

1 OUT OF 3 GIRLS IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD IS MARRIED BEFORE 18

Every minute 28 girls are married before 18.



MORE THAN BRIDES ALLIANCE



OXFAM

Interested? Contact us!

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MARRIAGE: NO CHILD'S PLAY

Women and girls make up more than half of the world's population. In poverty and crisis, they regularly face discrimination, physical and sexual violence. Next to that, in many parts of the world women and girls lack access to information about their rights. As long as women and girls are unable to make free and informed decisions over their sexuality and reproduction, there is little possibility for them to reach their full potential and effectively contribute to the wellbeing of their families and communities. With this project, we want to decrease the incidence of child marriage and teenager pregnancies by creating the conditions for young people, especially girls, to decide if and when to marry and how many children to have.

We are implementing this project in the following countries: India, Malawi, Niger and Pakistan.

EMPOWERING GIRLS LIKE SONIA BIBI TO BECOME AGENTS OF CHANGE

Sonia Bibi was going to have the same destiny as around 21% of girls in Pakistan: she was supposed to become a child bride. However, even though being promised to her cousin at an early age, Sonia Bibi refused to marry before turning 18. This allowed her to complete her education up to the intermediate level. In addition, she states that by now, she understands what marriage



means and feels ready to move into her new home with her husband after marriage. Sonia Bibi's own experience motivated her to become a member of the village task force committee that was founded during one of Oxfam Novib's previous projects on child marriage. By participating in this committee, Sonia Bibi actively contributes to spreading awareness about the prevention of child marriages and the importance of education for girls.

OUR STRATEGIES

1. Empowering at risk-, and already married adolescents, girls in particular, with Life Skills Education, Comprehensive Sexuality Education, and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) information.
2. Providing alternatives to child marriage and mitigate the impact on married girls, through enhancing access to education-, economic opportunities-, and child protection systems for girls and their families.
3. Increasing access to SRHR services for young people.
4. Changing social norms: we will engage a variety of stakeholders to raise awareness, promote community dialogue, facilitate social mobilisation and support collective action.
5. Influencing legal and policy frameworks. We will conduct policy dialogue and advocate towards policy-makers for the development, adaptation and implementation of laws and policies that reduce child marriage.

OXFAM NOVIB'S PREVIOUS INTERVENTIONS AGAINST CHILD MARRIAGE

OXFAM NOVIB'S RESULTS IN NIGER

- More than 4000 young people received information on sexual and reproductive rights and child marriage.
- 65 community organizations have been trained to fight against child marriage.
- Radio programs, a documentary film, and community talks have raised awareness on the harmful effects of child marriage.
- 30 health workers were trained to provide youth-friendly services.

OXFAM NOVIB'S RESULTS IN PAKISTAN

- More than 4000 young people have been reached through theatre campaigns against child marriage.
- 100 health service providers have been trained to provide youth-friendly services, which 500 adolescents have accessed.
- At least 320 community and religious leaders, 100 civil register officials, 460 law enforcement officials and 140 teachers were sensitized and child marriage prevention committees have been established.
- After advocacy efforts of Oxfam and its partners, a child marriage constraints act was approved.

WITH A CONTRIBUTION OF € 10.000 PER YEAR, WE COULD ...

- Organize theater plays in different vilages to raize awareness on the harmful effects of child marriage.
- Establish Village Task Forces to prevent child marriage in local communities.
- Provide scholarships to girls at risk of being maried to continue their education.

