

International Conference on Child Marriage:
“Strength in Unity, Girls are not Brides”

A GLOBAL YOUTH PARTNERSHIP
TO END CHILD MARRIAGE-
KENYA

INTRODUCTION

- The Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender is mandated to design the blue print for guiding the implementation of policies, activities, projects and programmes towards youth development and empowerment/ gender affairs in Kenya in alignment with the provisions of the Kenya 2010 Constitution, Vision 2030 and the global Sustainable Development Goals.

THE OVERALL SITUATION IN KENYA

- 6% of girls are married before their 15th birthday
- 26% of girls are married before their 18th birthday
- 67% of married women aged 20-24 were married off as children
- Rural marriages have increased by 36%
- Prevalence varies across regions with the North Eastern and Coast regions being the highest while Nairobi and Central have the lowest rates

DRIVERS.....

- ◉ Girls viewed as either an economic burden or capital for their exchange value in terms of goods, money or livestock. (UNFPA, Child Marriage Profile: 2012)
- ◉ Socio-Cultural, traditional(e.g FGM) and religious factors play a critical role
- ◉ Urban-Rural Divide- women in rural areas are twice as likely to be married by their 18th birthday than those in Urban areas

THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN RAISING AWARENESS /ADVOCACY

- ◉ Legislation e.g the Marriage Act, 2014 that sets a uniform minimum age of marriage at 18 for both women and men.
- ◉ Provision of quality education e.g free Primary and Secondary Education
- ◉ Established laws that protect the girls and implemented programmes that empower them and protected from harmful cultural practices and exploitation-article 55,
- ◉ Establishment of NYC, Anti-FGM Board and Support for Civil Organizations

INITIATIVES IN KENYA IN RAISING AWARENESS / ADVOCACY

- ◉ Trainings on Alternative Rites of Passage
- ◉ Initiatives to retain Girls in School e.g the Okoa Dada-Provision of free sanitary towels
- ◉ Income Generating Activities e.g West Pokot Youth Group bee keeping- Cabesi Project
- ◉ Supporting Girls to go back to school e.g World Vision In Kajiado and Marakwet
- ◉ Implementation of Affirmative Action
- ◉ Provision of Financial Services through UWEZO, YEDF and WED Funds

INITIATIVES CONT.....

- ◉ Establishment of Talent Academies
- ◉ Psychosocial support for young girls
- ◉ Free medical Care for girls who have been defiled
- ◉ Children's Units in Police Stations
- ◉ Educational Scholarships for Vulnerable Girls
- ◉ Rescue Centres
- ◉ OVC-CT Program

CURRENT SITUATION; CASE STUDIES.....

- ◉ The standard' My story Wednesday May 18th 2016
- ◉ Tuwakuze Africa (Video)
- ◉ Girl Child Beading, A Community Sanctioned Child Exploitation And Abuse Among The Samburu Tribe Of Kenya

CURRENT SITUATION; CONT.....



Current Situation; Case Studies.....



CONCLUSION

- ⦿ Do not be defined by what is NORMAL
- ⦿ It takes a lot of courage to defy the Norm and stay TRUE TO OURSELVES

