

Promising Interventions: Preliminary Findings from the Amhara Region, Ethiopia

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The Context

High national prevalence of child marriage in 2005

- 27% of girls aged 15-19 ever married
- 13% of girls 15-19 first married < 15 years

Low median age at first marriage for girls in Amhara Region

- Women 20-49: 14.2
- Men 25-54: 22.3

Negative implications for reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, STI, education, and gender-based violence



Interventions

Implementers

- Pathfinder International/Ethiopia (PI)
- World Learning/Ethiopia (WL)

Types of Interventions

- School-based
- Community-based
- Partnerships with national and regional legal/civil society organizations



School-Based Interventions

<p>Girls Advisory Committees (WL)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Male & female students- Teachers & parents- Primary school only	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Tackle problems of non-school attendance with PTA- Provides support to girls to ensure school continuation
<p>Girls Clubs (PI)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Female students only- Primary & secondary schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Peer education on child marriage, HTPs, RH, life skills- Support network for girls “escaping” early marriage- Report planned child marriages to women’s association & teachers- Promote community conversations at social gatherings (e.g. coffee ceremonies)

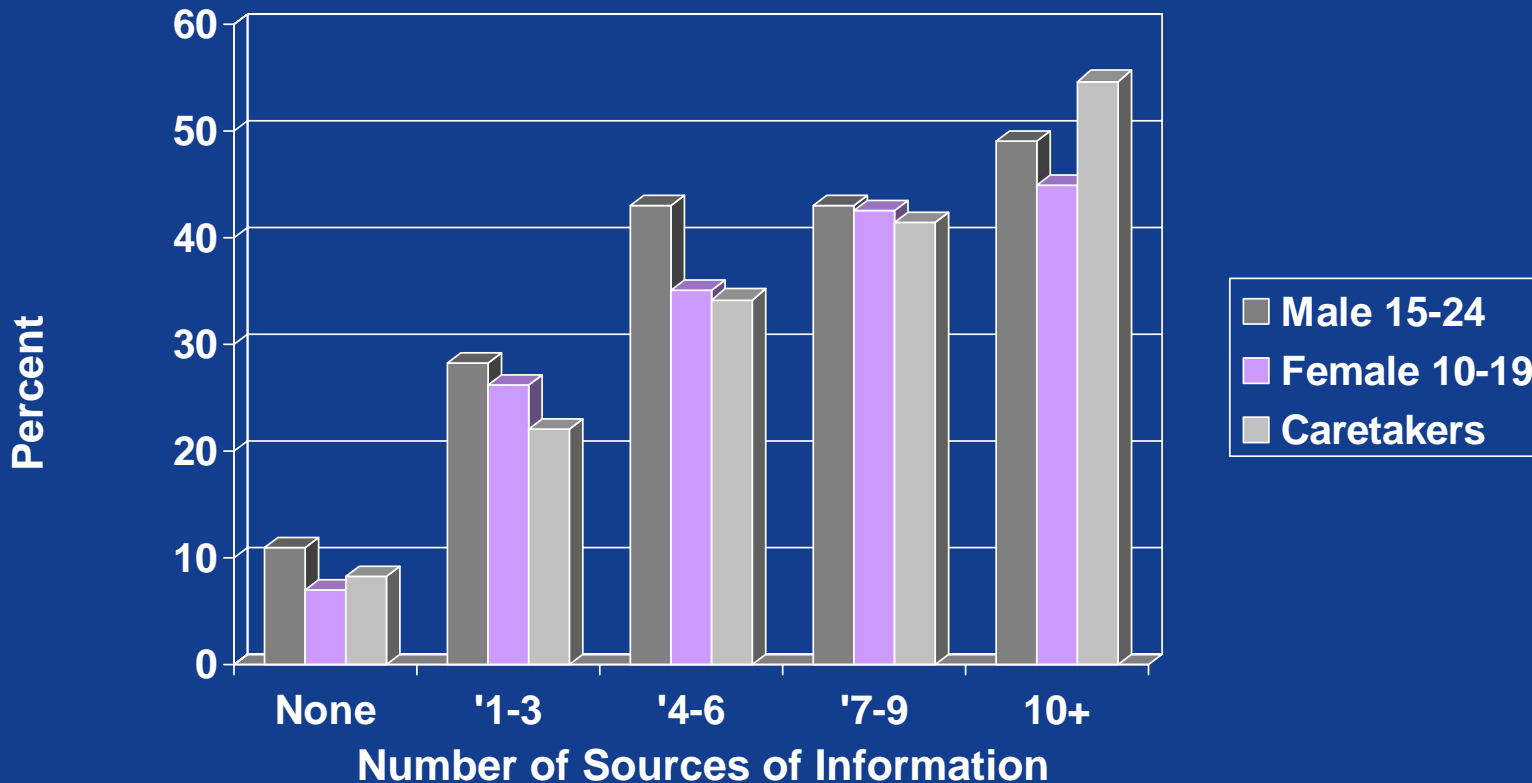
Community-Based Interventions

<p>Woreda (District) Advisory Committee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Campaigns against child marriage - Intervenes with AWA to stop planned child marriages
<p>Amhara Women's Association (AWA)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organizes & train Girls Clubs - Provides scholarships for poor girls - Sensitizes communities on early marriage consequences & prevention - Disseminates IEC materials
<p>Religious leaders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PI organizes workshops for religious leaders: child marriage, HTPs - Sign statements condemning child marriage - Exhort religious bodies to advocate against child marriage in community
<p>Legal bodies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raise awareness of new legislation - Enforce law

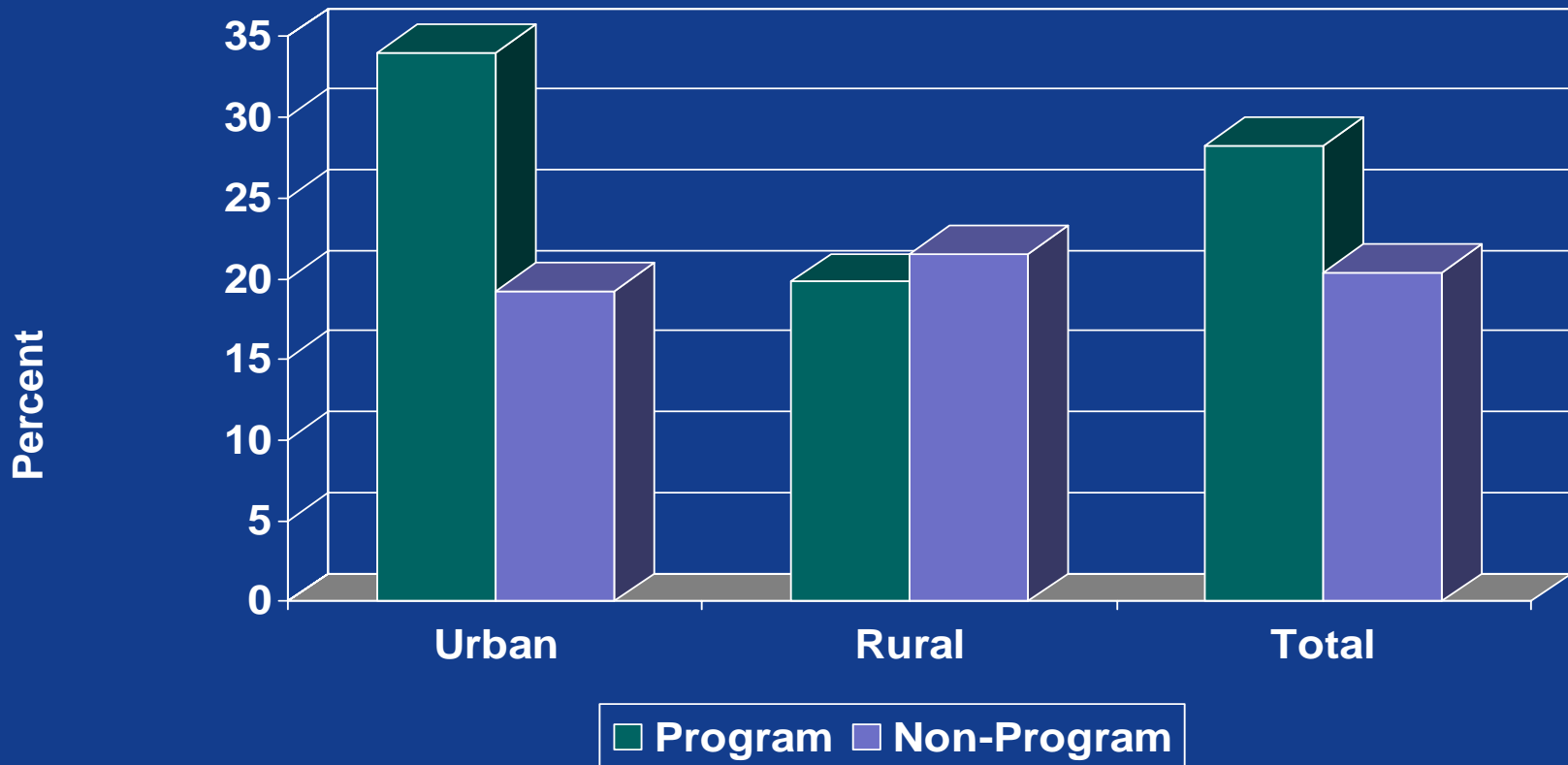
Community-Based Interventions Cont'd

<p>Community-based Reproductive Health Agents (trained by PI)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CBRHA sensitize against early marriage house-to-house - Organize community gatherings - Educate and mobilize at market places - Intervene with AWA to stop planned child marriages
<p>Partnerships with National and Civil Society Organizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EWLA provides free legal counsel to victims of marriage by abduction and rape - Works with PI to train law enforcement agencies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Committee on Harmful Traditional Practices (EGLDAM) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develops training manual on early marriage, HTP, & RH - Provides material support to Girls clubs - Promotes community conversations - Develops and disseminates BCC materials

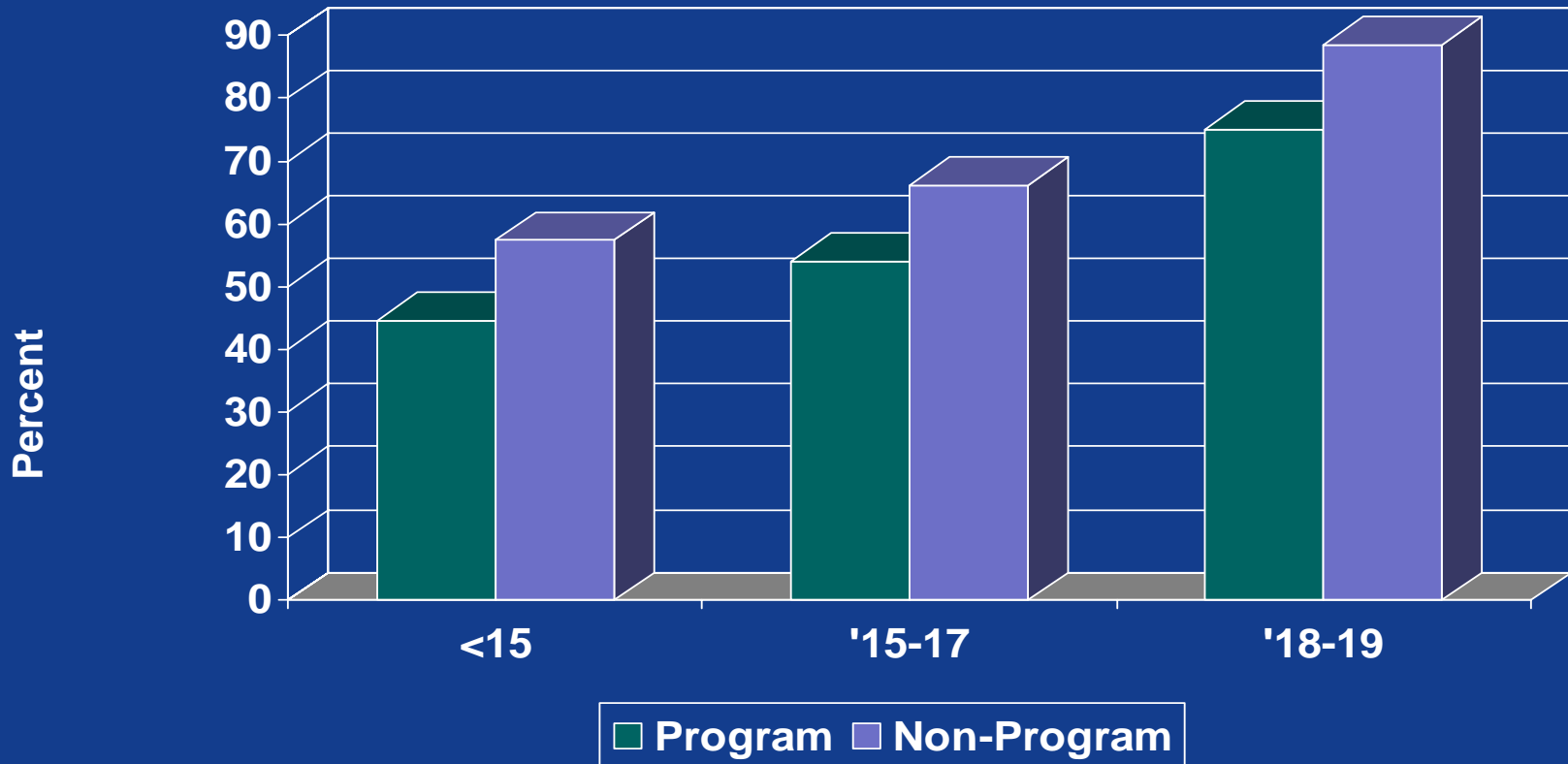
Percent Correctly Identifying Legal Minimum Age at Marriage by Message Exposure, Amhara EMES 2007



Percent of Planned Marriages of Females Younger than Age 18 that Were Stopped, Amhara EMES 2007



Percent of Last Marriages of Females Aged 10-19 that were Blessed by Religious Leaders, Amhara EMES 2007



Next Steps

Amharic Dissemination Seminar, Amhara Region, March 3, 2008

- Output = action plans

English Dissemination seminar, Addis Ababa, March 6, 2008

- Output = data use calendar

Promoting data use for program and policy action