“It is a disease brought by foreigners to exterminate us and take our land”

“It is a disease brought by NGOs in order to get more money”

“Each time we have elections in our country there is a disease outbreak. It is political. It is made to divert our attention”
Fast forward to West Africa 2014
A holistic approach to the health system

- Informed, empowered communities
- Empowered and equipped health providers
- Spaces for dialogue and negotiation between the community and the health delivery system

Effective, responsive and resilient health system
A resilient system can:

- ANTICIPATE risks
- ABSORB shocks
- ADAPT to evolving conditions
- TRANSFORM the conditions and drivers of risk
Sunamganj, Bangladesh
Private Community-Based Skilled Birth Attendants
Significant increase in skilled birth attendance, antenatal care and postnatal care

50% skilled birth attendance vs. 11% at baseline

68% of recipients are poor or ultra poor

Private providers businesses have reached financial viability
Address underlying inequalities that drive risk
Transform
Changing gender norms and power dynamics through critical reflection and dialogue

TESFA – Ethiopia

Use of modern contraceptives increased by 27%

Girls confidence in negotiating with their husbands about family planning

Husbands having favorable attitudes towards family planning

Directly prevent 180 child marriages
Building trust through expanding space for dialogue and negotiation
Community Score Card Indicator Results

- Availability and accessibility of information: 73
- Level of male involvement: 40
- Relationship between health workers and communities: 44
- Commitment of service providers: 55
- Level of adolescent involvement: 37

Scores:
- Availability and accessibility of information: 96
- Level of male involvement: 74
- Relationship between health workers and communities: 80
- Commitment of service providers: 81
- Level of adolescent involvement: 60
Key lessons

• Always ask “why” …underlying causes and drivers of risk—inequitable distribution of information, services, and power drive risk and vulnerability

• Increase gender equality and strengthen women’s voice—a just, equitable system is also more resilient and sustainable

• Building understanding and trust between the community and the health delivery system is critical to a responsive and resilient health system in both development and emergency settings

• Local communities, women and girls, understand the barriers to health access and quality, they can be the source of solutions

• Line between development and emergency is increasingly blurred—need to build a system that can function in both stable and crisis-settings
Systems thinking that puts women & communities at the center