



Frequently Asked questions about MTBA – ‘Making the Most of What we Know’, Learning project:

Project background & Scope:

- **What are the focus countries for the learning project:** The learning project will be implemented in nine countries, including the five countries involved in MTBA: Niger, Mali, Malawi, Pakistan and India and four additional countries; Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Nepal and Uganda.
- **What is the focus theme for learning:** The learning trajectory focusses on the link between adolescent female sexuality and child marriage, with the objective to improve interventions that aim to change underlying gender norms that drive child marriage. Based on the results of focus topic selection survey the project will look explicitly at the theme of ‘premarital pregnancy as risk to child marriage’ and ‘marriageability’ of girls. See the child marriage and sexuality brief for more details about the focus topic.
- **Is this learning project only for MTBA partners?** No, we explicitly would like to stimulate learning both within and beyond the More Than Brides Alliance. Any organization interested in learning about child marriage and adolescent female sexuality is invited to participate and eligible for any of the learning components.
- **What is the difference between the MTBA’s ‘Marriage No Child’s Play’ and ‘Making the Most of What We Know project:** The Making the Most of What we Know Project is a separately funded project coordinated by the More Than Brides Alliance partners. The project focusses fully on learning and exchange and goes beyond the scope of the ‘Marriage No child’s play’ program by engaging with other alliances and four additional countries: Uganda, Bangladesh, Ethiopia and Malawi.
- **How can we use the outcomes of the learning trajectory for resource mobilization?** The aim of the project is to improve practice by any organization and therefore outcomes of the project will be available publicly. Data gathered during the project can be interesting to profile your organizations and/or alliance work for fundraising purposes. For MTBA partners the partnership business developer and learning coordinator can help exploring how you might use the project outcomes.
- **What are the learning components of the project?** The project exists of three separate but interlinked components:
 1. Collating scientific evidence with implementation experiences in nine countries.
 2. Youth-led research
 3. Learning & Exchange Spark fundFrequently asked question about the component are answered in the sections below
- **When is the international conference?** Planned for the week of October 26th. The venue will be announced later. Participation in the international conference will be based on the outcomes of the national learning trajectories.

Collating scientific evidence with implementation experience:

- **When will implementation data be gathered?** Between March 2020 and August 2020
- **What is implementation experience?** Practical knowledge of organizations on how to address social norms around female sexuality and child marriage which is often overlooked in scientific research. For example, what language works best, what steps do you take to get community leaders on board, what works or doesn’t work when you discuss sexuality in a youth group etc.



- **How will you be using existing evidence, project data, case studies?** Population council will take the lead in collating scientific evidence and other project data. Their analysis will also inform the reflection questions asked during implementation experience gathering.
- **My organization has interesting research or program experience regarding child marriage and female sexuality, how can I share this?** Please connect with us and share your research or implementation experience so that we can jointly explore synergies.
- **How will the process of implementation experience gathering look like?** We foresee the following steps:
 1. *Internal scoping within MTBA:* what have we learned about the focus topic within the More Than Brides Alliance
 2. *External scoping:* survey to map what the experience is around child marriage and female adolescent sexuality of other organizations in the nine focus countries beyond MTBA?
 3. *In depth follow-up interviews:* Based on questions that arise from scientific evidence and the responses to the internal and external implementation experience scoping a series of in-depth follow up interviews will be planned in each of the nine focus countries.
 4. *National & international learning events:* Experts are invited during national events in each of the nine countries to be planned between June and August 2020. Based on the outcomes of the events an international conference will be organized in the week of October 26th 2020. During the national and international workshops, the aim is to present, clarify and detail the outcomes of the learning trajectory.
- **How will you select areas to gather implementation experiences?** Except for the nine focus countries there will be no geographic pre-selection within the countries. Instead the internal and external scoping and scientific evidence will be used to decide on key informants for the in-depth follow up interviews.
- **Who will validate the implementation experiences gathered?** The aim is not to conduct a scientific, validated research but rather to gather practical experiences. That said validation of the experiences happens in the national and international workshop and by collating the experiences with scientific evidence.

Youth-led research:

What is the difference between implementation experience gathering and youth-led research? While the implementation experiences focusses on the perspectives of implementing organizations the Youth-led research focusses on gathering perspectives of girls themselves on child marriage and female adolescent sexuality. While implementation experience is planned to be gathered in all nine countries youth-led research trajectories will take place in just five out of the nine countries which will be selected based on the interest and availability of youth-led research coordinators.

How can my organization engage in youth-led research? You can submit an expression of interest up to March 11th 2020 to coordinate a youth-led research trajectory. For more information see the call for expression of interest and background information.

What is expected of the Youth-led research coordinator? The person should be interested in research and in working with youth for a period of 3 months close to the area of research implementation. He/She should propose a community in which to organize the research and implementing a youth-led research curriculum.

How many youth researchers should we engage: we suggest that the coordinator works with about 15 girls from one community.

When will the youth-led research take place: 2 researches are planned to be organized between April and June/July, the second phase with 3 researches will be organized between July and



September 2020. Before each trajectory the research coordinators will be trained, and an evaluation will be organized after each trajectory.

What should be the age of youth researchers: Between 12-18 years old girls.

Can I also propose to work with older youth so that the research quality might be better? No, the starting point of youth-led research is to capture the perspective of young girls themselves and ensure that the research and learning is interesting and relevant for them. We do not expect professional research and research products.

My organization has already done youth-led research are we still eligible? Yes, your experience might add value to that of other organizations. As the method and curriculum is slightly different the research coordinator will still be requested to participate in the training of trainers.

Do we have to include a budget in our expression of interest? Yes, see the youth-led research background information for more information on how to develop your budget.

Learning & Exchange Spark fund:

When will the call be published: The call is expected to be published in April 2020

What is the total grand size: The total grand size is € 160,000 for nine countries.

What are the eligibility criteria: Eligibility criteria will include an inspiring and relevant learning question about child marriage and adolescent female sexuality? For administrative reasons we ask that at least one of the applicants in the proposal is connected to one of the three Dutch funded alliance partners. We will detail the exact criteria and process together with our country alliance partners in march 2020.

How can I find a possible partner to learn from/with? We aim to launch an online platform in which we invite you all to exchange ideas for learning proposals. Cross-country and cross-alliance learning is encouraged.

What is the difference between a large and small grant: small-grants are expected to be between € 500 and € 3000, larger grants between € 3000 and € 10,000. Details will follow when the call is published.

Is a video proposal compulsory? We are still finalizing the call for proposals and think of a 3 minute video proposal to pitch the learning idea as a first step to submit your idea. After selection organisations will be asked to submit a short proposal and budget.

How will the selection of proposals be made: based on the principals of participatory grandmaking we will involve a selection committee that consists of community based organisations, and NGO's that directly implement child marriage interventions.

More information

Check the overall project brief and briefs about the project components for more information or contact the MTBA Learning Coordinator:

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