

Child Marriage

In the last decade 58 million girls in developing countries, 1 in 3, have been married before they were 18, and 1 in 9 girls have been forced into marriage between the ages of 10 and 15. These girls are at far greater risk of experiencing dangerous complications in pregnancy and childbirth, becoming infected with HIV and suffering domestic violence.

Early and forced marriage cannot be addressed with one standalone intervention. Access to education, economic empowerment, protection from violence, and access to reproductive health services are all critical for tackling the discriminatory social norms that underlie early and forced marriage.

See below to learn about *Every Woman Every Child* partners working to end child marriage.

Bangladesh

Bangladesh commits to: doubling the percentage of births attended by a skilled health worker by 2015 (from the current level of 24.4%) through training an additional 3000 midwives, staffing all 427 sub-district health centres to provide round-the-clock midwifery services, and upgrading all 59 district hospitals and 70 Mother and Child Welfare Centres as centres of excellence for emergency obstetric care services. Bangladesh will also reduce the rate of adolescent pregnancies through social mobilization, implementation of the minimum legal age for marriage, and upgrading one third of MNCH centres to provide adolescent friendly sexual and reproductive health services. Bangladesh will halve unmet need for family planning (from the current level of 18%) by 2015; and ensure universal implementation of the Integrated Management of Childhood Illness Programme.

Burkina Faso

2010

Burkina Faso has met the 15% target for health spending, and commits to maintain spending at this level. Burkina Faso will also develop and implement a plan for human resources for health and construct a new public and private school for midwives by 2015. This is in addition to other initiatives being pursued which will also impact on women's and children's health, including free schooling for all primary school girls by 2015, and measures to enforce the laws against early and forced marriage, and female genital mutilation.

2012—London Family Planning Summit

Burkina Faso, through the leadership and advocacy of the First Lady, pledges to take action in terms of policy, funding and programming. The aim will be to maintain family planning as a central priority of development policies, effectively enforcing existing legal instruments on reproductive health and reducing the cost of contraceptive commodities. Burkina Faso will work toward increasing the resources allocated to family planning in state budgets. It will also seek to boost partnerships with the private sector and civil society organizations for service provision, to

define and develop strategies for engaging men, and to establish regular and active monitoring of the availability of contraceptive commodities at all levels.

International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)

2012—London Family Planning Summit

ICRW commits to expanding the evidence base on the importance of addressing socio-cultural barriers – including intimate partner violence, stigma and partner involvement – when striving to meet women’s demand for reproductive control and use of family planning services. ICRW will leverage new evidence to inform the framing of national reproductive health/family planning policy, development assistance programs and corporate social responsibility programs. ICRW will expand the evidence base linking women’s social and economic empowerment to family planning and sexual and reproductive health. ICRW will also produce new evidence related to adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights and strengthen the connection between adolescent girls’ education and sexual and reproductive health outcomes, including delayed marriage and childbearing. This new evidence will help inform the design of family planning and sexual and reproductive health programs and services delivered through governments, the private sector and civil society. In addition, ICRW will develop and validate metrics to improve its understanding of the benefits that education brings to women’s access to and correct use of family planning.

The Elders

The Elders are pleased to contribute to the *Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health* and the *Every Woman Every Child* effort by committing to establish *Girls Not Brides: The Global Partnership to End Child Marriage*. *Girls Not Brides* will bring together civil society organisations working to end child marriage. It will enable them to jointly raise awareness of the harmful impact of child marriage at the local, national and international levels; to learn from each other and develop better programs to address the practice; and to mobilise all necessary policy, financial and other support to end child marriage. *Girls Not Brides* will amplify the voices of girls at risk of child marriage and will support girls who are or have been married, all over the world. *Girls Not Brides* will defend the rights of girls to health and education and the opportunity to fulfil their potential.

The Nike Foundation

The Girl Declaration, a call to action to put adolescent girls at the heart of the post-2015 development agenda, was launched on International Day of the Girl 2013. It has earned the support of more than 100 individual champions and key influencers from NGOs, private sector organizations and multilateral and international development agencies who believe that investing in adolescent girls is critical to accelerating progress on the current Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 agenda.