Niger - Family Planning and Women's Empowerment Research

"Kula da Juna" - improving women's empowerment, and postpartum family planning rates through a new model of pre and postnatal care in Niger
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Background: The OASIS Initiative, a project of the University of California, Berkeley and Venture Strategies for Health and Development, is working to help catalyze a demographic transition in the Sahel region of Africa. Achieving women's desires relative to birth spacing and limiting is essential for this transition to occur. One key strategy to meet women's needs for birth spacing/limiting is by improving access to postpartum family planning

"Kula da Juna" is a new pilot study led by the OASIS team in Maradi, Niger. In collaboration with the Midwives Association of Niger, the OASIS study team will test whether a group model of prenatal and postnatal care will result in an increase in postpartum family planning uptake compared to the standard of care (individual consultations). In addition, the study will demonstrate whether the integrated approach will demonstrate measurable improvements in the following secondary outcomes: 1) pre-postpartum care attendance 2) health facility delivery rate 3) women's knowledge about danger signs in pregnancy 4) infant immunization rates and 5) interspousal communication about place of delivery and/or family planning.

If successful, this study will determine whether group care is a more effective and sustainable model to encourage safer behaviors in pregnancy while enabling women to choose the number and timing of their subsequent births. The results of the study could inform the development of a larger, government led initiative with the aim of achieving impact at scale.

Project Description: The student will work with OASIS Niger's research team in Maradi from June through August 2020 to collect and clean data, and to assist with data analysis.

Required Qualifications: Highly motivated and detail-oriented student with fluency in French. We would also prefer a student whose area of study is relevant to this research project and who has some experience in SPSS or Stata.