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International Center
for Research on Women

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Solutions to End Child Marriage: What the Evidence Shows

National Adolescent Health Consultation

7-9 January 2014

New Delhi, India

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Overview

- ICRW's Experience with Child Marriage

- Systematic Review Methodology

- Key Findings:
  - Program Strategies
  - Evaluation Results
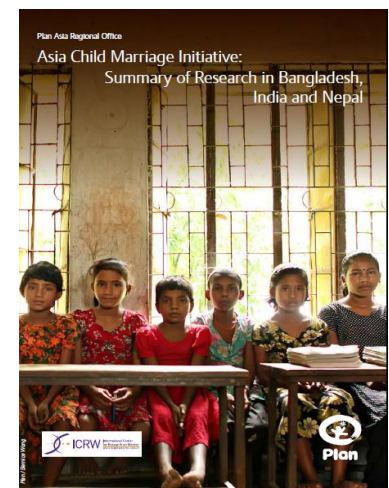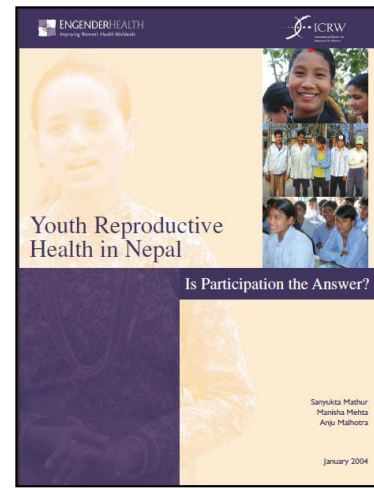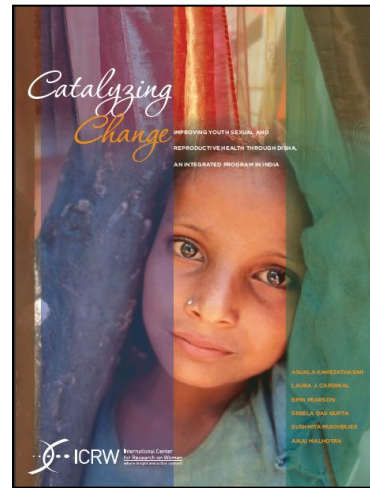
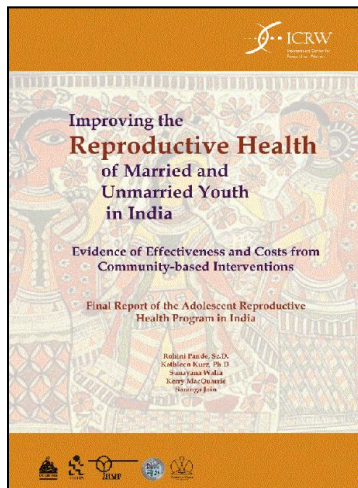- Concluding Insights and Next Steps

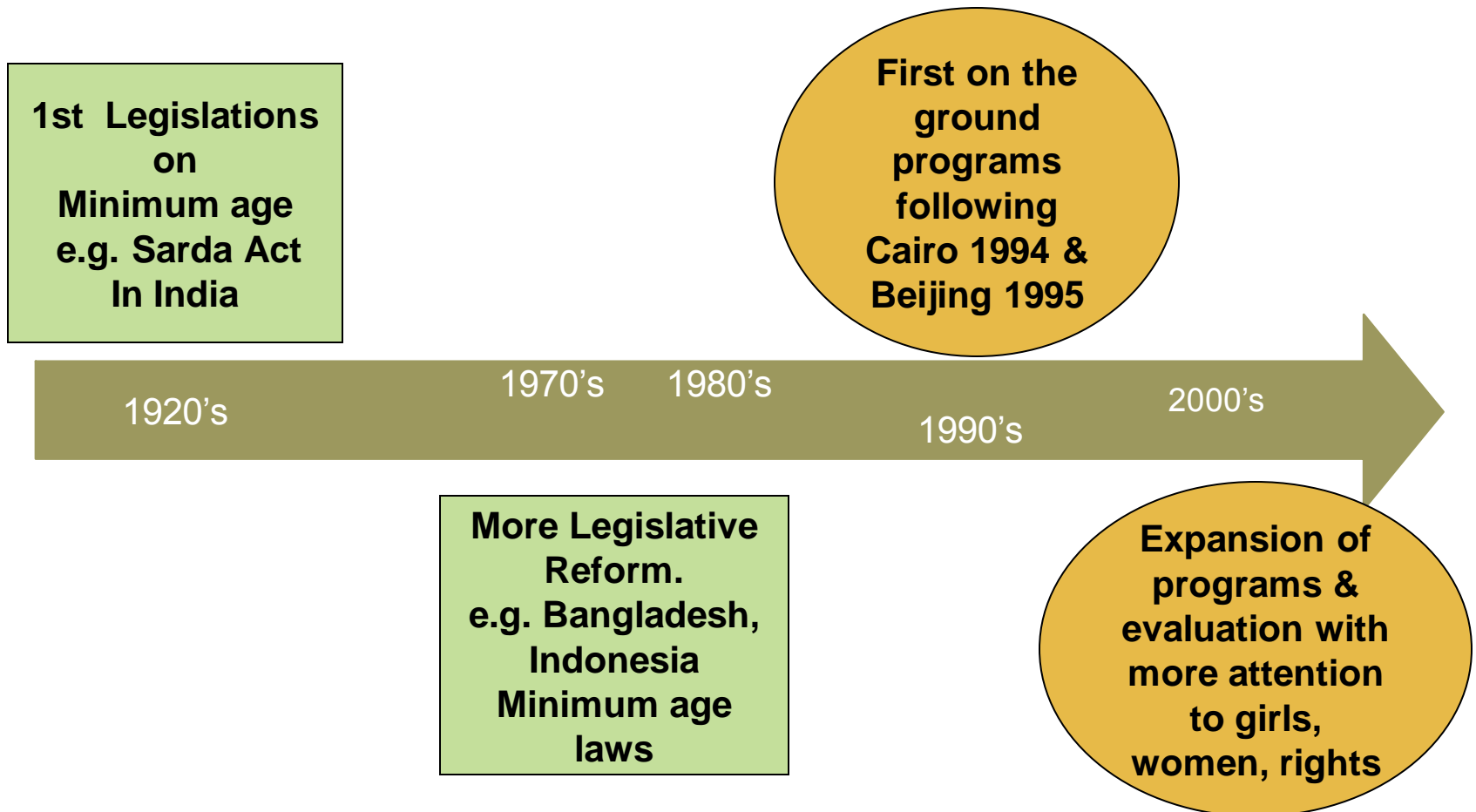# ICRW's Research on Child Marriage
www.icrw.org

ICRW: Programs & Evaluations

- Maharashtra Life Skills Program: 1998-1999 in Maharashtra, India

- Adolescent Participatory Project: 1999-2003 in Nepal

- Development Initiative Supporting Healthy Adolescents (DISHA): 2005-2007 in Bihar and Jharkhand, India

Historical Response to Child Marriage

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1st Legislations on Minimum age e.g. Sarda Act In India

First on the ground programs following Cairo 1994 & Beijing 1995

1920's   1970's   1980's   1990's   2000's

More Legislative Reform. e.g. Bangladesh, Indonesia Minimum age laws
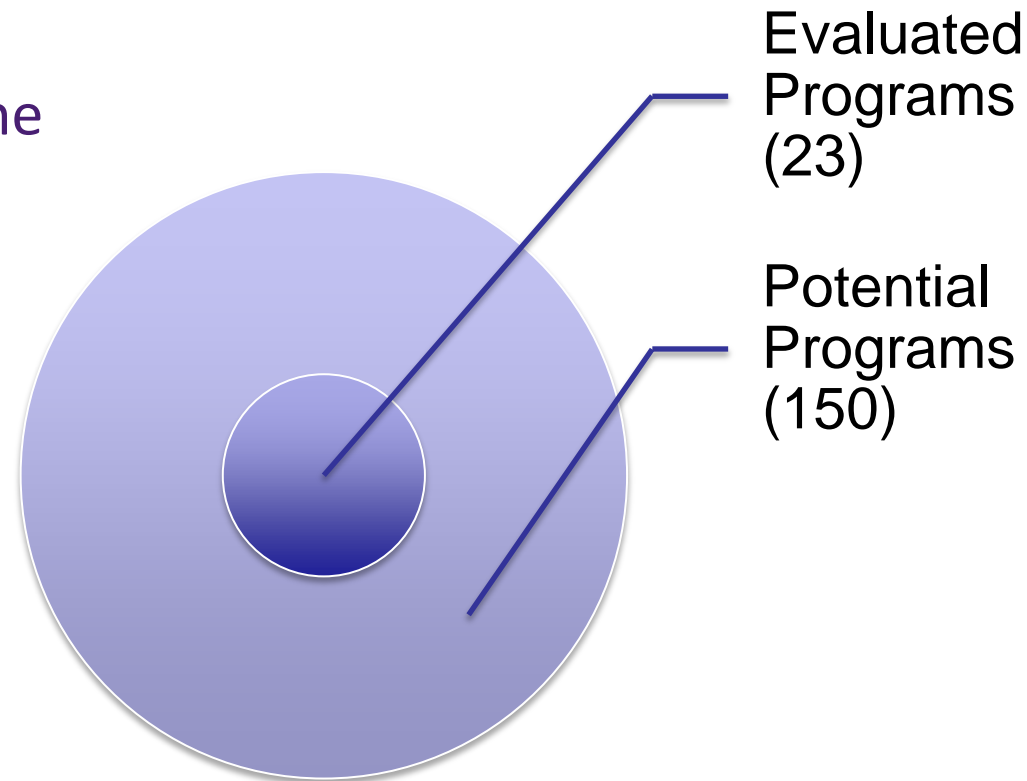
Expansion of programs & evaluation with more attention to girls, women, rights
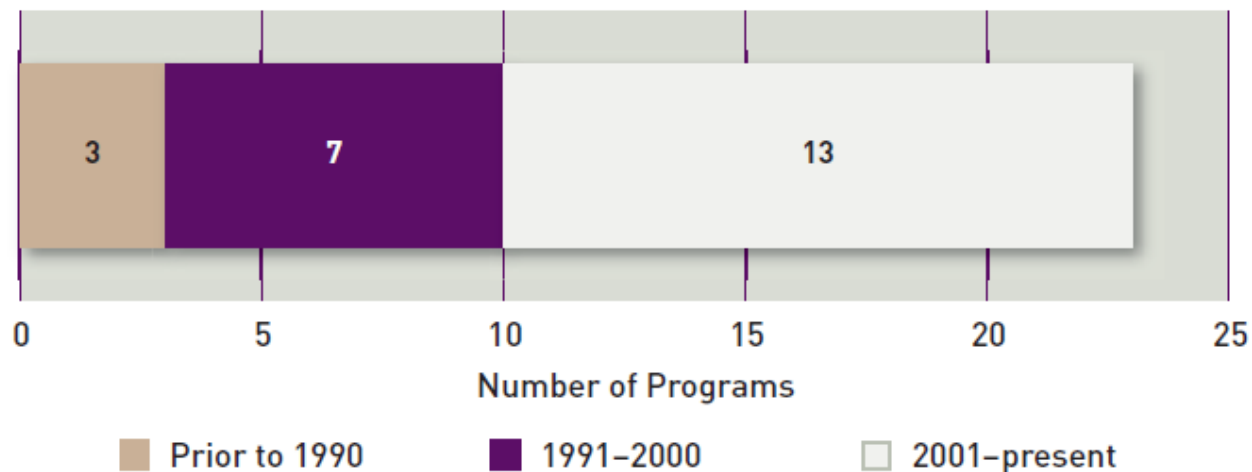
ICRW Systematic Review for WHO
Evaluated Programs to Prevent Child Marriage

- Wide search: databases, online

- Programs and policies

- Documented evaluation

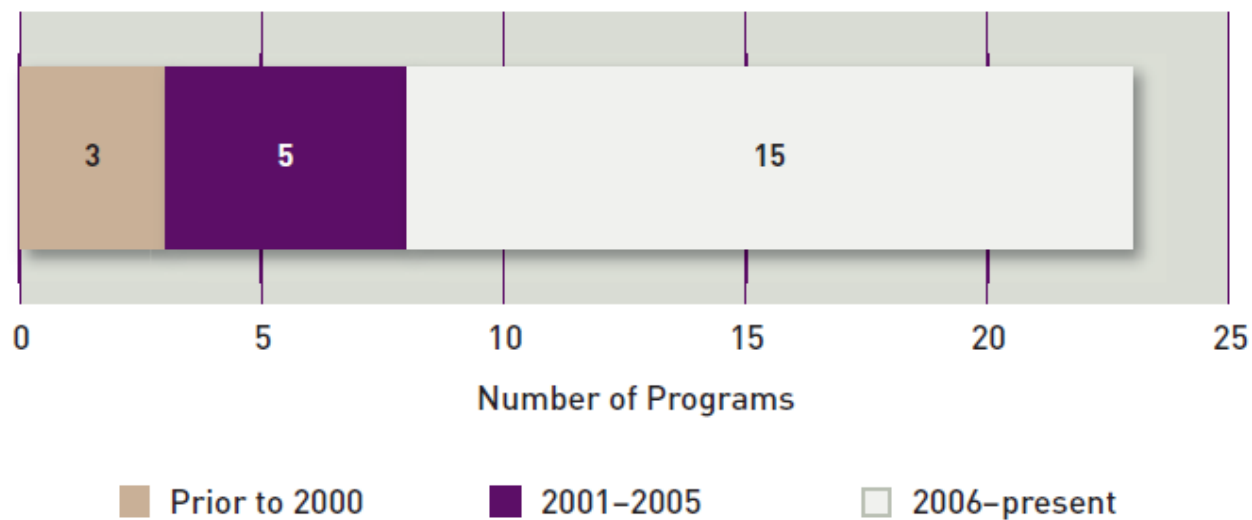- Measure change in child marriage-related behaviors and/or attitudes

Evaluated Programs (23)

Potential Programs (150)

When?

FIGURE 2: Program Initiation Year

Prior to 1990	1991–2000	2001–present

Evaluation Publication Year
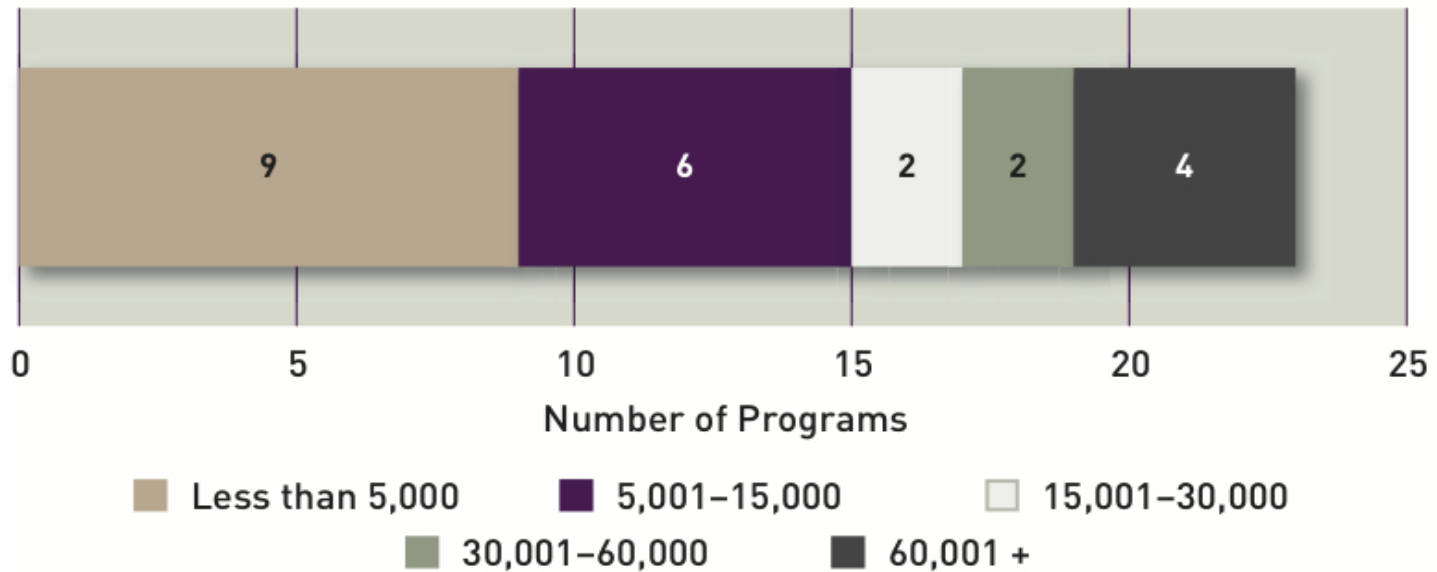

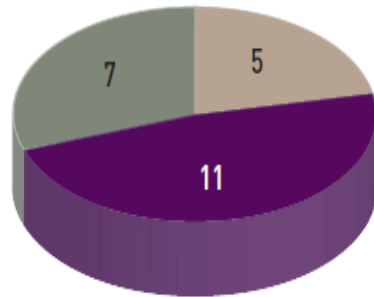| Prior to 2000	2001–2005	2006–present

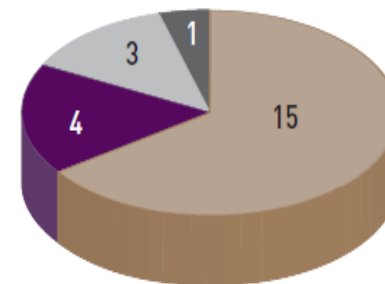# Scale?

FIGURE 2: Scale of Program Outreach

Focus?

FIGURE 4: Child Marriage Prevention as a Deliberate Objective in Programs

- Primary objective
- One of several objectives
- An incidental objective

Where?

FIGURE 5: Geographic Distribution of Programs

- Asia
- East Africa
- North Africa/Middle East
- West Africa

Main Program Strategies

1. Empowering girls with information, skills and support networks (18)

2. Educating and mobilizing parents and community members (13)

3. Enhancing accessibility and quality of formal schooling for girls (9)

4. Offering economic support and incentives for girls and their families (8)

5. Fostering an enabling legal and policy framework (4)

Strategy 1: Empowering girls with information, skills & support networks

- Life skills

- Vocational & livelihoods skills

- Sexual & reproductive health

- Mentoring & peer group training

- Safe spaces

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Strategy 2: Educating & Mobilizing Parents & Community Members

- Meetings with parents, leaders

- Community education

- Parental committees & forums

- Public pledges, support by influential leaders, family heads etc.

Strategy 3: Enhancing quality & accessibility of formal schooling

- Prepare, train, support girls to (re) enroll in school

- Improve school curriculum & teacher training

- Build schools, improve facilities hire female teachers

- Incentives of cash, scholarships, fee subsidies, uniforms supplies

Strategy 4: Offering economic support & incentives for girls and families

- Microfinance, work, financial training to support income generation

- Incentives to stay in school or not marry

Robyne Hayes, ICRW

Strategy 5: Fostering an enabling legal & policy framework

- Establish or reform of legal minimum age of marriage

- Advocate to raise support, awareness among community & government leaders
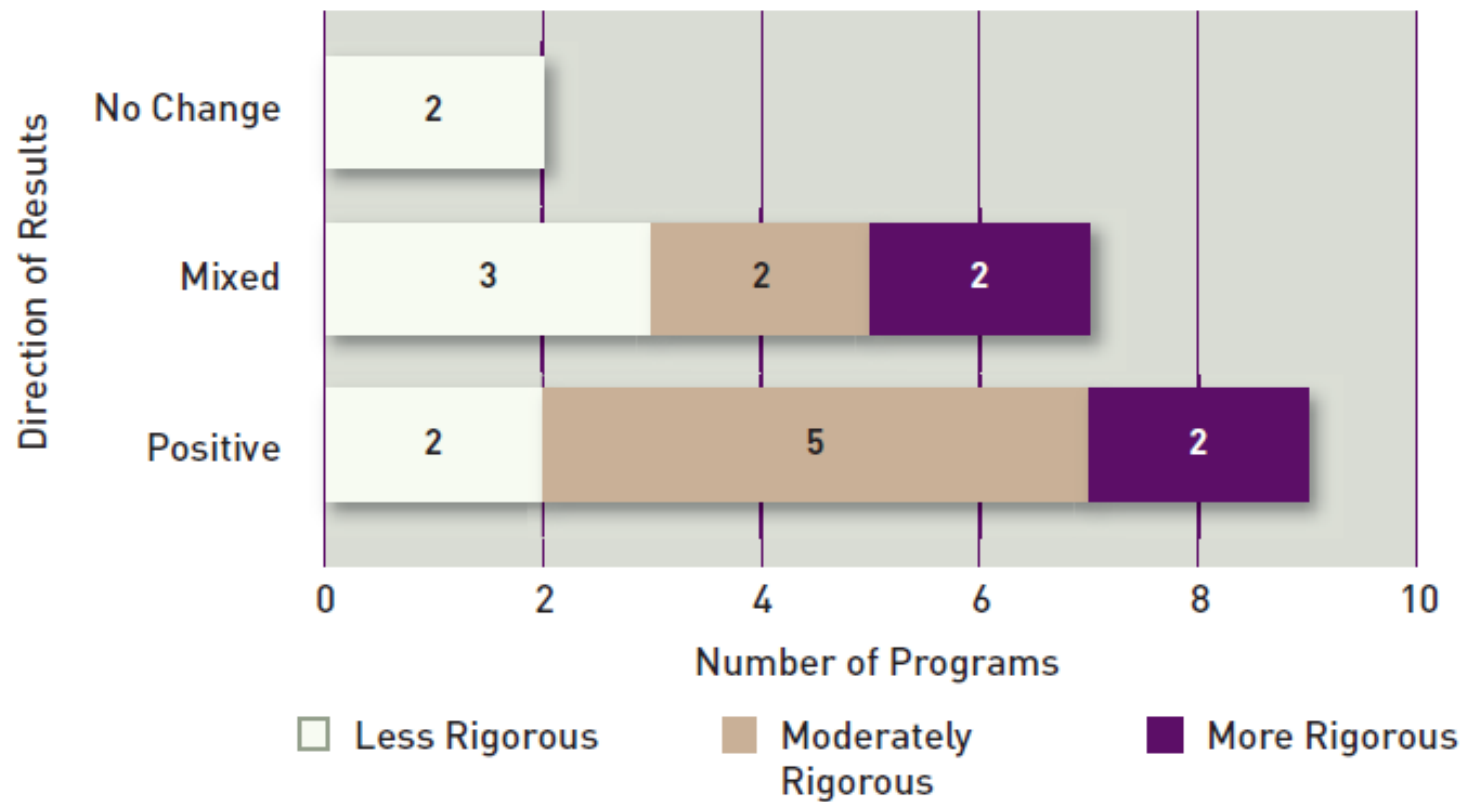
Study Design

- Wide range of study designs and evaluation methods

- Degree of rigor varied widely

- Quasi-experimental designs most common

- Most relied on quantitative analysis, but many used mixed methods

Metrics of Success

- Better knowledge of negative consequences

- Higher ideal age of marriage for girls

- More support for girls making marriage decisions

- Later age at marriage for girls (and boys)

- Fewer girls marrying before age 18

Evaluation Results

FIGURE 7: Results: Change in Behavior by Evaluation Rigor

Most Promising Strategies

- Empowering girls with information, skills & social networks

- Supporting families and communities

- Providing incentives for education

Jeff Edmeades, ICRW

Concluding Insights: Agenda Forward

- Balance depth with scale & sustainability

- Seek new evaluation approaches

- Innovate faster change with 21st century communication, technology, networking

- Seeking balance of working through pioneers while reaching hardest-to-reach populations