

Using evidence to expand choice,  
empower women and  
involve communities



## November 2010

Georgetown University's Institute for Reproductive Health (IRH) was recently awarded three new federally funded grants for projects in Mali, Uganda and the United States. IRH will build on 25 years of experience conducting and utilizing evidence-based research to address gaps in reproductive health programs to implement these projects. We are also pleased to announce new partnerships with CARE, CEDPA, Pathfinder International, Save the Children and Golden Valley Health Centers. The projects are as follows:

### Terikunda Jékulu Project, Mali

IRH was awarded a 5-year \$5.75 million grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to identify and implement strategies to increase women's access to and use of family planning in Mali, West Africa. Despite years of reproductive health programming, Mali has one of the lowest family planning use rates in the world, which is directly correlated to unsustainable population growth and high infant and maternal mortality rates. To understand the disconnect between unmet need and demand for reproductive health services, IRH will assess the influence of social networks on attitudes, beliefs, desires, intentions and behaviors regarding fertility and reproductive health. Following an implementation science framework, interventions will be designed and implemented based on formative research findings. The project is titled "*Terikunda Jékulu*," a Bambara phrase meaning friends connecting friends through social networks, and will be implemented in partnership with CARE and CEDPA. For more information, visit the project site [here](#).

### GREAT Project, Northern Uganda

IRH was also awarded a 5-year \$5.5 million grant from USAID titled the "*Gender Roles, Equality and Transformations (GREAT) Project* to

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be implemented in the post-conflict setting of Northern Uganda. After 20 years of civil strife, Northern Uganda is home to a youth population that has been exposed to violence and crisis throughout their lifetimes. To address the unique health needs of this population, the goal of this project is to understand the processes through which social norms and attitudes about gender, reproductive health, and violence are transmitted. Formative research will inform the design and implementation of strategies that promote the formation of gender equitable norms, attitudes and behaviors among adolescents and the significant adults in their lives. IRH is working on this project in partnership with Pathfinder International and Save the Children. For more information, visit the project site [here](#).

### **Systematic Screening Study, California**

IRH was awarded a 3-year, \$600,000 grant from the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Population Affairs titled, Increasing Efficiency and Utilization of Family Planning Services through Systematic Integration. This project will determine whether [Systematic Screening](#), a best practice developed by the Population Council and successfully tested in developing countries, is a feasible and effective in-reach strategy to:

1. increase the use of family planning and sexually transmitted infection (STI) services among Latino women and men and other vulnerable populations by integrating family planning counseling with diabetes care and other services; and
2. increase the efficiency of study clinics by increasing the number of services provided in a single visit.

As this is the first time this innovation is being tested in the U.S., the study provides a unique opportunity for South to North diffusion with the potential of significant health improvements among underserved populations in the U.S. This project will be implemented with the Golden Valley Health Centers (GVHC) of Central California which is piloting Systematic Screening in selected sites. For more information, visit the project site [here](#).

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Sincerely,  
Your colleagues at IRH

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