Mali

Our Women, Our Daughters, Our Future

Improving Women’s Status and Achieving National Development Goals
Meet Nassira

Nassira married Mamadou when she was age 15

They had their first child when Nassira was age 17

Photo by: Curt Carnemark/World Bank
Her Children

Nassira and Mamadou now have 2 daughters and 1 son

Nassira has been pregnant 5 times

She has always given birth at home

She has never used family planning

Photos by: Curt Carnemark/World Bank
Daily Life

Nassira cares for the children and household, and tends the vegetable garden.

She walks long distances to get water.

Mamadou works as a bicycle repairman.

Nassira never had the opportunity to attend school.
Family Decisions

Mamadou makes all decisions about household purchases

He decides when Nassira can take the children to the health center

If Nassira challenges his decisions, he may beat her

Nassira believes she deserves this punishment for disobeying him
Nassira is not that different from other women her age in Mali
Marriage and Childbearing

Half of all married women in Mali:

- Have their first sexual encounter by age 16
- Marry before age 17
- Have their first child by age 19
Childbearing

On average, the Malian woman:

Gives birth to more than 6 children
Maternal Mortality

Every day in Mali, 10 women die due to complications from pregnancy or childbirth.

Photo by: Curt Carnemark/World Bank
High-Risk Births

Nearly 7 out of 10 births are considered high risk

- Pregnancies too early or too late in life
- Close birth spacing
- Too many births
Infant and Child Mortality

1 out of 10 infants does not survive her first year

1 out of 5 children does not live to celebrate his fifth birthday
Fewer than 1 out of 10 married women use any method of family planning
Unmet Need for Family Planning

Among married women who want to space their births or have no more children

Not using family planning

30%
Girls’ Education

Fewer than 1 out of 5 women can read and write

Only 1 out of 5 women has ever attended school

Only 2 out of 5 school-age girls currently attend school
Women’s Economic Participation

6 out of 10 women ages 15–49 were employed in 2006

Many were self-employed

Most employed women control their own earnings
Decision-Making Authority

2 out of 10 married women make decisions with their husbands concerning important purchases for their families

2 out of 10 married women make autonomous decisions regarding their own health
Violence Against Women

Domestic violence is common in Mali

7 out of 10 women believe that being beaten by one’s husband is acceptable
Female Genital Cutting

Almost 9 out of 10 women have experienced some form of female genital cutting (FGC)
What if we could change conditions to improve the lives of women like Nassira and their families?
RAPID Women Model

Looks at future scenarios based on current national data

Builds on the RAPID Model, which explores the impact of population growth on society and development goals

Includes strategies focused on women’s empowerment in support of national development

- Family planning
- Girls’ education
- Equitable gender norms
What if...?

Family planning assumptions
- Investments in family planning increase to improve access to and quality of services
- More women breastfeed and practice postpartum abstinence

Girls’ education assumptions
- Women’s literacy rate doubles
- Girls’ primary school enrollment rate increases

Equitable gender norms assumptions
- Norms regarding acts of violence against women change significantly
Results

Improvements in family planning, girls’ education, and gender norms benefit Malian women and their families, and the country.

Photo by: Curt Carnemark/World Bank
Family Planning

% of women currently using a family planning method

- FP+GE+GN
- FP
- No Change

53 % of Women

25

8

2010 2020 2030 2040 2050

% of Women
Population Size

- **Population Size**
- **Total Population [millions]**
- **2010**  | **2020**  | **2030**  | **2040**  | **2050**
- **No Change**
- **FP**
- **FP+GE+GN**

- **Results**
- **Population Size**
- **49**  | **41**  | **33**
- **0**  | **10**  | **20**  | **30**  | **40**  | **50**  | **60**
- **No Change**
- **FP**
- **FP+GE+GN**

- **Graph**:
  - **2010**
  - **2020**
  - **2030**
  - **2040**
  - **2050**
  - **49**
  - **41**
  - **33**
Mothers’ Lives Saved
Cumulative

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Infants’ Lives Saved
Cumulative

Lives Saved [millions]

FP
FP+GE+GN

2010 2020 2030 2040 2050

0 0.2 0.5 1.5 2.7
Children’s Lives Saved
Cumulative

Lives Saved [millions]

2010 2020 2030 2040 2050

FP
FP+GE+GN

FP
FP+GE+GN

Results

4.9

2.7

0.9

0.4

0.0

2010 2020 2030 2040 2050

FP
FP+GE+GN
Immediate Benefits
of using family planning

Family Planning → Fewer high-risk births

Fewer maternal, child, and infant deaths
Infant Mortality and Birth Spacing

![Bar chart showing infant deaths per 1,000 births at different birth intervals: 158 deaths for <2 years, 96 for 2 years, 59 for 3 years, and 55 for 4+ years.](image-url)
Human Development Index

Mali’s Rank

- 2010: 161
- 2050: 157
- 2050: 121

Base
FP
FP+GE+GN
What can we do now to bring about these improvements?
Family Planning Actions

Increase the use of family planning services

Ensure that family planning services are convenient, affordable, and of good quality

Improve knowledge about existing family planning methods

Promote the Lactational Amenorrhea Method (LAM) to encourage women to breastfeed
Family Planning Actions

(Continued)

Improve family planning education in schools and integrate FP education in literacy centers and madrasas

Inform men and boys of the advantages of family planning and encourage their involvement

Engage grandmothers, mothers-in-law, women leaders, traditional leaders, opinion leaders, and religious leaders in promoting family planning
Girls’ Education Actions

Improve the level of education for women and girls

Raise awareness among parents on the advantages of educating their daughters

Increase girls’ school enrollment and keep girls in school longer

Bolster literacy programs for women and girls who are not in school
Gender Norms Actions

Improve the status of women and girls

Improve women’s knowledge about human rights

Increase couple communication as a means of reducing physical, sexual, and emotional violence against women

Support programs that work to eliminate harmful traditional practices such as FGC and ritual scarring

Strengthen income-generating programs and access to microcredit for women
What do these changes mean for Nassira and her family?
Nassira

Communication becomes more frequent between Nassira and Mamadou

Mamadou stops using physical violence against her

She starts going to literacy classes, using family planning, and talking to her friends about these issues

She and Mamadou decide to not have more children

Nassira has more time to work and take care of her family

Their children attend school and go to the health center when they are sick
Mariam, Nassira’s daughter, stays in school until after 7th grade.

At age 14, she goes to work in agriculture in a nearby village.

She returns to her native village and marries at age 19.

She uses the money she has saved to open a fruit stand at the market.

At 20 years old, she has her first child, a daughter named Bintou.

Mariam uses family planning and spaces her pregnancies so that she can continue to work.
Bintou

Bintou, Mariam’s daughter and Nassira’s granddaughter, completes high school

As a young girl, she did not experience any form of FGC

She successfully interviews and gains employment as an accountant at a factory in Bamako

She gets married at age 23 to a man of her choosing

She has her first child when she is age 25

She hopes to have three children, and plans to wait at least three years between each child
Conclusions

Investments in women’s empowerment including family planning can help to improve the health and well-being of Nassira and her family.

These benefits continue to grow in the next generations giving Mariam and Bintou access to education, employment, and greater autonomy in decision making.

Targeted solutions that respond to the challenges facing Malian women and girls have far-reaching benefits for girls and women, their families, and their country.
Thank you!

The photographs in this material are used for illustrative purposes only; they do not imply any particular health status, attitudes, behaviors, or actions on the part of any person who appears in the photographs.

Photo by Curt Carnemark/The World Bank