



## Context

Each year, worldwide 15 million girls are married before the age of 18. Child brides are often disempowered and dependent on their husbands, they often suffer from domestic violence. With little access to education and economic opportunities, they and their families are more likely to live in poverty. Neither physically nor emotionally ready to become wives and mothers, child brides are at greater risk of experiencing dangerous complications in pregnancy and child-birth.

In Uganda, 46% of girls are married before the age of 18 (yet child marriage often goes unreported).

Uganda has the 14th highest rate of child marriage in the world.

## Strategy

Girls Not Brides is a global partnership of more than 450 civil society organizations from over 70 countries committed to ending child marriage and enabling girls to fulfill their potential. Girls Not Brides and its members believe that we can be more effective working together to



**GIRLS NOT BRIDES**

bring child marriage to global attention than working alone.

In Uganda, eleven child rights organizations have formed Girls Not Brides Uganda. Joy for Children Uganda (JFCU) hosts the National Alliance.

By establishing a nationwide partnership, Girls Not Brides Uganda members aim to start a dialogue at local, regional and national levels. Furthermore, the work of organizations striving to end child marriage shall be better coordinated and access to funds facilitated.

One of the group's priorities is also to persuade the government to allocate funds and resources to child marriage prevention. Additionally, Girls Not Brides Uganda members are urging the government to include child marriage prevention in existing health, education and other development programs, and are



pushing for inter-ministerial discussions to ensure that child marriage is addressed across government ministries.

## Results

- A Girls not Brides National Alliance Strategy has been developed.
- The Girls not Brides National Alliance has increased to about 50 active members.
- The Girls not Brides National Alliance Committee meets monthly.
- Workshops were conducted to follow up on promises the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development made in the Girl Summit held in July in UK.
- Workshops were held in order to contribute to the Ugandan Strategy to End Child Marriage.
- Workshops on girl's education were implemented.

## Impact

Child marriage has major impacts on education, health, poverty, and human rights. Parents suffering from poverty are more likely to agree in early marriages of their daughters in order to reduce family expenses. Girls which marry early often drop out of school, which means that they don't have the possibility to learn skills which could help them earn an income. By ending child marriage, this cycle of poverty can be stopped.