

---

22 September 2015

Dear Friends,

Many of our partners work with families and communities to keep girls in school. The Population Council recently published a study evaluating the effectiveness of different strategies to prevent child marriage. Many of the interventions they studied are very similar to programs our partners implement, for example: building up the economic fabric of the family and educating the community. The exciting news is that the study provides evidence that these interventions work!

We hope you find these resources useful in your work.

Sincerely,

The Firelight Team

(Article) [Low-Cost Interventions Help Prevent Child Marriage, Study Finds](#)  
(Resource) [Summary on the Impact of Child Marriage - Girls Not Brides](#)  
(Resource) [Case Study on Preventing Child Marriage - HAQ Centre for Child Rights](#)  
(Open for Applications) [Global Fund for Women](#)  
(Open for Applications) [10YFP Sustainable Tourism Programme](#)

---

(Article) [Low-Cost Interventions Help Prevent Child Marriage, Study Finds](#)

August 17, 2015, Philanthropy News Digest

Low-cost interventions to keep vulnerable girls in school and support their families can effectively prevent child marriage in sub-Saharan Africa, a study by the Population Council finds.

According to the council, more than one in ten girls in the region are married before the age of fifteen and four in ten before the age of eighteen. As a result, they face limited educational and economic opportunities and a high risk of domestic violence, HIV infection, and unintended pregnancy. The study, *Building an Evidence Base to Delay Child Marriage*, evaluated the effectiveness of four strategies to delay the age at marriage among girls ages 12 to 17 in parts of Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Burkina Faso where the prevalence of child marriage is particularly high. They include informing communities about the negative consequences of child marriage through community meetings and the engagement of religious leaders; supporting girls' education by providing them with school supplies or uniforms; offering conditional economic

incentives to families for keeping girls unmarried and in school; and combining all three approaches.

The researchers found that in Ethiopian communities engaged in conversations about the issue, girls between the ages of 12 and 14 were two-thirds less likely to get married, while in communities where educational support was provided, they were 94 percent less likely to do so. In Ethiopian communities where girls were offered two chickens for every year they remained in school and unmarried, girls between the ages of 15 and 17 were half as likely to get married, while in communities where all three strategies were employed, they were two-thirds less likely to do so. In Tanzania, while community conversations and educational support for the younger girls did not produce a statistically significant reduction in child marriage, in communities where families were offered goats as incentives to keep their older girls unmarried and in school, they were two-thirds less likely to get married, while combining all three strategies had a positive effect on both age groups. The results from the study in Burkina Faso will be released in 2016.

The study also emphasized the cost-effectiveness of the interventions, which ranged in cost from \$17 per girl for school supplies in Ethiopia to \$117 per girl for the full model that combined all three strategies in Tanzania. In addition, the researchers issued recommendations for policy makers and funders working to end child marriage: recognize that child marriage often is a response to poverty rather than simply a cultural tradition and offer economic incentives to discourage the practice; invest in "hot spots" where girls are most at risk; tailor interventions by age and gender; and coordinate with nongovernmental organizations to avoid duplicating efforts in the same regions.

"Our research shows that the best approaches to delay child marriage are those that elevate girls' visibility and status in their families and communities, build their skills and knowledge, and are cost-conscious and economical," said Annabel Erulkar, Population Council senior associate, Ethiopia country director, and lead researcher on the study. "Child marriage is not an intractable tradition. When families and communities recognize the harms of child marriage and have economic alternatives, they will delay the age at which their daughters get married."

You can find this article here: <http://bit.ly/1FLfeLR>

Here is a link to the study on the Population Council's website: <http://bit.ly/1QDQ1tg>

---

(Resource) Summary on the Impact of Child Marriage - Girls Not Brides

Girls Not Brides is a global partnership of more than 500 civil society organisations from over 70 countries committed to ending child marriage and enabling girls to fulfil their potential.

Members are based throughout Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas.

They 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.

Girls Not Brides offers this summary of the impact of child marriage: <http://bit.ly/1W0XBB3>

#### WHAT IS THE IMPACT?

Each year, 15 million girls are married before the age of 18. That is 28 girls every minute – married off too soon, endangering their personal development and wellbeing. With more young people on our planet than ever before, child marriage is a human rights violation that we must end to achieve a fairer future for all.

Child brides are often disempowered, dependent on their husbands and deprived of their fundamental rights to health, education and safety. Neither physically nor emotionally ready to become wives and mothers, child brides are at greater risk of experiencing dangerous complications in pregnancy and childbirth, becoming infected with HIV/AIDS and suffering domestic violence. With little access to education and economic opportunities, they and their families are more likely to live in poverty.

Nations also feel the impact: a system that undervalues the contribution of young women limits its own possibilities. In this way, child marriage drains countries of the innovation and potential that would enable them to thrive.

#### CHILD MARRIAGE FACTS

- More than 30% of today's women were married before their 18th birthday.
- If there is no reduction in child marriage, an additional 1.2 billion girls will be married by 2050.
- Some child brides are as young as eight or nine.
- Most adolescent pregnancies (90%) take place within marriage.
- Pregnancy and childbirth complications are among the leading causes of death in girls aged 15 to 19 in low- and middle-income countries.

#### COMPELLING REASONS TO ACT NOW

Globally, the rates of child marriage are slowly declining. However, there are urgent reasons to double our efforts.

- **IT VIOLATES HUMAN RIGHTS AND IS ILLEGAL-** In many countries, child marriage is prohibited, but existing laws are often not enforced or provide exceptions for parental consent or traditional and customary laws. Child marriage reinforces gender inequality and violates human rights. Tolerating any injustice makes it easier for others to exist.
- **IT PERPETUATES POVERTY-** Married girls often leave school and so can lack the

skills to help lift their families out of poverty. The international community's failure to end child marriage means it has fallen short in its commitment to reduce global poverty and achieve six of the eight Millennium Development Goals.

- **THE LONGER WE WAIT, THE BIGGER THE PROBLEM WILL BE-** Millions of girls and women already suffer the consequences of child marriage. If we do nothing, population growth means that, by 2050, the total number of women married as children will grow to 1.2 billion, with devastating consequences for girls, their families and their countries. Boys are also affected – 33 million men today were married before the age of 15 and 156 million before the age of 18.
- **PROGRESS IS POSSIBLE-** The complex mix of cultural and economic factors mean there is not a single, simple solution. But, through partnership, long-term programming and a willingness to learn from our successes and failures, we can end child marriage in a generation.
- **GLOBAL PRESSURE-** Girls Not Brides shows the will of a global movement to end child marriage. By connecting and amplifying the voice of civil society organisations across the world, we help instil the global pressure that makes ground-level change happen.
- **COLLECTIVE ACTION-** Informed by their experience of working with girls, families and their communities, Girls Not Brides members have come together to articulate what an effective response to child marriage entails. Together we develop evidence-based solutions – like our Theory of Change – to outline how we can end child marriage and enable girls to achieve their potential in all aspects of their lives.
- **CHILD MARRIAGE AND THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGS)-** Child marriage directly hinders the achievement of 6 of the 8 Millennium Development Goals. Simply put, the international community will not fulfil its commitments to reduce global poverty unless it tackles child marriage.
- **GIRLS ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTED BY CHILD MARRIAGE-** While boys are sometimes subjected to early marriage, girls are disproportionately affected and form the vast majority of the victims of child marriage. A comparison of the proportion of young women aged 15-19 who were married in 2003 to young men aged 15-19 who were married in the same year found the ratio to be 72 to 1 in Mali, 8 to 1 in the US, and 6 to 1 in El Salvador.

Girls Not Brides has an infographic poster about child marriage that you can download from their website here: <http://bit.ly/1LwA1VF>

---

(Resource) Case Study on Preventing Child Marriage - HAQ Centre for Child Rights

HAQ works in West Bengal and Telangana, India to strengthen existing systems within the government and at the community level to prevent child marriage.

The project works to:

- Build the capacity of government officials so they are able to fulfil their obligations.
- Mobilise girls, boys, mothers, school teachers, and religious and caste leaders to stop child marriages.

They have a case study about their work that is available here: <http://bit.ly/1if994S>

Though India is far from Africa, they provide advice for other civil society organizations working to prevent child marriage, that seems highly relevant to our partners' work. It is an affirmation of the need to work hand-in-hand with the community to create sustainable change from the bottom up.

1. Our biggest learning has been that we cannot work with the community on one single issue (in this case child marriage). Any intervention that we make has to be informed by multiple lenses and embedded in a broader agenda such as child rights or child protection. Dwelling on one issue makes the community defensive and is also a lost opportunity to work on inter-related issues.

2. While the law may be a guiding document, it cannot be the only framework to work with as immediate implementation of the law (through penal action for a cultural and social norm or practice) will potentially lead to too much social unrest, the withdrawal of a community's willingness to support other interventions and potentially drives the practice further underground. The old method of working with the community to change norms cannot be underestimated.

3. Working with state systems to increase their performance and hold them accountable must be done in combination with working with the community. Providing support to girls and families who seek help is crucial as is building the capacity of grassroots workers in communications, child rights and documenting their work.

---

(Open for Applications) Global Fund for Women

Global Fund for Women provides small women-led organizations outside of the United States grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$30,000 per year for operating and project expenses. First-time grant awards generally range from \$5,000 to \$13,000 per year.

Women-led NGOs can now submit their organizational profiles for possible grant support from the Global Fund for Women for its 2016 grant making. If deemed qualified, these applicants will be contacted and invited to submit a full proposal for funding.

Global Fund for Women has three critical areas of funding:

- Zero Violence
- Economic & Political Empowerment
- Sexual & Reproductive Health & Rights

Application Criteria:

(Please note that your group MUST meet all the following criteria to be eligible for a grant.)

- It is based in a country outside the United States. It does not fund US-based organizations.
- Its primary focus is advancing women's equality and human rights, with these goals clearly reflected in its activities.
- Please note that groups whose sole purpose is to generate income or to provide charity to individuals are not eligible to apply.
- It is a group of women working together. It does not accept requests from individuals or fund projects proposed by or for the benefit of individuals (this includes scholarships).
- It is governed, directed, and led by women. Women must fill all or most of the leadership roles throughout the various decision-making levels of the group (including but not limited to the most senior decision-making levels).

Global Fund receives over 2,500 proposals each year and is able to award about 500 grants annually. Unfortunately it does not have the resources to provide funding to all the groups that meet their criteria. It does, however, give priority to women's groups that might particularly benefit from their support.

**Deadline: 31 January 2016**

For more information, visit Global Fund for Women: <http://bit.ly/1NBAX0U>

---

(Open for Applications) 10YFP Sustainable Tourism Programme

The Secretariat of the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP) is inviting NGOs and others (government agencies) from developing countries to apply for the 10YFP Trust Fund for the 10YFP Sustainable Tourism Programme Call for Proposals.

The purpose of the Call for Proposals is to support eligible sustainable tourism proposals that meet the needs of countries &/or regions, as well as the requirements of the 10YFP while facilitating the implementation of the Programme of Work of the 10YFP Sustainable Tourism Programme (10YFP STP).

The Call for Proposals is intended to bring tourism stakeholders together to collaborate on project development and implementation and to deliver tangible and transformative results in countries and regions. To this end, collective impact will be achieved through joint activities of project stakeholders, which is fundamental for achieving the objectives of the 10YFP and accelerating the global shift to sustainable consumption and production.

Eligible organizations: Applicants may be any regional, national, local governmental institution, agency or subsidiary body; not-for-profits; associations; civil society; community based organisations; universities, scientific or technical organisation, with headquarters in developing countries and countries in transition and aiming at supporting specific programmes and initiatives responding to the national and regional priorities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The Call is also open to non-partners of the 10YFP Sustainable Tourism Programme, provided that they commit to becoming partners prior to signing the grant agreement.

The duration of the project should range between a minimum of 12 months and a maximum of 24 months. The total project budget should range between a minimum of US\$100,000 and a maximum of \$US200,000. Applicants will be requested to provide for preliminary results to be reported in time for the mid-term evaluation of the 10YFP, which is scheduled to take place in mid-2017.

**Deadline: 16 October 2015**

For more information, visit 10YFP Sustainable Tourism Programme: <http://bit.ly/1FdCwPE>

---

As part of the Firelight Foundation's Capacity Building Program, Firelight provides "Newsflashes" to share relevant resources and information with our active grantee-partners via weekly emails and via post on a monthly basis. We hope that by facilitating access to information for grassroots, community-focused organizations, programming for children and families, as well as organizational development, is enhanced. Past editions of the Firelight Newsflash can be found on our website:

<http://www.firelightfoundation.org/resources/newsflash>

We welcome your comments, feedback and ideas for upcoming Newsflashes at [newsletter@firelightfoundation.org](mailto:newsletter@firelightfoundation.org)

**For more information contact:**

Firelight Foundation  
740 Front Street, Suite 380  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060 USA  
[www.firelightfoundation.org](http://www.firelightfoundation.org)  
+1 831-429- 8750