

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE (CDA-GHANA)

2ND QUARTER NARRATIVE REPORT

ACCELERATING EFFORTS TO END CHILD MARRIAGE IN UPPER WEST REGION



Submitted to UNICEF
29thTH May, 2016

“Accelerating Efforts to End Child Marriage” is a CDA-Ghana flagship project initiative funded by UNICEF as part of efforts to End Child Marriage, Promote Gender Equality Norms and Improve Sexual Health and Rights of young people living in 30 resource poor communities in the Upper West Region of Ghana. Barely six months of the project implementation, CDA and its collaborating partners have made significant achievements of imparting knowledge among individuals and families, changing social and cultural norms and influencing local communities to abandon the practice of child marriage and other negative social cultural practices. Our efforts have directly reached 7631 with relevant information on ending child marriage, preventing teenage pregnancies as well as promoting gender equality norms. An estimated 61% of our direct project beneficiaries are female’s whiles 39% males. Additional 43% of our direct project beneficiaries are children whiles adults constitute approximately 57% of the number of people

reached directly.

6Results for Children - Narrative Report from Implementing Partner

CHILD PROTECTION

Reporting made easy. Follow this template to provide a narrative report on your activity/activities. Please attach any other documents you think might add value to your report – this could include specific monitoring tools developed for your activity, Most Significant Change stories, or statistical reports from your section/unit.

The form is easy to use. Save it to your desktop and make a copy of it each time you wish do to a report. To complete the form, just click in any of the section in the Narrative column and, start typing!

| | | Narrative |
|---------------|---|--|
| Who? | Ministry / NGO | Community Development Alliance (CDA) |
| | Contact Person/s: | KantonSalifulssifu Executive Director |
| | | Wasor Ibrahim Project Officer (Ending Child Marriage) |
| | Contact details (Phone/email): | Post Office Box 490 WA – Upper West Region Email: cdaghoffice@gmail.com Tel: 0208446939 Website: www.cdagh.org |
| What planned? | Amount / Fund received: | GH ₵ |
| | 2012 Work Plan activity reference: | Ending Child Marriage |
| | Ministry / Department activity reference (if applicable): | |

| | <p>Expected results (Intermediate Result) to which this activity is contributing:</p> | <p>The overall expected result of this project is to end child marriage in target districts and communities and improve the well-being and status of girls and young women.</p> <p>The specific expected results of the project are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">1) Increased knowledge and confidence of 5000 girls and young women to prevent child marriage in local communities2) Increased preventive action among 15000 people in 30 under-served rural communities to embrace gender equality norms and abandon the practice of child marriage.3) Increase the active participation of 5000 males that contributes to the abandonment of the practice of child marriage in 30 under-serve rural communities4) Contribute to a zero record of child marriage in 30 rural and under-served communities | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|-------|-----------------|--|--|--|------------------|------------------|------|--------|-------|-----------------|----------------|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------------|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|---|----|-----|-----|-----|---------------|---|----|-----|-----|-----|-------|----|-----|-----|------|-----|
| <p>What happened?</p> | <p>Activity Report – what happened? (What? Where? Who? When?)</p> | <p>In its efforts to End Child Marriage, Prevent Teenage Pregnancies and Improve the Sexual Health and Rights of children, CDA-Ghana implemented a series of behavior change interventions across 30 under-served and resource poor communities across four (4) districts in the Upper West Region. The activities were implemented within the period January – May 2016 and are part of interventions geared towards imparting knowledge, changing attitudes and increasing preventive action by individuals, families and communities towards the total elimination of all forms child marriage in the local communities.</p> <p>Activity 1) Training of Youth Models of Change to lead efforts to end child marriage in local communities</p> <p>During the period under-review, CDA organized a series of community based capacity building trainings for Youth Models of Change using various participatory and innovative tools. The youth models training also utilized the child protection training tools kits aimed at imparting knowledge, creating awareness and changing social and cultural norms. The training directly benefited a total of 1084 young people living in 30 resource poor communities across four Districts of the Upper West Region. Approximately 57% of the direct beneficiaries are girls who were equipped with knowledge and skills to prevent teenage pregnancy, child marriage and other forms of child rights abuses. The table below provides a breakdown on the total number of youth models trained on efforts to end child marriage.</p> <table><tr><th colspan="6">Number of Youth Models (10-18 yrs) trained on Preventing Child Marriage using the Child Protection Training Tools Kits</th></tr><tr><th>Name of District</th><th># of Communities</th><th>Male</th><th>Female</th><th>Total</th><th>Percentage Male</th></tr><tr><td>LambussieKarni</td><td>10</td><td>151</td><td>184</td><td>335</td><td>55%</td></tr><tr><td>Daffiema/ Bussie</td><td>10</td><td>149</td><td>191</td><td>340</td><td>56%</td></tr><tr><td>WA West</td><td>5</td><td>87</td><td>131</td><td>218</td><td>60%</td></tr><tr><td>Nadowli/Kaleo</td><td>5</td><td>83</td><td>108</td><td>191</td><td>57%</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>30</td><td>470</td><td>614</td><td>1084</td><td>57%</td></tr></table> | Number of Youth Models (10-18 yrs) trained on Preventing Child Marriage using the Child Protection Training Tools Kits | | | | | | Name of District | # of Communities | Male | Female | Total | Percentage Male | LambussieKarni | 10 | 151 | 184 | 335 | 55% | Daffiema/ Bussie | 10 | 149 | 191 | 340 | 56% | WA West | 5 | 87 | 131 | 218 | 60% | Nadowli/Kaleo | 5 | 83 | 108 | 191 | 57% | Total | 30 | 470 | 614 | 1084 | 57% |
| Number of Youth Models (10-18 yrs) trained on Preventing Child Marriage using the Child Protection Training Tools Kits | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Name of District | # of Communities | Male | Female | Total | Percentage Male | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| LambussieKarni | 10 | 151 | 184 | 335 | 55% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Daffiema/ Bussie | 10 | 149 | 191 | 340 | 56% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| WA West | 5 | 87 | 131 | 218 | 60% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Total | 30 | 470 | 614 | 1084 | 57% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

The training was generally participatory, inclusive and informative. The tools and methodology used in the training generated serious discussions and reflections on critical issues on preventing child marriage, teenage pregnancy and other broader child protection issues. Some of the tools used in the training included the Gender Roles Analyses Game. This is a participatory tool which seeks to discuss the specific roles that the society prescribes to boys and girls in the family and community at large. The tool enabled discussants to carefully analyze and delineate the differential roles ascribed to girls and boys in the family and the reasons for which these roles are prescribed. The tool also created opportunity for the discussants to re-think their positions on the roles girls and boys play and to make commitments towards embracing gender equality where both boys and girls are treated equitably in terms of the roles they play.

Figure 1 A Cross Section of Youth Models Participating in a Training on Gender Roles and Efforts to End Child Marriage in Lambussie/Karni District



The use of the tool kit generated discussions geared towards unearthing the reasons behind the social construction of roles boys and girls play in the family. The dialogue also provided an avenue for the youth to carefully reflect on whether or not the gender roles as identified can be performed by both the boy and the girl equitably in the home or local community setting.

Both boys and girls actively participated in the discussions with great excitement and enthusiasm. They share their experiences, observations

and reflections on the roles they each play in the home and how that effects their personal development, confidence building and self-esteem. The discussions clearly revealed that most girls in local communities in the project districts were over burdened with household chores that are affecting their health, educational and social wellbeing. The table below highlights the role analyses of girls and boys as pertains in the local communities.

| Analyses of Roles Girls and Boys Play in 30 communities Across four Districts in the Upper West Region | | |
|---|---|--|
| BOYS ROLES AT HOME | GIRLS ROLES AT HOME | ROLES THAT BOTH BOYS AND GIRLS CAN EQUITABLY PLAY |
| Weeding round the house | Fetching water | Weeding round the house |
| Ironing | Sweeping/cleaning yard | Ironing |
| Feeding animals | Cooking food | Feeding animals |
| Polishing shoes | Fetching of firewood | Polishing shoes |
| | Washing of bowls | Fetching water |
| | Feeding siblings | Sweeping/cleaning yard |
| | Washing clothing's | Cooking food |
| | Buying soup ingredients from the market | Fetching of firewood |
| | Grinding soup ingredients | Washing of bowls |
| | Funning fire for cooking | Feeding siblings |
| | | Fetching water |
| | | Washing clothing's |
| | | Buying soup ingredients from the market |

From the analysis on the table above, it is clear that girls are overburdened with household chores compared to the boys as it pertains in most of the communities prior to our interventions. Whereas girls has enormous domestic responsibilities number over 10 different tasks, their boy counterparts only play three basic roles.

The discussions created space for careful reflections and shifting of positions regarding the roles both boys and girls play in the family and local community. This has resulted in a new thinking and orientation among the youth that most of the roles are merely social constructions and can be done by both boys and girls which will inure to their mutual benefit. Girls and boys in the project communities have resolved to play a more equitable role in carrying out household chores. They have indicated their

commitment to promoting gender equality norms in their families and communities as youth models of change.

Other tools used in the training of the youth models included the tag of war, the balloon games, the circle of support and the gift box. Below are training photos on the various tools.

Figure 2 A Cross section of young people participation in a youth models training using the child protection training kits, circle of support and tag of war tools



Figure 3 Youth Models being training on efforts to end child marriage using the tag of war tool kit



Activity 2: Organized Community Dialogues on Ending Child Marriage
As part our efforts to end child marriage, CDA organized community

dialogue meetings to create awareness, impart knowledge and change attitudes of individuals and families towards ending child marriage. The community dialogues utilized behavior change communication tools to increase preventive action among community leaders towards abandoning the practice of child marriage. The table below shows the total number of community dialogues organized during the period January to 17th May, 2016.

| Number of Community Dialogues held to disseminate information on ending child marriage | | |
|--|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Name of Districts | # of Beneficiary Communities | Total Number of Dialogues held |
| WA West | 5 | 11 |
| Lambussie/Karni | 10 | 23 |
| Daffiema/Bussie/Issa | 10 | 24 |
| Nadowli/Kaleo | 5 | 10 |
| Total | 30 | 68 |

A total of 68 community dialogues were organized within the period January – May 2016 in 30 under-served communities across four districts. The community interventions have directly reached out to **7631** people composed of 61% females and 39% males. Participants of these dialogue meetings were taken through a series of participatory and behavior change communication tools produced by UNICEF as part of a broader child protection training tools kit. The use of the tools kits generated a lot excitement and enthusiasm among a cross section of community members who actively participated and gained knowledge from the activities. The community dialogues meetings have imparted knowledge, changed attitudes and increased preventive action among individuals, families and local communities towards the total abandonment of the practice of child marriage, prevention of teenage pregnancies and the adaption of gender equality norms. The table below shows the number and sex distribution of people who actively participated in the community dialogue meetings.

| Number of people reached directly through community dialogue meetings with relevant information on ending child marriage using BCC tool kits | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------------------|-----------------------|-----|-------|-----|---------------------|------|-------|-----|--|
| Name of Districts | # of Communities | # of Children Reached | | | | # of Adults Reached | | | | |
| | | M | F | Total | % F | M | F | Total | % F | |
| WA West | 5 | 313 | 531 | 844 | 63% | 248 | 333 | 581 | 57% | |
| Lambussie/Karni | 10 | 278 | 531 | 862 | 61% | 728 | 1278 | 1897 | 67% | |
| Daffiema/Bussie/Issa | 10 | 395 | 604 | 998 | 60% | 506 | 763 | 1273 | 59% | |
| Nadowli/K | 5 | 237 | 371 | 608 | 61% | 249 | 309 | 568 | 54% | |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|--|------|------|------|---|------|------|------|--|--|
| aleo | | | | | % | | | | | |
| Total | | 1223 | 2037 | 3312 | | 1731 | 2683 | 4319 | | |

Source: (Field activity records)

Analysis from the table above shows that approximately 43% of the total number of people reached directly with information on ending child marriage and preventing teenage pregnancy are children below the age of 18 years. The activities have imparted knowledge, change attitudes and enhanced the capacity of children to prevent teenage pregnancy and child marriage in their communities. Most of the beneficiary children particularly girls are encouraged to be youth models of change in their communities. Girls who have participated in the project interventions have gained confidence and better self-awareness that enables them to identify danger signs and initiate action to prevent child marriage and other forms of child abuse.

Additionally, our field activity records further show that 4319 adults mainly women (62%) directly participated in the project activities. These adult beneficiaries are educated on a number of issues including gender equality norms, sexual and reproductive health and rights, prevention of teenage pregnancies and child marriage. The beneficiaries have agreed to completely abandon the practice of child marriage and instead support the education of girls in schools. Parents were particularly passionate about their commitment to ending child marriage within the shortest possible time. Community leaders made a firm commitment to end child marriage. Girls who are found pregnant shall no longer be forced to marry those who impregnated them but instead these girls will be supported to give birth and therefore continue their education. Some of the tools used to educate community members includes the Good and Bad behavior flash cards, the Gender Roles Analyses tool, the Circle of Support, the Tug of War, the Balloon Game and the Gift Box.

Figure 4 A Cross Section of Community Members Discussing Gender Role Analysis, Good and Bad Behaviours and Efforts to End Child Marriage in Tuori Community in the Daffiema/Bussie/Issa District



Figure 5 Outreach community dialogue on ending child marriage in Boro community in the WA West district of the Upper west region



The community dialogues utilized various child protection tool kits to stimulated communal and individual reflection on child marriage, gender roles, as well as social and cultural norms. It further increased communal action to prevent child marriage and other forms of violence, abuse, and exploitation of children.

Activity 3: Organize Radio Discussions on Ending Child Marriage

In addition to the community based interventions, CDA also organized live radio discussions at the GBC Radio Upper West station. The radio campaign was done using local languages (Dagaree and Sissali) to disseminate information to the listenership on efforts to end child marriage. A total of seven (7) one hourly live radio discussions were organized during the quarter which reached out to an estimated 15000 listening audience of the station. The discussions were centered on educating the public on the benefits of not marrying our girls and the need to support girls to stay in school. Listeners had an opportunity to contribute to the live radio discussions through a phone call-in segment. A total of 31 radio listeners contributed to the discussions via the phone call-in segment. Approximately 52% of the callers are females while 40% are males. Most of the callers (90%) said they fully support the campaign to end child marriage in the region and promised to support the campaign efforts in their communities to end the practice. Another ten (10%) of the callers denied that child marriage occurs in the Upper West Region. They claim that the campaign on ending child marriage was rather painting the region in bad light and therefore should stop. Despite the varied opinion shared, it was evident that the radio campaign was successful in creating public awareness and support for efforts to end child marriage in the Upper West Region. The

campaign also increased the momentum and highlighted the germane issues on child marriage and its consequence on the development of the region.

Activity 4: Organized participatory project performance review meetings.

Following a successful implementation of a series of outreach behavior change activities on efforts to end child marriage, CDA together with its collaborating partners such as Ghana health Service conducted a joint field monitoring and participatory project performance review meetings. The monitoring and review meetings were purposely designed to generate feedback from beneficiary communities on the implementation of the project activities. The review meetings was also to assess the project outcomes in terms of what has changed following the implementation of the activities, what challenges still exist and what needs to be done differently to achieve the desired results. A total six (6) communities were selected from three districts where the review meetings were held. Fifteen focused group meetings were held across the six communities where beneficiaries shared their views on the project interventions and also made recommendations for future activities. A total 584 project beneficiaries took part in the review meetings. Most of the participants (80%) indicated that the project activities have improved their knowledge and capacity to prevent child marriage. Parents and children alike indicated that the project has equipped them with knowledge on teenage pregnancy, child marriage, gender equality norms and other forms of abuses against children. This, they say will enhance their capacity to better prevent child marriage and promote the education of girls in their communities. Below are pictures of the focus group meetings.

Figure 6 Focus Group Meeting with Girls Club members in Owlo community at Daffiema/Bussie/Issa district



Figure 7 Focus group meeting of men and women at Lassia Community in WA West District



**What was achieved?
What change did you note/observe?**

CDA has made some significant progress in its efforts to end child marriage in the Upper west region. Our outreach community interventions have increased public awareness and support for efforts to end child marriage. Our local capacity building training programs and behavior change interventions have imparted knowledge among individuals and families and also changed attitudes and behaviors towards the total abandonment of the practice of child marriage. Our monitoring observations have shown that most rural communities are increasingly abandoning the practice of child marriage in favour of girl's education. Families are also embracing gender equality norms and by so doing providing equal opportunities for girls and boys to pursue their educational goals. The table below shows a summary of the result matrix for the quarter under review:

| Project Results/Outcome Matrix | | | |
|--|------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Performance Indicator | Target for the Quarter | Result Achieved | REMARKS |
| Number of communities reached with information on ending child marriage | 30 | 30 | Target Achieved |
| Number of outreach community meetings organized on ending child marriage | 60 | 72 | Target exceeded |
| Number of youth models trained on efforts to end child marriage | 300 | 1084 | We far exceeded our target by employing community |

What results?

| | | | |
|---|------|-------|---|
| | | | based training |
| Number of in-school and out of school children reached directly with information on ending child marriage | 2500 | 3312 | Target achieved largely due to the use of the child protection tools kits |
| Number of adults reached directly with information on ending child marriage | 3000 | 4319 | Target achieved largely due to the use of the child protection tools kits |
| Number of live one hourly radio programs organized on ending child marriage | 5 | 7 | We met our target |
| Estimated number of radio listenership reached with information on ending child marriage | | 15000 | No target was set for this indicator |

**Highlights /
Successes:**

Our efforts to end child marriage in the Upper West Region have made significant progress. We are successful at raising awareness among individuals and families on increasing preventive action to end child marriage. Our interventions have imparted knowledge and changed attitudes and behaviors of individuals and families towards embracing gender equality norms and the abandonment of the practice of child marriage.

More specifically:

- 1) Our interventions have influenced traditional authorities in 30 rural and resource poor communities to publicly denounce the practice of child marriage and commit to ending the practice'
- 2) Our efforts have increased awareness and knowledge on gender equality norms among individuals and families across 30 communities in four districts
- 3) We are also very successful at increasing the knowledge and access to adolescent sexual and reproductive health information and services to over 3300 in and out of schools girls.
- 4) We have enhanced the capacity of 1084 youth models who are contributing to efforts to end child marriage in their communities.
- 5) We have strengthened multi-stakeholders collaborative effort across four districts towards ending the practice of child marriage.
- 6) Last but not the least; our outreach campaign has increased public interest and momentum to end the practice of child marriage across the upper West region.

**Constraints /
Challenges:**

There were a few constraints that nearly affected the project interventions. One such constraint was a sudden directive from the Ghana Education Service prohibiting any involving school pupils during school days or periods. This meant we had to adjust our outreach time periods in other to reach out to girls and boys who are in school. Most of our field activities

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| | <p>we were scheduled in the evenings and weekends which was quite challenging. Another constraint was largely to do with the farming season. Parents and other community members who are targeted for our activities had to go to their farms thus posing a big challenge for community mobilization efforts. Despite these two constraints, out participatory outreach approaches generated a lot of excitement and enthusiasm among our target beneficiaries we were always willing to support out campaigns.</p> | | |
| <p>Evaluation (indicate which was used and provide a brief description of analysis of evaluation from participants)</p> | <table><tr><td><p>FORMS</p><p>As part of our effort to evaluate our project results, we organized a series of participatory monitoring and evaluation activities. Focus group discussions were particularly used to generate feedback from beneficiary individuals and groups on the project outcomes.</p><p>Individual beneficiaries testified on how the project activities have improved their knowledge and capacity to prevent child marriage and embrace gender equality norms.</p><p>The evaluation process utilized questions such as how has this project interventions benefit you or your community? What in your opinion has changed regarding child marriage? What do you thinks needs to be done differently? How should that be done? And what challenges do you envisage in achieving our goal of ending child marriage.</p><p>The evaluation process was very participatory and inclusive involving children (boys & Girls), Adults (men & women) as well as persons with disabilities.</p><p>The individual and group testimonies clearly showed that the project interventions are making significant impacts. Individuals and families have indicated that they have now embraced gender equality norms, abandoned the practice of child marriage infavour of the benefits of girl child education. Girls have also indicator that they now have better knowledge and access to sexual and reproductive health information and services as a result of the project interventions. These claims were corroborated by the community health nurses who indicated that access to sexual and reproductive health services among adolescents has increased in recent times. This they believe could result in a decline in teenage pregnancies that has been in the ascendancy over the years.</p><p>Generally the participatory project performance monitoring and review meeting adapted by CDA has proven to be very useful, efficient and participatory.</p></td><td><p>VERBAL</p></td></tr></table> | <p>FORMS</p> <p>As part of our effort to evaluate our project results, we organized a series of participatory monitoring and evaluation activities. Focus group discussions were particularly used to generate feedback from beneficiary individuals and groups on the project outcomes.</p> <p>Individual beneficiaries testified on how the project activities have improved their knowledge and capacity to prevent child marriage and embrace gender equality norms.</p> <p>The evaluation process utilized questions such as how has this project interventions benefit you or your community? What in your opinion has changed regarding child marriage? What do you thinks needs to be done differently? How should that be done? And what challenges do you envisage in achieving our goal of ending child marriage.</p> <p>The evaluation process was very participatory and inclusive involving children (boys & Girls), Adults (men & women) as well as persons with disabilities.</p> <p>The individual and group testimonies clearly showed that the project interventions are making significant impacts. Individuals and families have indicated that they have now embraced gender equality norms, abandoned the practice of child marriage infavour of the benefits of girl child education. Girls have also indicator that they now have better knowledge and access to sexual and reproductive health information and services as a result of the project interventions. These claims were corroborated by the community health nurses who indicated that access to sexual and reproductive health services among adolescents has increased in recent times. This they believe could result in a decline in teenage pregnancies that has been in the ascendancy over the years.</p> <p>Generally the participatory project performance monitoring and review meeting adapted by CDA has proven to be very useful, efficient and participatory.</p> | <p>VERBAL</p> |
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| <p>Next steps?</p> | <table><tr><td><p>Recommend ed follow up: (Where to from here?)</p></td><td><p>We have resolved to continue the outreach community dialogues using the new child protection training tool kits. The tool kit has trigger greater excitement, community participation and enthusiasm towards abandoning the practice of child marriage, embracing gender equality norms and improving the protective environment were children will be free from all forms of sexual and gender based violence, abuse discrimination.</p></td></tr></table> | <p>Recommend ed follow up: (Where to from here?)</p> | <p>We have resolved to continue the outreach community dialogues using the new child protection training tool kits. The tool kit has trigger greater excitement, community participation and enthusiasm towards abandoning the practice of child marriage, embracing gender equality norms and improving the protective environment were children will be free from all forms of sexual and gender based violence, abuse discrimination.</p> |
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Based on the narrative provided above, please indicate how the Intermediate Result is progressing by ticking the rating below. Note that the activity/activities reported should contribute to the intermediate result.

| Color-coded Rating of Progress | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Met | <input type="radio"/> |
| On track | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| Constrained | <input type="radio"/> |
| No Progress | <input type="radio"/> |
| Discontinued | <input type="radio"/> |

Final signatures:


| | |
|-----------|---|
| Name : | KantonSalifulssifu |
| Position: | Executive Director |
| Signed: |  |
| Date: | 29 th May, 2016 |

Photo gallery

Figure 8 Community members using the circle of Support game to identify individuals in the family and or community expected to play specific roles to protect children particularly girls from child marriage



Figure 9 Young People in BORO Community in the WA West District plays the Balloon game to educate their community on efforts to protect children and end child marriage



Figure 10 Community members used the tag of war game to analyze the constraints to efforts to protect children and ending child marriage as well as solutions to dealing with the constraints



