



PROJECT: PREVENTING CHILD, EARLY AND FORCED MARRIAGE

BACKGROUND

Nepal has the third highest rate of child marriage in South Asia. 37% of Nepali women aged 20-24 years were married by the age of 18 and 10% of them were married by the age of 15. According to the married women who were surveyed in the national census of 2011, approximately 75% were married before their 20th birthday, and over 100,000 girls were given away in marriage before the age of 10.

Similarly, another report reveals that 37% of girls in the Terai region who were married between 15 to 19 years have experienced sexual violence, and 19% of them have experienced other forms of physical violence. Early marriage is a violation of a child's human rights. Despite being prohibited by national law, it continues to rob thousands of Nepali girls who are below the age of 20. It denies rights of the girls to make vital decisions about their sexual health and well-being. It forces them away from education and into a life of poor prospects, with an increased risk of violence, abuse, ill health or early death.

PROJECT BRIEF

The overall goal of this programme is to reduce the prevalence of Child, Early and forced Marriages (CEFM) in Bardia, Kalikot and Jumla of Nepal. This will be done through a comprehensive approach that seeks to increase the agency of adolescent girls and boys to protect themselves and to exercise choice about their futures through education, economic empowerment, increased knowledge of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and life skills. The programme will also support families having daughters who are at high risk of CEFM to increase their income so that they can avoid early marriage.

The project will address underlying causes of CEFM through mobilizing communities to embrace norms that value the girl child and support girls and boys to delay marriage. Lastly, the project will advocate and strengthen laws and policies related to child protection, and their implementation.

The programme will benefit over 34,822 children, adolescents and youth, 112 schools and 88 communities. Disability will be mainstreamed.

OVERALL OBJECTIVES



"To reduce the prevalence of CEFM in Bardiya, Kalikot and Jumla of Nepal".

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Retention of girls in school
- Increased Knowledge of sexual and reproductive health and rights among adolescents
- Strengthened economic opportunities for girls and families who are at high risk of CEFM
- Communities embrace social norms that value the girl child and support them to delay marriage
- Increased responsiveness of duty bearers at national, district, and sub-district levels to prevent and respond to child rights violations, particular CEFM.

HOW DO WE ACHIEVE OUR OBJECTIVES

- Keeping girls in school
- Access to quality information on SRHR;
- Providing alternative pathways to education or economic empowerment for youths who are out of school).
- Engaging girls and boys to challenge discriminatory social norms by using Plan's Champions of Change methodology
- Promoting efficient and sustainable child protection mechanisms at national, district and sub-district level (prevent and respond)

PROJECT AREA



This project contributes to

5 GENDER EQUALITY

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Bardiya	Kalikot	Jumla
Rajapur Municipality	Raskot Municipality	Sinja Rural Municipality
Gulariya Municipality	Naraharinaath Rural Municipality	Hima Rural Municipality
Badhaiyataal Rural Municipality	Sannitribeni Rural Municipality	Kanaksundari Rural Municipality
Banshgadhi Municipality		

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Teachers, Parent-Teacher Associations, student cabinets and school management committees at 112 target schools will be trained in child rights and protection, code of conduct and inclusion.
- 1,250 out of school children, including 750 girls, will be brought back to schools.
- More than 34,000 adolescents, schools staff and other local actors will be trained on SRHR.
- 220 youth, including 165 girls, will be trained in vocational skills, entrepreneurship skills or work-related skills.
- 225 young women will be introduced to women's cooperatives that ensure access to investment capital necessary for income generation.
- 110 poor families will receive direct support to improve their economic situation.
- 13,200 members of the public will receive awareness raising on gender equality, child's rights, and CEFM.

- 3,185 girls and 1,045 boys will be engaged in awareness-raising sessions and dialogue that subsequently strengthen youth agency against discriminatory social norms and CEFM.
- Inter-generational dialogue will be facilitated between these youth and adults.
- The intervention will support capacity building of 16 civil society organizations including six well-established partner CSOs and ten informal community based organizations and networks.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

- Bheri Environment Excellence Group (BEE Group)-Bardiya
- Banke Unesco Club (BUC)-Bardiya
- Collaborative Action for Dignity (CAD) Jumla
- Children as a zone of peace National Campaign (CZOP) Kathmandu
- Human Right and Environment Development Centre (HuRENDEC-Nepal)- Kalikot
- Social Awareness and Development Academy(SAADA Nepal)-Kalikot