

# Stopping Child Marriage: Lessons from Ethiopia



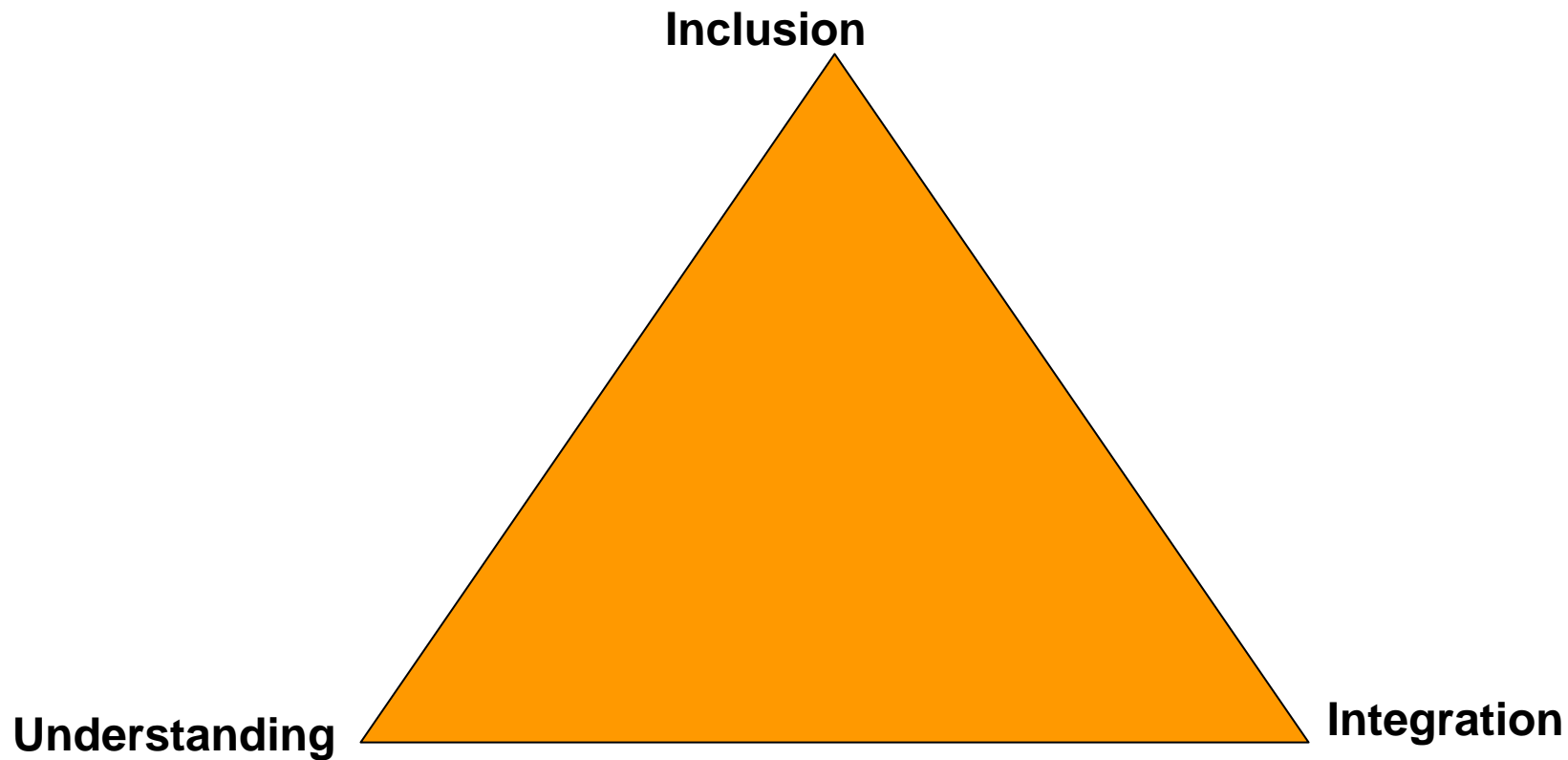
Healthy Unions Project--USAID and  
CARE Ethiopia

# Child Marriage and Other Harmful Traditional Marriage Practices

- At least 23% of girls married in Oromiya Region of Ethiopia are under the age of 15; the overall rate for the country is 12%.
- In Ethiopia the problem is due to poverty and lack of opportunity.
- Families marry girls early because there are few other options.
- There are no birth records and no legal means to prove age of brides.



# Social Change Approach to Stop Child Marriage



Healthy Unions Project--USAID and  
CARE Ethiopia

# Understanding



- Discovering the purpose of child marriage
- Remaining sensitive to cultural beliefs
- Gathering support for local solutions

# Inclusion

- Including all levels of society in awareness, behavioral change, and advocacy efforts
- Building strategic alliances with religious leaders, government officials, and customary institutions



# Integration

- Initiatives to stop child marriage should be integrated into larger programs targeting human conditions and social positions.
- Stopping child marriage requires analysis of other marriage-related harmful traditional practices like abduction and bride price.



# Moving Ahead

- Uncovering social meanings
- Building an evidence base
- Maintaining cultural sensitivity
- Including men and women

