



# Towards Improved Economic and Sexual/Reproductive Health Outcomes for Adolescent Girls (TESFA)

CARE Ethiopia

THE NIKE FOUNDATION

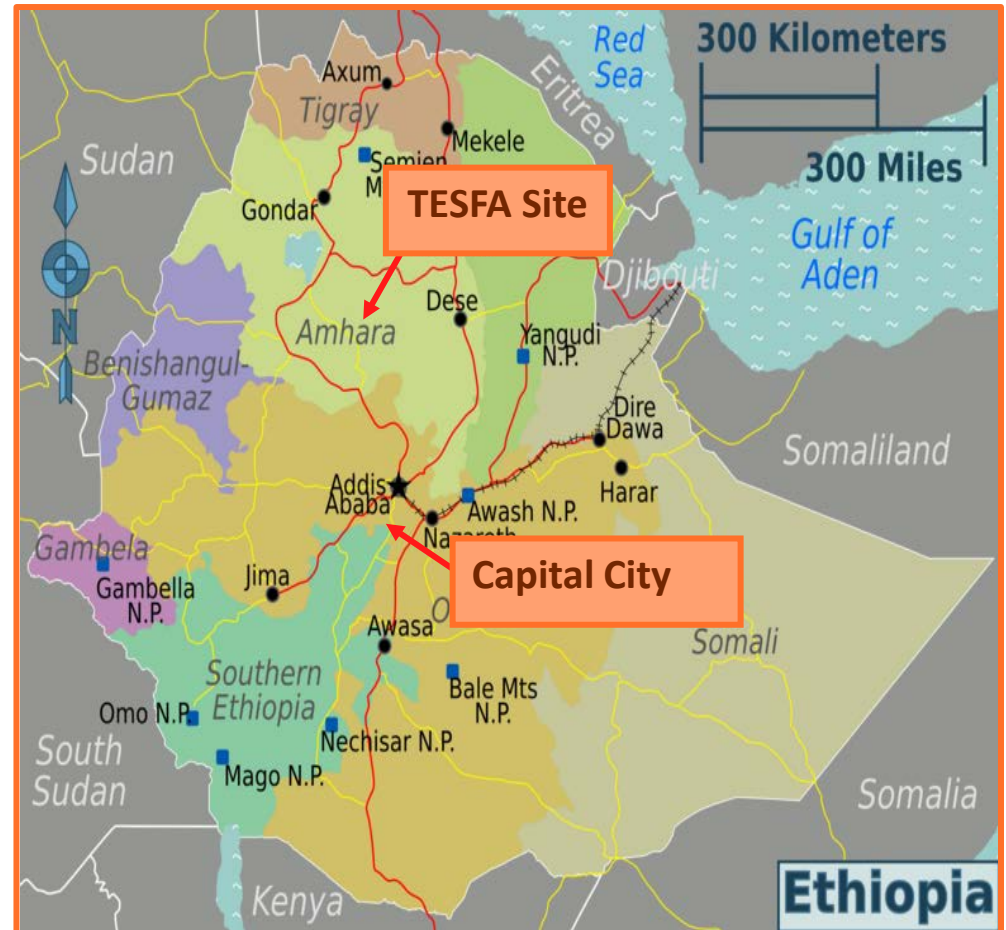


# Project Background and Context

Launched in 2010 reaching over 5000 ever-married adolescent girls (ages 14-19) to mitigate the effects of child marriage.

## CONTEXT

no/little education + lack of social networks / isolation + high GBV + FGC + limited reproductive health services



# Project Implementaion: Community buy-in and support



- Community sensitization-get buy in, participation and support
- Community/SAA groups formed with 'gate keepers' of adolescent girls
- SAA - critical reflection dialogue and transformation

# Project Implementaion: Reaching the Girls



- Girls were identified and recruited by the SAA groups
- Girls organized to form participant-led groups (SRH, EE and combined)
- Tailored curricula developed
- Peer facilitators selected by group members and trained on discussion curricula and facilitation skills



# Innovative Programming

Directly working with hard to reach married and most vulnerable adolescent girls

Peer-led girls support groups to create safe space and expand social capital of isolated married adolescent girls

Creation of buy-in and sustainable social support systems for married girls through Social Analysis & Action groups



# Progress/ Results: Sexual Reproductive Health



- ↑ contraceptive knowledge
- ↑ contraceptive use
- ↑ reports of husbands having favorable attitudes towards family planning
- ↑ support from family members for family planning
- ↑ proportions of births taking place in health centers (past 12 months)
- ↑ confidence in negotiating with husbands about contraception use  
58% of program participants reported their confidence had increased “a lot”

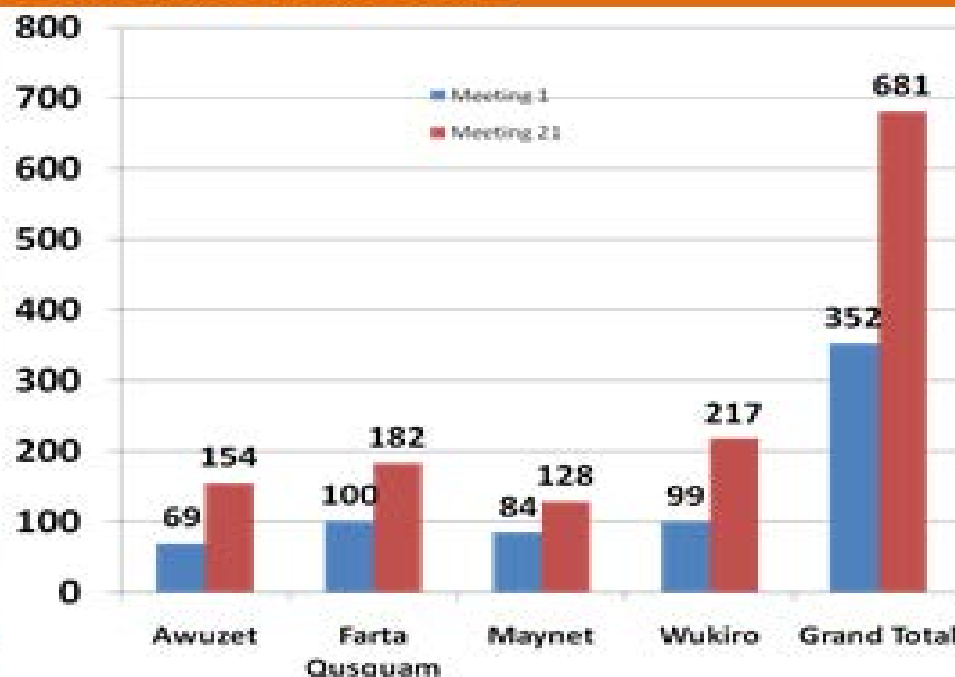
June 18, 2013

# Contraceptive use among married girls

The trend of girls who are using contraceptives in four Kebeles in Farta woreda in 10 months time



New contraceptive adopters from the project



*CPR rise from 39% at the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting to over 81% in the 21<sup>th</sup> meeting  
681 are users out of 837 (most of the remaining girls are not using FP services because they are divorce and/or are not currently in sexual relationships, or are pregnant or want to be pregnant).*

# Progress/ Results: Economic Empowerment



ownership of household agricultural assets  
[particularly smaller assets such as chickens]



reports of work in past 6 months with greater diversity of economic activities



reports of having taken savings and loans



confidence in ability to deal with economic crises/times of need  
[whether they felt they could raise enough money to feed their family for 2 weeks if they had to]



confidence in negotiating with husbands about earning money  
55% of program participants reported their confidence had increased “a lot”

# Other Interesting Changes



school attendance, mobility, and mental health



couple communication particularly around decision making



reports of feeling girls' opinion is taken into account for household decisions



positive perceptions of self worth  
[including a decline in acceptance of GBV]



number of people in support networks

96% would recommend the program to a friend

# Lessons Learned

Peer-led girls support groups work even in rural, conservative context

✓ Rapid changes in knowledge and behavior are feasible using this approach

Tailored 'life skills' training, particularly around negotiation skills is key

✓ Effects extend beyond health and economic empowerment

Program participation itself can make a very large difference in the lives of girls



# Lessons learned

## Contextualized community outreach and continued engagement

- ✓ Inspires commitment for further social change

## Targeting and engaging gate keepers

- ✓ Creates mutual accountability

## Mitigating the effects of child marriage should be a focus of more programming and can contribute to prevention



# Recommendations

- More focus on married girls is needed
  - Most vulnerable yet underserved
  - Significant in number, yet invisible
  - Safe spaces and supportive environments key to unleashing their potential
  - Give married girls more voice and visibility
- Working with community through social gate keepers is key
  - Deliberate and active engagement at all stages of program cycle
  - Create sense of ownership and accountability
  - Enable *them* to be change agents
- Fully integrate evaluation and program design

# Next Steps

- Communication and dissemination
  - National
  - Global
- Going to scale
  - Huge need and demand both in Ethiopia and elsewhere
  - Research on how to effectively go to scale with group-based programming needed
- Active engagement in national and global forums to inform and influence





Thank you!

