

The Matlab Family Planning–Health Services Programme, Bangladesh (icddr,b)

Gender Equality · Good practice · Bangladesh

Quality score: 78/100

Evidence strength: Quasi-experimental

Summary

Since 1977, icddr,b's family planning programme in Matlab, Bangladesh has been rigorously studied, cutting fertility ~25% — but 35-year follow-up finds no gain, and some decline, in women's own long-term health and decision-making power.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Transferability / replicability	3/3
Impact on gender equality	1/1
Effectiveness	1/1
Efficiency	0/1
Evaluated outcomes	1/1
Sustainability	1/1
Achievement / evidence	1/1
Gender-mainstreaming embedding	0/1
Curator validation	1/1

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-07-17

[International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh \(icddr,b\)](#) — accessed 2026-07-17

[Phillips et al. 1982, Studies in Family Planning \(PubMed\)](#) — Demographic impact of the Matlab project — accessed 2026-07-17

[University of Colorado Boulder Coloradan](#) — The Bangladesh Miracle: Decades-Long Study Reveals Impact of Family Planning — accessed 2026-07-17

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