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Making Adolescent Girls Visible, Actionable, and at the Center of the Sahel Development Agenda: Lessons Learned in Northern Nigeria

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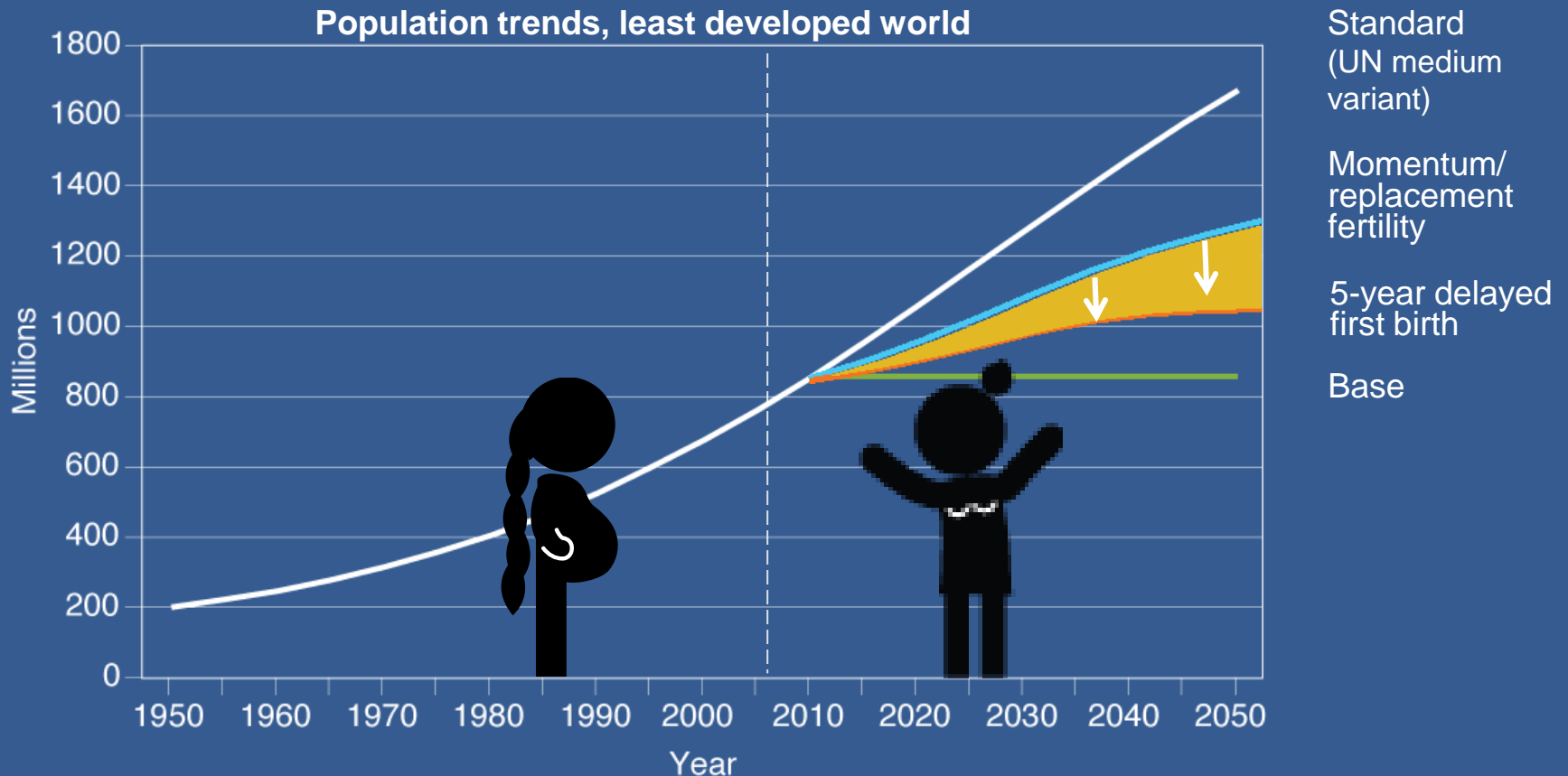
Why Girls?





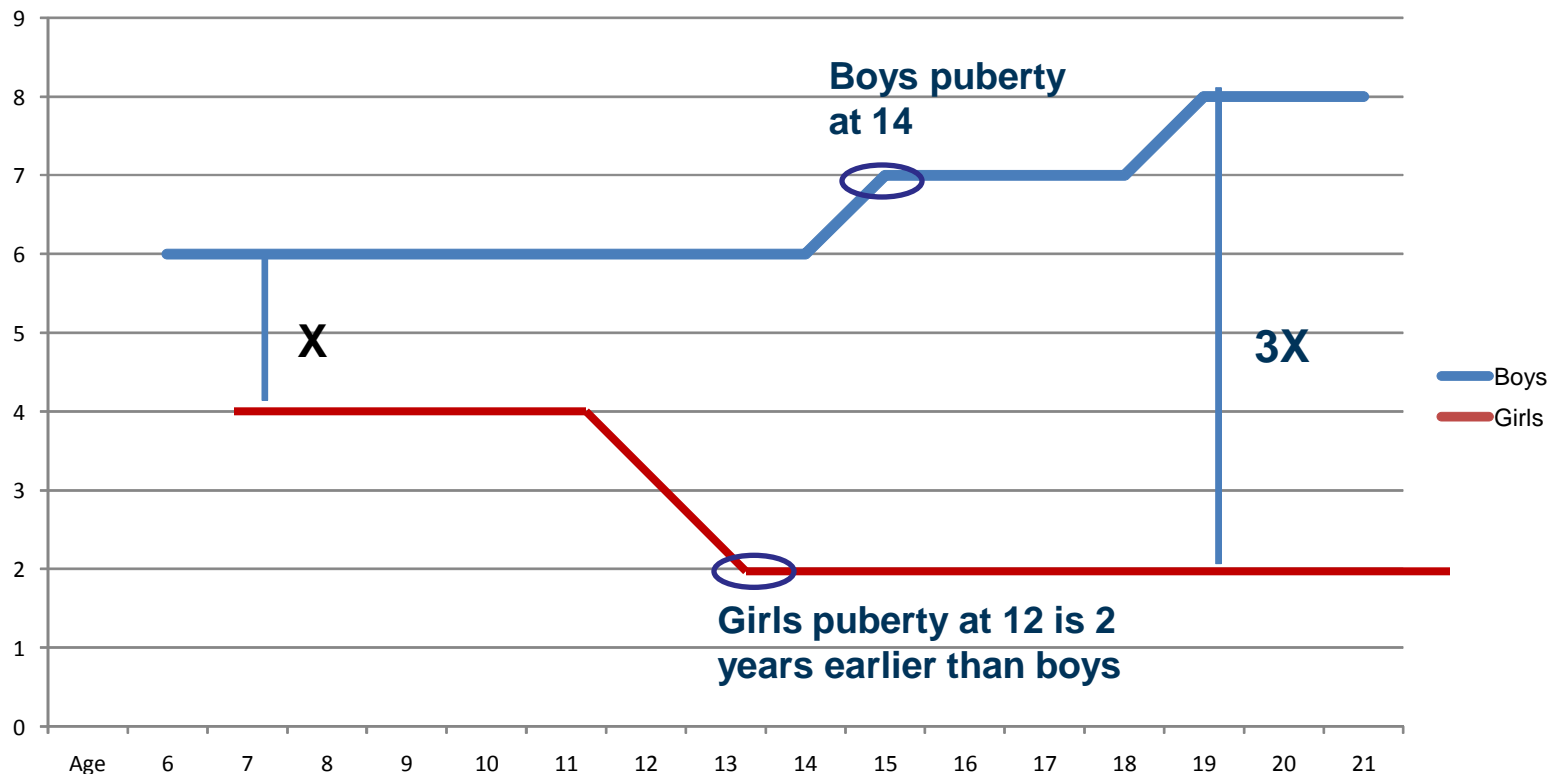
Why Girls?

Investing in the poorest girls so they may hold on to their childhood and defer childbearing past adolescence is a **GOOD** in and of itself and could reduce population size by 18 percent, or 224 million, a full **39 percent of the anticipated increase**



Both girls and boys face challenges, but boys rarely face challenges at the level, type or ages that girls do with respect to sexual abuse, violence and social isolation.

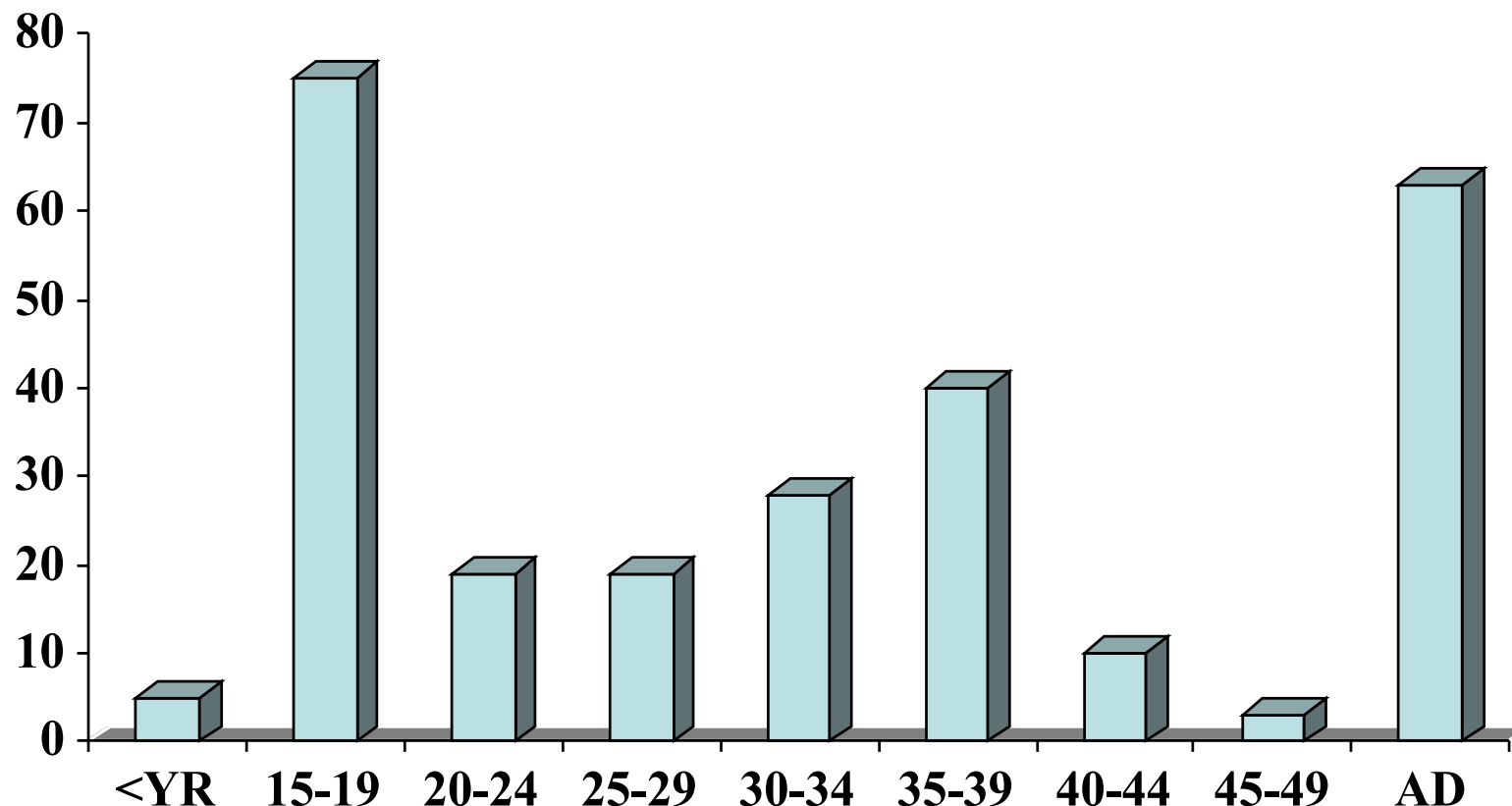
Widening gap in investment between girls and boys increase dramatically with the onset of puberty



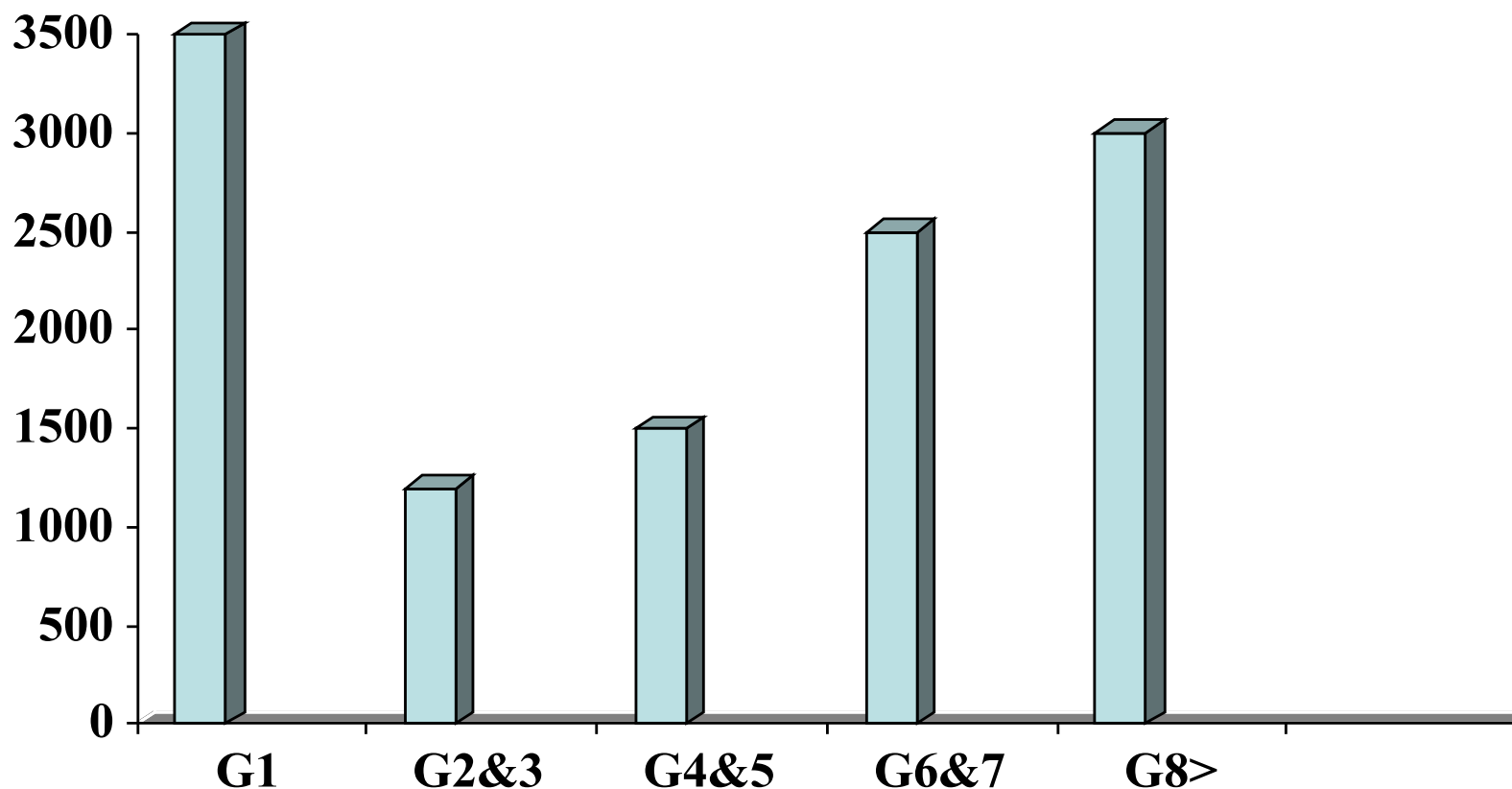
Education

Mother's age at birth	ANC by HP	%Delivery By HP	Facility Delivery	Family Planning Usage AM	Family Planning usage MM
Education					
No educ	33.8	11.5	9.7	3.6	2.6
Primary	68.9	44.2	39.0	17.2	12.0
Secondary	86.0	73.4	66.7	27.4	17.4
>Secondary	97.4	93.9	89.8	36.6	23.4

DISTRIBUTION BY AGE OF MATERNAL MORTALITY, JAN- SEPT 2001 MMSH/Kano



DISTRIBUTION OF MATERNAL DEATH BY BIRTH ORDER 1998 – 2004 MMSH/Kano



GCC Experience Impact of keeping girls in school in N. Nigeria



- Work in Community where age of marriage is about 15yrs
- Have had at least 2 children by age 18 yrs
- Recruited > 200 girls from and kept them through 6 years of secondary education
- As of last year, of the 230 girls that started 6 years earlier, 205 have graduated from secondary school
- 7 girls in tertiary institutions.
- Only 3 got married during the program and 1 had a child

E.g., Critical Issues



- Mother's level of education plays a major role in whether children are immunised; 61 percent of children whose mothers have more than a secondary education are fully immunised, compared with 7 percent of children whose mothers have no education.
- Educational attainment is positively associated with an increase in CPR. Four percent of women without education currently use family planning, compared with 37 percent of women with more than a secondary education.

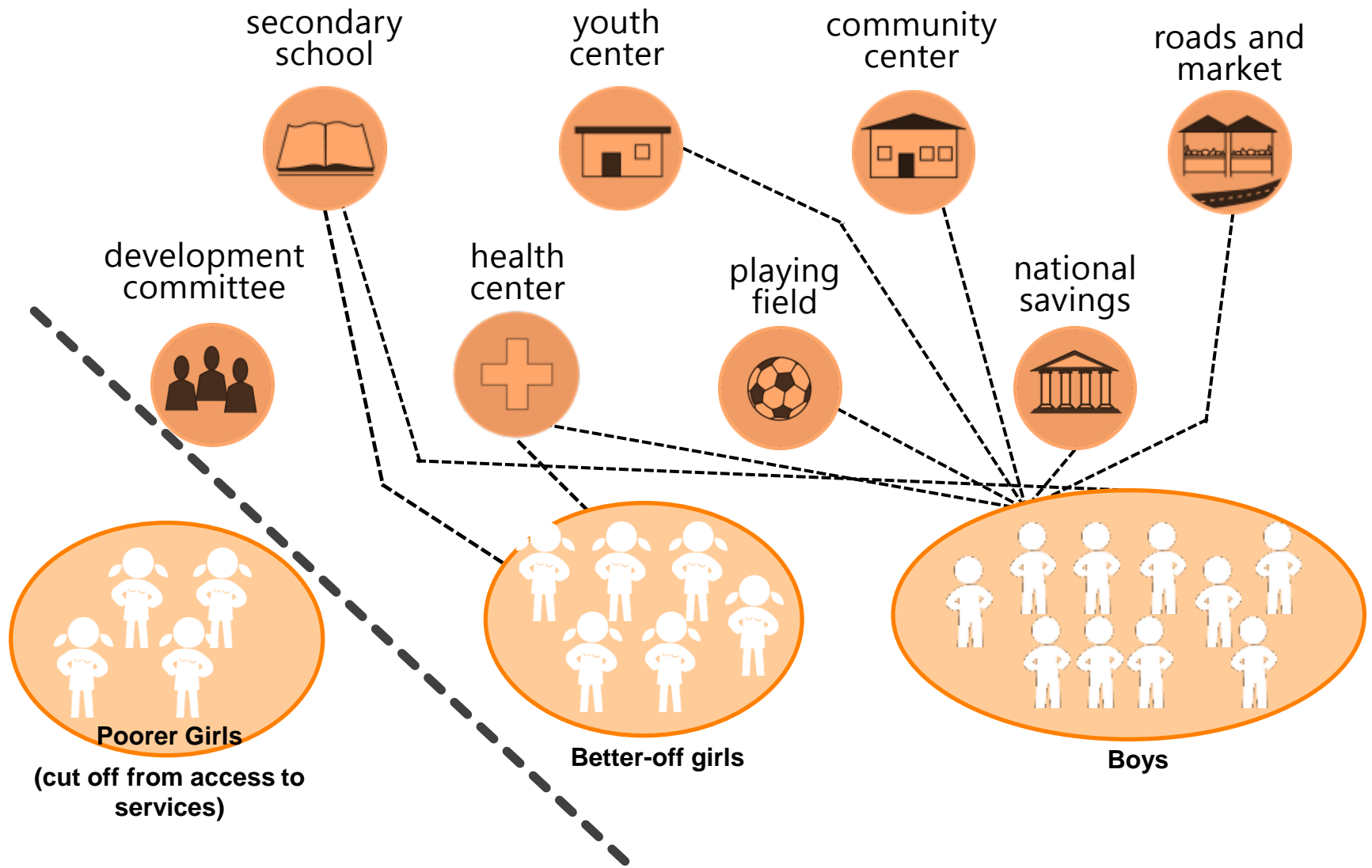
Safe Space Methodology



A method of enhancing the development of girls through culturally sensitive methodology that addresses important cultural and religious issues that anchors on important values such as trust and respect for culture.



**Justice , cost-effectiveness, and sustainability are served
when the bottom 40% of girls have access to critical
services, community facilities, and entitlements**



Segmenting Populations of Concern

No schooling or currently out of school				Attending primary school	Attending secondary school or higher
	Living with one parent	Living with no parent	Married and/or with child		
Girls 10-14	A	B		C	D
Girls 15-19	G	H		I	J
Girls 20-24	M	N		O	P
Other Categories (e.g. a social caste, language group)					

Dark Green: Very Vulnerable

Light Green: Girls at Risk

Red: Better off girls with leadership potential

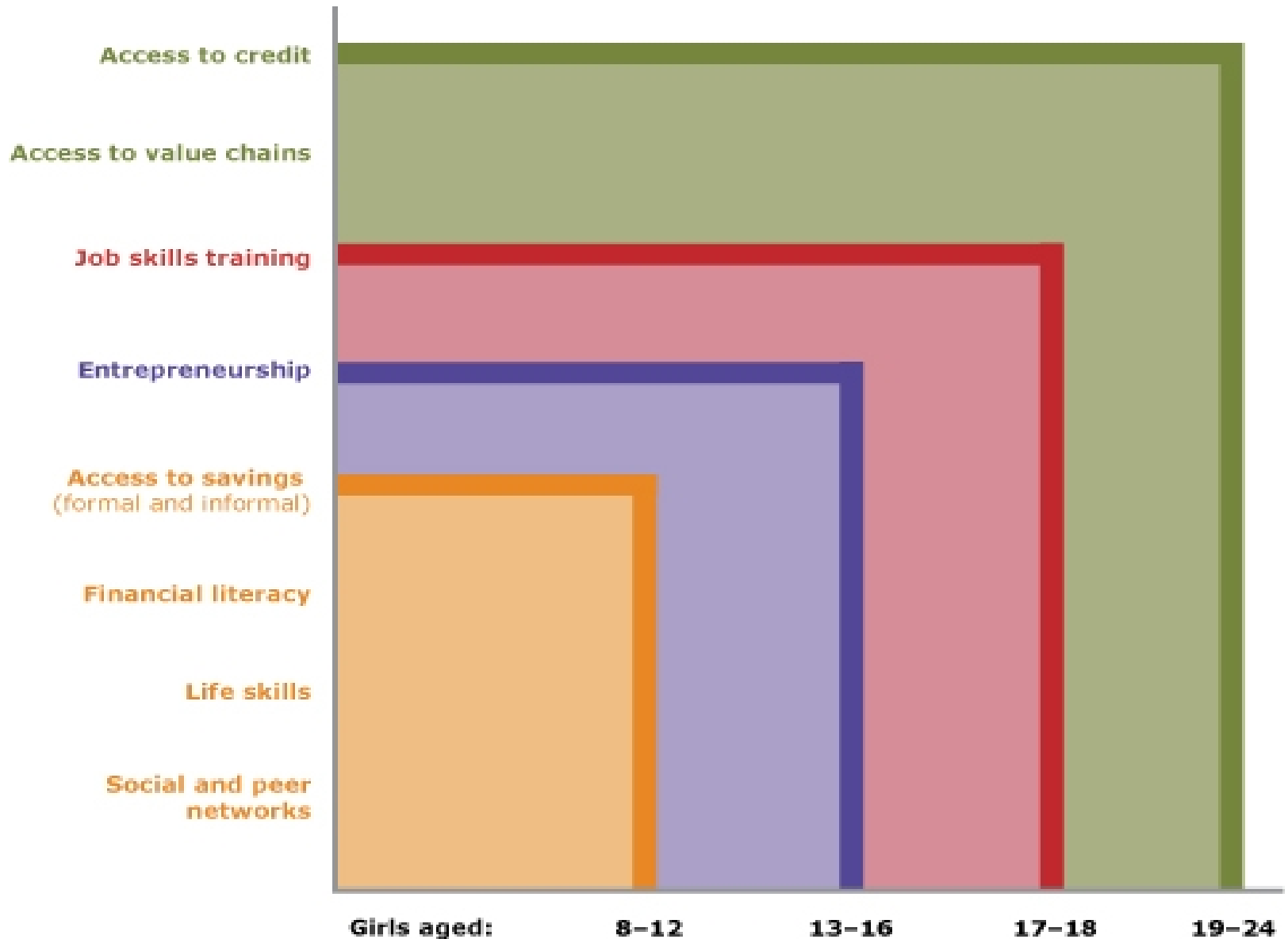


Mentorship

**Girls spaces as vessels into which
you can add many elements**



Accretion of Assets by Age Segment



Girl-Child Education Program (GCE)

Zaria, Kaduna State



Delaying the Age of Marriage and the Onset of Childbearing

Community Consultation



What are the barriers to girls' education in your community and what can we do together to overcome them?

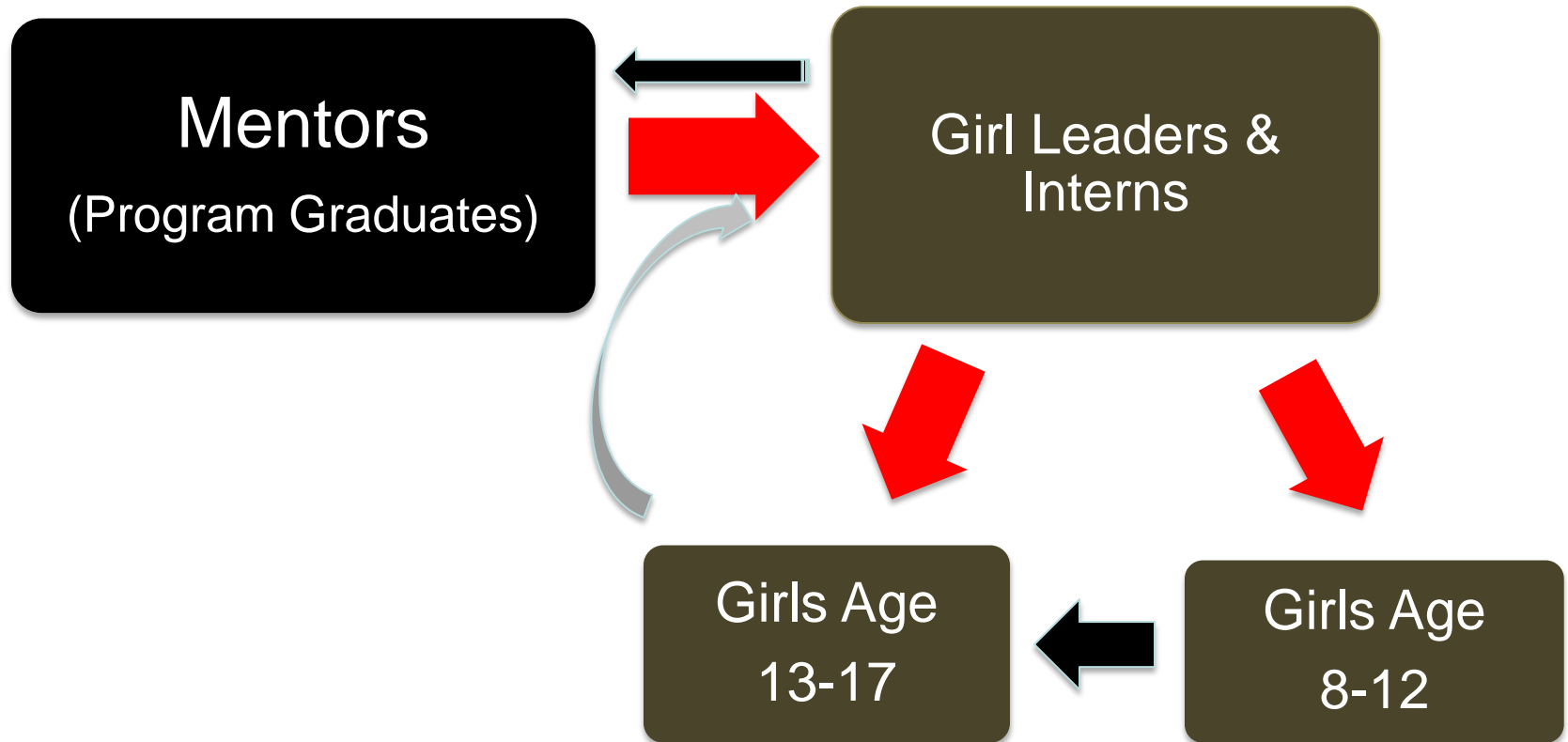


Program Components



- community engagement to create and nourish enabling environment
- “safe space” girls’ clubs in which adolescent girls can openly discuss their reproductive health concerns, acquire valuable life skills, and link with local health services;
- school fees and books to increase girls’ public school enrollment and attendance and boost retention rates;
- operations research on the effectiveness of these strategies.

Cascading Leadership Model



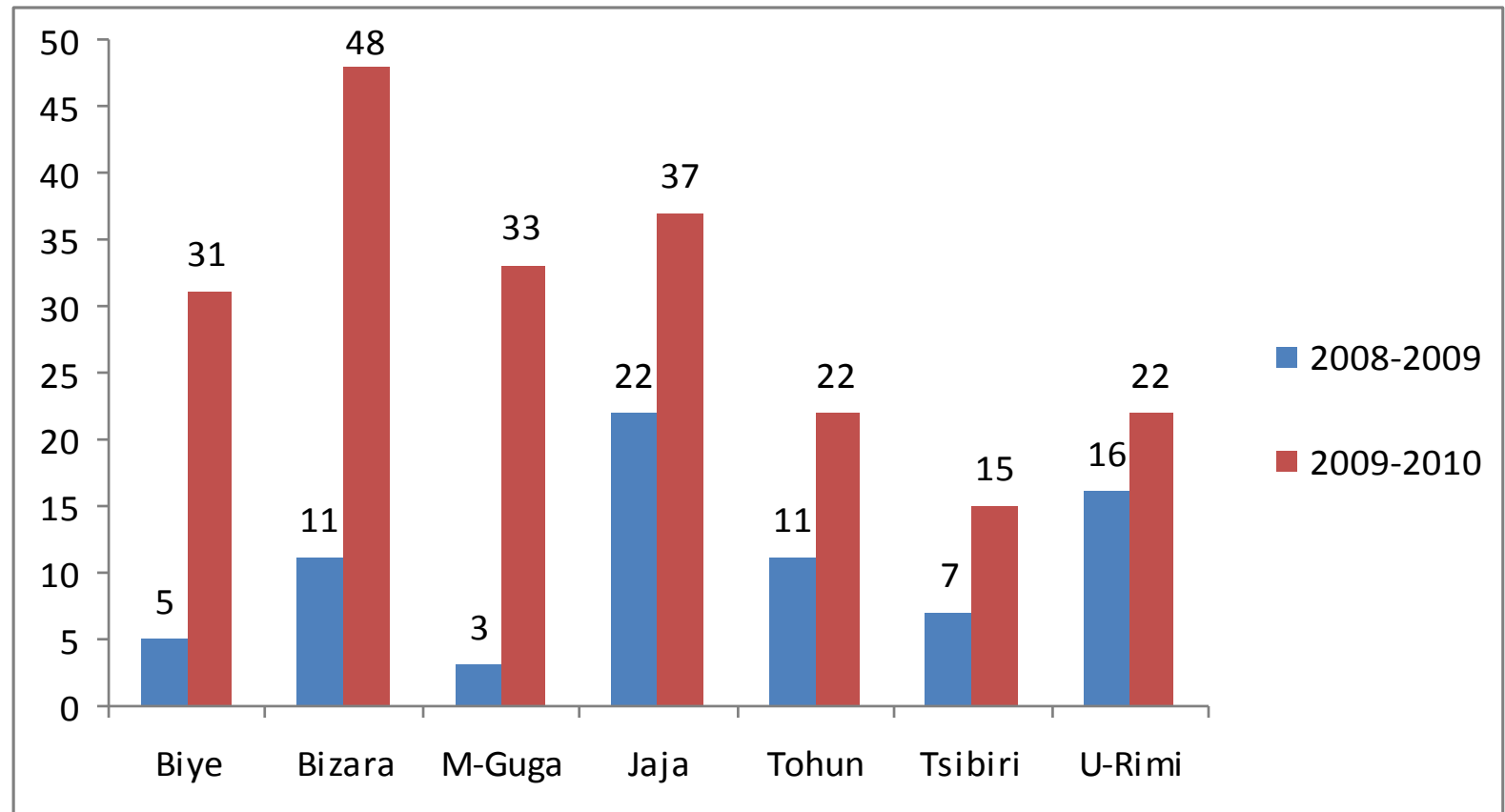
Building Assets



Agency



Increase in Girls Secondary Enrollment



Project Investment Requirements

A notional range of costs for girl programming based on five programs in five different settings which had reach some scale generated a range (heavily conditioned by context) of per hour per girl from \$0.29 to \$2.45 with an average cost of \$1.47

The \$0.29 figure was from a fairly “low-touch” girl savings program and the \$2.45 figure was from a relatively ambitious second-chance schooling program for girls

Effective program-based intervention can be as little as 45 hours.

These costs vary by program ambition and type but it is not unusually costly to produce measurable results at level of the girl, some of which can, if scaled effectively, translate into changing community norms and indicators.

Implementation Research



PRRINN MNCH: Married Adolescents Support Groups in Northern Nigeria



Why Married Adolescent Women

- Young married women are hardly reached with MNCH information
- YMW are expected to be shy and not to discuss issues related to maternal and reproductive health, yet 65% had lived births 1-3
- 829 groups, 2000 by 2013 reaching 24,000 young women
- Each group has two mentors
- Twice a week meeting of groups and monthly meeting of groups

Training of Mentors



Young married woman in session



Monthly meetings of groups



Assets

SOCIAL ASSETS	HUMAN ASSETS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Forming groups and networks• Mentorship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maternal, newborn and child health related information• Support to access services• Personal hygiene• Nutrition• Reproductive health• Rights and obligations• Life and communication skills
PHYSICAL ASSETS	FINANCIAL ASSETS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Savings

Assets to be Leveraged

SOCIAL ASSETS

- Participating in community institutions and activities

HUMAN ASSETS

- Nutrition
- Literacy
- Financial literacy
- Business development training
- Support for career development

PHYSICAL ASSETS

- Space to undertake income generation activities

FINANCIAL ASSETS

- Credit

Methodology

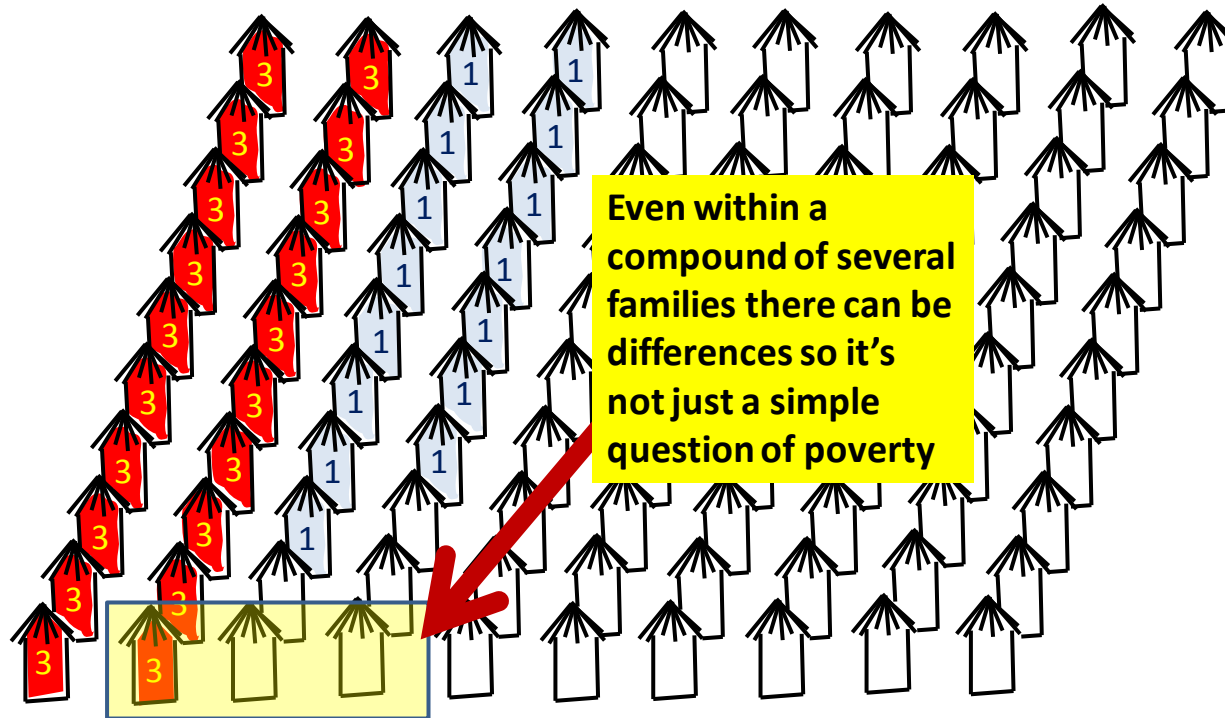
- Say and do method
- Discussions and experience sharing
- Variety shows
- Practical sessions in cookery and advocacy as change agents
- Placements and shadowing teachers, health worker, successful business women

Investing and targeting the excluded

Jigawa, Yobe, Zamfara
Deaths in children
aged 1-5

20% Households had 80% of the deaths:
These households had 2 or more deaths
(the average is 3 deaths each)

15% households had 1 death each
65% households had no deaths



YWSG provided an opportunity to learn more about the excluded and the poorest of the poor

Only 32% are members

Made invisible by community and by self

YWSG as change agents- 20% of the YW want to and will not face opposition in championing women's issues and are more likely to access services, get social support etc

Engaging with Husbands



Engaging with husbands



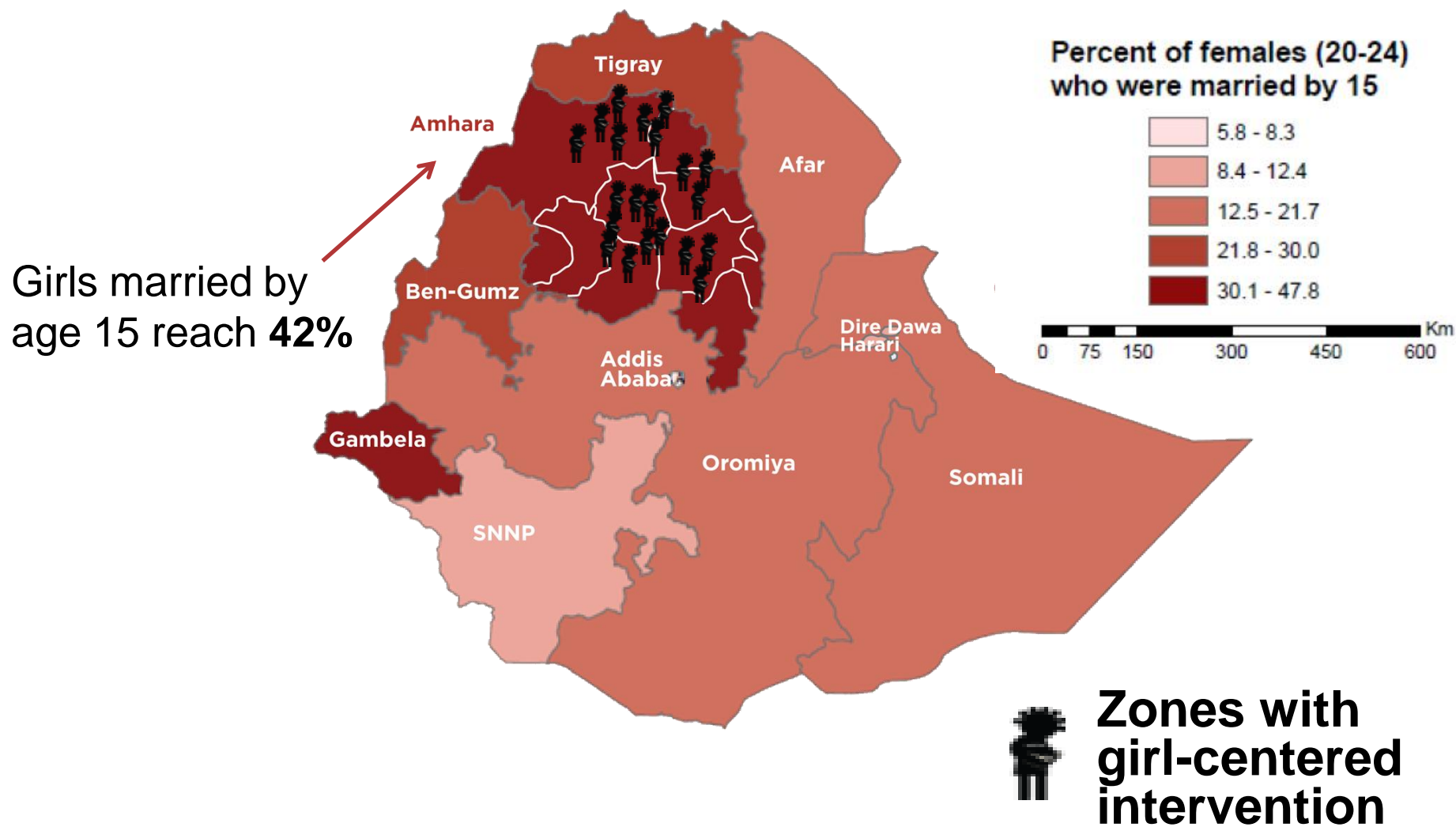
Engaging with mother in-laws



Purposefully Build Solidarity Among Girls: Anchoring the Female Infrastructure



In Ethiopia we know how to reach girls at high reproductive risk on a large scale



Programs Reaching Scale

Biruh Tesfa ("Bright Future")
Migrant, destitute girls living in urban
Ethiopian



Reaching 38,000 girls in
Ethiopian cities as both asset
building and primary HIV
prevention.

Berhane Hewan – Amhara
Delaying marriage & supporting married
girls

Significant delays in marriage from
early to later adolescence
Significant increases in family
planning among married girls
(74% *contracepting with no new
services*)

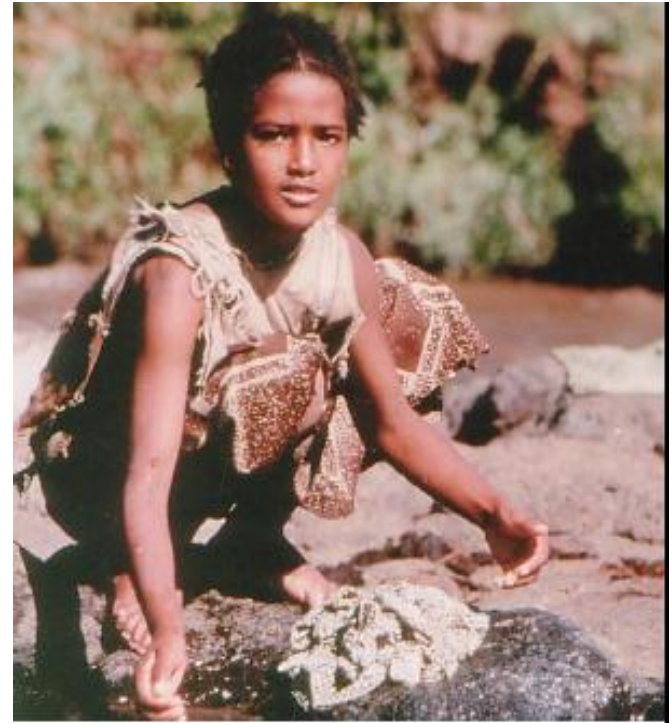
Reaching over
20,000 girls and
poised for scale



“Meserete Hiwot” (Base of Life): Ethiopia

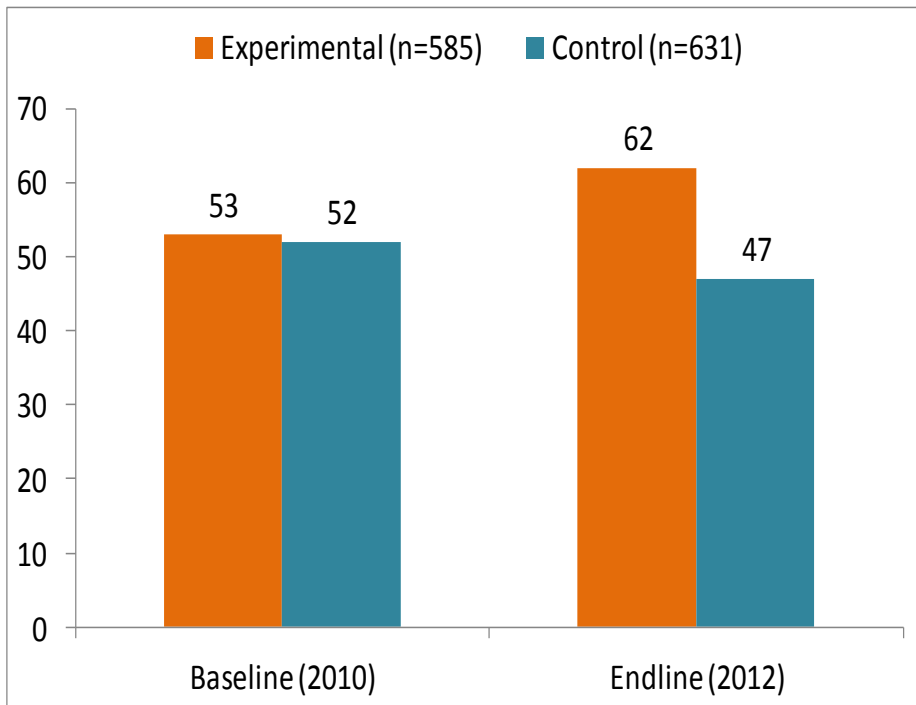
Supporting young married adolescents with HIV prevention and reproductive health in rural Ethiopia

Over 220,000 married girls aged 10 to 24 in the groups across 18 districts in Amhara

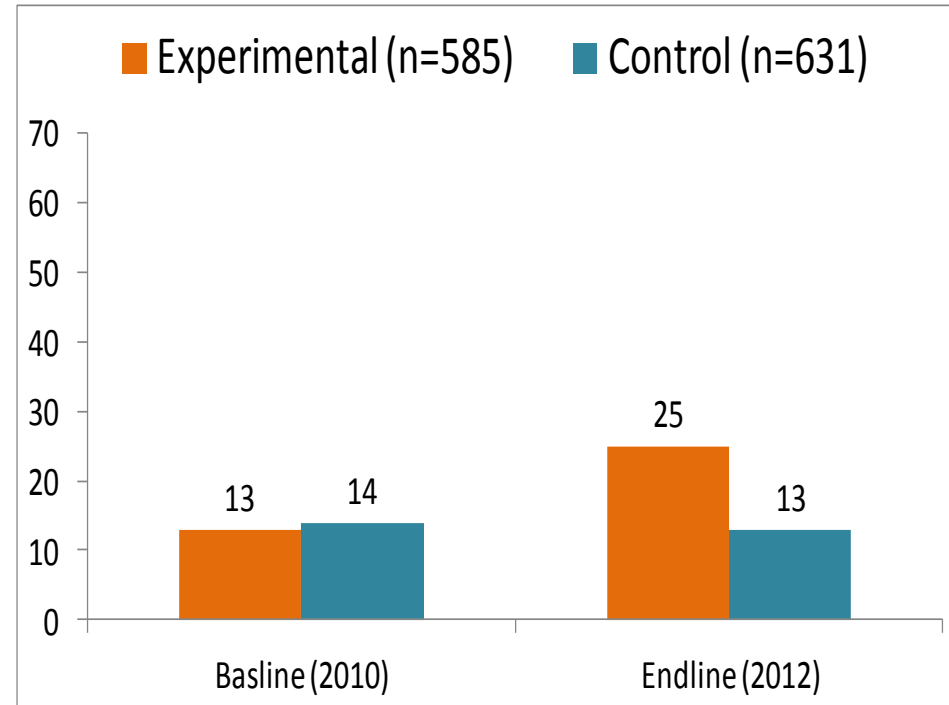


Meserete Hiwott Married Girls Groups: Results

Percent of participants who have ever used a family planning method

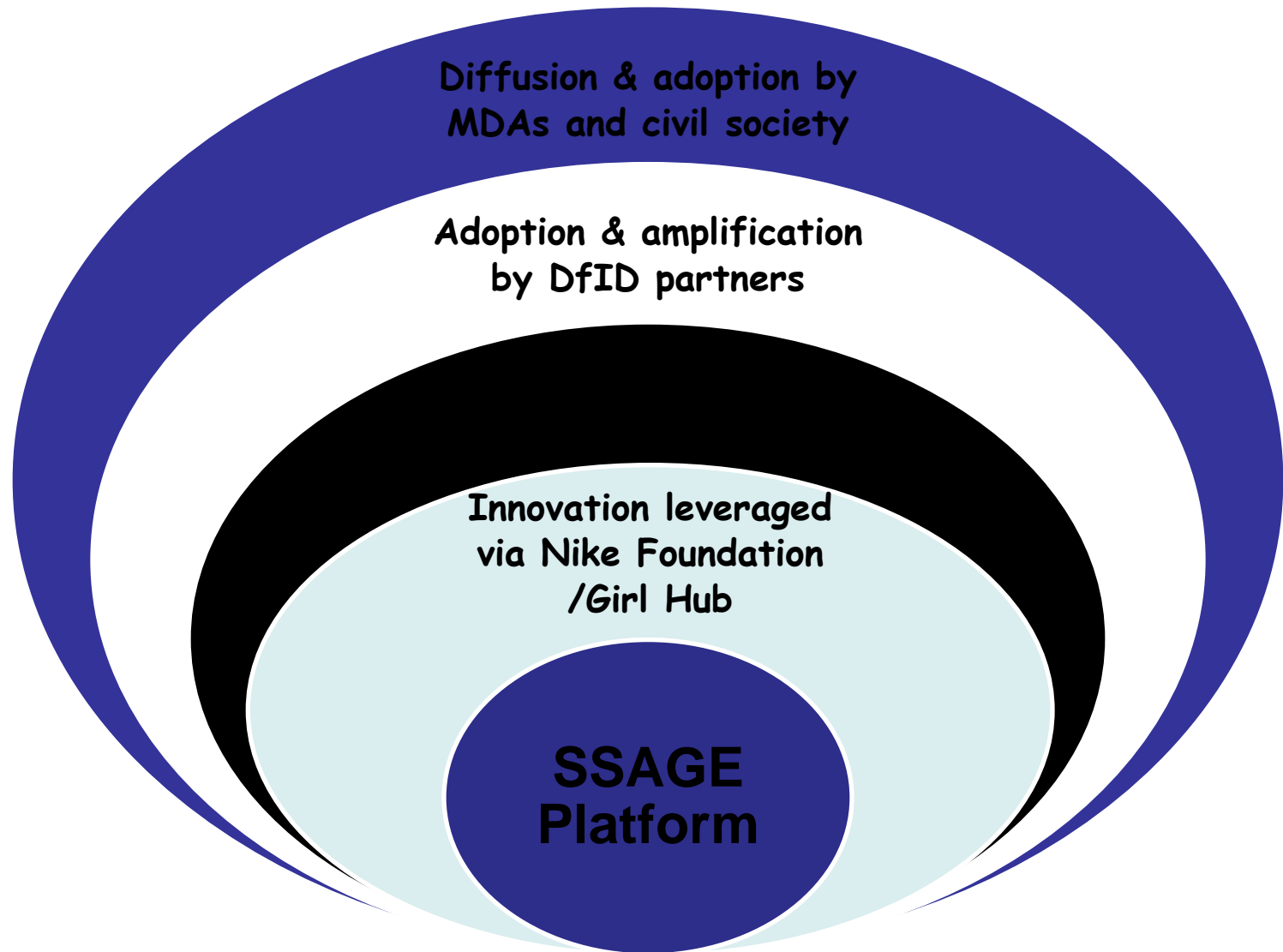


Percent of participants who have savings

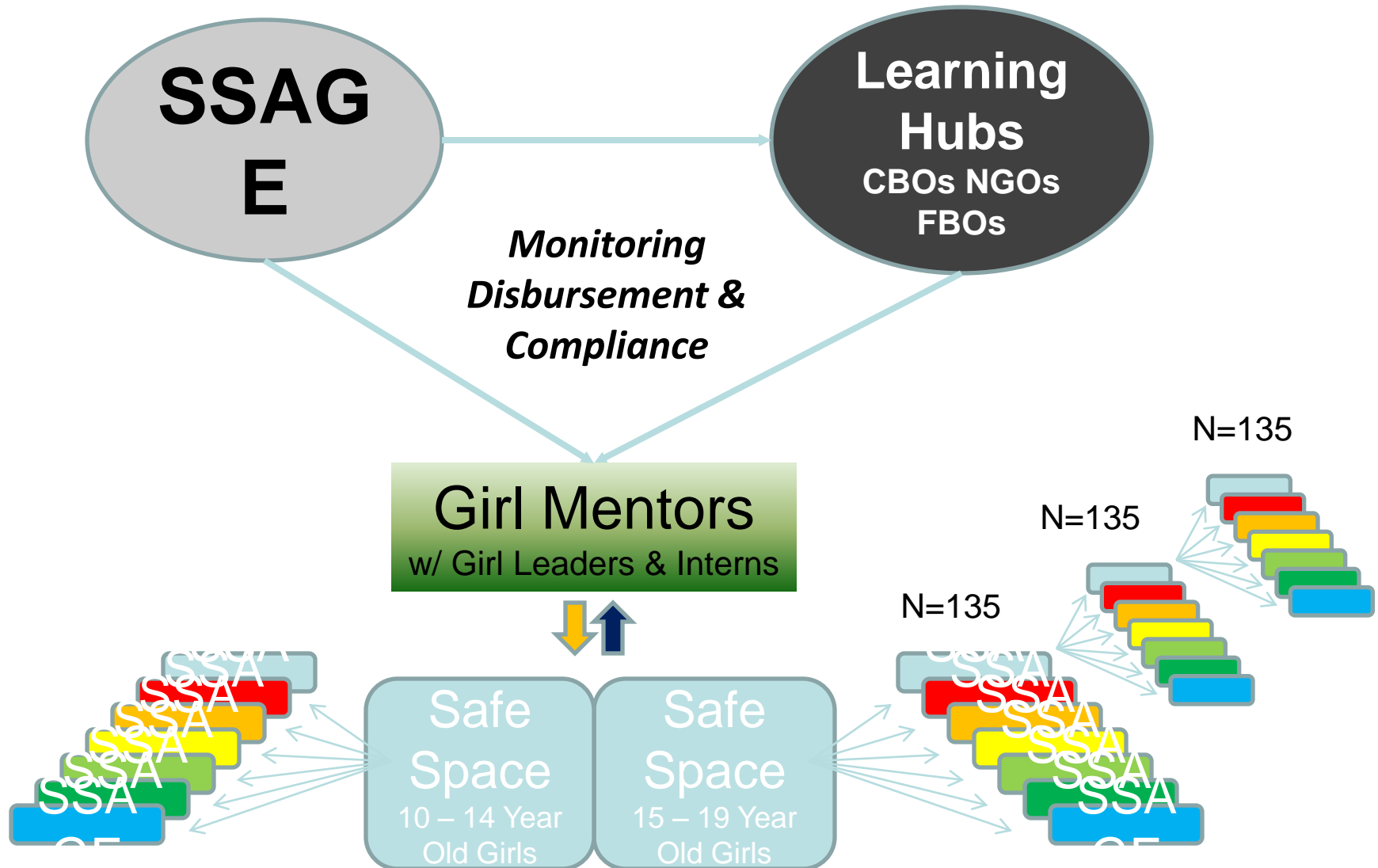


Note: Preliminary analysis by Annabel Erulkar

Safe Space Adolescent Girls Empowerment (SSAGE) Nigeria



Cascading Replication Model



SSAGE Cumulative Targets

