

ENDING CHILD MARRIAGE CAMPAIGN

*ECM ACTIVITIES
IN
LESOTHO*

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YOUTH VOLUNTEER

1. ACTIVITIES



- **ADVOCACY**

- Community dialogue & sensitization in selected districts. There has been Community Dialogues by District Child Protection Teams in Thaba Tseka Mafeteng, Mochale Hoek, Leribe, Butha Buthe and next week in Maseru district.
- Children's parliament with ECM as a core component.
- Appointed National Champion on ECM (Princess Senate)



- **MONITORING AND EVALUATION**
- Quarterly report
- Monitoring progress



● **FACILITATION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

- Amendment of the Child Protection and Welfare Act (CPWA) of 2011 to include sections on child marriage.
- National Vulnerable Children Committee meetings (NOCC)
- Stakeholder Engagement

2. FUTURE OF GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES (ECM)



- Community dialogue in all districts of Lesotho
- Develop national framework on ECM
- Children's parliament to be continued with focus on ECM
- Engage National Champion on ECM in community dialogue and sensitization.
- Increase capacity and funding on ECM activities.
- Continuous partnership with other organizations on ECM

3. ECM STATISTICS



- Situation analysis of Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children in Lesotho(2011) reported that those girls aged 14-17 who were not in school; (13, 219), a total of 1742 (13.2%) of all girls not in school were not in school because they were married. This amounts to 1.4% of all girls aged 14-17, who make a total of 126,676. A further 1,567 (11.9%) of all those girls not in school or 1.2% of all girls aged 14-17 were not in school because they were pregnant.

Update on progress



- The LDHS 2014 indicates that 25% of women marry before their eighteenth birthday and 4% of men marry that young. Thus this trend marks a decline from 35% in 2004 to 25% in 2014.
- UNICEF Lesotho reported a slightly higher figure of 3% of women aged 20-24 who were married before they turned 15.
- No detailed study on the magnitude of the problem in Lesotho , however, evidence from Child Gender Protection Unit (CGPU), health reports, especially the Demographic Health Survey (DHS), indicate that child marriages are also a contributory factor towards high Infant and Maternal mortality
- The state of the Worlds Children 2015 indicated that there is a **19%** of child Marriage in Lesotho, which is **203,865.06** based on total child population of **1,072.974** children. (2015).

Lesotho's Country Context



- Lesotho has enacted the law- Children's Protection and Welfare Act 2011(CPWA) that protects children from being married at the early age. Currently there are discussions to amend the CPWA (2011) to include key sections on child marriage.

4. CHALLENGES



- Funding
- Logistics
- Cultural reasons

5. Engagement necessary between the country of deployment and the AUC Campaign to End Child Marriage



- RECOMMENDATIONS
 - Continuous dialogue and partnership towards ECM events and activities.
 - Incorporate local actors into wider ECM campaign
 - Mainstream local strategies

6. communication gap between the AUC and the youth volunteers



- RECOMMENDATIONS

- Improve communication between youth volunteers and the AUC.
- Prior communication to youth volunteers on special events and include them in AUC core programs.



THANK YOU!!!