore PfD provided education to health workers to better understand reproductive health as its own entity. Once health workers understood how these components were different from one another, they were able to more comprehensively and thoroughly inform women and provide necessary services.

Changing Government Attitude: Although in the past state and local governments lacked appropriate reproductive health programs or education, PfD advocated with government entities on the importance of women's issues. For example the Benue Ministry of Health and PfD collaborated on the development of state reproductive health and family planning programming.

INNOVATION

Reproductive health awareness programs are generally promoted through mass media. PfD's work in Nigeria proved that small focus groups can be more effective in delivering messages and affecting change. Female borrowers actively engaged in discussion on health issues and spoke about their improved ability to advocate with their husbands on family planning and safe sexual behavior. This empowerment to communicate comes from the education these women received, and is a crucial goal of PfD's program.

MISSION AND VISION

PfD's staff and volunteers work in partnership with local and international groups to improve quality of life for vulnerable people in underserved communities. We envision a more just, peaceful, and environmentally sustainable world, and seek to empower people by increasing their access to training, education, and resources to create more vibrant and resilient communities, with more accountable leadership.



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