



A girl carrying a Jerrican of water from the valley to her home in the mountain, she was married at 15 years

DELAY MARRIAGE PROMOTE SCHOOLING FOR UGANDAN GIRLS

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Child Marriage in Uganda

In Uganda, nearly half (46%) of girls are married by 18, and 12% are married by age 15. If we are to enable the adolescent girls of this and the next generation to live up to their potential, we must ***end the practice of child marriage*** and support married girls to be all that they can be.

About the Project

Joy for Children –Uganda through Global Giving is implementing a project to eradicate the harmful practice of child marriage through raising awareness, changing behaviour and empowering communities with the knowledge and tools needed to resist child marriage. Promote the effective implementation of strong laws and policies with a bearing on children especially the girl child and promote the fulfilment of their human rights. Develop and implement human developmental activities such as capacity building and entrepreneurial programs that would mitigate the effects

The project campaigns to encourage girls and the community to delay marriage and promote schooling especially for the girl child.

The activities being carried out include; provide girls with scholastic materials and sanitary towels to keep them in school, Print and disseminate learning materials on child marriage, Assist local leaders to develop action plans to prevent child marriages, Help people understand the risks and negative impacts of child marriage, linking the project with district and national level government policy changes through advocacy activities, Training, community dialogues and distribution of information, education and communication materials among others

Help people understand the risks and negative impacts of child marriage

With support from Global Giving, we continue to organize small groups of people and discuss the risks and negative effects of child marriage. The groups we organize include those for women, in and out of school children and men.

In these groups of about 5- 30 people, we use local examples to compare the lives women who married while children and those who married after completing their studies. We also discuss with them why girls get married, the forces behind and what they community can do to end the practice. Some of the children we talked to said, girls get married because they need to control homes of their own, be able to serve themselves the food they want, need to have babies and running away from un supporting families for their basic needs among others.

While these seem the reasons for marriage, many girls agree that even after marriage, they fail to get what they were promised by the people who lured them into marriage.



Mr. Ntenga Moses, Executive Director, Joy for Children –Uganda, talking to girls in Mahyoro Primary School to delay marriage and embrace schooling

In the groups of men we organized, men say they marry children because they believe they don't have HIV/AIDS, young children are easy to please with small gifts and they cant "control men", They also said, children appear

old and when they grow breast they think they are old enough to get married. They also mentioned that men are the major decision makers; they marry off their girls because of greed for money and other gifts they get in return.



Meeting with men to discuss child marriage in their community

Training, community dialogues and distribution of information, education and communication materials

Community sensitization was held in the three sub counties of Kasenda, Mugusu and Kicwamba in Kabarole district with a message of delaying marriage and supporting girls' education. The messages were delivered by young people that included both girls and boys urging the community not to let their children get married before reaching 18 years or completing their education. About 5000 people in ten communities reached were sensitized.

During the sensitization, a cross section of the community identified themselves with message that was given through talks, dance and drama. Both men and women agreed that child marriage ruins a child's future and also appreciate the value of girls' education. However, they mention poverty as a challenge in keeping girls in school. Some families have large number of children that they cannot adequately provide for. In addition, the people in authority cannot fully support the victims of child abuse including child marriage to get justice or implement the existing laws to prevent child marriage and keep girls in school.

Some girls are trafficked from one district to another to get married. This makes it hard for an ordinary person to locate the girls and resume them because of costs involved. Even when the case is reported

to Police, because it is poorly facilitated investigations to rescue the girls are not done unless they are facilitated in form of transport by the complainant. Where the complainant has no money justice may never be go. Joy for Children-Uganda runs Girls Emergency Fund (GEF) to enable girls get justice when abused. This fund supports medical examinations for victims of sexual abuse / defilement, transport for police officer to investigate or arrest the suspect and transportation of witness to police to record statements in situations where the family of the victim cannot afford,

The community pledged to work hard and keep all children including girls in school, work with local leaders to report and follow-up cases of child marriage in their communities.



Future plans

1. Continue reaching out to communities with the same message of delaying marriage and keeping girls in school.
2. Produce more IEC materials including posters, stickers and leaflets on child marriage.
3. Work with the community to report and follow-up cases of child marriage
4. Support most vulnerable girls with scholastic materials to enable them keep in school.