



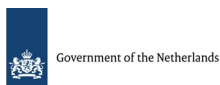
ZONTA
INTERNATIONAL
EMPOWERING WOMEN
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

Ending Child Marriage Toolkit

A Program to Accelerate Global Action



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Child Marriage: Situation and Impacts

The Situation¹

More than 650 million girls and women alive today were married as children — before they were 18 years old. Though child marriage affects some boys, girls are disproportionately impacted. An estimated 12 million girls are married in childhood each year. Child marriage violates girls' rights to health, education and safety. With its social, cultural and economic ramifications, child marriage must be seen as a major obstacle to sustainable development and a fairer future for all children.

Change is already happening, and the social and political will to end child marriage is stronger than ever. In many parts of the world, efforts to halt child marriage have produced targeted successes and established a solid understanding of the causes and remedies for child marriage. Globally, the practice of child marriage is slowly declining, especially for girls married by age 15. The proportion of young women who were married as children decreased by 15 percent in the last decade, from 1 in 4 to about 1 in 5. However, the current rate of decline in child marriage is not

sufficient to meet the SDG target of ending child marriage by 2030; it would take 50 years to eliminate child marriage worldwide.² Without further acceleration, more than 150 million additional girls under the age of 18 will marry by 2030.

Regional Differences³

Child marriage can occur anywhere, but the practice is more prevalent in some countries and regions.

Several countries have seen significant reductions in child marriage, but the decline has been uneven. South Asia has witnessed the largest decline in child marriage worldwide in the last 10 years: A girl's risk of marrying before her 18th birthday has dropped by more than a third, from nearly 50 percent to 30 percent, in large part due to progress in India, where child marriage rates have declined in parallel with teenage pregnancy rates. Potential reasons for the shift include, inter alia: increasing rates of girls' education; economic growth and poverty reduction; proactive government investments in adolescent girls; the promotion of family planning; and strong public messaging on the illegality of child marriage and the harm it causes. Despite these achievements, India remains the country with the largest number of child brides, due to the overall size of its population and the legacy of how common child marriage was among older generations. Major obstacles



to ending child marriage remain in the parts of India with the highest rates of child marriage. These obstacles include gender and social norms, caste endogamy and dowry payments and other economic reasons.

While South Asia has led the way on reducing child marriage over the last decade, the global burden of child marriage is shifting to sub-Saharan Africa. Of the most recently married child brides, close to one in three are now in sub-Saharan Africa, compared to one in seven a decade ago. Sub-Saharan Africa is now home to the highest prevalence of child marriage, and over the past decade has seen only modest declines. In addition to the slow progress, due to the sharply increasing population, with each passing year, the number of child brides could grow. However, new data also points to the possibility of progress in Africa. In Ethiopia — once among the top five countries for child marriage on the continent — child marriage prevalence has dropped by a third in the last 10 years.

Causes and Impact on Adolescent Girls

Changing laws alone will not end child marriage; conditions, attitudes and behaviors must also change. For many and often complex reasons, child marriage continues despite legal prohibitions. At times, national secular laws are ignored as traditional and customary laws have precedence. Often, the challenge is not legal; it is economic, social and cultural.

Poverty is among the most common causes of persistent child marriage. For many families, sending an adolescent girl to be married is considered a way to reduce an immediate economic burden.

Gender discrimination and expectations that restrict a girl's potential also play a fundamental role in the continuation of child marriage. Weak protection, education and health systems for girls and a lack of economic opportunity all limit girls' options, perpetuating child marriage.

Other prevalent causes include: social and religious expectations and beliefs about the necessity of protecting girls — that a girl is “safer” if she is married, as marriage will protect her against physical and sexual assault. The very opposite is true. Research in India in 2011 shows that child brides are more likely to be sexually abused, emotionally threatened or beaten by their husbands than girls who marry later. Many child brides describe their first sexual experience as forced.

Regardless of the reasons, child marriage leads to significant social, emotional and physical harm for many adolescent girls. For example, girls who marry as children tend to have little education, which limits their

vocational and economic opportunities. They are also more likely to give birth more often at a young age. And they are less likely to receive medical care during pregnancy than women who marry when they are older. Indeed, complications during pregnancy and childbirth are the second biggest cause of death for girls age 15 to 19.

Young women and girls are also disproportionately affected by the spread of HIV. Of all new HIV infections among adolescents age 15-19, approximately 2 out of 3 are adolescent girls. This is all the more worrying as the burden of child marriage is shifting to Africa, and AIDS is now the leading cause of death among adolescents (10-19) in the continent. Married adolescent girls tend to have higher HIV infection rates than their unmarried, sexually active peers. This is mainly because child brides have little say in how they practice their sexuality, because of their young age and limited power in the relationship, leaving them unable to negotiate safer sex or refuse sex — which puts them at high risk of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV.

Child marriage and the problems associated with it are intergenerational. For example, babies born to mothers younger than 20 are 1.5 times more likely to die in their first 28 days than babies born to mothers in their twenties or thirties. In addition, the cumulative effects of low levels of education and high levels of poverty are often passed down through families and generations in a cycle of deprivation.



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How Can We Break the Cycle?

Significant evidence links girls' empowerment to a reduction in child marriage. Specific interventions have focused on improving girls' access to services, education, information and opportunities.

But empowered girls alone are not enough to end child marriage. Governments, civil society and private sector partners need to work with leaders in education and health to improve services and strengthen systems that assist girls. Social inclusion interventions, including cash transfer incentives, scholarships or stipends, can also help reduce a family's financial difficulties and empower girls to continue their education or seek health care.

Attempts to end child marriage have usually used a combination of these approaches:

- Empower girls with information, skills and support networks.
- Educate and engage family and community members to create an enabling environment for adolescent girls, and to promote gender equitable norms.
- Provide economic support to girls and their families.
- Ensure that quality education and health care are accessible for each and every adolescent girl.
- Foster legal and policy frameworks that protect adolescent girls.
- Collect robust data that allows for evidence-based programming and monitoring.



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Program Overview

A Program to End Child Marriage

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) joined forces in March 2016, and launched the joint **Global Programme to End Child Marriage** (unicef.org/protection/unfpa-unicef-global-programme-accelerate-action-end-child-marriage).⁴ The multi-country effort is focusing on bolstering the systems that provide alternatives to child marriage, including protection, education and health care. It is working to address root causes such as poverty and harmful cultural norms and practices. The ultimate goals are to reduce child marriage rates, increase education levels and decrease the number of girls who give birth as adolescents.

The Global Programme to End Child Marriage is tackling the core economic, social and cultural causes of child marriage, and is targeting girls who are at risk of child marriage or who are already in a union (ages 10-19) in 12 countries that have high rates of child marriage:

Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Yemen and Zambia. These countries were selected

because they have a high prevalence of child marriage, as well as a large projected burden, government engagement and regional distribution. Progress in these countries, indeed, means progress for the entire world.

The Global Programme will be implemented over three phases.

The **Initial Phase** (4 years), which is coming to an end in 2019, targeted institutions and systems that provide services and opportunities to adolescent girls in an effort to improve quality. System strengthening was a core strategy in working with national education, health, child protection and social protection systems with scale and sustainability as key principles. During this phase, the program worked to change attitudes in families and communities to promote positive attitudes toward investing in and supporting adolescent girls. It improved adolescent girls' access to fair and equitable quality services. It strengthened their voice when seeking fair, just solutions and remedies when their rights were violated.

In the **Midterm Phase** (5-10 years), starting in 2020, the objective will be to use the power of a critical mass of girls, families and communities and strengthened systems to further accelerate progress. Targets and progress across all 12 countries will be scaled up, and new actors will be engaged to be agents of change toward positive social norms.



In the **Longer-Term Phase** (10-15 years), significantly larger numbers of girls will be reached to ensure that they fully enjoy a childhood free from the risk of marriage, and that they experience healthier, safer and more empowered life transitions while in control of their own destiny. This includes making choices and decisions about their education, sexuality, relationship formation/ marriage and childbearing.

The Global Programme is overseen by the following agencies:

The **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)** promotes the rights and wellbeing of every child, in everything we do. Together with our partners, we work in 190 countries and territories to translate that commitment into practical action, focusing special effort on reaching the most vulnerable and excluded children, to the benefit of all children, everywhere.

The **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)** is the lead UN agency for delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

The program is generously supported by the **Governments of Belgium, Canada, the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom, and the European Union**, and by **Zonta International**.

Results to Date

To date, **almost 3 million girls have been reached** through life skills and school attendance support, and **13.9 million individuals have been engaged** in community-based behavior change and sensitization activities, including community dialogue, media, interactive folk theater, and partnerships and advocacy with faith-based organizations and traditional leaders.

Below is a selection of programmatic success highlights from 2018⁵:

- **2,972,494** adolescent girls in the 12 countries were supported with life skills to strengthen their ability to protect themselves from abuse and exploitation.

- **11 of the 12** countries have developed national action plans to end child marriage.
- **121,658** adolescent girls in the 12 countries were supported with access to remain in primary or lower-secondary school or nonformal educational systems.
- **13,916,661** parents and community members have regularly participated in dialogues promoting gender-equitable norms, including delaying child marriage.
- In Ghana, the National Strategic Framework on ending child marriage has adopted the SDG 5.3 target as an overarching goal of ending child marriage in Ghana by 2030.

Output Indicator Data: Baselines, Targets and Results 2015–2019⁶

Output Indicators	2015 Baseline	2016 Target	2016 Results	2017 Target	2017 Results	2018 Target	2018 Results	Percent Achieved	2019 Target
1.1 Life Skills Adolescent girls are actively participating in a targeted program	211,156	411,121	535,540	1,122,495	1,050,193	1,398,559	2,972,494	212%	3,391,455
1.2 Education Adolescent girls are supported to enroll and remain in formal and nonformal education	33,355	199,249	218,565	65,137	67,216	61,590	121,658	198%	130,550
2.1 Community Dialogue Households are increasingly aware of the benefits of investing in adolescent girls and ending child marriage	1,026,268	1,641,623	4,120,434	4,051,121	4,780,912	4,641,463	3,911,913	300%	14,086,958
3.1 Health and Protection Systems Supported to implement guidelines, protocols and standards for adolescent girl-friendly health and protection services	968	1,414	5,329	3,858	4,452	4,957	6,121	122%	7,432
3.2 Education System Nonformal/primary/ secondary schools supported to improve quality of education for adolescent girls	782	1,910	4,940	2,897	2,799	4,379	6,270	143%	7,221
4.1 National Plan of Action The country has a costed national action plan or development plan on ending child marriage across more than one ministry	2	7	3	11	6	11	11	100%	11
5.1 Evidence on Scale Models Country-specific, high-quality data and evidence are generated and shared on what works at scale to accelerate ending child marriage	9	10	8	8	10	12	12	100%	12

Zonta International's Impact

Zonta International's commitment to this program is enabling UNICEF and UNFPA to scale up implementation of activities with the following five outcomes, with the ultimate goal of ensuring that girls fully enjoy their childhood free from the risk of child marriage:

Outcome 1: Adolescent girls at risk of or affected by child marriage are better able to express and exercise their choices

Adolescent girls in the program countries will be engaged through targeted programs, including life skills, health information, economic empowerment and social protection. Programs like "Girls Clubs," which help adolescent girls to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills that build their sense of personal worth and agency, and teach them to interact with others constructively and effectively, have transformative potential. For example, the global program is supporting interventions to shift norm change, which is monitored through family pledges to support adolescent girls and public declarations to end child marriage in countries such as Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Ghana, Niger, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zambia. In Uganda, the Global Programme is supporting an empowerment program for girls that has shown tremendous impacts. After two years, the intervention raised the likelihood that girls engage in income-generating activities by 70 percent; early marriage/cohabitation fell by 60 percent; girls reporting sex against their will fell by 50 percent; and teen pregnancy fell by 25 percent.

Educational participation is one of the most important preventive strategies for child marriage. As such, the program empowers girls by improving education access and retention. It supports interventions that encourage girls to enroll in school and make the transition from primary to secondary school, as well as programs that provide out-of-school girls with alternative learning opportunities and income generation and financial inclusion options. Currently, school attendance support is being delivered through different strategies, including school bridging programs in Nepal and Niger to ensure that children not attending school are able to re-enter the education system; covering school transportation expenses in Burkina Faso and India; and conditional cash transfer programs in Bangladesh and India.

Outcome 2: Households demonstrate positive attitudes and behaviors toward investing in and supporting adolescent girls

Adolescents do not live in a vacuum, and their ability to make decisions about their reproductive and sexual

health, childbearing and marriage are ultimately intertwined with the attitudes and behaviors of their families, who may make decisions for them, and their communities, who shape social norms and traditional practices. These interventions include women, men and boys as agents of change for the promotion of girls' rights and the transformation of gender relations. Women are involved as mothers and gatekeepers, while men are involved as fathers, gatekeepers and leaders in community dialogues to create a more supportive environment for adolescent girls to exercise their rights and to challenge gender norms and stereotypes. Through radio programs, television series, social media and sustained community dialogue, millions of people are being reached with these critical messages. In Ghana in 2016, for example, an estimated 2.4 million people were reached directly through community engagement, home visits and welfare clinics and other forms of communication. As a result, reports have shown that the silence is being broken around sensitive child protection issues, as well as gender norms, including child marriage and teen pregnancy. With increased awareness, there is now a greater willingness to address such issues within targeted communities, with girls and adolescents themselves becoming agents of change within their schools and communities.

Also, countries such as Mozambique, Nepal, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zambia used the cost-effective U-Report digital platform to provide health information to adolescent girls and boys. The U-Report health information campaign was adapted to include a comprehensive set of sexuality education topics.

Outcome 3: Relevant sectoral systems deliver quality and cost-effective services to meet the needs of adolescent girls

While a large focus of the program is direct-to-girl activities, it is grounded in the idea that the systems that serve girls have a profound effect on their ability to exercise their own agency and make informed decisions about their sexuality and marital status. The program is currently focused on strengthening health, education, child protection and social protection systems in the 12 countries, specifically supporting the development and implementation of guidelines, packages and best practices to improve services for adolescent girls.

The program is supporting governments to implement national guidelines for girl-friendly health services, as well as providing training for health providers so that they may be more responsive to the specific health care needs of girls, including married girls. Working with the education sectors in each of the countries, the program is supporting interventions that will keep girls in school,

including menstrual hygiene management in schools, gender-responsive teaching, and curriculum and textbook reform. In Yemen, for example, the program's joint work is successfully strengthening the social work and case management system to prevent and respond to abuse, exploitation, neglect and violence against children. The system is currently functioning in six targeted regions in Yemen, and is identifying and responding to cases of child marriage and those at risk.

Outcome 4: National laws, policy framework and mechanisms to protect and promote adolescent girls' rights are in line with international standards and properly resourced

Many countries' laws do not comply with international and regional commitments, and in other instances there are clear conflicts between common law and customary law. More work needs to be done to bring these laws into agreement with international conventions. Support to countries' national action plans is key to maintaining momentum and support for legal reform and measurable change on prevalence indicators. This includes costing and budgeting national plans that have been launched, as well as establishing a monitoring mechanism to track the operationalization of national action plans.

UNICEF and UNFPA have placed child marriage and adolescent pregnancy as strategic priorities on the agenda of regional institutions such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). The two agencies have also been instrumental in the establishment of a subregional working group of UN agencies and NGOs working on child marriage in West and Central Africa with the aim to strengthen regional responses and synergies in addressing child marriage, including the development of a Strategic Plan on Ending Child Marriage in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and Zambia, as well as the development of costed National Action Plans to End Child Marriage in Ghana, Mozambique and Uganda. There also appear to be important spillovers from the regional concentration of efforts, as Cameroon, Chad, and Gambia also revised their laws to set the age of marriage at 18 years, demonstrating the catalytic potential of the Global Programme.

Outcome 5: Government(s) and partners within and across countries support the generation and use of robust data and evidence to inform policy and programming, track progress and document lessons

Having the right data and evidence is critical in the fight to end the practice of child marriage. The program seeks to increase the generation and use of robust data

and evidence on adolescent girls for advocacy, programming, learning and tracking progress. This will improve the quality and quantity of evidence around ending child marriage, and support governments in being more effective in ending child marriage.

One important aspect of data and evidence on child marriage is to have reliable prevalence estimates. Long gaps between surveys pose a challenge in measuring progress in many domains, including child marriage. UNFPA and UNICEF are working with governments and other UN agencies to improve the quality and frequency of administrative data collection around social indicators such as age at first marriage, poverty, and sexual and reproductive health.

In West and Central Africa, the program is supporting regional research to strengthen evidence-based programming and policy development on child marriage in the region. Five countries have reviewed the laws and policies that impact adolescent girls, including laws and policies related to child marriage, adolescent pregnancy, adolescent sexual and reproductive health, as well as education and youth policies. Additional research, conducted by UNICEF, is looking at social norms in the region, with a focus on child marriage. In South Asia, the program supported a national study on child marriage that has provided a rich source of data, and will be used to prepare policy briefs and fact sheets for advocacy and programming efforts.



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Tools and Resources

Key Messages

The world must take urgent action to end child marriage! These key messages and sound bites can help you be an advocate for girls, and raise awareness about the issue of child marriage and our partnership.

Child marriage is a violation of girls' rights and a danger to girls' health, safety, education and futures.

- Girls who marry as children are less likely to receive medical care during pregnancy than women who marry as adults, which puts their own as well as their children's health and lives at risk. Complications from pregnancy and childbirth are a leading cause of death among adolescent girls.
- The pressure to become pregnant once married can be intense, and child brides end up having many children to care for while still young themselves. In 2013, UNFPA research revealed that 20,000 girls under age 18 give birth each day in developing countries. This amounts to 7.3 million births a year. And if all pregnancies are included, not just births, the number of adolescent pregnancies is much higher.
- Girls who marry in childhood are at greater risk for forced first marital sex and intimate partner violence than same-age peers who marry later, according to research in Ethiopia. It can also set the stage for lifelong involvement in unhealthy intimate relationships, according to research in India in 2011.
- Married adolescent girls are at increased risk of HIV transmission due to spousal age difference and limited negotiation capacity to practice safe sex.
- Girls with no education are three times as likely to marry or enter into union by 18 as those with a secondary or higher education, according to research in 2012.
- The vast majority of child brides are expected to give up school to assume adult roles including house work, child care and attending to a husband's needs.
- While it is not clear if child marriage causes school dropout or vice versa, it is clear that child marriage often means the end to a girl's formal education and limits her vocational and economic opportunities.

Child marriage disproportionately affects girls who are poor and from rural areas.

- Boys are far less likely than girls in the same region to marry before age 18.
- The girls most likely to marry before the age of 18 live in rural areas, have little or no education and reside in the poorest households.
- Rates of child marriage among the poorest girls have remained steady, but rates have declined among the richest.

Changing laws alone will not end child marriage; conditions, attitudes and behavior must also change.

- Despite laws in many countries around the world, child marriage persists because of multiple and often complex reasons.
- In times of conflict or other emergencies, child marriage is an increased danger for adolescent girls.
- In some contexts, child marriage is considered the best of bad options. During conflict or forced migration, adolescent girls are often married off early as a form of protection in a desperate situation. Other times, it is viewed as a path that financially unburdens the family, preserves its honor and protects an adolescent girl.

Empowering girls with access to quality education, health care, justice, information and tailored services to the individual child and families are key to ending child marriage.

- Enhancing health and education systems so they can reach more girls — especially girls from poor families and rural areas — is fundamental if efforts to end child marriage are to keep pace with population growth. Enhancing these systems also ensures that the needs of married girls can be addressed.
- Life skill-building and empowerment interventions for adolescent girls, when complemented with education, have proven effective at reducing child marriage but are specific to certain contexts, recent research in rural Bangladesh showed.
- Cash transfers have shown results in relieving families' economic burdens and reducing child marriage.
- Adolescent girls are more likely to control their own destinies and effect change in their communities when they have higher levels of education, according to recent research in rural Bangladesh.

- Girls need to be fully informed of their rights and need to be able to seek protection and confidential advice, redress and remedies that are tailored to the individual child and family. When girls are allowed to be girls, everybody wins.
- To change the social and cultural causes of child marriage, and to change attitudes and behaviors, it is essential to engage with families and communities in conjunction with investments in systems that reach girls, recent research in rural Bangladesh showed.

General Facts

- More than 650 million women alive today were married as children — before they were 18 years old. About 250 million were married before age 15.
- Globally, the proportion of young women who were married as children decreased 15 percent in the last decade, from 1 in 4 to about 1 in 5.
- If there is no reduction in the practice of child marriage, the number of girls under age 18 married each year will grow from 12 million today to 16.5 million by 2030.
- Without further acceleration in the reduction of child marriage, more than 150 million additional girls under 18 will marry by 2030.
- The poorest girls are 2.5 times more likely to marry as children than the wealthiest.
- If current trends continue, almost half of the world's child brides in 2050 will be in Africa.

About the Global Programme

- The Global Programme is in 12 countries: Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Yemen and Zambia.
- The Global Programme brings together governments, civil society, families and young people in a collective effort to prevent girls from marrying too young and to support those already married as girls.
- There are three phases:
 - The Initial Phase (4 years) — Strengthen the critical institutions and systems in select countries to deliver quality services and opportunities for a significant number of girls.



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- The Midterm Phase (5-10 years) — Use the power of a critical mass of girls, families and communities and strengthened systems to further accelerate progress on a larger scale.
- The Longer-Term Phase (10-15 years) — Reach larger numbers of girls to ensure that they fully enjoy childhood free from the risk of marriage, and that they experience healthier, safer and more empowered life transitions.

UNICEF USA and Zonta International Partnership

- Zonta International is supporting The Global Programme to End Child Marriage during the 2018–2020 Biennium.
- Zonta International has committed to donating \$2,000,000, and is the first private partner to support this program.
- Zonta International has supported UNICEF since 1972, and through its partnership with UNICEF USA (unicefusa.org/zontainternational) has reached and provided access to millions of women and girls with clean water, health care, violence prevention and services, education and more.

Key Moments

Below are key global moments that can be used to activate around ending child marriage. These are great times to mobilize your club, community, family and friends to raise awareness around the issue and fundraise for The Global Programme to End Child Marriage.

Use the Social Media Guide and Best Practices for Fundraising in the following sections to help you get started.

August or Other Comparable Months Around the World

Congressional Recess In the U.S., during the month of August, the U.S. Congress typically takes a break (recess!) from their business on Capitol Hill to return to their home districts and/or states. Does your country have a similar month when elected officials return from their capitals? This period of time is a perfect opportunity to make connections with your local Representatives. Throughout a recess, Zonta members are encouraged to coordinate with one another to set up in-district meetings. Check out the Global Advocacy section to learn more about how you can advocate to your local officials.

October

International Day of the Girl Child (11 October)

The day aims to highlight and address the needs and challenges girls face, while promoting girls' empowerment and the fulfillment of their human rights.

November

Universal Children's Day (20 November)

The day aims to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children's welfare. 20 November is an important date as it is the date in 1959 when the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child. It is also the date in 1989 when the UN General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

16 Days of Activism (25 November–10 December)

From 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to 10 December, Human Rights Day, the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign is a time to galvanize action to end violence against women and girls around the world. The campaign, which began in November 2012, features the service and advocacy actions of Zonta clubs and districts to prevent and end violence against women and girls in their local communities.

Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women is a Zonta International campaign to raise awareness of and increase actions to end violence against women and girls around the world.

March

International Women's Day (8 March)

It is a day when women are recognized for their achievements without regard to divisions, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic or political.



Stay up-to-date on the latest information and news through the UNFPA-UNICEF monthly newsletter. Sign up today: mailchi.mp/48b3b36758c4/gpchildmarriagesignup

UNICEF USA Best Practices for Fundraising

UNICEF USA has developed some best practices for fundraising that Zonta International members can use when fundraising for The Global Programme to End Child Marriage. Best when used alongside the Key Moments and Social Media Guide, this section provides further information on planning and executing a successful fundraiser.

Setting and Achieving Fundraiser and Event Goals

Now that you've decided to host a fundraiser/event, you may be wondering: How do I measure my success? The answer is to set realistic and attainable goals for your event.

Check out the steps below for some guidance on how to set yourself up for success:

Step 1: Set your goals.

First and foremost, clearly establish your goals. Ask yourself: What do I want the fundraiser/event to accomplish? Then work to establish a revenue goal and budget accordingly. You can set a realistic revenue goal by calculating an average dollar amount you hope to raise per attendee, or a total amount you'd like to contribute to the Zonta International Foundation in support of UNICEF USA. If you are organizing a bake sale, for example, you might average \$1 per baked good and set a goal to sell 200 items, for a total revenue of \$200, minus expenses.

Step 2: Keep expenses low.

Expenses should not exceed 25% of revenue for your event. For example, if your revenue projection is \$4,000, expenses should not total more than \$1,000. It is critical that fundraiser/events benefiting UNICEF be cost-effective and seen as socially responsible within your community.

Step 3: Think outside the dollar.

Consider alternate types of donations — such as party supplies, food, equipment, practice space or meals — that could help you reduce expenses of your fundraiser/event and increase your revenue. Offer these as options to attendees in lieu of cash donations.

Step 4: Donate online.

If you do not have the capacity to set up an in-person fundraiser/event, learn about other ways you can donate online or through the mail here: foundation.zonta.org/

Additional Fundraising Guidance

Budgeting and Social Responsibility

With any UNICEF USA event, our goal is to ensure that the return on investment (ROI) fits within a 4 to 1 ratio, which means that for every \$1 spent, \$3 will benefit UNICEF. This helps ensure that your fundraiser/event is seen as socially responsible within your community.

How do you ensure that your fundraiser/event fits within these guidelines as a host?

Here are a few tips:

Create your budget ASAP! Identify a point person to manage the event budget, and work together to map out projected revenue and anticipated costs.

Use your resources. If you plan to reach out to supporters for financial support, map out what costs you anticipate being donated vs. what you will need to pay for out of pocket (i.e. xx cases of wines valued at \$XX donated, venue rental = \$5,000, etc.).

Please note that in-kind and/or monetary support that goes directly to the execution of the fundraiser/event is not recognized as tax deductible in the United States.

Fundraiser and Event Ideas

Below is a list of fundraiser/event ideas that can help your club get started!

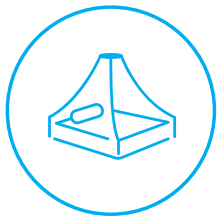
- Bake Sale
- Cinema Showing
- Fashion Show
- Music Event
- Panel Discussion
- Sell Homemade Craft Items
- Seminars
- Silent Auctions and Raffles
- Speaker Series
- Sporting Events

Price Points

Use the Price Points one-pager on the following page as a guide and resource when advocating and fundraising for the Global Programme. Feel free to print it out and share with other members, your community, family and friends to show the impact they can make with a donation.



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The Impact of Your Support

We hope you will consider a gift to support The Global Programme to End Child Marriage. Below are examples* of the impact your gift could provide:

\$50 could provide antenatal care kits to 4 pregnant adolescent girls in Niger, promoting better health including preventing anemia and low birth weight of newborns, frequent health threats for girls who are married at a young age and their children.

\$100 could support the development of communication materials in Ghana to ensure that 1,000 people have improved understanding of issues affecting girls and women.

\$500 could mobilize 500 community members in Mozambique around prevention of child marriage.

\$5,000 could support a Girls Club for a year within a school in Ethiopia. Girls Clubs are making a difference in reducing child marriage by empowering girls through life skills training.

\$10,000 could reach over 360 people in India through an awareness campaign on social issues, including child marriage.

\$25,000 could support the transition of 500 girls in Burkina Faso from primary to post primary support through scholarship, school kits and tutoring support. Increasing girls' transition to secondary school is a key strategy for reducing rates of child marriage.

*These figures are exemplary.

Global Advocacy

Tackling core economic, social and cultural causes is central to ending child marriage. Specifically, the Global Programme focuses on the conditions that allow child marriage to take place and provides support to girls (age 10 to 19) who are already married or in a union.

The first four years of the program have targeted institutions and systems that provide services and opportunities to adolescent girls in an effort to improve quality. System strengthening has been a core strategy in working with national education, health, child protection and social protection systems with scale and sustainability as key principles. Through working to change attitudes in families and communities has helped promote positive attitudes toward investing in and supporting adolescent girls. It has improved adolescent girls' access to fair and equitable quality services. It has strengthened their voice when seeking fair, just solutions and remedies when their rights are violated.

Over the medium and long term, the Programme will encourage political and civil society support for adolescent girls and focus on actions that empower each and every single one seeking to live a healthy, safe and fulfilling life.

The social and political will to end child marriage is stronger than ever. The UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme is turning commitment into tangible action for girls.

UNICEF's Stance

UNICEF's stance on child marriage is that marriage before the age of 18 is a **fundamental violation of human rights**. Many factors interact to place a girl at risk of marriage, including poverty, the perception that marriage will provide "protection," family honor, social norms, customary or religious laws that condone the practice, an inadequate legislative framework and the state of a country's civil registration system. Child marriage often compromises a girl's development by resulting in early pregnancy and social isolation, interrupting her schooling, limiting her opportunities for career and vocational advancement and placing her at increased risk of domestic violence. Child marriage also affects boys, but to a lesser degree than girls.

What is Your Role? A Call to Action

If we redouble our efforts, millions of girls will be saved from becoming child brides. Ending child marriage is within our reach — the time to act is now.⁷

- Learn more about child marriage laws in your country.
- Meet with local officials to speak up about outdated child marriage laws that put your local youth at risk.



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- Develop a plan to work with Zontians in your country to advocate for adequate child marriage laws, including through letter writing, meetings or petitions.
- Invite local leaders to events focused on child marriage.

Talking Points

- Across the globe, levels of child marriage are highest in sub-Saharan Africa, where around 4 in 10 young women were married before age 18, followed by South Asia, where 3 in 10 were married before age 18. Lower levels of child marriage are found in Latin America and the Caribbean (25%), the Middle East and North Africa (17%), and Eastern Europe and Central Asia (11%).
- Between 70-80% of child marriages end in divorce.⁸
- The total number of girls married in childhood stands at 12 million per year. At this rate more than 150 million additional girls will marry before their 18th birthday by 2030.
- Globally, about one in six adolescent girls (aged 15 to 19) are currently married or in union. West and Central Africa has the highest proportion of married adolescents (27%), followed by Eastern and Southern Africa (20%) and the Middle East and North Africa (13%).⁹

- Often young girls are not physically mature enough to give birth, but are expected to have multiple children. This forced decision can immediately place mothers and babies at risk of serious health concerns such as death during childbirth or premature death in infants.
- Girls between the ages of 15 and 19 are twice as likely to die in childbirth as women in their 20s, and newborn children of younger mothers face greater risks of dying as well.¹⁰
- Early marriage doubles a teenager's chances of living in poverty and triples the likelihood she'll be beaten by her spouse, compared to married adults.

Social Media Guide

Want to raise awareness about child marriage on social media? Use the social media guide below for examples, hashtags and accounts to tag. Make your voice heard!

Hashtag: [#EndChildMarriage](#)

UNICEF Twitter Account: @UNICEF

UNICEF Facebook Page: @UNICEF

UNICEF USA Twitter Account: @UNICEF USA

UNICEF USA Facebook Page: @UNICEF-USA

Zonta International Twitter Account: @ZontaIntl

Zonta International Facebook Page:
@ZontaInternational

**UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme
Twitter Account:** @GPChildMarriage

UNFPA Twitter Account: @UNFPA

UNFPA Facebook Page: @UNFPA

Support Countries Twitter Accounts:
@BelgiumMFA, @CanadaDev, @DutchMFA,
@NorwayMFA, @DFID_Gender, @EuropeAid

Post 1

Child marriage is an appalling human rights violation that robs girls of their education, health and long-term prospects. That's why [@ZontaIntl](#), [@UNFPA](#) and [@UNICEF](#) are working together to [#EndChildMarriage](#) [@GPChildMarriage](#): bit.ly/2HEy9V9

Post 2

[Exemplary – Please come up with your own country-specific post!]

As millions of children face the grim realities of [#Yemen](#), child marriage is becoming increasingly common. We must do more to protect girls and give them hope for the future.

I'm proud to support [@ZontaIntl](#) and [@UNICEF](#) and [@UNFPA](#)'s fight to [#EndChildMarriage](#) [@GPChildMarriage](#): bit.ly/2HEx0gj

Child marriage is unacceptable in all cases. [@ZontaIntl](#) is supporting the Global Programme to End Child Marriage [@GPChildMarriage](#). [#EndChildMarriage](#)

Post 3

Today, one in five girls will be married. This must change.

Learn more about [@ZontaIntl](#)'s support of [@GPChildMarriage](#), and our combined efforts to accelerate global action to [#EndChildMarriage](#): bit.ly/2HBWFq6

Post 4

Child marriage is unacceptable in all cases. [@ZontaIntl](#) is supporting The Global Programme to End Child Marriage [@GPChildMarriage](#). [#EndChildMarriage](#)



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Partner Resources

Along with the information and resources provided throughout this toolkit, we encourage you to use information and resources from the partner organizations *Girls Not Brides* and *Unchained At Last*. Both organizations provide a breadth of resources on child marriage that can be useful when advocating.

Girls Not Brides

Zonta International and UNICEF USA are both members of *Girls Not Brides*, which is a global partnership of more than 1,000 civil society organizations from over 95 countries committed to ending child marriage and enabling girls to fulfill their potential. Members are based throughout Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas. Members share the conviction that every girl has the right to lead the life that she chooses and that, by ending child marriage, we can achieve a safer, healthier and more prosperous future for all.

Stronger together, *Girls Not Brides* members bring child marriage to global attention, build an understanding of what it will take to end child marriage and call for the laws, policies and programs that will make a difference in the lives of millions of girls.

Through the *Girls Not Brides* [Resource Center](https://girlsnotbrides.org/resource-centre/) (girlsnotbrides.org/resource-centre/) you can find reports, policy

briefs and factsheets about child marriage, as well as capacity-building tools for organizations and individuals working to end child marriage.

Unchained At Last

Unchained At Last, a UNICEF USA coalition partner, is the only nonprofit in the United States dedicated to helping women and girls leave or avoid arranged/forced marriages and rebuild their lives. Unchained also is the only nonprofit in the U.S. dedicated to creating social, policy and legal change to end forced and child marriage in America.

UNICEF USA works closely with *Unchained At Last* on issues of trafficking and child marriage. Visit their website, unchainedatlast.org for further information and statistics on child marriage (unchainedatlast.org/child-marriage-shocking-statistics/).

UNFPA-UNICEF Webpage

Learn more about the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme and get the latest information, reports and stories about the progress being made to end child marriage. (unicef.org/protection/unfpa-unicef-global-programme-accelerate-action-end-child-marriage) ●

The following pages that make up the Appendix may be printed and shared at club meetings.





Results to date

To date, more than 1 million girls have been reached through life skills and school attendance support and 1.67 million individuals have been engaged in community-based behavior change and sensitization activities.

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Program strategy

1. **The Initial Phase (4 years): Strengthen the critical institutions and systems in select countries to deliver quality services and opportunities for a significant number of girls.**
2. **The Midterm Phase (5-10 years):** Use the power of a critical mass of girls, families and communities and strengthened systems to further accelerate progress on a larger scale.
3. **The Longer Term Phase (10-15 years):** Reach larger numbers of girls to ensure they fully enjoy childhood free from the risk of marriage and that they experience healthier, safer and more empowered life transitions.

A program to accelerate global action

2018-2020 Funding: US\$2,000,000 to UNICEF USA to support UNICEF and UNFPA

Background

Worldwide, almost 650 million women alive today were married before their 18th birthday and an estimated 280 million more girls are at risk of becoming brides. If current trends continue, the number of girls and women married as children will reach nearly 1 billion by 2030.

Child marriage is a global violation of human rights that can be found in cultures, religions, ethnicities and countries around the world. Recognizing the broad potential impact of reducing child marriage rates, UNICEF and UNFPA have joined forces and formally launched a multi-country initiative to protect the rights of millions of the world's most vulnerable girls. The Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage brings together governments, civil society, families and young people in a collective effort to prevent girls from marrying too young and to support those already married as girls.

Goals and Objectives

Recognizing that only a long-term strategy will ensure the desired outcomes, the multi-year program seeks to promote the right of girls to delay marriage, addresses the conditions that keep the practice in place and provides care for girls who are already married.

In the first phase, the program, in partnership with governments and civil society, is turning commitment into tangible action to effect meaningful and lasting change in girls' lives by focusing on five main strategies:

1. Building the skills and knowledge of girls at risk of child marriage
2. Supporting households in demonstrating positive attitudes towards adolescent girls
3. Strengthening the systems that deliver services to adolescent girls
4. Ensuring laws and policies protect and promote adolescent girls' rights
5. Generating and using robust data to inform programs and policies relating to adolescent girls.

Under the umbrella of these five main strategies, each country will have specific strategies that respond to the context and factors that lead girls into early marriage.

Project Beneficiaries

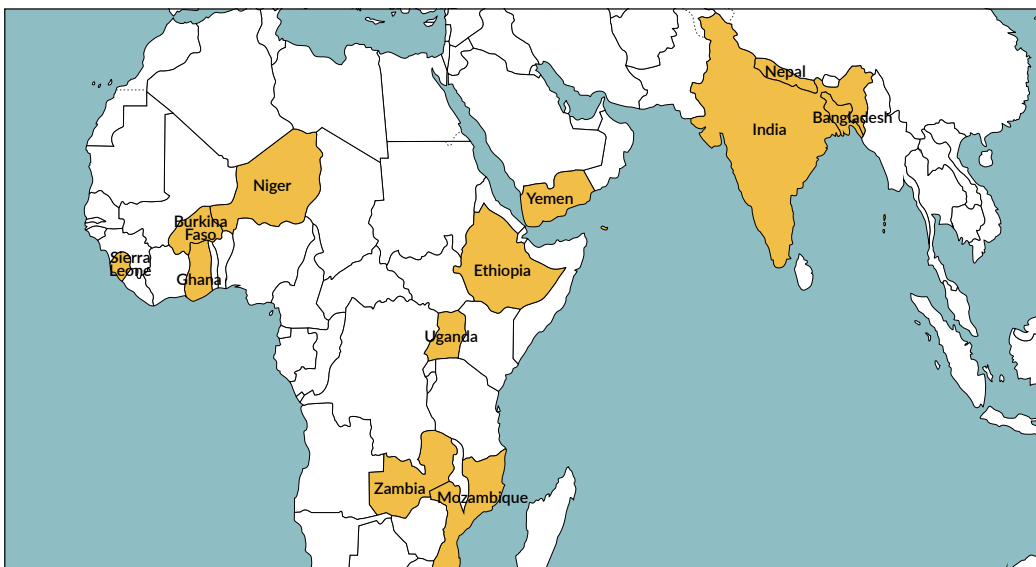


The initial phase has the potential to directly reach 2.5 million girls across the following 12 countries by the end of 2019: Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Yemen and Zambia.

Specific Strategies

- Engage adolescent girls in the program countries through targeted initiatives, including life skills, health information, economic empowerment and social protection.
- Improve education access and retention and support interventions that encourage girls to enroll in school and make the transition from primary to secondary school.
- Provide out-of-school girls with alternative learning opportunities and income generation and financial inclusion options.
- Foster community dialogue and create public service announcements and other wide-reaching mass media campaigns to better inform and sensitize community members to the dangers of child marriage and the benefits of supporting and investing in girls.
- Strengthen health, education, child protection and social protection systems in the 12 countries, specifically by supporting the development and implementation of guidelines, packages and best practices to improve services for adolescent girls.
- Support governments to implement national guidelines for girl-friendly health services and provide training for health providers so that they may be more responsive to the specific healthcare needs of girls, including married girls.
- Support interventions that will keep girls in school, including menstrual hygiene management in schools, gender-responsive teaching, and curriculum and textbook reform.
- Maintain momentum and support for legal reform and measurable change on prevalence indicators by providing support for countries' national action plans.
- Increase the generation of and use of robust data and evidence on adolescent girls for advocacy, programming, learning and tracking progress—which will improve the quality and quantity of evidence around ending child marriage and support governments in being more effective in ending child marriage.
- Work with governments and other UN agencies to improve the quality and frequency of administrative data collection around social indicators such as age at first marriage, poverty, and sexual and reproductive health.

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Expected Outcomes

1. National laws, policy frameworks and mechanisms to protect and promote adolescent girls' rights are in line with international standards and properly resourced.
2. Government(s) and partners within and across countries support the generation and use of robust data and evidence to inform policy and programming, track progress and document lessons.
3. Relevant regional and local government ministries deliver quality and cost-effective services to meet the needs of adolescent girls.
4. Households demonstrate positive attitudes and behaviors toward investing in and supporting adolescent girls.
5. Adolescent girls at risk of or affected by child marriage are better able to express and exercise their choices.

Country Results

Accelerating and Amplifying Change — 2018 Results

In 2018, over three million girls and close to 14 million community members in Africa, the Middle East and South Asia were reached with information, skills and services related to ending child marriage. 11 of the 12 countries have developed national strategies to end child marriage.

For further information specific to each country, please refer to the [2018 Turning Commitments into Solid Actions Brochure*](#).

Burkina Faso: Quality of education improved for girls as 305 new Quality Child Friendly Schools with a reach of **111,000** girls were established and 110 schools improved menstrual hygiene facilities.

Niger: Close to **62,000** adolescent girls participated in life skills training, which covers topics such as health and hygiene, gender-based violence, financial literacy and gender equality.

India: Initiatives on community awareness, including storytelling and digital literacy, reached over **3.5 million** people.

Nepal: Policy dialogues were held in 72 municipalities, engaging over **1,000** newly elected officials from local governments to sensitize them to the National Strategy to End Child Marriage. **Over 60 percent** of the municipalities included activities in their annual work plans.

Sierra Leone: A costed, multi-sectoral National Strategy for the Reduction of Adolescent Pregnancy and Child Marriage was launched in 2018 by the President to ensure a comprehensive approach to ending child marriage.

Ghana: **9,000** girls were reached through a community platform on sexual and reproductive health, family planning and child marriage that facilitates conversations between parents and adolescent girls.

Uganda: The National Strategy to End Child Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy was distributed to 15 districts targeted by the program, reaching 113 sub-counties.

Yemen: Over **65,000** people, of whom **45,000** are adolescents, were reached with awareness-raising activities on the harms of child marriage.

Bangladesh: The trans-media campaign *Raise the Beat to End Child Marriage*, which has received several national and international awards in 2018 reached close to **50 million** people across the country.

Zambia: Community dialogue to change gender norms in Zambia engaged over **31,000** people. Traditional leaders mobilized communities, embracing project activities reaching an additional 2,000 people in their villages.

Mozambique: The Rapariga Biz programme reached **221,000** girls with intensive mentorship and support through 1,500 safe spaces.



*[unicef.org/sites/default/files/2019-06/GP-2019-Brochure-English.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/sites/default/files/2019-06/GP-2019-Brochure-English.pdf)

Mozambique Program Empowers Girls to Fight Child Marriage

Standing Up for Change

"We are equal to boys and can also contribute to society," said 17-year-old Lidia. Lidia knows what it means to stand up for these beliefs. One year ago, she refused her mother's attempt to marry her off. She said she wanted to become a doctor instead.

"I want to become independent and free of the harms and expectations placed on girls in my community," she told UNFPA recently.

But many girls in Mozambique are not able to avoid marriage. Child marriage is widespread in the country, with 48 per cent of women¹¹ aged 20–24 reporting they were married before reaching age 18.

Child marriage often pushes girls from school, and it leaves them vulnerable to abuse and early pregnancies¹², which can cause lasting harm or even death.

Child marriage and teen pregnancies are closely linked: In Mozambique, some 46 per cent of girls aged 15–19 are either pregnant or already mothers, but Lidia is helping to change these trends.

She is now a mentor in Raparinga Biz, a program that has mobilized tens of thousands of adolescent girls to learn about their sexual and reproductive health and human rights, as well as about citizenship and life skills.

This knowledge is helping girls advocate for themselves and each other: Within the program's first year, only 1 per cent of the 23,500 adolescent girls involved were married before turning 18.

Raparinga Biz, which translates to "Busy Girl," was launched in May 2016. It has so far reached 94,000 girls and young women. Over 2,300 girls have been trained as mentors.

The program directly takes on one of the root causes of child marriage and teen pregnancy: gender inequality. Girls discuss the importance of equality, empowerment and human rights.

"Our society is portraying girls and women as inferior, and it is influencing our confidence and value," said 16-year-old Assma, one of the program's young mentors. "As a mentor I want to support girls to value themselves."



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Former Child Bride Advocates Change

The resilience of mentors like Lidia is one of the program's strengths. Mentors are able to draw from their own experiences, as well as their training, when educating and advising other girls.

Lucia¹³, was pressured by her family to become the wife of a man who was already married. As an orphan, Lucia had little support in opposing the marriage. She ultimately married him against her wishes.

She was miserable, and after much negotiation with her extended family, she managed to leave the marriage.

Today, she focuses on her studies and advocates for change as a Raparinga Biz mentor.

"I want to inspire girls to marry out of love and choice," she said. "We cannot be obliged to marry against our will. I hope my story can inspire adolescent girls in my community to choose who to marry at the right time."

Raparinga Biz is led by the Government of Mozambique, with technical support from UNFPA, UNICEF, UNESCO and UN WOMEN. The program receives funding from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, along with a contribution from the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage. It aims to reach 1 million girls and young women by 2020. ● — Helene Christensen

Five Brave Girls Say 'NO' to Marriage

Ending Child Marriage in Ethiopia

Ayate, Ashe, Biftu, Anifa, and Asiya all said 'No' to marriage. Each girl knew her rights and was brave enough to exercise them. And each girl plans to inspire others to do the same in the hope of stopping the harmful practice of men marrying young girls in their community.

Last year, 14-year-old Anifa came home one evening to find people she didn't know talking to her parents. Among them was a man in his twenties. Her parents called her in to talk. She was confused but approached her parents and the strangers. "Anifa, we have plans to sell you," they said. Sell me? Anifa was shocked. She didn't know how to react. Enraged, she yelled, "Sell yourself!" and ran out of the house to the one place she knew she could get help - her school.

The story however was different for 14-year-old Biftu. She felt she had fallen in love with a young man from her village and thought marriage was the only way they could be together. They met at her parent's video-screening home business where the young man was working. After a few months of marriage, she quickly realized it would hinder her goals since her husband,

who was initially supportive of her education, had changed his mind. With the support of her school and parents, she pressed for divorce and they were officially separated in September 2018 just in time for the new school year.

For 14-year-old Ayate, education was important, and she knew that marriage would bring it to an end. When her parents told her about a marriage arrangement, she convinced them against it. She wasn't pressured anymore and was able to continue her education, showing that there are families willing to listen to their daughters' reasons for not marrying young.

But families aren't always supportive, as happened to 14-year-old Ashe who was pressured into marriage by her older brother. He arranged for his friend to marry Ashe, a man ten years her senior. When she heard about the arrangement, she refused to be married, which led to contentions and arguments in the family. She went to school the next day to get help. The school summoned her brother to discuss the situation and explain Ashe's rights. In the end, Ashe was supported by the school and the marriage was stopped.



Group photo of Asiya, Ashe, Anifa and Ayate at Shawa Primary School, Harana Buluk Woreda, Oromia Region.

Ashe had first sought help from 17-year-old Asiya, who uses her story to inspire other girls. Asiya was forced into marriage at age 14 and forced to abandon her education. As culturally expected of married women, her life became a daily drudge of fetching water, cooking, cleaning, and collecting firewood, among other things. Before long, she realized that education was her ticket to a new life. Since her husband would hear none of it, she decided to divorce him. After two years' absence, Asiya returned to school in 2018. She was elected by her peers to lead the school's gender club, where she regularly inspires its 290 members.

School Gender Clubs

How did these five girls come to know their rights and feel emboldened to stand up for themselves, especially in a region where as many as 48 percent of girls¹⁴ are married as children? One answer can be found in schools. All the girls attend Shawe Primary School in Harana Buluk Woreda in Oromia Region, and all are active members of the school's gender club.

Gender clubs are mandated by the Government and established to empower girls and boys with life skills and support their enrollment in school. They offer extracurricular activities such as life skills education, menstrual support for girls, and group discussions on how to prevent and respond to gender-based violence and child marriage. Members also undertake back-to-school campaigns aimed at out-of-school children.

Each club has a teacher coordinator, who for Shawe Primary School is Ms. Sitina Harun, a 24-year-old who is considered a role model. Ms. Harun has never been married and has a full-time professional job, which is rare in the community where most women are married.

In December 2016, Ms. Harun participated in a training organized by UNICEF on how to prevent harmful practices like child marriage and gender-based violence through in-school and out-of-school platforms. She took what she learned from the training to develop a detailed schedule for gender clubs, added additional content and activities for club meetings, and ensured that all girls had the help they required should they be forced into marriage.

Local Government Involvement

School-level efforts would not be possible if it weren't for the involvement of the local institutions of government, such as the police, justice, and education departments, and the Bureau of Women, Children and

Youth (BoWCY). Representatives from these institutions also participated in the same training with Ms. Harun where they learned about preventing, responding and working together to end harmful practices. Their roles were clearly explained. The justice department and police get involved when a case requires legal action. BoWCY helps to organize local fundraisers for the poorest families to receive some economic support toward school requirements like scholastic materials, uniforms, and food. The Government understands that when children are in school, they have access to strong platforms like gender clubs that teach them about their rights and how they can access help.

A New Generation of Empowered Girls

If it wasn't for the support of the gender club, the leadership of Ms. Harun, and assistance provided by the local government and UNICEF, all five girls would most likely be married and out of school, thus continuing the cycle of suppression that child marriage causes to girls' education and their potential to contribute to their country's development.

But just as Ms. Harun inspires the girls, the girls hope to inspire others so that they can stop the cycle of child marriage.

More girls like Ayate will learn how to talk to their families, explain their rights, and gain their families' support to continue their education. As Ayate puts it, they will learn "the drawbacks of child marriage and how to communicate 'my refusal' to my family when they want to marry me off."

More girls, like Biftu, will realize that for children of her age, "love and education is not possible," as she explained.

More girls, like Asiya, will realize that their past can change. There is help; they just need to learn how to access it. They can do a U-turn and re-start school, help girls like Ashe stop their arranged marriages, be a role model for out-of-school girls who can learn that coming back is an option, and even be elected as the chair of the gender club. They can eventually, as Asiya hopes, "become a university professor so I can teach and help girls every day."

More girls will learn what it means to be empowered. They will learn how to be strong, like Anife, who knows there is no price that will stop her from her education. She is not for sale. None of the girls are. ●

— Amanda Westfall

Endnotes

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- 11 Adolescent Pregnancy: [unfpa.org/adolescentpregnancy](https://www.unfpa.org/adolescentpregnancy)
- 12 Tens of thousands of girls reached through Mozambique empowerment programme: [unfpa.org/news/tens-thousands-girls-reached-throughmozambique-empowerment-programme](https://www.unfpa.org/news/tens-thousands-girls-reached-throughmozambique-empowerment-programme)
- 13 Names changed for privacy and protection
- 14 12 EDHS, 2016. [unicef.org/ethiopia/reports/demographic-and-health-survey](https://www.unicef.org/ethiopia/reports/demographic-and-health-survey)