



Fertility Awareness  
for Community  
Transformation



## Emorikinos Daadang Etogogongo Alatanakin Ngidwe (EDEAN)

"Let's Come Together and  
Strengthen Child Spacing"

### LOCATION

Karamoja region of Uganda

### DONOR

U.S. Agency for International  
Development (USAID)

### IMPLEMENTERS

- Institute for Reproductive Health,  
Georgetown University
- Save the Children

The Fertility Awareness for Community Transformation (FACT) project is a five-year United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded project led by the Institute for Reproductive Health at Georgetown University.

As a research, intervention, and technical assistance project, FACT is testing interventions for increasing Fertility Awareness and expanding access to Fertility Awareness Methods (FAM) at the community level, with the goal of reducing unintended pregnancies and improving reproductive health outcomes.

## WHAT IS EDEAN?

EDEAN is a community-based intervention testing the hypothesis that increasing fertility awareness improves family planning use. EDEAN uses a community theatre approach to diffuse fertility awareness throughout the community, providing information that individuals can share with their social networks and apply to their own lives. The intervention was designed through a participatory, iterative process emphasizing community engagement. Formative research addressed local knowledge, attitudes, and interest related to fertility awareness, family planning, and modes of learning.

EDEAN works through Save the Children's Early Childhood Care and Development Centers to reach the parents of young children and other community members. Each community selects young men and women to participate in EDEAN as Peer Moderators and Peer Group Members.



Peer Moderators lead Peer Group Members through a series of meetings in which they learn core fertility awareness information in four topic areas:

- Couple communication
- Menstruation
- Fertility
- Family planning

The Peer Group then enacts performances on each topic to share information with community members and spark dialogue and reflection.

## RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

A quasi-experimental study using mixed-methods is being conducted to assess the delivery and potential scalability of EDEAN, as well as the effectiveness of the approach in increasing fertility awareness knowledge and improving attitudes and behaviors towards family planning use. Data collection methods include:

- **Baseline and endline household surveys** across intervention and control sites to assess increases in fertility awareness knowledge, diffusion of information, and family planning use
- **Observational data** from peer group meetings, theatre rehearsals, and theatre performances to assess delivery and potential scalability
- **Focus Group Discussions** with community members, Peer Group Members, and Peer Moderators to describe their experience with EDEAN and understand how fertility awareness information diffused through the community
- **Key Informant Interviews** with community leaders and health providers to understand their perceptions of the intervention and whether it influenced attitudes towards and uptake of family planning

**FERTILITY AWARENESS** is actionable information about fertility throughout the life course and the ability to apply this knowledge to one's own circumstances and needs. It includes basic information about the menstrual cycle, when and how pregnancy occurs, the likelihood of pregnancy from unprotected intercourse at different times during the cycle and at different life stages, and the role of male fertility. Fertility awareness also can include information on how specific family planning methods work, how they affect fertility, and how to use them; and it can create the basis for understanding communication about and correctly using family planning.

## INTERVENTION COMPONENTS



### **Peer Group Meetings**

Peer Group Members learn core fertility awareness content during a series of meetings. One single-sex and one mixed-sex meeting is held on each topic.



### **Community Theatre Performances**

Peer Group Members enact Community Theatre Performances to share the information throughout their communities. Some performances follow a standardized storyline that emphasizes core fertility awareness information, while others are developed by group members. During each performance, the Peer Moderator poses questions to the audience to help ensure that the core content is properly understood.



### **Linkages to Health System**

Village Health Team members (VHTs) and Health Center Family Planning Providers are invited to attend EDEAN activities to give information on family planning methods. A family planning invitation card is distributed at community theatre events to encourage interested attendees to visit providers to learn more about family planning methods. These cards are collected by VHTs or Health Centers Family Planning Providers if those individuals seek services.



### **Engaging Community Leaders**

Individuals who may influence the behavior of young people—such as community leaders, religious leaders, and elders—attend orientation meetings to learn about EDEAN and are encouraged to support intervention activities. In regular reflection meetings, they identify actions they will take to express support for EDEAN.



### **Training and Support**

Community Development Officers (CDOs) train the Peer Moderators to facilitate Peer Group Meetings and direct Community Theatre Performances. The CDOs provide ongoing support and coaching to the Peer Moderators.



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