

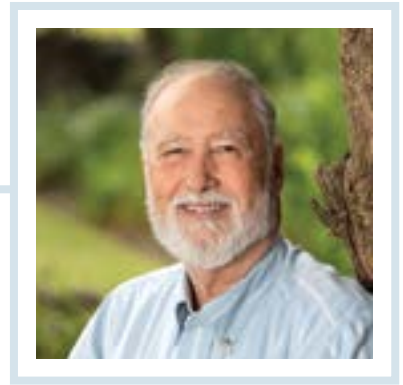
POPULATION CONNECTION

**INDONESIAN
COMMUNITY
HEALTH WORKERS
IMPROVE ACCESS TO
VOLUNTARY FAMILY
PLANNING**



President's Note

John Seager
john@popconnect.org



"Meanwhile, his men were bridging the Hellespont from Asia to Europe. But no sooner had the strait been bridged than a great storm swept down, breaking and scattering everything. When Xerxes heard of this, he was very angry and commanded that the Hellespont be whipped with three hundred lashes ..."

– Herodotus

This is not the column I planned to present. I'm writing this in the immediate aftermath of Trump's victory. Given his highly erratic — not to mention bizarre and mean-spirited — nature, there is no way to predict exactly what will transpire once he is back in the Oval Office. It will certainly be very bad news for the priorities we care about deeply. No doubt he will reimpose the odious Global Gag Rule and take other actions that will severely damage the reproductive health programs that empower women and are vitally needed to meet the challenges posed by overpopulation.

Trump, whose mammoth self-regard knows no limits, will almost certainly choose to ignore any and all facts that do not fit his chaotic agenda. In his own strange way, he may, like Xerxes some 25 centuries ago, seek to visit punishment on the planet itself by canceling efforts to address climate change, among other things.

In the United Kingdom, there is a long-standing political sideshow called the Monster Raving Loony Party. One of its candidates called for repealing the Law of Gravity. At times, political pomposity needs to be deflated through humor. But there is nothing funny about electing despotic demagogues to high office.

The presidency is the most powerful office on Earth. But there are things that no president can do. Presidents cannot repeal the laws of physics. Presidents cannot control chemical reactions. Presidents cannot prevent natural disasters or shift the direction of hurricanes with a Sharpie.

Presidents also cannot alter arithmetic. Every year, we add some 70 million people to our already overcrowded planet. Every year, we deplete and destroy irreplaceable natural resources. Every year, we come closer to all manner of tipping points. Nature always bats last.

The most important lesson I learned during my 20 years in politics was to keep at it. Win or lose, the work still needs to be done. And that is exactly what we will continue to do at Population Connection. Somebody needs to keep raising the alarm about the impacts of overpopulation. And if we don't do it, no one will.

Electoral victories often provide a false sense of comfort, while defeats are a test of character — a way to determine whether commitment to a mission is truly steadfast.

We will persevere. 

Board Chair

Bryce Hach, MS

Board of Directors

Aaron S. Allen, PhD
 Rodrigo Barillas, MD, MBA (Secretary)
 Sachu Constantine, MPP
 Aaron Dannenberg, JD, MBA
 Amy Dickson, MPH
 Bruce Fallick, PhD
 Mark Hathaway, MD, MPH
 Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka, BVetMed, MsPVM
 Seema Mohapatra, JD, MPH
 Melvine Ouyo, BScN, MPA, MPH (Vice Chair)
 Bob Pettapiece, EdD (Treasurer)
 Heather Smith, DMgt, MBA, MSM
 Eleanor Unsworth, MS
 Mary Beth Weinberger, MA
 Kevin Whaley, PhD

President and CEO

John Seager

Editor

Marian Starkey, MSc

Population Connection (ISSN 2331-0529)

Read and share the complimentary digital version of each issue of *Population Connection* magazine at popconnect.org/magazine.

Population Connection is the national grassroots population organization that educates young people and advocates progressive action to stabilize world population at a level that can be sustained by Earth's resources.

Annual membership (\$25) includes a one-year subscription to *Population Connection* magazine, published quarterly. Population Connection is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. As such, contributions, bequests, and gifts are fully tax-deductible in accordance with current laws.

Population Connection

2120 L Street, NW, Suite 500
 Washington, DC 20037
 (202) 332-2200 • (800) 767-1956
info@popconnect.org
populationconnection.org
populationeducation.org



Feature

18

Expanding Family Planning Access in Indonesia: Tackling Myths, Boosting Clinical Skills, and Challenging Patriarchy

By Sabar Artiyono



Cover image: Community health worker Yanne T.L. Beis in front of the village office where she works with Ipas Indonesia to expand women's access to contraceptives and to encourage men to support their wives if they desire to use family planning. Photo courtesy of Ipas Indonesia.

Departments

- | | |
|--|---|
| 2 Editor's Note | 22 Virtual Events |
| 3 Letters to the Editor | 24 Global Partners: Asociación Manos Abiertas |
| 5 Editorial Excerpts | 26 Washington View |
| 6 Pop Facts Infographic | 28 Field + Outreach |
| 8 Recognizing Members of the ZPG Society | 30 Population Education |
| 14 In the News | 32 Cartoon |
| 16 Member Profile: John Dwyer | |

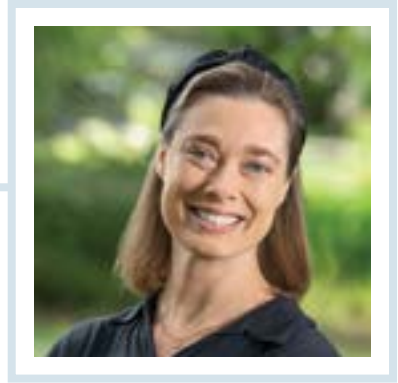


Follow us on social media!

Scan the QR code to find links to our Facebook, Instagram, X, LinkedIn, and YouTube accounts.

Editor's Note

Marian Starkey
marian@popconnect.org



I made a mistake in the last issue of the magazine when I wrote that the United Nations Pact for the Future was an agreement that was meant to succeed the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) after their 2030 end date. Rather, the Pact is intended to reinvigorate UN member states and other stakeholders in their commitment to achieving the SDGs between now and 2030.

The final version of the Pact was approved at the Summit of the Future in late September, and I am very pleased to report that after delivering two oral statements and several rounds of comments on drafts of the document, we and our colleagues at Population Matters and Population Media Center were successful at convincing the authors to add a commitment related to population issues:

Commitment 20: Strengthen cooperation among States in their response to demographic trends and realities, such as rapid population growth, declining birth rates, and aging populations, as well as in addressing the interlinkages between population issues and development across all regions, taking into account the needs and interests of present and future generations, including children and youth, and the substantial contributions of older persons to sustainable development efforts.

The first three versions of the Pact included no mention of population growth, so we feel like we really accomplished something here!

As Population Connection members well know, none of the SDGs are attainable without addressing rapid population growth in the poorest regions of the world. According to the new flagship publication of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), over 20% of people in Africa are facing hunger, and the number of chronically hungry people around the world has been increasing since 2019. Meanwhile, the new *Living Planet Report* from the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) finds that between 1970 and 2020, wildlife populations of vertebrate species plummeted by 73%, primarily because of habitat loss, largely driven by agricultural expansion.

In this issue, you'll read about locally managed programs in Indonesia and Guatemala that bring patient-centered reproductive health care to women in rural and/or marginalized settings. It's only through locally led outreach efforts and quality clinical services patients trust that birth rates will voluntarily come down and population will approach stabilization. We're proud to support such initiatives through our Global Partners program, and we thank you for being the reason we can do so year after year.

Time is running short to achieve the SDGs, and without slowing population growth, we can't expect to succeed. Ambitious investment in international family planning — now! — is crucial to making our best attempt. 🌍

Clarification: In the September Pop Facts infographic, Belgrade, Serbia, was identified as the location of the 1965 World Population Conference. At the time, the Republic of Serbia was part of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Letters to the Editor

I've belonged to ZPG/Population Connection since the 1970s and always look forward to your quarterly magazine. I've written in recent years to take you to task for ignoring males in your issues and projects, but there is no change. What is obvious to me is evidently of little consequence to others, and that is, that it is men who cause pregnancies. Yet men escape responsibility, increasing the population and leaving women with a challenge that can keep them from their potential for a lifetime. Is that equity?

In the September issue, a quick scan finds the word "men" exactly once, in contrast with more references to women and girls than one can count. Articles focus on women's issues: contraception, abortion, education, employment, single parenthood, disease, number of children, #Fight4HER, etc. Yes! We know! Women struggle!

BUT ... Women wouldn't be in such troubling situations if men faced up to their responsibility to avoid pregnancy through restraint and male contraception, or, when children appear, to provide commitment and financial and emotional support. As it is, society gives men license to impregnate at will. Indeed, some cultures expect and honor a large number of offspring. The mothers of unplanned children survive as best they can, with few prospects for their own development. That is not equity!

I hope soon to see an article about efforts to change male attitudes, as we look toward a culture that supports male accountability, shared care for offspring, and respect for the human potential of both sexes. Allow women more opportunity for professional development while getting men more involved in rearing children. Promoting a change of attitude may take courage, as there is resistance, but it is time to stop blaming and shaming women only. It's time to move everyone along.

Elizabeth Kidder Michael

Editor's response:

Changing men's attitudes toward family planning is crucial in many settings to solving our population crisis and to improving the lives of women and children. Most of the international family planning programs I'm familiar with have community education components targeted toward men (including the one in Indonesia that's profiled in this issue).

Such outreach can clear up myths around contraception and can persuade men to "allow" their wives to use birth control. Sometimes men's opposition to family planning is enough of a threat that women covertly use contraception, preferring methods that are undetectable, such as the IUD or injection.

As long as I've worked in this field (and for decades before that), the promise of a reversible method of male birth control has been on the horizon. The old joke is that it's been five years away from market availability for the past 50 years, or some version of that. There are several male birth control methods going through trials right now, and some of them seem promising. But the fact remains that for now, condoms and vasectomy are the only reliable methods of male birth control, and for men who aren't finished having kids, that leaves only condoms. Which isn't to say that men who want to avoid pregnancy shouldn't be using condoms — they should be! But there is a yawning gap in the method mix for men who are in monogamous relationships and don't require STI protection but would prefer a non-barrier method.

Letters to the Editor, continued

I love reading John's President's Note — it's always spot on. It's eternally confounding why the rest of the world doesn't see things with the clarity that he does. I especially love the Kathryn Schulz quote that preceded his last column, and may co-opt it as my new email signature.

James E. Close

John's latest President's Note should make the sleepers awake! The Cascadia subduction zone and the coal and renewable energy facts about India are shocking.

Dick Bennett

The World Population Map [our PopEd classroom wall poster that depicts countries by population size rather than land area] featured in the December 2023 issue is attention grabbing and says more than 100 articles. I have had the magazine page up in my apartment for months and am sending a donation in open-mouthed appreciation.

At first, I thought China was Russia, and that yellow island that's so much smaller than most of Indonesia turns out to be Australia!!! It is a fascinating map.

Penny Jones

I became aware of Zero Population Growth decades ago and have always felt the Earth could not easily support billions of people. Of course, we are already living among billions of people, but if everyone had the lifestyle we enjoy in the US, the Earth would be depleted of its resources. We are already facing climate and habitat loss crises today.

Thank you for working on programs that address the issues of population growth and, most importantly to me, the education of women around the world about family planning.

Steve Leonard

If you'd prefer to read the quarterly *Population Connection* magazine online, please visit our website at popconnect.org/magazine to see archives going back to 2020. The digital version of each issue contains links to sources, staff authors' email addresses, and suggestions for further reading.



EDITORIAL EXCERPTS

HOUSTON CHRONICLE

... Far from following the sacred Hippocratic oath of “do no harm” to the human bodies in a doctor’s care, too many elected officials follow the cynical mantra of “do no harm to my reelection prospects.” Nor are most of these politicians women, let alone women of childbearing age who might be subject to a draconian abortion law that can threaten her life. In some states, voters can more easily decide such issues directly through a ballot measure; not in Texas.

And so it is that we Texas voters, 80% of whom believe that abortion should be available in some form, have come to live in a state where a 28-year-old Houston mother undergoing a miscarriage in a hospital close to Bush Intercontinental Airport is forced to wait 40 hours, bleeding and suffering as bacteria grows inside the baseball-sized opening of her cervix where the fetus is bearing down, before doctors will act to save her. ...

[Josseli] Barnica was discharged Sept. 5, 2021, from HCA Houston Healthcare Northwest after the miscarriage but was readmitted days later with continued bleeding. The autopsy report that ProPublica obtained said she died of sepsis. It listed the manner of death as “natural.”

There’s nothing natural about a death that was preventable, and in all likelihood, would have been prevented if it occurred in a state where abortion care is legal. ...

– October 31, 2024

The Washington Post

... One study found that only 8% of the 2.8 billion people living in the hottest parts of the world currently have air-conditioned homes. ...

The idea of ubiquitous climate control might strike some in the environmental movement as immoral ...

But extreme heat stunts development. ...

Heat also kills. Heat-related deaths jumped 68% over the past two decades. Today, heat waves cause 12,000 deaths a year. For billions of people in poorer, hotter countries ... AC will be a necessity, not a luxury. ...

Other than the cost of deployment, the challenge is that all this AC will use a lot of energy, boosting the carbon dioxide emissions that are warming the planet in the first place. Researchers project emissions from residential cooling alone will warm the world by 0.5 degrees Celsius by the year 2100. Today, AC consumes about 7% of the world’s power. ...

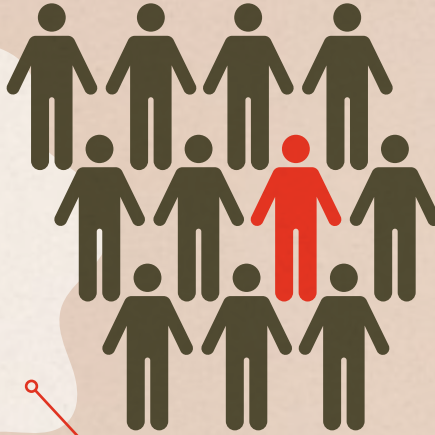
The project to combat climate change cannot condemn billions to broil. The moral response to the challenges confronting the world — including climate change, but also poverty and inequality — must include expanding access to lifesaving air-conditioning technology to billions of people who currently lack it. ...

– October 5, 2024

World Far Off Track to Meet Food Security Targets by 2030



Between
713 and 757
million people
may have faced
hunger in 2023
— one out of 11
people in the world.



Considering the mid-range
estimate (733 million), about
152 million more people
may have faced hunger in 2023
compared to 2019.

In 2023, an estimated
**28.9% of the global
population – 2.33 billion
people – were moderately
or severely food insecure**,
meaning they did not have regular
access to adequate food. These
estimates include 10.7% of the
population — or more than 864 million
people — who were severely food
insecure, meaning they had run out
of food at times during the year and,
at worst, gone an entire day or more
without eating.



28.9% Food Insecure

Regions with the Largest Percentage of the Population Facing Hunger

Facing Hunger

Africa is the region with the largest

percentage of the population facing hunger — 20.4%, compared with 8.1% in Asia, 6.2% in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 7.3% in Oceania.

Latin America
6.2%

Africa
20.4%

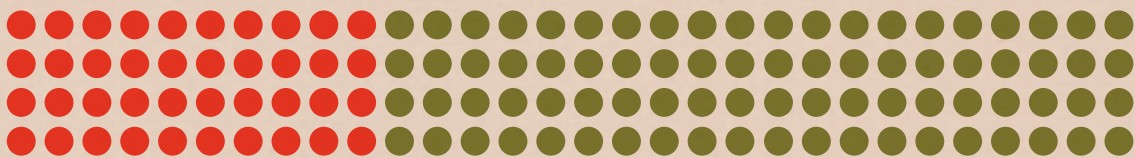
Asia
8.1%

Oceania
7.3%

Can't Afford a Healthy Diet

Focusing on economic access to nutritious foods, updated and improved estimates show that more than

one-third of people in the world – about 2.8 billion – could not afford a healthy diet in 2022.



1/3

RECOGNIZING MEMBERS

OF THE ZPG SOCIETY

Deanne L. Adams
Jennifer B. Albright
Lewis & Jean Allen
Sharon K. Allen
Janet R. Allison
John H. Anderson & Joy Kaubin
Noelle D. Anderson
Randy S. Anglen
Allen T. Ansevin
Mahmood Anwar & Ricky Jackson
William & Kathleen Appel
Phil Arndt
Melissa M. Aronson
David Asch
Kandis Attwood
Florence & Fritz Bachem
Robin & C. L. H. Baer
William E. Baird
Nancy L. Balch
Lori Balough
Dr. Anita Baly
Dr. Rodrigo Barillas & Manola Castillo Cortes
Larry C. Barnhill
Jeffrey N. Baron
Christopher & Pamela Barry
Robert A. Barry
Drake Barton & Kathy A. Lloyd
R. Lamar Bass
Gary F. Battel
Adrienne Moore Baxter
Robert O. Beauchamp
Bobbie Becker
Catherine & Richard Becker
Sally Beers
Gayle Behm
H. Michael Behrendt & Ivan Cassar
William & Ann Bein
Merriann J. Bell
Anne B. Bennett
Katherine A. Berg
Keith Berg & Mary Hedblom
Judith & Dennis P. Berman

Ralph & Ingrid Bertmeyer
Jean M. Bettanny
Tom Bimmermann
Barbara Bird
Eugenia B. Bishop
Norman & Dorothy S. Bishop
Ronald B. Blackmore
Karen E. Bleuel
Elaine Blodgett
Joyanne Bloom
Elana & Glenn Bluestone
Laura Blum
Sheldon D. Bon
Wendy Bone
Timothy Bonfield
Lee N. Booher
Taylor & Lorraine Boring
Nathan S. Borson
James L. Botsford
Dorothy Bradley
John & Dorothy Brandt
Florette & Greg Braun
Darrell Q. Brown
Mark C. Brucker
Sally J. Brunson
Leo R. Buckert
Michael J. Burke
John S. Burt
Neil Burtness
Leonard N. Butters
Glenn & Peggy Calkins
Ruth Campo
Rodney Cardoso
Diane Carlin & Dale Kenton
Sarah R. Carneal
Chris Carrieri
Dr. F. Elizabeth Challis
David B. Chamberlin
Linda Chandler
Robert Chester & Jennifer Trask-Chester
Belle Christensen
John Christensen

Charles Churchill
Harriett Clark
Sarah B. Clark
Audrey Clement
Patricia F. Coe
Melvin L. Cohen
James M. Cole, Jr.
Phyllis W. Cole
Carl W. Coleman
Dr. Kathryn A. Collins
Miki & Florence Collins
Deb Congdon
Greg & Andrea Cooper
Alice L. Cooperman
Curtis R. Cornelius
Gale C. Corson
Kalya Cotkin
Clara Cotten
Gene & Marilyn Cripe
Edward Crocco & Eileen Luddy
Susan Curry & Gail M. Daniels
Janet & Charles Curtis
Kevin & Kristin Curtis
Guy E. Dahms
Allan & Kendra Daniel
Jimmie & Gayle Darr
Ginny Darvill
Dianne Davenport
Pamela Davies & Geoffrey Macilwaine
Earl & Suzanne de Berge
Joan Marie Delahunt
Sandra L. Delzer
Richard S. Dennison
David Desimone
Neysa Dickey
Debbie Dill
Dr. Raymond H. Dominick, III
Julian & Katharine Donahue
Donna J. Doner
Gregory S. Donges
Margaret Rose Draeger
Richard & Sylvia Dresser

Population Connection's ZPG Society

honors those who have included a gift to Population Connection in their will or estate plan or who have established a charitable gift annuity. We are grateful to ZPG Society members for their generosity and far-sightedness. **Thank you!**



Richard M. Dubiel
Lyn DuMoulin
Jerry L. Duncanson
Jane M. Dunham
Lee & Tharon Dunn
Joan Echard
Karen K. Edwards
Michael J. Ellett
Brett & Gwendolyn Elliott
Joanne Engel & Kenneth Valdes
Julia Engelhard
Evangeline Englert
Adam Englund
Jeanette Entwisle & Mark Bickett
Richard D. Erlich
Douglas C. Estes
Lynn Evans & Fred Saunders
Ann Ewing
Kenneth & Susan Fahrenholtz
Nancy Farrell-Rose
Francis C. Farwell
Kirsten Fearn
Richard Fields
Paul Finley & Lisa Foxwell
Lillian D. Finnell
Bonnie G. Flickinger
Robert Ford
Bill & Rosie Foster
Ronald W. Foster
Howard Kent Fox
Robert & Dawn Frank
Barbara Franklin
Pastor Frederic Franzius
Gary E. Freed
Robin R. Friedheim
Mynga K. Futrell
E. Marianne Gabel & Donald Lateiner
Kelly Gage
Doug A. Gardels
Julia B. Garretson
C. E. Gasser
Elizabeth Gasser

Marilyn K. Gaule
Jean M. Geissler
Lynn Gentry
Steven & Judy Geppert
Susan C. Gerber
Barbara Gerhardt
Ivan C. Getting
Armand F. Girard
Michael Gochfeld & Joanna Burger
Ken Goehring
Monserrat Gomez
Chris Gonzalez
Watson Gooch
Steven C. Goodspeed
Robert & Margaret Goodwin
Mark Gorsetman
Richard C. Gottier
Patricia Goudzwaard
Daniele Grasser
Kelly C. Green
Krekel Green
Warren Green & Anne Lown
Bruce M. Greenfield
Julia A. Gregory
James & Phyllis Griffith
Adam T. Grimshaw
Peter F. Grylls
Bruce & Margaret Gundersen
Ian K. Hagemann
Joan Hagerman
Natalie N. Hall
Donal Halloran & Sylvia Eisanmann
Richard Hamel
Susan & John Hammiller
David Hanna
Ann Harmon & Ben Lehman
Stuart L. Harris
Gary Harrold
Harriet Hartstein
Cinda & Sean Haselrig
Dyvon M. Havens
Anna Heath

Nancy Heck
Robert & Rosemary Heil
Dan Heisman & Shelly Hahn
Max Heppner & Helena Berger-Heppner
Dianne L. Herman
Sonja Hershorn
Jay & Camilla Hicks
Jane Hinds
John Hirschi
Edwin Hirschmann
Eric A. Hirst
Edward S. Hochman
James T. Hodge
James A. Hodges
Nancy Hoffman
Ronald E. Holman
Noel & Patricia Holmgren
Judith A. Holt
Regina Holt
Elizabeth C. Hood
Joseph J. Hook
Joel K. Horwich
Waleed R. Howrani
Jerold & Bonnie Hubbard
Frank Huddleston
Meg & Walt Huff
Agnes Hughes
John W. Hunt
Karl P. Hunt
Dr. John Hutcherson
Michael Ihlenfeldt
Henry & Pauline Imus
Thomas & Patsy Inglet
Dirk & Karen Iwema
Rosalie Jacobs
Jerry A. Jedlicka
Jessica Jetter
Kenneth E. Joerden
Barbara Johnson
Eric C. Johnson
Heidi M. Johnson
Michael R. Johnson

RECOGNIZING MEMBERS

OF THE ZPG SOCIETY

Pierce Johnson
Steve & Michele Johnson
Vicki K. Johnson
William T. Johnston & Diana J. Crews
Sheri L. Jones
Willis & Abby Jordan
Cheryl Jurrus
Polly A. Kaczmarek
Marv Kaufman
Sue Kaufman
Ted & Lark Keener
Carol Ann Kell
Vicky & Grant Kemp
A. Kendall & Maralee LeBlanc
Carole J. Kent
Jeffrey & Sharon Kenyon
Mike Key
Douangmala Khounnavongsa
LaSchwann Killens
Kira Kilmer
William & Marilyn Kincaid
Rick King & Lisa Michelbrink
Walter W. Kingsbery
Linda B. Kingston
Justine Kirk
Estelle F. Kirsh
William Kline & Linda Salser
Donald M. Kluever
Leigh M. Knox
John Koepfel & Susan Rothstein
Hunt Kooiker
Charles Kopp
Regina A. Kopseng
Morris & Sarah Kornbluth
Hans Korve & Linda Peirce
Mary Koziar
Michael Kraft & Sandra Simpson-Kraft
Donna M. Krause
James & Jean Kropa
Joan Kruger
Leslea S. Kunz
Eve Kurzer

Edward A. Kush, Jr.
Peter Labahn & Maria Finazzo-Labahn
Mary Anne LaFleur
Jean J. Lang
Nancy J. LaRoche
James A. Larson
Rebecca Yee Hun Leong Lau*
Mark Lauzon
Brian & Lee Ann Lawrence
Stephanie Leaf
Cheryl Lechtanski
Dorothy & Andy Leong
Jeff Lesak & Merrily Swoboda
Ellis & Cheryl Levinson
Ida L. Lindell
John & Danielle Lochhead
Lee D. Lockie
Elizabeth L. Loewald
Ligea L. Logan
Douglas & Marilyn Longman
David E. Lorenz
Michael Loscheider
Dwight E. Lowell, II & Kimberly Lowell
Jack M. Lundquist
Edward L. Lynch
Ronald & Linda Madl
Michael Madrid
Doni Mae
Michael & Heidi Maisler
Ronald & Amanda Mallory
Norman B. Mandelbaum
Craig Mandsager
George & Sheila Marshall
Flor de Maria Martin
Christopher & Catherine Mathews
T. D. Mathewson
Dr. David Matteson & Sandra Matteson
Clark & Sari Maxfield
Peter Mcallister
Elaine McAuliffe
Gary W. McCormick
Kim McCoy

Landon & Lois McDonald
Suzanna J. McDougal
John McGinn
Dixie McGrew
Linda McManus & William Bridges
Mimi McMillen
Patricia R. McMillen
Robert L. McNeil
Carol A. Mees
Nandini Mehta
James G. Merkner
John Mesching
David J. Miller
Laura Miller
Lawrence A. Miller
Lee Miller & Pamela Long
Robert & Eleanor Miller
Beverly Minn
Dr. Myron Mitchell & Deborah Mitchell
Peter R. Mitchell
Wayne Mitchell & Marie Galletti
Greg & Tina Mladenka
Russell & Illa Moffett
Robert & Kay Moline
Roberta & Paul Moody
Bruce Moore
William & Judith Moritz
Jean & Robert Morris
Phillip Morse & Brenda Bean
Eva S. Moseley
Mary Moses
Andrew Mossa & Linda Spagnoli-Mossa
Teresa A. Mueller
Joan M. Mukherjee
Carol C. Mukhopadhyay
Desmond & Kerma Murphy
Robert Murphy & Anna Shortall
Cassandra Murray
Barbara Q. Myers
James & Mary Myszka
Annette S. Naegel
Ellen Nagel-Paris

John Nagle & Stephanie Tristram-Nagle
Elizabeth R. Naughton
Donald & Carolyn Neeper
Murray Neill & Rhiannon Archuleta
Carol J. Nelson
Carol Nelson & Douglas Wallower
Dr. James C. Nelson
Mark J. Nelson
Andre Neu
David & Inge Nevins
Marcia Newfield
Jerry Newsom
Willie Newton
Evelyn Nguyen
Michael Niebling
James P. O'Callaghan
Dorothy Olson
William J. Otto
Julie Ouimet
James Owen
Darby Brewer Packie
S. Page
Ronald G. Parker
Dr. William Parker & Elisabeth Wells Parker
Anthony J. Pasquarello
David Passage
Edward G. Patton
Penn R. Patton
Michael Paul & June Bente
Michael Peabody
William Peppler
Dan Petersen
James E. Peterson
Dean G. Petrich
Bob Pettapiece
Frank & Judy Pezzanite
Jeffrey Pfeffer
Margaret M. Phillips
Mr. & Mrs. William A. Phipps
Robert L. Pickering
Jo Lynn Pine & William Seabridge
Linda M. Plein
James J. Podanowski
Kevin Possin & Ann Lavine
Eve S. Powers
Ms. Gladys Powers
Carl & Becky Prather
Virginia S. Preston
Colin Price
Penelope G. Purtzer
Judith Queen
Fred B. Radebaugh

Alfred Rail
Ralph W. Raines, Jr.
Katherine N. Redder
Frederick J. Retzlaff
Peter & Mary S. Rhode
Curtis C. Ridling
Frederic M. Rizzo
Jane U. Robbins
Edward E. Roberts
Linda L. Roberts
Carrie Robertson
Charles & Dianne Robertson
Phil & Marilyn Rockey
Larry & Alice Rodgers
Barb Roeber & Larry Black
Donald & Anne Ross
Timothy K. Rossiter
Monica Roy
Deborah L. Rozanski
Peter Ruch
JoAnn S. Ruppert
Lori Russell
Nancy G. Ryder
Denis Rydjeski & Betsy Eldredge
James M. Rysewyk
Marilyn M. Saltus
Isabella Sanchez
Amy S. Sanders
Gene T. Sanford
Richard F. Santopietro
Sallie Satagaj & Walter Reinhard, Jr.
Eric Saund & Laura Larkin
Kathleen Saunders
James R. Schaad
Martha L. Scheel
Barry & Elizabeth Schiller
Virginia K. Schilz
Dr. Larry Schlatter
Laura M. Schleyer
Hermann F. Schmid
Betty J. Schmucker
Richard & Sharon Schoech
William Schoene
Tim Schoolcraft
Robert Schreiber
Robin Schulman
Janice M. Scott
Judith Scott
Louise Segner
Mary Serrato
Marty Shannon
Jamie Shaw & Christopher Cope

Robert & Anne Shaw
Harry & Charity Sherrington
James W. Shields
Pamela J. Shillam
Ron & Lucille Shissler
Deborah Shum
Boris Shvarts & Inessa Sokiryanskaya
Leon G. Siegel
Donald S. Simons
Leslie Sinclair
Robert Sizoo & Susan Turner
Lee Sledd & Jenny Elizalde-Sledd
Jeffery C. Sliter
Lindley S. Sloan
Donald E. Smith
Joan M. Smith
Ken & Kathy Smith
Dr. Lowell Smith & Elyse Smith
Morton Smith & Mary Rexford
Pamela A. Smith
Tina Smith
Steven Sobel
George Socher & Rebecca Gardner
Roger & Diane Sollberger
Timothy Somers
Walt Sonen
Dr. Victor G. Soukup
Margaret E. Sowerwine
Robert Spich & Emilie Robertson
Irwin Spiegelman
Kathryn R. Spindler
Bella Starmountain-Sweet
Bob Starr
Elaine V. Stasny
William & Diane Steen
Connie Stegen
Steven R. Stegner
Richard Stein
Paul Stettner
Judith C. Stevens
Ronald G. Stevens
James & Susan Stewart
Steve Stodola & Joyce Thompson
Linda Stokely
Larry Amos Stone & D. Charlene Stone
Velton L. Straughn
Richard J. Stuckey
Lawrence Stueck & Kathleen McQuiston
Lorraine Sumner
Lorilee Sutter
Bill Swahlen
Elizabeth A. Swain

Edward O. Sweisford
Martha Ann Swoope
T. K. Sylvester
Thomas & D. Marian Szebenyi
Alina Szmant
Linda B. Tabor-Beck
Donna L. Talbott
Gabriela Taylor
Gregg W. Taylor
Steve Taylor
Jeffrey Terrill
Jennifer A. Thiermann
Catherine Thompson
Elizabeth Timpson-Clark
Brian A. Tinsley
Mark Tipperman & Lorna Williamson
Roland Tozer
Lane Tracy
Dakota Troy
Steven R. Truax & Kathleen J. Mintert
Jacqueline Turner
John R. Turner
Ray C. Unrath
Ms. Dinah Utah & Ms. Carolyn Joyce
Doug & Bonnie Van Der Voort
Yann M. van Heurck
Elana Van Patten
Mary Van Slooten
Elizabeth Vancisin
Jane L. VanSant

Robert & Laura Venning
Dr. Robert Verner & Margaret Dalton
Pieter & Helga Visscher
David von Seggern
Donald & Dolores Vought
Wesley D. Wahl
Irene J. Wakeland
Tommy C. Walen
William Warburton
Robert L. Warner
George Waters
James & Virginia Waters
Warren & Janis Watkins
Sally K. Weathers
Shirley & Eric Weeks
William G. Wegener
Richard & Susan Weigel
Michael J. Weinberg
David & Doris Weindorf
Rebecca H. Weiner
Daniel Weinstein
Louis Wenckus
Ira J. Werner
Timothy J. Wernette & Carolyn Brown
Lisa M. Wersal
Jay R. West
Joylene Westphal
Kevin J. Whaley
Jo Lynne Whiting
John W. Wickenden

Eugene Wigglesworth & Grace E. Teigen
Sharon Marie Wilcox
Cheryl Wilfong & Williams McKim
Stephen & Elizabeth Willey
Christopher Williams & Lorrie Lagasse
Don V. Williams
Thomas Williams
Robert Wills
Arlene D. Wilson
Kurt & Chris Wimberg
Alice Wolfson
William H. Wolverton
Lucille M. Wood-Trost
Marti Worth
Kenneth & Virginia Wright
Wayne & Veronica Wright
Ann M. Young
Douglas N. Young
Robert Yount
Cheryl D. Zabinski
Marguerite Zabriskie
Lawrence Zimmer & Thaddeus Perzanowski
Lynn M. Zoch

* honorary member

What will your legacy be?

If you aren't yet a member of the ZPG Society, have you considered becoming one? The simplest way for you to ensure that your dedication to Population Connection's mission continues well into the future is through a gift in your will or trust. You can add just one sentence to make your wishes known. Another simple way is to make Population Connection the beneficiary of your retirement or other financial account. Contact us to find out more!

Sample Gift Language:

After fulfilling all other provisions, I give, devise, and bequeath ___% of the remainder of my estate [or \$___ if a specific amount] to Population Connection (Tax ID #94-1703155), a charitable corporation currently located at 2120 L Street NW, Suite 500 Washington, DC 20037.

For more information, contact Victoria Wright at legacy@popconnect.org or (202) 974-7756.

Everyone needs a will! We've partnered with FreeWill so that you can draft your will online at no cost, in just 20 minutes. Visit freewill.com/populationconnection today!



We are honored to include Joyanne Bloom in our ZPG Society. In addition to her yearly support, she established a **charitable gift annuity** with Population Connection.

"It's a win-win. I can feel good about donating, and I'm also receiving quarterly checks, which is nice."

Joyanne, pictured here hiking in Alaska with her dog, Kenai, will continue to receive payments for life.



OUR PROMISE PAYMENTS FOR LIFE

With a **charitable gift annuity**, you can make a gift to Population Connection while receiving a fixed stream of payments for life, for you and/or another person. You can help protect Earth's resources while demonstrating your commitment to a more sustainable future.



To learn more, visit popconnect.org/support, email giving@popconnect.org, or call **202-974-7756**.



IN THE NEWS

By Olivia Nater, Communications Manager

WWF issues dire warning on state of nature

The World Wildlife Fund’s (WWF) latest *Living Planet Report*, published in October, estimates that vertebrate wildlife populations shrank by an average of 73% between 1970 and 2020 — an increase from the 69% drop between 1970 and 2018 reported in the 2022 edition.

As in previous reports, habitat loss is identified as the most important driver of wildlife decline, which in turn is primarily driven by conversion of land to agriculture. The second most important driver is overexploitation of species (for food, commercial purposes, etc.). Other major threats include invasive species and disease, climate change, and pollution.

The authors warn that as a result of international climate and biodiversity agreements not being implemented, humanity is rapidly running out of time to avert catastrophic tipping points:

We have five years to place the world on a sustainable trajectory before negative feedbacks of combined nature degradation and climate change place us on the downhill slope of runaway tipping points. The risk of failure is real — and the consequences almost unthinkable.

Young Americans very concerned about the climate crisis

A survey of around 15,800 Americans aged 16–25 across all 50 states found that 85% of respondents are at least moderately worried about climate change and its impacts on people and the planet, while 58% are very or extremely worried. The survey results were published in *The Lancet*.

The degree of concern was positively correlated with the number of severe weather events the respondents reported to have experienced. A quarter of respondents (26%) reported that their feelings about climate change impaired their daily functioning, while just over half

(52%) said that climate change is making them hesitant to have children of their own.

The United Nations Environment Programme’s (UNEP) latest *Emissions Gap Report*, published in October, shows that governments’ existing climate commitments (their “Nationally Determined Contributions” or NDCs) put the world on course for a temperature increase of 2.6–3.1°C this century, which “would bring debilitating impacts to people, planet, and economies.” The report states that getting on track to achieve the Paris Agreement goal of limiting warming to 1.5°C requires cutting global emissions by 42% by 2030, and by 57% by 2035.

Abortion and infant mortality both up since Dobbs

A new analysis found that the average number of monthly abortions in the United States has increased, despite ongoing abortion bans in many states. The #WeCount report, by the Society for Family Planning, tracked the number of abortions

during the 24 months following the Dobbs ruling on June 24, 2022, which overturned the constitutional right to abortion.

In the first six months of 2024, the monthly national abortion count averaged nearly 98,000, up from the 2023 monthly average of 88,000, and the 2022 monthly average of 81,400. For the majority of the 24 months following the Dobbs decision, 14 states had total abortion bans. The number of abortions during this period fell in only three states, however: Idaho, Oklahoma, and Texas.

The report shows that the decrease in in-person abortions in states with bans was more than made up for by people traveling out of state for abortion access, as well as by an increase in telehealth abortion services, aided by shield laws that provide legal protections to clinicians who offer abortion care to people in states with bans.

An independent study, published in *JAMA Pediatrics*, compared national monthly infant mortality rates following the Dobbs ruling against previous trends. The authors recorded as many as 247 more infant deaths per month than expected, with around 83% of those due to chromosomal and genetic anomalies.

The authors note that it's important to consider the

broader toll beyond increased infant deaths, including the mental health consequences of being forced to carry a fetus with a fatal condition to term.

Russia moves to censor childfree content


A bizarre bill aimed at increasing Russia's birth rate has cleared its first hurdle in Russia's parliament, gaining unanimous approval from the State Duma, the lower house of the Federal Assembly. If implemented, the new law would impose hefty fines on individuals, businesses, or entities who share content that is deemed to promote childfree lifestyles, while foreign nationals who create this type of content could be deported.

One of the bill's authors, Elvira Aitkulova, said, "It's an element of professional propaganda, part of a hybrid war aimed at population reduction." A higher birth rate has long been a priority goal for President Vladimir Putin, who last year called on women to return to traditional roles and to have as many as eight children.

More funding needed for contraceptive research

A commentary by former Population Connection board chair J. Joseph Speidel and his colleagues, published in the journal *Contraception*, makes the case for increased investment in contraceptive technologies.

The authors argue that current contraceptive options available in the US are not meeting all users' needs, resulting in high rates of contraceptive failure, unintended pregnancies, and user dissatisfaction. The commentary points out that US contraceptive research and development (R&D) expenditures in 2022 totaled just \$149 million, compared to the \$250 billion spent on overall pharmacological R&D.

According to the authors, top priorities for contraceptive improvement should be fewer side effects, improved safety, affordability, and ease of use, all coupled with high effectiveness. The paper notes that the current contraceptive array has "limited suitability" for many underserved populations, including those who desire male methods. 

Visit our blog to read more about some of these news items: popconnect.org/blog

The digital version of this article includes hyperlinked sources: popconnect.org/article/in-the-news-December-2024

MEMBER PROFILE

John Dwyer

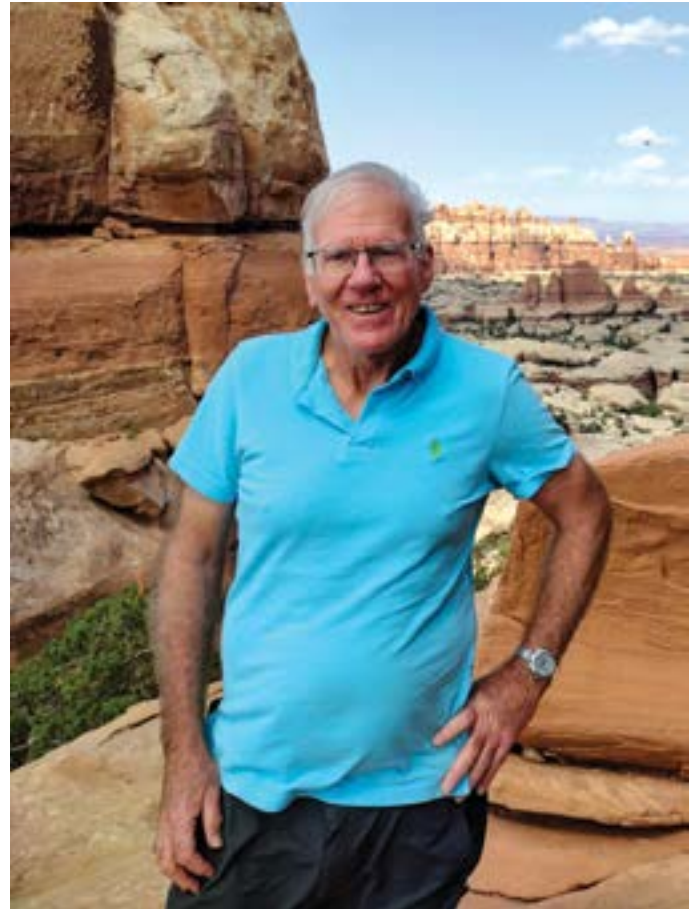
By Stephanie Wolfe, Membership Relations Coordinator

We are fortunate to have 40,000 members who care deeply about protecting the planet and improving the well-being of current and future generations of people around the world. Our members are also unfailingly committed to the conservation of the rest of Earth's millions of species, which are crucial to functioning ecosystems. We are pleased to introduce you to one such member below.

John Dwyer's life is a testament to his fascination with the universe and our planet, as well as his dedication to finding ways for humans to coexist sustainably with nature. Living in Colorado offers John the opportunity to pursue his outdoor interests, including hiking, pickleball, birding, and photography. Indoors, he spends his free time reading, watching movies, and playing his piano and guitar.

John enlisted in the Marines in 1966 when he was 17. In 1969, he went to Vietnam and saw firsthand the damage to that beautiful country and culture that was caused by the war. That was when he first became interested in ecology and conservation and decided to pursue a career that would help protect the planet.

John's interest in sustainability continued when he enrolled in a human ecology course at Red Rocks Community College in Denver in 1972, where he gained insight into how population growth drives many environmental challenges. He went on to earn a BS in Watershed Science from Colorado State University in Fort Collins. Now retired, John had a distinguished career as a hydrologist and civil engineer, beginning at



John at the Needles District of Canyonlands National Park in Utah

“Your emphasis on educating young people about the impacts of population growth, your efforts to improve access to birth control education and resources, and your focus on improving women’s health worldwide are all crucial. To me, these are the most important issues of our time.”


the US Forest Service and then transitioning to private consulting firms.

John supports Population Connection’s solutions to achieve population stabilization, including educating young people about the trajectory of global population growth and prioritizing women’s health worldwide — starting with improving access to voluntary family planning options. He also recognizes the importance of living a simpler, less consumer-driven lifestyle to mitigate the environmental pressures of a growing world population. John says, “We’ve reached a critical point in human history. If population growth continues on its present course, many plant and animal species will become extinct. The chance for a happy and fulfilling life will become much more difficult for many people, and climate change will have catastrophic consequences. We are already seeing this in the form of more frequent and intense floods, droughts, wildfires, and hurricanes.”

What resonates most with John about Population Connection is our commitment to helping people live more consciously and sustainably. He says, “Your emphasis on educating young people about the impacts of

population growth, your efforts to improve access to birth control education and resources, and your focus on improving women’s health worldwide are all crucial. To me, these are the most important issues of our time.”

To encourage other Population Connection members to get more involved, John emphasizes the issue’s urgency. “Time is short,” he says. “If we don’t act now to address the problems caused by excessive population growth, they’ll become increasingly difficult to solve.”

John hopes to raise people’s awareness of population challenges through his activism. He stays involved by making financial contributions and participating in membership activities — he even placed second in our 2023 Summer Photo Contest with his beautiful picture of a family of great blue herons! 

We are incredibly grateful to have such a passionate member dedicated to protecting our planet. If you’re as committed to achieving global population stabilization as John, we encourage you to contact us at engage@popconnect.org or to tune in for an upcoming virtual event!

EXPANDING FAMILY PLANNING ACCESS IN INDONESIA

Tackling myths, boosting clinical skills, and challenging patriarchy

By Sabar Artiyono

Article and photos courtesy of Ipas Indonesia



Family planning has been on the Indonesian government's agenda since the 1950s. This program aims to prevent maternal and child deaths. However, access to family planning services remains uneven across Indonesia's 38 provinces. Geographic conditions, the quality of access to services, myths about contraceptive methods, and patriarchal culture continue to be significant challenges in achieving this program's goals.

Ipas Indonesia is tackling this critical issue in three districts of East Nusa Tenggara (NTT), a province over 1,000 kilometers from Bali. According to the Indonesian National Family Planning Coordinating Board, modern contraception usage in this region was just 42.2% in 2022, falling significantly short of the national average of 59.4%.

A 2023 Ipas Indonesia assessment conducted in NTT has shown that contraceptive use remains low because women often discontinue use after the first contraceptive usage. This issue is influenced by several factors including social and cultural myths, limited access, poor quality of existing services, and limited support to family planning.

To address this challenge, Ipas Indonesia has launched the TAKENUSA (Tekad bersama untuk perempuan Nusa Tenggara, or "Collective Determination for Women in Nusa Tenggara") program. This initiative focuses on two key strategies to broaden contraceptive access in the region. First, Ipas is providing targeted training for midwives, empowering them to deliver high-quality contraceptive services and support. Second, Ipas is partnering



Yane M. Mallo in her office

with local organizations to train local leaders and community health workers to disseminate contraceptive information.

The training program, which involved 90 midwives in four groups from December 2023 to May 2024, has already made a significant impact. The training is expected to bring services closer to women and provide more contraceptive options, including long term methods. Currently, many women in Nusa Tenggara must travel up to 10 kilometers to access contraception services. As of August 2024, the trained midwives had provided contraceptive access to 5,267 women.

One of the midwives and training participants, Yane M. Mallo, shared that the training has greatly boosted her confidence in delivering

contraceptive services. Since graduating midwifery school in 2016, she had never practiced long term contraceptive methods like implants.

“I had not practiced any of this during my studies, only observed demonstrations. Even during my internship, I never had the chance to insert long term contraceptives. This training has really boosted my confidence in providing services to the community,” said Yane.

In NTT, injectable contraceptives and pills are the most chosen methods. Many people decide to use these methods due to myths circulating in the community. For instance, some still believe that a tubectomy is a procedure to remove the uterus. Others are hesitant to use implants because they fear that the implant might get lost inside their body.

Patriarchal culture hinders women’s access to family planning services

In addition to myths, women also face obstacles due to patriarchal culture, which restricts their ability to choose contraceptive methods. They often need to discuss their decisions with their husbands and obtain approval from their in-laws. As a result, many women struggle to manage their family planning effectively.

To address these challenges, Ipas Indonesia is partnering with three local organizations to train local leaders and community health workers who will empower women. These leaders are trained to disseminate accurate information about contraception and reproductive rights. They also engage with men to encourage support for their wives in using contraceptives.

“I have encountered many men who protested about why I support women’s rights. They say



Yanne T.L. Beis in front of the village office

men are always blamed, even though they work hard to support their families. I respond that we are all created by God and are equally valuable,” said one community health worker named Yanne T.L. Beis.

Through community engagements, more women are beginning to make informed choices about contraception based on their needs. For instance, Merci Beno decided to have a tubectomy after giving birth to her fifth child, having learned about the method from the local cadre discussions. She chose this method because she had experienced contraceptive failure due to inconsistent pill use.

“I did not need to discuss the tubectomy method at length with my husband. He agreed because we both work — I’m a preschool teacher

managing many children, and my husband is the village secretary,” Merci explained.

One community health worker noted that women are increasingly seeking information about contraceptive methods due to daily work demands. In addition to handling domestic chores, they also need to help their husbands with farming.


“Here, women do not just stay at home; they also work to support their husbands. During planting season, they must help out. If they do not, there won’t be enough food for the entire year. Managing many children adds even more stress,” she explained.

The TAKENUSA project, supported by Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited, has been



Midwives in NTT participating in a family planning training in June 2023

implemented in NTT since 2023. At Ipas Indonesia, we are continuously exploring optimal approaches to enhance access to family planning services and promote women's autonomy in selecting contraceptive methods. We aim to facilitate women's access to family planning and engage men in supporting gender equality in reproductive rights. To date, we have partnered with three local organizations and reached 27,775 women.

This program is also aligned with Indonesia's commitment to the global FP2030 initiative. The Indonesian government's vision is to provide voluntary and high-quality family planning and reproductive health services. 

This article is reprinted with permission from Ipas. Population Connection is pleased to extend modest financial support to the TAKENUSA project thanks to generous members like you!

Ipas is an important partner organization in the International Family Planning Coalition, a longstanding group of US-based NGOs that focus on improving access to family planning and reproductive health care in countries receiving US foreign assistance. The coalition advocates to increase funding for international family planning and to eliminate harmful US policies such as the Global Gag Rule and Helms Amendment.

We are saddened by the devastating eruptions in early November of Mount Lewotobi Laki-laki on Flores Island, in East Nusa Tenggara. At least nine people lost their lives in the disaster, dozens more were injured, and thousands of houses were damaged or destroyed. Our sympathies are with the people of NTT as they recover and rebuild.

VIRTUAL EVENTS

A Cornucopia of Virtual Events This Fall

By Natalie Widel, Director of Digital Marketing

From learning more about our hard-hitting #Fight4HER campaign, to hearing from a Global Partner bringing family planning and reproductive health care to under-served populations in Guatemala, to exploring the many resources our Population Education program has to offer — and more! — Population Connection members and supporters tuned in for an eclectic variety of events throughout the fall. We hope you'll join us soon — another interesting and insightful virtual event is always around the corner! See what's up next at popconnect.org/virtual-events.

September #Fight4HER 2024: Defending Reproductive Freedom in a Critical Year

Hosted by our sister organization, Population Connection Action Fund, our field team — Rebecca Harrington, Grace Long, and YoVanna Solomon — commemorated World Contraception Day (September 26) by presenting highlights from the previous few months of our joint #Fight4HER campaign. This impactful initiative mobilizes activists, organizers, and community leaders in key districts across the country year-round to raise awareness about two reprehensible

policies — the Global Gag Rule and the Helms Amendment — that threaten access to family planning and other reproductive health services in places that rely on US foreign aid.

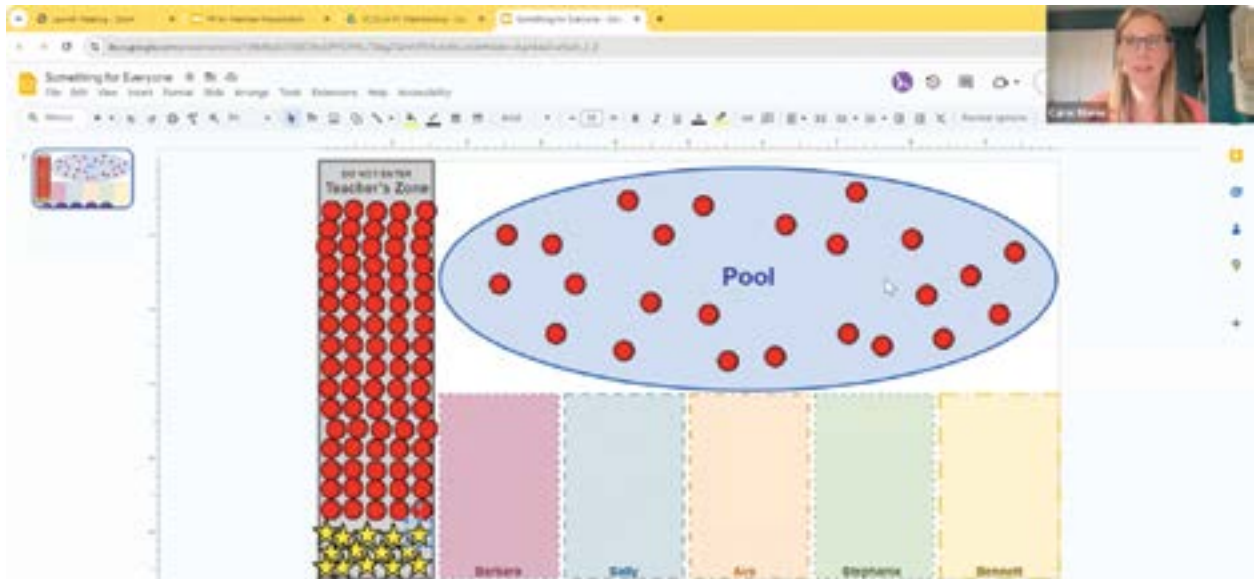
The event provided an overview of the reproductive health and rights advocacy landscape ahead of the November election, featuring insights from our Phoenix organizer, Matt Lopez, who had been working on the ground in Arizona since July.

October International Day of the Girl Child

We celebrated International Day of the Girl Child (October 11) with a presentation from our Global

Partner Asociación Manos Abiertas (AMA). During the event, Executive Director Diana Freiwald highlighted midwives' role in improving maternal and neonatal health in Guatemala, where access to quality reproductive health care is limited. She described the uniquely patient-centered care Manos Abiertas staff provide at the clinic in Antigua and beyond its walls, in communities within a three-hour radius — AMA recently purchased a new mobile clinic vehicle, made possible in part by the generosity of donors like you through our Global Partners program!

Learn more about Manos Abiertas in the Global Partners profile on the pages that directly follow this column.



Carol leading the activity Something for Everyone

Supporting Students and Educators for a Sustainable Future

We hosted Pamela Wasserman and Carol Bliese from our Population Education (PopEd) program to explain the unique educational model we utilize and to showcase the dynamic resources we offer educators to use with their K-12 students!

Attendees learned how PopEd teaches educators to effectively present our curriculum materials to students, enhancing their population literacy by bringing global challenges to life. Program offerings include hands-on workshops for pre-service teachers, as well as Leadership Institutes that prepare current educators to serve as teacher trainers in their communities.

The presentation ended with an interactive demonstration

of the activity Something for Everyone, a simulation where students draw renewable resources from a common pool and determine short term consumption strategies to preserve a long term supply.


November Page Turners Book Club

Our quarterly book club met in early November to discuss *Intertwined: Women, Nature, and Climate Justice*. The author, wildlife biologist Rebecca Kormos, interviewed women dedicated to combating the climate crisis, revealing how empowering women can shift our path away from catastrophic environmental degradation.

One chapter in *Intertwined* highlights the journey of our Global Partner in Colombia, Women for Conservation

(W4C). Founded by mother-daughter duo Sara Inés Lara and Isabella Cortes Lara, W4C provides opportunities for women to build sustainable livelihoods through conservation programs and training workshops. W4C also introduces family planning to communities in biodiversity hotspots, which improves people's health, reduces poverty, and decreases human pressure on local ecosystems.

December Year in Review

There's one more chance in 2024 to join us for a virtual event, at our Year in Review on December 12. Don't miss this opportunity to hear senior staff discuss our 2024 achievements — all made possible by dedicated supporters like you! Register at popconnect.org/virtual-events. 

GLOBAL PARTNERS

Asociación Manos Abiertas

By Marian Starkey, Vice President for Communications

Photos courtesy of Manos Abiertas

After Hannah Freiwald came to Guatemala from Germany over 35 years ago, she had two babies in quick succession. Her first birth, in 1989, was via emergency c-section due to excessive uterine contractions caused by the too-high dose of Pitocin (a synthetic hormone used to start or speed up labor) given to her by the attending doctor. Her anesthesiologist mother, not her attending doctor, noticed the life-threatening emergency.

Her second birth was at home in Antigua with a traditional midwife, or *comadrona*. It was such an amazing experience, she went to El Paso, Texas, to complete her certification as a direct-entry midwife. After returning to Guatemala, she owned two birth centers before being approached by Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) with a request to help them open a reproductive health clinic. She was excited at the prospect of being able to reach even more women with patient-centered, evidence-based, holistic reproductive health and obstetric care.



Hannah leading a neonatal resuscitation training

Asociación Manos Abiertas (AMA) was founded in Antigua in 2008. Over the past 16 years, the clinic has

grown and now employs several midwives and nurses, all women, many of whom are of Mayan descent. Often,

AMA staff are the first in their families to complete a formal education, and some of them have done so while working at Manos Abiertas. Several staff, for example, completed primary, secondary, and nursing school while simultaneously working in maintenance roles at AMA, before being trained to become practitioners by the organization's midwives.

Diana S. Freiwald started following Hannah, her mother, around when she was eight years old, attending patient appointments and becoming intimately familiar with the field of midwifery.

It's no surprise that Diana followed in her footsteps, receiving her official midwifery certification in Mexico, and is now the Executive Director and Senior Midwife at AMA.

One of the goals of the practice is to empower women through autonomy, giving patients all of the information about their health status and letting them make decisions about the care they would like to receive based on a comprehensive explanation of their options. This is in stark contrast to the care women tend to receive in government hospitals, which is often brash, rigid, and disrespectful, according to Diana. "Obstetric violence" is reportedly common, with patients being ignored, shushed, yelled at, and denied requested care such as tubal ligations.

AMA provides reproductive health care from puberty through menopause, offering

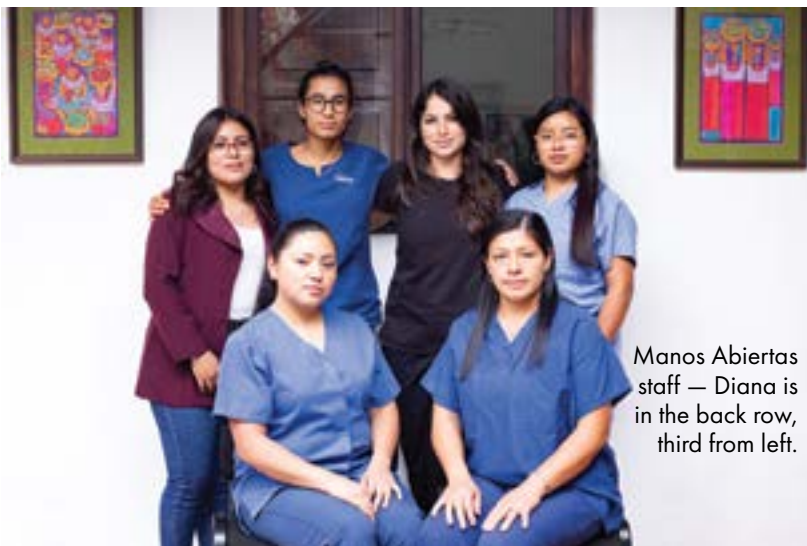
contraceptive services, cancer screenings, perinatal and delivery care, c-section prevention (95% of deliveries at private Guatemalan hospitals and 65% at public hospitals are via c-section, according to Diana), lactation support, and even pediatric care. In a typical year, AMA provides the following care to patients: 24 family planning day clinics, 270 short term contraceptive methods, 500–900 long-acting reversible contraceptive (LARC) methods, 305 gynecological consultations, 100 STI tests, 250 cervical cancer screenings, 52 post-abortion consultations, 270 prenatal check-ups, 20 vaginal deliveries, and 50 pediatric consultations. All women, regardless of their ability to pay, receive care.

The funding model at AMA is a combination of scaled fees for services and grants from

organizations like Population Connection and PPFA.

AMA travels within a three-hour range, bringing its mobile clinic to marginalized communities in the departments of Guatemala, Sacatepéquez, Chimaltenango, and Escuintla. Sometimes, a mobile clinic sees only two or three patients, and sometimes it draws up to 75!

As of this year, Eleanor Unsworth, a Population Connection board member and the Executive Director at WINGS, one of our longest standing Global Partners, is on the board of AMA. The two organizations sometimes work together to bolster each other's efforts, along with Maya Health Alliance, yet another of our Global Partners. Learn more about these amazing organizations at popconnect.org/global-partners and watch the recording of a recent virtual event featuring Diana at popconnect.org/virtual-events/2024-virtual-events-archive/manos-abiertas/. 



Manos Abiertas staff — Diana is in the back row, third from left.

Thank you to all of our generous donors who make our Global Partners program possible! Without you, we wouldn't be able to support the incredible work of the 19 small but impactful organizations currently benefiting from your contributions.

Election Outcomes Dwarf Other Battles

By Brian Dixon, Senior Vice President for Governmental and Political Affairs

Congress passes last-minute short term government funding bill just days before deadline

On September 25, less than a week before a shutdown deadline, Congress passed a continuing resolution to keep government funding going through December 20. A clean bill — meaning no controversial policy provisions — was passed only after House leadership tried and failed twice to move a bill that included provisions unacceptable to the Senate and the White House. And it was passed, like each of the late funding bills over the past two years, with more Democratic than Republican votes in favor. Now that the election is over, Congress will try again to pass funding legislation through the end of September 2025. If history is any guide, that will likely not happen until days before the December 20 deadline, when the current Congress is scheduled to adjourn.

Biden-Harris administration announces new rule to expand access to no-cost contraceptives

In October, the White House announced a new rule to expand private insurance coverage of FDA-approved contraceptives. The rule will, for the first time, allow people to get over-the-counter (OTC) contraceptives without cost sharing. This will make emergency contraceptives and Opill, the new OTC oral contraceptive on shelves since March, available without co-pay. The rule will also require private health insurers to inform policy holders of the new coverage. Finally, the new rule will require health plans to strengthen existing coverage for prescription contraceptives, more explicitly requiring plans to cover drug-based methods without co-pay. This marks the largest expansion of contraceptive coverage since the Affordable Care Act's birth control benefit went into effect 12 years ago.

The new rule was published in the Federal Register on October 28 and is undergoing a 60-day comment period before it can be made final.

Republican attorneys general file new lawsuit seeking to limit access to medication abortion

Just weeks before the November 5 election, the attorneys general of Idaho, Kansas, and Missouri filed a lawsuit seeking to severely restrict the availability of mifepristone across the country. Their suit strives to make the medication illegal for anyone under 18, and it aims to use the Comstock Act — a 19th century relic — to bar the mailing of the drug across state lines.

The new lawsuit comes following the Supreme Court's dismissal earlier this year of a challenge from the state of Texas to the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) approval of mifepristone in 2000. The justices' dismissal of

Bidding farewell to a champion

When the new Congress convenes in January, the House of Representatives will not include Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA-12), arguably one of the most outspoken and effective supporters of and advocates for international family planning and global reproductive rights who has ever served.

Rep. Lee is leaving the House after 13 terms. She is the sponsor of the Global Health, Empowerment, and Rights (HER) Act to prevent a future president from unilaterally reimposing the Global Gag Rule — a policy which undermines crucial access to contraceptives and other reproductive health care. As chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on State Department and Foreign Operations, she moved legislation to increase US support for these programs and to eliminate harmful restrictions including the Global Gag Rule and the Helms Amendment.

She has been a strong, steady, and consistent leader in efforts to block new restrictions on abortion across the United States and around the world. In 2017, she was presented with Population Connection Action Fund's Empower Her, Empower Humanity Award in recognition of her lifetime of work.

She has helped improve the lives of hundreds of millions of people around the world. We are all better off because of her service to community and country. We will miss her fierce dedication and leadership in Congress, and selfishly hope to see her finding new ways to serve and to make “good trouble.”

Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA-12) attends a news conference with the Pro-Choice Caucus on the reintroduction of the Equal Access to Abortion Coverage in Health Insurance (EACH) Act, outside the US Capitol on January 26, 2023. (Tom Williams/CQ-Roll Call, Inc via Getty Images)



the case was based on narrow technical grounds which left the door open for different challengers to bring a new lawsuit.

This new suit was filed with the same federal judge who ruled in favor of the earlier challenge in Texas (even though none of the plaintiffs are from that state).

Trump to return to White House in January; reimposition of Global Gag Rule expected

The results of the election put the future of reproductive health and rights across the US and around the world in serious doubt. By our press deadline (November 8), more than two dozen House races hadn't yet been called, but Republicans had won control of the Senate and Trump had been re-elected.

The election wasn't all bad news for reproductive rights though. Voters in seven states — Arizona, Colorado, Maryland, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, and New York — adopted constitutional provisions to protect the right to abortion. In Florida, 57% supported an initiative to do so, but it failed due to a 60% threshold required for approval. In Nebraska and South Dakota, right to abortion initiatives were defeated. [🌐](#)

FIELD + OUTREACH

Election Season Summits and Canvasses

By Rebecca Harrington, Senior Director of Advocacy and Outreach

The #Fight4HER campaign was in full swing this fall, as we prepared for the 2024 general election. In mid-September, there were #Fight4HER summits in our six target locations: Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona; Las Vegas, Nevada; New Hampshire; Columbus, Ohio; and the Lehigh Valley of Pennsylvania. In early October, voter education door knocking operations began in these same six locations. Read ahead for highlights from each one!

#Fight4HER summits

The #Fight4HER summits brought together a variety of reproductive health and rights experts and were an excellent opportunity for new and seasoned activists to learn about the Global Gag Rule and the bill to permanently end it, the Global HER Act.

At the Tucson summit, Cassandra Becerra, the District Scheduler for Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ-07), spoke about Rep. Grijalva's commitment to reproductive rights, and warned of the threat to reproductive freedom that a future president could pose:

The Biden-Harris administration deserves our praise for beginning to repair that damage [of policies like the Global Gag Rule], but the truth is that any future

administration can take us backward — so we really have to pay attention to who we're bringing into office.

Phoenix summit participants heard from Dr. Misha Pangasa, an OB/GYN and a fellow at Physicians for Reproductive Health, about the real world impact of abortion bans:

It's really challenging to provide the best care to your patients when there's the looming threat of prosecution over your head ... restrictive policy has a huge impact. There is so much gray area, that it creates a culture of fear.

The Las Vegas summit featured a keynote talk by Lauren Flores, a junior majoring in biology and engineering at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. A disability advocate, Lauren works to advance

causes on campus that are important to her, and focuses on small actions that can lead to bigger social change.

For the New Hampshire summit, Rep. Chris Pappas (D-NH-01) recorded a powerful video voicing support for reproductive rights, and Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) shared a personal letter thanking #Fight4HER activists for their organizing work in New Hampshire.

At the Columbus summit, State Rep. Anita Somani (D-11), a practicing OB/GYN for over 30 years, advocated for evidence-based legislation — the opposite of the baseless abortion bans that have been imposed in states across the country, including in Ohio, which had a six-week ban until it was struck down by a county judge in late October.



1



2



3



4



5



6



7


1) Phoenix canvassers; 2) Tucson summit participants; 3) New Hampshire summit participants; 4) New Hampshire canvassers; 5) Pennsylvania Canvass Director and fellows; 6) Pennsylvania high school students; 7) Pennsylvania canvassers

Participants at the Lehigh Valley summit included seven local students who are members of their high school's National Organization for Women Campus Action Network. They arrived ready and willing to volunteer and to be active participants in the event, in a heartening reminder that members of the up-and-coming generation of young adults are eager to fight for rights and justice.

Voter education

At the beginning of October, non-partisan canvasses kicked off in our six locations. Teams worked diligently to knock on as many doors as possible, building voting plans with constituents. All told, organizers knocked on over 137,000 doors and spoke with 43,500 potential voters!

While the election didn't go the way we had hoped, and

we're wary of another Trump administration and the devastating blow it will undoubtedly deal to reproductive freedom domestically and worldwide, we're so proud of the hard work these amazing organizers, fellows, and deputy directors put into the #Fight4HER campaign this year. They gave it everything they had, and we are incredibly inspired and forever grateful. 

POPULATION EDUCATION

2024 PopEd Leadership Institutes

New Volunteer Trainers Attend Events in Charlotte and Detroit

By Pamela Wasserman, Senior Vice President for Education



PopEd staff and participants at the Charlotte Leadership Institute

PopEd may be coming to a town near you. That's in large part due to our wonderful network of volunteer facilitators, who present over half of our teacher workshops throughout the US and Canada. This year, we hosted two Leadership Training Institutes to prepare 51 new trainers to share our interactive lessons with K–12 teachers and student teachers in their local areas.

Our Summer Leadership Institute, held in Charlotte

in July, brought together 33 educators from 18 states and provinces, with a third of the participants based in the Carolinas. Our Fall Leadership Institute, held in Detroit in September, focused on cultivating new trainers in that area — over half of the 18 participants were from Michigan, Ohio, and Ontario. Our new trainers bring expertise in all levels of education and a range of disciplines. They are a mix of K–12 teachers, administrators,

university education faculty, and nonformal educators who provide environmental education in their regions.

The Leadership Institutes equip new trainers to facilitate PopEd workshops at teacher conferences, for school district programs, and in classes of university students preparing to become new teachers. As of press time, our 2024 Institute alums had already committed to presenting 46 workshops during the 2024–2025 school year. 



Clockwise from top: PopEd staff and participants at the Detroit Leadership Institute; Charlotte group plays the resource game One for All; Dani and Kara create a concept map in Charlotte; Mamta, Saket, and Anganette measure population doubling time in Charlotte; Nichole plays a role in Who Polluted the Potomac?

CARTOON



Cartoon by Michael Murphy, Population Connection President's Circle member



By including Population Connection in her will, Rebecca chose to invest in the future and ensure our essential work continues until we achieve our goal: people and the planet in balance. We are honored to include Rebecca in our ZPG Society!

*Rebecca Weiner,
ZPG Society member,
and her husband,
Mike, in the Black Hills
of South Dakota*

PLAN FOR YOUR LEGACY

By including a gift to Population Connection in your will or trust, you can ensure our work continues as long as overpopulation threatens our world. After providing for your loved ones, you might consider designating a remainder gift, or a percentage, to Population Connection. Make your legacy one that protects people and our planet well into the future.

Make your will for free!

We're partnering with FreeWill to provide this free, legal service.
Just go to **freewill.com/populationconnection**



To learn more, visit **popconnect.org/support**,
email **legacy@popconnect.org**, or call **202-974-7756**.



Population Connection
2120 L Street NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20037

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
POPULATION CONNECTION

*Rob and Margie Robinson,
President's Circle members,
in Glacier Bay National Park*



MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH **YOUR YEAR-END GIFT**

As the end of the year approaches, you might consider a tax-advantageous gift to Population Connection.

You may wish to consider:

- Giving appreciated stock or mutual fund shares
- Establishing a **charitable gift annuity**
- Making a **qualified charitable distribution** from your IRA
- Designating a gift through your **donor advised fund**
- Including a gift in your will or trust



To learn more, visit popconnect.org/support, email giving@popconnect.org, or call **202-974-7756**.