


**DRAFT**

**Interactions between Family Planning,  
Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare,  
Women's Empowerment  
and the  
Millennium Development Goals  
(MDGs)**

Targets	Reproductive Health Care	Women's Empowerment	Lillian's Story
The MDG targets	Family planning and S&RH interactions	The broader role of women in achieving the MDGs	Related personal stories* 

\* Once the interactions between women's Sexual and Reproductive Health and the MDGs have been identified, Face to Face will use real life, personal stories to illustrate the connections and propose interventions

## Goal 1 Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

1.2 billion people live on less than \$1 a day

800 million people are undernourished

153 million children under age 5 are underweight

In Sub-Saharan Africa half the population lives in poverty

Targets	Reproductive Healthcare	Women's Empowerment	Lillian's Story
<p><b>Target 1:</b> Halve, between 1990 and 2015 the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family planning and/or choice reduces the number of unwanted pregnancies:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- this lessens the financial burden on the family</li> <li>- improves income distribution per family member</li> <li>- in the longer term, children are better able to support themselves through education and training</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased negotiating power over family size allows further control of household:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- helps to prevent gender prioritisation in terms of education and opportunity</li> <li>- traditional role of women is 'expanded' to include work, education and opportunity.</li> <li>- smaller families mean a higher female labor force, and therefore more income as both men and women work</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><i>On the death of her husband and the means to survive.</i></p> <p>"I knew my in-laws wouldn't take care of her[Lillian's daughter], and my own mother, a widow too, and my sisters were dependent on me as it was."</p>
<p><b>Target 2:</b> Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family planning and choice reduces the number of unwanted pregnancies:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- more food to go round means better nourished children</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased negotiating power over family size allows further control of household:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- more food to go round means better nourished children</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

## Goal 2 - Achieve universal primary education

114 million children of primary age are not enrolled at school

63 million primary age girls are not enrolled at school

Targets	Reproductive Healthcare	Women's Empowerment	Lillian's Story
<p><b>Target 3:</b> Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Girls who have access to contraceptives are less likely than those who do not to become pregnant and drop out of school</li> <li>• Spacing of children increases chances that all will be educated</li> <li>• Effective education requires good family healthcare</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Empowerment of women starts with girls (i.e., at a young age)</li> <li>• Most empowered women want (and work toward) all children to attend school</li> </ul>	<p><i>On the difficulty and necessity of receiving an education.</i></p> <p>"I started paying for my own tuition from my tenth year. I hauled water and worked in the fields...I used the [pocket] money [from a nun and a priest] to pay for tuition for my younger siblings."</p> <p>"Neither girls nor boys went to school"</p> <p>"I realized the only way out for me was an education"</p> <p>"Boys are still considered more worthy than girls. In my village, boys are still much more likely to get an education than girls."</p>

## Goal 3 – Promote gender equality and empower women

Two-thirds of the world's illiterates are women

63 million primary age girls are not enrolled at school

In only 9 countries are 1 in 3 or more seats in parliament held by women

Targets	Reproductive Healthcare	Women's Empowerment	Lillian's Story
<p><b>Target 4:</b> Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005 and to all levels of education no later than 2015</p> <p><i>Note:</i> <i>Objectives are actually broader than education as indicated by the indicators for monitoring progress:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- increase of women employed in non-agricultural sector</li> <li>- increase of women in national parliament</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Girls who have access to contraceptives are less likely than those who do not to become pregnant and drop out of school</li> <li>• Spacing of children increases chances that all will be educated</li> <li>• Effective education requires good family healthcare</li> <li>• Control over her reproductive health is the beginning of control over the rest of a woman's life</li> <li>• Later marriage leads to increased educational opportunities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to/higher education leads to broader employment and political opportunities</li> <li>• Through primary education – opportunities for future generations ensure further gender equality</li> </ul>	<p><i>On how women's empowerment needs to happen.</i></p> <p>"The women...work very hard from morning to night, but they will never get any real power here. African men will never allow it. Never!" [Danish Consultant]</p> <p>"Women are powerless in our culture. They can't own property, all inheritance goes to the men. Women live at the mercy of the men in their lives."</p> <p>"My mom worked incredibly hard every day, but we didn't have enough land for her labor to pay off."</p> <p>"It was quite common for the men in the village to beat up their wives"</p> <p>"If we women make good it'll change the political, economical and social structure of our society completely"</p> <p>"I want to live my life as I please – not according to some man's needs and desires. I want to be free."</p>

## Goal 4 – Reduce child mortality

11 million young children  
die each year, over 1200  
every hour

Targets	Reproductive Healthcare	Women’s Empowerment	Lillian’s Story
<p><b>Target 5:</b> Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to family planning and sexual and reproductive healthcare helps:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- prevent pregnancy complications</li> <li>- address complications that do arise</li> <li>- prevent unwanted pregnancies</li> <li>- prevent HIV/AIDS infection of youth</li> <li>- reduce the number of mother-child infections</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>resulting in fewer orphans and fewer infant deaths</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A woman’s ability to make informed decisions regarding reproductive health improves the well-being of the child as well as the mother</li> </ul>	<p>“It is estimated that a shocking 1.7 million of Uganda’s children have been orphaned by AIDS.”</p> <p>“They tell me she [a two-year old] is recently orphaned and dependent on the goodwill of the women in the village”</p> <p>“Statistically we know that a child whose mother dies before it turns five has a significantly lower chance of making it into adulthood than children whose mothers are alive on their fifth birthday”</p> <p>[Hanne-Vibeke Holst]</p>

## Goal 5 – Improve maternal health

500,000 women die in pregnancy or child-birth each year, one every minute

Over her lifetime a Sub-Saharan woman faces a 1-in-16 chance of dying in childbirth

In developed countries the risk is 1-in-2800

<b>Targets</b>	<b>Reproductive Healthcare</b>	<b>Women's Empowerment</b>	<b>Lillian's Story</b>
<p><b>Target 6:</b> Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to family planning and sexual and reproductive healthcare helps:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- prevent pregnancy complications that lead to death</li> <li>- address complications that do arise</li> <li>- increase number of births attended by skilled health personnel</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to make informed decisions regarding reproductive health improves the well-being of the mother...for example:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- spacing child births lowers incidence of complications</li> <li>- not having babies at too young or old an age decreases maternal mortality</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

## Goal 6 – Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

42 million people are living with HIV/AIDS

19.2 million women are living with HIV/AIDS

29.4 million people living with HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa

17 million women living with HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa

Targets	Reproductive Healthcare	Women's Empowerment	Lillian's Story
<p><b>Target 7:</b> To have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sexual and reproductive health education and behavior change helps control the spread of HIV/AIDS...               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- more women than men have HIV/AIDS</li> <li>- women are more vulnerable to infection</li> <li>- HIV/AIDS is more prevalent in association with other STIs</li> <li>- increase in condom use rate will lead to a decrease in the number of new infections</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women must have the ability and power to negotiate safe sex</li> </ul>	<p><i>On the AIDS epidemic and sex.</i></p> <p>"I knew I should've been more insistent and forced him to use condoms."</p> <p>"According to them [her late husband's family] I was the one who had infected their son with HIV."</p> <p>"I was working for an organization that preached sexual abstinence before marriage as the only means to prevent AIDS, which is completely absurd."</p> <p>"Does women's powerlessness explain the disproportionately higher rate of HIV/AIDS? Yes, but men's irresponsible behavior is also at fault."</p>
<p><b>Target 8:</b> To have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General awareness raising of what health means – broader definitions, healthy lifestyles, how to avoid infections</li> </ul>		

## Goal 7 – Ensure environmental stability

2.4 billion people do not have access to improved sanitation

1.2 billion people do not have access to safe drinking water

Targets	Reproductive Healthcare	Women's Empowerment	Lillian's Story
<p><b>Target 9:</b> Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the loss of environmental resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family planning, choice and reproductive healthcare helps to slow population growth rate...</li> <li>- placing less burden on the environment</li> <li>- increasing sustainable use of resources and land</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As women's education, employment opportunities and role in politics increases, so will their input and contribution to environmental sustainability</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Target 10:</b> Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- placing less burden on the water supply</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women's understanding of dangers of unsafe drinking water leads to campaigning for safe water from the bottom up</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Target 11:</b> By 2002, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- reducing incidence of slum dwellers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land owning rights for women reduces incidence of slum dwellers</li> </ul>	<p><i>On property and legal rights.</i></p> <p>"I did try to make him write a will. His family were all over me after his[her husband] death, asking if he had left any money."</p> <p>"His family has refused to acknowledge their obligation to her [Lillian's daughter] because there was no will."</p> <p>"I'm doing everything to make sure she gets what is legally hers. In Africa land is everything."</p>

## Goal 8 – Develop a global partnership for development

Targets	Reproductive Health Care	Women’s Empowerment	Lillian’s Story
<p><b>Target 12:</b> Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system</p> <p><b>Target 13:</b> Address the special needs of the least developed countries</p> <p><b>Target 14:</b> Address the special needs of landlocked countries and small island developing states</p> <p><b>Target 15:</b> Deal comprehensively with debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures to make debt sustainable in the long term</p> <p><b>Target 16:</b> In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth</p> <p><b>Target 17:</b> In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable, essential drugs in developing countries</p> <p><b>Target 18:</b> In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals will depend in large part on the work of and partnerships with NGOs. Sexual and reproductive health NGOs will play a key role in the health and welfare of women and youth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed country experience shows that development programs are most effective when steps have simultaneously been taken to improve the status of women</li> </ul>	<p><i>On her joint venture, a chicken farm.</i></p> <p>“It is a small but fast growing farm. We started out with 300 hens and we now have approximately 1500.”</p> <p><i>On her support group.</i></p> <p>“We can’t afford to buy medicine for any of our members. It is very frustrating.”</p> <p>“In my opinion she is a great role-model. She travels and does so much for people.”</p> <p>[Robert, Lillian’s boyfriend]</p>

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