

Faith Leaders Advocating for Maternal Empowerment (FLAME)

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Background

In Ethiopia: Fourth ANC visit Coverage: 32%
 Institutional delivery: 26%
 PNC: 17%

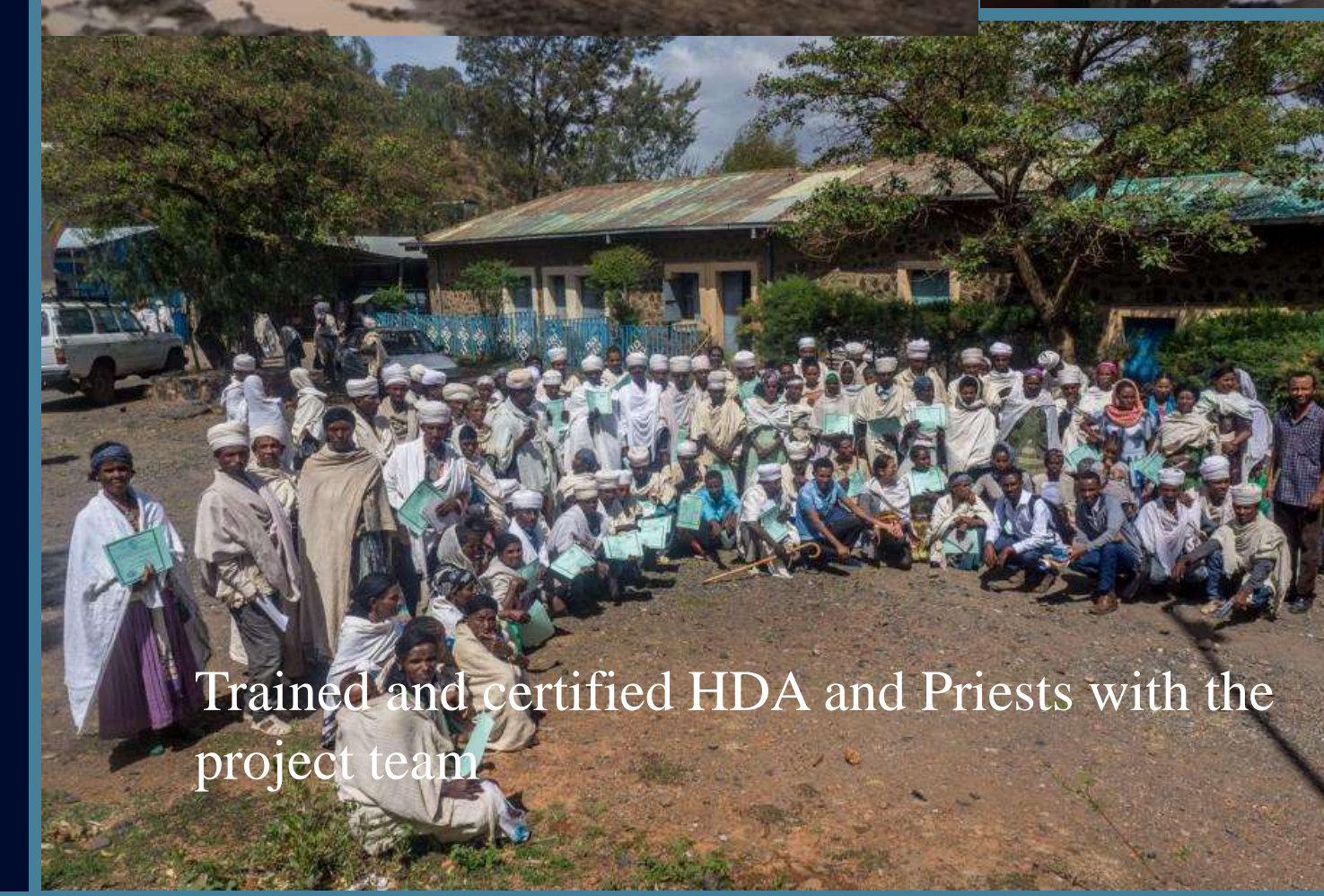
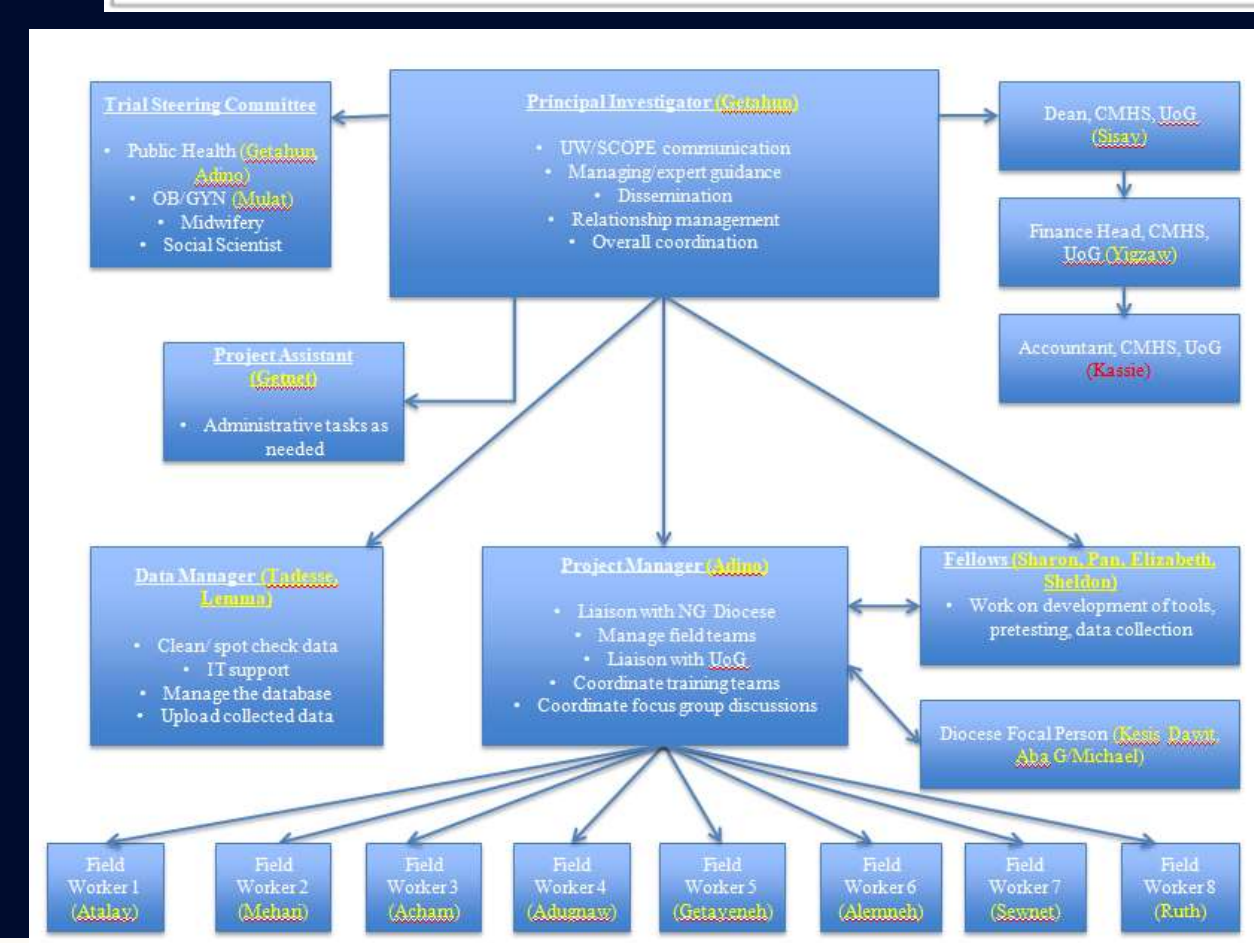
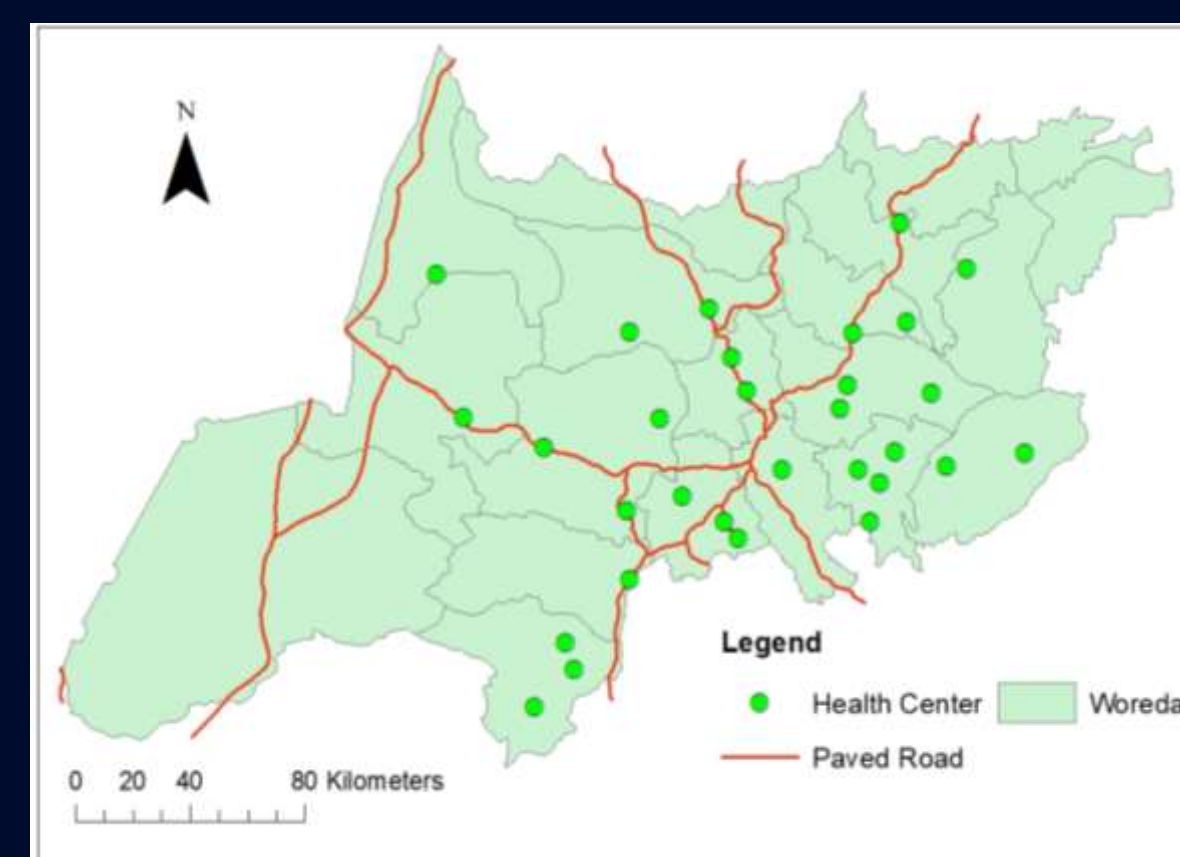
This project seeks to leverage the cultural acceptability and trust of Ethiopian Orthodox Church priests in predominantly Christian communities in the North Gondar zone by linking priests and health development army members (HDAs) to work in pairs to achieve improved utilization of ANC and facility delivery services through community-based education, counseling, and support.

Main Activities Accomplished by the Project to date:

- Trainings were given in order to enable study team and data collectors(ODK) to implement the project effectively.
- Health facility assessments, surveys of reproductive age women, and qualitative assessments of the perceptions of pregnant women, their partners, priests, and health professionals around ANC and facility delivery were completed
- Three reports are finalized and their findings incorporated into a training manual for preists and HDA participants
- Training was given to 121 priests and HDA
- Trained people are teaching the community and referring mother fro ANC and delivery
- Intervention follow-up discussions are undergoin

2. Objectives

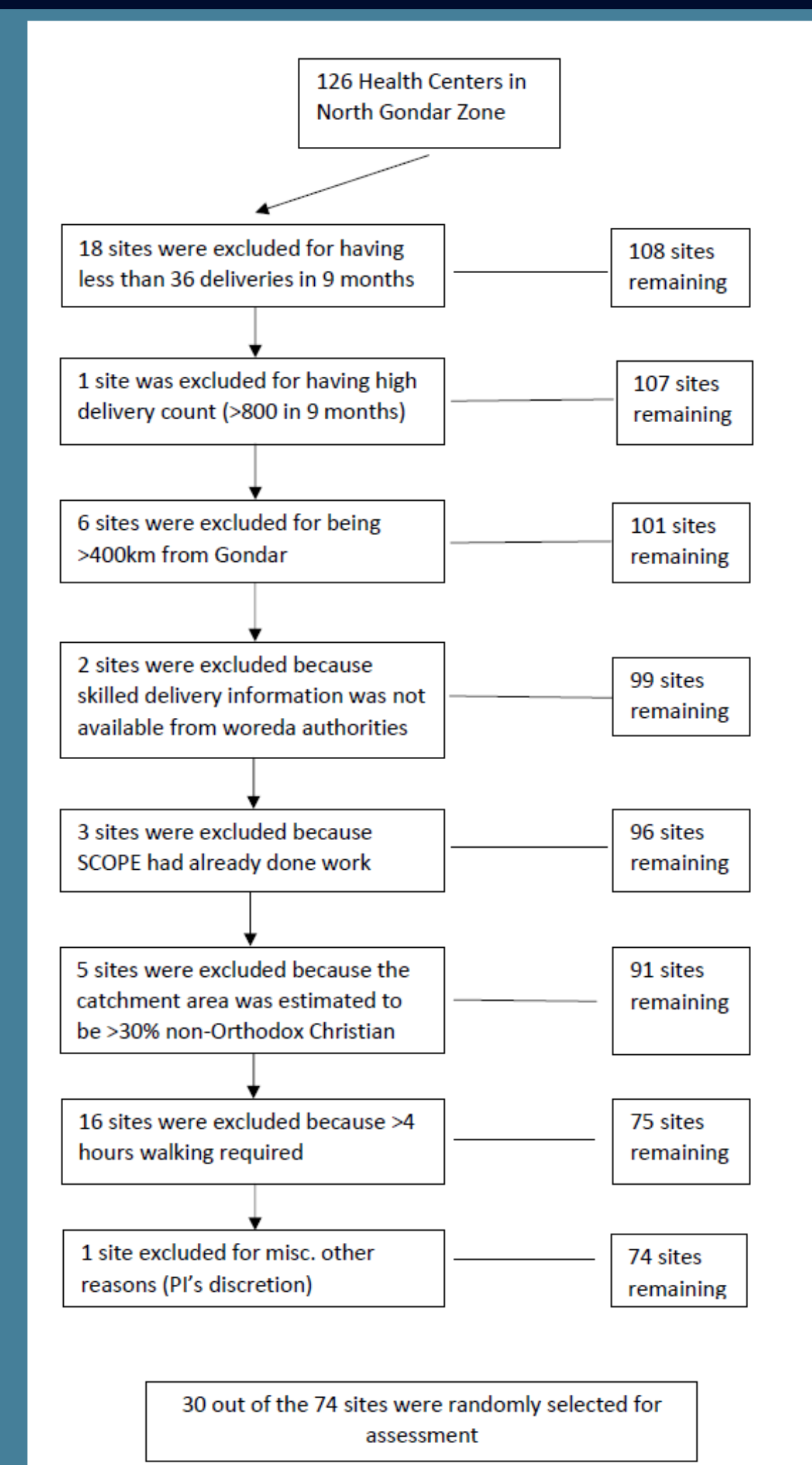
1. Understand the health facility related and community related current maternal health and service utilization realities in relation to antenatal care and facility delivery
2. Design appropriate interventions, based on preliminary assessments
3. Test if the designed interventions will bring significant changes in ANC and facility delivery service utilization



3. Methods

•Cluster randomized controlled trial

- Assess health facilities in the region
- Qualitative assessment of perception of the community and health providers around ANC and facility delivery
- Cross sectional survey of women in reproductive age group
- Design of the intervention (Training, community outreach by trainees, follow-up discussion, HC data extraction)
- Implement the intervention in 6 intervention sites with 12 controls over 12 months,



5. Project Results

The preliminary assessments have shown details of maternal health related circumstances in North Gondar zone.

- Major barriers of ANC and institutional delivery in the study area are identified. That include: distance, external influence from family members, and lack of awareness
- Trained priests and health development army members have been dispatched to their respective communities to start their outreach activities

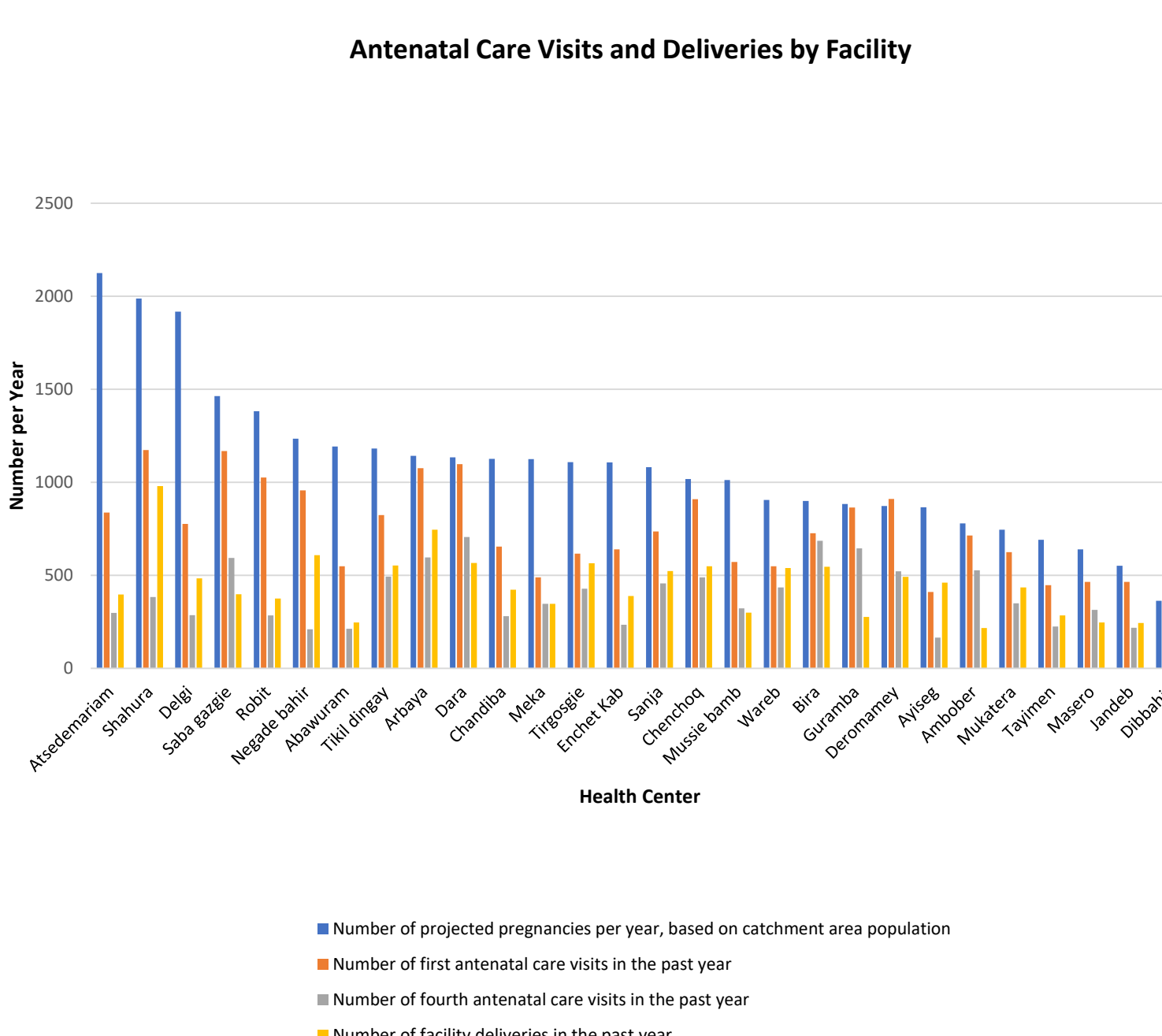


Table 1. Important factors for deciding place of delivery for women's first and most recent pregnancy

Variables	Pregnancy #	Categories			
		Important		Not important	
		Frequency	Percentage %	Frequency	Percentage %
Medical Expertise	First	125	68.68	57	31.32
	Most Recent	123	84.83	22	15.17
Cost/Money	First	138	75.82	44	24.18
	Most Recent	118	81.38	27	18.62
Distance/transport	First	133	73.08	49	26.92
	Most Recent	110	75.86	35	24.14
Previous Experiences	First	117	64.29	65	35.71
	Most Recent	115	79.31	30	20.69
Safety	First	145	79.67	37	20.33
	Most Recent	119	82.07	26	17.93
Fear of Fear of misplacement of baby	First	72	39.56	110	60.44
	Most Recent	60	41.38	85	58.62
Family influence	First	125	69.23	56	30.77
	Most Recent	91	62.76	54	37.24
Cultural Tradition	First	118	64.84	64	35.16
	Most Recent	78	53.79	67	46.21
Religious reasons	First	97	53.30	85	46.70
	Most Recent	78	53.79	67	46.21
Obstetric Complications	First	129	70.88	53	29.12
	Most Recent	110	75.86	35	24.14
Fear of Cesarean section	First	65	45.70	97	54.30
	Most Recent	66	45.52	79	54.48
Privacy	First	82	45.05	100	54.95
	Most Recent	68	46.90	77	53.10

Conclusion

The preliminary assessments of the project are done, and informed by the preliminary assessments, the intervention is started by early June. The intervention follow up discussions and data collection from the health facilities will continue for a year. Expansion will be considered if the interventions are found effective.

