

## ACT WITH HER: Forging Panoramic Pathways with Girls from Adolescence to Adulthood

# Delivering Adolescent Programming in a Migratory Pastoralist Setting: Perspectives from the Frontline

Act With Her is a five-year program in Ethiopia that partners with girls to forge the health, education, and social pathways they need to thrive during the transition to adulthood. We engage girls, boys, and their parents or caregivers in group sessions over 10 months, and in some areas also work over a longer period to catalyze shifts in social and gender norms and in the adolescent-friendliness of key systems and services.

Designed to separately serve very young adolescents (VYAs) and older adolescents, with a learning period built in between, we engaged the first cohort of VYAs from March 2019 through January 2020, with over 13,000 girls and boys participating in over 500 groups. One of the three regions of Ethiopia where we implement the program is called Afar, home to a highly migratory pastoralist population. Through perspectives shared by our frontline staff about working in this unique place, **WE LEARNED:**



### Perfection is not required

Adolescents living in the “hardest to reach” places receive so little support that despite a lack of proven practices for these settings, programs can still benefit underserved young people while continuing to learn more about what works best.



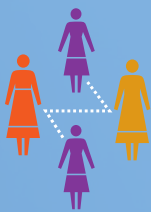
### Tradeoffs are complex for monitoring, learning, and evaluation

Balancing the need to truly learn more about being effective in these contexts against the severe limitations for data collection at the frontline is complicated. Finding the smallest number of most revealing indicators and the right mixture of paper-based versus digital formats will take more creativity, patience, and persistence than usual.



### Consistently convening groups of people over prolonged periods of time is unrealistic

Mobile lifestyles make routinely bringing adolescents or parents together in the same place at the same time very complicated. Planning that makes use of indefinite windows of opportunity and bundling content into more efficient formats may work better to reach and convene migratory adolescents than using prescribed timelines, calendars, and schedules.



### Standard approaches need more than minor or one-time adaptation

Best practices honed in other settings require a significant degree of community collaboration and thoughtful revision to be compatible, feasible, or even appropriate in these environments.



### An expectation for and tolerance of failure is a must

Funders, policymakers, or implementers investing resources and energy in serving migratory communities should embrace a spirit of learning through trial and error, understanding that getting it right the first time is highly unlikely.



Act With Her is led by Pathfinder International, in collaboration with the Government of Ethiopia, in partnership with CARE International, and with funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Evidence of impact is being assessed by the UK Department for International Development (DFID)-funded Gender & Adolescence: Global Evidence (GAGE) research consortium.

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