

FUNDING PROPOSAL
FOR
MITIGATION OF CHILD MARRIAGES VICE IN UGANDA

Pilot Intervention Locations:

[Rural Districts of Mityana and Wakiso; Peri-Urban Rubaga Division-Kampala, Municipalities of Gulu (northern), Masaka (central), and Mbale (eastern)]

By



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Executive Summary

The phenomenon of Child Marriages interchangeably referred to as Early Marriages is a vice that has bedeviled society worldwide with dire negative consequences. In Uganda, whose demographics is largely composed by a relatively young population (75%), the proliferation of child marriages poses grave concerns in its pursuit to become a mid-income state, with undesirable economic, social and health implications on the populace. This project proposes to contribute towards mitigating the vice and its negative consequences through a series of grassroots intervention activities in 6 selected locations comprising 2 rural districts, and 4 peri-urban settlements.

Our working definition of Child Marriage is a social construct in the form of formal or informal union of a man and a woman by which they become ‘husband & wife’; a ‘marriage’ entered into by an individual before reaching the age of 18.

Uganda Shs 130 million (US \$ 36,000) is respectfully requested to implement this project.

Project Summary

Project Title: Mitigation of Child Marriages vice in Uganda

Overall Objective: To contribute towards mitigating the vice of child marriages and its negative consequences through grassroots intervention activities.

Proposed Activities:

- i. Baseline Survey
- ii. Stakeholders Workshops
- iii. Community Sensitization and Awareness Campaigns
- iv. School Programs
- v. Income Generating Activities training & demonstration
- vi. Monitoring & Evaluation

Expected Results:

- i. Reduced incidences of child marriages.
- ii. Increased productive capacity of the grassroots community.
- iii. Increased income of the grassroots communities.
- iv. Reduced level of poverty.
- v. Improved moral values and welfare of the grassroots community people.
- vi. A more stable and tranquil society

Timeframe & Geographic Target Area:

Project implementation will take one year executed in six locations of Mityana and Wakiso districts, as well as peri-urban locations in Kampala, Gulu, Masaka and Mbale towns of Uganda.

Intended Beneficiaries:

Indirectly, all Uganda people will benefit through increased awareness and understanding of the negative impacts of child marriages. But more specifically, households at the grassroots level are expected to benefit directly as a result of the project activities by negating the vice of child marriages and engaging in more productive activities that will improve their incomes and welfare. Collaterally, the government and other agencies involved in efforts to fight the vice are expected to benefit by being apprised of an alternative community-driven model.

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1.0 Introduction

This proposal by AVEC International seeks to help contribute towards mitigating the observably increasing vices of child marriages rampant in the Ugandan societies resulting in many undesirable negative consequences.

Child marriage¹ is a social construct in the form of formal or informal union of a man and a woman by which they become ‘husband & wife’; a ‘marriage’ entered into by an individual before reaching a certain age, specified by several global organizations such as UNICEF and particularly the Ugandan **law**² as minors under the age of eighteen (18). This age set (18 years & above) therefore becomes the legally prescribed marriageable age, yet for various reasons, many people in our societies are abetting the vice of earlier marriage with parental consent or in special circumstances such as teenage pregnancy. In certain instances, even if the legal marriage age is 18, perceived cultural traditions (often misinterpreted) take priority over legislative law. It is at times related to child betrothal, and it includes civil cohabitation and court approved early marriages after teenage pregnancy. In many cases only one marriage partner is a child, usually the female. Article 1 of the Convention on the Right of the Child, states that, “early marriage refers to any marriage of a child younger than 18 years old”. This according to UNICEF is “a fundamental threat to human rights”.

It is this vice, which is increasingly a disgrace to our often ‘civilized’ or ‘civilizing’ society, that AVEC seeks to mitigate.

2.0 Causes of Early Marriages & Consequences

The causative factors to this widely unacceptable social vice are varied and includes but not limited to: poverty and economic transaction; bride price (bride wealth-dowry); misrepresented culture and tradition; weak implementation of the laws; social & peer pressure; fear of remaining unmarried; illiteracy; school drop outs; notions of morality and honor; subjugation of women; perceived inability of women to work for money; children considered a ‘burden’; lack of awareness of dangers of early marriages; parental “fear” that their daughters will be unmarried after the age of 14 coupled with desire to secure their daughter’s future before they themselves pass away; to strengthen the ties between the marrying families for social as well as economic protection and security.

Other narratives points to glaring economic hardships being experienced especially by the rural population and Peri-urban dwellers seeking for means of sustainable survival, and regrettably when the marriage fails, leading to the deplorable practice of prostitution.

¹ Interchangeably referred to as ‘early marriage’

² The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, Chapter 4, Article 31, Section (1), pg 47: “A man and woman are entitled to marry only if they are each of the age eighteen years and above and are entitled at that age: - (a) to found a family; and (b) to equal rights at and in marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.”

Consequently, child marriage attracts a number of negative effects both on the victims and the society at large.

It violates the rights of children as it affects both boys and girls, but it is more common amongst girls often curtailing the fundamental education of the **girl child**. It has widespread and long-term consequences for child brides and groom, both in terms of health risks, violation of social norms and values hence social acceptability and economic challenges.

The economic and social impacts of child marriage sometimes manifest when girls often drop out of school, have more children over their lifetime, are at greater risk of HIV infection and intimate partner violence, and face serious health complications and even death from early pregnancy and childbearing according to a World Bank Report (Nov 2015).³ The report maintains that each year, 15 million girls are married before the age of 18, worldwide.

Further, child brides are often isolated with limited opportunity to participate in the development of their communities, thus hampering efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development in particular societies and globally.

The vice has many effects on girl's health: increased risk for sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), cervical cancer, malaria, death during childbearing, and obstetric fistulas. Girl's offspring are at increased risk to premature birth and death as neonates, infants or children.

3.0 Uganda Context & Situation of Child Marriages

Uganda demographics is mainly composed of a very young population, 75% being youth and children, according to the National Census 2014. The mainstay of the economy is agriculture, which invariably should support the growing population, yet is not adequately funded to boost production. Basically therefore, agricultural practice remains at subsistence level, leading to increase in rural urban migration as people especially the young seek for easy means of economic survival.

So in Uganda, child marriage is often a result of poverty. Many parents marry their daughters in the hope of securing their financial security. Bride price can also be a motivation for parents; a young bride means higher bride price for the family.

Limited access to education for girls and traditional and social norms which dictates that girls are married at a young age in order to fulfill their role as a wife and mother, play a role too. In addition, displaced population living in IDP and Refugee camps (like the case was in northern Uganda), often feel unable to protect their daughters from rape, abduction, marrying them off to a warlord or other authority figure is seen as a form of protection.

The many girl school dropouts due to menstrual related problems have also led to Child marriages.

³³ WB.org

According to UNICEF's "Rates of Child Marriage Report of 2015", Uganda claims 40% and ranks 16th in the world in the vice topped by Niger at 76%. In Uganda, 10% are married by the age of 15, and 40% by the age of 18. This means, nearly 1 in every 2 girls in Uganda are married before age of 18.

Initiatives taken so far

- 1) On 16th June 2015, the Government of Uganda rolled out "The African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage" and its ever first National Strategy on Early Child Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy (2014/2015 – 2019/2020) – in collaborations with CSOs and UN agencies.
- 2) UNICEF & UNFPA unveiled a Global Program to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage, which was adopted in Uganda as well.
- 3) There is an ongoing National partnership campaign in Uganda dubbed "Girls Not Brides Uganda".

These are critical high level campaigns at national level, but the message and impact needs to be realized more at the local level where the vice is rampant. AVEC International, operates more at the grassroots level, targeting alleviation of the plight of the vulnerable, and therefore has considerable comparative advantage in effectively rolling out this campaign for maximum results if financially supported.

4.0 Brief Organization Profile

AVEC International is a local Ugandan non-governmental organization registered in 2014 (Reg no. 10561), with its head office in Kampala, St. Apollo Kivebulaya Church of Uganda, Kitebi Lubaga Division. The organization was started in April 2013 by a group of Social Workers motivated by the social work principle of restoring the social functioning and improvement of the quality of life and wellbeing of individuals, groups and communities in Uganda and the world at large.

AVEC's broad Vision is "to improve the quality of life of elderly people and vulnerable children by providing integrated family care and community based services to enable them become self-reliant and productive members of society both morally, economically and socially". This fundamental vision is attainable through a concerted Mission "to wholly transform the lives of elderly people and vulnerable children in societies in, but not limited to, Uganda".

The organization is currently offering various services towards uplifting the livelihood status of the vulnerable elderly, women, youth and children by providing integrated family care and community based services to enable them become productive, self-reliant and self-sufficient members of society both economically and socially. Current areas of operation are in 2 districts of Kampala (Lubaga Division) and Mityana (Kalangalo, Bulera and Ssekanyonyi sub-counties).

After a comprehensive needs assessment to determine required areas of intervention, the following categories of beneficiaries have so far been reached:

- a) With support of Volunteers from Germany, constructed 4 classroom blocks in rural Mugoye in 2 different Community Schools, and furnished them.
- b) 200 children who received some basic Scholastic materials like books, clothes and basic needs, as well as attention to health matters;
- c) 130 youth were offered free training and talent identification, and guided in using available resources. Additionally, clothes and some basic needs were provided as well as attention to health matters;
- d) 228 Elderly were identified and befriended, followed by home visits, counsel and rendering assistance with home chores, besides provision of basic needs items and clothes, as well as attention to their health issues.



Avec Staffs consulting with Mugoye Rural Community, and handing over donated basic needs items

5.0 Activities: Proposed Interventions to Mitigate of Child Marriages

The following intervention activities will be undertaken to contribute towards mitigating the vice of early child marriages in the rural districts of Mityana and Wakiso, Peri-Urban Rubaga Division-Kampala, and Municipalities/Towns of Gulu (northern), Masaka (central), and Mbale (eastern), all in Uganda:-

- 1) Baseline Survey of Child marriage Phenomenon in the selected locations;
- 2) Stakeholders workshop to present the Baseline Survey Results & Discuss Integrated & Inclusive Strategies & Work Plan for Intervention;
- 3) Community Sensitization and Awareness Campaigns through:-
 - i. Community Dialogues;
 - ii. Radio Talk Shows;
 - iii. IEC Materials in Local Languages;
 - iv. Documentary Films;
 - v. Music and Drama.
- 4) School Programmes involving:-
 - i. Motivational Talks;
 - ii. Debates;
 - iii. Drama;
 - iv. Documentary Film shows;
 - v. Printed materials and Sanitary Pads for Girls;

5) Income Generating Activities trainings & Demonstrations towards Self-Reliance targeting families:

- i. Urban Gardening techniques;
- ii. Poultry keeping;
- iii. Goat rearing;
- iv. Container Fish Farming;
- v. Records Keeping;
- vi. Marketing Strategy

6) Monitoring & Evaluation

With effective implementation of the above integrated activities, given AVEC International's proven experiences and expertise, this intervention should go a long way in mitigating the undesirable vice of Child Marriages in the selected pilot locations.

6.0 Time Frame- One Year

S/N	Activities	Months											
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Baseline Survey												
2.	Stakeholder Workshops												
3.	Sensitization & Awareness												
4.	School Programs												
5.	IGA Training & Demos												
6.	Monitoring & Evaluation												

7.0 Broad Budget Estimates

S/N	Activities	No/Freq	Unit Cost	Total Amount
1.	Baseline Survey (6 locations)		sum	10,000,000=
2.	Stakeholders Workshops	6	3,000,000=	18,000,000=
3.	Community Sensitization & Awareness Campaign	6	5,000,000=	30,000,000=
4.	Schools Program	12	2,000,000=	24,000,000=
5.	IGA Training & Demonstration	6	6,000,000=	36,000,000=
6.	Monitoring & Evaluation		sum	12,000,000=
	TOTAL BUDGET			130,000,000
			US \$	\$ 36,000

Note: Detailed Breakdown of the Budget is provided in the *Appendix*.

Appendix 1: Detailed Budgetary Breakdown by Activities (Uganda Shs)[1US \$ = 3,600/=]

S/N	Activities	No./Freq.	Unit Cost	Total Amount
1.	Baseline Survey:			
	i. Transport	15 days	150,000=	2,250,000=
	ii. Accommodation & meals	15 days	200,000=	3,000,000=
	iii. Consultant's fee	1	Contract	4,500,000=
	iv. Stationery		assorted	250,000=
	Sub-Total (1)			10,000,000=
2.	Stakeholders Workshops (6):			
	i. Venue Hire	6	150,000=	900,000=
	ii. Break Tea (Morn & eve)	6 x 30 x 2	5,000=	1,800,000=
	iii. Lunch	6 x 30	15,000=	2,700,000=
	iv. Water	6 x 30 x 4	1,000=	720,000=
	v. Transport Refund	6 x 30	50,000=	9,000,000=
	vi. Facilitation Fee	2	1,440,000=	2,880,000=
	Sub-Total (2)			18,000,000=
3.	Community Sensitization & Awareness Campaign:			
	i. IEC materials design & printing		assorted	6,000,000=
	ii. Radio Talk Shows	4 x 6	350,000=	8,400,000=
	iii. Community Dialogue:			
	a. Public Address System	6 times	250,000=	1,500,000=
	b. Refreshments	6 x 150	3,000=	2,700,000=
	c. Transport	6 times	250,000=	1,500,000=
	d. Accommodation & Meals	6 days x 4	150,000=	3,600,000=
	iv. Film Documentary shows:			
	a. Projector & Screen Hire	6 times	100,000=	600,000=
	b. Generator Hire/fuel	6 times	125,000	750,000=
	v. Music, Dance & Drama equipment, costumes		assorted	3,450,000=
	vi. MDD Instructors Fee			1,500,000=
	Sub-Total (3)			30,000,000=
4.	School Programs:			
	i. Debating Tournaments	24	600,000=	14,400,000=
	ii. Support to MDD	12 schools	800,000=	9,600,000=
	Sub-Total (4)			24,000,000=
5.	IGA Training & Demonstrations:			
	i. Various Topical Trainings	6 x 3	1,000,000=	18,000,000=
	ii. Demonstration start-ups	6	1,400,000=	8,400,000=
	iii. Follow-up on family IGAs	6	600,000=	3,600,000=
	iv. Marketing Trainings +source	6	1,000,000=	6,000,000=
	Sub-Total (5)			36,000,000=
6.	Monitoring & Evaluation		Sum	12,000,000=
	GRAND TOTAL			130,000,000=
			US \$	\$ 36,000.00

Appendix II: Some Field Action Pictures:



AVEC Volunteer Staff heading to the field; Staff consult during field visit ↑



Original Mugoye Community classroom blocks, and new one built with Avec assistance ↑



Avec Staff being introduced to the school pupils, Avec ED demonstrates a point on chalk-board ↑



A newly built classroom block; and A Volunteer Teacher with young learners in a furnished classroom



Avec Staff consulting Mugoye Community members; ED supervising distribution of essential items donated



Women going home after receiving gifts; A child holding donated cloth items



An Elderly man smiles gleefully after receiving essential gift items.