

Advancing Gender Equality

We envision a world in which all people, regardless of gender identity, socioeconomic status, geographic location, or other intersecting factors, have equitable access to and agency over health, education, and socioeconomic opportunities.

JSI has been a catalyst for change for more than four decades working with governments, civil society, and communities to challenge and transform gender norms and power imbalances. Our approach to integrating gender considerations is holistic, ensuring that individuals across all gender identities, especially those from marginalized groups, have an active role in developing strategies that foster significant improvements in health, education, and socioeconomic outcomes.



Promoting Girls' and Women's Agency

We work alongside communities to shift inequitable gender norms and systemic discrimination while championing the rights of women and girls, working to prevent violence, and advocating for healthy masculinity. We engage men and boys as allies, advocates, and clients, advancing programs that encourage their active support for gender equality.

There is a critical need to understand how gender and social norms affect key aspects of people's health and well-being. We implement [behavior-centered programs](#) that aim to increase women's agency and equity by identifying gender-based constraints and opportunities with communities during program design, implementation, and evaluation.



JSI PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

[Siyakha Girls Economic Empowerment Initiative](#) | USAID

The Siyakha Girls Model positions young women to overcome health and socioeconomic challenges. Developed, piloted, and evaluated in multiple contexts over 10 years, Siyakha is a PEPFAR-approved comprehensive economic and resilience strengthening model.

[The Women's Entrepreneurship Program \(Laos\)](#) | Department of State

This program equips women with essential skills and resources to start their own businesses. By supporting women's economic

independence through education and training, we not only uplift women but also drive broader economic development and poverty alleviation.

[Engaging Young Men in Preventing Premature Fatherhood](#) | CDC

By improving young men's access to family planning and reproductive health services and information, JSI helped reduce premature fatherhood and maximize their socioeconomic opportunities.



Strengthening Gender-Responsive Health Systems

Health systems are inherently shaped by gender dynamics and are not "gender neutral." Our programs support public health systems, supply chains, and workforce strengthening in integrating gender-responsive and -transformative interventions. This involves building the knowledge and skills of administrators, policymakers, and service providers to recognize and overcome gender-based barriers and inequities.

Importantly, we work with service delivery points to ensure the evidence-based integration of gender-responsive services that cater to the diverse needs of all people, including adolescents and youth. This comprehensive strategy aims to transform health systems from the ground up, making them more equitable, inclusive, and responsive to the experiences and requirements of individuals across the gender spectrum.



JSI PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

MOMENTUM Routine Immunization Transformation and Equity | USAID

Our immunization work's commitment to supporting gender-responsive health systems is evident, by identifying and overcoming [gender-related barriers](#) to [immunization coverage](#). We established a working group that serves as a technical learning hub for [gender in immunization](#) and a community of practice to elevate the gender technical capacity of all project staff.

HPV Vaccine Acceleration Program Partners Initiative (HAPPI) Consortium | Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

We harness our collective expertise in policy, access, introduction, implementation, evaluation, and learning to promote equity, program quality, and the rapid expansion of human papillomavirus vaccination among girls.

Cure Tuberculosis Project (Kyrgyz Republic) | USAID

We conducted research that revealed that women and men have different barriers to TB care and treatment and that women are more vulnerable to stigma. Based on these findings, the project uses gender-sensitive messaging and partner engagement to promote equitable access to care and reduce stigma and discrimination against people who have TB.



Increasing Equity and Inclusivity through Data and Digital Tools

Leveraging data and digital tools is crucial for identifying and overcoming gender-based inequities in health care. By collecting and analyzing gender-disaggregated data, we can gain a deeper

understanding of the barriers and challenges that individuals of different gender identities encounter when using health care services. This data-driven approach helps us locate specific pain points and disparities, whether related to service availability, affordability, cultural norms, or other systemic factors.

Exploring system drivers of gender inequity in development assistance for health and opportunities for action | Gates Open Research

In partnership with [Global ChangeLabs](#), we led a co-creation system design process to map and analyze drivers of gender inequity in development assistance for health (DAH). Our insights suggest ways to advance gender equity in DAH.



JSI PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Maternal Child Health & Nutrition Activity (Laos) | USAID

We conducted an analysis to explore the effects of unequal power relations and inequalities in health service access and use. These data will help programs reduce gender inequalities, foster social inclusion, and enhance women's agency, ultimately expanding access to health services and improving client-centered care for individuals and families.

Digital Health Activity | USAID

We are working to narrow the gender digital divide, providing financial and technical support to establish women-led youth enterprises and supporting gender mainstreaming in Ethiopia's health information system.

At JSI, we are deeply committed to advancing gender equality and fostering autonomy among individuals across the gender spectrum through innovative, evidence-based approaches. Our holistic, co-creative strategies for overcoming gender inequality, from promoting women's economic empowerment to integrating gender-responsive services in health and education systems, position us as a key partner in advancing the global agenda for gender equity and inclusive development.



If you'd like to learn more about our work to achieve gender equality, contact Jodi DiProfio, Technical Director, Gender at jodi_diprofio@jsi.com or 617- 482-9485.