

First International Day of the Girl Child – 11 October 2012
Country Office Activities

Afghanistan: UNFPA, with UNDP, UNICEF, UNAMA, and UN Women, is hosting a press release, a nationwide radio campaign, several video animations to highlight the effect of child marriage on adolescent girls, and a cartoon story on child marriage to help youths begin to understand and discuss the topic.

Argentina: UNFPA is conducting a study of adolescent girls that are mothers of two or more to show the “repetition” of adolescent maternity in the community. The study will raise awareness about the dangers facing adolescent girls in Argentina regarding child marriage.

Armenia: UNFPA is conducting a press release and a forum theatre play contest “Who You’d Better Be In Armenia -- Boy or a Girl?” to raise public awareness on the first International Day of the Girl Child. The forum theatre play contest is designed to bring young people together and sensitize the public about the lives of girl children in Armenia.

Azerbaijan: UNFPA, with the State Committee for Family, Women, and Children’s Affairs, UNICEF, and Medialink, is sponsoring a television programme devoted to spreading awareness on how child marriage affects the lives of adolescent girls in Azerbaijan. The active media involvement will reach every level of the community.

Bangladesh: UNFPA, with the local media, is hosting several key events. These include: an op-ed publication in two local dailies; an animated PSA on prevention of girl child marriage to engage youths on the topic; a special talk show on child marriage and how it affects the lives of adolescent girls in Bangladesh; and a mock parliamentary debate on the laws regarding child marriage in Bangladesh.

Belize: UNFPA, with civil society organizations, is hosting a Girls Forum entitled “Speak Out” with adolescent girls on the issues of child marriage and adolescent pregnancy.

Cameroon: UNFPA, with Cameroon Radio and Television (CRTV), MINIPROFF, and Plan Cameroon, is marking the first International Day of the Girl Child by hosting interviews on national television to discuss the purpose of the day. The interviews will highlight the negative impacts of child marriage and early pregnancy on adolescent girls in Cameroon.

Costa Rica: UNFPA, with the local government authorities, is conducting an analysis of data from existing databases in the country on the situation of adolescent girls who are under the age of 18 and its relation to child marriage and pregnancy. There will be a press conference to debut the correlations and discoveries of the data analysis

Ecuador: UNFPA, with the Ministry of Health and Economic and Social Inclusion and Plan International, is hosting a national forum entitled “Because They’re Girls,” as part of a national awareness-raising campaign with the local government.

El Salvador: UNFPA, with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, the National Council on Children and Adolescents, the Salvadorean Institute for Women’s Development, UNS, UNDP, UNICEF, and UN Women, is conducting a press conference, a forum on adolescent pregnancy in El Salvador, and an adapted presentation of the Red Riding Hood fairy tale for children of UNS personnel. All these events will focus on the theme of “End Child Marriage.”

Ethiopia: UNFPA, partnering with the Ministry of Women, Children, and Youth Affairs, is sponsoring a national television and radio awareness and advocacy campaign that will be distributed throughout newspapers, message boards on public advertising space, and public transportation to inspire action against child marriage and the protection of adolescent girls.

Ghana: UNFPA, with the African Women Cultural Leaders Network (AWCLN), Ghana Union of Queen Mothers (GH-UNIQUE), and Lady Julia Osei Tutu, is holding a summit from 11-14 October to brainstorm ideas and opinions on issues concerning the girl child, particularly how to end child marriage in Africa by involving traditional cultural and religious leaders.

Guatemala: UNFPA, with UNESCO, UN Women, and Working Group on Adolescents and Youth, is hosting a press conference, a legislative lobbying event, and a public forum on the situation of adolescent girls in Guatemala to celebrate the first International Day of the Girl Child.

Guyana: UNFPA, with local government, stakeholders from the donor community, and the private sector, is conducting a forum entitled, “Connecting Girls: Inspiring Their Future” that will focus on adolescent girls in the context of child marriage, sexual abuse, access to education, adolescent pregnancy, and access to health services.

Honduras: UNFPA, with youths in the framework of the Human Security Programme, is hosting a puppet day for children and a video presentation to reflect upon the situations of girl children in the country. The scripts for both events will involve child marriage, pregnancy, abuse, and equal rights.

India: UNFPA, with the State Health Minister, corporate leaders, and local media personalities, is hosting several key events to commemorate the first International Day of the Girl Child. These include: a 1MM film festival, where budding filmmakers from colleges in Mumbai will show 1-minute movies on the theme “Question Everything,” which focuses on gender issues and stereotypes; a face-to-face documentary with some of India’s women “firsts,” including the first woman commercial pilot and first female cadet; and performances by Bollywood celebrities to spread awareness about the effect of child marriage on adolescent girls.

Kenya: UNFPA, partnering with UNIC, UN Women, and local radio stations, is conducting interactive sessions with adolescent girls to hear their side of the story concerning child marriage.

Kyrgyzstan: UNFPA, with the Vice-Prime Minister on Social Affairs, members of parliament, and young adults, is launching a photo exhibit entitled “Early Marriages: Disadvantages Without Advantages” that details the stories of women facing violence in child marriage.

Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office: UNFPA, with UNICEF and UN Women, is conducting a joint inter-agency communication by the regional directors, a webinar on adolescent pregnancy and child marriages, and mapping activities to celebrate the first International Day of the Girl Child.

Lao PDR: UNFPA, with the Ministry of Planning and Investment, UNICEF, and UN Women, is hosting a Girl Child Day drawing contest to celebrate the first International Day of the Girl Child. The contest is for young adolescents between 10 and 14 years old to show their thoughts and opinions about child marriage and what it means for adolescent girls.

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: UNFPA, with the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, UNICEF, UN Women, and WHO, is holding a press conference to commemorate the first International Day of the Girl Child and release three short documentaries on child marriage.

Malawi: UNFPA, with the Ministry of Gender and UNICEF, the country office is organizing a public debate that will be aired on Television Malawi and on Zodiac Broadcasting. The debate will include three panelists: a Judge, the principal Secretary for the Ministry of Gender, and an adolescent girl. The debate will focus on child marriage from three perspectives: legal/policy, social and cultural norms, and the adolescent girl.

Maldives: UNFPA is conducting a photo contest, several news pieces featuring intimate stories of adolescent girls, and a documentary by local television to commemorate the first International Day of the Girl Child.

Mozambique: UNFPA is partnering with the local government and NGOs, to host intervention activities by the Ministry of Women and Social Action, testimonials by a girl child, and various government representatives (including Canada). These interventions will raise public awareness concerning issues related to girls, specifically child marriage and sexual reproductive health.

Nepal: UNFPA, with the National Planning Commission and the Inter-Agency Task Team (UNESCO, UNICEF, UN Women, Plan Nepal, Save The Children, Child Workers in Nepal), is conducting large awareness initiatives across the country to celebrate the first International Day of the Girl Child. The initiatives include: 4 week-long training sessions for district facilitators to prepare them for consultations with adolescents affected by child marriage; a meeting of stakeholders to generate involvement in prevention child marriage and drafting a National Plan of Action; and workshops for adolescents in various districts to hear their side of the story regarding child marriage.

Nigeria: UNFPA, with the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development and UN Women, is hosting a press launch and sponsoring local television and radio stations to discuss issues related to child marriage.

Pakistan: UNFPA, with the Department of Youth and Sports and UNICEF, is conducting a press conference to launch the UN joint statement on the Girl Child and to announce that Seeds Grants will be awarded to winning NGOs to implement interventions in five provinces in Pakistan.

Panama: UNFPA, with UNICEF, Plan International, and Save the Children, is conducting a meeting with implementing partners to mark the inaugural International Day of the Girl Child, releasing a joint op-ed on 11 October 2012, and organization community participation in radio and TV programmes to discuss how child marriage affects adolescent girls in Panama.

Peru: UNFPA, with Red FLORECER, is releasing a press bulletin with key information concerning the dangers of child marriage for adolescent girls, a short flyer, and a radio spot to spread awareness and celebrate the first International Day of the Girl Child.

Philippines: UNFPA, with Plan International, is conducting a health and wellness event in a local high school, including a forum on teen pregnancy to spread awareness about how child marriage affects adolescent girls in the Philippines.

Sierra Leone: UNFPA, partnering with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender, and Children's Affairs, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Youth, UN Women, UNICEF, and Plan International, is hosting a press conference and a dialogue forum for young people to come and discuss the issues of child marriage. These advocacy activities are focused on the theme "End Child Marriage and Stop Teenage Pregnancy" to inspire policy, legislation, and community actions against child marriage.

Sri Lanka: UNFPA, with the Ministry of Child Development and Women's Affairs and local NGOs, is hosting a media seminar to celebrate the first International Day of the Girl Child. The seminar will include an awareness-raising programme featuring a discussion with media personnel about issues facing the girl child, including early marriage and sexual abuse.

Tajikistan: UNFPA, with the local government and national NGOs, is hosting three activities as part of a national campaign to mark the first International Day of the Girl Child. The first is an open discussion involving young leaders, journalists, activists, government officials, and religious leaders; the second involves social media to raise awareness and get young people talking about child marriage; and the third is a visit for local members of parliament to rural districts to meet with local populations, religious, and community leaders about child marriage issues facing adolescent girls.

Turkey: UNFPA, with the local media and CNNTURK-TV, is hosting a press conference to mark the first International Day of the Girl Child. The media coverage will include interviews with local government officials and will raise awareness about how child marriage affects adolescent girls.

Uganda: UNFPA, with the Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development, the Ministry of Education and Sports, Plan International, ActionAid International Uganda, and the Uganda Police Force, is mobilizing a National Organizing Committee meeting. The purpose of this event is to bring stakeholders together from the local government, CSOs, and public and private institutions to work on advancing the rights of girls in relation to the theme for the International Day of the Girl Child.

United Republic of Tanzania: UNFPA, partnering with the Ministry of Youth, UNFPA's Youth Advisory Panel, and Clouds FM, is conducting a radio programme, press releases, and articles to spread awareness about child marriage. The radio programme will use the Njia Panda (Crossroads) programme

to reach every level of the community. Girl brides will come to talk about their experiences, government officials will testify as to what the government is doing, and males from the community will offer their opinions about child marriage.

Zambia: UNFPA, with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Gender and Child Development, UN Zambia, and Irish Aid, is hosting a Girls' Education Symposium to commemorate the first International Day of the Girl Child. This event will create a dialogue for stakeholders to discuss strategies for addressing child marriage in Zambia and support for girls to reach their full potential and interest in girls' education as a strategy for reducing child marriage.