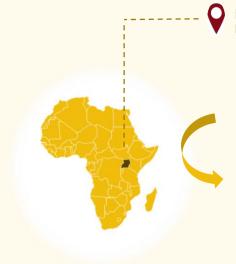
Good Practice AT A GLANCE





Experience by SOS Children's Villages In Western Uganda

Background:

Child marriage was a norm in Western Uganda and communities attached greater value to the boy child and paid little attention to the plight of the girl child. Reasons for child marriages were seen in socio cultural norms and low levels of education. Child marriages can lead to severe birth complications and economic hardships. Local communities observed these challenges but did not have the capacity to intervene.

The solution was

- 1. Identification of cases of child marriage and reporting to SOS, local authorities and the police.
- 2. Awareness creation and counselling on the effects of child marriage among households.
- 3. Sensitization activities on child protection at community level and in schools.
- 4. Training for school girls on life skills.

Experience description

Other characteristics

CHALLENGES

impediment to SOS's activities

Uncooperative local leaders

Highly entrenched cultural

norms, beliefs and gender

o Some of the offenders were

disadvantaged girl education

released after bribing the police

High expectation for

were a challenge

stereotyping that

remained

allowances was a major

Child marriage has been successfully made more difficult and perpetrators were arrested and prosecuted through legal channels. Bribery of local administration and the police has reduced. There was an increased awareness of child protection and increase in enrollments and retention of girls in schools. Communities established mechanisms for tracing and reintergrating young girls, who were already married off. With support of SOS, these girls successfully went through vocational trainings. The declaration "No to child marriage" was passed nationally.



LESSONS LEARNED

Taking into account cultural

norms, beliefs and gender

sensitization activities

to enforce prosecution

very effective

Bribery reduction of local

stereotyping is key in order to

plan awareness creation and

administration and police has to

be part of the strategy in order

Networking on a national level

to face the challenges jointly is

II.

IMPACTS

- Perpetrators were arrested and prosecuted
- Bribery of administration and police was reduced
- Awareness of child protection was increased
- Enrolments and retention of girls in schools was increased
- Mechanisms for tracing and reintegrating already married off young girls
- "No to child marriage" was passed nationally



ÖSTERREICHISCHE ORGANISATION FÜR ENTWICKLUNGSZUSAMMENARBEIT Sector: Human Rights – Civil Society Period: (Year – Year) Further material: <u>www.sos-childrensvillagesuganda.org</u> Contact: nationaloffice@sosuganda.org

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GEFÖRDERT DURCH DIE ÖSTERREICHISCHE ENTWICKLUNGS ZUSAMMENARBEIT

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