

ADDING IT UP:

The NON-MEDICAL Benefits of Investing in Sexual and Reproductive Health Care

CONTRACEPTIVE SERVICES		
<p>Individual</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater satisfaction with life • Less worry over unplanned pregnancy • Greater self-esteem and efficacy, especially for women • More decision-making power, especially for women • More time with children • Greater educational and employment opportunities, especially for girls and women • Improved social status for women • Increased opportunity to join social and civic organizations • Greater financial security, especially for women • Higher productivity and income 	<p>Family/household</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased ability of women to care for families • Stronger, more stable marital relationships • Promotion of joint household decision-making • Less discrimination against female children • More attention and parental care for each child • Increased household income • Higher health, nutrition and education expenditures per child • Fewer orphaned children • Improved living conditions through less crowding 	<p>Community/society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher productivity and better incomes • Less societal burden to care for neglected children • Decreased inequality between men and women • Rapid economic growth during the “demographic window” • Higher savings and investment • Improved productivity • Reduced public expenditures in education, health care and other social services
MATERNAL HEALTH SERVICES		
<p>Individual</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in postpartum depression and puerperal psychosis • Reduction in stigma related to infertility, abortion and obstetric fistula • Increased productivity and income 	<p>Family/household</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More time for mothers to care for children • Fewer maternal deaths and fewer children orphaned • Higher household income and savings 	<p>Community/society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower maternal mortality • Lower costs of caring for maternal health complications • Higher productivity and investment
STI-RELATED SERVICES AND OTHER GYNECOLOGIC AND UROLOGIC CARE		
<p>Individual</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention of infertility and sterility • Stronger, more stable sexual relationships • Reduced stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS and infertility • Greater ability for infected persons to work and earn an income 	<p>Family/household</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better support to families by healthy parents • Fewer orphans • Greater household income and savings • Opportunity for couples to discuss intimate concerns 	<p>Community/society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fewer orphaned children • Fewer families in need of subsidies • Higher productivity and investment • Reduced public expenditures through prevention of STIs, rather than through treatment

Source: Singh S et al., *Adding It Up: The Benefits of Investing in Sexual and Reproductive Health Care*, New York: The Alan Guttmacher Institute (AGI) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), 2003, pp.24–27.