

## **Canada Fund for Local Initiatives supports GMP project to fight child, early and forced marriage in Senegal**

GMP is pleased to announce new funding from the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives for a project to build the capacity of communities and NGOs in Senegal to eliminate child, early and forced marriage by engaging grandmothers, strengthening intergenerational communication and empowering girls.

The purpose of this project is to promote the abandonment of child, early and forced marriage (CEFM) by leveraging the influential role of grandmothers as respected authorities and decision-makers within families to change social norms that perpetuate CEFM and to strengthen systems of support and protection for girls.

Activities will be carried out between December 2015 and February 2016, and include:

- workshops with teachers and grandmothers to improve communication and collaboration in favor of girls' well-being and education;
- intergenerational (IG) forums to promote communication between generations and collective decision-making;
- forums with women and girls (WAG) to strengthen communication between grandmothers, mothers, adolescent girls and female teacher;
- "Under the Tree" informal education sessions to strengthen communication between grandmothers and adolescent girls;
- a Day of Praise of Grandmothers to publicly recognize the important role of grandmothers in promoting family and community well-being, to support the empowerment of grandmother leaders and to encourage change in their attitudes and advice related to CEFM and other girls' development issues;
- a Change through Culture workshop for staff of other NGOs on using a grandmother-inclusive approach in their programs addressing CEFM;
- development of a brochure on the use of the Change through Culture approach to CEFM.

As a direct result of project activities, the following results are expected:

- improved collaboration between teachers and grandmothers to discourage CEFM and keep girls in school;
- improved communication and dialogue within families and communities on CEFM, including discussion between generations and both sexes;
- increased confidence among young girls to openly express their feelings about CEFM with extended family members;
- strengthened relationships between girls and grandmothers;
- increased advocacy by grandmothers to protect girls from CEFM;
- increased community-wide awareness about the negative impact of CEFM on girls;
- increased knowledge among local association and NGO staff on the key steps to using a grandmother-inclusive and intergenerational approach to eliminate CEFM; and
- development and production of a brochure to promote the Change through Culture approach with NGOs, government bodies, and other groups and organizations working to end CEFM.

The staff of GMP wish to express their gratitude to the Canada Fund for their generous support.