

# KNOWLEDGE AND USE OF EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTIVE PILLS (ECP) AMONG 15-24 YEARS OLDS IN 9 HIGH-BURDEN DISTRICTS IN UGANDA



**HEROES FOR GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE ACTION**

Supporting Community Solutions for Sustainable Health Outcomes

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## INTRODUCTION

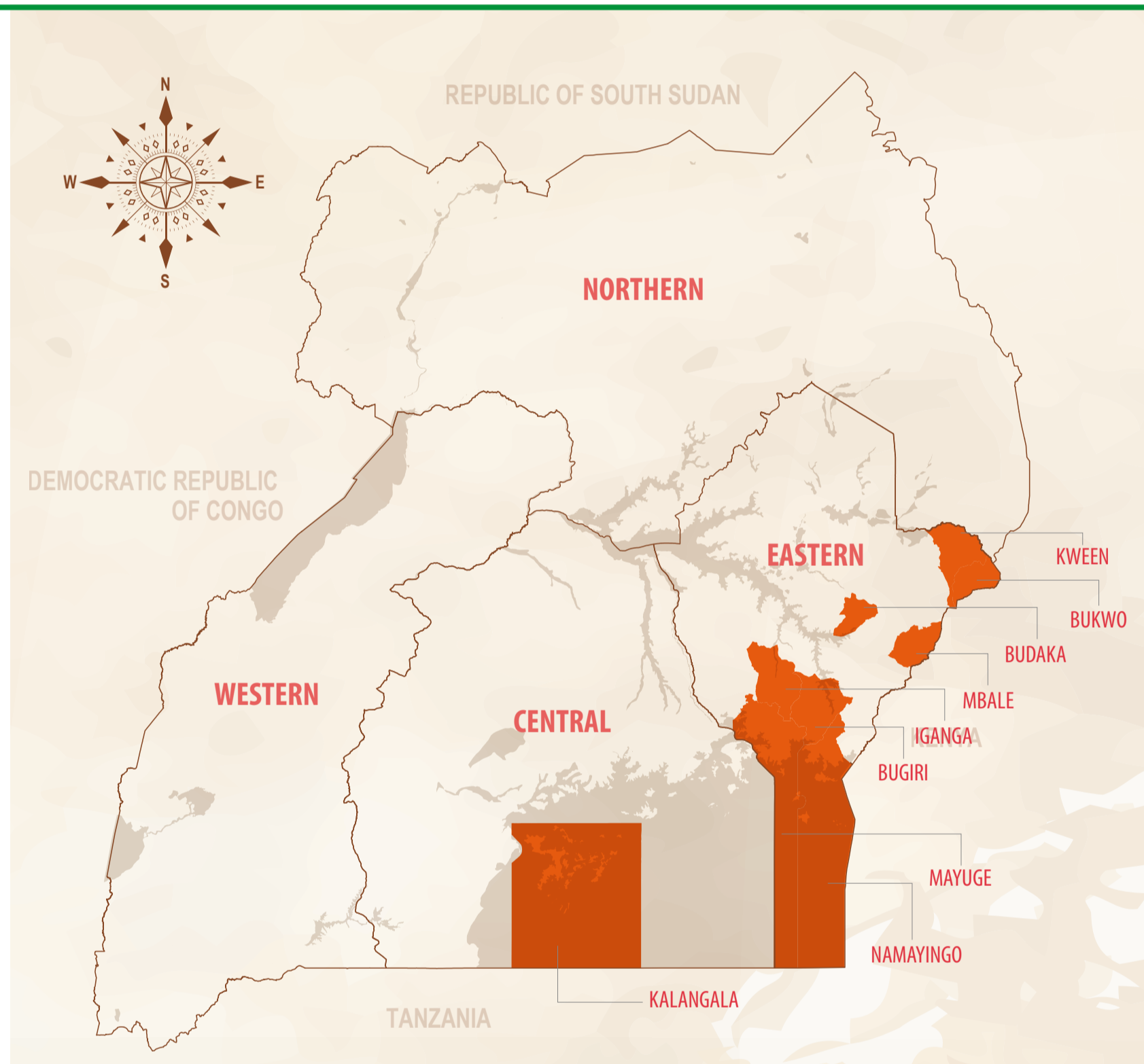
Heroes 4 Gender Transformative Action (HeroesGTA) is a four-year program in 9 high burden districts that conducted a survey in December 2021 to provide insights on family planning knowledge among adolescents and young people 15-24 years. Emergency contraception is one of the key SRHR interventions used for the prevention of unplanned pregnancies among adolescents and young people.

## OBJECTIVES

To examine what it means for girls 15-24 years old to have the knowledge and decision-making power in accessing ECP after exposure to unprotected sex, rape, and defilement in 9 high-burden districts.

## METHODOLOGY

A cross-sectional mixed method design using quantitative and qualitative data collection techniques was conducted in 9 districts using a structured questionnaire.



## KNOWLEDGE OF EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTIVE

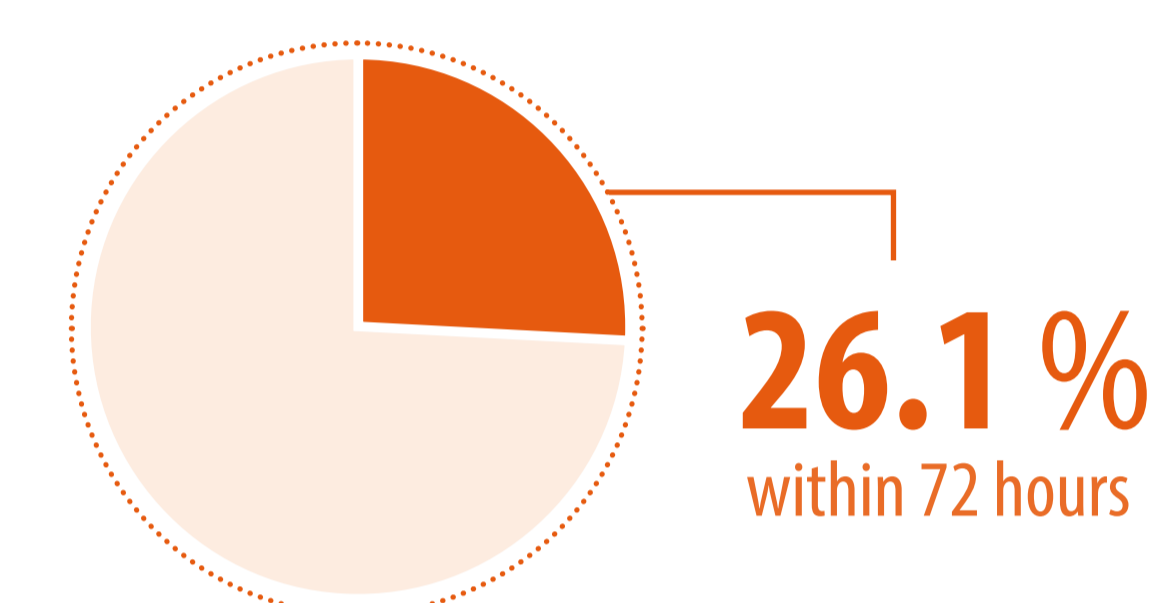
- The qualitative findings show ECP is provided, including instances of rape, defilement, or unplanned risky sexual encounter.
- However, they were not able to explicitly mention the name of the product except the service provider.
- Modified use of Pill Plan as emergency contraception emerged as a prominent theme among FGD girls and women.

## UTILIZATION OF ECP

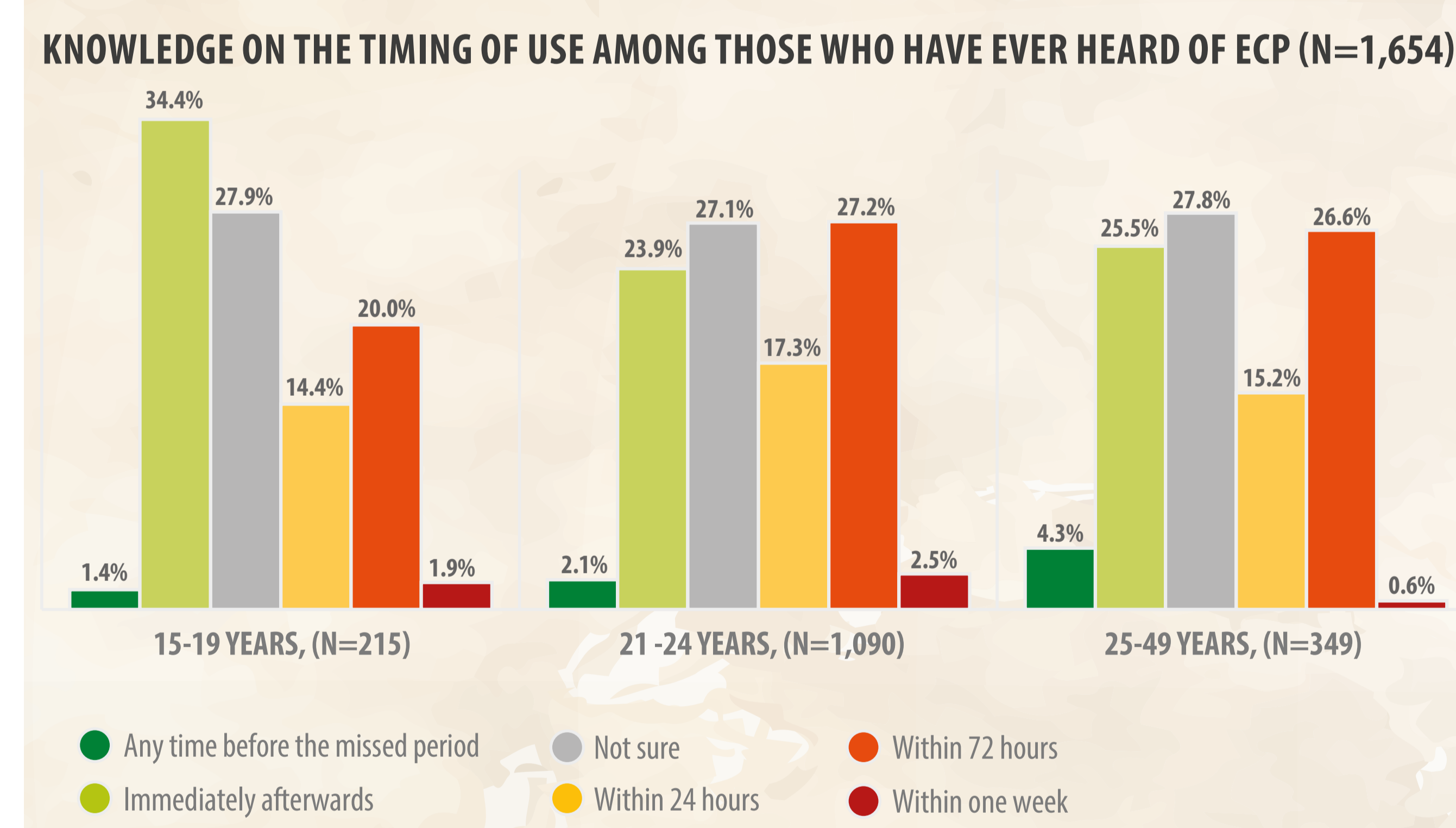
- The qualitative findings show ECP is provided, including instances of rape, defilement, or unplanned risky sexual encounter.
- However, the respondents were not able to explicitly mention the name of the product except the service provider.
- Modified use of Pill Plan as emergency contraception emerged as a prominent theme among FGD girls and women.

## KNOWLEDGE OF THE TIMING OF THE USE OF ECP

26.1% of the respondents knew that the ideal time within which ECP would be used was 72 hours, there was no variation across the age groups as indicated in figure 1 below.



Knowledge on the proper timing of ECP after unprotected sex by districts shows that **Budaka** [p=0.027, OR=12.852, 95% CI (1.337,123.569)], **Bugiri** [(p=0.041, OR=9.72895% CI (1.092,86.681))] and **Iganga** [p=0.000 OR=0.007, 95% CI (0.001, 0.037)] had significantly lower knowledge.



Source: Comprehensive Baseline Survey 15-49 years

## CONCLUSION

The unmarried significantly demonstrated better knowledge compared to the married. Among the married utilization of ECP only occurs when there's an incorrect or failure of contraceptives. The findings show that quite a proportion of the respondents lacked sufficient knowledge about emergency contraceptives, therefore the health education and promotion carried out concerning emergency contraception is not sufficient to initiate its utilization.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The results of this study highlight the importance of promoting emergency contraceptives to enhance their use by making them easily accessible to both men and women to accelerate decision-making across all districts.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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