

## 39. Contraceptive Services and the Role of the Rapid Breakthrough Initiative (RBI) in Expanding Access among Adolescents in Pastoralist Communities of Afar, Ethiopia

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### Introduction

- ❁ Afar, a pastoralist state with longstanding cultural beliefs & practices, has one of the lowest rates of contraceptive use in Ethiopia
- ❁ EngenderHealth's A'ago program in Ethiopia aims increase uptake of quality SRH care among youth
- ❁ An EngenderHealth survey of 496 adolescent girls (aged 15–19) found that 24.8% sexually active respondents currently using contraception & 40.5% respondents intended to use contraception in the future
- ❁ EngenderHealth implemented RBI (health systems performance improvement approach) to increase awareness & uptake of contraceptive services

### Activities & Methodology

- ❁ Oriented & motivated staff in 6 facilities to improve contraceptive & skilled birth services over 100 days
- ❁ Collected & analyzed weekly service data over 14 week period following intervention

### Results

- ❁ 118 intrauterine devices (IUDs), 741 implants & 684 skilled birth services provided at RBI facilities
- ❁ Adolescents comprised 22.2% of clients selecting oral contraceptives & 14.1% selecting implants
- ❁ Comparing RBI & non-RBI health facilities:
  - > 1.8-fold increase in short-acting contraceptive method uptake
  - > 2.8-fold increase in implant uptake
  - > 9.1-fold increase in IUD uptake

### Summary & Conclusions

- ❁ RBI proved successful as a model to increase contraceptive & skilled birth service utilization, in general & among adolescents
- ❁ Further analysis required to determine contribution of RBI intervention alongside other adolescent-focused activities



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