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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FAMILY PLANNING
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ICFP2022 Key Messages

FP Intersectionality

THE POWER OF FAMILY PLANNING IS UNDENIABLE—AND TRANSCENDS HEALTH OUTCOMES

#1 FP Powers Economic Development

- Economic empowerment and reproductive empowerment mutually reinforce each other. FP empowers girls and women, expands educational opportunities, helps stabilize population growth, and accelerates community and economic development.
- FP increases women's participation in the workforce and in turn increases the educational investment families make in girls. (Journal of Feminist Economics). According to the World Bank, if women and men had equality in the workforce, we could net a global gain of $160 trillion USD. Instead, countries lose 14% of wealth due to gender inequality. (ICRW)
- FP is a cost-effective way to prevent diseases and deaths and to reduce unnecessary expenditure on health, education, social services and amenities as well as to spur development of a nation. I.e.,
    - The rates of disease and death in mothers and children increase with frequent births (less than three years' interval), large number of births per woman (more than five) and births by young (less than 18) or older women (greater than 35).

#2 FP Supports Climate Compatible Development

- FP is a key tool in combating climate change. Research supports the linkage by showing that fewer people in the world could lead to substantial long-term, climate-related benefits by lowering carbon emissions. FP supports climate-compatible development and its two complementary goals: to mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions while increasing the capacity of people, communities, and countries to adapt to climate change and extreme weather.[1]

#3 FP Enables Gender Equality

- Enabling access to Family Planning through gender transformative policies and programs has led to robust evidence on addressing gender and social norms, meaningful community engagement including centering and investing in the leadership of women and girls, young people and other marginalized communities which is key in the success and delivery of UHC.
- Access to quality, voluntary FP without economic or other hardship is a reproductive and human right as enshrined in commitments such as Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, International Conference on Population and Development, and other global instruments. It is an essential ingredient for ensuring gender equality by reducing unplanned pregnancies and generating broader successes in health, education, and economic outcomes.
- FP provides women the ability to control the timing, number, and circumstances of giving birth, and increases the likelihood they will take more advantage of education and economic opportunities, and therefore be more likely to participate in decision-making and development.

[1] https://www.wilsoncenter.org/event/bridging-the-gap-family-planning-rights-and-climate-compatible-development /https://www.prb.org/resources/how-family-planning-could-help-slow-climate-change/