

Working with newly married couples & first-time parents: Challenges and opportunities

MELANIE YAHNER, SAVE THE CHILDREN

THE CHALLENGE



Every year...

- ✓ 15 million girls are married before age 18
- ✓ 13 million adolescents give birth

And face greater risk for...

- ✓ Violence
- ✓ Adverse health outcomes
- ✓ Adverse education and social outcomes

...yet few programs target this population

A WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY

Norms related to...

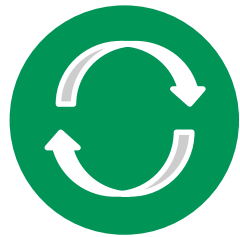
- ✓ Health service use
- ✓ Healthy timing and spacing of pregnancy
- ✓ Contraceptive decision-making
- ✓ Home health practices
- ✓ Household decision-making
- ✓ Non-violent conflict resolution
- ✓ Positive parenting and child discipline



KEY PROGRAM ELEMENTS



socio-ecological
lens



life cycle
approach



group
discussion



gender-
synchronized



in-laws, faith
leaders, other
gatekeepers

