



REPORT ON THE AUC EVALUATION MEETING ON YOUTH VOLUNTEERS' CONTRIBUTION TO THE AU CAMPAIGN TO END CHILD MARRIAGE

**Ford Foundation Offices, Johannesburg- South Africa
31 October-1 November**



- The AU representative on the AU Campaign to child marriage on behalf of the AU Commissioner for Social Affairs- H.E. Amira El-Fadil welcomed all the participants for making time to attend this key evaluation meeting and sincerely thanked the Ford Foundation as a major financial supporter to the Campaign including the youth volunteer engagement with the collaboration of the AU Youth division, and also appreciated Ford for availing their offices as a venue for the meeting.
- She proceeded to give an overview of the AU campaign and the ongoing initiatives within the framework of the Campaign particularly follow with Member states post launches through country visits and the upcoming 2nd African Girls summit on Ending Child marriage of which the main theme will be 'Enough of the silence in addressing adolescent SRHR.' She also briefly informed the meeting of the AGCCI initiative (African Girls Can Code), a collaboration between AU, UNWOMEN and ITU which aims in encouraging girls to pursue STEM subjects, the first training boot camp took place in Addis Ababa from 20 – 31 August 2018 and it brought together 88 girls from 32 countries from all five regions in Africa to be trained on ICT and programming.
- She stated the objective of this evaluation meeting on the youth volunteer project on ending child marriage would be an open discussion on the campaign, experience sharing and a learning opportunity that will inform the way forward and how better to engage ministries at country level and other stakeholders on ECM. She explained that initially 8 volunteers were deployed to the following pilot countries: Burkina faso, Chad, Egypt Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi and Zimbabwe; but due to various circumstances 2 of the volunteers from who were deployed to Burkina faso and Egypt had resigned before completing their volunteering.
- The meeting started with each of the youth volunteers who were deployed to Chad, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi and Zimbabwe respectively to work in Ministries working to end child marriage to each make a brief presentation on their experiences including achievements and challenges during their one year deployment.

**Highlights of the presentations and discussions:
Common Challenges faced by youth volunteers,
in their countries; Specific countries challenges
and structural challenges- AUC**

Recommendations

Common Challenges

- # Lack of stakeholders engagement
- # Lack of capacity building
- # Lack of coordination
- # Unwillingness to share information
- # The gender department is the least funded in the government
- # Limited financial resources in terms of the monthly stipend that AU pays to the volunteers
- # Logistics shortages such as (Laptop, internet, lack of office space)
- # Suspicion and mistrust faced by the volunteer from the Ministry staff they were assigned to work with

Country specific challenges

- # Lack of trust from the host Organization
- # Challenges with work permits
- # Child marriage as a result of strong religious and cultural practices as well as the family and peer pressure

Proposed way forward

- # Increase strategic partnership by the host organization with stakeholders to yield better financial resources
- # Developing a package of orientation or induction for the host countries.
- # The AUC should access and consider reviewing the remuneration of volunteers.
- # Mentorships for future volunteers to be deployed to member states before they start their deployment and in between.
- # the AU should ensure that they have either a host agreement or another key document beyond note verbales to ensure that the

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # Sexual harassment (unprofessional working environment) # Political instability (Volatile situation) # Difficult living condition # Cultural shock # Limited funding # Logistics # Geographical barriers 	<p>countries (Ministries in ending child marriage) where the volunteers are being deployed are ready to receive and work with the volunteers;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> # Volunteers should be trained in order to increase in order to increase their capacity and handle cases of sexual harassments # The AUC should consider the state of the country before deploying volunteers. # Organizing a forum for volunteers to share experiences and lessons learnt. # The AUC should organize mentorship or training of trainers for volunteers.
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Agenda 3: The way Forward for Volunteers

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteers to be mentors for other youth volunteers. • Visits in the countries where volunteers were deployed for an evaluation, volunteers to partake in the visits. • It was proposed that ECM volunteers should be part of the African CDC 1 year fellowship 	
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<p>program</p>	
<p>Agenda 4: Media Engagement in the campaign</p>	<p>Developing communication strategies</p>
<p>Anteneh Belay opened a discussion on the importance of media engagement in the campaign and the strategies that are used in the specific countries where volunteers are deployed. The following points were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ In Malawi key messages were developed as well as the mobilization of artists and traditional leaders ✚ The key messages for media need to be branded, creative such as mobilizing of artists, experts and champions ✚ In Chad the media takes part in every activity organized by the ministry, the radio and tv and newspapers are the most common form of media however people in rural areas are not informed thus a need to increase community dialogue in urban areas ✚ Lesotho strategy. Child marriage champions, the princess Senate is used as a role model to advocate for the ECM campaign. She is a role model for her 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting the ECM campaign by using communication channels such as tv, radio and social media • Community dialogue, depending on the targeted group • The importance of social media in the campaign • The use of social media is crucial but it is important that the content are not hurtful to others and the wrong messages are delivered.

<p>peers, she is young, influential and educated.</p>	
<p>The importance of volunteers learning skills in deployment</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A presentation was made by Ondela Manjezi- a youth volunteer in the department of Social Affairs working on crosscutting Health and nutrition issues• She further mentioned the skills she was able to develop throughout her deployment	
<p>The way forward in Ford Foundation support to the youth volunteer engagement on ending child marriage</p>	

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ford foundation will continue to supporting the campaign and also the youth volunteer engagement on the campaign• The AUC will have to develop a framework on sexual harassment before the signings of any contracts with Ford foundation | |
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Participants Present:

1. Nicolette Naylor- Director: Ford Foundation)
2. Otto Saki Ford Foundation
3. Nena Thundu- AU Department of Social Affairs
4. Daniel Adugna- AU Youth Division
5. Eka Williams -Ford Foundation
6. Anteneh Belay- media consultant
7. Rahel Ayteneu- AU Youth Expert
8. Alpha Bah - AU Youth Expert
9. Ondela Manjezi - AU Youth Expert
10. Marlaine Nouatin - AU Youth Expert
11. Mohamed Sal Barrie - AU Youth Expert
12. Noha Fouad - AU Youth Expert