



Program Brief

Tipping Point: Digging Up the Roots of Child Marriage to Replant the Future

OVERVIEW The Tipping Point addresses the root causes of child marriage, with the generous support of The Kendeda Fund, and in partnership with Siddhartha Samudayik Samaj, the Dalit Social Development Center, JASHIS, and the Association for Slum Dwellers. The project works with adolescent girls and boys, parents, and community and religious leaders, and nationally with networks of social activists, experts, and government agencies in 20 subdistricts of Nepal and 90 villages of Bangladesh. CARE expects this learning and innovation initiative to contribute to global understanding of the complex issues driving child marriage and strategies that can contribute to a “tipping point” of sustainable change to prevent and mitigate child marriage.

41%

Of girls in Nepal get married under 18.

Innovation, Insight, and Influence. CARE works to end child marriage through local solutions, learning, and advocacy.

66%

Of girls in Bangladesh get married under 18.

Innovation

Exploring New Paths, Matching Solutions to Local Contexts

Child marriage is not restricted by religion, country, income bracket, or level of education. It disproportionately affects girls around the world because their rights, well-being, and potential are undervalued. Additionally, each community has complex and particular reasons for child marriage. CARE matches our strategies to the drivers of child marriage in each context. In Nepal and Bangladesh, child marriage is rooted in complex factors including: family honor, controlling sexuality, gender roles, economic insecurity, and women’s and girls’ education and livelihood options. We work with communities to:

- Critically explore factors sustaining child marriage practices and innovate ways to transform them;
- Support sustainable social and economic alternatives for girls that allow them to have more options in their own lives;
- Bring different actors together—including men and boys—to build social movements for change;
- Connect regional and national activist networks.

Insight

Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning to Find the Best Paths to a Tipping Point

Part of the Tipping Point project consists of key questions that can build evidence for social change and “tipping points.” The project is based on Developmental Evaluation principles, which see evaluation not only as a static end-point, but as a strategic approach to decision-making and action. As actors engage and issues emerge, shift, and take unexpected turns, our system helps us tailor our strategies to new situations.

The Tipping Point project seeks to build additional evidence for what works in which contexts to end child marriage. This includes understanding marriage transactions and markets, when to target pioneers within communities who challenge existing child marriage practices, addressing adolescent sexuality in child marriage prevention work, approaches to building alliances with religious leaders and institutions, supporting existing structures to implement policies, and creating opportunities and safe spaces for adolescent girls.

National and regional efforts link to advocacy at the US and global level, where the project will use evidence and learning to inform action and leverage the recent momentum on child marriage that has been achieved through activities of actors such as the Girls Not Brides Global coalition and the US chapter (which CARE co-chairs with key partners), the Elders, efforts by the World Health Organization, the U.S. government, the G8 and G20 summits and the United Nations Conference on Population and Development. In particular, a key focus of Tipping Point will be working with partners to monitor implementation progress on the USG policies and priorities in Nepal and Bangladesh.



Influence

Creating Change Through Local to Global Advocacy

Tipping Point uses learning and documentation from field experience to support action by local, national, and global coalitions, activists, and decision-makers' against child marriage. Our efforts extend beyond a focus on formal policies - such as age of marriage laws - to include efforts to influence social and cultural institutions that drive gender discrimination and contribute to child marriage.

Beyond the common cause that girls and their rights are not valued, each community has complex and particular reasons for child marriage. We match our strategies to drivers of child marriage in each context.

The Tipping Point project aims to strengthen, inform and support growing movements for social change in favor of girls' rights at all levels in Nepal, Bangladesh and South Asia and to build on global momentum to end child marriage.

In 2013, Girls Not Brides USA and champions secured a major success through the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) reauthorization, which requires the Secretary of State to draft a comprehensive and multi-year strategy to end child marriage.

This victory presents an urgent window of opportunity to work with the Obama Administration towards unprecedented policy and programmatic commitments to end child marriage. Tipping Point learnings will help leverage CARE's leadership role in the US policy context to advocate the implementation of the VAWA mandate.

CARE USA

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Our Partners

