Family planning for health and wealth of married adolescent (15-24) and their families in East Wollega, Ethiopia

Empowered for a Healthy Marriage

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Presentation outline

• Background information
• Description of the project
• Project implementation modality
• Some key baseline information
• Major achievement
• Lesson Learnt
1. Background Information

- DSW is an international development and advocacy organization with headquarters in Hannover, Germany.

- It has been implementing population and development programs in East Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania).

- DSW Ethiopia has been running a nation-wide youth to youth program.

- It has also been implementing target specific projects to address the needs of most vulnerable groups (out of school youth, fistula patients, girls, and young married women).
2. Project Description

2.1 Project title:
Promoting Community-Based Response to Reproductive Health and Livelihood Needs of Adolescent Married Girls and Young Women (15-24)

2.2 Project area: Seven districts in East Wollega zones where early marriage and early child bearing is highly valued

2.3 Project duration: Three years (Sep 2010- Aug 2013)

2.4 Funding agency: David and Lucile Packard Foundation
2.5 General Objective of the project

To improve the overall well-being of adolescent married girls and their families by increasing access to sexual and reproductive health services and livelihood opportunities
2.6 Specific Objectives

- Increase the utilization of sexual and reproductive health services among adolescent married girls.
- Strengthen community awareness and support to improve sexual and reproductive health of married adolescent girls and young women.
- Enhance livelihood opportunities including education of young married adolescent girls.
2.7 Project implementation modality

**Demand Generation**
- Empowering Adolescent married girls and women through information and training (**change agents**)
- Educational messages on the risks of early marriage and childbearing, as well as the benefits of delaying and spacing births

**Enabling Environment**
- Training of change agents and **promoters** within the community
- Community sensitization and mobilization
- IEC/BCC and outreach
- Livelihood support
- Establish **Community support groups** at each project sites

**RH/FP Services Provision**
- Increase skills and knowledge of community-based health service providers on RH/FP services
- Contraception provision
2.8 Strategies

• Working with community based structures such as Idirs, Mahaber, Senbete and others
• Outreach information and service delivery (Audio-visual materials and mobile services)
• User friendly service delivery via **public private partnership**
2.9 Expected outcomes

- Conducive environment created for adolescent married girls to make informed decision on their SRH (educating 300,000 community members on SRH/FP)

- 58,000 married adolescent girls and their spouses (15-24) received SRH/ family planning information and decide to use SRH services
  - 8,000 adolescent married girls aged 15-19 make informed decision to use contraceptives and delaying their first pregnancies by a minimum of 2-3 years
  - 50,000 young married girls aged 19-24 make informed decisions to use contraceptives and space births

- Livelihood options of 500 young married girls improved including their access to education
3. Some Key baseline information of the project area

- Married adolescent girls were expected to give birth immediately after their marriage.

- They hardly use FP service to delay first pregnancy and even very low for spacing.

- 41.5% of married adolescent (15-24) do not use FP service due to resistance from partners and in-laws.

- 81.6% of married adolescent indicated that decision on use of FP is made either by their husband or in consultation with him.

- 90.3% of married adolescent do not have their own means of income.

- 88.5% of them depend on their husband for FP service related costs.
4. Major achievements

• 19,654 (97% of the plan) married adolescent girls, their spouses and in-laws were intensively educated on SRH/FP through home to home visits by trained change agents
Achievements …

• 82,976 (83% of the plan) community members were reached with SRH/FP information through group meetings, community dialogues, outreach and other IEC/BCC approaches.
Achievements cont…

- 7159 (68.4% of the plan) adolescent married girls used FP service
- 35.8% (2565) of FP users used FP to delay first pregnancy while 64.2% (3919) are for spacing
- Of users of FP service for delaying, 30% of them were accompanied by their husband
Achievement …

• 182 adolescent married girls returned to school and attending (grades up to 5=143 and 6-10 = 43)

• Most of the adolescent married girls who returned to school are FP users for delaying first pregnancy

• 4412 adolescent married girls and their spouses were tested for HIV through outreach program
Achievements…

• 184 married adolescent girls (15-24) formed 46 saving and credit groups

• Group members were trained on entrepreneurship and basic business concept

• Revolving fund provided for each group

• The groups are legally registered and linked to small and micro enterprises for technical support in business identification, loan management and others
• The total capital of the 46 groups is Birr 83,967 (56,000 seed money and 27,967 savings)
• Each group have a capital of 5,610 - 9,354 Birr
• They started income generating activities like sheep rearing, gardening, grain vending and trading
5. Program implications/ Lesson Learnt

- Tailored IEC/BCC on SRH/FP mainly home to home visit is very effective in enabling married adolescent girls (15-24) to make informed decision
- Spouses and in-laws play crucial role in improving FP service uptake among married adolescent girls and young women
- The integration of SRH/FP with livelihood opportunities motivated and empowered adolescent married girls and their spouses
- The involvement of local community structures facilitates effective and sustainable project implementation
- Empowering married adolescent girls to make a difference in their SRH and livelihood conditions improves family life
- Psycho-socio and economic support is very vital for determined married adolescent girls to continue their education
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Thank You!