

Piloting CRS' The Faithful House Curriculum

- **TFH** is a faith-based couple's communication strengthening curriculum focused on improving the quality of couples' relationships through workshops uniquely centered on the couple.
- CRS Ethiopia **piloted the TFH approach to improve couple communication** in Meta and Kersa woredas of Oromia Region between Dec 2015-Mar 2016.
- Twenty (20) selected couples **attended TFH workshop** in Dec 2015 and **passed TFH messages** to other couples in their communities.
- A **project evaluation** was conducted in Mar 2016 to assess the changes exhibited by trained couples in their couple relationships.

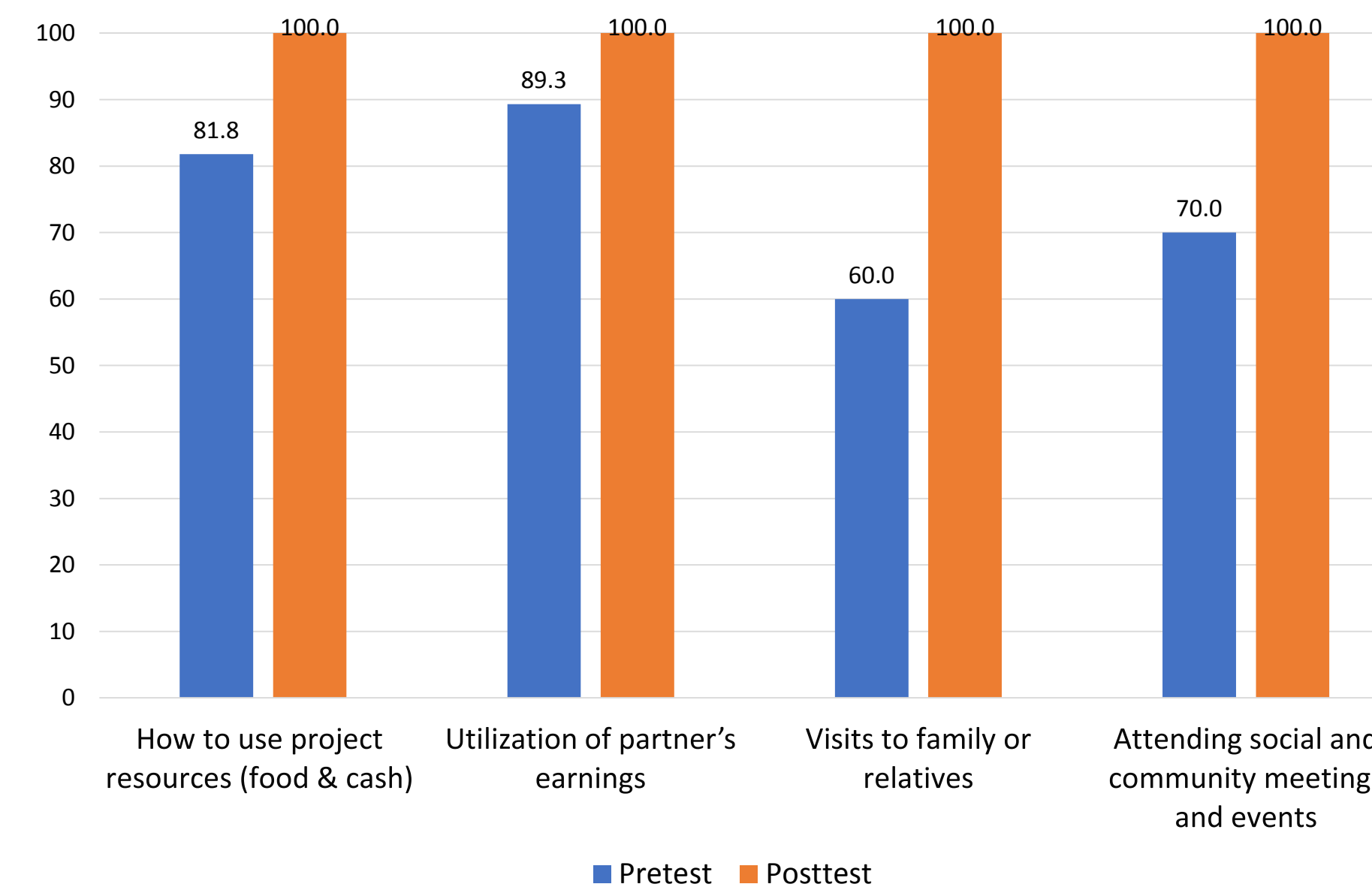
Learning Questions:

1. What are the areas around which couples are most interested in increasing their joint decision making and why?
2. How does participation in TFH help couples re-envision their relationship?
3. How and where are the best ways to integrate the approach in to the new Development Food Assistance Program?



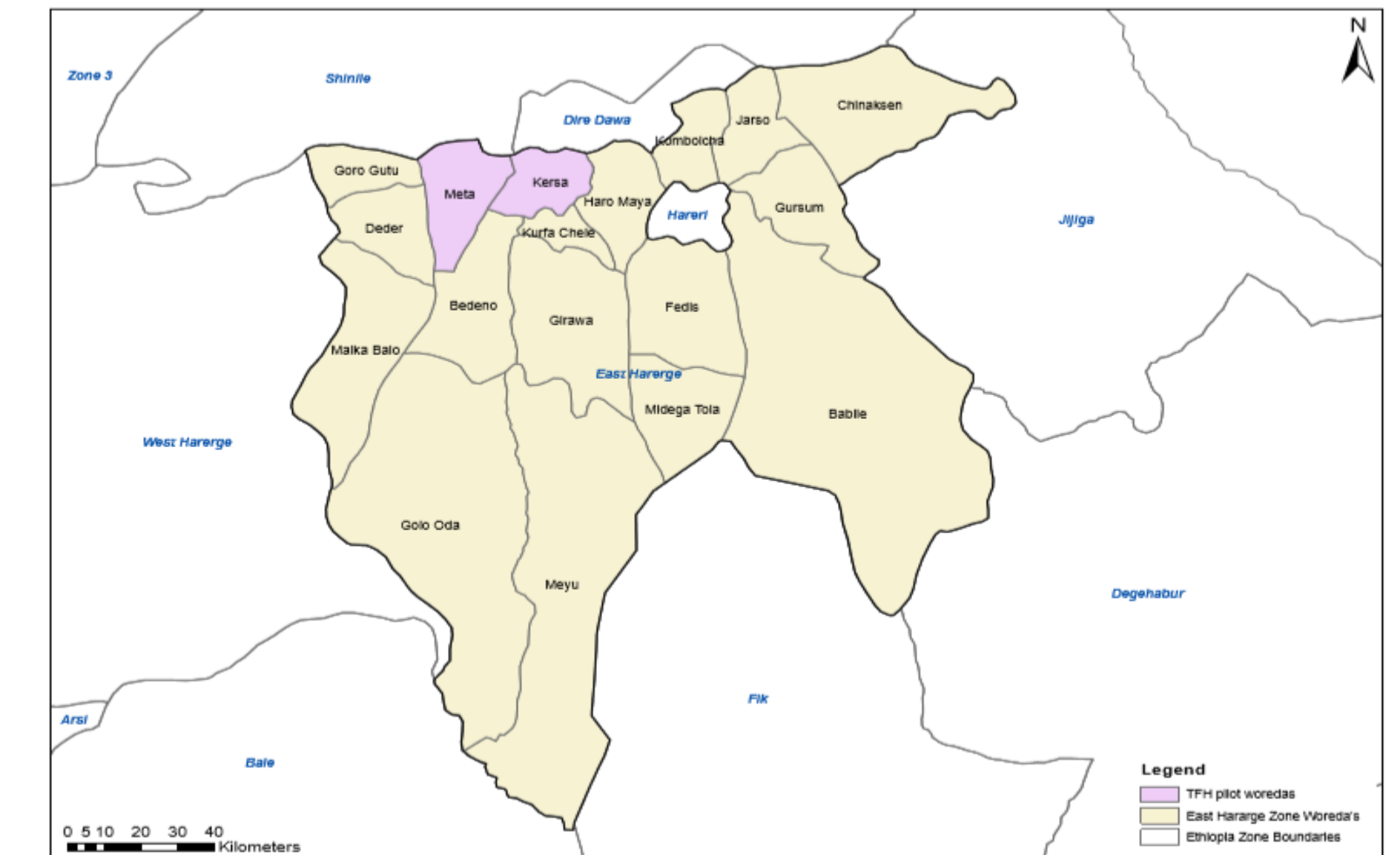
Role model couple

Percent Change in Couples' Joint Decision Making from Dec 2015 – Mar 2016



Evaluation Results - Changes in couples' relationships (pre-post test)

- **Joint Decision Making** on the use of project resources (food & cash) – increased from 81.8% – 100%
- **Cohesion-** Warm and comfortable relationship with partner– increased from 87.0% - 97.2%
- **Spirituality** – frequency of couples praying together on a daily basis – increased from 50.0% - 69.4%
- **Sexual relations** – response to couples' sex life is very exciting – increased from 32.5% - 60.0%
- **Communication** – likelihood of couples' blaming, accusing, and criticizing each other – decreased from 41.0% - 11.8%.
- **Intimate partner violence and prevalence** - Injuries inflicted on women by husbands – reduced from 50.0% - 0.0%



Conclusion and recommendation

Couples **improved their joint decision making** in terms of how **project resources** (food & cash) are used; how **money earned by spouses** is used; **visiting family or relatives**; **attending social events**.

TFH helped couples to **get structured knowledge** on couples' relationships: understand aspects of relationships; critically assess their relationship and understand the need for extra effort to nurture their relationship; and learn about how to strengthen it.

TFH – **encouraged male engagement**; **was flexible and adaptable**; **brought encouraging results in short period allocating limited resources**.

Transforming interpersonal communications between couples using faith values as a catalyst can **positively influence gender relations** eventually **contributing to household food security**.

More research is needed to understand if these short term outcomes can be sustained.

TFH can be integrated to **community conversations, behavior change communication programs, and saving and internal lending community group meetings**.