

The Population Program

THE WILLIAM AND FLORA HEWLETT FOUNDATION

Solving Problems for the Common Good

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ABOUT THE WILLIAM AND FLORA HEWLETT FOUNDATION

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation has been making grants since 1966 to help solve social and environmental problems in the San Francisco Bay Area, across the United States, and around the world.

“Never stifle a generous impulse” was a favorite saying of entrepreneur William R. Hewlett, who established the Hewlett Foundation with his wife, Flora Lamson Hewlett, and their eldest son, Walter B. Hewlett. The Hewlett family’s personal generosity has helped make the Foundation one of the nation’s largest grantmaking institutions, with assets of more than \$9 billion. At the Hewlett Foundation, we have put these assets to work to solve some of the most difficult problems facing people worldwide.

The Foundation has grantmaking programs in education, the environment, global development, performing arts, philanthropy, and population, and makes grants to support disadvantaged communities in the Bay Area. Since its inception, it has made more than \$2.2 billion in grants to thousands of organizations.

ABOUT THE POPULATION PROGRAM

When the Hewletts embarked upon their program of philanthropy, population issues were among the first they considered, with two grants in 1967 to Planned Parenthood Federation of America and the Planned Parenthood Association of San Francisco.

Since that time, the Population Program at The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation has awarded more than \$470 million worldwide. But the mission remains essentially unchanged: to promote voluntary family planning and good reproductive health for all because of the benefits to individuals, societies, and the entire global community. The Program pursues two complementary goals:

- to enhance and protect the reproductive health and rights of individuals and
- to stabilize global populations at levels that promote social and economic well-being and sustain the environment.

Our work includes helping women and their families choose the number and spacing of their children, preventing unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections, and eliminating unsafe abortion. Over the past fifty years, better family planning and reproductive health have improved countless lives in many places, but much work remains to extend their benefits to all. In collaboration with other Foundation programs, the Population Program also supports related work to improve quality education in developing countries.

Today, the Hewlett Foundation’s Population Program focuses its grantmaking in three broad areas:

- International Access to Family Planning and Reproductive Health
- Research, Training, and Advocacy to Create Sound Policy
- Family Planning and Reproductive Health in the United States

With the help of CARE, a Hewlett grantee, this woman from Bangladesh established a health clinic and counseling service in a slum of Dhaka. Such investments in family planning improve the health of women and children, and help families break out of poverty.

PHOTO COURTESY OF
PHIL BORGES / CARE



INTERNATIONAL ACCESS TO FAMILY PLANNING AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

These grants extend good family planning and reproductive health information and services to more women and men throughout the world, with a particular emphasis on those living in profound poverty.

EXPANDING ACCESS TO EXISTING FAMILY PLANNING AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH OPTIONS

More than 100 million women remain without access to family planning, and many times that number don't receive other essential reproductive health services. This is particularly true in the world's poorest region, sub-Saharan Africa, where almost a quarter of women still lack family planning services and information. This urgent need is underscored by an epidemic of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS.

Evidence shows that having an array of contraceptive methods and other reproductive health options increases their use and reduces maternal death rates. Despite their public health benefits, many reproductive health services and family planning options are still not readily available.

To address this, the Program supports work to improve quality of care, increase the breadth of services and outreach, improve laws and policies by basing them on sound science, and advance research on how to encourage people to seek good health care and to design programs that provide it.

INCORPORATING FAMILY PLANNING AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES INTO HIV/AIDS PROGRAMS

Unsafe sex is the cause of both unintended pregnancies and exposure to sexually transmitted diseases, yet efforts to combat these two problems are poorly coordinated.

The Foundation supports efforts that link reproductive health and HIV/AIDS programs: research, demonstration projects, and gatherings of technical experts and policymakers that stimulate new solutions. Our grantmaking emphasizes primary HIV/AIDS prevention and helping women with HIV/AIDS meet their reproductive health needs.

In sub-Saharan Africa, almost a quarter of women lack access to family planning.

PHOTO COURTESY OF AMI VITALE / CARE



RESEARCH, TRAINING, AND ADVOCACY TO CREATE SOUND POLICY

This part of the Program helps international development leaders understand that family planning and reproductive health investments improve the social and economic well-being of people in developing countries. A priority is to produce and publicize trustworthy, timely, and relevant analyses of reproductive health and development issues that have application in the real world. This evidence helps inform development and reproductive health policies and the allocation of resources to improve people's lives. Support is also provided to train the next generation of population scientists, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa.

This part of the Program has four components:

EXPLORING HOW FAMILY PLANNING AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AFFECT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Foundation makes grants to increase understanding of how reproductive health and demographic trends affect poverty and rates of economic growth. The Program supports economic research in developing and developed countries, with an emphasis on disseminating findings to policymakers, development researchers, and to multilateral development agencies and other donors.

UNDERSTANDING FERTILITY AND OTHER POPULATION TRENDS AND THEIR IMPACT

Despite falling fertility rates in many parts of the world, the job of helping people have the number of children they want when they want them is not yet done. Focusing the attention of policymakers and the public on the impact of population trends remains crucial. To that end, the Foundation supports research to understand the forces driving demographic trends such as changing fertility rates and reproductive health outcomes, the impact of HIV/AIDS, and the disparity in reproductive health between the rich and the poor within countries, particularly as they reflect inequitable access to services.

TRAINING AFRICA'S NEXT GENERATION OF POPULATION SCIENTISTS

Training the next generation of population experts in Africa is crucial—particularly in the sub-Saharan region—to reducing reliance on professionals from other countries to inform development policies and programs. The Foundation makes grants to strengthen key population-science training programs in Africa. The goal is to increase both the number and quality of master's and doctoral graduates. Funds support fellowships, dissertation research, curriculum development,

and faculty exchanges in Africa and in developed countries, as well as the professional organizations that support population science in Africa and around the world.

SHARING THE RESULTS OF RESEARCH

An important part of our grantees' work is to communicate the results of research and to advocate that countries adopt policies and programs that are based on evidence. We support organizations throughout the world that disseminate research and advocate for effective policy and adequate funding to improve reproductive health and development outcomes, and the quality of people's lives.

Professor Clifford Odimegwu of Wits University teaches the next generation of South African demographers.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND



The Program recently launched an exploratory initiative:

IMPROVING ACCESS AND USE OF DEMOGRAPHIC AND RELATED DATA FOR DEVELOPMENT

Solving the problem of poverty in sub-Saharan Africa is one of our most enduring development challenges. One particular problem is the lack of accessible demographic and economic data that could help policy makers determine how to best allocate scarce resources and assess whether their interventions are actually making a difference.

Despite worldwide efforts to improve statistical data, many challenges persist, particularly in much of sub-Saharan Africa. The Hewlett Foundation has begun an exploratory grantmaking effort to make demographic and economic data more accessible to researchers, and to ensure that the information is effectively used by policy makers throughout the continent and globally.

Our long term goal is to provide policymakers with essential analyses and expand knowledge about the lives of poor people in sub-Saharan Africa, especially the urban poor, and the best ways to improve their well-being. To do this we will partner with ongoing efforts to expand data access and use, examine the role of promising technologies, and capitalize on the insights from country-level case studies to strengthen both national and regional data efforts.

The Foundation supports Planned Parenthood Mar Monte's Teen Success program, which helps teen mothers complete school and avoid a second teen pregnancy.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PLANNED PARENTHOOD MAR MONTE



FAMILY PLANNING AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH IN THE UNITED STATES

The Foundation makes grants to organizations working to improve family planning and reproductive health and to protect the reproductive rights of Americans. Building on the Hewlett Foundation's long-standing commitment to support the local community, we also make grants to support family planning and reproductive health services in disadvantaged communities in the San Francisco Bay Area and California's Central Valley.

ADVANCING POLICIES AND PROGRAMS THAT ENHANCE FAMILY PLANNING AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH IN THE UNITED STATES

Rates of abortion, sexually transmitted infections, and teen pregnancy in the United States are among the highest of all industrialized countries. Almost half the 6.3 million pregnancies in the United States each year are

unintended. The burden of poor reproductive health falls particularly hard on teens, those with low incomes, and women of color.

The Foundation makes grants to organizations working to promote the reproductive health of Americans, to support their full access to services and education, and to assure that they are able to exercise their rights. Particular emphasis is placed on grants that reach America's increasingly diverse population. In addition, the Foundation supports statewide organizations in California that advocate for supportive reproductive health policies.

In early 2007, the Hewlett Foundation launched a ten-year initiative to dramatically reduce unplanned pregnancy in the United States. By reducing unplanned pregnancies, child and family well-being will improve; there will be less poverty, lower public sector costs, and far fewer abortions. This initiative will focus particular effort on reaching young adults in their twenties, as they have the majority of unplanned pregnancies.

EXPANDING FAMILY PLANNING AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH EDUCATION AND SERVICES TO VULNERABLE POPULATIONS IN CALIFORNIA

Despite California's traditional support of good family planning and reproductive health—and the resulting decline in teen birth rates—rates of unintended pregnancy remain at levels that would be considered a crisis in many developed countries.

The Foundation makes grants to organizations that advocate for or provide family planning and reproductive health education and services to the state's most hard-to-reach and vulnerable populations, especially low-income youth. It also supports research and analysis of the most effective interventions and programs.

The Population Program does not accept unsolicited proposals.

Education. Environment. Global Development.
Performing Arts. Philanthropy. **Population.**
Serving disadvantaged communities in the Bay Area.

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