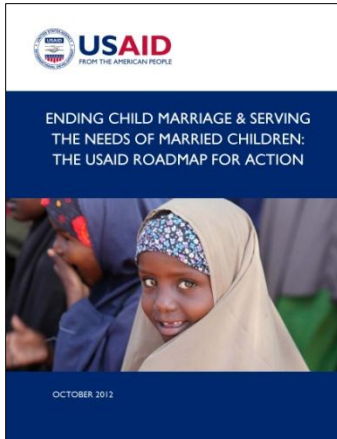




USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Ending Child Marriage and Meeting the Needs of Married Children: The USAID Vision for Action



Child marriage affects millions of children under the age of 18 every year, preventing them from living a productive life. Perpetuated by cultural norms, poverty, and lack of access to education, child marriage not only affects the lives of those who are married, but also their families and communities. An estimated 10 million girls are married every year before they reach the age of 18. In the developing world, 1 in 7 girls is married before her 15th birthday, with some child brides as young as 8 or 9. If child marriage continues at its current rate, an additional 100 million girls in developing countries will be married within the next decade. This means boys and girls losing the ability to grow into empowered men and women who can provide for themselves, families, and communities.

Ending Child Marriage and Meeting the Needs of Married Children: The USAID Vision for Action (2012) complements numerous USAID policies and strategies. It will also inform USAID efforts to end gender-based violence while strengthening the Agency's commitment to children in adversity, gender equality, female empowerment, and youth development. Additionally, it reaffirms USAID's commitment to ending child marriage and provides guidance to USAID staff on how to best combat child marriage and address the needs of the more than 50 million children already married.

Key Principles for Action

Cultivate Partnerships Broadly

Mobilize Communities to Shift Norms that Perpetuate Child Marriage

Address the Unique Needs of Married Children in Programs

Factors Guiding Bureaus' and Missions' Prioritizing Efforts to Address Child Marriage

- Prevalence Rates
- Risk of Greater Vulnerability Resulting from Instability
- Presence of Other Stakeholders

This vision serves to assist USAID ensure that its programming efforts support boys' and girls' abilities to reach their full potential, foster gender equality, and promote girls' empowerment.

To access the vision, go to http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PDACU300.pdf