



Amani Initiative

....together we can make a difference!

Amani Initiative

2018 Annual Report

The 2018 Amani Initiative report highlights the key activities implemented by the organization within 1st January to 31st December, 2018. It's to be used by both internal and external stakeholders of the organization to evaluate our impact but also use some of the learnings and recommendations to work towards ending child marriage and teenage pregnancy.

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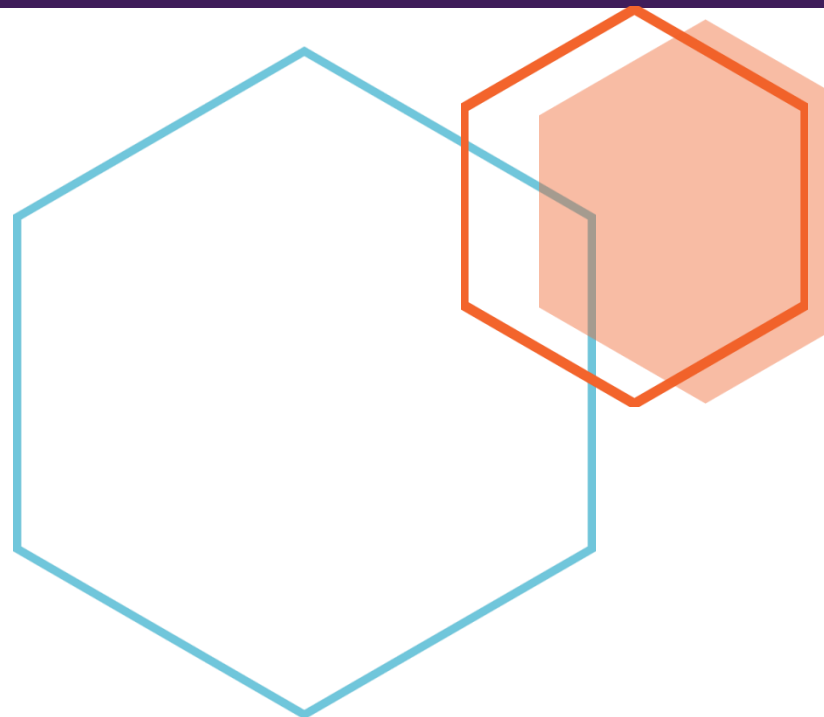


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Executive Summary

The 2018 Amani Initiative report highlights the key activities implemented by the organization within 1st January to 31st December, 2018. The activities highlighted in the report directly contribute to the achievement of our vision of creating a community whereby each child has an equal opportunity to quality education and develops to full potential without the impact of teenage pregnancy & early marriage

Amani Initiative together with the community dedicated this year to promote the implementation of the National policy to end child marriage and teenage pregnancy. We successfully reached out to over 500 community members through community dialogues, awareness sessions during religious and community engagements, information meetings, and political & budgetary meetings. This resulted into presentation of a petition by the community to end child marriage through setting up a by law and budget.

We also continued to promote education within the partner districts through career sessions, school fees scholarships, menstrual hygiene and management activities reaching to 10 schools and over 3000 learners.

Amani Initiative successfully organized two sexual and reproductive health camps and school outreaches to guide both in and out of school youth to make informed sexual & reproductive health decisions reaching to 150 youth within 2018.

Within 2018, Amani Initiative was actively involved with other stakeholders such as Girls Not Brides, Joy for Children in lobbying for National and International commitment to ending child marriage. We also signed a partnership with Peace Corps to attach a Peace Corps Volunteer at our Maracha Office for a period of 2 years.

Amani Initiative received an income of 43,146,100/= of which 9% was used for operation costs, 74% for direct program costs, 16% personnel costs, and 1% for capital costs.

MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER



I am pleased to present to you our 2018 annual report which marks 6 years since we got registered as a non-governmental organization.

Uganda has a very young population, with nearly half (47%) of its people under 15 years old. The choices that these young people and their parents make will affect the country's future for decades to come. Delaying marriage and pregnancy confer major benefits to girls and may also lead to societal benefits, such as improved health of children and faster economic growth.

I am extremely thankful to everyone who has been part of this report especially my colleagues, partners and community champions who enabled us achieve the results we are celebrating.

It's only by working together that we shall be in position to end child marriage and teenage pregnancy within our communities.

Nixon Ochatre
Founder, Amani Initiative

PHOTO GALLERY OF WHAT TO EXPECT IN THE REPORT



Use of advocacy messages to end child marriage



Capacity building of key stakeholders



Home visits with champions to stop child marriages



Learning visits to partners in Masindi district



Community dialogue on ending child marriage and teenage pregnancy in the community



Engaging key stakeholders such as police in the fight against teenage pregnancy and child marriage

FOCUS AREA ONE:- CHILD PROTECTION, ADVOCACY AND LOBBYING

As part of ensuring child protection, advocacy and lobbying; Amani Initiative undertook strategic activities within 2018 to ensure that child protection with a focus on sexual abuse, teenage pregnancy, defilement and child marriage are taken up as priority by the key stakeholders in charge. The activities implemented included:-

1. Training of District Orphans & Vulnerable Children Committees (DOVCC) and Sub-County Orphans & Vulnerable Children Committees on child marriage and teenage pregnancy through the National Strategy against child marriage and teenage pregnancy.
2. Community Dialogues
3. Mobilizing the community to petition the district to increase investment in ending child marriage and teenage pregnancy
4. Information workshops with key stakeholders to have their commitment in ending child marriage and teenage pregnancy.
5. School based sensitizations and awareness campaigns.

TRAINING OF DISTRICT ORPHANS & VULNERABLE CHILDREN COMMITTEES (DOVCC) AND SUB-COUNTY ORPHANS & VULNERABLE CHILDREN COMMITTEES

A training for the sub county District Orphans & Vulnerable Children Committees (DOVCC) and Sub-County Orphans & Vulnerable Children Committees was held on the 6th February, 2018 at the Maracha District Board room under the CSO led advocacy campaign to end child marriage with the objectives:-

- To brief the DOVCC and SOVCC on the existence of the NSCM&TP
- To support DOVCC and SOVCC to develop action plans to end CM&TP.
- To brief DOVCC and SOVCC on their roles and responsibilities in implementation of the NSCM&TP in their respective communities and support regular meetings on a quarterly basis



Figure 1 Amani Initiative staff taking the DOVCC's and SOVCC's through the NSCM&TP

A total of 30 participants took part in the 1 day training representing the project target sub-counties of Nyadri, Yivu, Oluffe, and Kijomoro. The participants informed the facilitator of the workshop that they had no idea of the existence the NSCM&TP.

The National Strategy on Ending Child Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy (NSCM&TP) is a holistic, comprehensive framework that reflects the commitment of the Uganda Government to end the practice of child marriage and other forms of violence against girls including teenage pregnancy as a consequence of child marriage. The vision of the strategy is a society free from child marriage and teenage pregnancy and it

runs from 2014/2015 – 2019/2020. It's a government strategy whose implementation is by government institutions, NGOs, and all citizens of Uganda interested in ending child marriage.

The strategy is guided by key principles which include:-

- Best interests of the child
- Survival and development
- Protection:
- Building on positive peer approach and participation:
- Building strong partnerships and linkages
- Community participation and leadership
- Non-discrimination
- Building on the positive social cultural norms
- Confidentiality and privacy

The participants were taken through the goal of the strategy which is . “Ending child marriage and teenage pregnancy for prosperity and social economic transformation,” as well as the two key objectives that the strategy aims to achieve that is to say:-

- ***To promote an enabling environment to end child marriage and teenage pregnancies by strengthening child protection mechanism sand enforcement of relevant legislation.***
- ***To influence changes in dominant thinking in regard to social and cultural norms that cause, drive and perpetuate the practice of child marriage and teenage pregnancies in society.***

As DOVCC's and SOVCC's at the district and sub-county it was agreed by the stakeholders present that the strategy directly contributes to their mandate and they have key roles to play to ensure implementation of the strategy. There was an open discussion which resulted into the roles and responsibilities below from the DOVCC's and SOVCC's.



The participants were then placed in groups and allocated different program areas of the NSCM&TP and requested to come up with action plans for each of them as shared below:-

NSCM&TP FOCUS AREA	ACTION PLANS
1. Improve legal and policy environment (with focus on child rights) to protect children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police protection unit to carry out community policing and sensitization to cultural leaders on legal policy with focus on child rights • Enforcement of the existing laws/legislation • Organize sensitization meetings related to children's act, and the national strategy to end child marriage and teenage pregnancy
2. Generation of relevant data and evidence for programming and monitoring progress towards ending child marriage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The district planning unit and District Community Development Officer and Sub county Community Development Office to avail data on child marriage • Amani Initiative to lobby and carry out baseline survey on child marriage • Data collection through Local councils, village health teams, police, elders, parish chiefs, religious leaders and community development officers • Sharing of relevant tools/data among the stake holders eg SD reference, health unit reports, OVC m/s
3. Changing communities mindsets, knowledge, aspirations, behaviors and social norms that drive child marriage and teenage pregnancies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership and linkages with various NGOS/ stake holders to sensitize the community on child marriage and teenage pregnancies • Community sensitization • Need for community dialogues on teenage pregnancy and child marriages
4. Increased access to quality protect , education, reproductive health services and other opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community sensitization on ending child marriage and teenage pregnancy • Need for counseling services for parents/children that are affected • Advocacy for children's rights • Linkages to service points/ institutions • Need to lobby for more NGO support • To encourage the district to allocate funds for youth friendly services e.g. in education, training of senior women and men teachers • In health, creating of special days to attend to youths (child mothers)
5. Empowerment of girls and boys with comprehensive and appropriate information on life skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable access to education and health services • District leadership to establish and lobby of more vocational schools • Formation of groups to benefit from government programs

6. Establish and strengthen structures and systems for implementing the NSCM and TP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enabling access to education and health centers • Building the capacity of implementing partners • Incorporation of the NSCM&TP in all major district activities and functions for sustainability
7. Coordination, monitoring and evaluation mechanism in place for effective management of the NSCM and TP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building the capacity of implementing partners
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint stake holders monitoring and review meetings • Need for quarterly meetings and reports • A monitoring and evaluation system should be developed with assistance of Amani Initiative and other developing partners

The training was also attended by the Assistant Chief Administrative Officer, Secretary Social Services, District Planner, DISO, media partners, Community Development Officers from the 4 sub-counties of project focus (Kijomoro, Yivu, Nyadri, Oluffe) and other key influential stakeholders that are key to driving the action points developed at the training.

POLITICAL AND BUDGETARY PLANNING AT DISTRICT LEVEL INCLUDING POLICY MAPPING, AUDIENCE ANALYSIS AND DECISION-MAKING PATHWAYS.



Figure 2 The RDC Maracha (Mr. Simon Lolim) opening the political and budgetary planning meeting

A political and budgetary planning meeting was undertaken on the 7th March, 2018 at the Maracha District Council Hall as part of engaging the district stakeholders to make key political and budget commitments to ending child marriage through operationalization of the NSCM&TP.

The planning meeting that was attended by 30 participants both from the political and technical wings of the districts aimed at 3 key objectives which included:-

- Political and budgetary planning at district level including policy mapping, audience analysis and decision-making pathways.
- Identify budgetary and decision-making processes influencing the implementation of the NSCM&TP,
- Development of tools to use and publication of findings

The audience in the budgetary planning meeting included the Deputy Local Council Five (LCV), District Planner, Resident District Commissioner, Secretary Social Services and different departments in the budgeting process at district level.

During the meeting; discussions focused on aligning the NSCM&TP focus areas to the budgeting process of the district where the various departments were urged to present their draft budgets to the council for approval. The Amani Initiative officers also shared with the participants of the request from the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development of the budgeting process where request for a budget to implement activities against child marriage should come from the district level thus the need for this meeting. It was also agreed that the district champions must take up the responsibility of presenting the issues of child marriage before the council since they are all executive members of the district.

The District planner who is mandated with the budgeting process informed the participants that the 2018/19 financial year budgeting process is still continuing and Amani Initiative should propose activities to address child marriage in the district that need to address child marriage.



Figure 3 the District planner (Mr. Kato Alfred) sharing the budgeting process to the stakeholders during the meeting

Four key areas were identified through which budgets on ending child marriage in the district can be incorporated i.e.:-

1. Education department
2. Health department
3. Social services
4. Community services

It was noted during the meeting that, community service is one of the underfunded departments in the district and yet it is very instrumental in solving the issues related to child marriage in the district. The district planner informed the participants that the budgeting process is ongoing and highly welcomed suggestions in the different district budget meetings through which this discussion can be taken further for consideration.

Family planning services have been offered to girls 10years old and above but it does not cater for the boy child.

Some of the sub county officials have also catered for the ending child marriage in their budgets and activities such as Nyadri Sub County that shared their work plan with Amani Initiative and included sensitization on child marriage.

GATHERING AND ANALYSIS OF COMMUNITY, SUB-COUNTY, DISTRICT AND GOVERNMENT ON CHILD MARRIAGE AND TEENAGE PREGNANCY.

The district planner and health department was engaged in 2018 to come up with district data related to child marriage and child births at district level to guide in advocacy for budgeting as well as developing activities to address child marriage.

Data was shared by the district planning unit on the population structure and the number of girl that have not been is school as shown in the tables below

Table showing total population by age group and sex in 2018

Age group	Male	Female	Total
0-9	34,063	31,860	65,923
10-19	24,266	23,811	48,077
20-39	17,415	25,511	42,966
40-59	8,651	11,909	20,560
60+	3,505	5,103	8,608
Total	87,900	98,234	186,134

Generally there are more females than males with the highest population of the district within the age group (0-9) of 65,923 out of the total population of 186,134 people. This is followed by the age group of 10-19 which stands at 48,077 out of 186,134.

This population portrays high levels of poor family methods and early child birth which is a need for sexual & reproductive health initiatives and sensitization of adolescents on child marriage and teenage pregnancy.

Population of children not in school and girls that have ever given birth

Sub county	Never been to school (15+)	Had births (12-17 years)
Kijomoro	3,885	1,248
Town council	1,299	1,450
Nyadri	2,235	1,772
Oleba	3,712	1,179
Oluffe	3,455	1,522
Oluvu	4,988	1,264
Tara	1749	1,571
Yivu	3,023	1,359
Total	24,346	11,365

A total of 24,346 children (15+) have never been to school which is a risk to child marriage for both the boys and girls. The data from the district also indicates that at least 11,365 girls between (12-17 years) have given birth. The data indicates a need for a stronger fight against child marriage in the district.

Gathering, collating and analysis of data and evidence from health centers (4), police (1), courts (1), schools (4 secondary schools) at district level on the incidence and repercussion of child marriage.

Amani Initiative collected data from 4 secondary schools, 4 primary schools, 4 health centers, the District Health Department, District Education Department, Chief Administrative Office, Courts of Law, Police with the objective to:-

- Gather evidence through focus group discussions, questionnaires and interviews, in four secondary schools, four health centers, from the 4 selected sub counties, court, police
- To help get evidence to be released in the quarterly report, in review meetings with the stake holders, and distribution of publications/messages for advocacy purposes

List of schools, health centers that took part in the data collection process

Sub-county	Primary School	Secondary School	Health Center
Yivu	Yivu Primary School	Yivu Secondary School	Abea health center
Kijomoro	Alivu Primary School	Kijomoro Secondary School	Kijomoro health center 3
Oluffe	Otravu Primary School	Otravu Secondary School	ovujo health center 3
Nyadri	Baria Pimary School	Maracha Domestic S.S	nyadri health center

Some of the information gathered during the data collection process from a section of respondents has been highlighted below:-

i. In the secondary/ primary schools

Many girls succumb to child marriages and teenage pregnancies due to parental neglect as many parents do not support their children with scholastic materials, school fees, and other personal needs thus they start to look for other alternatives out of frustration and mostly girls are mostly affected

ii. Courts of law

According to the grade one magistrate court in Koboko where most cases of child abuse in Maracha district are forwarded. The most reported case is defilement cases, others like child marriage and teenage pregnancy are rarely taken to court by the people.

iii. A case in point at health centers

According to information from the health centers of Kijomoro health center 3, ovujo health center 3, nyadri health center and Abea health center all by the nurses in charge of maternity, most of the child mothers who come seek antenatal care tend to increase their age to be adults and yet technically they are still below 18 years and many do not want to come for health services due to fear

iv. Police

Parents only report child abuse cases like defilement, child marriage, and teenage pregnancies to court to obtain police form 3 to access medical treatment and use the form as threat to obtain money and animals from the culprits but they cannot follow the cases to enable police forward it to the courts of law. Parents prefer to settle most of the cases at home



WORKING WITH DISTRICT CHAMPIONS AT NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY LEVEL TO LEAD ON ADVOCACY, ACT AS ENABLERS OF ADVOCACY INITIATIVES, LEAD PRESS CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS.

Five (5) more champions were identified to bring the total number of champions in Maracha to 30 people. At the end of 2017 Amani Initiative had identified 25 champions out of the target 30 champions. The champions are influential members of the community whose role is to influence decisions, budgets but also mobilize the community to stand up against child marriage.

The five champions brought on board this in 2018 and these included:-



1. Rev. Adroni K Alex – Archdeacon , Maracha District
2. Azama Yuda, elders in Yivu SubCounty
3. Guma Setty, elders in Yivu SubCounty
4. Adama Pius, elders in Yivu SubCounty
5. Adiga Lawrence, District Leader

Amani Initiative has closely worked with the district champions to lead district and sub-county level advocacy initiatives, community dialogues, and workshops dedicated to ending child marriage in the district. Ms. Bako Judith who is the Secretary of Social Services and also one of the district level champions spearheaded the facilitation of the briefing meeting that was held on the 22nd May, 2018 which also had other champions attending such as Mr. Anguzu Angelo, Mr. Azama Yuda and many others.

District champions have also participated in the two community dialogues in Oluffe and Nyadri sub-counties where the community stakeholders were brought together to come up with commitments on ending child marriage. The champions who participated in these dialogues included, Opendu George, Wadio Cisse, Anguzu Angelo, Abiriga Eric, Angu Ezaru Rose, Matua Joseph.



Figure 4 District champion joined the Amani Initiative to handle a family case of child marriage that was stopped and the girl taken back to school

AWARENESS RISING ON THE EXISTENCE AND IMPORTANCE OF THE NSCM&TP USING FACT SHEETS AND EVIDENCE REPORTS

Awareness creation is an important aspect to end child marriage as it gives the opportunity to reach the community with information. Awareness can be done in meetings, public gatherings, and celebration of public holidays, media and others.

Amani Initiative directly engaged with the 30 district champions to carry out awareness campaigns on ending child marriage through directly engaging with our champions against child marriage in Maracha District. These campaigns have been undertaken during public gatherings at places of worship, events such as the International Women's Day as well as community/home visits under two key objectives:-

- To sensitize the community on the importance of the national strategy to end child marriage and teenage pregnancy
- To prevent incidence of child marriage and teenage pregnancy in the community.

I. Health outreach by the district in Oluffe sub county

Since our activities have been incorporated with the district activities, opportunity was given to us to sensitize the community on ending child marriage and teenage pregnancies and to report cases of child marriage. The community was also encouraged to use the 116 child help line to ease the reporting of child abuse cases.



Figure 5 Sensitizing on child marriage during a health outreach in Oluffe Sub-County

II. Awareness during women's day celebrations on 8/03/2018 in Kijomoro sub county.

Opportunity was also given to us to sensitize the people during the celebration the message was per taken by different people who accepted to join the fight to end child marriage in their various capacities.



Figure 6 Maracha District Woman MP (Hon. Rose Ayaka) encouraging parents and community not to marry off their children because of pregnancy. They should be given an alternative to go back to school.

The woman member of parliament and the district LC5 chairperson who is also our champion sensitized the gathering on the dangers of child marriage and encouraged the people to also give chances for girls to go back to school after pregnancies

Information workshops for district and level officials (improve child marriage prevention support)

Information workshops were platforms at district, community and school level that Amani Initiative used to disseminate information on the prevention and response to child marriage and teenage pregnancy. The major

objective of the information workshops is to improve prevention support for child marriage in the community.

An information workshop was held on the 12th March, 2018 at the Maracha District Hall to share key information on what the different stakeholders were doing to address child marriage and incase of any cases of child marriage in the community or solutions that the different members had adopted to end child marriage. There was also a community dialogue on the 27th February, 2018 at Alikua Trading Center.

Community based dialogues



Figure 7 A Community leader and a Champion under the CSO led campaign sharing during the community dialogue

action points from the community members.

The community dialogue was organized to find out the status of child marriage, the causes, effects, perpetrators and action plans to the vice of child marriage and teenage pregnancy in Yivu Sub county with a total of 40 stakeholders out of the expected 25 stakeholders.

The stakeholders included:- elders, local council leaders, youths, child mothers, religious leaders, teachers and parents who were mobilized by our champions from the sub county.

The information workshop was conducted through a dialogue format and focus was placed on definition of a child, perpetrators of child marriage, causes of child marriage in Yivu Sub-County, consequences of child marriage, and lastly

According to these stake holders child marriage is so high in Yivu sub county therefore it needs collaborative efforts to fight the vice. Issues on child marriage were analyzed by the various stake holders and they defined child as a person who is not yet responsible and is still under the care of parents and guardians but it was agreed that a child is a person below the age of 18 years. The community members highlighted peers, parents, and out of school youth as some of the key perpetrators of child marriage within the community.



At the Community dialogue held in Nyadri Sub county, Baria Catholic Church, 38 participants (21-males and 17-females) participated in the dialogue out of the expected 25 it was noted that:-

- *-Girls are seen as source of income and meat especially in Lugbara were by a girl is called (Za-mva) Za- means meat and Mva means child which has culturally made it difficult to completely end child marriage.*
- Most of the community members are not aware of the 116 child help line and the few who are aware fear to use the number for fear they may be hold responsible for the case which can bring enmity between then

Causes of child marriage in Yivu Sub County

- Group influence
- Social amenities like discos, video shows, pornographic films, late night funerals
- Ignorance of the parents and children on how to handle child marriage cases
- The cultural influence of lugbara culture where girls are seen as source of income and food
- Religious influence, some of the religious activities the gather children in one place pave way for possible sexual conduct
- Poverty is also one of the causes of child marriage as girls are force to engage in early marriages as a way of survival and girls are seen as a source of income by the parents
- Lack of role models in the communities for the children
- The high rate of drug abuse in the area like, alcoholism, marungi and many others



- Parental neglect as some parents fail to take responsibility of their children thus the children are not brought up in the right way
- Cultural decay of communal upbringing of children as children are not disciplined by community members

Consequences of child marriage

- It leads to domestic violence
- Poor health of the children and child mothers
- High level of school dropout rates
- Increase in child neglect
- High levels of poverty
- Increase in the number of street kids
- Over population
- Girls start to engage in prostitution
- High mortality rate

Action plans to prevent and respond to child marriage within the community as highlighted by the members included the following.

- Massive community sensitization by the various stake holders like the media, Government, civil society organizations, religious and cultural leaders on child marriage in the community
- Parents in the sub county should be responsible for their children and protect them from risks of child marriage
- There will be continuous community dialogues in the sub county on child marriage
- The sub county should enact bi-laws on late night market operations, operation of discos and movie shows in the sub county to avoid the risk of teenage pregnancy and child marriage
- Children should be allowed to express them freely and openly to their family members as most cases they are sexually abused in silence and cannot share with their parents
- There should be family meetings organized at homes as families have a key mandate to guide their children especially related to decisions on marriage
- Peer education should be exercised to encourage more youth champions on the ending child marriage campaign.
- Victims of child marriage should be allowed to go back to school.

Information Workshop at the district.

The information workshop that was held on the 12th March, 2018 at the Maracha District Hall brought on board 20 key district stakeholders representing the police, religious institutions, technical wing, political wing, champions, sub-county leaders and many other key positions.

The information workshop focused on sharing and brainstorming on different strategies that Maracha district can adopt to fight against the high rates of child marriage in the district as highlighted in the presentations/feedback from stakeholders.

Broad Action plans to end child marriage in the district agreed by the district stakeholders during the information workshops

- Improve the legal and policy formation and implementation to help children at risk of child marriage, school dropout or teenage pregnancy through sensitizing community on the legal procedures on child marriage and child abuse in general.
- Elders to revise cultural policies of bride price and many other cultural taboos that do not favor women and girls or lead to child marriage
- Religious leaders to take up the campaign to end child marriage and improve prevention of child marriage through preaching against child marriage during their services with the congregation.
- The health at the district sector to improve health systems and provide youth friendly services especially on reproductive health as most teenagers have found themselves pregnant due to lack of services to reproductive health services such as family planning methods.
- Sub counties to come up with bi-laws to foster improvement of prevention of child marriage
- The district to involve all Nongovernmental organizations operating in the district in all district activities that improve on the prevention of child marriage
- The national strategy to end child marriage and teenage pregnancy should be implemented in the district through aligning district areas to the strategy especially under education, health and community development service sectors.

Roles of different stakeholders in ending child marriage as agreed during the information workshops.

Information from health department:-

The health department informed the stakeholders that services have been offered for child mothers including

1. Antenatal care
2. Family Planning services for girls 10years and above but it does not capture the boys child
3. HIV testing and counseling services

An issue was raised by one of the participants on why some child mothers are denied access to antenatal services when they visit without their husbands or fathers to the unborn babies.

However the issue was addressed by the district health inspector that it is a policy issue to go for the first visit with her husband but many times these young girls sometimes don't know their husbands or their husbands run away or the men who have impregnated them do not want escort them for the health services. Therefore priority is first given to women with accompanied by their husbands before those not accompanied are attended to.

It was agreed by the participants that this is a discriminatory policy that discourages child mothers from visiting the health services for antenatal care.

Information from sub counties:-

- Oluffe Sub County has formed the trading center committees in all the centers where they have agreed to no late markets beyond 7:30PM. This is because late markets put girls at risk of engaging in bad peer groups that can lead to teenage pregnancy and child marriage.
- Kijomoro sub county has come up with bi-laws to regulate late markets and selling of local brew which puts girls at risk of teenage pregnancy and child marriage due to influence of the local brew and bad peer groups.
- Kijomoro Sub County has reduced on the number of disco operations so as to reduce the risk of teenagers from going to these places that put them at risk of teenage pregnancy and child marriage.
- Kijomoro Sub County is planning to tender all markets and stop small markets from operation. It has been found that markets are a big harbor for exposure of adolescent girls to bad influence which leads to teenage pregnancy and child marriage.
- End of child marriage campaign is being integrated in other dialogues and out reaches in Kijomoro sub county
- Nyadri sub county has integrated ending child marriage in its work plan

Information from education sector

The education sector is doing its best together with the department of social services to see that these teenage and child mothers are given chance to go back to school for instance at Meki primary school a primary six girl impregnated by a primary seven pupil in the same school but the girl is willing to continue schooling. With the help of the head mistress the girl didn't drop out of school and currently is at school.

Information from the police

- Some of the cases are reported late especially defilement cases which need medical examination as evidence but since the case is reported late no substantial evidence is availed thus the case cannot be forwarded for further investigation
- Some parents come to police as a last resort after trying and failing to solve the cases at home
- However none of the reported cases have been taken to the central police because the parents do not show up to follow the cases therefore it becomes difficult for the police to refer such cases without the witnesses.
- Some parents only report to get police form to access treatment and to get compensation from the defiler.



Action point: the parents who have refused to report and follow up these cases should be taken to court.

Information from district youth representatives

- There is need for massive sensitization and should be availed with youth friendly services especially family planning services as most youth are sexually active.
- Life skills training should be given to the youth to earn their own living as most of them take part in activities that could lead them to child marriage due to idleness or poverty.

Information from religious leaders

- The Anglican Representative The Archdeacon Maracha (Rev. Adroni K Alex) has continued to sensitize the congregation on the issue of child marriage and teenage pregnancy
- And he is willing to include and invite Amani field officers to sensitize the congregation any time
- The catholic church is not totally against family planning but wants its congregation to use natural methods of family planning to prevent teenage pregnancies
- And the church doesn't support child marriage and is sensitizing its congregation on the dangers of child marriage and teenage pregnancy
- In Maracha Islam stands against child marriage and teenage pregnancy and is willing to support in the campaign

Communication from the new RDC

The issue of child marriage has become rampant today in every part of Uganda. “I have moved in different parts of Uganda but the issue of child marriage is high everywhere. Even in Karamoja region where I come from the situation is not any better” says Simon Lolim R.D.C Maracha.

He attributed the high level of child marriage and teenage pregnancy to societal and cultural decays because in the 70s and 60s the situation has not been alarming as this. He thanked Amani Initiative for taking the initiative to help children in Maracha district and he is ready to support the initiative in its work.

Information dissemination through media houses

Amani Initiative has been directly engaging with media houses in the region such as (Arua one fm Spirit fm Koboko, Radio pacis ,Voice of life and Nile fm) who agreed that there key role in preventing child marriage is through disseminating the news of ending child marriage and have always been reporting on the CSO led campaign on ending child marriage activities in the district.

School based awareness campaigns on child marriage.



Maracha District attended the meeting and committed to support the campaign

Kijomoro Sub-county organized school based awareness campaigns on child marriage at Lamila Ciru Primary School and Ombinyiri Primary School reaching out to over 1200 youth with information on how to protect themselves against child marriage.

The sessions with the students aimed at informing them of the dangers of child marriage and why they should remain in school and study before thinking of marriage. They were also encouraged to report all cases of child abuse through 116 and directly to someone they trust incase they are being abused.

District level briefing meetings

Two briefing meetings were held in quarter three on the 03/05/2018 and 22/05/2018. The meetings that comprised of different key stakeholders in the district from the political, technical wings, sub-county representatives, opinion leaders, district champions, child mothers and partner organizations aimed at two key objectives which included:-

- Follow up on district level action points on ending child marriage in the district
- Updates on the progress of the Ending Child Marriage; CSO led advocacy campaign project



Figure 9 Secretary of Social Services (Bako Judith) also one of our district champions facilitating a session during the briefing meeting in Maracha town hall

The 1st briefing meeting held on the 3rd May,2018 aimed at:-

- Follow up on district level action points
- Distribution and presentation of the quarterly project report providing district level evidence and data.
- Updating the stakeholders on the different activities under the campaign in quarter 3



A total of 25 participants attended the meeting with 17 being male and 8 females.

Successes identified during the briefing meetings.

- -Police have put in place a community policing project and planning to conduct 5 community meetings on child marriage, teenage pregnancy and defilement
- -The district preparing an ordinance to be passed under education to support marginalized girls.
- -DOVCC and SOVCC are now active and aware of the National Strategy against teenage pregnancy and child marriage.

- -The district has set up a system to collect data on Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVCs) who are at high risk of child marriage but data not yet available.
- -The community champions on ending child marriage have started with community sensitization especially taking part in community dialogues where they sensitize the masses on ending child marriage.
- The district under the education department has allocated two million in their budget to fight against child marriage
- Oluffe Sub County has formed the trading center committees to make sure that market days are started early and close early at least by 7:30 pm all markets should be closed. Late markets were realized as platforms which influence bad behaviors amongst adolescents that could lead to teenage pregnancy and child marriage.
- Oluffe Sub County is not awarding licenses for disco operation in the sub county as discos' in the community don't have age restriction which puts teenage girls at the risk of teenage pregnancy and child marriage.
- Kijomoro Sub County has set a by-law to regulate disco operations, and selling of local brew to children below 18 years.
- Community outreaches on child marriage and teenage pregnancy have been organized by Kijomoro Sub County in schools.

Lessons learnt

- -According to the police people agree that the issue of child marriage is high because of poverty, and ignorance of the law.
- The district does not have enough funds to support the project to the maximum hence more district lobbying on budget allocation needs to be adopted and if possible lobbying should also be at the central government level
- -Problem of logistics in the police department to conduct community policing to the people. For instance transport. CSO's should closely work with the police to support community policing.
- The district and sub counties do not have substantive data on child marriage and teenage pregnancy. Data collection stills a challenge as most children don't have birth certificates and cases not reported to the police or health centers.

Recommendations

- -Strengthening the role of DOVCC and SOVCC operations in the district through capacity building and lobbying for budget allocation to their activities.
- District and sub county need to be empowered on data collection on issues of child marriage and teenage pregnancy.
- -Community need to be sensitized on the importance of having a birth certificate and also supported to do so as birth certificates are key in handling cases of child marriage.
- -Facilitation for police to undertake community policing needs to be taken up
- -Need to lobby for more funds from other CSOs to support the issue of child marriage and teenage pregnancy in the district.
- -Political and budgetary planning process on child marriage need to trickle down from the central government to the local government's as well as they all need to understand that this is of strategic importance to the vision of the country. This activity should also be engaged at sub-county levels not just at the district level.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS WITHIN 2018 UNDER CHILD PROTECTION, LOBBYING AND ADVOCACY

- There has been an increased awareness on the issue of child marriage in the district and key stakeholders are getting more involved such as religious leaders, police, elders, and youth.
- Amani Initiative has been able to directly involve champions in creating awareness on the issue of child marriage in the community.
- Nyadri Sub-County has adopted the National Strategy against child marriage in its 2018/19 budget and work plan it will be presenting to the district.
- By laws on late night markets, discos have been enacted in Kijomoro Sub-County which will help in reducing the risk of child marriage.
- The media has been greatly involved in this advocacy whereby local radio stations in west Nile like. Radio pacis, Arua one fm broadcasted in news what we are advocating about during the launch of the project.
- Three cases of child marriage were reported to the police in Kijomoro Sub-County with only one case forwarded to the courts of law. The other 2 cases were dropped due to lack of evidence.
- The district education department has out in place 2,000,000/= towards supporting marginalized girls to stay in school.
- 3 child mothers have been integrated back to school to avoid the risk of being married off by their parents.
- The police has conducted 5 community police dialogues in which they shared with the community on laws against child marriage and how to report these cases.
- The SOVCC and DOVCC are now more aware of the National Strategy against teenage pregnancy & child marriage and they are putting in place strategies on how to include these activities in their work plan
- 2 community dialogues on child marriage organized in Oluffe and Nyadri sub-counties with 68 participants out of the 50 participants expected. These dialogues have enabled the project to reach out to other community stakeholders such as the elders and cultural leaders who have a strategic role in the fight against child marriage at the community level.
- Oluffe Sub County has formed the trading center committees to make sure that market days are started early and close early at least by 7:30 pm all markets should be closed. Late markets were realized as platforms which influence bad behaviors amongst adolescents that could lead to teenage pregnancy and child marriage.
- Oluffe Sub County is not awarding licenses for disco operation in the sub county as discos' in the community don't have age restriction which puts teenage girls at the risk of teenage pregnancy and child marriage.
- The district has set up a system to collect data on Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVCs) who are at high risk of child marriage but data not yet collected.
- Communication from secretary for social services indicated that the DOVCC and SOVCC are now active in the district and sub county levels.
- School sensitizations at Lamila Ciru Primary School and Ombinyiri Primary School reaching out to over 1200 youth with information on how to protect themselves against child marriage.
- District champions have continued to spearhead initiatives on ending child marriage through sensitizations at churches, community gatherings and also taking part in project activities.



Amani Initiative has continued to support equal and quality education opportunities for both girls and boys in Arua and Maracha districts through the Keep Me In School Program. The Keep Me In School program aims to prevent teenage pregnancy and child marriage through supporting in school youth with scholastic materials, school based outreaches on importance of education and supporting marginalized children with school fees scholarship.

Within 2018, Amani Initiative engaged 10 schools in school outreaches and supported 6 vulnerable girls to continue with their education through the school fees scholarship program. The school outreaches reached out to the in school youth with relevant information to stay in school and learn. The sessions that reached out to over 30000 youths covered topics such as adolescent sexual & reproductive health, career guidance, and avoiding negative peer pressure.

FOCUS AREA THREE:- ADOLESCENT SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH



Amani Initiative through the Community Health Educator organized and facilitated youth sexual & reproductive health sessions that focused on giving adolescent youths age appropriate sexual & reproductive health information to make informed decisions about their sexuality. The sessions involved in school sessions held in 3 secondary schools (Nyadri Urban, Oleba Seed and Maracha SS) as well as an out of school youth camp for 30 youth in the community in Yivu Abea that was facilitated by a professional health service provider.





Amani Initiative through Mr. Nixon Ochatre (Founder/Amani Initiative) joined over 500 activists from over 70 countries who came together at the recent Girls Not Brides Global Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, all working to end child marriage. There were so many exciting and informative discussions at the meeting as highlighted from the 10 action report from Girls Not Brides below:-

1. Collaborative action has impact – but the ‘how’ of partnership building is just as important as the ‘what’. We heard again and again about how working collectively at local, national, regional and global levels has led to some exciting successes – members have been able to effectively share learning, conduct joint advocacy, change local attitudes, influence national and regional strategies, leverage new resources, hold governments accountable and build South-South collaboration. However, for partnerships to thrive and have the greatest impact, they need to include a diversity of voices and be managed effectively. Participants spoke of the importance of building up mutual trust and respect between diverse members, having equitable structures and ensuring all voices are heard.

2. Young people are key change-makers. Throughout the Global Meeting, youth activists shared examples of how their work has led to concrete changes in the lives of girls. It was clear that if we want to end child marriage, we have to empower youth and youth-led organizations and ensure they have the agency to make decisions about their present and future.

“I have met people here from all over the world who are working on this issue. It has shown me that child marriage isn’t just a problem in my own country – it’s a global problem. That’s why we need a global solution,” said Nixon Ochatre, founder of the Amani Initiative in Uganda. “Now we need to go back to our communities and share what we’ve learnt, and go back to our governments to make sure they take action.”

3. Women and girls who have experienced child marriage are amongst the most powerful advocates in efforts to end child marriage, but they need appropriate support to share their stories safely and effectively. They must also be involved in designing policies and programmes to address the issue. Furthermore, it's critical that the global movement to end child marriage doesn't just focus on prevention – we have to address the needs of married girls in a holistic manner.

4. Addressing gender inequality has to be at the heart of everything we do. It is the fundamental cause of child marriage, and we need to recognize this across our work. We also need to address the diverse needs of women and girls to ensure we leave no girl behind. And we heard again and again that men and boys are not just part of the problem; they can be a key part of the solution to ending child marriage.



5. We're starting to tackle some difficult discussions. We may not always agree on how to address some key aspects of child marriage, but that's not a bad thing because important learning's emerge through debate. However, we need to have the courage to discuss some of these difficult topics – including sexuality, social norms and power and race dynamics – openly and respectfully. We're not going to make progress on ending child marriage if we're not willing to take these conversations beyond the Global Meeting.

6. There's more evidence than ever before on child marriage. We have seen major advances in new learning on the drivers of child marriage and effective responses, including on changing and measuring social norms, gender-transformative approaches, sexuality, informal unions and adolescent pregnancy. We heard about how child marriage can look quite different across countries, and even across regions within a country. In particular, discussions about child marriage in Latin America and South-East Asia highlighted some new issues that the global movement will need to consider further.

7. But we also have to deal with emerging challenges. We learned more about the impact of natural disasters, forced migration and conflicts on child marriage rates in different regions, and how we need to respond more effectively. Our members are also dealing with closing civic space and backlash from religious and political conservative forces. These can severely hamper efforts to end child marriage.

8. Community-based organizations bring unique skills to the table. Throughout the Global Meeting we heard about the innovative, flexible and locally appropriate approaches organizations are using to tackle child marriage and support married and unmarried girls in different regions, including in humanitarian contexts and fragile states. Examples of exciting programmes include community-based safe spaces for girls, inter-generational partnerships to challenge local norms and community empowerment programmes.

9. There's not enough money to bring about change at the scale we need. Efforts to end child marriage at all levels need adequate resources if we want to end the practice. Governments need to commit adequate budget lines to implement national strategies – and we will need to hold them to account. Civil society groups – especially working at the local level – are particularly underfunded, and we need to bring new donors into the field.

10. We need to grow the movement and coordinate better. If we want to make progress, we need to bring in new actors who focus on education, health, justice, economic empowerment, social protection, nutrition and humanitarian relief. We also need to go beyond our comfort zone, and create 'unusual allies', including religious leaders. And we will only be effective if we work together and break down traditional silos at the global, national and community levels, to avoid duplication of efforts and gaps in our response.

19 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

Amani Initiative joined World Women Summit Foundation (WWSF) to celebrate the 2018 19 Days of Activism. During the 19 Days of Activism campaign, Amani Initiative staff focused on bring attention about child abuse to communities in Maracha District. Staff hosted a community dialogue and school sensitizations to help community members, religious leaders, government leaders, parents, and children understand the urgency of the issue and to be able to solve the issue at a local level.

November 7, 2018- Sale of Children Community Dialogue



Amani Initiative hosted a collaborative meeting with care takers, Elders, religious leaders, and Local Council members from Nyadri Sub-County to discuss child abuse in their community. The discussion tackled the topics as to what abuse is happening, the causes and effects, and what actions individuals can take to eradicate child abuse. The meeting ended with a clear call to action for each individual. Many community members pledged to sensitize their families, friends, religious congregations, and villages on children's

rights and how to keep their community safe for all minors.

November 19, 2018- World Day Prevention of Violence against Children

In October, Amani Initiative staff introduced a poster and essay competition to Maracha Domestic and Oleba Seed Secondary Schools. We asked students to draw and to write essays with the prompt of "discuss child abuse in your community". The posters were to be used for advertising activities on November 7th and 19th and the essays were to help staff understand what students already know about child abuse and what they needed to learn.

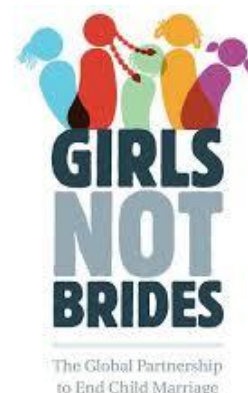


LIST OF BOARD MEMBERS, STAFF, VOLUNTEERS AND CHAMPIONS WITHIN 2018¹

S/N	Name	Position
1	Nassazi Eve	Chairperson, Board of Directors
2	Brian Musinguzi	Vice Chairperson, Board of Directors
3	Kisawuzi James	Treasurer
4	Ochatre Nixon	Team Leader/Secretary, Board of Directors
5	Nassaza M Sharon	Board Member/Finance Associate
6	Inzikuru Everline	Regional Program Coordinator- West Nile Region
7	Dranimva Patrick	District Program Coordinator- Maracha District
8	Nakamanya Moureen	Accounts/Administrative Assistant
9	Amanguru Florence	Associate Program Officer
10	Mallory Turner	Community Health Educator
11	Sunday Apangu	Associate Field Officer

¹ Amani Initiative closely works with Community Champions. In 2018 we worked with 25 Community Champions to implement our activities

WHOM WE WORKED WITH IN 2018



2018 FINANCIAL REPORT

Amani Initiative Profit and Loss Statement For the period 1st January- 31st December, 2018

Incomes

Founder Members Contribution	10,013,400.00
Joy for Children- Amplify Change	17,615,000.00
In Kind Contributions	15,517,700.00
Total — Income	43,146,100.00

Expenditure

Operation Costs	3,737,074.64
Programs Costs	31,981,256.00
Personnel Costs	6,772,000.00
Capital Costs	608,000.00
Total	43,098,330.64

Balance B/f	47,769.36
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