



**Integrated Family Health Program**

# Catalyzing Multi-Sectoral Collaborations in the Prevention of Early Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation in Ethiopia:

## The Experience of Integrated Family Health Program

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# OUTLINE

- Background/Context
- Intervention model
- Results
- Lessons learned



# COUNTRY CONTEXT

- Early marriage and FGM most widely practiced harmful traditional practices with median age at first marriage is 16.5 and prevalence of FGM 23% for 0-14 years girls
- Both early marriage and FGM have been outlawed since 2005 and punishment ranges from simple imprisonment to 7 years
- A range of intervention exist focusing on changing social norms, empowering girls , incentives to families to keep girls in school, law enforcement



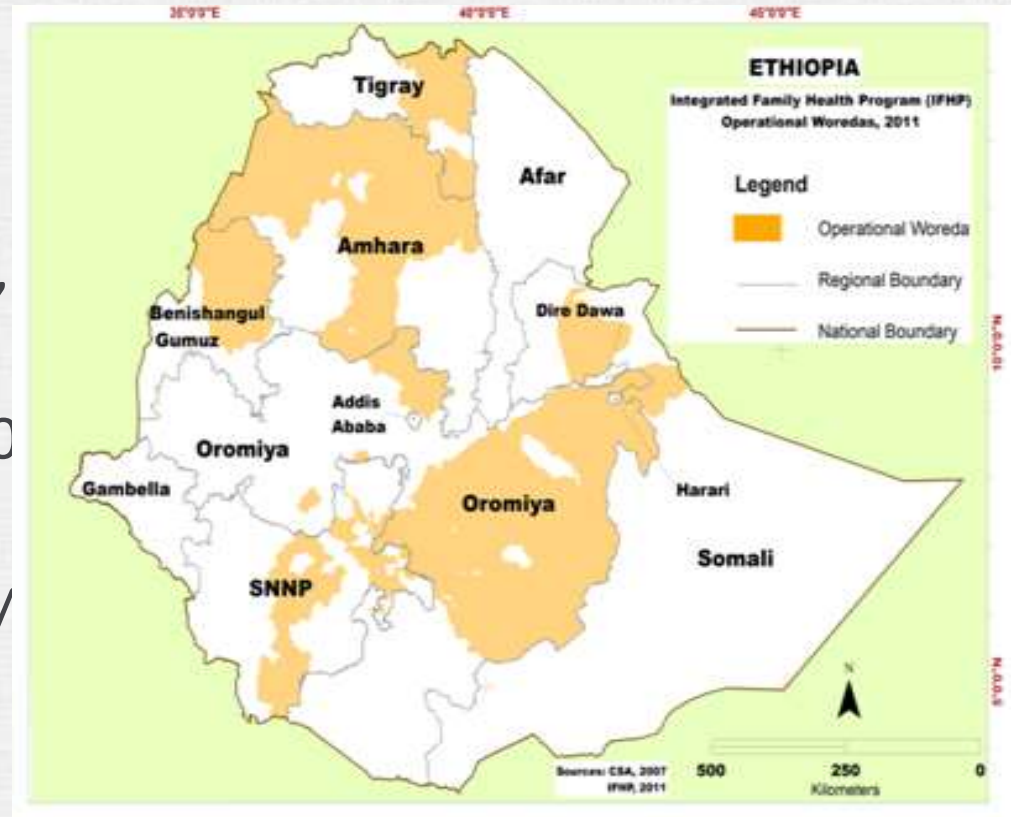
# COUNTRY CONTEXT CONT...

- Existing gaps relates to capacity, linkages and coordination of prevention and response efforts among state and non-state actors
- The complex nature of the drivers and protective factors around the practices makes it difficult to bring desired changes
- Current national trends show decline , Government and partners has shown significant commitment and elimination is targeted by 2025 for both practices.



# Integrated Family Health Program (IFHP)

- USAID – Funded Program
- Focus on improving health of families through increasing FP/MNCH practices, products and services
- Operates in 6 regions and 300 Districts
- Prevention of EM and FGM approaches are integrated with other interventions



# GOAL OF THE INTERVENTION ON FGM AND EM

- To prevent early marriage and FGM by catalyzing multi-Sectoral actions in three regions of Ethiopia
- Structural and community level interventions are implemented for the period of 2011- 2013 in 38 districts in Amhara, Oromia and Tigray regions



# INTERVENTION MODEL

## Interventions

- Capacity building
- Convening and catalyzing government and community actors
- Integrated community sensitization, marriage cancellation, mobile vans



- ## Intermediate results
- Increased communication
  - Avoid duplication
  - Increased Service linkages



Decreased incidence of EM and FGM



## Cross Cutting

- Supportive supervision and follow up visits
- On site technical support and referral
- Monitoring and evaluation



## RESULT 1. CAPACITY BUILDING

- Three days training based on IFHP curriculum on Gender and Family Health provided to 3,645 program experts from regional and zonal government sector office ( Health, Education, Social Affairs and Justice )
- Contents of the training focus on GBV, the Family Law, and the sexual and reproductive health consequences of CM and FGM





## RESULT 2. CATALYZING AND CONVENING

- 36 rounds of quarterly review meetings supported among multi sector trainees , community and religious leaders, women's affairs structures
- The meetings target specific challenges identified using Root Cause Analysis and propose solutions for follow up



## RESULT 3 .INTEGRATED COMMUNITY SENSITIZATION

- More than one million community members participated in community awareness events through health extension workers and mobile vans along with other health information packages
- Support for community based early marriage cancellation committees which is composed of school director, community police, women's affair and religious leader
- The committee has a mandate to intervene and cancel arranged marriages through negotiating with parents



# OUTCOME

- Random follow-up household survey show decline in the incidence of EM from baseline 25.6% to 19% and for FGM from 20.9% to 11.6%
- Qualitative findings also showed that increased knowledge of communities on the health consequences of EM and FGM and increased tendency to quit the practices



# LESSONS LEARNED

- Building capacity of existing community and government structures and facilitating collaborations regularly has contributed to the prevention of EM and FGM.



**THANK YOU!**



# RESOURCES

[Habebe2@pathfinder.org](mailto:Habebe2@pathfinder.org)

[www.ifhp-et.org](http://www.ifhp-et.org)

[www.pathfind.org](http://www.pathfind.org)

