




Centre of Excellence for Development Impact and Learning

**Structural interventions aiming to enable adolescents' use of contraception in low- and middle-income countries: A mixed-methods synthesis**


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0

**Structural interventions address upstream factors**



- Poverty
  - increase girls' economic status
- Education
  - increase girls' participation in schooling
- Girls' status / power
  - empower girls / increase their agency
- Social norms
  - change gender and/or fertility norms

1


**Methods**



- Systematic search & screening
- Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA)
- Intervention Component Analysis (ICA)

2

**RESULTS: What types of interventions have been evaluated?**



- Nearly 7,000 references screened
- 40 intervention evaluations included (63 papers)


Intervention activities\*:

- 29 economic empowerment
- 17 encouraging school participation
- 13 changing community social norms

\*most had more than one activity

3

**RESULTS: What types of interventions have been evaluated? Methods & outcomes**



**Methods**

- 20 RCTs
- 14 nRCTs
- 8 natural experiments

**Various outcomes:**


- 30 pregnancy/birth outcomes
- 20 contraceptive use outcomes
- 9 other (e.g. attitudes/preferences for number of children)

4

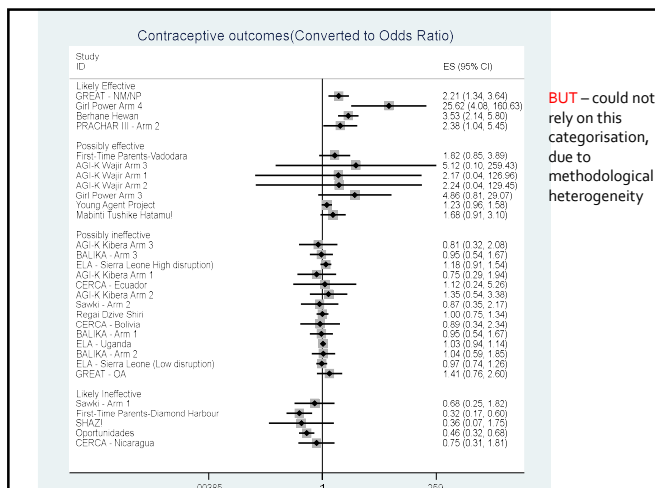
**In-depth review focus**

Agreed, with advisory group, to focus on studies reporting contraceptive outcomes. Excluded three studies with historical controls.

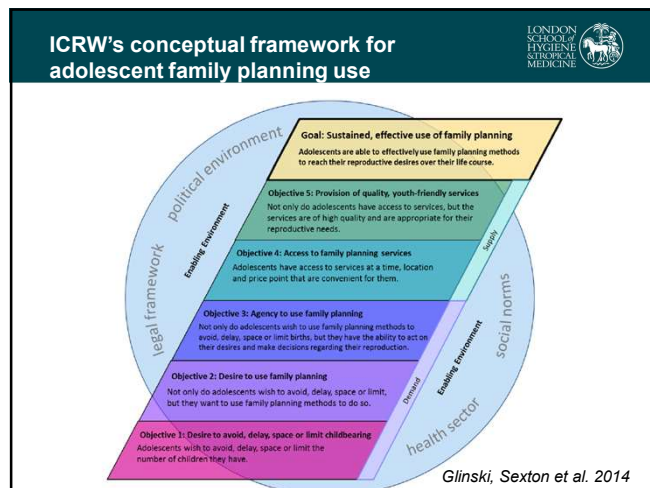
17 studies, with 29 structural intervention arms, were included in this in-depth phase.



5



6



7

### Designing effective interventions

Step 1: Tailor interventions to the adolescents' life stage

Step 2: Assess the baseline situation for each objective

Step 3: Select appropriate intervention activities

8

### Structural interventions activities

Agency		Example activities
Choice	Opportunities	Livelihoods experience Support for schooling Employment opportunities
	Value beyond motherhood	Vocational support Income generating support
Voice		Community development Communication / negotiation training Gender rights training
Power	To make decisions	Decision-making training Experience of decision-making Economic empowerment
	Within (esteem)	Safe space groups - to build confidence
	With (support)	Safe space groups - to build social network Safe space groups - mentors

9

### Structural interventions aiming to foster an enabling environment

- Active engagement with communities
- Demonstrating girls' value beyond motherhood

10

### Recommendations

- Outcomes & indicators
- Study design factors
- Understanding *how* interventions work
- Test & refine:
  - this three-step approach
  - this operationalised ICRW framework

11



12

Papers in progress

LONDON SCHOOL of HYGIENE & TROPICAL MEDICINE

- Burchett et al, Structural interventions to enable adolescent contraceptive use in LMICs : a mid-range theory to support intervention development and evaluation
- Burchett et al, Which structural interventions for adolescent contraceptive use have been evaluated in low- and middle-income countries?
- Kneale et al, Can cash transfer interventions increase contraceptive use and reduce adolescent birth and pregnancy in low and middle income countries? A systematic review and meta-analysis

13