

USAID Child Marriage Activities

Recently, issues surrounding the practice of child marriage have attracted increased legislative interest. The Interagency Gender Working Group (IGWG), under the auspices of the Gender Global Leadership Priority, and the Bureau of Global Health (BGH) would like to gain a better understanding of whether and how USAID Missions and our CAs are currently addressing child marriage, as well as how the practice potentially affects our RH/MH/HIV and education programs in the field. This information will provide us a framework for strengthening our programs and projects to better address the issue of child marriage.

We would greatly appreciate you taking a few minutes (it shouldn't take more than 10 minutes) to complete the following survey. Please be as specific as possible in your responses. Data entry fields have no limit on length of entry. Please save the completed document and return it to rcallahan@usaid.gov BY COB September 9, 2005. Thank you.

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- 1) Is child marriage [defined as: marriage below the legal age as stipulated by national law] an issue in your country? YES NO UNSURE
- 2) Do you feel that the practice of child marriage impedes your ability to reach PHN and education sector objectives? YES NO UNSURE

If yes, in what ways?

- Increased maternal mortality
- Increased infant mortality
- Increased maternal disability
- Increased HIV infection
- Decrease in completed education through primary and secondary school
- Decreased number of girls in school
- Increased population growth
- Increased violence against women
- Increased migration and trafficking within and outside of the country
- A combination of these factors affecting the self image of the young girl, her personal security, liberty, dignity and well-being

- 3) Since the year 2000, has your Mission had a specific, stand-alone project addressing child marriage? (or do you plan to have one in the immediate future?)
 YES NO

If yes, what is the name of the project(s)?

- 4) Since the year 2000, has your mission had activities related to child marriage carried out as part of a larger project? (or do you plan to have such activities in the immediate future?)
 YES NO

If yes, what is the name(s) of the activity and/or what is the name of the larger project?

1. Reproductive Health/Family Planning Project, Pathfinder International
2. Basic Education Strategic Objective (BESO II), World Learning
3. BESO II, Save the Children, US
4. BESO II, Tigray Development Association
5. Flex Fund, FP/RH Projects – ADRA, SC,US and Plan International

IF YOU ANSWERED "NO" TO BOTH QUESTIONS #3 AND #4, SKIP TO QUESTION #13.

5) In which sector are your child marriage project/activities carried out?

(e.g. FP/RH, MH, HIV/AIDS, DG, etc?)

RH/FP and primary education

6) What kind of funds (list all that apply) are used to support your child marriage project/activities and what is the budget for these? (if you have more than 2 projects/activities, please use additional survey forms.)

	Project/Activity #1	Project/Activity #2
Type of funds (e.g. Pop Core, HIV Core, PEPFAR, Field Support, bilateral, etc.)	Bilateral, Pop, Pathfinder	Bilateral, BESO World Learning
Total project budget (for either stand alone child marriage projects or other types of projects that include a child marriage component or activities)	\$458,000 over 5 yrs.	\$2,625,679 over 5 years for all gender activities
% of total project budget devoted to child marriage activities (if not a stand alone child marriage project)	.02%	22%

7) Description of the project/activity:

	Project/Activity #1 Pathfinder	Project/Activity #2 World L.
Start and end dates	10/02 to 9/07	1/31/02 to 1/30/07
Target population (youth – male/female, parents, policymakers, etc.)	65 million (pop of 7 regions)	38 million Amhara, SNNP and Benishangul-Gumuz Regions
Scope (single community, district, country-level, global, etc.)	National and regional – policy; district and community levels	1,800 schools in the 3 regions
Type of intervention (research, policy/advocacy, BCC, community mobilization, etc.)	Policy at national and regional levels, advocacy, BCC, community mobilization, schools, and district and community officials. They have a package of gender activities	Girls clubs through the public schools and community mobilization, community officials
Brief description of intervention/ approach (2-3 sentences)	A representative of the women's affairs office participates in district health planning and implementation activities called the Woreda Administrative Committee	Girls Advisory Committees have been established in the community where the target school is located; they work closely with PTAs and the district Ed Office to create a

	(WAC) and community (KAC); they work closely with schools, religious leaders and local government officials to stop early marriage or to prosecute parents who violate the law. Use of community based reproductive health agents.	conducive school environment.
List Materials/tools used	Family law translated; Cue cards, posters on harmful traditional practices such as early marriage, community dialogue. Gender and rights based approaches used	Training materials on gender sensitization and communication with parents, religious leaders and teachers.
Describe messages used	Health risks, impedes girls education, against the law	Impedes girls education

8) Are the expectations of roles and behaviors for men/boys and women/girls, and the inequities between them addressed in the project/activities? If so, how?

Yes, by emphasizing girls education as being as important as the boys education and denouncing early marriage, rape and abduction.

9) Project/activity outcomes:

	Project/Activity #1	Project/Activity #2
Expected outcomes	Stop child marriage	Stop child marriage
Indicators	Marriages cancelled/Stopped	Marriages cancelled/Stopped
Any measured results or outcomes to date?	Stopped over 12,000 marriages	Stopped over 4,000 marriages

10) What have been the challenges and lessons learned from your project/activities?

USAID/Ethiopia partners have initiated large scale activities to stop child marriage; this focused AID/W survey and the early marriage prep team that came in August for the upcoming CODEL have shown the breadth of interventions that our partners are using to stop child marriages. However, we have not coordinated the interventions, methodologies, messages, BCC materials and indicators to track this harmful traditional practice. The USAID Mission will take action to better inform and guide all partners to agree on indicators and more effectively use what has been developed, share best practices and key messages, and coordinate resources and BCC materials.

11) Do you expect your project/activities to continue or to have any follow-on activities?

YES NO UNSURE

If yes, please describe these activities.

All activities by partners will continue through early and mid 2007, but USAID/Ethiopia will provide technical guidance to our partners for a strong coordinated and united front at the local level to effect change. This is a major activity for the short term, however, for the longer term some kind of monitoring activity is needed to systematically report and document changes, obstacles and successes. Critical gaps or issues require discussion at all levels and alternatives sought. It has been noted that girl's vulnerability increases, if she does not pass her exam to move to 9th grade and she doesn't marry. The parents ask, "What is there for her to do?"

12) Who is the contact person (name & email address) for your child marriage project/activities?

Mary Ann Abeyta-Behnke, Sr. Reproductive Health Advisor

13) Are you aware of other donor agencies or organizations working on the issue of child marriage in your country? XX YES NO

If yes, who?

UNFPA, UNICEF, The National Committee on Traditional Practices, Women's Affairs, Women's Associations, Women's Lawyers Association

14) Do you have any suggestions and/or project ideas for addressing child marriage in your country? Please describe.

A critical gap noted is monitoring of the situation as it unfolds across the country with our partners and monitoring what other organizations are doing because a united approach based on best practices can help effect the changes we all want to see. The Mission will guide this process with our partners.

Pathfinder initiated a **Community Feedback System** on a pilot basis as a means of empowering communities to identify their problems, find solutions and take action. The CFS was tested in 8 districts and the common problem addressed was early marriage. As a result of this innovative activity, PI is now scaling up the Community Feedback System.

15) Other comments:

BESO is adequately covering the primary schools, but the secondary schools also need attention. Although Pathfinder is working with all types of schools, we don't have a school by school assessment as we have under BESO. Better monitoring and reporting is needed as mentioned above.

Additional Work Sheet, page 1

6) What kind of funds (list all that apply) are used to support your child marriage project/activities and what is the budget for these? (if you have more than 2 projects/activities, please use additional survey forms.)

	Project/Activity #3	Project/Activity #4
Type of funds (e.g. Pop Core, HIV Core, PEPFAR, Field Support, bilateral, etc.)	Bilateral, BESO II Save the Children, US	Bilateral, BESO II Tigray Dev. Association
Total project budget (for either stand alone child marriage projects or other types of projects that include a child marriage component or activities)	\$190,396	\$22,347
% of total project budget devoted to child marriage activities (if not a stand alone child marriage project)	1.75%	1%

7) Description of the project/activity:

	Project/Activity #3, SC	Project/Activity #4, TDA
Start and end dates	2/4/02 to 2/3/07	1/30/02 to 1/28/07
Target population (youth – male/female, parents, policymakers, etc.)	Gambella, Afar, Somali and Oromia Regions	3 million, Tigray Region
Scope (single community, district, country-level, global, etc.)	1,500 Primary schools	400 Primary schools
Type of intervention (research, policy/advocacy, BCC, community mobilization, etc.)	Through Girls Advisory Committees established in 400 schools	Through Girls Advisory Committees working in 400 schools
Brief description of intervention/ approach (2-3 sentences)	Collaboration between the school and local government to stop child marriages and encourage married girls to return to school	In collaboration with Women’s Assoc, local government and the school, child marriages are stopped; married girls are encouraged to go to school.
List Materials/tools used	Communication and negotiation tools to use with parents	
Describe messages used	Primary girls education	Primary girls education

9) Project/activity outcomes:

	Project/Activity #3, SC	Project/Activity #4, TDA
Expected outcomes	Stop child marriage	Stop child marriage
Indicators	None	None
Any measured results or outcomes to date?	Has not documented the numbers	Has not documented the numbers

Additional Work Sheet, page 2

6) What kind of funds (list all that apply) are used to support your child marriage project/activities and what is the budget for these? (if you have more than 2 projects/activities, please use additional survey forms.)

	Project/Activity #5	Project/Activity #6
Type of funds (e.g. Pop Core, HIV Core, PEPFAR, Field Support, bilateral, etc.)	Field Support, Flex Fund, PLAN International	Field Support, Save the Children, Flex Fund Project
Total project budget (for either stand alone child marriage projects or other types of projects that include a child marriage component or activities)	\$30,000	\$107,218
% of total project budget devoted to child marriage activities (if not a stand alone child marriage project)	8%	25%

7) Description of the project/activity:

	Project/Activity #5, Plan	Project/Activity #6, SC Flex
Start and end dates		
Target population (youth – male/female, parents, policymakers, etc.)	750,000	58,000
Scope (single community, district, country-level, global, etc.)	Several districts in Amhara, and Addis Ababa	One district in Oromia Region
Type of intervention (research, policy/advocacy, BCC, community mobilization, etc.)	Mainly community mobilization, BCC and training of community leaders; sensitization to the community, Ministry of Justice, Education and Health	Research, advocacy and community outreach, BCC
Brief description of intervention/ approach (2-3 sentences)	Integrated rural development program (health, education and agriculture), community based reproductive health agents	Extend FP/RH services through community based reproductive health agents and provides home based life saving skills to reduce mortality
List Materials/tools used	Posters, “hope walls” like billboards and T-shirts. FP/RH materials on harmful traditional practices such as early marriage	CBRH materials on harmful traditional practices such as early marriage, posters
Describe messages used	Stop early marriage, educate girls	Stop early marriage, education is important

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9) Project/activity outcomes:

	Project/Activity #5, Plan	Project/Activity #6, SC, Flex
Expected outcomes	Informed teachers, religious leaders, health and justice officials	Not well defined for child marriage
Indicators	None	None
Any measured results or outcomes to date?	Has not documented the number of child marriages stopped.	Has not documented the results.

Additional Work Sheet, cont.

6) What kind of funds (list all that apply) are used to support your child marriage project/activities and what is the budget for these? (if you have more than 2 projects/activities, please use additional survey forms.)

	Project/Activity #7	Project/Activity #8
Type of funds (e.g. Pop Core, HIV Core, PEPFAR, Field Support, bilateral, etc.)	Field Support, Flex Fund, ADRA	
Total project budget (for either stand alone child marriage projects or other types of projects that include a child marriage component or activities)	Could not attribute direct costs	
% of total project budget devoted to child marriage activities (if not a stand alone child marriage project)	Unk.	

7) Description of the project/activity:

	Project/Activity #7, ADRA	Project/Activity #8
Start and end dates	10/03 to 10/07	
Target population (youth – male/female, parents, policymakers, etc.)	75,000	
Scope (single community, district, country-level, global, etc.)	15 communities in E. Shoa Zone of Oromia Region	
Type of intervention (research, policy/advocacy, BCC, community mobilization, etc.)	Research, advocacy, community outreach	
Brief description of intervention/ approach (2-3 sentences)	Provide RH/FP services and reduce harmful traditional practices such as early marriage; use of community based reproductive health agents	

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List Materials/tools used	FP/RH documents that address harmful traditional practices such as early marriage	
Describe messages used	Family planning, stop FGC and early marriage	

Additional work sheet, cont.

9) Project/activity outcomes:

	Project/Activity #7, ADRA	Project/Activity #8
Expected outcomes	Nothing specific for early marriage	
Indicators	None	
Any measured results or outcomes to date?	Has not documented the results of stopping early marriages.	