Building child marriage free communities

UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM

AMSTERDAM INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

ICDI

THE HUNGER PROJECT NEDERLAND

KINDERPOSTZEGELS

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I. General information

General information about the applicant and application

a. Name of organisation	Her Choice Alliance Lead Applicant: Stichting Kinderpostzegels Nederland
b. Address	Schipholweg 97, 2316 XA Leiden
c. Telephone number	071-5259800
d. Email address	info@kinderpostzegels.nl
e. Director	Ms W.J.C.M. van Haaren
f. Name, email address and telephone number of applicant´s contact person	Ms J.E. (Annelies) Kanis a.kanis@kinderpostzegels.nl 06-22889554
g. Email address that should be used for correspondence from Ministry of Foreign Affairs	a.kanis@kinderpostzegels.nl
h. Names of co-applicants	▪ Stichting International Child Development Initiatives (ICDI) ▪ Stichting The Hunger Project ▪ Universiteit van Amsterdam/AISSR The full addresses, directors and contact persons are provided in appendix 1.2.
i. Applicant´s bank and bank account number (IBAN)	Bank: ING Bank IBAN: NL24 INGB 0000 0059 90 BIC: INGBNL2A
j. Income applicant Stichting Kinderpostzegels Nederland Income co-applicant The Hunger Project	2011-2012 € 12.892.213 2012-2013 € 15.382.637 2013-2014 € 15.186.205 2012 € 3.101.326 2013 € 2.838.484 2014 € 3.569.832

Income co-applicant ICDI	2012 € 1.397.187 2013 € 1.413.815 2014 € 1.505.115
Income co-applicant Universiteit van Amsterdam/AISSR	2012 € 21.313.000 2013 € 20.579.000 2014 € 22.281.000
k. Received grants by applicant Stichting Kinderpostzegels Nederland from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (including grants or contributions from Dutch embassies)	• MFS II 2011-2015 • Kindhuwelijkenfonds 2014-2015
Received grants by co-applicant The Hunger Project	• Kindhuwelijkenfonds 2014-2015 • Klein mensenrechtenfonds 2015-2017
Received grants by co-applicant ICDI	• MFS II 2011-2015 • Kindhuwelijkenfonds 2014-2015
Received grants by co-applicant Universiteit van Amsterdam/AISSR	• IS Academy on Education and International Development, 2012-2016 A complete overview is provided in appendix 1.14

II. Threshold criteria

D.1.a The lead party is a Dutch not-for-profit civil society organisation which possesses legal personality.

Appendix 1.1a includes a copy of the constitution of Stichting Kinderpostzegels. This constitution dates from October 2009. Stichting Kinderpostzegels Nederland is a Dutch not-for-profit civil society organisation (article 2.4) which possesses legal personality according to Dutch law. Stichting Kinderpostzegels Nederland was founded on 31 May 1989 and holds office in Leiden. Stichting Kinderpostzegels Nederland is registered with the Dutch Chamber of Commerce under registration number 41167934 and lists Leiden as location of establishment.

D.2.a The expenditure of the lead party over the last three years amounts to at least €5 million a year (with 1 January 2015 as reference date).

Stichting Kinderpostzegels Nederland

Expected annual expenditure 2014-2015	€ 16.773.801
Total annual expenditure in 2013-2014	€ 17.318.585
Total annual expenditure in 2012-2013	€ 17.537.475
Total annual expenditure in 2011-2012	€ 14.512.624

D.2.b At least 25% of the annual income of the lead party over the last three years as from 1 January 2015 was derived from sources other than Ministry of Foreign Affairs contributions.

Stichting Kinderpostzegels Nederland

Expected income as of 1 January 2015 other than Ministry of Foreign Affairs contributions[1]		€ 14.988.500
Income 2014-2015	€ 16.147.500	Not Ministry of Foreign Affairs: € 14.988.500
Income 2013-2014[2]	€ 17.994.002	Not Ministry of Foreign Affairs: € 16.327.678
Income 2012-2013[3]	€ 16.330.452	Not Ministry of Foreign Affairs: € 15.291.486
Income 2011-2012	€ 15.787.289	Not Ministry of Foreign Affairs: € 14.743.917

The Hunger Project Nederland

Expected income as of 1 January 2015 other than Ministry of Foreign Affairs contributions		€ 3.700.000
Income 2014	€ 3.569.832	Not Ministry of Foreign Affairs: € 3.015.731
Income 2013	€ 2.838.484	Not Ministry of Foreign Affairs: € 2.838.484
Income 2012	€ 3.101.326	Not Ministry of Foreign Affairs: € 3.101.326

ICDI

Expected income as of 1 January 2015 other than Ministry of Foreign Affairs contributions		€ 610.000
Income 2014	€ 1.505.115	Not Ministry of Foreign Affairs: € 572.081
Income 2013	€ 1.413.815	Not Ministry of Foreign Affairs: € 547.622
Income 2012	€ 1.397.187	Not Ministry of Foreign Affairs: € 517.375

[1] The annual accounts of Stichting Kinderpostzegels Nederland cover the period October 1st to September 30th. The mentioned expected income relates to the expected income on October 1st 2014.
[2] The application for the Kindhuwelijkenfonds (activity number 26658) listed the expected income 2013-2014. The mentioned income 2013-2014 in this application relates to the income in the finalized annual accounts 2013-2014.
[3] The annual accounts 2012-2013 were corrected in 2014. This was related to our investment portfolio, was approved by our accountant and is made visible in our annual accounts 2013-2014.Therefore the mentioned income 2012-2013 in this application differs from the mentioned income in the Kindhuwelijkenfonds application (activity number 26658).

Universiteit van Amsterdam/AISSR

Expected income as of 1 January 2015 other than Ministry of Foreign Affairs contributions	€ 22.128.000

Income 2014	€22.281.000	Not Ministry of Foreign Affairs: € 22.089.800
Income 2013	€ 20.579.000	Not Ministry of Foreign Affairs: € 20.387.800
Income 2012	€ 21.313.000	Not Ministry of Foreign Affairs: € 21.121.800

D.3 The maximum remuneration of individual management and board members of the lead party does not exceed € 163.000 per calendar year for a 36-hour working week.

Stichting Kinderpostzegels Nederland[4]

Job title	Salary, profit sharing and bonuses 2015	Taxable fixed and variable expence allowances	Other payments made at set times of year	Contractual hours worked per week
Supervisory board	Voluntary	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Managing director	€ 103.841	€ 2.500	Not applicable	36
Manager Programmes & Projects	€ 67.791	€ 300	Not applicable	34
Manager Service & Support	€ 71.783	€ 1.558	Not applicable	36
Manager Marketing & Communication	€ 63.886	€ 3.600	Not applicable	32
Manager Finance	€ 71.783	€ 1.237	Not applicable	36
Number of employees: 38				

[4] This application lists the salary costs without social security costs. Therefore the costs differ from the listed costs of management salaries in the application for the Kindhuwelijkenfonds (activity number 26658).

D.4 The lead party has at least three years demonstrable experience in implementing activities within at least one of the four result areas of Dutch SRHR policy

Kinderpostzegels has over twenty years of experience; relevant examples of our work for this call are in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mali and Senegal. Initially focusing on education and education-related programmes, Kinderpostzegels has expanded the scope of its work there to now also include objectives such as challenging Harmful Traditional Practices (HTPs) (since 2007), including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and combating child marriage (since 2012).[5]
Currently, 127 communities we work with in Burkina Faso, Mali[6] and Ethiopia denounce HTPs and child marriage. In Senegal Kinderpostzegels works with 18 communities on education and child protection programmes.[7]

This result corresponds with the Ministry's result area 1.d: Combating child marriage; and result area 4: Winning more respect for the sexual and reproductive rights of girls at risk, who are currently denied these rights.

Outcome

- Previously, schools reported annually 5 or 6 girls dropped out as a result of child marriage. In 2015 this number fell to 1 girl per school through joint efforts of different school communities.[8]
- In many communities local by-laws have been formulated which prohibit child marriage and FGM.
- All partners established sustainable relations with local community groups, traditional leaders and local government authorities. In francophone West Africa, the selected partners work closely with women's organisations.

These results contribute to the Ministry's result area 4.d: Promoting a rights-based approach in partner countries' policy and legislation.

- 77.360 children know more about child rights and SRHR through youth clubs[9] and 140.000 children know more about HTPs.[10]
- 315.000 traditional leaders, teachers, parents and health extension workers know more about HTPs´ impact on girls now and in future.[11]
- Schools and youth clubs refer girls to youth-friendly SRH services.

These results contribute to the Ministry's result area 1: Ensuring that young people know more and are thus equipped to make healthier choices about their sexuality; and result area 1.a: Providing access to sex education and information about sex.

[5] Annual report Kinderpostzegels 2012/2013 and 2013/2014
[6] Evaluation des projets de lutte pour l'abandon des MGF au Burkina et au Mali (2013)
[7] Annual reports local partners Senegal (2012-2014)
[8] Bi-annual reports WCAT and ADAA (2015)
[9] Annual report Kinderpostzegels 2012/2013
[10] Idem
[11] Annual report Kinderpostzegels 2012/2013 and 2013/2014

Output

- In 2012, the *Girls' Rights Programme* reached out to 90.000 girls in Burkina Faso and Mali.[12] In 2014, 25.000 girls were supported in Ethiopia.
- Community members are informed and trained on the negative effects that child marriage has on the health and wellbeing of girls.
- In Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and Mali teachers and peer educators received training on SRHR and the negative effect that child marriage has on the health and wellbeing of girls.[13]
- Teachers and peer educators are linked with health extension workers to refer girls to youth-friendly SRHR services. Health extension workers are trained to provide youth-friendly services.
- All partners received *Child Protection Policy* training and at all schools *Child Protection Policies* were introduced. [14]

These results contribute to the Ministry's result area 1.b: Enhancing access to high-quality SRHR services geared to young people; and result area 1.c: Giving young people opportunities to make their voices heard and stand up for their rights.

D.5 The lead party is capable of proper financial management and can assure effective and efficient implementation of the activities due to its expertise in the area of SRHR.

Stichting Kinderpostzegels Nederland has a valid COCA with a positive outcome, conducted in 2014. The COCA check is connected to activity number 26658 ´Ineens geen kind meer, voorkomen van kindhuwelijken in Azië en Afrika´ under the Kindhuwelijkenfonds framework. Facts and circumstances have not changed significantly since this organisational check.

D.6 Partnership agreement and organisation chart

Appendix 1.3 is a copy of the partnership agreement which is signed by all four organisations of the consortium.

Appendix 1.4 is an organisation chart of the consortium.

[12] Annual report Kinderpostzegels 2011/2012
[13] Annual report Kinderpostzegels 2013/2014
[14] MFS II report, outcome results (2014)

Her Choice

Theory of change

III.1 Theory of Change

1. Problem and context analysis

Child marriage remains widespread in developing countries. 14 million girls are married annually before they become adults. In South Asia, 50% of girls are married before 18, compared to 40% in Africa. Child marriage is rooted in cultural and religious traditions, gender inequality and cycles of poverty. Child marriage denies girls their basic human rights, and endangers their lives and livelihoods. Marrying at a young age is detrimental to girls' health and wellbeing, restricts access to education and income-earning opportunities, and often results in social isolation.[i&ii]

Harmful health aspects resulting from child marriage are teen pregnancy (14 million adolescent girls give birth within marriage every year)[iii]; maternal mortality (a leading cause of death for 15-19 year old girls)[iv]; and an increased risk of Sexually Transmitted Infections.[v] Child marriage is a form of sexual and gender-based violence that is rarely publicly recognised. Sexual relations with minors who are married are often authorised by society, despite existing legislation that penalises sex with minors.[vi]

Gender analysis

Gender inequality fuels the incidence of child marriage. The countries where we work have strong patriarchal traditions: men predominate in positions of power and decision-making. Women and girls tend to have little say in public matters and private domains, including decisions concerning their own reproductive health. As a result, young girls are particularly marginalised, leaving decisions as to choice of partner to older men and women.

Beliefs on gender roles are deeply rooted, reproduced and transferred across generations. Existing gender norms and roles are perceived as normal and rarely questioned, either by women or men. Unequal gender power relations are reproduced in marriages between young girls and older men.[vii] Although it is difficult to challenge existing beliefs regarding gender and gender roles, doing so is the core of our work. Our vision is to work towards a world where girls and women enjoy equal status with boys and men, and are able to achieve their full potential in all aspects of their lives.

Context analysis

In each of the countries where we operate, we work in a different context. In Ethiopia we see abductions and rape leading to child marriage. In South Asia, girls marry young because parents see them as an economic burden, or fear social stigma in case of premarital sex.[viii] In West-Africa, child marriage is driven by poverty as girls are regarded as potential bride-price income by their parents.[ix]

Whereas the context for each country is different, we see the following commonalities:

- *Political:* In most countries governments are committed to international agreements[x] and national policies to end child marriage, as well as to support gender equality in terms of access to education and health care. Yet we see a gap between policies and their implementation, and a lack of systems to secure children's and women's rights.
- *Socio-cultural:* A gap exists between urban and rural areas, as child marriage occurs three times more often in rural than in urban areas.[xi] In traditional, religious and conservative communities, child marriage is often the norm.[xii] Moreover, by letting their daughters marry young, parents feel they can protect them from (sexual) violence and the shame that comes with premarital sex and possible pregnancy.
- *Economic:* Child marriage is exacerbated by poverty. The likelihood that girls from poor families marry at a young age is twice as high compared to other girls.[xiii] Girls who marry young often lack education, which negatively affects the socio-economic development of their families, communities and broader social stability. In this way, child marriage fuels an intergenerational cycle of poverty and increases the feminisation of poverty.[xiv]

2. Long-term goal and impact

Our long-term goal **´Girls are free to decide if, when and whom to marry´**[15] corresponds with the Ministry's result area 1.d: *Combating child marriage.* With our interventions we also contribute to the broader result area 1. Furthermore, we contribute to result area 4, and in particular 4.d.

Aiming for gender equity (equal access, possibilities and treatment) is at the core of all our interventions and our organisational policies. In addition, we promote the inclusion of marginalised and disadvantaged groups in our programme. Special focus is given to girls hiding at home, disabled girls, children of minorities and the poorest of the poor.

3. Intervention strategies

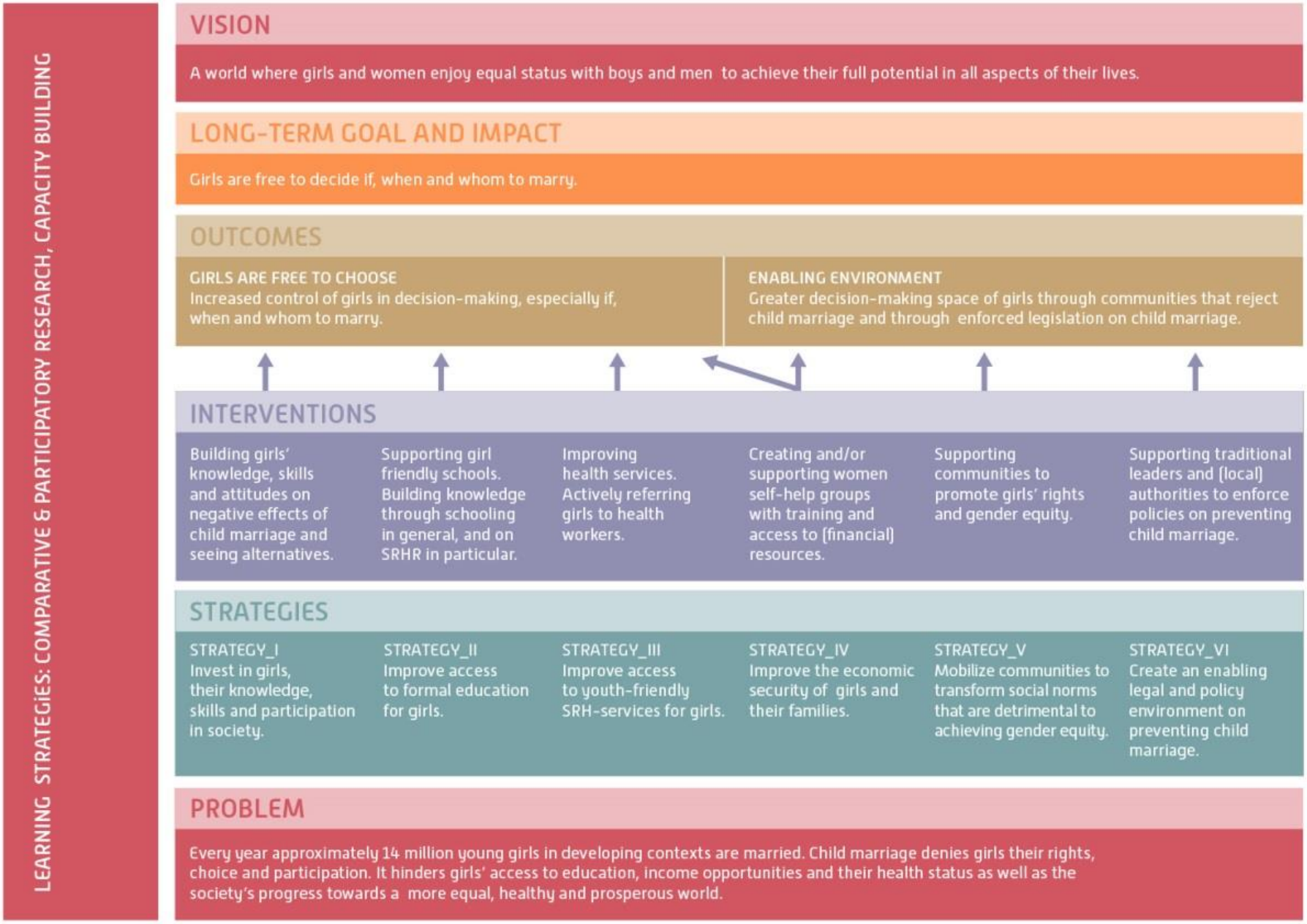
The problem analysis above shows that various actors in a girl's direct environment and broader context can either constrain or facilitate girls' choices and opportunities. Consequently, our strategies focus on:

- Increasing girls' control on decision-making[xv] regarding issues that shape their lives, and their access to opportunities such as education, health care and income generation;
- Mobilising relevant community actors as change agents to address underlying factors, beliefs and processes leading to child marriage.

Our strategy builds on the evidence-based strategies of UNFPA and the Girls Not Brides network, as well as our own findings which have proven to be successful in ending child marriage.[xvi]

[15] As of the age of 18 years old.

Visual 1 Theory of Change



Strategy I: invest in girls, their knowledge, skills and participation in society -
thus enhancing their comprehension of the negative effects of child marriage and of alternative options *(interventions),* contributing to girls having increased control in decision-making, especially if, when and whom to marry (*outcome*).

Interventions:

- Building girls' knowledge on the negative effects of child marriage and SRHR, their rights and alternative options. Teachers, peers, girls who have experienced child marriage and health workers provide information through schools, youth clubs and youth-friendly SRH-services.
- Building girls' skills through self-defence courses and life-skills training on self-confidence and leadership, both at schools and out-of school.
- Girls' participation at school or in the community is supported by having them participate in leadership roles (as role models or peer educators), or involved as young researchers *(see learning strategy page 15)*. Participation is of great value to practise skills and critical to overcoming social isolation.

Strategy II: improve access to formal education for girls -
by supporting girl-friendly schools and building knowledge through schooling in general, and on SRHR in particular *(interventions),* contributing to girls having increased control in decision-making *(outcome).*

Interventions:

- Supporting girl-friendly schools, where girls develop their social network, discuss their futures, interact with peers and mentors,[xvii] and are protected from violence and sexual harassment. Schools take on a Child Protection Policy and work with the community to create safe routes to and from school.
- Teachers are trained in effective teaching methods on the negative effects of child marriage and SRHR issues.

Access to formal education is vital to ending child marriage, because it has lifelong implications for girls' and future generations' well-being:

- Girls with no education are twice as likely to marry before the age of 18.[xviii]
- Each additional year of schooling improves a girl's employment prospects, increasing future earnings by about 10%, and reducing infant mortality by up to 10%.[xix]
- Education levels correlate closely with sexual autonomy. Multiple studies show that 61-80% of women with no education lack sexual autonomy, compared to fewer than 20% of women with higher education.[xx]

Strategy III: improve access to youth-friendly SRH-services for girls -

by improving health services and by actively referring girls to health workers *(interventions),* contributing to girls being better informed and having increased control in SRHR-related decision-making *(outcome)*.

Interventions:

- Existing health workers are trained to improve their youth-friendly attitude.
- Teachers and peer educators are linked to health workers for SRHR information and referral to youth-friendly SRH-services.

Access to youth-friendly SRH-services is essential to girls' control in decision-making and their ability to protect their health, and leads to reduced sexual risk-taking[xxi] and significant increased participation in HIV&Aids-testing.[xxii]

Strategy IV: Improve the economic security of girls and their families -

by creating and/or supporting women self-help groups with training and access to (financial) resources *(interventions),* contributing to girls' increased control in decision-making, and to greater decision-making space of girls within communities *(outcomes)*.

Interventions:

- Women's self-help groups are created or supported.
- Female small-scale entrepreneurs and vulnerable (young) women are trained on financial literacy, entrepreneurship, local market-information and improved agricultural practices.
- Female small-scale entrepreneurs are supported with access to resources such as saving clubs, mobile banking and micro-financing, in cooperation with rural banks and local enterprises.

Improving the economic security and diversification of income of girls and their families provides an opportunity to escape the cycle of poverty, generating viable alternatives to child marriage, especially for those unable to continue formal schooling.[xxiii] For families, support in improving their socio-economic conditions can help to alleviate the economic and social pressures leading to early marriage.[xxiv]

Strategy V: mobilize communities to transform social norms that are detrimental to achieving gender equity -

by supporting communities to promote girls' rights and gender equity *(interventions)*, contributing to greater decision-making space of girls within communities *(outcome).*

Interventions:

- Knowledge building among community members on gender roles, the negative effects of child marriage and on alternatives. Religious and traditional leaders, teachers, peer educators and local radio stations organise awareness raising activities and community dialogue meetings.
- Skills building among community members to support girls' rights and reject child marriage. Providing training to religious and traditional leaders, traditional birth attendants and circumcisers, CBOs and teachers.
- Community members of both sexes are encouraged to become change agents: for example, teachers can discuss risks of child marriage with parents or seek the help of community leaders to be involved in mediation.

Only internal change agents can successfully transform social norms. The active involvement of boys has already proven to be successful.[xxv]

Strategy VI: create an enabling legal and policy environment on preventing child marriage - by supporting traditional leaders and (local) authorities to enforce policies on preventing child marriage (*interventions*), contributing to greater decision-making space of girls through enforced legislation *(outcome)*.

Interventions:

- At community level we mobilise traditional and religious leaders to develop by-laws which prohibit child marriage.
- At local level we mobilise representatives of (local) government and municipalities to take action to end child marriage by the enforcement of laws, such as birth and marriage registration, which will actually show the bride's age - in most countries this will legally prohibit a minor from marrying.
- At national level in countries committed to international agreements, we share effective strategies with national *Girls Not Brides* networks, the UNICEF child marriage programme and/or other relevant networks on child rights which provide recommendations to governmental policy makers. In other countries we will lobby and advocate for adequate legislation to protect girls' rights.
- At regional and international level best practices are shared between local partners and with the international *Girls Not Brides* network, international NGOs, Share-net and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

An enabling legal environment protects girls' rights. Change will ultimately take place within communities, but has to be supported by national, regional and international actors.[xxvi]

4. Learning strategies

Two central learning strategies underpin our long-term goal as well as our capacity to adjust to new findings and/or a changing environment: research, and capacity building.

Comparative and participatory research

Contextualisation: Long-term mixed-methods operational research with relevant partners in the selected countries will answer the leading research questions (see text box). Information collected during formative research, baseline and monitoring will inform adjustment of programmes. An outcome evaluation will inform future programmes. This research is coordinated and supervised by senior researchers from the AISSR/UvA and local universities.

Leading research questions include:
How are child marriages perceived, explained and practised in different socio-cultural, religious and economic contexts?
What factors and interventions contribute to a reduction or increase in child marriage?

Participation: Young local researchers conduct research in their own communities into child marriage, gender and child rights issues. The researchers decide on focus and methods, but may use interviews, focus groups, observation and visual methods such as photography. ICDI will coordinate this research.

Research with and by children based on the Children's Research Centre approach recognises that children are experts on their lives.[xxvii] It also acknowledges children's rights to be heard and their views to be taken seriously.[xxviii] Interests of children and young people, as a relatively powerless group, are served when they set their own agendas and lead their own research.[xxix]

Results and lessons learnt will be shared within communities, with partners and with institutions (policy makers, academia and organisations) through relevant SRHR knowledge platforms, in regional meetings and in policy briefs.

Capacity Building

To strengthen our partner and local organisations, we will use the 5C model.[xxx] Kinderpostzegels´ participatory capacity assessment tool (PCAT) will be used in a baseline and a midterm review to monitor these 5 capacities and determine necessary follow-up.
Specific capacity building on SRHR is closely linked to our comparative and participatory research. Partnerorganisations will be trained to perform research on SRHR-issues and use ICDI´s GirlsQUAT.

5. Impact and process indicators

Outcomes that will result from our interventions are:

- Increased control of girls in decision-making, especially if, when and whom to marry.
- Greater decision-making space of girls through communities that reject child marriage and through enforced legislation on child marriage.

Indicators we will use for the purpose of monitoring and corrective action are:

<table>
<tr><td colspan="6">Impact level indicators</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="6">Significant reduction in child marriage rates in the countries we work in.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="6">Outcome indicators</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">A significant increase in the number of girls who feel they can exercise control over their own lives, especially with regards to marriage.

Significant decrease of the number of girls that are married before the age of 18 in the target areas of the countries we work in.</td><td colspan="3">A significant increase in the number of teachers who are actively involved in protecting girls' rights.

A significant increase in the number of community members active in protecting girls' rights.

Increased capacity and willingness of relevant governmental institutions and agencies to enact existing laws banning child marriages.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="6">Process indicators</td></tr>
<tr><td>Intervention I</td><td>Intervention II</td><td>Intervention III</td><td>Intervention IV</td><td>Intervention V</td><td>Intervention VI</td></tr>
<tr><td>Significantly improved knowledge, skills and attitudes on negative effects of child marriage and understanding of alternative options.</td><td>Significant increase in girl's enrolment and retention in formal education.

Significant number of girls who report their school to be a safe place.</td><td>Available SRH-services have become more youth-friendly and better accessible to girls.</td><td>An increase in the number of high quality vocational skills training opportunities for older girls and young women.

Increased income earning potential of (young) women.</td><td>Significantly improved knowledge of community members on child marriage and its harmful consequences.

A significant increase in intolerance towards child marriage in targeted communities.</td><td>National laws to protect girls' rights are increasingly enforced at a local level.

National policies integrate best practices from the communities to end child marriage.</td></tr>
</table>

6. Monitoring and programme adaptation

The programme will begin with a formative mapping exercise and baseline research in all programme countries, to generate an overview of child marriage practices and underlying factors across the different contexts. The UvA team will build research capacity of local partners to enable them to collect, analyse and interpret the data. The AISSR/UvA team will develop a baseline tool, which will contain a generic and context-specific section to allow for comparison across (local) partners' programme and generate programme-specific data.

Programme process, output and outcome indicators will structure the monitoring process. Data will be collected, analysed and interpreted by local and alliance partners. Information from monitoring may lead to adaptation of programmes. AISSR/UvA and local research partners, including young researches, will support this research process. All research and monitoring will make use of a mixed methods design, using both quantitative (IATI standard) and qualitative methods.

7. Vision on sustainability and scaling

Our approach – communities taking full responsibility to end child marriage - places sustainability at the core of our work. We work with existing community networks, schools, women´s groups and SRH-services, so our strategies are locally embedded. Our interventions are geared towards the empowerment of these actors, to establish self-sustaining structures. In addition, we liaise with national networks to ensure that our efforts are complementary, and strengthen those of others.

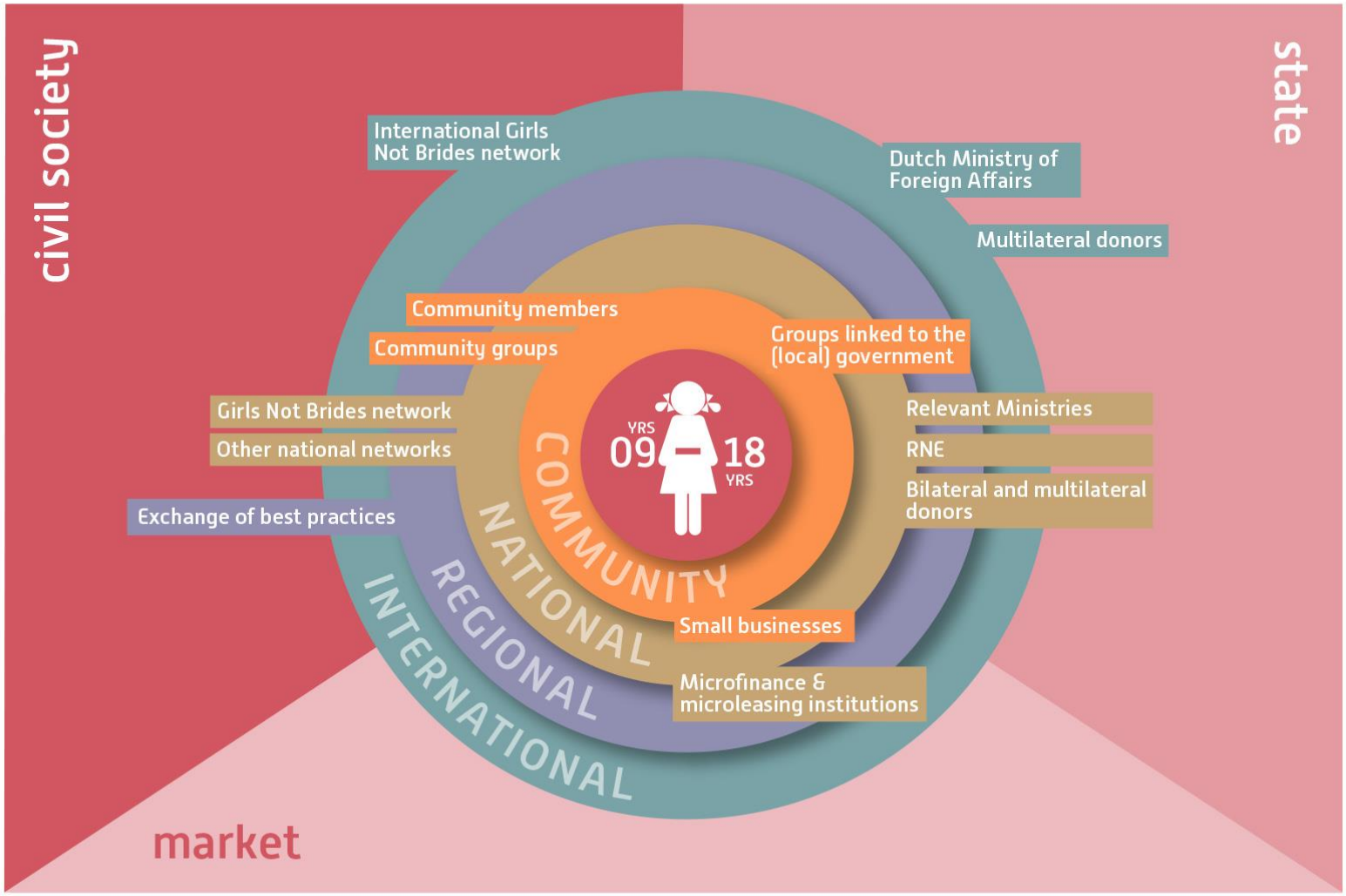
When there is clear, strong community commitment to end child marriage, we lower the intensity of our work on this topic in those particular communities while continuing to work with others. Moreover, we will share with relevant stakeholders (both locally, nationally and internationally) best practices and strategies. Finally, we will strengthen the capacity of our (partner) organisations, so that they can continue to combat child marriages after this programme period.

8. Added value of the alliance partners

Our alliance´s *unique selling points*:

- We work in **remote rural areas** where 85% of the world's poor live, with **strong local partners** and **tailor-made interventions** for each community, far away from generally popular areas of other donors.
- We have a **proven track record as an alliance**: jointly we achieve better results ending child marriage.
- We work with a **holistic approach, involving all actors at community level**.
- We **innovate**.
- Our organisations' light structure, little bureaucracy and more direct involvement makes us **flexible, effective, and efficient, compared to larger INGOs**.
- We have **short communication** lines with our local partners, which enable flexibility to accommodate changing circumstances.
- Our alliance partners and local partners have **in-house expert knowledge** and do not need to hire outside expertise. This is **cost-effective**.
- Our local partners and organisations are **already embedded in national networks** aimed at combating child marriage and collaborate with Girls Not Brides and UNICEF.

Visual 2 Actor map



10. Roles per partner

Kinderpostzegels´ expertise relates to its strategy of using education as a starting point to protect girls, and initiating a dialogue with a variety of community actors. Kinderpostzegels – as the alliance's lead – will coordinate the programme. Its strong public support in the Netherlands ensures communication on child marriage with the Dutch public and more specifically, with the educational sector.

The Hunger Project's strength lies in activating local leadership to create an enabling environment in which child marriage is not tolerated. It uses a proven effective methodology to inspire and mobilise change agents, so they take ownership for improving the quality of life within their communities.[xxxi] The Hunger Project has extensive experience and knowledge on improving economic and livelihood conditions.

International Child Development Initiatives (ICDI) adds its expertise and experience in child and youth development to the alliance. ICDI will train all the partners in Children and Youth as Researchers methodology, which forms an innovative element in the empowerment of girls. ICDI's Quality Assessment Tool for Girls (the so called GirlsQUAT), will be used to measure quality and impact of the programme. ICDI will provide training to partners on specific topics such as: sexual and gender development, communicating with young people and child and youth participation.

UvA/AISRR has expertise in multi-stakeholder analysis and mixed-methods research on SRHR, gender, sexual and gender-based violence, intergenerational transmission of gender norms and practices. They join this alliance to strengthen its learning capacity and coordinate the programme evaluation, involving long-term PhD/master research in close collaboration with local universities. Thus contributing to development of local research capacity on, and engagement with, issues related to child marriage.

11. Our vision of the partnership with the Minister

The *Her Choice Alliance* and the Minister continue to play complementary roles in their joint objective to end child marriage - as is our current practice under the Kindhuwelijkenfonds. The Ministry focuses on official relations and diplomatic interaction at international level and with national governments (where it can demonstrate and discuss successful strategies and best practices on ending child marriage stemming from this partnership). Our alliance and our local partners operate at a local level with community actors and national networks. Increased complementarity will come from closer contact, more frequent information sharing, and seeking opportunities for increased synergy *(see text box)*. For example, we would like to work more closely together with the embassies in Bangladesh and Mali to actively lobby for retaining the age of marriage at 18.

Furthermore, the *Her Choice Alliance* will cooperate and share knowledge with other organisations which receive funding from the Minister (UNICEF, Girls Not Brides, other SRHR alliances), so that a greater joint impact can be made in reducing child marriage.

Examples of **synergy between the Minister and the Alliance**

The Royal Netherlands Embassy in Ethiopia was under the impression that health workers were well trained to serve youth in rural areas. Kinderpostzegels recently informed them after consultation with partners that this was not the case. This topic will be followed up.

The Suddenly Not A Child Anymore alliance was able to provide the Ministry within hours with succinct and relevant information on lobby efforts in Bangladesh to stop a draft law to lower the marriage age for girls to 16, after questions from the Dutch parliament.

12. Risk analysis and mitigation measures

External risks

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation measure
Some communities lack the power to end strongly embedded harmful traditional practices like child marriage in a relatively short period of time, and are confronted with resistance from traditional leaders, teachers and communities.	30% of the communities we work in	Low	We will intensify strategies to engage traditional leaders and to change the message and shift more to education and life skills, but stick to the same long-term goal. A community programme can be extended.
The close link between child marriage and a girls´ sexuality causes actors like teachers to oppose this strategy in conservative societies.	Middle	Middle	If this problem arises, a child rights and life skills approach will be followed that encompasses sexuality (instead of a sexual education approach).
Girl's empowerment sometimes also comes with security risks.	Middle	High	Concurrently build community support alongside girls' empowerment and plan necessary actions together with local authorities or safe house accommodation.
Conflict or other crises arise in the areas where our partners work.	Middle	High	Stop activities temporarily when security risks are too high.

Internal risks

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation measure
Local partners are threatened, especially in Bangladesh and Pakistan.	High	High	Keep activities low-profile.
Local partners are not capable of implementing strategies.	Low	High	Partners are current partners of alliance members, and were chosen because of their track record. Capacity of organisations is monitored through participatory assessment tools. If problems arise capacity building will either be intensified or other partners will be sought.
Disagreement among alliance members.	Low	Middle	Alliance members are experienced in working together, and have defined their roles in an agreement, which also defines specific procedures in case of conflict.

13. Countries where the alliance partners have added value

Below we list the countries where we have many years of working experience either as individual organizations or as an alliance, and where fighting child marriage is especially urgent: nine out of these thirteen countries have the highest prevalence in child marriages worldwide.[xxxii]

Country	Child marriage prevalence	MoFa partner country	UNICEF child marriage programme	Alliance partner active in community based gender and SRHR interventions since
Bangladesh	66.2%	X	X	THP (1990), ICDI (2011)
Benin	34.4%	X		THP (1997)
Burkina Faso	47.8%		X	THP (1997), Kinderpostzegels (2008)
Ethiopia	41.2%	X	X	THP (2004), Kinderpostzegels (2008), ICDI (2011)
Ghana	24.6%		X	THP (1995)
India	47.4%		X	Kinderpostzegels (1985), THP (1985)
Mali	55.0%	X		Kinderpostzegels (2008)
Nepal	40.7%		X	ICDI (2011)
Nicaragua	40%			Kinderpostzegels (1988), ICDI (2011)
Pakistan	24.0%			ICDI (2011)
Senegal	32.9%			THP (1991) , Kinderpostzegels (2005)
Sierra Leone	47.9%		X	ICDI (2011)
Uganda	46.3%	X	X	THP (1999), ICDI (2013)

Her Choice

Track Record

III.2a Kinderpostzegels´ track record in Ethiopia

Analysis and strategy

With a prevalence of around 40%, child marriage is common in Ethiopia. Though the National Family Act forbids it, deeply rooted beliefs and local traditions define and restrict the role and rights of Ethiopian women and girls, especially in remote rural areas. Female Genital Mutilation, polygamy and other harmful traditional practices strongly affect rural girls´ access to education, to information and to sexual and reproductive health services, and severely limit the opportunities available to them.

Since 2005, Kinderpostzegels has collaborated with five implementing partners in Ethiopia on SRHR.

These organizations intervene with Kinderpostzegels-support in three different regions: Oromia, Amhara and SNNPRS.

We also cooperate with the knowledge and training institute Development Expertise Centre (DEC), the national coordinating knowledge and network Committee on Harmful Traditional Practices (ODWaCE) and the national Girls not Brides network.

In order to change this, Kinderpostzegels' programme follows a multi-actor, community-based strategy, targeting both girls and their communities, since that leads to the best results.[16] Essential in mobilising communities is engaging traditional and religious leaders. In addition, our partners support local authorities to enforce national legislation, and share effective strategies with government authorities through national networks.

Kinderpostzegels successfully uses education as a means to both empower and to protect girls. Schools function as safe places, and education improves knowledge and skills, as well as girls' participation (e.g. in youth clubs). We link teachers and youth clubs with health workers, and successfully improve access to youth-friendly Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services. The importance of education is discussed in community dialogues, since awareness raising is a fundament for mobilising communities to promote girls' rights.

Results and effectiveness

By employing this strategy, we have achieved a considerable impact in Ethiopia: currently, 39 *kebeles* (villages and communities) have ended child marriage within three (70%) years. Results described below correspond with the Ministry's result areas 1 (a through d) and 4.

[16] Solutions to end child marriage: what the evidence shows: www.icrw.org/files/publications/Solutions-to-End-Child-Marriage.pdf

Each part of the strategy (see Theory of Change) has its own outputs and outcomes:

1. Invest in girls, their knowledge, skills and participation

Output

- Together, our partners target 25,000 girls in their interventions.[17]
- More than 75 youth clubs have been created and strengthened to promote SRHR education and end child marriage, both in schools and out-of-school.
- Each community organised three awareness meetings annually on SRHR for girls and women.[18]
- 375 adolescents, both girls and boys, received SRHR training and now function as peer educators who discuss issues like body changes, friendships and relationships, emotions, gender issues, culture, child marriage and harmful traditional practices (HTPs).

Outcome

- Improved knowledge of the school community in general and students and out-of-school youth in particular lead to self-confidence, assertiveness and problem-solving skills.[19]
- Action research identifies vulnerable girls, who receive continuous psychological, counselling and life-skills training from teachers, student buddies and parents. Besides, their parents were trained in good parenting. Within half a year all girls showed improved school results, increased self-confidence and assertiveness.[20]

2. Improve access to formal education for girls

Output

- Schools as safe places: partners received *Child Protection Policy* training and all schools[21] and non-formal education centres have a *Child Protection Policy.*[22]
- Annually, 290 primary school teachers are trained in effective teaching, the negative effects of child marriage on the health and wellbeing of girls, and SRHR issues by DEC in cooperation with the District Education Offices.[23]

Not a single girl married

In 2015 not a single girl dropped out of school because of child marriage in Worebabu, Ethiopia. '*Last year there were five girls who married*', the school director says.

Figure 1: Leila (12) from Worebabu youth club

With the support of Kinderpostzegels' partner FSCE the school's youth club discussed child marriage within the school community and came up with mechanisms to end the harmful practice.

At times it may be the teacher or school director taking action: they discuss risks of child marriage with parents or seek the help of community leaders or committees to involve in mediation.

[17] Bi-annual reports all local partners (2014)
[18] Bi-annual report (March 2015), WCAT
[19] Bi-annual narrative report WCAT (March 2015): preventing early marriage and promoting school participation of girls and young women
[20] Idem
[21] C&D alliance (2014). MFS II report
[22] C&D Alliance (2013). Final Research Report Awareness Raising
[23] DEC (2015). Training teachers on SRHR

Outcome

- The *Basic Education Programme* successfully contributed to both an increase in support from the communities for school participation of girls and an increase in girls' enrolment in formal education.[24] Partners report their interventions significantly increased girls' enrolment from 19 to 47% in their intervention area.[25]
- Previously, schools reported approximately 5 or 6 girls dropping out as a result of child marriage. Through joint efforts of different school communities (youth clubs, teachers, school directors and local authorities), in 2015 this number fell to a maximum of 1 girl per school.[26]

3. Improve access to youth-friendly SRH services for girls

Output

- At least one health worker per community trained to provide services for 12-18 year olds, acknowledging young people are sexually active and providing access to contraceptives. Breaking the taboo to discuss sensitive issues such as undesired pregnancy and the risk of HIV-Aids is a great gain of the SRHR training.[27]
- Teachers and peer educators linked to health workers for SRHR information and for the referral to youth-friendly SRH services.

Outcome

- Schools and youth clubs refer girls to youth-friendly SRH services.

4. Improve the economic security of girls and their families

Output

- Partners trained mother self-help groups on saving, business planning and income generating activities in ten communities, to improve the income position of deprived families so they can cover the costs of education of both their daughters and sons.

5. Mobilize communities to transform detrimental social norms

Output

- Together, our partners support 50.000 community members in 45 villages, including:[28]
    - Traditional birth attendants and circumcisers;
    - Family member and parent committees;
    - Existing community networks like *Idirrs;*[29]
    - CBOs including women organisations.

[24] C&D Alliance(2013). Final Research Report Awareness Raising
[25] Bi-annual report (March 2015), ADAA
[26] Bi-annual reports WCAT and ADAA (2015)
[27] Bi-annual report all Ethiopian partners, march 2015
[28] Bi-annual reports all local partners (2014).
[29] Community groups which organise social welfare informally.

- 300 traditional and religious leaders are trained and informed on the negative effects of child marriage.
- Community members are informed on topics like gender roles and child marriage and assisted in translating girls' rights into economic, financial and health benefits for the girls and the community through community dialogues, street theatre and local radio led by traditional leaders, peer educators or actors and local media.
- Existing community networks are trained to use local structures to control and counter HTPs; in the absence of such a structure, teacher parent committees are created and trained.

Outcome

- In all communities local by-laws have been formulated, stating that child marriage and HTPs like child marriage are forbidden. By-laws are often more respected in rural areas than national legislation, as their application is monitored by community networks and enforced by sanctions formulated and imposed by local leaders.
- A total of 110 child marriages were cancelled in communities by the joint effort of school communities and local authorities, such as the *Kebele* Women Affairs Officers.[30]

6. Enforce laws on preventing Child Marriage locally and influence favourable policies nationally

Outcome

- Established relations with local government structures: *Kebele* administration, District Education Office, District Health Bureau and district Women Affairs Bureau (see also strategy V) as well as regional and national platforms on child rights and with relevant Ministries.

Collaboration with national and international networks

Our partners are members of the *National Network on Early Marriage,* which brings together concerned Ministries (like Health and Education), international NGOs and Embassies, and the national coordinating knowledge and network Committee on Harmful Traditional Practices (ODWaCE). The Network is chaired by the Minister of Women, Children and Youth Affairs. This Ministry is also responsible for the Family Act which prohibits child marriages in Ethiopia.

We collaborate with Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) – partner of our alliance partner ICDI. Since 2013, ICDI works in Ethiopia implementing the *Girl Power Programme.*[31] Our partners closely align their efforts to support as many girls as possible in Ethiopia, and to ensure we do not duplicate our efforts and raise efficiency.

[30] Berke, B. (2014). Evaluation Report ADAA and Bi-annual reports (March 2015), FSCE and WCAT
[31] See: www.icdi.nl/projects_and_research/current_projects

The Hunger Project works with integrated rural development projects in Ethiopia since 2004, but does not yet address child marriage specifically, and thus does not yet participate in these exchanges. Kinderpostzegels, its implementing partners and ESD are also aligning with the new international child marriage programme of UNICEF. We align with national networks and governmental bodies that advocate for girls' rights, and we actively approach third parties within the national networks to lobby.

All our local partners are member of the *Girls Not Brides network*. In July 2015 a *National Workshop on Early Marriage* will be organised by ODWaCE and the Ministry of Women, Youth and Children's Affairs with the participation of the *Girls Not Brides network*. The objective is to formulate an action plan to end child marriage in Ethiopia. This means a direct opportunity for our partners to work in synergy with all different stakeholders, to implement national legislation at a local level, and to influence policies.

Expertise

Successful strategies to end harmful traditional practices like child marriage in relation to education is the specific expertise of Kinderpostzegels. Its staff has over 15 years of experience in the field of education and SRHR. A Participatory Capacity Assessment Tool (PCAT) is used to provide well-tailored capacity building for our implementing partners. In Ethiopia, we rely on the professionalism of our five local partners (with 15 programme management staff and some 80 trained and experienced community facilitators).

Capacity for innovation

Kinderpostzegels´ strategy for ending child marriage in Ethiopia is adapted from several successful other strategies and programmes:

- Our combined education and HTP-strategy in Ethiopia started in 2005, after consultation with the First Education Secretary of the RNE.
- Successful SRHR programmes in Burkina Faso and Mali which started in 2007, building on best practices from research by Save the Children.
- Our education strategy in West-Africa, based on research on street children and talibés. Looking at the specific problems of these groups and the causes for these problems led to a rural education strategy, preventing children from leaving their homes.

More recently, we see the following innovations:

- Taking the holistic *and* multi-actor approach by working on the empowerment of girls in different aspects of a girl's life (education, health, income and emotional wellbeing) and simultaneously fostering an enabling environment with community stakeholders, local authorities and (inter)national networks.

- Children and youth are increasingly central to our programmes and have an active role within the projects e.g. in youth clubs.
- Achieving impact in the field of SRHR by improving access to education for girls and training teachers.
- Engaging directly with traditional and religious leaders.

Efficiency is achieved when communities and (local) authorities take full responsibility to protect girls' rights and end child marriage. As soon as we see that self-sustaining structures to end child marriage in a community are in place, we lower the intensity of our work in those particular communities, while continuing to work with other villages and communities. Moreover, we share best practices and strategies that have proven to be effective with third parties, so that they may replicate them.

Flexibility and learning capacity

Every Kinderpostzegels programme starts with research, and a baseline survey. The programmes are planned and developed by the partners, and thus specifically tailored to the local context. Kinderpostzegels provides technical and financial input.

All partners in Ethiopia continuously monitor and evaluate their activities, and report bi-annually. Results are discussed on output, outcome and impact levels during regular monitoring visits and at partner meetings, in order to adapt or improve strategies when needed. In addition, we commission independent external evaluations per project on a three or four year basis.

Ever since 2007, the local partners in Ethiopia meet annually to exchange best practices. A good example is ADAA's effective awareness raising strategy which other partners learnt about in workshops and field visits, and then incorporated in their work *(see textbox).*[32] There is regular knowledge-exchange between ICDI's and Kinderpostzegels' partners in Ethiopia.

Community Conversation Groups

In the conversation groups men, women and children are engaged to discuss a topic e.g. child marriage,. This functions as an awareness raising tool. Everyone can freely have his or her say. The group functions as a village council. If consensus is reached, it forms the basis for by-laws.

Examples of strategies to overcome challenges:

- In Ethiopia, NGO-legislation prohibits civil society from working on human and children's rights. Obtaining permission from the government to implement programmes on girls' rights or SRHR is a challenge. To overcome this, partners focus their attention on promoting school participation of girls. Under which banner they can effectively counter child marriages and HTPs. At community and district levels, partners work closely with local authorities and often ask them to take the lead and, when necessary, plead for approval from district authorities.

[32] C&D Alliance(2013). Final Research Report Awareness Raising

- Partners encounter a diverse range of challenges within the communities. When there is a lack of commitment to end child marriages, awareness raising of the negative effects of child marriage is intensified to engage traditional and religious leaders. These leaders often become the agents that mobilise the community and implement by-laws prohibiting child marriage.
- Our partners frequently meet communities where people believe that child marriage is part of religious prescriptions. Therefore, partners invest time in awareness raising and training of religious leaders. In such a situation it is crucial that religious leaders publicly denounce child marriage.

Working with the Minister

Since 2006 we have carried out programmes in education with support from DGIS (TMF, MFSI and MFSII). We also collaborate with the Minister in the one-year *Suddenly Not A Child Anymore* programme to end child marriage.

We work closely with the Dutch Embassy in Ethiopia and will continue to do so. At the start of our interventions in Ethiopia, the First Secretary for Education at the Embassy was contacted. The strategy we subsequently followed, was based on her suggestions of how to work with the most vulnerable children in Ethiopia. At the moment, we pass on relevant information to and from the Embassy on issues we have expertise on. Assumptions and questions are checked with our partners, and reported back to the Ministry.

The Royal Netherlands Embassy in Addis Ababa acknowledges that our partners have in-depth knowledge of local circumstances and that they know how to operate without harming delicate government relations. We will continue working in synergy with the Embassy to exchange experiences and complement each other.

Transparency, accountability and public support

Ownership is at the core of our vision, which is shared between Kinderpostzegels and its local partners, as well as between partners and the targeted local communities:

- Research by Partos on partner satisfaction rated Kinderpostzegels amongst the seven best organisations, and showed significant commitment of its local partners: 'Kinderpostzegels has respectful relations with its local partners, is seen as a trustworthy partner and is valued because of its financial and quality technical support'.[33]
- The selected partners ensure that the community, local CBOs and local government become part of the process, prior to starting and during interventions.[34] This shows a commitment to fostering ownership in programme activities and results.[35]

[33] Keystone (2012). Partner satisfaction research
[34] Annual report (2013), ADAA
[35] Annual report (2013), WCAT

- We publish annual reports and disseminate results in the form of short movies and stories for donors as well as our vast public support of 1.850.000 children and adults in the Netherlands.
- Kinderpostzegels was awarded 'Charity of the year 2012' by newspaper Trouw and the Erasmus University's Centre for Philanthropy, with highest rates related to expected social impact, transparency, research carried out prior to project implementation, collaboration and monitoring.

Inclusivity

Gender is the crosscutting issue in all our programmes, and girls' empowerment is part of our main strategy to end child marriages and HTPs. Furthermore, local partners maintain a gender policy, which they use when reporting on their activities and when hiring staff. For example partner WCAT has 35% female staff and 47% female beneficiaries. These results are discussed during field visits.

We promote the inclusion of disabled girls and children of ethnic minorities in our programmes. Kinderpostzegels and its local partners both have policies on inclusion. Within our programmes we monitor participation of disabled children, and in in Ethiopia we specifically focus on the inclusion of ethnic minorities. Our partner organisation WCAT coordinates the *Ethiopian Inclusion Team* and implements the *Inclusive Disability Empowerment Health and Education Programme* for marginalised groups.

Sustainability

The strength of our work lies in the collaboration with actors on different levels, who take responsibility within their direct sphere of influence. Because we work with traditional leaders and existing community networks, schools, women´s groups and SRH-services, our strategies become locally embedded. Our interventions are geared towards the empowerment of these actors, to establish structures that are eventually self-sustaining. Within approximately three years, communities take full responsibility to end child marriage. In addition, we make sure to liaise with members in national networks that support our work in the communities. This guarantees sustainable social change.

Added value

We work in remote rural areas – where school enrolment is between 40 to 80 percent – where no other NGOs work on similar issues. Our multi-actor approach encompasses girls' participation and engagement of all key actors at a community level in countering HTPs. Besides education, our holistic approach involves health and income opportunities for girls and their families, and emotional wellbeing of girls. And has proven to be effective in increasing school participation of out-of-school children, ending FGM, child marriage and child labour.

III.2b The Hunger Project's track record in Bangladesh

Analysis

Bangladesh is a food surplus nation, producing more food crops than it can consume. Yet 64 million Bangladeshis do not have enough to eat; 40% of the population battle chronic hunger and poverty. The Hunger Project identified the subjugation of women as one of the main underlying causes. The birth of a girl is still seen as a sad occasion in Bangladesh. Girl babies are fed both less, and less nutritious food, than their brothers. Girls and women often eat what is left-over after boys and men in their family have finished.

The Hunger Project (THP) is active in Bangladesh since 1990 through its own local implementing office, with its own local staff. THP works in 185 unions throughout Bangladesh, with a network of over 142.000 active, trained volunteers. THP Bangladesh works in close collaboration with THP-Netherlands. Currently THP implements two projects with funding from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (on child marriage and on female political leadership), and maintains a close relationship with the Dutch embassy in Dhaka.

In Bangladesh, 65% percent of all girls are married and pregnant before they become 18; before their bodies have fully developed. They are underweight and malnourished when they give birth. And thus the next generation is also born underweight and malnourished, with girl babies and girls receiving less food – and so the cycle of feminized poverty continues. Many factors underlie child marriage in Bangladesh: traditional customs such as dowry, patriarchal family structures, people's mindset towards girls, illiteracy, reputation and security concerns, as well as poverty - girls are often considered an economic and social burden by their families.

Strategy and results

Because there are myriad causes, halting child marriage requires an integrated, community-based and multi-pronged approach, which has proven to be effective.[36] From 2012 until 2014 The Hunger Project achieved the following results[37] in Bangladesh that correspond with the Ministry's result area 1d: 'Combating child marriage' and the TOC of the Her Choice Alliance:

1. Improve access to formal education for girls.

- 15.649 parents learned about the importance of girls education
- 119.343 people attended meetings and 40.000 people participated in campaigns to reduce school dropouts

2. Improve access to youth-friendly SRH-services for girls.

- 590 mothers received targeted advice on necessary nutrition during their pregnancy and 95.000 people learned about essential nutrition for mothers and their babies
- Around 400 birth attendants were trained and 3000 women learned about safe delivery

[36] http://www.icrw.org/files/publications/Solutions-to-End-Child-Marriage.pdf
[37] Audited output and outcome data as recorded in THP M&E database

3. Improve the economic security of girls and their families.

- 1.470 self-help-groups formed; 35.670 people started income generating activities (of which 75% women).
- 1.492 income generation trainings; 28.745 women learned trades such as sewing, tailoring and candle making.

4. Mobilise communities to transform social norms that are detrimental to achieving gender equity.

- 210.000 people learned how they can ban dowry from their communities.
- 325.000 community members (one third men) engaged in activities to end child marriage.
- 73.000 people participated in meetings on the prevention of domestic violence.

5. Create an enabling legal and policy environment to prevent child marriage.

- 45.000 people engaged in marriage and birth registration campaigns.
- National Girl Child Day celebrations: in 2014, almost 600.000 people participated day in 61 out of Bangladesh's 64 districts, through rallies, school celebrations and media campaigns.
- 171 Union Parishads supported in developing five year Union development plans including banning child marriage.

Employing these strategies, The Hunger Project (THP) has achieved a considerable impact: volunteer leaders report stopping over 2.500 girl-child marriages by direct program intervention in the period from 2011 until 2014, as well as 2.200 marriages where dowry wasn't paid. Almost 6.000 girls were prevented from dropping out of school, and more than 30.000 births were registered - an important step to help prevent child marriages, because their age can be documented and recognized.

Expertise

Successful community-based women-centered strategies to end hunger and poverty is the specific expertise of The Hunger Project, with a worldwide staff of 380. THP Bangladesh has built solid expertise in combating child marriage. It has 69 qualified and highly motivated local staff members. Its largest human resource asset are trained volunteers, based in communities throughout Bangladesh: 21.000 youth leaders (19-25 year old students, who start clubs, lead rallies and campaigns against child marriage) and 142.000 community leaders, who organize, empower, and inspire the women of Bangladesh by building their capacity and developing their leadership skills to powerfully confront the issue of gender inequality and child marriage, advocate at the policy level and take a lead role in decision making both at home and within their community.

Collaboration with national and international networks

The Girl Child Advocacy Forum (NGCAF): THP Bangladesh was a founding member in 2002, and hosts the secretariat of this forum, which consists of 169 international, national and grassroots organizations. It raises awareness across the nation, for example through the annual celebration of the National Girl Child Day. The NGCAF was critical in the recent efforts to stop a draft law to lower the legal age of girls to get married, by organizing numerous debates and media attention (see textbox next page). As the secretary of this network, THP Bangladesh continuously engages with a wide spectrum of interest groups and frequents international conferences to promote girls rights in Bangladesh. Within this forum THP also engages closely with SDS, co-applicant ICDI's partner in Bangladesh.

Girls Not Brides network: through NGCAF, THP was one of the founding members of Girls not Brides Bangladesh in 2013.

Internationally, THP is also a firm advocate for girls rights. For example during the recent 59th session of the **UN Commission on the Status of Women,** THP and BRAC hosted a side event, where four expert speakers gave a picture of both the progress and remaining challenges facing women and girls in Bangladesh.

Unacceptable new law
In July 2014 the Bangladeshi prime minister announced to reduce the legal marriage for girls to 16. This intent faced a volley of criticism and THP and ICDI, together with the NGCAF organized targeted lobby efforts to stop this law. Six roundtable events were organized where debates took place concerning the new act, including a number of prominent government officials such as the State Minister for Women and Children Affairs, Meher Afroz Chumki.

The Bangladeshi government is now considering to maintain the legal age at 18, but proposes that with parental consent this can be lowered to 16. Lobby efforts on this issue continue.

Effectiveness and overcoming challenges

The effectiveness of THP Bangladesh's approach was proven by external evaluations. Columbia University (SIPA)[38] showed that women participating in THP programs were significantly more likely to be successful in stopping early marriages, and that THP volunteers were more likely to take action against dowry practices. An UNDEF funded study showed that in THP-trained communities the percentage of respondents taking steps to halt child marriage almost doubled between 2012 and 2014; the percentage of girls enrolled in primary school increased from 85% to 92%; and the percentage of respondents who feel they can change their communities increased from 27% to 39%.[39]

The strengths of THP's programs (volunteer engagement and involving vulnerable women), also comes with challenges. THP intentionally taps into people's intrinsic motivation. But persistent practices of other development agencies have led to demands of per diems or other material gains in

[38] Evaluating the Invaluable: An Assessment of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Bangladesh. May 2012. School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University Department of Economic and Political Development
[39] Based on comparison between data from baseline in 2012 with a follow-up survey in 2014, which highlighted attitudinal changes during that time.

return for participating in activities. THP circumvents this by a thorough selection process, picking only the most motivated community members. They continue to attend trainings because they appreciate the skills they are getting. And their skills are recognized by their surroundings: volunteers often include their training certificates in their professional portfolios as proof of their leadership capacity.

Another key challenge is to reach girls that are most vulnerable to marry at an early age, as they are often not allowed to leave their homes. THP reaches these girls and their families by mobilizing known and trusted female volunteers within their community. Finding such female volunteers in remote and traditional areas is also challenging. At the start of the program THP was able to engage 10% women in its volunteer network; nowadays this number increased to almost 50% of all volunteers. This was achieved by adapting the training program: close to women's homes, facilitated by women, and including topics vital to rural women's interests.

Flexibility and learning capacity

THP favors working with bottom-up grassroots solutions. Yet we do also learn important lessons from our M&E system. For example, through direct observation in focus group discussions and district level health data, we found that despite improved livelihood conditions in THP working areas, the nutritional status of pregnant and lactating mothers was not improving. So THP decided to introduce the Scaling Up Nutrition initiative, teaching people about the nutrition needs during the first 1.000 days of a child's life. Especially important for girls who marry at an early age. Because their bodies are not fully developed when they get pregnant, they suffer from nutrition deficiencies easily, which has a lasting effect on their babies. The campaign turned out to be a big success and THP can hardly keep up with the demand for trainings.

An external evaluation showed that women leaders have been extremely successful in preventing early marriages when leveraging relationships with the local authorities. Whereas this is an ultimate recourse in case the direct family isn't responsive, it is very effective for women leaders to have an established network with authorities that they can call upon. So THP increased its emphasis on networking in its leadership trainings.

Working with the Minister

During the current *Suddenly not a child anymore* program THP demonstrated flexibility by quickly and effectively upscaling and intensifying its programs during a one-year grant. Within the *Strengthening Electoral Process and Empowering Voters through Information* project funded by the Dutch Embassy, THP showed the innovative nature of its work. THP received praise from the embassy staff for its resourcefulness in the project and the valuable information it proactively provided to the embassy. Finally, THP Bangladesh shows in the *Political participation of women for equal rights* project, through funds from the small Human Rights Fund, that it can effectively engage an often neglected force: female political leaders at local level.

Capacity for innovation

Since 2011, THP-Bangladesh increased its programmatic effectiveness and efficiency through the introduction of the MDG Union approach, engaging different community groups to work together for a joint measurable purpose: the attainment of the MDGs in their Union. The community sets its own targets, formalized through an MoU between the Union Parishad and THP (e.g. a 100% child marriage free community). Another key innovation is the introduction of participatory Monitoring and Evaluation techniques. Community volunteers collect primary data on outputs in their locality, and report back achievements to the community four times a year through General Assemblies. Participants use this information to discuss and assess the year's performance, and set their own targets for the upcoming year. Efficiency in data collection is ensured through the use of iPods, equipped with iFormBuilder software: a cloud-based mobile data collection platform. This system allows collecting and storing data in remote areas, to be centrally analyzed and disaggregated. The system is used for data collection but also for household surveys, baseline studies and internal evaluations.

Transparency, accountability and public support

THP ensures full transparency and accountability towards *the target group and local stakeholders* through it's participatory M&E system. Through participatory methods, such as spider web assessments and transparency boards, participants in our programs are empowered both as collectors and consumers of data. Transparency and accountability to *donors and partners* is ensured through the provision of quarterly progress reports and output data. THP-B also shows the outcomes and impacts of its programs through rigorous outcome evaluations, which can be compared to baseline data.

Both THP Bangladesh and THP Netherlands are full members of the global THP network and jointly engage in strategic consultations, annual program planning and budgeting. Financial support from THP Netherlands to THP Bangladesh is always guided by a contractual agreement that specifies the roles and responsibilities in the funded program. The accounts and annual reports of both THP Bangladesh and THP Netherlands are annually audited and published online. THP ensures accountability to the *wider public* through InterAction's NGO Aid Map, which aims to increase the amount of publicly available data on international development by providing detailed project information through interactive maps and data visualizations. THP annually provides updated information through this platform. THP is currently working towards conversion of these data into IATI in 2016**.**

THP Bangladesh receives support from a wide range of donors. The British Council, UNDEF, UNDP and the Australian High Commission all fund its programs. THP engages in a large-scale partnership with BRAC in 4 districts, as BRAC seeks to adopt the THP methodology due to its effectiveness.

THP Netherlands holds ANBI status and a CBF-licence as well as a valid COCA. It ranks 1st (scoring full 100%) for two years in a row on chance of impact of all Dutch ngo´s in the independent 'Nationale Goede Doelen Test'. Until 2014, it was fully privately funded.

Involvement local partners

THP-B involves Union Parishad's and volunteers in preparing, planning and implementing interventions, as they form the core of the program. THP-B only starts to work in new Unions at the explicit invitation from a local community or authorities. While working in a Union, THP develops an agreement with the Union Parishad, formalized through an MoU, defining joint targets and activities. THP supports the Union in attaining their goals, but the Union defines the pace and scope of the activities. THP organizes volunteer trainings only upon request, when there are sufficient people within the area ready to get engaged in voluntary community action. In turn the activated volunteers implement activities by organizing rallies, courtyard meetings and campaigns. Through this approach THP ensures that all programs are based on locally felt needs.

Gender

Women's empowerment is at the heart of THP's development approach. 50% of all the volunteers in THP´s network are women, enabling them access to large groups of women within their communities. At the same time THP enables the most active female volunteers to go through an extra intensive training program in legal and reproductive rights. These women organize courtyard meetings and rallies where women rights, child marriage and violence against women are discussed and protested against. Women Leaders reach beyond their Unions through their membership in the national Unleashed Women's Network, where they can exert their influence on higher levels of government.

The Hunger Project's work has meaningfully contributed to changing mindsets of people across Bangladeshi communities. A 2012 evaluation compared the attitudes of individuals who participated in THP activities with those who did not. The results showed that women participating in THP programs reported greater freedom to leave the home, and that THP participants are significantly more likely to support equal pay for women.

Inclusion

THP Bangladesh reaches vulnerable and marginalised groups in three ways:

- levels of extreme poverty and cultural and religious diversity are an important factor in selecting intervention areas, focusing on areas that are hard to reach and that suffer from extreme climate conditions, such as the hoar and char areas that are often flooded and where few other organisations work.
- working with the most subjugated women in their Unions – those not allowed to venture outside their household- through active local female volunteers. An example of their impact is the fact that they managed to stop 1.104 cases of violence against women.
- include the poorest of the poor through Participatory Action Research: a specific empowerment program that equips people to analyse why they are living at the bottom of the pyramid, and makes people realise this is not their fate but that they can challenge the current situation. The

program seeks to shift mindsets from resignation to a ´can do´ attitude. Following from this analysis, PAR members organise themselves into *self-help and savings and income-generating groups*. Together they arrange income-generating projects such as cattle-raising, fish farming, handicrafts, horticulture, poultry raising, and sewing/tailoring. From 2012 till 2014 36.000 people participated in these groups.

Sustainability

THP Bangladesh's approach of empowering women, mobilizing communities, and partnering with local government places sustainability at the core of all programming. Successful mobilization leads to volunteerism, and low costs. Additionally THP's close cooperation with the local government ensures that the eradication of child marriage is high on the agenda in Union Development Plans. Networks and alliances co-built by THP, such as the NGCAF (National Girl Child Advocacy Forum), are also voluntary, self-run and self-sustaining. THP-Bangladesh federates its civil society units to enable the voluntary networks to expand to reach more people. Finally, THP-Bangladesh's decentralized structure and existing training resources are a vital component of sustaining momentum.

Added value

ICDI and The Hunger Project closely align their efforts and have successfully cooperated in the Suddenly not a Child Anymore project through regular knowledge-exchange and joint hosting of roundtable discussions on the new marriage law. The consortium's added value lies in its huge capacity to mobilize a movement against child marriage, both at local as well as at national level. THP Bangladesh is currently the country's largest volunteer-based organization as it has the ongoing support of more than 145,000 volunteer animators, who are truly motivated and equipped to build child marriage free communities. This leads to low-cost, high-impact, sustainable interventions. Both THP and ICDI's partner Shariatpur Development Society have a strong voice in influencing policies for the promotion of girls rights through their roles in The National Girl Child Advocacy Forum and the Girls Not Brides network.

III.2c ICDI's track record in Pakistan

Analysis

Since 2006 **ICDI** collaborates with **Bedari** in Pakistan, focussing on the Punjab region**.** Since 2011 we jointly implement the Girl Power Programme (MFSII). Since 2014 we jointly carry out the Suddenly Not A Child Anymore programme (Child Marriage Fund), in partnership with Kinderpostzegels and The Hunger Project.

Child marriage is a common practice in Pakistan and in the Punjab region (prevalence 24%-50%).[40] Causes are multi-fold and include: children are treated as commodities/slaves; tribal and feudal structure of society; lack of public awareness about harmful effects of child marriages; extreme poverty; and lack of will of the government. There are no central, independent and strong child rights bodies to monitor child rights violations. In 2006, an analysis of the high prevalence of child marriage and its causes was done by ICDI and partner organization Bedari through desk research and talks with local stakeholders, including young people themselves (using participatory methods such as research by children). We concluded that the existing national law on child marriages is not enacted; that legislative powers in Pakistan have been turned over to the provincial authorities, and that harmful traditions are maintained at community level.

Strategy

Based on this analysis, we jointly designed a multi-faceted, community-based approach:

- Advocacy and sensitization in villages with parents, community leaders, teachers, girls themselves, and so forth, to create attitudinal shifts;
- Awareness raising campaigns via community theatre and the media;
- Life skills training for girls;
- Conditional cash transfers to keep girls in school;
- Advocacy and community mobilization to create "bottom-up" pressure towards the local and provincial authorities;
- Creation of a provincial network of NGOs to lobby with the authorities (*Alliance Against Child Marriages* - AACM);
- Active involvement of this network in drafting new provincial legislation to counteract child marriages.

Child Marriage Free Villages

The community of Village 136.EB in Punjab is a poor, rural village of 3.000 people, divided over 300 households.

Bedari has been working in the village since 2012. In the last year there has been no child marriage. Community leaders and the local Child Protection Committee proudly declared it a Child Marriage Free Village.

[40] http://www.isj.org.pk/child-marriages-in-pakistan/

Results

Although still a work in progress, the main results are already quite impressive: [41]

- Incidence of child marriage in 80 rural and 30 urban communities in Punjab has gone down significantly, and in some the practice has been completely eliminated: 20 villages have become child marriage free.
- A pilot project aimed at stimulating and retaining girls in post primary level education in two villages through conditional cash transfers supported 30 girls for five years - only one of them got married at the age of 17. Bedari is now replicating this project in five more villages, thus supporting 100 girls.
- Vocational skills training to 480 girls has enabled over 200 young women to start earning some extra money, which has in turn resulted in giving them a say in the decision making processes in their families. Bedari is currently providing startup grants to 20 girls that are setting up their own small businesses.
- Bedari's legal and psychosocial support reaches around a thousand girls and young women who are (at risk of becoming) victims of violence per year.[42]
- Bedari provides regular gender training to police officials, lawyers, judges, journalists, and staff of shelters for battered girls and women. As a result, victims of violence are treated better by the staff of these institutions and agencies.

Expertise

ICDI is an expertise centre in child and youth development (including sexuality and gender development). Its team consists of 8 child psychologists, pedagogues, and sociologists, who are specialized in training, research, policy advice and project management (and who are able to strengthen the capacity of local partner organizations in these fields).

Bedari in Pakistan currently employs 50 people. From these, 40 are involved in content related work and usually have a background in social work, psychology or other related social sciences. Staff turnover in Bedari is low, indicative of the strength of the organization.

In relation to **result area 1** of the SRHR framework of the Ministry: ICDI and its partners always use an integral approach when designing projects and programmes to support girls and young women - strengthening the life skills of young people, including on SRHR. Child and youth participation is one of ICDI's main focus areas. During the past three years, participatory research with girls (and boys) to

[41] An independent mid-term evaluation of the Girl Power Programme took place in 2013 by Avance/Transition International. This report is in the possession of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
[42] Figures available in the Annual Report of the Girl Power Programme, 2014, in the possession of the Ministry.

get their views on and solutions for violence against girls and women took place in Pakistan, Nicaragua, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Bangladesh.[43]

In relation to **result area 4** of the SRHR framework of the Ministry: lobby and advocacy to promote children's and young people's rights is also usually an integral part of the approach taken by ICDI and its partners. This goes from awareness raising at community level to active lobby at national government level.

Collaboration with national and international networks

Bedari is a founding member of the Alliance Against Child Marriages (AACM), a provincial network of like minded Punjabi organizations.[44] ACCM first drafted and then intensively lobbied for the 'Punjab Marriages Restraint (Amendment) Act', which resulted in the passing of the bill in March 2015. Nationally, Bedari is also an active member of the Girls Not Brides network, the Girl Power Alliance, the Child Rights Movement (CRM), the National Action Coordination Group (NACG; Working for Child Rights), the Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAW/G) network, and the Access to Services and Knowledge (ASK- Helpline Network, to support young people and children). Bedari works in close coordination with the above networks in lobby and advocacy for women and child friendly legislation.

ICDI is a member of the following relevant international networks:

- Girls Not Brides;
- Child Rights Information Network;
- International Children and Youth Research Network;
- Eurochild;
- Better Care Network.

Bedari and ICDI regularly exchange updates on pertinent issues which we have gleaned from these networks, to inform the direction of our activities.

Effectiveness and challenges

The main challenge with SRHR is that they are a sensitive topic in Pakistan, difficult to address openly. Organising awareness raising sessions and/or training on SRHR in communities requires a lot of cultural sensitivity. Objections from religious leaders, but also other stakeholders, are common. Lobby and advocacy at the political level also often meets resistance. Finally, many parents are not willing to send their children to SRHR related activities, fearing they will be indoctrinated with "wrong" ideas.

[43] Research reports available from ICDI.
[44] https://www.facebook.com/AllianceAgainstChildMarriages

Bedari is a local organization with deep, lasting ties to the communities it works with. It is very security savvy and staff members use language and activities (such as street theatre) which are culturally acceptable. The organization involves carefully selected open- and like-minded people from the communities, and after these have gone through an intensive training, they are engaged to deliver most of the SRHR activities in their respective villages. This greatly enhances acceptance and ownership, likelihood of positive outcomes, and thus effectiveness.

The participatory methodology of research by children also yields important results at community level. The research process initiates a change in norms and values by asking questions, making problems visible and raising awareness among community members about sexual and reproductive health and rights, as well as children's rights.

Flexibility and learning capacity

In general, the main lesson ICDI has learned through stringent evaluations, is that projects focusing on healthy child and youth development will have the most impact if they are done as part of a larger holistic effort (combining the elements of research, capacity building to improve services/conditions and lobby & advocacy from grassroots to government level). We apply this insight in the design of all our projects.

The relationship between ICDI and its partners is not that of a donor and a recipient. Rather, we are equal partners who enjoy a process of joint learning, whilst implementing projects. To give a specific example of this kind of flexibility in Pakistan: through the Girls Quat tool (see Added Value section below) we realized that girls and young women in state run shelters did not feel safe there, due to the attitudes of staff. Based on this we intensified training efforts with staff of these institutions, to strengthen their communication skills and knowledge of girl's psychosocial development and well-being.

Projects of ICDI and its partner Bedari are closely monitored through the existing PME system: every year expected results, outcomes and outputs are formulated, and adjusted if need be. There are clear logframes, including qualitative and quantitative indicators. Every quarter the partner reports how far things are on track. ICDI also monitors progress via site visits and regular Skype and email contact. In the particular example of Pakistan we have not needed to make many adjustments so far, as the approach has worked very well.

Working with the Minister

ICDI has been working with DGIS since 1994. From 2000 until 2012 through the Matra programme, in which ICDI organized several, very positively evaluated child protection projects in Eastern Europe. In these projects close collaboration with Dutch embassies was always a central feature. In 2008 ICDI and the Ministry organized a seminar in the Kinderrechtenhuis in Leiden on the lessons learned from all the different child focused Matra projects.

Information exchange visits with local consulates and embassies have also been typically part of ICDI's monitoring and capacity building visits in the Girl Power Programme (MFS II) and the Suddenly Not a Child Anymore Programme (Child Marriage Fund).

In the Netherlands, ICDI was part of the Child Protection Workgroup, conferring with DGIS on this topic from about 2008 to 2012. In that constellation we were also involved in the organization of the Ministry's international Girl Child Conference in March 2009, which focused on violence against girls. In summary: ICDI has been working well with DGIS through the years, both at local level and in The Netherlands.

Capacity for innovation

ICDI is a driver of innovation in the field of child development. High-qualified staff with relevant backgrounds ensures the organisation is up-to-date on new methodologies and approaches, and able to use the most cutting-edge ones. By detecting new social trends we pinpoint areas of need, and create tailor-made strategies to inspire change.
In Pakistan this capacity for innovation can be seen in how the methodology of research by children has been adapted and used to build individual and collective agency of girls, and to initiate positive changes at community level. With Bedari, we are also developing ideas on how to create safe but unsupervised play areas for adolescent girls. This is lacking almost completely in Pakistan, and hinders girls' healthy development.

Transparency, accountability and public support

ICDI projects are almost always jointly designed with local partners. Local partners take the lead in identifying the issues and developing interventions, with ICDI playing a supportive and advisory role. There are exceptions whereby the initiative comes from ICDI, but then the development and implementation of a project is still a joint process. The Pakistan example showcases this: the problem was identified by the local partner, and then jointly developed.

To ensure accountability towards the target group, partners, stakeholders, donors and the wider public, ICDI uses two internationally recognized assessment tools: the Accountability Dialogue Tool[45] and the Mango Check.[46] Through these tools, ICDI gauges its performance and makes this transparent to its stakeholders. Annual and financial reports are always published on our website.

ICDI and its partners have a strong relation with community stakeholders and national platforms on child rights, and collaborate with relevant Ministries. In these collaborations, outcomes as well as (possible) failures of interventions are always shared and discussed.

[45] Self-assessment tool developed by the Danish NGO CISU – Civil Society in Development: http://www.corruption-agenda.org/preventing-corruption/accountability-dialogue-tool
[46] www.mango.org.uk

We have policies in place which our local partners always have to sign on to (and we actively monitor if they comply with these).[47] These include a 'Child Protection Policy' (which defines amongst others how beneficiaries should be treated and which mechanisms need to be in place to ensure that their rights are met), a 'Complaints Policy' (for beneficiaries and partners), an 'Anti-fraud and anti-corruption Policy' (for ICDI and partners) and a 'Sanction Policy' (of ICDI towards partners).

ICDI does not raise funds from the general public (in The Netherlands or abroad). We do have the ANBI status, and comply with the Code Wijffels. Because many of our projects are financed by funds coming from taxes paid by the general public, we do communicate about our work. As a form of accountability and awareness raising on the importance of development aid to support vulnerable children. ICDI is therefore very active on both Facebook and Twitter and shares news via its website.

Inclusivity

ICDI always applies a gender transformative approach in its project design. Girls' and young women's access to education, economic opportunities, and protection services are usually key objectives. ICDI supports its partners in developing and implementing gender policies in their own organisations. For Bedari, this has led to fifty percent of women in higher management positions (5 / 10), and 6 out of 7 board members being women. In total 35 out of the 50 staff members are women.

Gender is a cross cutting theme in the Girl Power and Suddenly Not A Child Anymore programmes of Bedari and ICDI in Pakistan. Bedari and ICDI have also been working with various institutions to increase access to basic services for girls and women who are at risk or who have become victims of violence. Bedari implements life skills activities called Self-Growth, which include sessions on SRHR issues, child marriages, and gender based violence. These sessions help girls grow into independently thinking individuals who know their rights, understand the issues they face, and know how to deal with them. These sessions are very popular and are offered to girls who attend vocational skills training, girls who are in the conditional cash transfer project, and members of girls clubs established under the Girl Power and Suddenly Not A Child Anymore projects in Punjab.

Another gender element in our approach in Pakistan is advocacy and lobby for women friendly policies and laws, both at the provincial and national level. Bedari played an instrumental role in various advocacy campaigns, including for anti sexual harassment laws, which resulted in enactment of the desired laws in 2010. Our efforts to get a law to ban child marriages in Punjab has seen recent success: it was passed in the provincial legislature in March 2015. However, it still needs amendments and follow-up to ensure its implementation on the ground. Bedari and ICDI are currently designing yet another advocacy campaign, this time for a quota for women in key government positions at district and provincial level.

[47] ICDI's policy scan: http://www.icdi.nl/about_us/2

Sustainability

Once a village sees a clear reduction in child marriages, Bedari moves to the next village. But it keeps in touch with previous villages through monthly meetings with the local Child Protection Committees. During those meetings, relevant actors discuss progress and problems they may face, to ensure that changed attitudes don't change back. This strategy is working well. None of the villages where the rate of child marriages was significantly reduced have shown a reversed trend.[48]

Our lobby and advocacy efforts in Pakistan have had structural impact at the political level, as proven by the passing of the bill banning child marriages. Next to this, the government of Punjab also established a Provincial Commission on the Status of Women, which existed on paper till very recently, but now has a proper office, staff, and pursues a gender agenda. Bedari is consulted on a regular basis by the chairperson of this commission. With support from government and civil society organizations (including Bedari), it has established a pilot helpline for women victims of violence and discrimination. If successful, this will be expanded to the whole province.

Added value

ICDI is an expertise centre with close and long-lasting ties with (proven) high quality local partner organisations, which really make a change in children's and young people's lives. ICDI has direct and effective communication lines with its partners, which means that projects can be monitored properly and –if needed- quickly adjusted. ICDI offers a personalised, yet professional relationship with local partner organizations, based on mutual respect, exchange of knowledge and ideas. This sounds simple, but few international NGOs, especially the bigger ones, can provide this. The kind of child and youth development expertise that the ICDI team possesses is uncommon amongst staff of INGOs. They usually need to hire outside experts for content related matters, influencing negatively the quality of projects. The use of external experts often results in a lack of continuity and joint learning, facilitates unequal relationships between northern and southern partners and, also not unimportant, often leads to higher costs.

In Pakistan, it is clear that Bedari has been one of the most influential local organisations fighting child marriage and other SRHR infringements. ICDI has provided them with advice, training, funding, and much needed (moral) support. A unique feature of ICDI is its application of cutting-edge participatory methodologies, such as research by children and youth. This approach will be made available to all the partners in the current alliance and will increase the participation of girls and their self-efficacy.

Finally, ICDI has developed a tool, the Girls QUAT, which is a participatory, easy to use tool, involving local stakeholders, to measure quality and impact of services for girls. This tool will be introduced to all partners of the alliance and will form an integral part of the PME system. In Pakistan, Bedari is already putting the Girls QUAT to good use.

[48] An independent mid-term evaluation of the Girl Power Programme took place in 2013 by Avance/Transition International. This report is in the possession of the Ministry.

IV. Applicant´s signature

I declare that I have truthfully completed the application form and all accompanying documents.

Name of lead party of consortium	Stichting Kinderpostzegels Nederland
Name of authorised signatory	Ms W.J.C.M. van Haaren
Date	29 May 2015
City	Leiden
Signature	

V. Compulsory appendices

Appendix 1.1a1	Constitution applicant Stichting Kinderpostzegels Nederland
Appendix 1.1a2	Deeds of incorporation applicant Stichting Kinderpostzegels Nederland
Appendix 1.1b1	Constitution co-applicant The Hunger Project
Appendix 1.1b2	Deeds of incorporation co-applicant The Hunger Project
Appendix 1.1c1	Constitution co-applicant ICDI
Appendix 1.1c2	Deeds of incorporation co-applicant ICDI
Appendix 1.1d1	Constitution co-applicant Universiteit van Amsterdam
Appendix 1.1d2	Deeds of incorporation co-applicant Universiteit van Amsterdam
Appendix 1.2	Contact details applicant and co-applicants
Appendix 1.3	Samenwerkingsovereenkomst
Appendix 1.4	Organisatieschema van het samenwerkingsverband
Appendix 1.5a1a	Annual report 2013-2014 applicant Stichting Kinderpostzegels Nederland
Appendix 1.5a1b	Annual report 2012-2013 applicant Stichting Kinderpostzegels Nederland
Appendix 1.5a1c	Annual report 2011-2012 applicant Stichting Kinderpostzegels Nederland
Appendix 1.5a2	Annual report 2014 co-applicant The Hunger Project
Appendix 1.5a3	Annual report 2014 co-applicant ICDI
Appendix 1.5a4	Annual report 2013 co-applicant Universiteit van Amsterdam
Appendix 1.6a1	Annual account 2013-2014 applicant Stichting Kinderpostzegels Nederland
Appendix 1.6a2	Annual account 2014 co-applicant The Hunger Project
Appendix 1.6a3	Annual account 2014 co-applicant ICDI
Appendix 1.6a4	Annual account 2013 co-applicant Universiteit van Amsterdam
Appendix 1.7a	Auditor´s report 2013-2014 applicant Stichting Kinderpostzegels Nederland
Appendix 1.7b	Auditor´s report 2014 co-applicant The Hunger Project
Appendix 1.7c1	Auditor´s report 2014 co-applicant ICDI
Appendix 1.7c2	Management letter 2014 co-applicant ICDI
Appendix 1.7d	Auditor´s report 2013 co-applicant Universiteit van Amsterdam
Appendix 1.8-1.11	Valid organisational check/COCA
Appendix 1.12	Theory of change
Appendix 1.13	Track record (case descriptions)
Appendix 1.14	Received grants from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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