

# WASH Interventions impact on child



## Day 2 Session 6: Program approaches for targeted support to vulnerable groups:

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**LESOTHO RED CROSS SOCIETY**



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# *Context*

## **LANDSCAPE – LESOTHO (Mountain Kingdom)**

**Population** - 2 M People, **Rural**- 76.3% and **Urban**- 23.7%

**Water** – Over 25% of rural population don't have access to safe water and rely on open springs located 4km away.

**Sanitation** – Over 70% don't have access to simple toilet

**Hygiene** – Literacy rate of 79.4%\* but there is need for intense hygiene education especially among the herd boys.

# *Context*

## **PROJECT FOCUS:**

- Provision of safe water – from natural springs constructed into Gravity Fed Schemes.
- Ventilated Improved Pit (VIP) latrines – Stop open defecation
- Hygiene promotion - homes and schools focusing on hand washing, personal, environmental, household, water and food hygiene plus safe disposal of human excreta etc.

# *Challenges to be addressed*

Abduction of young girls and forcing them into marriage

“**Chobeliso**” as they go to:-

- Fetch water from distant and hidden sources
- Relieve themselves in the bushes (hidden) places far from their homes.

**Note:** The burden of household water collection in rural areas rests entirely on the shoulders of women and girls

# *Why should we address?*

## **Why Prevent Child Marriage?**

- Give girls an opportunity to attain their full potential in life; through schools etc.
- Prevention of physical and sexual violence that could lead to mortality and exposure to STIs\*.
- Prevention of social isolation since the girl is expected to behave as an adult in the body of a young child.

# *What approach have you adopted?*

Advocacy on WASH service delivery as means to curb child marriage.

- Campaigns with communities, leaders and all stakeholders on the importance of provision of water as one of the measures to stop early marriages

# *What approach have you adopted?*

- Girls & women included in consultation on WASH facilities.
  - Construction of water supply systems that bring water closer to homes within 150m range.
  - Supporting households to build latrines within the yard to enable girls to use latrines in secure places.

## *How well is your approach working?*

- Girls & women are expressing their views during community sensitization meetings and have incorporated views into the designs and locations of WASH facilities.
- LRCS have been advocating for use of WASH service delivery to government and other WASH sectors players as means to curb child marriage.



**Slide 8**

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**LJ8**

this is really par tof the above - what is your approach. Doesnt answer how well working

Lillingston, Jenni, 17/07/2017

# Women and girls collecting water within the village



# Advocacy on WASH Services to stop early child marriage

## Campaign to stop early child marriage



# Advocacy cont.

## Girls talking about their rights





# Advocacy to stop early marriages

The Queen taking part in campaign to stop early marriages



## *What evidence do you have that your approach is working?*

- FDGs with leaders, elderly women and young girls in communities indicated that trends are improving due to WASH services provided.
- Key Informant Interviews- 95% of girls now feel safe and secure while accessing WASH services provided by the project.
- Comparing figures between villages that do not have improved WASH services to those that have has shown reduction.

# *What evidence do you have that your approach is working*

“If my memory serves me well, there is decline because every winter about 2 girls were being abducted in our spring which is in the valley and surrounded by the bushes, while now that the water has been brought near, any of such issues”

**Chief Mahopolang**, of Mosisi village.



# *What advice would you give to others?*

- Advocate for provision of WASH services as one way to address problem of early marriages where this practice is high
- Leveraging on the social capital (Use Leaders to drive this)
- Consult girls and women when designing and locating WASH facilities.
- Empower women to take up leadership roles in community decision making and management structures for WASH facilities



# Resource recommendations

Detail any key literature or publications to enable others to obtain further information

## Useful Websites

[www.girlsnotbrides.org/child-marriage/lesotho/](http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/child-marriage/lesotho/)

[sundayexpress.co.ls/escaping-child-marriage-by-a-whisker/](http://sundayexpress.co.ls/escaping-child-marriage-by-a-whisker/)

<https://www.pressreader.com/lesotho/lesotho-times/20160707/281603829792277>

<https://www.pressreader.com/lesotho/lesotho-times/20160707/281612419726869>

[www.wvi.org/.../queen-masenate-lesotho-campaigns-world-vision-against-early-child-...](http://www.wvi.org/.../queen-masenate-lesotho-campaigns-world-vision-against-early-child-...)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rFDCIpnu2Kw>

[lestimes.com/girl4ce-says-no-more-suffering-in-silence/](http://lestimes.com/girl4ce-says-no-more-suffering-in-silence/)

[https://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/lesotho\\_statistics.html](https://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/lesotho_statistics.html)

[www.humanium.org/en/africa/lesotho/](http://www.humanium.org/en/africa/lesotho/)

<http://www.lestimes.com/chobeliso-is-the-worst-betrayal-of-women/> **(Victims' Testimonies)**

# Conclusion

Social, political, economic and cultural factors all influence the scale of child marriages.

However as WASH practitioners we have a role in ending this problem by designing and positioning WASH facilities in areas where women and girls feel secure and protected.

Further research will be conducted to determine the extent to which WASH intervention contribute to solving the problem.

# END

## THANK YOU !!!

