

Towards Improved Economic and Sexual/Reproductive Health Outcomes for Adolescent Girls (TESFA)

Results in Sexual and Reproductive Health

Doris Bartel

Senior Director, Gender and Empowerment, CARE

July 30, 2014



Nike Foundation



Overview of TESFA Program



- 2010 - 2013
- Amhara region of Ethiopia
- Targeted 5,000 ever-married girls, aged 14-19
- Training for girls via 3 'arms'
 - Financial training
 - Sexual and Reproductive Health training
 - Combination
- Plus community support and social norms change

Reproductive Context for Ever-Married Girls

Education:

87.5% have not completed primary school

30.6% have no formal education at all.

Motherhood: 54.4% were already mothers

Choice about Contraceptives:

33.3% reported contraceptive decisions were made entirely by someone else (usually their husbands)

45% agreed that a woman has no right to ask her husband to use a condom

Contraceptive Knowledge:

56.6% reported hearing of any modern method

43.5% had no knowledge at all of modern contraception



TESFA Interventions

Interventions

1. **Girls' Peer-Education** through Group meetings
 - Both SRH and EE curriculums included a life skills component
2. **Community Social Analysis and Action group activities**

Focused on gendered power, the health impact of EM and childbearing, and equitable decision-making within households



Expected Results

- Improved knowledge and use of contraceptives
- Improved economic empowerment
- increased intra-couple communication
- Expanded social network
- Lower levels of domestic violence, and improved mental health

Sexual and Reproductive Health Behaviors



“This is me taking injection contraceptive. This is after TESFA project. I have one child and I want to wait until my child becomes strong.”

Use of Health Services

29% increase in use of health services

Contraception

27% increase in modern contraceptive use

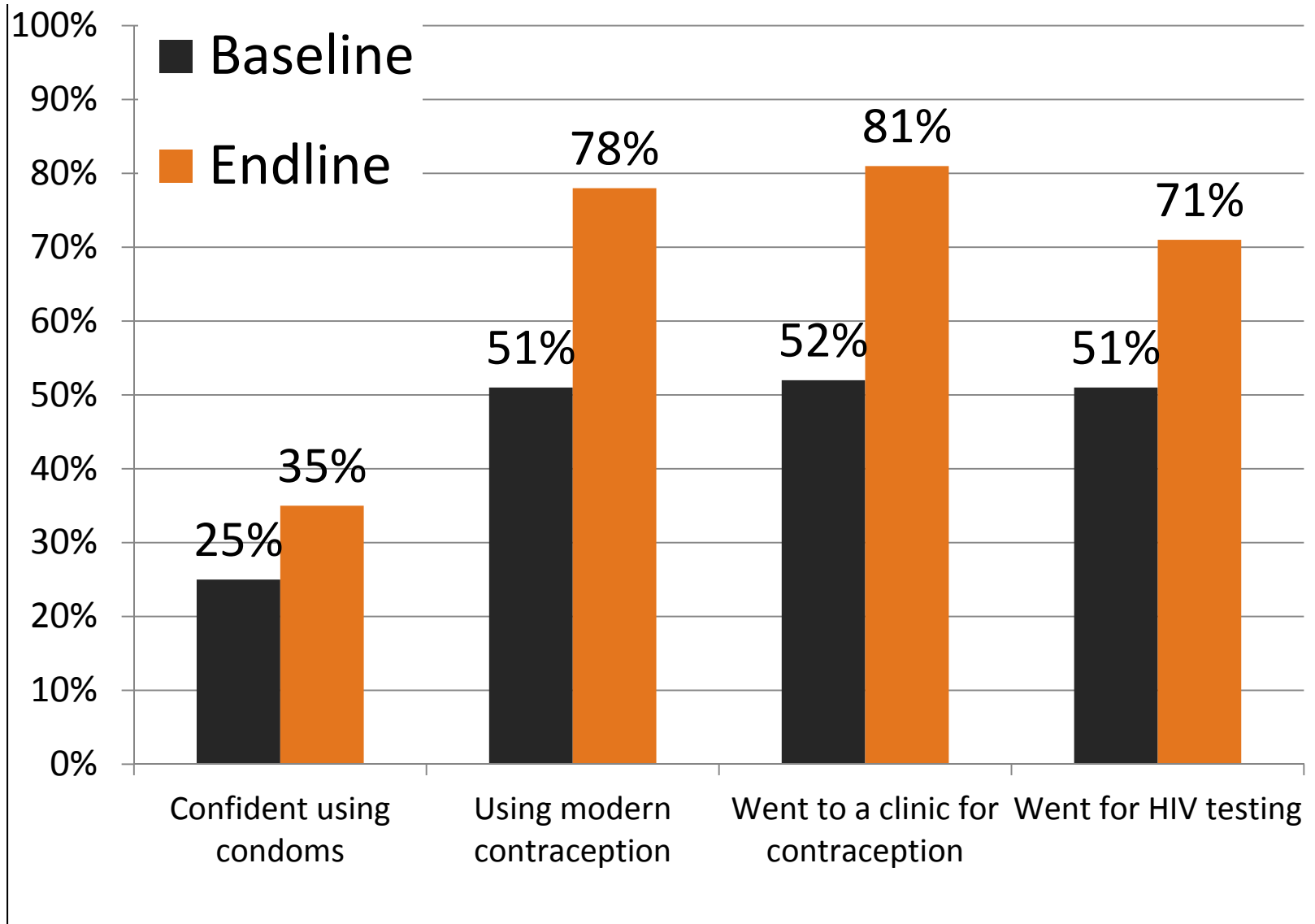
HIV Testing

20% increase in HIV testing

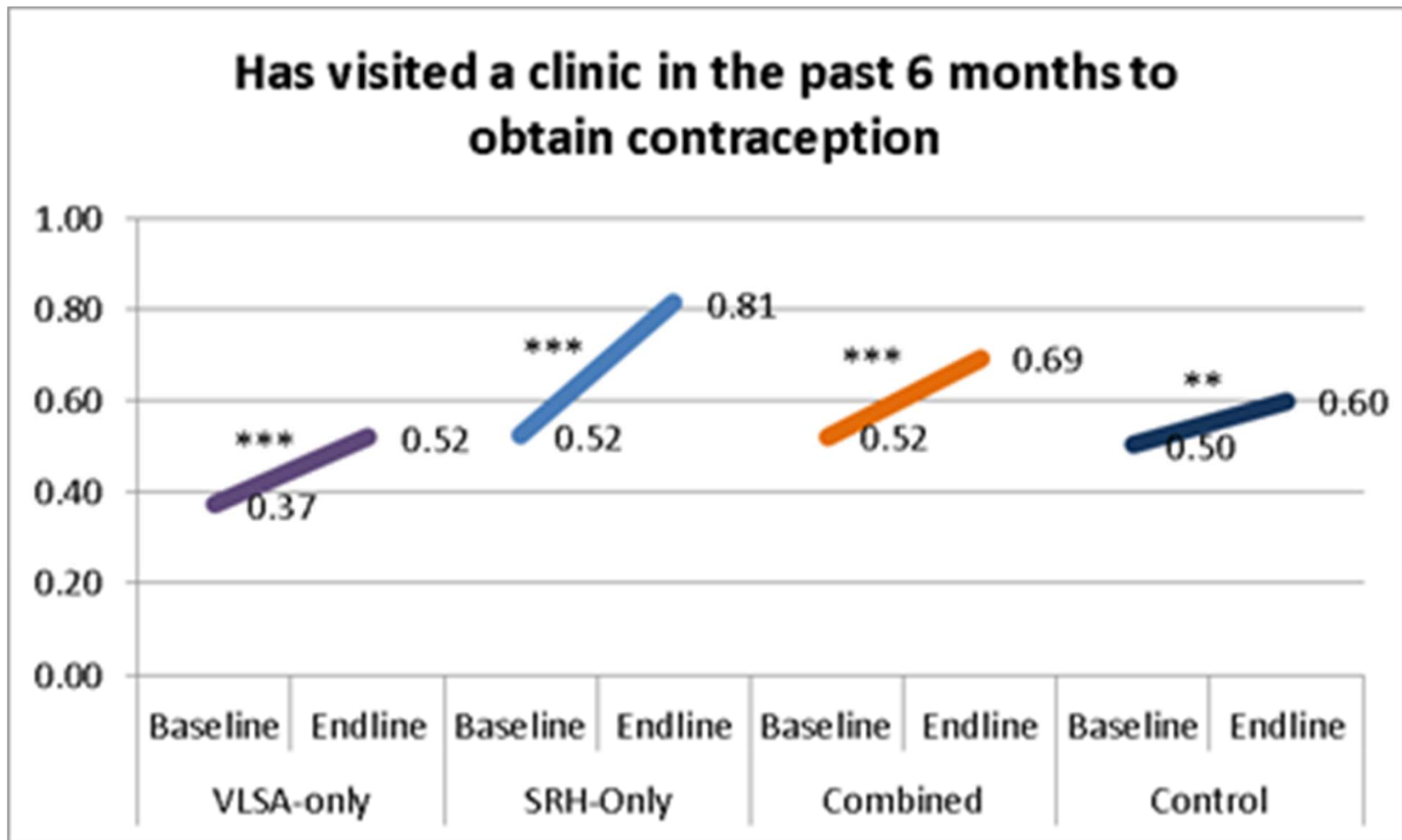
Communication

Large increases in communication and cooperative decision-making with spouse about SRH,
Decreased sexual violence

Sexual and Reproductive Health Results



Comparing Arms: Visiting a clinic to obtain contraception in the last 6 months



Changes: Gender Equality

Decision making

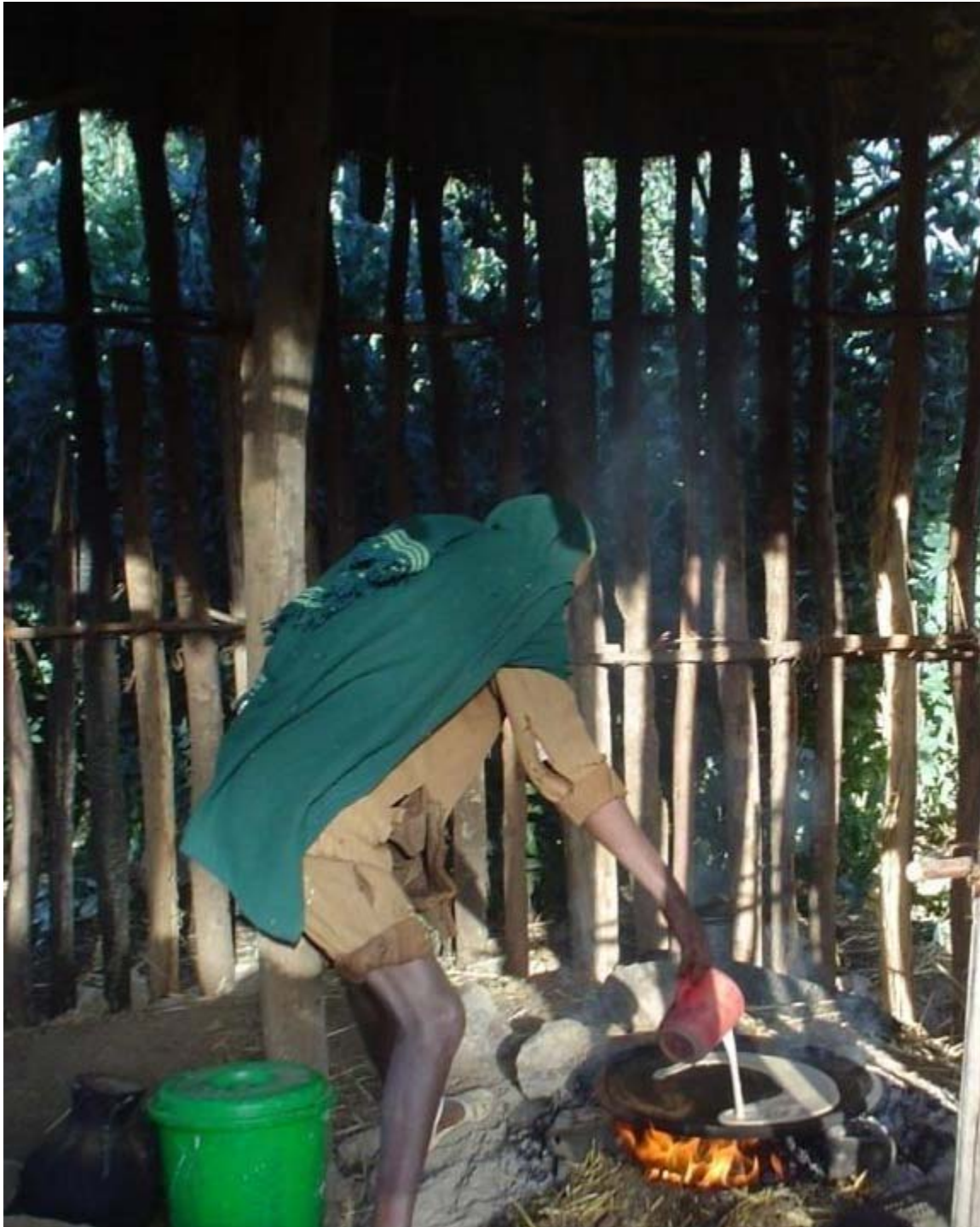
- Increased couple communication (improved communication and marital relationships mentioned by all interviewed)

Gender Based Violence

- Very significant declines in sexual violence

“This is my husband washing his feet, this used to be my duty but now he is doing it by himself.”





“This is my husband helping me baking injera. Every week when I bake injera he would bake one injera to learn how to do it and he is proud of doing it.”



“My husband can now feed my baby daughter if I am not around.”



“This is my husband helping me fetch water.”

“I am able to travel to market loading grains on animals pack.”



Thank you!

And gratefully acknowledging expert contributions of

- The adolescent girls participating in TESFA
- Jeffrey Edmeades, ICRW
- Robin Hayes, ICRW
- Feven Tessaw, CARE Ethiopia