

Improving health and well-being by increasing power to act

# Defining **Agency**

the ability to identify goals and act on them

We seek to understand and promote individual, collective, and organizational empowerment—from critical consciousness to goal setting, agency to collective action, and finally, to fulfillment of goals.

## Our Goal

Improve and sustain agency, health, and well-being for individuals and communities, advancing cross-sector development outcomes in family planning and reproductive health, maternal, newborn and child health, nutrition, infectious disease, and HIV/AIDS.

## The **Challenge**

People sometimes lack sufficient access to the knowledge, resources, or support to fulfill their desires. This is called an agency gap.

Locally-led social and behavior change research, monitoring, and evaluation can help address this gap by supporting individuals and communities in achieving their goals. But this potential is too often unrealized.

# The **Possibility**

What if individuals and communities were able to transform **desires** into **intention** and **intentions** into **action**? We will support this by:

- ☑ Generating evidence on scalable interventions
- ✓ Increasing understanding of how agency impacts health
- ☑ Enhancing monitoring, adaptive management, and evaluation
- ☑ Fostering locally-led, equitable partnerships

### Our Research

We will increase understanding of how social and behavior change programs can foster agency and empowerment at individual, community and system levels, leading to improved health and well-being in diverse contexts.



### Our **Approach**

Agency for All is a USAID-funded project (2022-2027) that will generate evidence on agency and effective social and behavior change strategies to convert intention into action to improve health. We will develop culturally relevant constructs of agency, strengthen evidence on approaches to foster empowerment and increase the agency of local partners to generate and utilize evidence.



### Our **Structure**

Agency for All is committed to advancing principles of inclusion and participation in locally-led research, monitoring, and evaluation. We center local leadership through Hubs in East Africa, West Africa, and South Asia, developing a network of implementing organizations, researchers, community representatives and other stakeholders with expertise and a stake in increasing individual and community agency to improve health.



#### Our Partners

The <u>Center on Gender Equity and Health (GEH)</u> at the University of California San Diego (UCSD) has assembled a diverse and highly experienced consortium of global, regional and country leaders in both implementation and research. Partners share a dedication to advancing social and behavior change, led by local priorities and voices: <u>Centre for Catalyzing Change</u>, <u>CORE Group</u>, <u>Equimundo</u>, <u>EVIHDAF</u>, <u>International Planned Parenthood Federation</u>, <u>Makerere University</u>, <u>Matchboxology</u>, <u>Save the Children</u>, <u>Shujaaz</u>, <u>Inc.</u>, <u>University of Witswatersand</u>, and <u>Viamo</u>.



#### Collaborate with Us

Agency for All consortium partners can provide technical support to conduct innovative social and behavior change research, enhance monitoring and evaluation of social and behavior change programming, and improve interventions. As a cooperative agreement managed by USAID's Office of Population and Reproductive Health, Agency for All can accept funding from all USAID accounts, missions and other donors. To explore opportunities for research, monitoring and evaluation, or implementation and scale, contact:

Rebecka Lundgren GEH UCSD Project Director rlundgren@health.ucsd.edu

Charlotte Lapsansky
Save the Children
SBC Director
clapsansky@savechildren.org

Paul Bukuluki Makerere University Research Director pbukuluki@gmail.com Julianne Weis USAID AOR jweis@usaid.gov







