**From:** reep apt [mailto:reepapt@yahoo.com]
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**Subject:** OHCHR progress report on child marriage

My name is Mary Makokha from Kenya I work in western Kenya , Busia county with an organization that works to protect the girl child in a rural setting. <http://www.reepkenya.org./>  REEP has been working here since 1999.

Lessons Learnt:

1. Girls from homes with domestic (GBV) violence get married early to escape from the violence at home,only to end up in abusive marriages.

2. Child marriage has to do with irresponsible parents and poor parenting skills.

3. Poverty is a major factor contributing to child marriage.

4. Poor socialization of girls i.e girls are born to get married and bring wealth to the family.

5. Child pregnancy  is likely to result in child marriage.

6 High stigma and cultural practices that discriminate  single women motivates girls to get married.

Programme

 At REEP, we undertake both preventive and rescue measures to protect girls from child marriages.

In our preventive programme, REEP gives information development and dissemination of IEC materials, doing radio and television programmes on child marriage, highlighting cases of child marriage and abuse,conducting school and community outreaches, training duty bearers on laws protecting children, supporting children to participate in important days such as the day of the African child, International Day against child labour. REEP also trains parents on skillful parenting and we have a holiday mentoring programme with girls.

In the rescue programme, REEP takes perpetrators of child marriage to court,we carryout one on one counseling with children who have been rescued from marriage, implement a return to school plan with rescued girls, REEP has supported several girls rescued from marriage to go back to school and one of them Rodah is now  a 4th year at Kenyatta University persuing a degree in education while Redempta who had been married off at the age of 13 is now at Migori teachers training college training as a primary school teacher.

Thanks for thje work you are doing to save the girl child.

Best Regards

Mary A. Makokha