

AMPLIFY CHANGE PROJECT FINAL REPORT

(Ending Child Marriage in Uganda; A CSO Led Advocacy Campaign)

Girls Not Brides Uganda (GNBU) in partnership with Girls Not Brides Global Alliance received a grant from Amplify Change to strengthen the implementation of the National Strategy to End Child Marriage and Teenage Pregnancies in Uganda. The project was implemented in six districts of Maracha by Amani Initiative, Moroto initially by Child Rights Platform, Masindi by Child Empowerment and Development Organization (CEDO), Lyantonde by Child Aid Uganda (CHAU), Kasese by Uganda Youth Partnership (YPU) and Butaleja by African Women Services Trust (AWOST). The report will be focusing on the activities, lessons and recommendations undertaken by Amani Initiative in Maracha District.

The project was implemented for a period of 18 months running from **1st September, 2017 to 29th February 2019**.

The key 4 objectives included:-

Objective 1: Mapping, gathering evidence, developing and printing messages and publications for advocacy purposes (SF 2, in the NSCM)

Objective 2: Advocacy at national and 6 district levels to increase commitment to combatting child marriage (SF1, SF 4.5.1, 4.5.6, 4.5.3, 4.5.5 NSMC)

Objective 3: Building Capacity of Local District Government in 6 districts to operationalize the NSCM & TP (SF, 4.5.6, 4.5.3, 4.5.5,)

Objective 4: Monitoring & Evaluation (SF7Co-ordination, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms in place for effective management of the NSCM)

The Project had major Milestones for reporting to Amplify Change, these included;

1. Attitudes, behaviours and recommendations collected from six districts and data analysed for use in evidence-based advocacy against child marriage.
2. Final Report including best practices and Infographics produced.
3. Six GNBU Alliance members in the project mentored in three key areas identified during the (OCA) Capacity Assessment. Mentoring conducted by organizations identified as “thriving” on the OCA.
4. GNBU Alliance members nominate engaged stakeholders, community leaders, religious leaders, cultural leaders, and youth leaders to execute petitions.
5. Policy mapping, best practices, audience analysis, and lessons emerging from the project documented reviewed and shared with the GNBU alliance.
6. Champions’ Toolkits created to help increase awareness and engagements on evidence-based advocacy Strategies to End child marriages.
7. Development of decision making path way.
8. Ethical clearance certificate from Makerere University.

II. PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS;

Activity 1.3: Gathering and analysis of government data for the district (data from district structures, subcounty structures and line ministries).

In Maracha district, statistical data by the District Health Officer on teenage pregnancy and child marriage according to a report from health centers in Maracha district(2016/2017) show that the total percentage of teenage pregnancy is at 22.3% in the district and it is segregated by sub county as follows;

- Kijomoro subcounty 39.9% ; Oleba Sub County 19.6%
- Nyadri sub county 22.6% ; Tara Sub County 19.4%
- Yivu Sub county 20.2% ; Oluvu Sub County 17.7%
- Oluffe Sub County 17.4%

Activity 2.1 Identify and work with 4 champions at district Level and 4 from each of the 4 selected sub counties to lead on advocacy, act as enablers of advocacy initiatives, lead press conferences and workshops on ending child marriage.

In Maracha district, a total of 25 champions out of the 30 expected have been identified and these include local leaders, religious leaders, parents, sub-county chiefs, parents and victims of child marriage. Distribution of selected champions at different levels is illustrated below:-
District- 2, Yivu Sub- County, Nyadri Sub-County- 3, Kijomoro Sub-County- 5 and Olufe Sub-County- 7.

Activity 2.2: follow up meetings to strengthen influential partners or engaged stakeholders

The Q1 follow up meeting was held together with the probation and well fare officer (Mr. Sam Dramani) of Maracha district to discuss how far the issue of child marriage have been addressed in the district. The meeting was attended by Patrick Dranimva (District Coordinator) and Inzikuru Everline (Regional Coordinator) at the Maracha District headquarters. According to the information from the probation and welfare officer child marriage and teenage pregnancy rate is very high in Maracha district but it has become difficult to fight the vice because of financial constraints because the budget is not flexible to completely address the issues of child marriage and teenage pregnancy.

Activity 3.2.1: Briefings and meetings regarding district level progress (in conjunction with quarterly evidence report)

Amani Initiative organised a briefing meeting to give feedback on the activities that have been carried out in the district and also to get feedback from the district stake holders on the impact of the project and how best to incorporate it the different departmental sectors in the district. The meeting was scheduled for 29/11/2017 at the district board room and was attended by the different sector heads, CSOs, police and opinion leaders with expected 15 participants but 17 attended. It started by a prayer that was said by one of the participants and introductions of the various participants. The project officer gave over view of the activities that have been carried out in the due course of the quarter that is the project launch, baseline evaluation, mapping of champions briefing meetings etc, and affirmed that the issue of child marriage is a very serious issue and it

needs collaborated efforts and commitment from various stake holders to fight the vice in the district.

Activity: 4.1.1 Baseline Evaluation:

Amani Initiative conducted the baseline evaluation from 09- 15/11/2017 to get information from the community, opinion/cultural leaders, district stake holders, and the Civil society organizations operating in the district to assess the causes, impacts and possible solutions that can be identified to help fight child marriages in the communities. The baseline survey was conducted in four sub counties of Yivu, Nyadri, Kijomoro and Oluffe with expected 8 correspondents from each sub county and a total of 32 correspondents were reached. Data was collected using tools shared and approved by Joy for Children and will be shared to Joy for Children for analysis.

Challenges identified from the baseline survey:

- Lack of bi-laws at sub county level on child marriage
- Lack of clear strategies on handling the child marriage and teenage pregnancy issue
- SOVCCs are in place but nonfunctional.
- Lack of finances at sub county level to enable them carry out their roles
- Most community members are not aware of the 116 child help lines. Especially in Maracha district no one has ever used the line to report child abuse cases.
- There is still increased fear to disclose information or names of people violating the rights of children in their communities especially information pertaining rape defilement and those girls who get married at an early age in their respective communities.
- Most of the leaders know nothing about the national strategy to end child marriage and teenage pregnancies which has slanged down their performance to put it at end.

Recommendations:

- Localize and implement own bi-laws as sub counties on key issues relating to CM&TP.
- Strengthen quarterly SOVCC meetings
- Revise the sub county budget and cater for the SOVCCs activities.
- Budget commitment should be directed towards dialogues and community sensitization because the community is still reluctant and do not sseriously take the issue of child marriages into consderation and the use of the 116 child help line should be emphasised for easy reporting of child abuse cases.
- A witness program strategy should be designed to protect the identity of people who volunteer information in communities on child marriage and teenage prengancy.

QUARTER TWO:- DECEMBER 1, 2017 – 28TH FEBRUARY, 2018

1. Project Accomplishments:

Activity 1.1*Political and budgetary planning at district level including policy mapping, audience analysis and decision-making pathways.*

In Maracha, a political and budgetary planning meeting was undertaken 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 out of the expected 40 participants 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 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 focussed on aligning the NSCM&TP focus areas to the budgeting process of the district were the various departments were urged to present their draft budgets to the council for approval.

The 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.

Activity 1.2: Gathering and analysis of government data for the district (data from district structures, sub county structures and line ministries)

The district planner and health department were engaged during this quarter 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 in school as shown in the tables below

Table showing total population by age group and sex

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 atleast 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.

Activity 1.3: 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 heath 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

Activity 2.1: Identify and work with district champions at National Level to lead on advocacy, act as enablers of advocacy initiatives, lead press conferences and workshops.

Amani Initiative directly engaged with the 30 district champions to carryout 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 Womens 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.

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, celebration of public holidays, media and others. Amani Initiative has also printed out 40 t-shirts with information on ending child marriage as part of awareness on child marriage in the district.

QUARTER THREE:- JUNE 1– AUGUST 30TH, 2018

II. PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2.2 Gathering, collecting and analysis of data and evidence from health centers, police, courts, schools at district level on the incidence and repercussion of child marriage.

Amani Initiative in Maracha collected data from police stations, district planner and Wadra health center III.

- According to the information from WADRA health centers 3 of which no cases child mothers who attended antenatal below and within the age of 13-14 but a considerable number was from age 15-17 were registered in Wadra health center 3 in yivu sub county of which 80 girls between the ages of 15-17 years attended antenatal in the last one year In wadra health center.
- While according to the officer in charge at Yivu sub county 6 defilement cases have been reported in the last one year
- The district planner did not have any new data on child marriage as the only available was the same shared during the Q2 report.

2.3 Follow up meetings to strengthen influential partners or engaged stakeholders

Amani initiative held two follow up meetings with influential stakeholders with the aim to keep stakeholders involved in the campaign but also follow up their action points in ending child marriage. These included meetings with the district leaders and the clan leaders/elders from Kijomoro Sub- County.

2.4 Identify and work with district champions at National Level to lead on advocacy, act as enablers of advocacy initiatives, lead press conferences and workshops.

Amani Initiative closely worked with the 30 district champions to conduct community dialogues, participate in briefing meetings and school awareness campaigns under the Ending child marriage in Uganda; a CSO advocacy campaign. The champions took part in drafting the petition that was presented to the district council at the end of August, they are also currently collecting signatures to add value to the petition with 79 signatures collected by the 20th August, 2018.

2.5 Awareness raising on the existence and importance of the NSCM&TP using fact sheets and evidence reports.

An Amani initiative awareness on the existence of the NSCM&TP was conducted through a community dialogue in Kijomoro Sub-county that was attended by district leaders, district champions, sub-county leaders and local members of the community

2.6 Quarterly meetings with district officials and key influential stakeholders to share lessons and good practices to inform policy reviews and formulation.

Amani Initiative held a briefing meeting and a quarterly meeting on the 20th August, 2018 at Burra Church Hall. The quarterly meeting was key to evaluating the progress of the project to end child marriage in Maracha district and to share lessons and good practices to inform policy reviews and formulation.

QUARTER FOUR (1st SEPTEMBER, 2018- 30th NOVEMBER, 2018)

PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Activity 1.3: Gathering and analysis of government data for the district (data from district structures, sub county structures and line ministries).

- Data was collected from police stations, district planner and Wadra health center III.
 - According to the information from WADRA health centers 3 of which no cases child mothers who attended antenatal below and within the age of 13-14 but a considerable number was from age 15-17 were registered in Wadra health center 3 in yivu sub county of which 80 girls between the ages of 15-17 years attended antenatal in the last one year In wadra health center.
 - While according to the officer in charge at Yivu sub county 6 defilement cases have been reported in the last one year
 - The district planner did not have any new data on child marriage as the only available was the same shared during the Q3 report.

Activity 2.2: follow up meetings to strengthen influential partners or stakeholders are engaged in ending child marriage

Follow up meetings with influential stakeholders aimed to keep stakeholders involved in the campaign but also follow up their action points in ending child marriage. Two meetings were held as part of the activity. These included meetings with the district leaders and the clan leaders/elders from Kijomoro Sub- County:-

Activity: follow up meeting with elders/clan leaders

- The meeting with elders /clan leaders was very important in order to sensitize and understand the roles they play in ending or fueling child marriage.
- Elders and clan leaders are key stakeholders at ending child marriage which was the basis for this meeting. The clan leaders speak for all people so bringing them on board in ending child marriage is key to the success of the campaign.
- The meeting started with an open remark from the sub county chief Kijomoro sub county who thanked and welcomed the elders for turning up for the meeting and acknowledge that the issue of child marriage is affecting us in the communities and yet the elders do not take the issue seriously.

Key issues raised and resolved by clan leaders during the follow up meeting with clan leaders of Kijomoro Sub-County:-

- The sub county chief Kijomoro sub county said that the children are not only subjected to teenage pregnancies but also prostitution, and the babies that are produced are abandoned with the elders at home. The rate of child marriage is high in Maracha district which is putting a lot of pressure on the limited resources the district has.
- According to Mr Abdul Muhammad, children these days are children are misbehaved unlike in the past years when children used to listen to elders and were communally brought up and any community member could punish a child unlike today were children have become unruly due to the western culture
- Mr. Ondia Alex the Chairperson elders forum for Kijomoro sub county urged the clan leaders to be exemplary and act according to the law of Uganda which does not allow settling of child marriage cases at homes and encourage the clan leaders to be mouth piece to denounce child marriage and also sensitize community members to leave this bad act and not to mind much about bride price but the future of the child and should encourage parents to send their children back to school after issues of teenage pregnancies since education is very important to keep the children safe.

Meeting with district leaders

- The meeting was held together with the District Planner and the new Chief Administrative Officer of Maracha district to discuss how far the issues of child marriage have been addressed in the district plans.
- According to the information from the district planner child marriage and teenage pregnancy rate is still very high in Maracha district but it has become difficult to fight the vice because of financial constraints because the budget is not flexible to completely address the issues of child marriage and teenage pregnancy.
- *However the district planner advised Amani Initiative to follow keenly the district education department since they had a budget line catering for child marriage and teenage pregnancy issues*
- The new Chief Administrative Officer Mr. Lomongir Joseph offered his support toward this project and accepted to work together with Amani Initiative as he keeps on learning the activities carried out in the district.

Activity 2.3: Awareness raising on the existence and importance of the NSCM&TP using fact sheets and evidence reports.

Awareness on the existence of the NSCM&TP was conducted through a community dialogue in Kijomoro Sub-county that was attended by district leaders, district champions, sub-county leaders and local members of the community

- Community dialogues is one of the strategic approaches Amani Initiative adopted to bring together key community stakeholders to learn, share and advocate for strengthened fight against child marriage within the community.
- The dialogues are facilitated by representatives selected from the district champions under the CSO led advocacy campaign to end child marriage, the champions take lead in mobilizing the community members and facilitating the sessions at the dialogue.

- The dialogue in Kijomoro Sub County held brought on board different stake holders like the elders, local council leaders, parents, youths senior women teachers etc.
- The community come up with community statements and action points towards ending child marriage in the community.

Some issues of concern raised by the community members during the community dialogue:-

- According to the Local Council Five Vice Chairperson Mr.Asiku Robert who also doubled as our district champion the rate of child marriage is high in Kijomoro Sub County because the people are ignorant and look at girls as source of wealth which is a very bad habit.
- The elders agreed that child marriage is a problem in the sub county because some of the parents do not want such cases to be reported to police and choose to settle the issue out of courts because the opt to get wealth instead of getting wealth and they blame the immoral and disrespected ways of lives of young people, watching of pornographic videos and the rampant drug abuse where the young people indulge in chewing Marungi, opium, alcohol consumption. Which make young people to be immoral.
- Elders also stressed that in the past years children were brought up communally and children belong to the community unlike today where a child belong to their parents and disciplining of the children is seen as child abuse by the government today
- The youth representatives agreed that most of the youths today have become unruly and they behave recklessly, they do not want to listen to advice from elders and due to bad peer influence most of the children indulge in unprotected sex thus increase in child marriage and teenage pregnancy
- The senior woman teacher emphasized that children should be followed by their parents to school and the parents should give time to their children and nurture them because when there is no parental guidance the teachers may not do much because the children becomes unruly at school
- The parents also agreed that children have become disobedient because of the polygamous life of men who marry more than one wife with many children, thus the children become disrespectful and it becomes difficult for the parents to discipline children. Polygamy has also led to gender based violence at homes, increase in cases of child marriage and teenage pregnancy.

School based awareness campaign on child marriage

Awareness creation in schools was also conducted whereby, at least 3 primary schools were reached in Kijomoro sub county that is at **Kijomoro Primary School on 12th /7/2018** where over 500 pupils sensitized on the causes, dangers and how to fight child marriage and teenage pregnancy.

QUARTER FIVE PROGRESS REPORT:- SEPT 1, 2018 – NOVEMBER 30TH, 2018

II. PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2.2 Gathering, collecting and analysis of data and evidence from health centres, police, courts, schools at district level on the incidence and repercussion of child marriage.

Amani Initiative collected data on child marriage from Loinya Primary School, Loinya Health Centre and Wadra Health Center. Data from the health centre revealed how 80 girls between the ages of 16-17 years attended antenatal in the last one year, and 17 teenage mothers were receiving antenatal care at Wadra Health Center. Data on child abuse was collected from police on cases that have been reported in the quarter. At Loinya P/S 2 girls had become pregnant and 5 pupils including 3 girls and 2 boys had married off in the last one year.

2.4 Identify and work with district champions at National Level to lead on advocacy, act as enablers of advocacy initiatives, lead press conferences and workshops.

Amani Initiative closely engaged with the 30 champions selected in quarter one to implement activities such as the community dialogue and meeting with clan leaders. Meeting with clan leaders and elders was attended by 20 members who included 14 males and 6 females. The champions called upon the clan leaders to be exemplary and act according to the law of Uganda, which does consider settling of child marriage cases at homes but be mouth pieces to denounce child marriage.

3. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Key Achievements, Challenges and Constraints Opportunities

- Amani Initiative came up with a Petition containing 175 signatures of concerned citizens of Maracha has been submitted to the speaker through the clerk to council and the petition was presented to the council by the leader of government business in the council which was seconded by the councillors on 5th/10/2018 and a committee is to be set to draft a petition within a period of two years.

QUARTER SIX PROGRESS REPORT DECEMBER 1, 2018 – FEBRUARY 28TH, 2019

II. PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2.2 Gathering, collecting and analysis of data and evidence from health centres, police, courts, schools at district level on the incidence and repercussion of child marriage

Amani Initiative continued to gather more data from 4 health centres. From the data findings, the issue of child marriage in Maracha district is still a great challenge and many of the child mothers are hesitant to go for antenatal services for fear of stigmatization.

Amani Initiative further conducted an end line data collection. Data was collected from the District Education Officer, District Health Officer, Probation Officer, Chief Administrative Officer, Officer in Charge Maracha Police Station, Head teachers from 4 partner schools (2 primary and 2 secondary), Clan Leaders, Health Service Provider, Chief Administrative Officer, LC1 chairpersons, elders. According to the information provided by those relevant respondents, child marriage is still an issue in the district it needs more effort to fight the vice.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Child mothers have been monitored by the champions to protect them from being married off or dropping out of school a case in point is the head teacher of MEKI Primary School who has successfully accepted and taken care of the girl until she has given birth
- Community outreaches on community health and nutrition together with sensitization on child marriage and teenage pregnancy are being conducted by our champions. Sensitization in schools, churches and in the community has been going on by our champions who have taken the responsibility of being a mouth piece to the community on ending child marriage. These activities are being done without any financial support by Amani Initiative which is a positive sign of sustainability and ability to scale up the campaign.
- Clan leaders/elders from Kijomoro sub-country committed to end child marriage through stopping child marriages. This was after the follow up meeting with them about child marriage.
- The posters been distributed both in English and local language have helped in creating awareness to the community as people are getting concerned on learning more about the project thus great awareness to the people.
- The district education department has a budget in place to fight against child marriage and teenage pregnancy within the district.
- The new Chief Administrative Officer of Maracha district has committed to support Amani Initiative in the fight against teenage pregnancy and child marriage in the district.
- The drafted petition have been taken up by the community of Maracha district to be signed. It will be presented to the district leadership at the end of the month for the council debate and discussion.

CHALLENGES

- The district has inadequate budget to cater for and support all the projects in the district
- There is been information gap in the communities since community leaders like the local council leaders, head teachers, religious leaders do not timely alert the community on child marriage cases
- Child marriage increases the rate of HIV/AIDS in children as children are exposed to sexually transmitted diseases through sexual conduct
- Some community members are not happy of the head teacher MEKI Primary keeping pregnant girls in school which is a sign that the community still has a negative attitude towards a pregnant teenager who decides to continue with her education.

RECCOMENDATIONS

- The project should start working on sustainability, scaling and handover the campaign to the community and local district structures through integration of activities within existing structures.
- Review meeting which includes key district representatives from the 6 partner districts should be brought together for knowledge sharing and learning meeting.