

Empowering Women's Health in the Dominican Republic: A Peer Educator Pilot Program

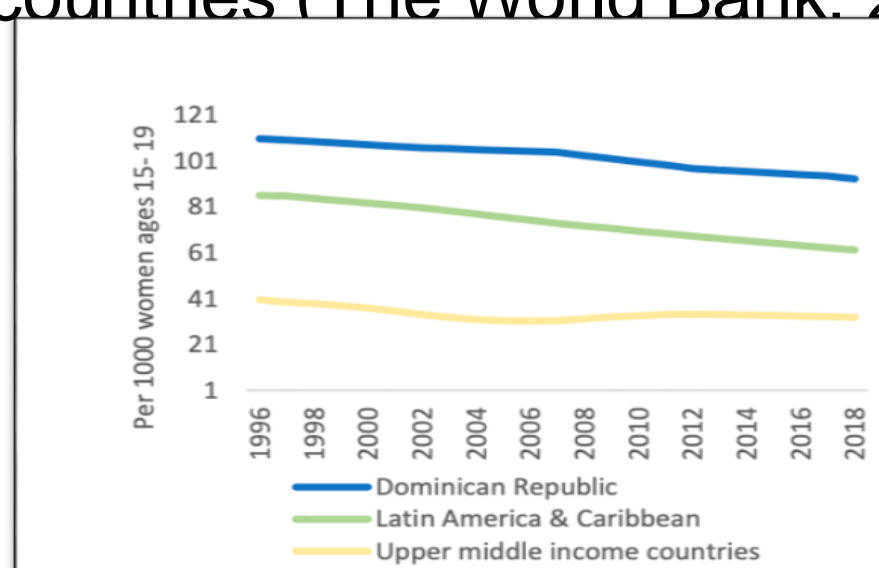


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Background



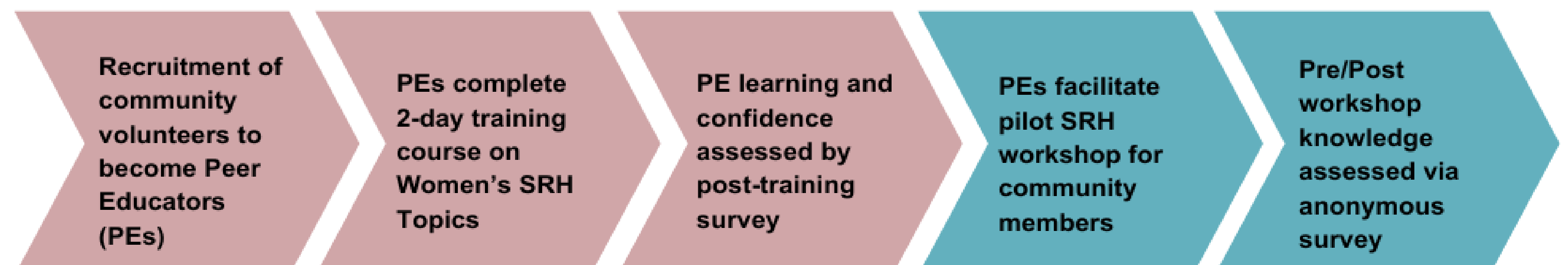
- 1,500 - 3,000 people living on landfill outside of Santo Domingo, D.R.
- Majority of population are undocumented immigrants or decedents from undocumented immigrants = no rights to formal education, health care services, or employment
- Population assessment revealed
 - High rate of adolescent pregnancies
 - Unmet contraceptive needs
 - Lack of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) literacy
 - Risk of unsafe abortions
- D.R. has high adolescent fertility rate compared to nearby countries (The World Bank, 2023)



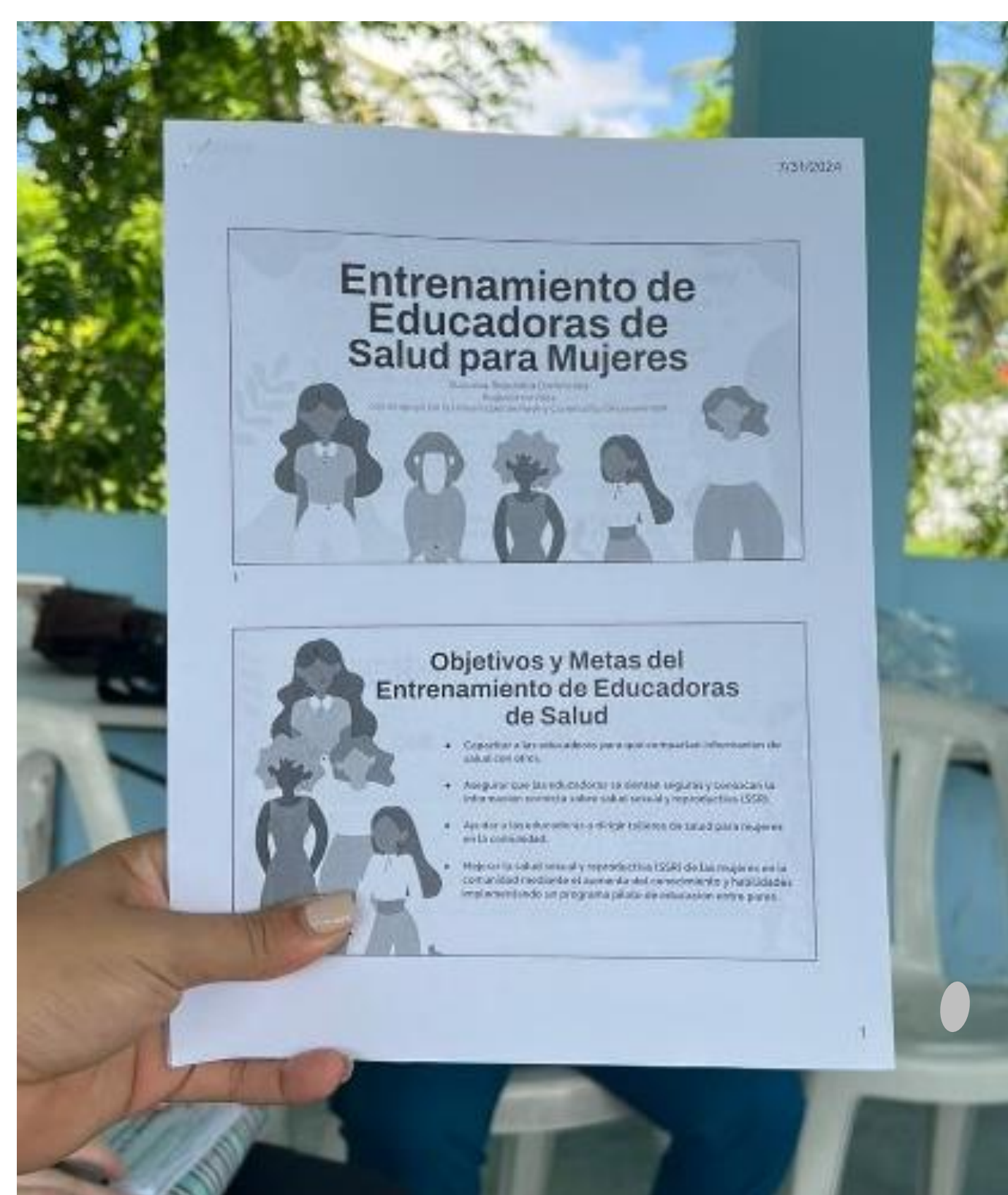
Purpose

This project sought to improve women's health decision making capacity and empower healthier communities through peer educator led SRH workshops

Methods



Part 1: Peer Educator Training



Part 2: Women's Health Workshops

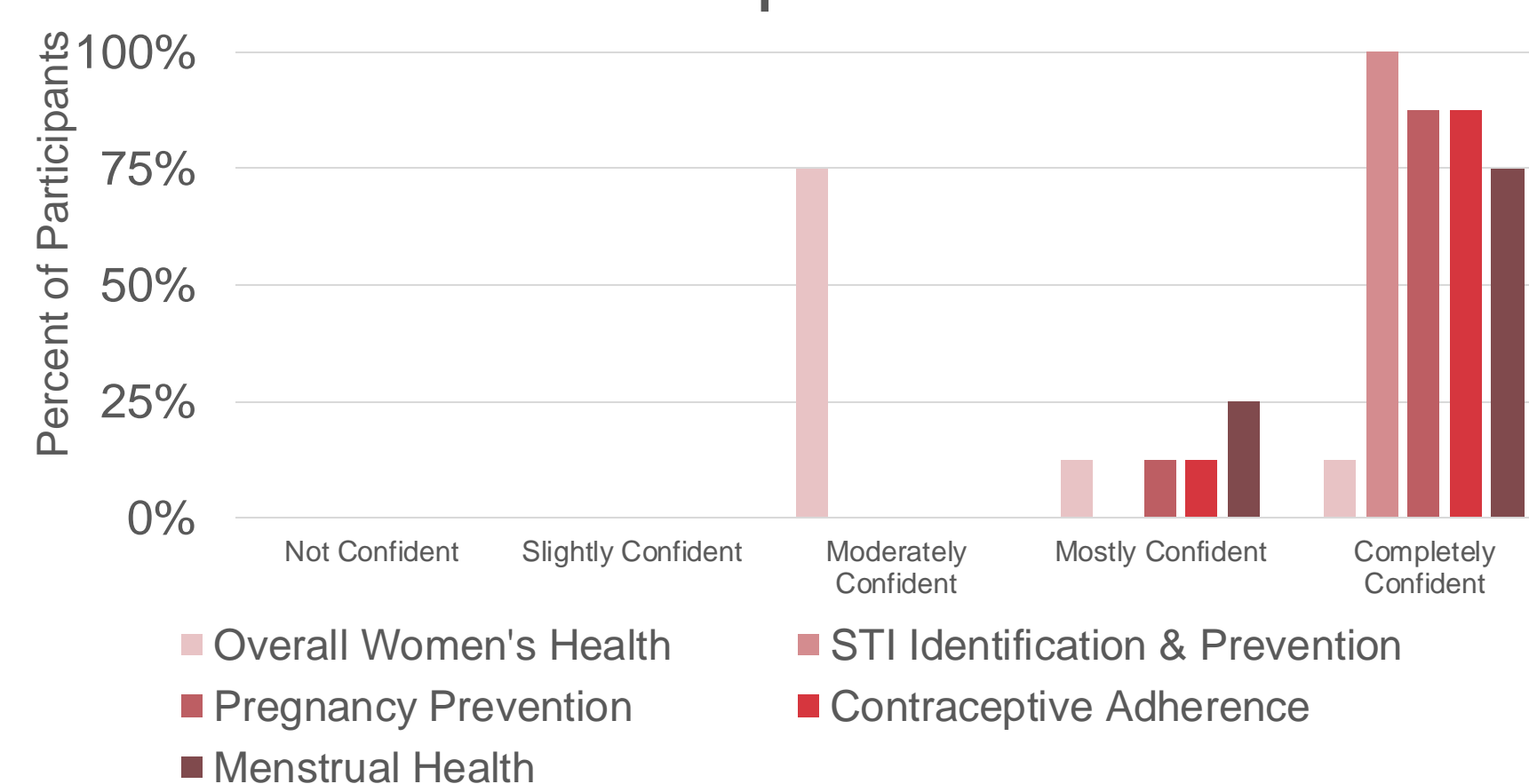


Results

Part 1: Peer Educator Training

- 12 volunteers recruited to be PEs
- 8 women completed 2-day training
- Post-training confidence scores demonstrated success (≥ 4) in 4 out of 5 content areas

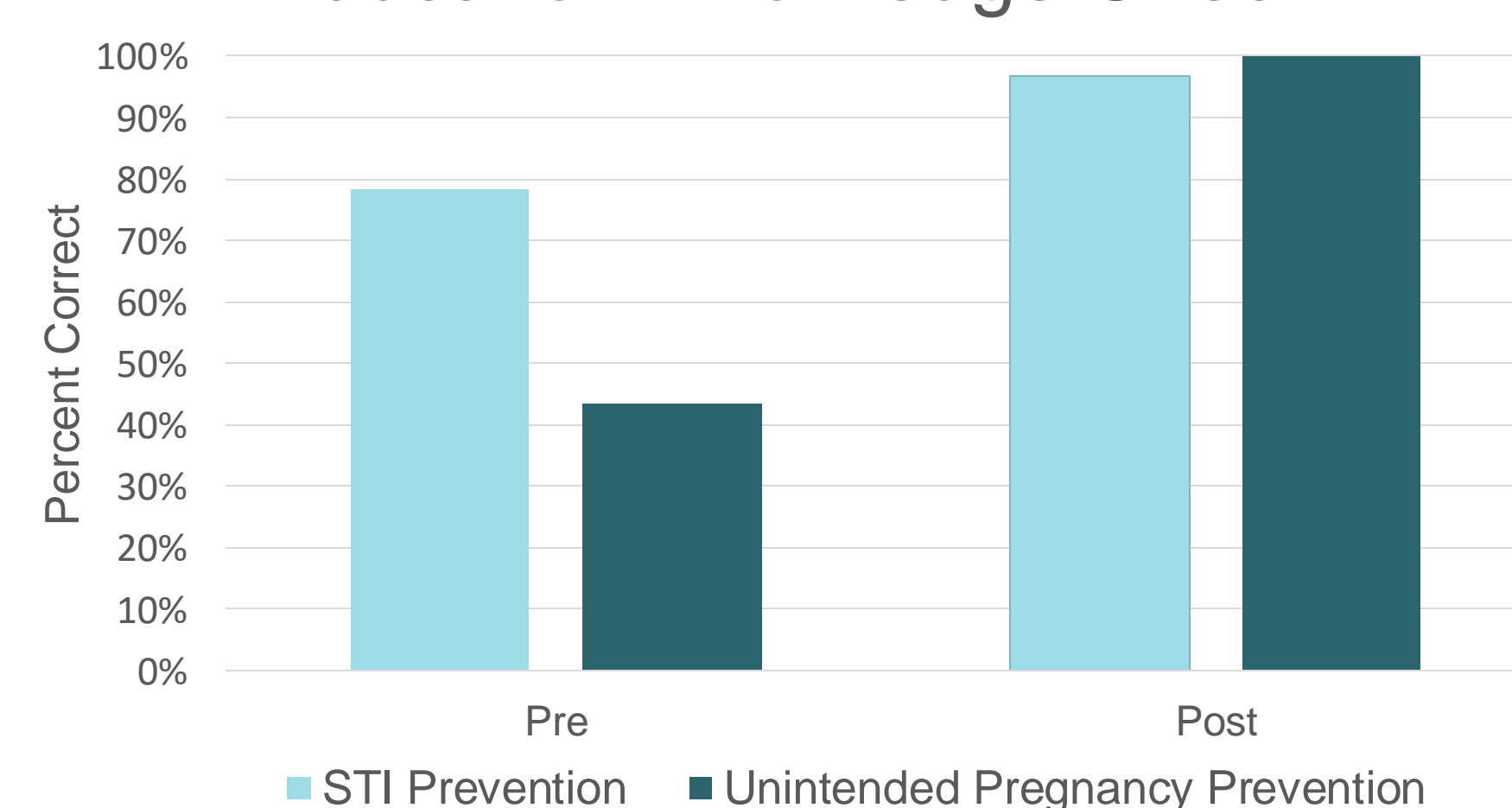
Post-Training Confidence in Leading a Workshop on SRH Topics



Part 2: Women's SRH Workshops

- 4 PEs led pilot SRH workshop for 46 community members
- Workshop knowledge pre/post test demonstrated learning from workshop
- At least 3 additional workshops have been successfully led by PEs based on community-desired topics
- Program has led to other community-driven pilot projects (such as contraceptive tracking system)

Pre/Post SRH Workshop Education Knowledge Check



Conclusions

Part 1: PE Training empowered community members to advocate for and promote healthy SRH practices

Part 2: SRH Workshops led by PEs were well-attended and demonstrated successful community learning

Overall: Low-cost, resource-effective, and community-driven program to empower community members and build decision-making capacity



Acknowledgements:

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References:

