The Bill & Melinda Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health: Scholarship and Science for Social Change

The Anchor Grant 2005–2017
To William H. Gates, Sr.,

who believed in the vision for the Bill & Melinda Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health and invested to turn that vision into reality. This transformative gift enabled the Gates Institute to engage in groundbreaking research, lead innovative programs, and make “positive disruptions” to increase family planning access and improve reproductive health for women and men, communities and countries across the world.
Thank You

To the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for its unwavering support of the Gates Institute and its mission and vision.

We would like to acknowledge the contributions of Jennifer Daves, Anchor Grant Senior Program Officer, and her colleagues who, in many ways, have shaped the programs of the Anchor Grant and the Gates Institute:
Executive Summary

In 2003, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation provided a $40 million grant over 10 years to expand the Bill & Melinda Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health (the Gates Institute) at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (JHSPH), to build population and reproductive health capacity in the developing world and capitalize on the school’s global public health leadership.

The initial vision to establish and strengthen leadership and institutions in developing countries was that of Bill Sr. The ten-year grant provided in 2003 was the second given and went into effect in 2005 and was later extended to 2017. This is the final report for the second grant made to fulfill the vision of Bill Sr.

In the later years of the 10 year grant, it became known as the Anchor Grant within the GI in recognition of the foundational nature of this investment, which established the Institute as it is known today. Although not the official grant title, we think the term Anchor Grant describes how this funding allowed the GI to fulfill the vision of Bill Sr. to establish the GI as a global leader on the field of FP/RH, and this funding underpins all of the work of the GI since 2005.

This brief highlights major achievements and innovations of the Gates Institute over that 12-year foundational, “Anchor Grant” period. The activities summarized here extend beyond the formal end of the grant in June 2017 to the end of the 2017 calendar year, in order to capture as much of the Anchor Grant’s impact and the Gates Institute’s forward momentum as possible.

Role and Evolution of the Anchor Grant

Over the years, the Gates Institute has grown to become the home of innovative thinking and a global leader in revitalizing family planning on national and international policy and research agendas. Throughout its history the Institute’s tagline has remained its guide: scholarship and science for social change.

It is my honor to dedicate this 12-year report to “Bill Sr.,” as we affectionately call him, on behalf of the Gates Institute, all our partners worldwide, and all those who are beneficiaries of Gates Institute-inspired and -supported programs worldwide. I’m grateful for this opportunity to personally express our debt of gratitude for the foresight, acumen and spirit of impatient optimism that Bill Sr. has infused in the entire Gates Institute family.

Jose “Oying” Rimon, Director, Gates Institute

Robert W. Blum, former Chair of the Department of Population, Family and Reproductive Health; Laurie S. Zabin, first Director of the Gates Institute; Amy Tsui, second Director of the Gates Institute; and Jose “Oying” Rimon, current Director.
Initially, the Gates Institute was one project, supported by one grant. As the Gates Institute’s potential for growth became clear, that initial grant became known internally as the Anchor Grant. The Anchor Grant has served as an incubator to develop and launch additional projects within the Gates Institute and as the backbone of support for these major projects, while also pursuing its own activities and projects. The Anchor Grant has also cemented the Gates Institute’s strategic relationship with the Gates Foundation, via our mutual pursuit of equitable access to life-changing contraceptive information, services, and supplies in the developing world.

At inception, the Anchor Grant’s overarching goal was strengthening the capacity of countries in the developing world to devise and implement policies and programs that would lead to sustainable improvements in the health and well-being of their populations. It had three specific and interrelated aims:

- Build individuals’ skills in research, teaching, and advocacy;
- Build strong, sustainable institutions in priority countries; and
- Promote and foster high-quality, policy-relevant collaborative research between partner institutions and Hopkins faculty, students, and key staff.

Over the last 12 years, the Anchor Grant has evolved and grown along with the Gates Institute as a whole. Its activities now include convening major gatherings of the family planning community, launching new policy research agendas, and championing young family planning leaders. Specifically:

- The Anchor Grant organizes the International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP), the largest scientific conference dedicated to family planning. Held every other year in a different country, the ICFP serves as a strategic inflection point for the global family planning and reproductive health community.
- The Anchor Grant has driven forward the demographic dividend (DD) concept globally and particularly in Africa. The “demographic dividend” is the boost in economic growth that can result from changes in population age structure due to fertility reduction. The concept offers a framework for a research agenda, policy advocacy, and resource mobilization that can help countries realize their potential to accelerate economic growth and increase well-being.
- Through 120 Under 40: The New Generation of Family Planning Leaders, the Anchor Grant recognizes and highlights young champions of family planning worldwide. Through three rounds of public voting and jury scoring, 120 total outstanding family planning champions, 40 years old and younger, will be selected.
- The Anchor Grant is the incubator of the International Youth Alliance for Family Planning (IYAFP), an organization that formed out of the 2013 ICFP with the mission to support provision of comprehensive reproductive health care services, with a particular focus on family planning for youth.
- The Anchor Grant developed the Family Planning Voices (FP Voices) Installation, an interactive photo booth installation that invites individuals working to improve access to family planning around the world to share their passion for family planning.

Looking back at the 12 years of the Anchor Grant, we see that it has enabled and propelled the Gates Institute to contribute significantly to the revitalization and sustainability of family planning on the international level. The Gates Institute is now firmly established as an entity with global influence and impact, through groundbreaking research, cutting-edge policy and advocacy work, convening power, innovations in performance monitoring and urban reproductive health, focus on youth, and ability to translate evidence into policies, programs, and practice. The Institute’s work continues to have important impacts in today’s global landscape as the world pursues the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Family Planning 2020 (FP2020) partnership goal of providing an additional 120 million women and girls with quality voluntary contraception by 2020 and the broader goal of enabling universal access to family planning by 2030.
Innovative Initiatives

Thanks to the Anchor Grant, the Gates Institute has launched three innovative, game-changing projects—one in global advocacy, one in performance monitoring via mobile technologies, and one in rapid scale-up of urban reproductive health services. These three projects are independent yet intertwined, and all are supported by the Anchor Grant.

- The advocacy initiative **Advance Family Planning** (AFP) comprises about 20 partner organizations worldwide. AFP’s SMART—Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time-bound—advocacy approach connects short-term advocacy strategies and wins with broad, long-term goals, transforming the way family planning champions maximize their time and funds to effectively persuade those in power to take action.

- **Performance Monitoring and Accountability 2020** (PMA2020) uses innovative mobile technology to support low-cost, rapid-turnaround surveys that monitor key family planning and other health indicators annually. Local universities and research organizations in 11 countries implement the program, deploying a cadre of female residents trained to collect data.

- **The Challenge Initiative** (TCI) is a new “business unusual” approach to financing, scaling up, and sustaining high-impact family planning solutions for the urban poor. TCI represents the Gates Foundation’s single largest family planning investment—a $56-million effort to introduce and scale up family planning approaches already successfully implemented in urban India, Kenya, Nigeria, and Senegal.

VISION + STRATEGY

As the Anchor Grant expanded its goals and the Gates Institute became the home for multiple projects, the Anchor Grant published **Vision + Strategy** in 2014 to guide the Institute’s growth and strategic engagements. While staying true to the Anchor Grant’s original scope of work, it builds on the Gates Institute’s expanded scientific expertise, institutional growth, strong partnerships, and entrepreneurial spirit to outline an audacious multi-faceted approach.

**Vision + Strategy** builds four pillars that organize all Gates Institute projects and activities:

- Fill critical gaps in knowledge and generate new evidence
- Translate evidence into policies, programs and practice
- Strengthen the next generation of champions
- Catalyze change through innovative investments and collaborations

Most importantly, **Vision + Strategy** brings all these actions together under one roof to strengthen the impact of each part.

MISSION AND VISION

**MISSION:** The Gates Institute conducts and facilitates cutting-edge research in family planning, reproductive health, and population dynamics and translates science into evidence-informed policies, programs, and practice. The Institute works as an innovator, partner, advocate, and convener to bridge the gap between knowledge and implementation and promote access to universal reproductive health and family planning for all.

**VISION:** We envision a world where population-based science and evidence are discovered, developed, and translated to improve the lives of all through universal and equitable access to family planning and reproductive health.
The Gates Institute by the Numbers

as of December 2017

The Gates Institute works in **26 COUNTRIES IN AFRICA AND ASIA**.

ICFP attendance has grown **FROM 1,300 IN 2009 TO 3,200** in 2016.

**FOR EVERY $1** provided by the Gates Foundation for the 2016 ICFP, the Gates Institute **RAISED $4.70** from other sources.

By 2015, across 6 Gates Institute partner institutions, the return in **RESEARCH DOLLARS HAD EXCEEDED $2.40 PER $1**, and today is even greater.

The 2016 ICFP reached nearly **27 MILLION UNIQUE SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS**, over 291 million times. As of February 2016, **40,000 TWEETS TAGGED WITH #ICFP** had been generated, and there were **8,500 UNIQUE CONTRIBUTORS** to the conversation.

**2 BOOKS AND 7 RESEARCH BRIEFS** about the demographic dividend have been published, and **7 HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS** on the demographic dividend have been organized, with support from the Anchor Grant.

IYAFP has more than **1,200 MEMBERS** worldwide and more than **50 COUNTRY COORDINATORS**.

So far, **80 YOUNG FAMILY PLANNING CHAMPIONS** have been named **WINNERS OF 120 UNDER 40: THE NEW GENERATION OF FAMILY PLANNING LEADERS**. (The remaining 40 will be chosen in 2019.)

In 2016–17 alone, AFP’s advocacy led to **COMMITMENT OF MORE THAN $18.1 MILLION** for family planning information, services, and supplies.

PMA2020 has conducted more than **44 SURVEY ROUNDS IN 11 COUNTRIES**, rapidly gathering and disseminating data on family planning and other health indicators on a biannual or annual basis.

Since its launch in 2016, TCI has received more than **104 EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST** and has so far approved **26 PROGRAM DESIGNS**, with **24 LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IMPLEMENTING**.
Building Individual and Institutional Capacity

Building Individual Capacity

From the beginning, the Anchor Grant had a strong focus on encouraging academic leadership and sustainability by training academics who could then take on leadership roles at our developing-country partner universities.

As of March 2015, the Anchor Grant, through its Baltimore-based and country-based workshops, had trained more than 1,000 scholars and leaders from more than 30 countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America. These trainings included the Gates Institute’s Summer Institutes in Reproductive Health and Development, which trained about 600 mid-level professionals from 71 countries in two- to three-week courses between 1999 and 2014 (the Summer Institutes predated the Anchor Grant). These professionals hailed from academia, research centers, governments, and NGOs, and were selected for their promise as national leaders in reproductive health. Many continue to rise in the reproductive health field: Graduates of the Summer Institutes have become government ministers, policy leaders, CEOs of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), parliamentarians, leading researchers and advocates, and even a head of state—President John Dramani Mahama of Ghana.

Additionally, between 2005 and 2007, the Anchor Grant provided 17 international students studying at JHSPH with partial scholarship support for their master’s, doctoral, or post-doctoral training through the Gates Scholars program. (The Gates Scholars program began in 1999, predating the Anchor Grant. In 2007, the Gates Institute began moving away from supporting individual Gates Scholars to strengthening the capacity of partner institutions to offer successful degree programs. Some individuals did continue to receive funding or were integrated into Gates Institute activities as Gates Scholars on a more informal basis.) These students were generally exceptional mid-term professionals with a clear intention to return to positions of leadership in their own countries. Overall, the Gates Scholars program supported 50 students, and continues to maintain contact with them. The majority of these 50 students returned to their home universities and became academic leaders, training the next generation of population and reproductive health researchers in their respective countries.

The Anchor Grant also supported the popular strategic leadership training taught by Henry Mosley, PhD, of JHSPH and Ben Lozare, PhD, of the Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs (CCP). Dr. Tsui, former Director of the Gates Institute, explains, “This [training] helped inspire a lot of mid-level and higher-level people—not just in management, but also in policy and academia—to learn to articulate bold goals and to think about root causes to barriers to achieving them.”
Funmi OlaOlorun, PhD, is a lecturer in the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan; an honorary consultant to the University College Hospital, Ibadan; and co-principal investigator for PMA2020 in Nigeria. She also holds MBBS and MPH degrees from the University of Ibadan.

Dr. OlaOlorun was a Gates Scholar from 2009 to 2013, receiving her PhD from JHSPH. “I was privileged to serve as the coordinator of the multi-country Family Health and Wealth Study while I was a doctoral student,” she says. “The opportunity allowed me to gain hands-on experience in project management, and I was able to develop skills in data management and analysis as well as skills in managing people. I was allowed to stumble and learn from my mistakes in a very supportive, nonjudgmental environment. The skills I gained at Hopkins have paved the way for the many projects I have been privileged to work on since graduation and return to Nigeria, my homeland.”

Trained as a community health physician, Dr. OlaOlorun has more than a decade of experience in community-based research in southwest Nigeria. In 2017 she became one of the principal investigators for a Gates Foundation Grand Challenges in Global Health grant to the University of Ibadan for her project, *Promoting Female Empowerment at the Household Level with Family Planning Use, Financial Literacy and Gender Sensitization Education among Couples in Ibadan, Nigeria.*

Dr. OlaOlorun’s main research interest is in women’s health across the life course, with a focus on women’s empowerment and reproductive health issues, especially family planning. “My desire is to ensure that my career of teaching, research and clinical practice helps to improve the health of Nigerian women and men, as well as the communities from which they come,” she says.
Rajib Acharya, PhD, has worked with the Population Council in India since August 2005, after being a post-doctoral fellow and Gates Scholar from 2004 to 2005. Dr. Acharya is a statistician–demographer with 14 years of experience in academic research and planning, designing, managing, and monitoring large studies, as well as in communicating results to policy makers.

Dr. Acharya worked extensively with Macro International on sample selection, instrument development, survey implementation, data management, and analysis of the National Family Health Survey 2 (1998–99), conducted in 26 states of India and covering more than 100,000 households. He undertook the major responsibility for the design and implementation of two major and unique studies: a 4-year follow-up study of NFHS-2 respondents in four states, covering about 11,000 households, and the sub-national Youth in India: Situation and Needs study, conducted in six states and covering almost 51,000 youth.

"Personally, the 15 months I spent at the Institute was the most productive learning period I had in my life," says Dr. Acharya. "It opened up a large area of research for me, provided me the right kind of training for implementing those research ideas, and supported me even after I left the Institute. As Amy Tsui, the mother hen of the Institute at that time, always said to us, 'Once you are a Gates Scholar, you are always a Gates Scholar.' Still now, even 13 years after I completed my post-doc from the Institute, the Institute engages me in some of their activities—e.g., in the biennial International Conference on Family Planning. I also got to collaborate with Johns Hopkins in two very unique multi-country research projects in the last 10 years. Being a Gates Scholar has been and will be one of the proudest accomplishments of my career."

**Gates Scholar Profile: Rajib Acharya, PhD**

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**Building Institutional Capacity**

The Anchor Grant recognized from the outset the importance of building strong academic institutions in developing countries as a way to support individuals and create sustainable change. “Educate individuals, and they’ll remain educated,” says Dr. Tsui. “In a university, once a degree program is established, it is almost immune to termination ... Today those degree programs continue. That is a return on investment, the gift that keeps on giving.”

Major achievements include:

- Establishment of seven reproductive health centers of excellence at partner academic institutions in six countries.
- Creation of schools of public health at Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia and at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Ghana.
- Development of graduate and doctoral programs focused on reproductive health with Anchor Grant partners in Egypt, Ghana, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Malawi, and Uganda. Over 10 years of institutional support, these programs conferred graduate degrees on more than 1,000 students.

These have been smart investments that have leveraged considerable additional resources. Across six of the Gates Institute partner institutions (KNUST, University of Ghana, University of Ibadan, Obafemi Awolowo University, Addis Ababa University and University of Malawi), by 2015 the return in research dollars had exceeded $2.40 per $1, and today it is even greater. Several partners have developed new partnerships within their universities, their countries, and internationally, indicating the sustainability of their research capacity.
Select Partner University Highlights

1. **Assiut University, Egypt**: With Anchor Grant support, the Department of Public Health and Community Medicine at Assiut University developed a certificate program in reproductive health, a master’s degree program in demography and reproductive health, and a PhD program in reproductive health. Collaboration between the department and the Anchor Grant leveraged additional partnerships and strengthened the department’s relationships with the Ministry of Health, UN organizations, and international NGOs—relationships that have garnered additional funds for research.

2. **Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia**: Anchor Grant support enabled AAU to establish a fully accredited school of public health, which quickly became the number-one school of public health in the country as well as a partner on PMA2020. It also enabled the Department of Community Health at AAU to strengthen its MPH program and launch a PhD program. With the training provided by the Anchor Grant, AAU was able to conduct its own cross-sectional and longitudinal population-based studies, the findings of which informed Ethiopia’s reproductive health policies.

3. **Makerere University, Uganda**: With the Anchor Grant investment, the Makerere University School of Public Health created a Family Health Research and Development Center. Faculty and student research scholarships were awarded in the area of reproductive health with focus on family planning. Makerere University also became a partner in PMA2020.

4. **University of Malawi (College of Medicine), Malawi**: The University of Malawi’s multidisciplinary Population and Reproductive Health Program (PRHP) provided leadership skills to enable graduates to address and solve critical public health problems with the ultimate goal of impacting positively on the reproductive and population health status and development of Nigerians. The growth of PRHP was recognized through international collaborations on training and research. OAU was also a co-host of the 2008 “Investing in Young People’s Health and Development Conference,” the precursor to the ICFP.

5. **Bayero University Kano, Nigeria**: The University of Ibadan was also a co-host of the 2008 “Investing in Young People’s Health and Development Conference,” the precursor to the ICFP. With support from the Gates Institute, the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the Faculty of Public Health, both units in the College of Medicine, reinforced the reproductive health concentration within their MPH and MHS degree programs, so that graduates acquired leadership skills and expertise in the organization and management of reproductive health services, and were directed toward careers in research, program, and policy development. UI became a partner in the Family Health and Wealth Study (FHWS).

7. **Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria**: Through its collaboration with the Gates Institute, OAU’s multidisciplinary Population and Reproductive Health Program (PRHP) provided leadership skills to enable graduates to address and solve critical public health problems with the ultimate goal of impacting positively on the reproductive and population health status and development of Nigerians. The growth of PRHP was recognized through international collaborations on training and research. OAU was also a co-host of the 2008 “Investing in Young People’s Health and Development Conference,” the precursor to the ICFP.

9. **Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana**: Five years after the first Anchor Grant investment, KNUST established a school of public health and offered three full-time, highly competitive MPH/MSc programs. KNUST also received teacher training from JHSPH, ran short courses in family planning for midwives and community health workers, and became more involved in developing community-based health systems. KNUST also gained the skills to participate in the Family Health and Wealth Study (FHWS) and became a partner on PMA2020.

10. **Institut Supérieur des Sciences de la Population, Burkina Faso**: As a result of the capacity built via the Anchor Grant’s investment, ISSP became a leader in the formation and growth of the Ouagadougou Partnership; a partner in the Global Early Adolescent Study (GEAS) in collaboration with the Department of Population, Family and Reproductive Health at JHSPH; as well as the first Francophone West African country to deploy the PMA2020 platform nationally.
The Anchor Grant—a Timeline

2005
- The $40 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to expand the Gates Institute goes into effect. This grant later becomes known as the Anchor Grant.

2008
- Anchor Grant co-organizes youth conference in Abuja, Nigeria, sparking the idea for the International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP).

2009
- First ICFP takes place, in Kampala, Uganda.
- Advance Family Planning is launched.

2011
- Second ICFP takes place, in Dakar, Senegal.
- Anchor Grant co-organizes a side seminar on the demographic dividend at the World Bank annual meeting for ministers of finance and development.
2012
- London Summit on Family Planning is held. As an outcome of the Summit, Family Planning 2020 is launched.

2013
- Third ICFP takes place, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- Youth who attended the 2013 ICFP launch the International Youth Alliance for Family Planning (IYAFP).
- Performance Monitoring and Accountability 2020 (PMA2020) is launched.

2014
- Jose “Oying” Rimon II becomes Director of the Gates Institute, succeeding Amy Tsui.
- Gates Institute celebrates its 15th anniversary.
- Vision + Strategy is published.

2015
- 120 Under 40: The New Generation of Family Planning Leaders is launched.

2016
- Fourth ICFP takes place, in Nusa Dua, Indonesia.
- The Challenge Initiative (TCI) is launched.
- Center for Public Health Advocacy (CPHA) is launched with Gates Institute support.

2017
- Planning begins for the fifth ICFP, in Kigali, Rwanda.
- Second London Summit for Family Planning is held.
Research

The Anchor Grant has promoted and fostered collaborations on high-quality policy-relevant research between partner institutions and Hopkins faculty, students, and staff. Numerous scientific articles have been published by academics trained by our partner universities in developing countries and by Gates Institute-supported faculty. Research to generate new evidence in the fields of family planning, reproductive health, and population dynamics continues to be a core activity.

Key demographic dividend activities of the Anchor Grant have included:

- Partnering with the Population Reference Bureau to create www.demographicdividend.org, an online repository of research and resources on the demographic dividend.
- Assisting the World Bank in organizing a side seminar at the World Bank annual meeting in September 2011 for ministers of finance and development, with keynote presentations delivered by Melinda Gates (Co-chair, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation), Andrew Mitchell (Secretary of State, United Kingdom), Raj Shah (USAID Administrator), and David Bloom (Harvard University).
- Conducting a full-day high-level policymakers’ meeting, nested in the 2011 ICFP in Senegal, on the theme of “realizing the demographic dividend to accelerate economic growth.”
- Organizing a day-long side seminar, The Demographic Dividend for Africa, in March 2013 in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, in partnership with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the African Union Commission, as part of the African Union’s annual conference for ministers of finance, economic development and planning. At the end of the conference, the Ministers called on ECA and the African Union to launch the Demographic Dividend Initiatives across the African continent. Subsequently, the AU declared the theme of 2017 to be “Harnessing the demographic dividend through investments in youth.” This theme has since been extended to the next decade.
- Funding the publication of two books: Africa’s Population: In Search of a Demographic Dividend (2017) by Hans Groth, MBA, of the World Demographic & Ageing Forum and John F. May, PhD, of Population Reference Bureau; and the

The Demographic Dividend: Making the Case for the Economic Return on Family Planning

The demographic dividend is the accelerated economic growth that can result from improved reproductive health, a rapid decline in fertility and the subsequent shift in age structure and dependency ratios. It constitutes a unique opportunity for many developing countries to benefit from accelerated economic growth as a result of demographic change. Harvard University economists David Bloom and David Canning coined the term, and the Gates Institute has led action to advance the demographic dividend concept and its policy implications through research, convening meetings and advocacy.

“If there was one theme we always paid attention to, it was the demographic dividend, whether it was through women’s labor force participation or family planning or age structure,” says Dr. Tsui. “In the early part of the Gates Institute, we were trying to build the evidence base for health consequences of better childbearing patterns. But later, we needed to make the case for the economic return on family planning to secure more government interest and support.”
Supported by the Anchor Grant, demographic dividend research by top economists at Harvard University projected an increase in Kenya, Nigeria, and Senegal of up to 13% in per capita income if one-third of the unmet need for family planning is met, and an increase of up to 65% in per capita income by 2030 if all need for family planning is met. By 2050, these increases rise as high as 22% and 87% respectively. (Bloom, Humair, Rosenberg, Sevilla, & Trussell, 2013)
The Anchor Grant, in partnership with the Packard Foundation, created a major report, *Making the Case for U.S. International Family Planning Assistance*, which was released in early 2009 at the beginning of the Obama administration. For the report, the Anchor Grant convened five former directors of the Office of Population and Reproductive Health of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), who called for renewed U.S. political and financial commitment to international family planning programs, recommending that funding for USAID’s international family planning assistance increase to $1.2 billion in FY 2010 (from $457 million in 2008) and to $1.5 billion by 2014. About 3,000 copies were distributed, a number of presentations were given, press coverage was generated, and the Wilson Center in Washington, DC, launched the report with a panel discussion featuring three of the five co-authors. Many in the family planning community felt that it reinvigorated the field; the first ICFP took place the year after.

One of those papers was “Maternal deaths averted by contraceptive use: an analysis of 172 countries,” a particularly influential and much-cited article. Authored by Gates Institute-affiliated faculty Saifuddin Ahmed, PhD; Qingfeng Li, PhD; Li Liu, PhD; and Amy Tsui, PhD, the paper articulated the importance of family planning to reducing maternal mortality and morbidity: “We estimate ... that 342,203 women died of maternal causes in 2008, but that contraceptive use averted 272,040 (uncertainty interval 127,937–407,134) maternal deaths (44% reduction), so without contraceptive use, the number of maternal deaths would have been 1.8 times higher than the 2008 total. Satisfying unmet need for contraception could prevent another 104,000 maternal deaths per year (29% reduction).”

**Family Health and Wealth Study**

The FHWS was a multi-site, longitudinal, population-based study funded by the Anchor Grant and implemented by local collaborating institutions in six African countries—Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Nigeria, and Uganda—and two Asian countries—China and India. Between 2009 and 2013 the FHWS investigated the link between family size and poverty, among other variables. Its main hypothesis was that family size (timing and number of children) influences family health and wealth. Various studies found that family size influenced mothers’ employment, earnings, health—including use of contraception—and the quality of relationships with their partners. As a Hopkins faculty member described it, “This study has brought the partners together... for a study [with] value and for strengthening the partners’ research capacity.”

A number of publications have analyzed the FHWS data and can be found at [www.gatesinstitute.org/search/publications](http://www.gatesinstitute.org/search/publications).

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**Research Highlight: Maternal Deaths Averted by Contraceptive Use**

Gates Institute researchers contributed two papers to *The Lancet*’s 2012 special issue on family planning. This series reviewed the evidence for the effects of population and family planning on people’s well-being and the environment. It appeared the day before the start of the London Summit on Family Planning on July 11, 2012.

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**Research to Inform Policy**

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Activities

The Anchor Grant runs several major activities that have grown to have global reach and impact. The major Gates Institute projects are participants in and supporters of these activities, which are also complementary to their work.

**International Conference on Family Planning**

Capitalizing on the Gates Institute’s convening power and global network of partners, the Anchor Grant organizes the International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP).

The ICFP evolved out of an international conference called “Investing in Young People’s Health and Development: Research that Improves Policies and Programs,” which was held in April 2008 in Abuja, Nigeria, and was organized by the Anchor Grant and partners—the Center for Population and Reproductive Health at the University of Ibadan and the Department of Community Health at Obafemi Awolowo University.

After the 2008 conference, all recognized the need for a conference focused on family planning and reproductive health and the value of holding such a conference in Africa to ensure African researchers had the opportunity to present their work. In 2009 the Gates Institute organized the first ICFP in Kampala, Uganda, which sparked positive change for family planning policies in Uganda and beyond. The head of the African office of Partners in Population and Development (PPD) characterized this first ICFP as a “catalytic event because of the interest it sparked in family planning and the way that interest has persisted.”

Since then, the ICFP has grown significantly in size and impact (see table); held every other year, it is now considered a strategic inflection point for the family planning community. The Gates Institute continues to serve as its lead organizer, in partnership with each conference’s host country. As the largest scientific conference dedicated to family planning, the ICFP brings together researchers, advocates, program implementers, policymakers, heads of state, youth, members of the media, and donors to share best practices and research on family planning. It also serves as an international platform from which countries, organizations and individuals can make public commitments to family planning, and can be recognized for their achievements. It is supported by the Core Organizing Group of major foundations, bilateral and multilateral organizations, and NGOs; an International Steering Committee of more than 50 partner organizations; and a National Steering Committee. After each ICFP, a special journal supplement of selected research has been published.

Two years before the 2020 deadline for the Family Planning 2020 (FP2020) partnership’s goal, the ICFP is playing an even larger role in the family planning community. The fifth ICFP will take place in November 2018 in Kigali, Rwanda, and will focus on family planning’s returns on investment, in terms of the environment, employment, education, and economic growth. The Gates Institute is planning the 2018 ICFP with an eye on the

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Number of participants</th>
<th>Theme</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Kampala, Uganda</td>
<td>1,372</td>
<td>Research and Best Practices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Dakar, Senegal</td>
<td>2,207</td>
<td>Research and Best Practices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Addis Ababa, Ethiopia</td>
<td>3,400</td>
<td>Full Access, Full Choice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016*</td>
<td>Nusa Dua, Indonesia</td>
<td>3,200</td>
<td>Global Commitments, Local Actions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Kigali, Rwanda</td>
<td>3,500 projected</td>
<td>Investing for a Lifetime of Returns</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The 2015 ICFP had to be rescheduled to 2016 due to volcanic eruptions near Nusa Dua, Indonesia.

According to Gates Institute Director Jose “Oying” Rimon, the first ICFP seeded the momentum for the 2012 London Summit on Family Planning. A respondent in the 2016 ICFP evaluation echoed this link: “These conferences keep the momentum going. The London Summit is the wedding; what matters is the marriage. We make these pledges, but can we sustain the marriage?”
2020 ICFP as well, incorporating plans for continued engagement between conferences to help sustain momentum toward the FP2020 goal and the 2030 goal of universal access to family planning.

The ICFP illustrates how the Gates Institute has been “a good place to invest, because we multiply the investment,” says Rimon. For example, the funding invested in the 2016 ICFP by the Gates Foundation was effectively leveraged at 1:4.7. In other words, for every $1 provided by Gates Foundation for the conference, the Gates Institute was able to raise $4.70 from other sources.

The 2016 ICFP garnered media recognition around the world, generating over 375 original publications and—thanks in part to a #ICFP tweet by Bill Gates—reaching nearly 27 million unique accounts on social media over 291 million times. As of February 2016, 40,000 Tweets tagged #ICFP had been generated, and there were 8,500 unique contributors to the conversation.
International Youth Alliance for Family Planning

The Anchor Grant is the main steward and supporter of the International Youth Alliance for Family Planning (IYAFP). Truly a youth-initiated and youth-led movement, IYAFP provides funding, trainings, and access to partners and a like-minded community of young people, all designed to enable youth to lead positive change on sexual and reproductive health in their communities and countries. As of the end of 2017, the organization supported more than 50 country coordinators, and boasted membership of 1,200 youth all over the world.

IYAFP formed out of the 2013 International Conference on Family Planning. As one organizer of youth activities at the 2013 ICFP put it, “It was all about the conference. To bring together youth from 50 countries to meet in person—I think you need something like ICFP to make that happen. They are so passionate in their own country, but then they come here and feel like they’re part of a movement. We helped create a space for them to raise their voices.”

120 Under 40: The New Generation of Family Planning Leaders

In 2015 the Anchor Grant launched 120 Under 40, a five-year project to highlight young family planning champions worldwide. The initiative responds to the need to identify up-and-coming young leaders who will drive the field forward.

Each project year (2016, 2017, and 2019), 120 Under 40 accepts nominations of outstanding individuals, 40 years old and younger, in family planning; nominations can be submitted by anyone familiar with the nominee’s work. All nominees that meet the criteria are featured on 120under40.org. A review board of established leaders in family planning and the public choose 40 winners each year, so that by 2020 a roster of 120 outstanding young leaders will have been assembled.

Winners come from many parts of the world. They work in medical settings, in newsrooms, and in universities and research organizations to advance family planning and reproductive health. A small representative group of winners attends a week of special training and celebrations in the United States each September. That week culminates in a reception and awards event that has included such high-profile family planning leaders as Christopher Elias of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Natalia Kanem, who was named Executive Director of UNFPA shortly after the celebrations in 2017.

120 Under 40 is sponsored by Bayer and is a member of Bayer’s World Contraception Day partner coalition, which seeks to draw attention to young people’s need for access to contraceptive information and supplies. The Anchor Grant funds the $1,000 award given to each of the winners to help them continue their work or start innovative new projects.
In 2017 the world’s youth population (ages 15–24) was 1.2 billion, or 16% of the world’s total population. Prioritizing youth access to family planning and engaging young leaders in family planning is critical to making progress toward the FP2020 goal of enabling 120 million more women and girls to access contraceptives by 2020.
A representative group of the 2017 winners of 120 Under 40 visited the U.S. Capitol as part of the 120 Under 40 Celebrations in September 2017.
Profile: 2017 120 Under 40 Winner Mbencho Andrew Millan

Andrew Millan is a medical doctor and a passionate advocate for sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) for young people in his country, Cameroon. He now serves as the Executive Director of Youth Health International, which he co-founded, and heads the family planning unit of SAA District Hospital. Andrew completed his medical degree in Cameroon in 2015. In 2016 he used an FP2020 Rapid Response Mechanism grant to provide sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) education to 120,000 adolescent students in 35 schools in Cameroon, and he organized the first stakeholders/policymakers’ regional advocacy seminar on the SRHR of adolescents, which resulted in the signing of the Bamenda Declaration seeking to improve adolescent SRHR.

Asked what sparked his passion for family planning, Andrew explains, “Seven years ago while I was a medical student, I met a very young girl at the age of 12 in the postpartum ward, her eyes filled with tears and her baby lying helpless with no one to pay her bills. She was rejected by her family, dropped out of school, and was left alone. As I talked with her, I heard words of frustration and regrets. I realized how the future of this young girl and the society will be affected by unwanted pregnancies, and I began to advocate endlessly for family planning services.”

Profile: 2016 120 Under 40 Winner Margaret Bolaji

Margaret Bolaji, a youth activist for girls’ health and rights in Northern Nigeria, now works at the Nigerian Urban Reproductive Health Initiative (NURHI) as Youth Program Advisor. Previously, she was a research associate at the Population and Reproductive Health Initiative at the Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital in Kaduna State, Nigeria. She is vice president of the UNFPA Youth Advisory Group and, through 2017, the youth seat representative on FP2020’s Reference Group. In 2016 she was the youth speaker at the 2016 ICFP opening ceremony.

When asked what sparked her passion for family planning, Margaret responds, “My profound interest in working with marginalized adolescent girls has led me to work with adolescent girls in rural community for over four years. In these communities I meet with girls who live out the nightmares and consequences of early marriages every day. Because SRHR are not supported and upheld, I see women and girls neglected, frustrated and losing their lives needlessly. This is unacceptable and the reason I have decided to join others to stop it. Family planning services save lives.”
Family Planning Voices Installation

The Gates Institute is a lead partner on the Family Planning Voices (FP Voices) Installation, an interactive space that captures images and stories about the power of family planning. The FP Voices Installation is supported by the Anchor Grant as well as the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

To develop the installation, the Anchor Grant partnered with the Knowledge for Health project at Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs (CCP) and FP2020’s Family Planning Voices (#FPVoices) digital storytelling initiative, which documents, through photography and interviews, the stories of people working to improve access to family planning around the world. Visitors to the interactive installation choose from a selection of prompts, share their responses, take photos and publish their thoughts instantly using the #FPVoices hashtag.

The installation was first displayed at the fourth ICFP in January 2016 in Nusa Dua, Indonesia, and subsequently at the Women Deliver Conference in Copenhagen in May 2016. The installation has since appeared at several other events, providing a fun and interactive platform for thousands of members of the family planning community to express themselves.

Center for Public Health Advocacy

The Anchor Grant and AFP supported the creation of the Center for Public Health Advocacy (CPHA), launched in December 2016. Gates Institute Director Rimon and AFP Executive Director Beth Fredrick serve as co-directors of the Center. CPHA draws on the advocacy experience and expertise of the Gates Institute and other JHSPH faculty. It seeks to facilitate innovation in advocacy research, teaching and practice; to connect leaders across public health disciplines; and to develop future public health professionals who are as skilled in advocacy as they are in science and public health practice.

CPHA administers the Certificate in Public Health Advocacy, open to graduate students at JHSPH and Johns Hopkins University, as well as to non-degree-seeking students from outside the university. The Center has also hosted two major advocacy-focused speaking events, and has developed two teaching case studies focused on real-life public health issues; one case study focuses on family planning funding in the lead-up to the 2012 London Summit on Family Planning.
Projects

Through the support of the Anchor Grant, the Gates Institute has become the home of three major innovative projects—Advance Family Planning, Performance Monitoring and Accountability 2020 (PMA2020), and The Challenge Initiative (TCI)—that have made measurable and significant impact for family planning.

Advance Family Planning: Scaling Up SMART Advocacy

The advocacy initiative Advance Family Planning (AFP) is a constellation of more than 20 partner organizations working in 10 focus countries to advocate for the financial investment and political commitment to ensure access to quality family planning. Since its inception in 2009, AFP has achieved more than 860 advocacy wins and, since 2012, has mobilized $44 million in funding for family planning.

AFP engages government officials, civil society members, health care providers, religious and business leaders, and others to act on their country’s FP2020 commitments. Resulting accomplishments are:

- **Increased budgets:** More national and subnational governments and private companies are making and increasing financial commitments to family planning information, services and supplies. In 2016–2017 alone, AFP’s advocacy led to more than $18.1 million in funding for family planning information, services and supplies.

- **Improved policies:** AFP advocates for policies that better meet the needs of more people and implementation of existing policies. These policies include increasing the quality of family planning services, particularly for young people and postpartum women; facilitating availability of a wider range of contraceptive methods; expanding the types of health workers who can provide contraceptives; improving accountability mechanisms; and revising family planning curricula and training. In 2017 alone 160 of AFP’s family planning policy wins improved access to contraceptive information, services, and supplies.

- **Greater visibility for family planning:** In many countries it is not enough for presidents or prime ministers to make national commitments to family planning. AFP works at every level, from capitals to communities, and enables more local decision-makers...
Since 2012, AFP has mobilized $44 million in funding for family planning.

to take action. Through direct advocacy and diffusion efforts, AFP’s presence and influence increased from 239 subnational geographies in 2015 to 367 by 2017. As a result, AFP’s reach to potential beneficiaries quadrupled, from 22.2 million women of reproductive age to 85.7 million.

But AFP’s impact goes beyond this. AFP has developed and trained a corps of more than 260 individuals and 26 organizations who are now able to develop and implement effective advocacy strategies using AFP’s SMART approach. This expansion was done through partners, the Opportunity Fund (see below), and diffusion workshops.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation support AFP.

**SMALL GRANTS FOR STRATEGIC ADVOCACY**

The **Opportunity Fund** provides small grants to civil society organizations to seize advocacy tipping points. Established in 2013 and managed by Population Action International, the Opportunity Fund is now critical for AFP to expand into new geographies, deepen efforts in focus countries, take risks on new objectives, leverage additional funding for advocacy, and improve the capacity of local advocates to lead family planning advocacy efforts in their communities. To date, the Opportunity Fund has awarded 68 small grants, totaling $2.8 million. Forty-one Opportunity Fund grants have resulted in family planning allocations totaling $6.8 million.

**AFP mobilized US $44 million** in funding for family planning since 2012

**Confirmed as of November 2017, and includes focus countries only.**
Effective advocacy requires evidence. **Performance Monitoring and Accountability 2020 (PMA2020)** provides frequent, fast, and country-owned data for policy making and programming. PMA2020 is a five-year initiative that uses an innovative mobile device-assisted data collection system to track and evaluate contraceptive use and other health indicators at household and facility levels in 11 pledging FP2020 countries.

PMA2020 was launched in Ghana in 2013 with the support of the Anchor Grant. As of December 2017, it has conducted 44 biannual or annual survey rounds in the 11 countries. PMA2020 has trained over 2,500 local women to be resident enumerators (REs) to collect the data. Côte d’Ivoire is the latest country to establish a PMA2020 platform and the first to participate in co-financing.

Some interesting data from PMA2020 surveys:

- **Burkina Faso** is the only country among PMA2020’s 11 focus countries where implants are the most commonly used modern contraceptive method, used by 44.5% of married women and 41.9% of all women of reproductive age.

- Recent PMA2020 surveys in seven states of **Nigeria** show that, after years of stagnant contraceptive prevalence, extensive programming efforts are paying off: modern method prevalence among married women was 16.7% in 2017, which is a significant increase from the baseline of 9.8% in 2013 (DHS Nigeria 2013).

- **Sayana Press**, the subcutaneous contraceptive injection, was rolled out in **Uganda** in March 2015. Only two years later, it is already used by 6.4% of married women who use contraceptives.

PMA2020 immediately benefited from being part of the Gates Institute: “The roots that we put down in some places, like the investments in Ghana, Ethiopia, Uganda, had another return. When PMA2020 began, the project could work with those places right away. They knew they could have these partners become the implementing partners for the survey,” explains former Director Dr. Tsui, now Senior Technical Advisor at PMA2020.

And the benefits go in multiple directions. AFP has developed stronger linkages with PMA2020’s data, which inform and assist AFP’s advocacy efforts. The Challenge Initiative (TCI) has committed to collaborating with PMA2020 to use its data for program monitoring in Uganda.

PMA2020 has gone beyond family planning to include modules on maternal, newborn and child health; nutrition; water and sanitation; primary health care; menstrual hygiene management; and other areas, showing the widespread interest in this type of data collection.
The Challenge Initiative: Addressing the Global Urban Challenge

The newest project at the Gates Institute is The Challenge Initiative (TCI), launched in 2016. TCI offers a “business unusual” approach to improving reproductive health and family planning services in urban slums. This work is critical: Currently, more than half of the world’s population lives in cities, and this will increase to 70% by 2050.

TCI is a model of using evidence to make change, building on the Urban Reproductive Health Initiative (URHI), a Gates Foundation-supported effort in Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, and India. URHI demonstrated that significant progress in family planning system strengthening and adoption can be achieved with thoughtful investments and careful programming of advocacy, demand generation, service delivery, and supply-chain activities tailored to each location’s particular circumstances. Overall, URHI activities increased the modern contraceptive prevalence rate by 2 to 3.5 percentage points per year, with even more substantial increases for poor women of 2.2 to 4.7 percentage points per year.

A strategic shift away from conventional model of development programming, TCI is demand-driven: Local governments self-select to participate and demonstrate political commitment by bringing their own financial, material, and human resources to the project. In return, TCI provides technical expertise as well as support from its Challenge Fund. TCI leverages funding support from other sources too, such as bilateral and multilateral donors as well as foundations and the private sector. TCI works through its implementing partners in East Africa (Jhpiego), Francophone West Africa (IntraHealth International), India (Population Services International), and Nigeria (Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs).

Since its launch in 2016, TCI has received more than 104 expressions of interest and has so far approved 26 program designs. As of the end of 2017, more than two dozen urban areas were implementing activities.

How is TCI business unusual?

- **It is demand-driven and city-led:** Cities choose to participate and run their programs with support from the Initiative.
- **It provides access to a Challenge Fund:** A highly leveraged investment platform enables donors to support effective urban programs.
- **It encourages an entrepreneurial approach:** Regional accelerator hubs operate on lean funding and build cost-efficient and cost-effective programming.
- **It includes TCI University:** This online learning platform offers orientation and practical support, including program tools, training sessions, technical coaching, and continuous learning through a community of practice.
- **It is built on a visionary financing framework:** The Initiative’s technical assistance and development financing models a novel approach that can be used in other sectors.
Ensuring Synergy Among the Major Projects

The Anchor Grant works to ensure synergy among the Gates Institute’s major projects. Collaboration in the field magnifies the impact, effectiveness, and efficiency of these activities. Recent examples include the following:

- Where PMA2020 data are available in AFP geographies (Democratic Republic of the Congo, India, Kenya, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, and Uganda), AFP partners have consulted with PMA2020 on their data needs as advocates and used PMA2020 as a data source for monitoring the impact of their advocacy wins. For example, PMA2020 data was used in Nigeria in the advocacy efforts to make family planning services in Yaba Suburb completely free. Another example is when PMA2020 data was used to mobilize resources for IUD services training in Kitui county, Kenya.

- In Kenya AFP and PMA2020’s joint advocacy meeting with the Kitui County Minister of Health resulted in an action plan to address the inability of 38% of facilities to offer IUDs, as indicated by PMA2020 survey results. This plan led to the commitment by the county government to train providers on IUD insertion.

- In Burkina Faso TCI will work in two communes that overlap with AFP and follow up on financial commitments made by mayors.

As Scott Radloff, PhD, Director of PMA2020, puts it, “PMA2020 is closely intertwined with the Anchor Grant, AFP, and TCI. In designing PMA2020, we were able to draw upon the partner organizations that had received training and institutional support provided up to 10 years earlier through the Anchor Grant. We have a number of overlapping countries with AFP, and AFP partners have been natural users of the PMA2020 data for advocacy purposes. In 2017 the Gates Foundation awarded a separate grant, PMA Agile, that builds upon the PMA2020 methodology and partner network to monitor TCI progress across several urban geographies.”

Gates Institute Director Rimon explains that the Gates Institute’s approach is innovative and collaborative by design: “You see the synergy among the projects. Leaders are not just leaders of their projects; they are leaders for the Gates Institute. They and their staff also have a role in the organization beyond being the directors of the projects. They have the ability to be entrepreneurial and to think bigger than their projects—to think like positive disruptors of business-as-usual practices. This helps to strengthen our collective ties and multiply our combined efforts.”
“Even in these challenging times, I still believe we can change the world with family planning.”

— Gates Institute Director Jose “Oying” Rimon
Conclusion

As we look back at the 12-year the Anchor Grant, it is clear that, through the Anchor Grant, the Gates Institute has contributed significantly to the revitalization and sustainability of family planning on the global level. The Gates Institute is now firmly established as an entity with global influence and impact, through our groundbreaking research, targeted policy and advocacy work, emphasis on youth, convening power, innovations in urban reproductive health and performance monitoring, and ability to translate evidence into policies, programs and practice. The Gates Institute’s work has important implications in today’s global landscape, as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are being pursued and we are just a few years away from the Family Planning 2020 initiative’s goal of enabling 120 million additional women to access contraception by 2020 and, a few years beyond, Sustainable Development Goal 3.7 of ensuring universal access to family planning by 2030.

Going forward, the Anchor Grant will continue to make “positive disruptions” in family planning and reproductive health for individuals, communities, and countries worldwide. As Director Rimon wrote in his December 2017 Director’s Message, “We know that investments in family planning reap tremendous rewards, in terms of education and empowerment, economic growth, family welfare and environmental health. We look toward a future when people around the world will see family planning’s great benefits realized in their communities and countries. Even in these challenging times, I still believe we can change the world with family planning.”
Thank you to all the Gates Institute’s donors and partners who helped leverage the activities of the Anchor Grant with your additional contributions and support.

Abt
Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia
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African Population and Health Research Center
African Union
Amplify Change
ARROW
Assiut University, Egypt
Avenir Health
AWLN
Bayer
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BKKBN, Indonesia
Canada
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Champions for Change
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