



MENINAS E NÃO NOIVAS

Parceria Moçambicana para Eliminação dos Casamentos Prematuros

Mozambique Child Marriage Coalition Work Main Achievements & Next Priorities

London, UK Canada House

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The brief note highlights the current work undertaken by the coalition member organizations (updates on key success, main challenges & future plans for the next 18 months. Note that the coalition is not a registered organization and its secretariat is led by a local NGO named ROSC (Child Rights Civil Society Forum) since its creation in 2013.

Organizational Background

Constituency: The Child marriage coalition (**CECAP**¹) is a set of Civil Society Organization that was founded in 2013 with the aim of contributing to the reduction of early marriage rates in Mozambique and establish partnerships both at national and international towards eradicating the harmful practice against girls. The coalition is composed by 38 member organizations (31 local NGOs and 7 INGOs) and 4 partner agencies (UNFPA², UNICEF³, DFID⁴ & EC⁵).

Structure & geographical locations: The coalition has its main secretariat in Maputo city (capital) and all operations are coordinated by ROSC. At provincial level, CECAP it's represented in 6⁶ provinces (North and Central Mozambique) and all interventions are coordinated by member organizations with local offices.

Coordination mechanism: Monthly meetings are held at ROSC involving national members and annual planning meetings are held involving provincial representations. Regional/International engagement is rotated amongst member's area of expertise and role on the coalition.

Strategic Objective: Contribute towards ongoing national efforts (Government and other actors) to reduce early marriage rates from current statistics of 48% of girls married before 18 years old to 40% by 2020.

Current Work on Early Marriage (2013-2015)

Child marriage affects approximately half of girls in Mozambique before they reach their 18th birthday and one tenth before they are 15. The 2011 DHS⁷ found that 10% of women currently aged 15-19 had been married (legally or living in marital status) by the age of 15 and 48% of women now aged 20-24 were married by the age of 18.

Mozambique has shown a steady commitment to harmonizing national legislation with regional and international human rights instruments and significant efforts have been taken by national stakeholders (coalition members) since the creation of CECAP on the following sectors:

¹ Coligação para Eliminação Dos Casamentos Prematuros

² United Nations Funds Population Fund

³ United Nations International Children's Fund

⁴ Department for International Development

⁵ European Commission

⁶ Manica, Sofala, Zambezia, Nampula, Tete & Niassa.

⁷ Demographic Health Survey

Policy & legal framework

- ◆ Engagement on the revision of penal code concerning articles on age of sexual consent (from 12-16) and removal article concerning of marriage between rape victims and perpetrator.
- ◆ Revision of Decree 39/2003 of Ministry of Education and Human Development which enforces that pregnant teenage girl enrolls in night school.
- ◆ Discussion of draft SADC⁸ law on child marriage with members of parliament.
- ◆ Full engagement of the recent approved child marriage strategy (technical support on design & advocacy statement sent to prime Minister).
- ◆ Round table on analysis of legal framework with CSO and members of parliament.
- ◆ Lobby session with parliament members on their role to strengthen legal framework.



Figure 1 Round table on of Decree 39

Girls Empowerment

- ◆ Held two annual girl's conference (2014 & 2015) in Maputo city and 3 provincial conferences (2015).
- ◆ Held school debates on early marriage at national level where more than 1000 girls involved.
- ◆ Launch of mylife@15 campaign in social media during the international day of the girl in October 2015.



Mobilization and Public Awareness

- ◆ National conference with inter-religious faith leaders resulting on “Matola Declaration” in August 2015.
- ◆ Supported Government on the Launch of National campaign against child marriage in June 2014.
- ◆ Production of radio spots on child marriage, mass media campaign (some cases were reported through investigating journalism).
- ◆ Engagement with private sectors during the 2nd Forum Mozefo⁹ “Girls Economic Empowerment”.

⁸ Southern African Development Community

- ◆ Participation on open debate during the European Commission week “open session on child marriage” December 2015.

Documentation and Research

- ◆ Development and dissemination of Statistics analysis of child marriage (tendencies and impacts) supported by UNICEF and UNFPA.
- ◆ Development and dissemination of a Policy brief ¹⁰

Strengthen CECAP coordination

- ◆ Approval of advocacy and community strategy (2014-2019)
- ◆ Monthly coordination meetings
- ◆ Approval of institutional governance
- ◆ Annual planning meetings (2015 & 2016)
- ◆ Technical support from Global Partnership (GNB)



Figure 2 Monthly Coordination Meetings

Regional and International Engagements

- ◆ Discussion of draft SADAC law on child marriage in Johannesburg 2015
- ◆ Participation on the 23rd session of the African Committee of Experts on Rights and Welfare of the Child during the presentation of Mozambique state party report and alternative report Addis Ababa 2013.
- ◆ Participation on the African Union girls summit in Zambia 2015
- ◆ Participation on the girls summit in UK 2014
- ◆ Participation on the Global Girls Not Brides conference in Marrocos in 2015

Main Priorities (2016-2017)

- ◆ Alignment of Advocacy/Communications strategy with Government recent approved strategy on early marriage.

⁹ Mozambique Economic and Social Forum

¹⁰ http://www.unicef.org/mz/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/EN_Moz_Child_Marriage_aw-Low-Res.pdf

- ◆ Round table discussions with Government and parliament on SADAC draft law (lobby for ratification during head of states Summit in June 2016 and discussions to draft national law).
- ◆ Technical support provided to Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action on the development of strategy operation plan and M/E framework
- ◆ Lobby for revision of article 30 of family law on marriage before 18
- ◆ Development of Civil Society alternative report on UNCRC due 2017 (under progress)
- ◆ Civil Society mapping (expansion of CECAP members).
- ◆ Strengthen CECAP platforms in other provinces.

CECAP National Initiatives



Figure 4 GNB Technical Visit



Figure 3 Community Radio Programs