

Effect of a gender-synchronized family planning intervention on inequitable gender norms among husbands of married adolescent girls in a cluster randomized control trial in Niger

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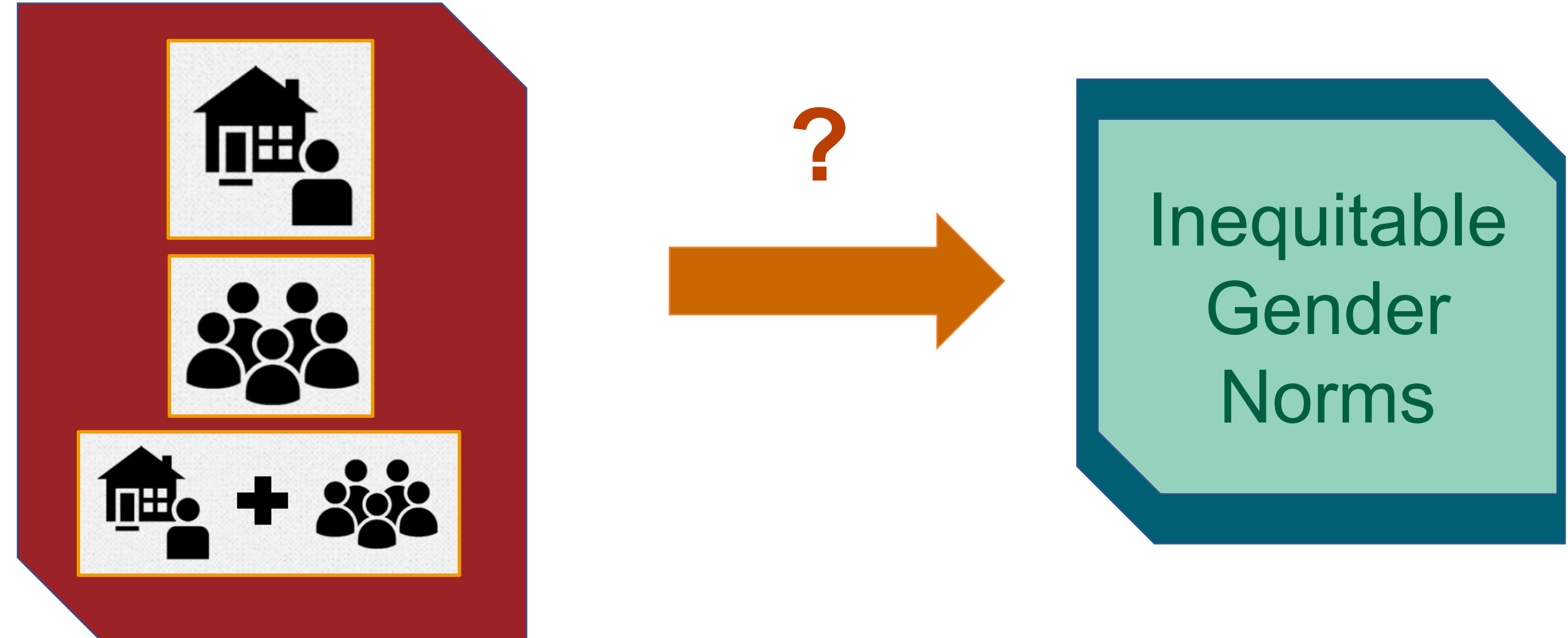


INTRODUCTION

- Four-arm cluster randomized control trial of the effects of receiving one year of the Reaching Married Adolescents in Niger (RMA) program to increase healthy birth spacing among married adolescent girls (age 13-19) and their husbands
- 48 villages in Dosso region (Logo, Doutchi, Dosso) randomly assigned (2 stages) to one of four arms:
 - Arm 1: Household visits by community health worker
 - Arm 2: Small group (gender-specific) sessions
 - Arm 3: Household visits + small groups
 - Arm 4: Control (4 villages from each district)
- **This study:** Assessed effects of RMA on perceived inequitable gender norms among husbands (secondary outcomes)

METHODS

- N=1,080 husbands



- Hierarchical model (cluster at village level, multiple observations)
- Difference in Differences estimator
- Inverse probability of censoring weighting (IPCW)

CONCLUSION

One year of exposure to the **RMA Small Group** intervention shows evidence of **reducing inequitable gender norms** among husbands married to adolescents in Niger

- Group-based interventions allow for perceptions of norms to change
- A low-cost, simple, scalable, and transferrable intervention with promising evidence
- One of a limited number of evaluations of social norm-focused interventions in low- and middle-income contexts showing direct effects on social norms
- Could be valuable model for shifting inequitable gender norms in similar settings.

Next Steps: Did these changes contribute to reductions in IPV and increases in contraceptive use?

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Social Norms Gender Equitable Men Scale

Response options: “agree”/“disagree”

	“People in your community think that...”
1	...a woman’s most important role is to take care of the home and cook for the family.”
2	...a man should have the final word about decisions in the home.”
3	...there are times when a woman deserves to be beaten.”
4	...a woman should never question her husband’s decisions even if she disagrees with them.”
5	...it is natural and right that men have more power than women in the family.”

RESULTS

- The mean SN-GEMS score at T1 was 4.1 [n=1,055; range: 0-5; standard deviation: 1.1]
- Small groups: associated with a 0.62 lower score on the SN-GEMS (95% CI: -1.05, -0.18) relative to controls at T2
- No significant effects detected for the household visits or combination intervention

