



Learning Spark Fund

More Than Brides Alliance (MTBA)

Making the Most of What We Know Project (MMWWK)

For more information contact sever.dzigurski@simavi.nl

The challenge of changing norms around sexuality

Gender inequality and concerns related to female sexuality are consistently powerful drivers of child marriage across different contexts. However, social norms and taboos are often quoted as the most difficult barrier to overcome. While no two contexts are the same, there are similarities across geographies from which we can learn how to influence norms around female sexuality to minimize child marriage. The More Than Brides Alliance is initiating a multi-country learning initiative to explore the links between female adolescent sexuality and child marriage. The aim of this learning initiative is to lay a more solid base so that organizations can implement and advocate for interventions that are grounded in promising practice and empirical evidence

Learning Exchanges

The Learning Spark Fund is a grant mechanism designed to stimulate learning as broadly as possible on the theme of girl adolescent sexuality and Child Marriage. (See briefing note on adolescent female sexuality and Child Marriage for background information and three selected sub themes the MMWWK focuses on.)

Learning exchanges are spaces for knowledge sharing. They stimulate the flow of practical experience, perspectives and insights. Members of an exchange, discuss what they know, transfer skills and even tackle sticky problems or issues together. The exchange of context specific experiences and actor specific perspectives are the foundation for collectively exploring and coming up with strategies for improving intervention design and implementation.

The Spark Fund operates in nine countries: India, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Pakistan Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Nepal and Uganda.

Grant funding

A maximum of Euro 160,000 in grants will be awarded in 2020. The grant round (April 2020), contains two windows - small and larger.

The Grant Process

Step 1: The Grant Call

A call will be issued by the MMWWK project and advertised through Alliance country coordinators. It will specify the size of each grant window, the anticipated number of grants available, what is and is not funded, the themes being supported and provide a link to the learning exchange platform.

Step 2: Idea generation and exchange formation

An online platform and chat facility will provide a time limited and open space where those





interested can pitch an idea for a learning exchange and find others who would like to explore that idea further.

Step 3: Idea assessment

People affected by the theme and the practical intervention-oriented outputs of learning exchanges will assess and score the project ideas. This is likely to include but not be limited to people at the sub-local level such as implementation officers of NGOs/CBOs, government officers and representatives of girl's groups. This approach is in-keeping with a participatory grantmaking model. The assessment committee will review and judge the grant ideas against established criteria and score them for selection. This will be overseen by Simavi together with selected members of the Alliance Advisory Group.

Step 4: Proposal development

The “winning ideas” then advance to the second phase of the process – completion of a proposal template – narrative and financial. These will be assessed for compliance, viability and value for money by Simavi with the assistance of the Alliance Advisory Group.

Step 5: Grant Award and monitoring

Grant will be awarded, against established Simavi contracting procedures and protocols.

For contracting purposes, each exchange must include an organization (host – responsible for administration) that is connected to one of the three Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs funded Child marriage alliances: MTBA – Save, Oxfam-Novib, Population Council and Simavi; Her Choice (kinderpostzegels, ICDI, Hungerproject, UVA) and; Yes, I do (Plan, CHOICE, Rutgers, Amref, KIT).

Eligibility

Any individual, group or organization with inspiring insights on sexuality and CM is welcomed to pitch and idea and or participate in the learning exchanges.

This can include but is not limited to members of the three Dutch funded child marriage alliances, those involved in the Girls not Brides network as well as the UNICEF -UNFPA global program. NGO/CBOs working at local level, government staff, researchers, advisors, adolescent girl group representatives etc. are encouraged to participate. Inter and intra Alliance sharing, multi country exchanges and bringing together people with diverse perspectives is welcomed and encouraged.

