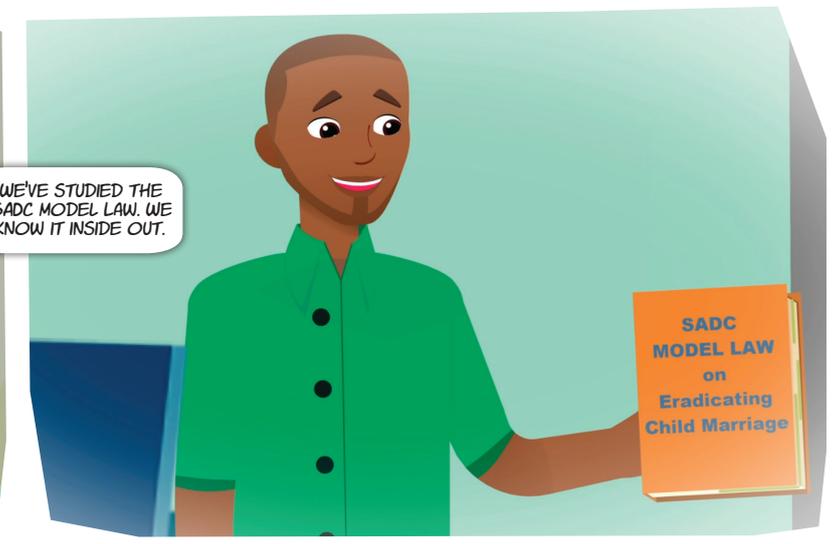
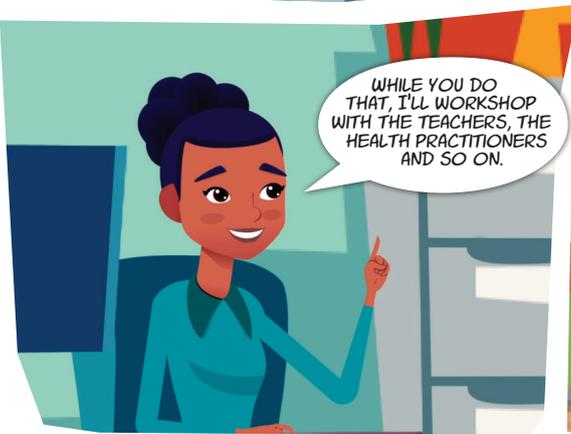
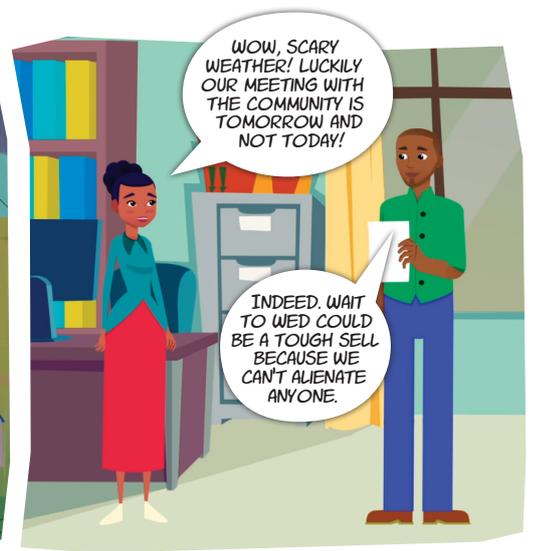
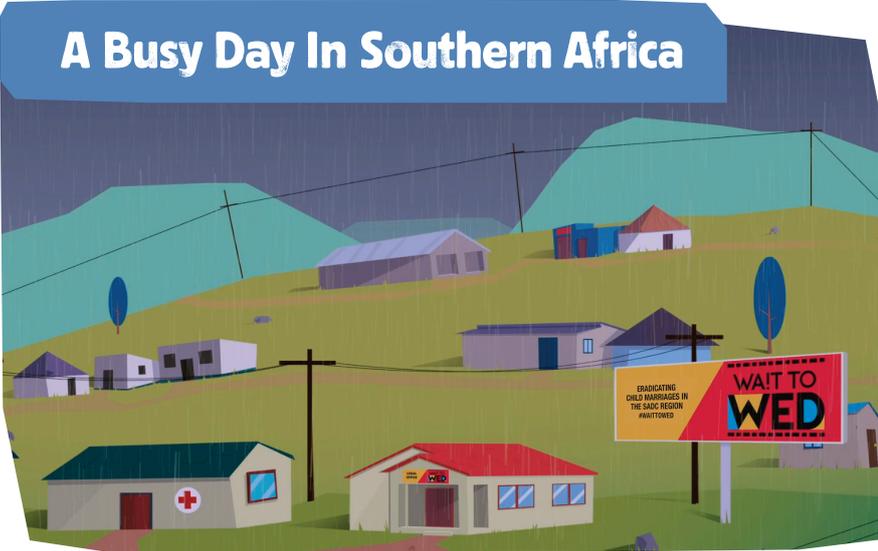




What can I do to promote the SADC Model Law?

A Busy Day In Southern Africa





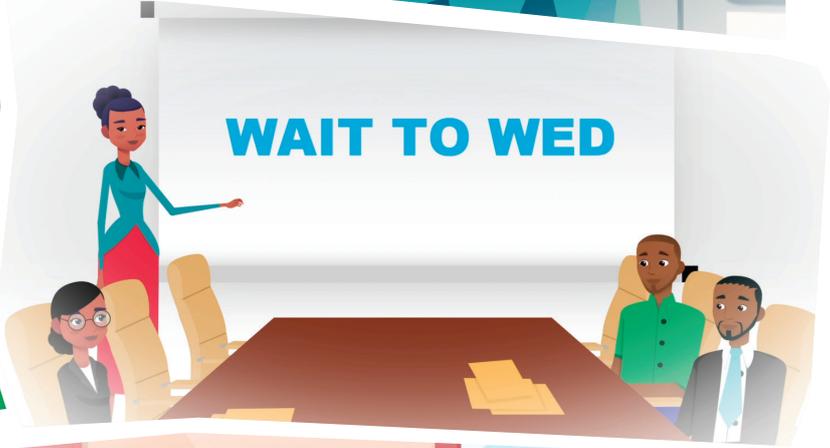
AND WE'VE CONSULTED TO MAKE SURE WE KNOW WHAT THE LAW IN EACH COUNTRY SAYS ABOUT CHILD MARRIAGE, AND WHERE THE GAPS AND LOOPHOLES ARE.

WE KNOW **WHERE** AND **WHAT** WE NEED TO FOCUS ON.



YUP. AND WE'VE MADE GREAT CONTACTS IN GOVERNMENT FOR SOME DIRECT ADVOCACY WITH THE DECISION-MAKERS.

JUST THINK OF ALL THOSE BRIEFING SESSIONS WE DID.



YES! THAT GOT US TO THE VERY TOP..

...**SNO**, REMEMBER THAT MEETING WITH THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE WHERE WE SAID 18 MUST BE THE MINIMUM LEGAL AGE FOR MARRIAGE FOR **EVERYONE**?



SORRY SIR, BUT THERE CAN BE NO EXCEPTIONS.

NOTHING LIKE PARENTAL CONSENT FOR EARLY MARRIAGE, OR SPECIAL PERMISSION FROM YOU.



HE'S COME AROUND, BUT NOT ALL HIS COLLEAGUES HAVE, AND IT'S ACTION WE NEED TO SEE.

I MEAN, THE COURT GAVE THE GOVERNMENT ONE YEAR TO AMEND THE LAW, BUT 12 MONTHS ARE ALMOST UP AND I'VE HEARD NOTHING SO FAR ABOUT IT BEING DONE YET.



YOU'RE RIGHT, THE DEADLINE IS LOOMING. WE MUST FOLLOW UP AND HOLD THEM TO ACCOUNT! WE'RE GUARDIANS, REMEMBER!



I THINK WE'RE GOING TO RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS BIG TIME TOMORROW! THE MEDIA WILL ALL BE THERE.

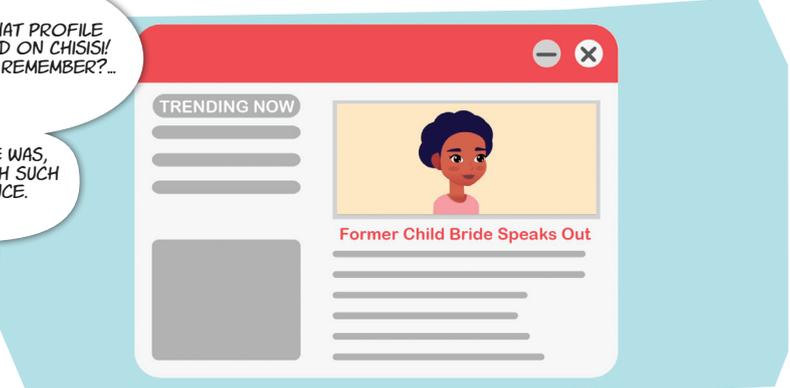


NEXT QUESTION, PLEASE!



WE'VE HAD AN EXCELLENT PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MEDIA. THAT IS SO IMPORTANT FOR OUR WAIT TO WED CAMPAIGN!

AND THAT PROFILE THEY DID ON CHISIS! DO YOU REMEMBER?...
...THERE SHE WAS, SPEAKING WITH SUCH CONFIDENCE.



THE BEST THING NOW IS THAT I GET TO GO TO HIGH SCHOOL TO LEARN, TO STRIVE TO BE A TEACHER MYSELF.

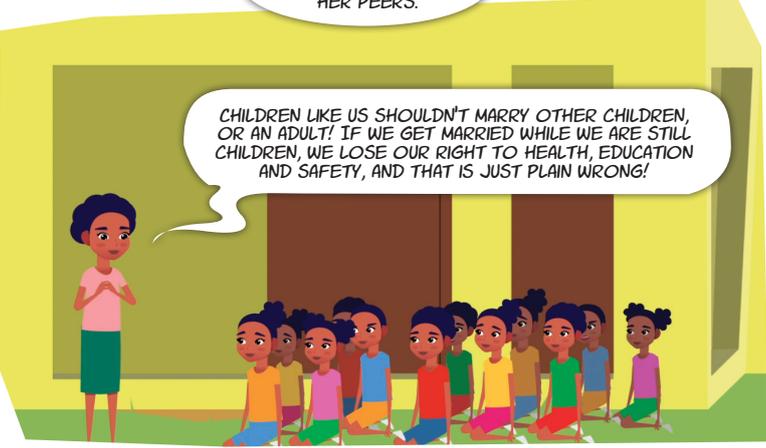
ALL GIRLS SHOULD HAVE A CHOICE. LIKE BOYS CAN, WE SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE HOW TO LIVE OUR LIVES.



WOW, THAT WAS SO INSPIRING! IT EVEN TRENDED ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

WELL, SHE IS THE YOUTH CHAMPION FOR WAIT TO WED... AND WE'VE TRAINED HER WELL.

YES, SHE'S GOING TO TALK TO ALL HER PEERS.



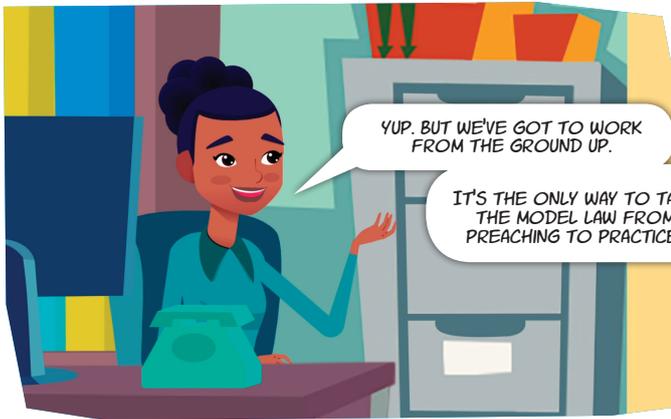
CHILDREN LIKE US SHOULDN'T MARRY OTHER CHILDREN, OR AN ADULT! IF WE GET MARRIED WHILE WE ARE STILL CHILDREN, WE LOSE OUR RIGHT TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SAFETY, AND THAT IS JUST PLAIN WRONG!



IT'S FANTASTIC, THE WIDE RANGE OF PEOPLE WE'RE GETTING TOGETHER TOMORROW ...

ELDERS, TRADITIONAL LEADERS, TEACHERS, DOCTORS, PARENTS, THE CHILDREN THEMSELVES.

IT'S TRUE GRASSROOTS STUFF.



YUP. BUT WE'VE GOT TO WORK FROM THE GROUND UP.

IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO TAKE THE MODEL LAW FROM PREACHING TO PRACTICE!



YUP, AND WE'VE GOT TO KEEP WORKING ON WAYS TO DEMYSTIFY IT.

EISH, THAT REMINDS ME. I'VE GOT SOME TRAINING MATERIAL SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED FOR RELIGIOUS LEADERS. I MUSTN'T FORGET TO TAKE IT!



THAT WAS THE POLICE STATION COMMANDER.

SHE WANTS US THERE NEXT MONTH TO TRAIN ALL THE OFFICERS.

SHE SAYS MORE PEOPLE ARE REPORTING CHILD MARRIAGES, AND SHE WANTS THEM TO KNOW HOW TO HANDLE THESE CASES.



THE WORK NEVER STOPS!



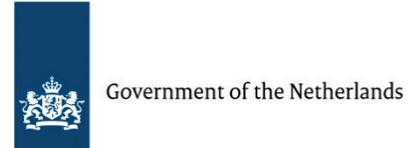
NOPE, NOT UNTIL EVERY GIRL HAS THE RIGHT TO WAIT TO WED...

... AND NOT UNTIL EVERYONE IN SOCIETY UNITES BEHIND IT!



End.

The UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage is generously funded by



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