



this holiday season,
BRING GOOD CHEER TO
**WOMEN
COUPLES &
COMMUNITIES**
INVOLVED IN
EXPANDING
family planning
CHOICE!

December 2012

Continuing to engage men as equal partners in family planning



Regardless of culture, class or country, family planning has traditionally been viewed as the woman's responsibility.

Furthermore, men are often seen as a barrier to family planning use. In some settings, men must give permission before their wives can receive a method, and some men refuse family planning simply because of misinformation about its effects on the health of the woman. To address this challenge, efforts are underway to develop new contraceptive technologies that can be used by women privately and others that are meant for use by men. At the same time, we must continue to address the social and cultural barriers to acceptance by involving men in family planning awareness and use.

Integrating the Standard Days Method® (SDM) into family planning programs provides an opportunity to test innovative strategies to engage men in family planning. The World Health & Population Journal recently published the article, "[Engaging Men in](#)

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RECENT EVENTS

TwoDay Method Consultation



On Friday, November 30, IRH held a technical consultation on the TwoDay Method® of Family Planning with experts in the areas of family planning, contraceptive development, biomedical science, reproductive physiology, gender and service delivery. The objective of this consultation was to prioritize a research agenda for the TwoDay Method, consider its place in family

Family Planning Services Delivery: Experiences [Introducing the Standard Days Method \(SDM\) in Four Countries.](#)" This publication gives particular attention to the role that SDM plays in encouraging cooperation of the male partner through a variety of community-based contexts in El Salvador, Guatemala, Philippines and India. View the full paper [here](#).

Related resources:

- [Building Gender Equity and Promoting Responsible Fatherhood in Family Planning Programs](#)
- [Fertility Awareness-Based Methods and Gender](#)
- [Engaging Men in Family Planning: How? Why?](#)
- [Standard Days Method: Building Gender Equity & Engaging Men in Family Planning](#)

Video features family planning access and expanded choice through microfinance in India

"A Healthy Investment: Linking Family Planning and Microfinance", produced by FHI 360's **PROGRESS Project** in partnership with the Network of Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (NEED), demonstrates how a collaborative project in India is working to improve women's access to family planning. IRH worked with the PROGRESS Project to expand family planning choice at the community level by building the capacity of community health workers to provide the Standard Days Method® with CycleBeads® and the Lactational Amenorrhea Method. Read more information on the innovative tools IRH used to train community health workers in India [here](#).



planning programs, discuss its potential contributions to sexual and reproductive health beyond family planning, and identify potential ways of reaching people outside of the health system, including mobile phone technology. Outcomes of the consultation will be available in early 2013.

M&E of Scale Up Consultation



IRH held a technical consultation on Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of Scale Up on Monday, December 10. Experts in metrics, methods, and scale-up convened to reflect on the theory and practice of M&E of scale-up. Participants articulated in practical terms the gaps in this field and identified opportunities for improvement. IRH will utilize feedback to guide the development of a set of tools and resources that practitioners can draw upon to design good processes for monitoring and evaluating scale-up of innovations in global health. A report summarizing the discussions, and next steps is forthcoming.

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Focus Areas
Projects
Research
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