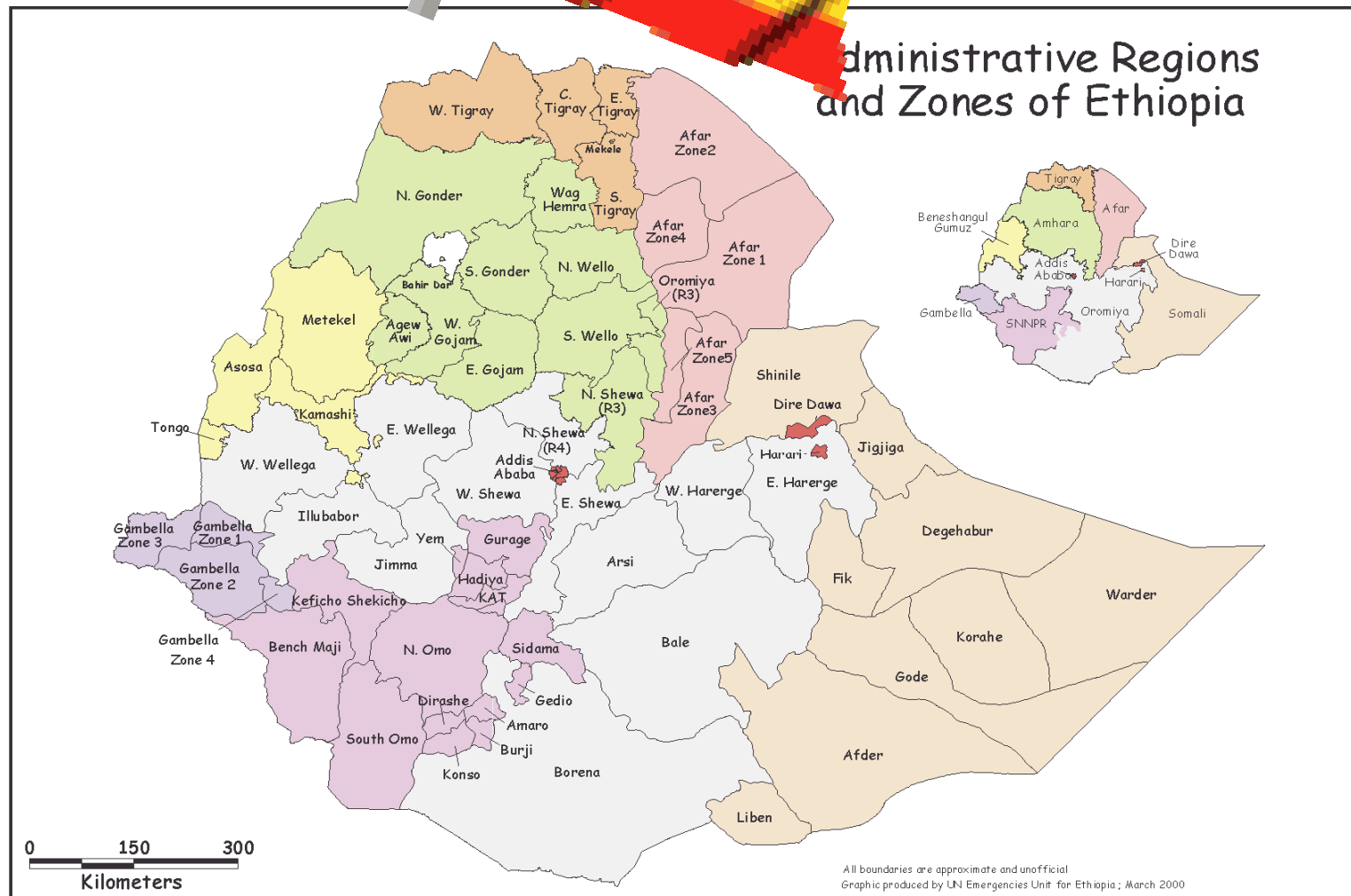


Reaching Rural Young Women through RH/FP Services



The Experience of Pathfinder International-Ethiopia



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OUTLINE

- **Background**
- **Pathfinder international Ethiopia**
- **Characteristics of the rural young woman**
- **Justification of service**
- **Diversified service approach**
- **The way forward**



Background

- Ethiopia is situated Horn of Africa/sub Saharan countries
- A home of 77million people
- The Ethiopian young population Ages 10 – 24 years is = 33% (25.4 million)
- Ages 15 – 24 make= 20% (14 million)
- Childbearing women =23% (16.3 million)
- Total Fertility Rate = 5.4%
- CPR = 15%



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The Ethiopian situation

- **Literacy rate = 29.9% female; 53.7% male**
- **Median age of sexual debut:**
 - **Male 20.3 year**
 - **Female 16.0 year**
- **40% of the 19 year olds are or have been pregnant**
- **Youth centers provide limited RH services**
- **Public health facilities are not oriented to YFS**



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- **Started 10 years back**
- **Filling the gaps of the unmet needs of RH/FP in the country**
- **Operating in 5 major regions covering 80% of the population**
- **Focusing on RH/FP, ASRH,HIV/AIDS, Capacity building and Gender mainstreaming**
- **Pioneer of the CBRH program and addressing the needs of the rural community.**



Characteristics of Rural Young Women

- **Represent the majority**
- **Low Literacy Level**
- **Economically Dependent**
 - Marriage is considered as source of income
- **Exposed to early Marriage**
- **Married to older men**
- **Married as a second/third wife in some areas (polygamy)**

Characteristics of Rural Young Women

- **Limited access to RH/FP information**
Influenced by elders and in-laws
- **Little decision making power**
- **Social and religious norms support fertility**
soon after marriage
- **Family planners bias, may also be influenced**
by social norms
- **Some individuals want to test their fertility**

Justification for Services

- **High rate of early marriage**
- **Un-spaced bearing that affects the health of the mother and child**
- **Early child Bearing- that contributes to the general population growth**
- **Influence on fertility**



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Current use of Contraceptives (CPR)

Residence	DHS Result Any FP Method(%)	
	2000	2005
URBAN	35.6	46.7
RURAL	4.3	10.9
Total	8.1	14.7



Age Distribution of Current FP Clients in Oromia Zone of Amhara Region, April 2006

Woreda	Number of Users by Age (%)			Total
	15-19	20-24	25+	
Bati	390 (9.8)	926 (23.3)	2658 (66.9)	3974 (100)
Dewachefa	557 (17.6)	1114 (35.3)	1486 (47.1)	3157 (100)
Artuma Fursi	1104 (20.4)	1395 (25.7)	2921 (53.9)	5420 (100)
Jille Tumuga	340 (11.8)	536 (18.6)	2010 (69.6)	2886 (100)
Total	2391 (15.5)	3971 (25.7)	9075 (58.8)	15437 (100)



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The way Forward

- **Increase access to decision making information and services**
- **Strengthen women's empowerment**
- **Improve male involvement**
- **Strengthen community level services and linkage to referral facilities**
- **Establish coordination mechanisms of community volunteers with HESP**