

# A YOUTH-LED RESEARCH REPORT

**An investigation into the factors leading to  
child marriages/pregnancies in the farming  
compounds.**

**A case study of Bindura district, Zimbabwe.**

Supported by



July 2022

# PREFACE

Child marriages have been a topical issue, the world over. Reading about it in the newspapers on social media has in many ways made it look as if it is a foreign issue. Through this Research that we conducted over a period of 4 Months, we realized that our District, Bindura in Zimbabwe has not been spared. Many factors have contributed to this phenomenon and there seems to be no end in sight. With this report, we contribute to discussions on the factors leading to child marriages/pregnancies in farming compounds for young people like ourselves. Using the Youth-led research methodology that we were trained on by Restless Development, our team of 5 young researchers investigated the causes of child marriages/pregnancies, and determined the availability of SRH services in farming compounds.

Through this research, we have been able to offer our unique perspective to an existing conversation. It has been more than fulfilling as young researchers to capture the voices of other young people like ourselves, we have been able to ask some of the hard questions and we have also been able to probe in most instances so that we get a deep and rich understanding of the factors that are leading to child marriages amongst our peers in the farming compounds of Bindura.

In addition to the findings, this report offers key recommendations and innovations given by young people on how we can make things better. It will be important for us to follow up on commitments made by policymakers. We acknowledge that this issue is quite widespread and the voices from Bindura may be the starting point in all of us putting our hands and heads together to be proactive in bringing child marriages/ pregnancies to an end.

We would like to thank all the young researchers for their hard work and commitment in developing this report. We would also like to take this opportunity to convey our special thanks to the Restless Development team for the guidance and insights that they gave us on this research journey. Finally, we would like to acknowledge HIVOS for its genuine interest and investment in young people. We thank you for walking with us through this amazing journey.

**Bridget Madziro, Nigel Muzariri, Thelma Doma, Pharoah Ngandu**

*Young researchers*



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## KEY TERMINOLOGY AND ACRONYMS

There are many words often used interchangeably to describe participants and activities within this study. For the purposes of this study, we have made a number of semantic choices. Below, we describe what we mean by each of the keywords that we have used.

<b>SRHR</b>	Sexual Reproductive Health Rights
<b>VHW</b>	Village Health Worker
<b>Child marriage</b>	It is a marital union where either spouse is below 18 years of age, although girls are disproportionately the most affected. It can also be defined as a marriage of a girl or boy before the age of 18 and refers to both formal marriages and informal unions in which children under the age of 18 live with a partner as if married.
<b>SRH services</b>	these are Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services that can be offered in health centers ensuring the provision of high-quality services for family planning, including fertility services; eliminating unsafe abortion; combating STIs including HIV, reproductive tract infections, cervical cancer, and other gynecological morbidities.
<b>Respondents</b>	are individuals who took part in the interview for the researcher, or who provide data to be analyzed for the research study. Respondents can be of any age, but are determined by the scope of the study, and must agree to informed consent to participate.
<b>A farming compound</b>	is a place or area whereby a group of people with common culture and beliefs live or stay, usually working for the farm owner so as to earn a living.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

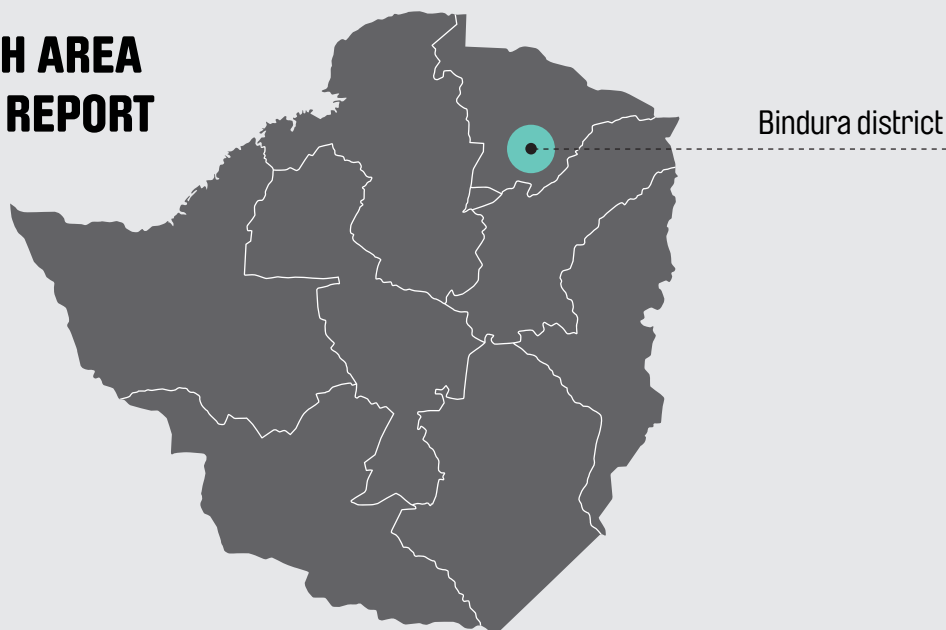
**With the continuously increased rate of child marriages and pregnancy cases in Zimbabwe, there is a need for lasting solutions to reduce or solve the problem.**

The research was aimed at investigating the causes of child marriages/ pregnancies in Bindura District, Zimbabwe. The study objectives focused on the causes of child marriages, determine the availability of Sexual Reproductive Health services and to establish strategies that can be used to address the issues of child marriages/ pregnancies.

A youth-led research methodology was utilized in this study, in which five young people from Bindura District led all the research processes which include determining the research focus, designing research questions, data collection, data analysis, data validation, and convening conversations for action. All of this with technical backstopping from Restless Development staff. The research adopted a qualitative approach where a total of 41 participants took part in the research. Participants were from farming communities of Mapunga, Simoona, Pasango, and Chipadze farm in Bindura District. Data was collected using Key Informant Interviews and Focus Group Discussions. Data was analyzed using thematic content analysis. The research results showed that causes of child marriages/ pregnancies, economic hardships, massive gold panning activities, lack of education, lack of supervision from parents, unbalanced gender roles, COVID-19 lockdown restrictions, limited access to SRH services and unfriendly youth services at health institutions.

The study recommends the adoption of strategies to mitigate child marriages/pregnancies, youth empowerment, the creation of youth hubs, parent-to-child communication training and awareness, continuous awareness campaigns, peer-to-peer education, and the creation of an enabling policy environment. Looking forward, the key findings in this study suggest that there may be a need to do a deep dive into all of these to see the extent to which each of these issues contributes to the issue of child marriages/ pregnancies.

## RESEARCH AREA FOR THIS REPORT



# INTRODUCTION

**Zimbabwe has adopted a progressive Constitution which enshrines gender equality. Section 78 of the Constitution (Marriage Rights) sets a minimum age for marriage at 18 and prohibits forced marriage. It states: “no person shall be compelled to marry against their will”. However, this has not been achievable as the increase of child marriages continues.**

Prevalence is highest in Mashonaland Central (50 percent) which indicates the need for effective strategies and collaboration to mitigate child pregnancy in the district. The high prevalence of child marriage in Zimbabwe is inconsistent with the country’s growth and development aspirations. High rates of child marriages/ pregnancy hinder the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals as child marriage results in higher rates of violence in marriage; the increased prevalence of HIV; lack of personal and economic autonomy; limited participation in development; limited decision-making in relation to their own lives among other intersecting issues that come with child marriages.

Our main goal as researchers was to investigate the factors leading to child marriages/ pregnancies in farming compound communities of Mapunga farm, Simoona farm, Pasango farm, and Chipadze farms in Bindura District. With this research paper, we hope to inform government and development actors about the causes of child marriages/pregnancies and strategies that can be used to address the problem. We hope to create awareness of the power of youth-informed strategies that can be used to address or reduce child marriages/pregnancies in farming communities.

Restless Development believes that young people are best placed to understand and articulate the issues that their fellow young people are facing. This has allowed the research team to bring a unique perspective to the table because of the young researcher’s ability to connect with the diverse experiences of their peers. This report is a call to action for all stakeholders to change their concept of youth programming and to invest in approaches that involve young people throughout the process.

This report serves to outline the vital stages and processes undertaken during our research study in Bindura District. It explains how data was collected, analyzed, and validated, thereby coming up with key findings and recommendations. Our main goal as researchers was to investigate the factors leading to child marriages/ pregnancies in farming compound communities of Bindura District.



# RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

## Youth Leadership

Restless Development is about one thing: youth leadership. We listen to young people, our work is led by young people, and together we support young people to multiply leadership. This action views youth leadership holistically as depicted in the figure below, illustrating the levels of youth engagement that were used for this research:

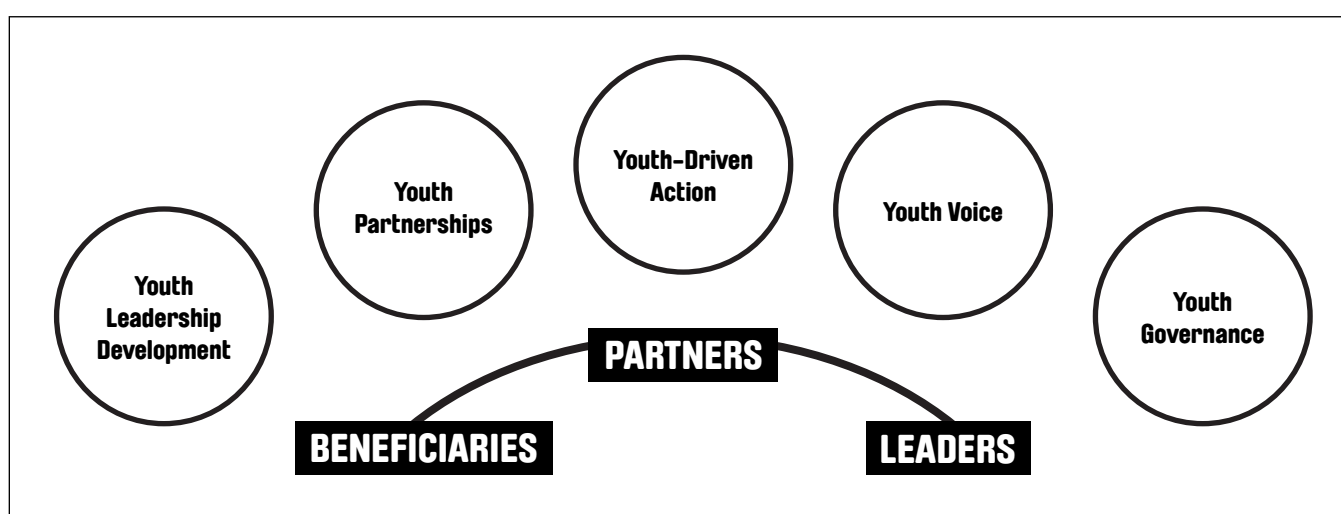


Figure 1 – Youth engagement illustration

## Youth-led research

We utilized our youth-led research approach by partnering with young people to capture key insights and evidence on the factors leading to child marriages/pregnancies in the farming compounds of Bindura District. Our approach is comprised of the following components:

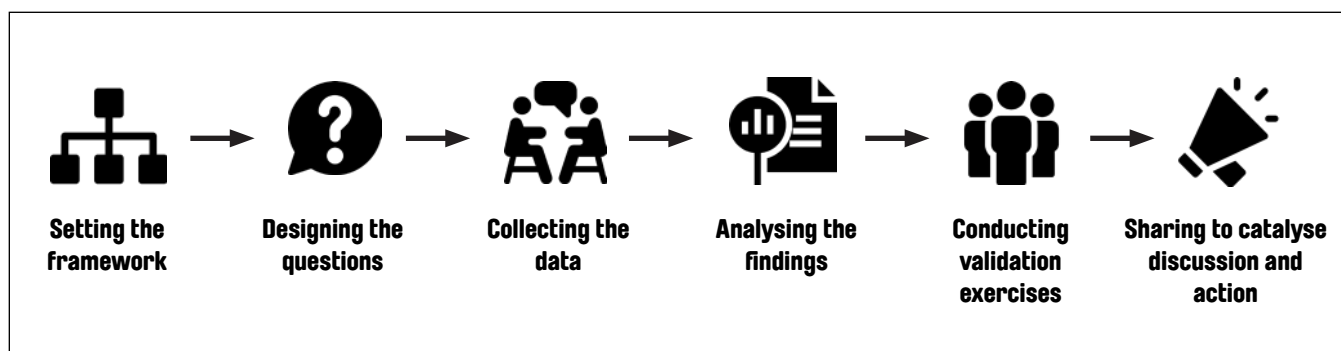


Figure 2 – Youth Research Methodology

What makes this approach unique is that staff and young leaders have clearly defined roles, designed to maximize youth leadership. Using this approach, we trained 5 Young Leaders in quantitative and qualitative

research skills, incorporating their insights into the research tools and supporting them to capture the experience of their peers. They led a research process investigating the factors leading to child marriages/ pregnancies in the farming compounds. The approach enabled the young people themselves to ask questions based on their priorities, collect stronger data through a deeper rapport and generate better insights on the issues affecting young people in farming compounds.

## Research design

A qualitative research approach was utilized, to get lived experience of people in the farming areas of Bindura. This helped to understand the details and interpreted the social world of research participants by learning about their social and material circumstances, experiences, perspectives, and histories (Moriarty, 2011). The qualitative research approach, It enabled us to have a deep understanding of young people's experience with the issue of child marriages/pregnancies. While this data is not representative of all young people, the rich narrative detail we captured through this design provides an indicative, nuanced picture of young people's realities that are often lost in quantitative approaches.

## Study Area

The research was conducted in Bindura District which is in Mashonaland Central. According to ZIMSTAT (2019), child marriages are more prevalent in Mashonaland Central, where 52.1 % of girls get married before the age of 18 years. This prevalence rate pushed us to find out what are the factors leading to child marriage in Bindura. Catchment areas were Simoona, Mapunga, Chipadze, and Pasango. The sources of livelihood in the Bindura area are mainly farming and mining.

## Target population

The Research targeted young people living in farming compounds in rural areas aged 18 – 30 years. Key informants such as healthcare providers, community leaders, and District Development Coordinators were also targeted.

## Sampling

Data was collected from Bindura Farming compounds using a relatively small sample size that was recruited using simple random sampling for the young people and purposive sampling for the stakeholders. Research of this nature is concerned with depth and not breadth. Patton (2016) posits a qualitative principle by noting that qualitative research is not concerned about large numbers but aims to get deeper information in all its richness. A sample of 41 participants was used.

Respondent	Data collection tool	Sample size (N)
Stakeholders	Key Informant Interviews	5 (1 village Health care worker, 1 nurse, 1 village head, 1 headmaster, 1 District Development Coordinator)
Young people	Focus group discussion	36 (19 Females, 17 Males)

Table 1 – Sampling Matrix

## Data collection

The research team collected data through focus group discussions and key informant interviews. Key informant interviews focused predominantly on the experiences of health workers and farm chairpersons who are living in the community with young people who are survivors of child marriages/pregnancies and determining whether SRH services are available and accessible to young people or not, in the focus group discussions, we looked beyond these individuals to cover general young people at several points using simple random sampling.

Not all young people experience the issue of child marriages/pregnancies in the same way. We used focus groups to facilitate discussions across various perspectives to explore the perceptions of different groups of young people. A total of 4 focus group discussions were done, each comprising 9 participants.

Through key informant interviews, we focused on understanding the in-depth narratives of health workers, school leaders, and farm chairpersons about what they see as the causes leading to child marriages/pregnancies of young people in their respective areas based on their experiences.

Another important issue was to find out whether health workers were providing SRH services or not, and whether these services were easily accessible to young people in their farming compounds. Moreover, we examined the recommendations of key informants as we asked them to outline and suggest strategies that are meant to address or solve the issue of child marriages/pregnancies.

## Data Analysis

The Young researchers took part in a participatory analysis workshop. At the beginning of this workshop, researchers finalized transcription of the data, with staff providing quality control and support. Afterward, they were supported to conduct a preliminary deductive thematic analysis of the qualitative data where they drew out general themes emerging from the data that was later condensed into specific findings. They coded, transcribed, and reviewed data according to pre-specified key codes of interest drawn from primary and secondary research questions. They then analyzed the coded data to find emerging patterns that could be developed into themes. We then re-verified themes against our dataset to ensure they were data-driven, and that every emerging theme had a strong basis in our primary data. Finally, we mapped evidence-based themes against one other, drawing connections between them, and then described them in detail.

## Data Validation

Restless Development is invested in being data-driven, as such it was important to take the findings back to the farming communities where data was initially collected from. Through this process, young people were given an opportunity to review and interrogate the preliminary findings and see whether or not the report accurately reflected their perspectives and experiences, in the process adjusting anything that did not. This process also allowed respondents to understand what is done with the information that they share. At this touchpoint, respondents had the opportunity to add any further clarifications and for the research team to ask any additional questions that may have emerged from the data collection phase but may have been raised as pertinent during data validation.



# Conversations for Action

Conversations for Action are an integral part of every research that Restless Development conducts; this is why from the onset we are deliberate and clear on how we plan to use the findings with the intention to inform and influence. Restless Development has moved from simply disseminating findings to triggering impactful discussions by sharing findings in spaces where decisions are made. The research team presented its findings at the local, district, and national levels. The following are some of the recommendations made by the decision makers at the Community and District levels through conversations for action.

- **Strengthen:** Push for the strengthening of laws so that people who practice child marriages are arrested.
- **Construct:** There is a need for funding to construct a secondary school and a clinic in Mapunga that will benefit Mapunga and the surrounding communities. If possible, community members can even contribute by giving labor and farm bricks for the construction of the school and clinic.
- **Awareness:** Both parents and children should be taught the disadvantages associated with child marriages through regular awareness campaigns conduct both by the private and public sectors. Conducting parent-to-child dialogues and parent skills training so as to encourage open communication between parents and children.
- **Capacity Build:** Engaging young people and capacitate them to know their rights as well as sexual responsibility, making use of community role models.

## Limitations

- The study was being conducted in estate farms targeting compounds, some of the areas are not accessible.
- With most of the target population being either farm workers or gold panners, they are barely available during the day and also not willing to be part of the study.
- Given the resources and time available we could not access more young people to get their valuable insights.
- The insights in this study would have been more interesting if we could identify survivors of child marriages as respondents. More research focusing on survivors of child marriages will be key.
- Insights from young people living with disability are missing. This demographic is often in hiding or isolated. More research focusing on how disability intersects with child marriages will be key.

# FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

## We found that ....

**Inability to provide basic needs for children due to economic hardships** have contributed to the increase of child marriages/pregnancies in farming areas. Young girls are getting married because parents are struggling or failing to provide basic needs such as food, and education to their children, as a result, they end up getting married as a way of surviving and escaping poverty. Another factor is **lack of source of livelihood**, some of the respondents outlined that the land belongs to the farm owner and they cannot farm on a personal basis or start any projects without the permission of the farm owners. As such most people solely depend on salaries that are not sufficient to cater to their basic needs. As a result, when young girls get prospective people who want to marry them, they do not take any chances and view it as an achievement. The parents also support the initiative as they find it as a way to remove a burden and also a way to get money from the bride price “roora”. More children from poor households get married early, compared to those with higher income.

“**We were raised within these compounds by our parents who work for the farm owner in the fields but earn very little which is not enough for them to fully provide for their families. They cannot even afford to send us for secondary education in Bindura and the next thing is to join them in the fields or go for gold panning. We don’t have a means of living and for the girls, the only achievement is to get married as they feel they would have escaped poverty.**”

– Young person

“**Living in this poverty-stricken compound, children are either forced to drop out of school by the situation where parents cannot afford to pay their fees or they decide on their own that they need to go and look for money and they will join gold panning.**” – Health village worker

## How can we do it differently?

**Youth empowerment** will help in addressing the issue of economic challenge which has increased child marriages/pregnancies in farming compounds. The government should help with livelihood projects such as sewing, market-gardening, and poultry so that they are financially independent in the event that they drop out of school. There is a need for **educational facilities** in farming communities, some farming compounds only have primary schools so there is a need for secondary schools to be constructed so as to reduce the already existing burden that parents have.

The Government should ensure that **venture capital** benefits young people in both urban and rural areas. Young people in the rural areas are often excluded from venture capital benefits and as a result continue to be the most marginalized people. Government has to provide loans for the young people so that they can start their own businesses thereby empowering them.

**“Young people have got different talents. These talents need to be identified and supported. If there is financial support to use our own talents for a better living it will help reduce poverty which reduces child marriages.”** – *Young person*

The **creation of youth hubs** using available local resources will help young people to access services ranging from Sexual and Reproductive Health services as well as income-generating projects. The Government has to strictly enforce Zimbabwe's 2013 constitution which prohibits boys and girls below the age of 18 from marriage. Policymakers need to come up with a **legislation that explicitly outlaws child marriages** this makes it easy to strictly enforce the law against child marriage thereby protecting young girls. The government should offer education incentives in 'hotspot' areas such as free exam fees for all girls to encourage girls from poorer backgrounds to pursue education rather than marriage.

**“The policymakers should put in place strict laws and penalties for those that encourage child marriages. Penalties should also be given to the girls so that they at least are punished as they play an equal role to the boys or men that marry them. At least they can be afraid of being penalized and refrain from getting married before 18 years of age.”** – *Young person*

## We found that ....

**Gold panning activities** have become a dominant source of living in farming communities. Most people, especially young men, are involved in gold panning in abandoned mining sites. From the gold panning activities, people acquire lots of money which even allows them to buy luxurious stuff such as cars. Young girls are easily lured by men who have luxurious stuff. Young girls end up having sexual relationships with the men which results in early pregnancies and child marriages.

**School dropout** is another factor that is prevalent in these farming compounds because most parents can no longer afford to pay the school tuition and some of the schools are very far away, therefore children are deciding to stay home, hence the next thing or the only option they think is to get married.

**“Many of the youths are going into gold panning and this has led to many school dropouts and when the boys get money from the panning the next thing, they will think is that they are able to start a family and they just look for someone to settle with and get married even when they are still quite young.”** – *Community leader*

**“Due to climate change, farming is no longer a sustainable means of putting food on the table so many people are venturing into gold panning and the panning environment is full of immorality resulting in the spread of HIV and girls being impregnated by the gold panners.”**

– *Village health worker*

## How can we do it differently?

The need for **investigative journalism** is crucial since child marriages are usually unreported and the power of social media to weed out perpetrators should be embraced. Men and boys should be involved in programming aimed at ending child marriage since they are the ones who marry off the girls as brides and marry the young girls. Social role models and the safe zone concept should be done to motivate girls in areas where girls would be free to talk about reproductive issues without stigma or discrimination.

“I believe that young boys should be educated on the harsh gender norms so that there is gender transformation thereby ending child marriages.” – *Local leader*

## We found that ....

**Parents are often absent to supervise and guide** their children. Due to the excessive farming activities at the compounds parents often work every day of the week and rarely get off days. When they are doing non-farming activities parents go to do gold panning. As a result, parents rarely have time to supervise or guide their children. Besides the lack of guidance, most parents are not comfortable talking about SRH issues with the young ones and their own children. They believe it's taboo to talk about sex with their children and feel it's the responsibility of the schools to educate children on SRHR which is rarely done. Children then rely on information provided by peers. They end up indulging in sexual activities without **adequate** information leading to pregnancy. This does not affect the girl child alone as in most cases the sexual activities are done with young boys who are under 18. The children are then forced to marry each other.

“Children are rarely monitored because either the parents are working in the fields or they are doing gold panning and the children will be left in the compound with no one to supervise what they are doing and this is when they end up getting pregnant.” – *Community leader*

“Parents nowadays no longer spend time with their children and because the children lack supervision they end up indulging in anything including those sexual activities that parents should be advising their children against.” – *Young person*

## How can we do it differently?

**Encouraging parent-child communication**, Government and stakeholders should continuously educate parents on the need to have open and frequent communication with their children on SRH issues. Information should not concentrate on abstinence but should also be in line with preventative measures such as condom use. Young people can then make informed decisions on their Sexual Rights. There is also a need for **comprehensive sexuality education** in schools. Children spend a lot of time at school and it is vital for schools both Government-owned and private to provide young people with education so that they can have adequate information. **Awareness campaigns** in the communities need to be continuously conducted. This will help educate young people on SRH.

“Parents should have time to educate their children on sexuality education because failure to do so children will get the information from peers who might give them false information leading to pregnancy.” – Young person

## We found that ....

**Compound culture has contributed to child marriage in farming compounds.** It is a common thing for young people to get married before they reach 18 years. People value marriage as they see it as an achievement. Education is not a priority as it is common for young people to drop out of school and get married. It remains a cycle in which the young mothers support their children to get married.

“In our community, it is a norm that when you reach 18 years you should have been married, if you go to University everyone starts asking you when you intend to get married.” – Young person

## How can we do it differently?

There is need for **peer-to-peer education** on Sexual Reproductive Health. Young people are able to influence and educate each other. Most young people solely rely on peer information as such they can help each other with how to prevent unplanned pregnancy. Stakeholders can help train community peer educators who will be trained on SRHR information and also the importance to continue with education. Community members should be continuously educated on the need to **prioritize education** over marriage.

“Young people often feel comfortable to talk about SRH issues with peers as a result there is a need to recruit young people in youth hubs or health centers who will be able to educate young on life skills and SRH.” – Young person

## We found that ....

**Unbalanced gender roles have forced young girls to resort to marriage.** Discriminatory cultural practices based on stereotypical views of women's roles and sexuality are among the structural causes of child marriage. Young girls especially those at the secondary level are forced to **drop out of school** to take care of their younger siblings so that parents can focus on farming or gold panning. As a result, most young girls get married as they do not have information on how sexual reproductive issues which is provided to girls who are at school. Due to the exposure of being a mother, some girls then feel that it is better to get married as they are already doing mother's roles.

“Parents sometimes let young girls drop out from schools so as to take care of their siblings, it is obvious that a young person who is not at school is likely to get married than the one who is at school.” – Headmaster

## How can we do it differently?

**Training young people** from primary school on the importance of education and gender equality. This will help them to have a **positive attitude towards education** which will help them stay in school and have a positive impact on the future generation. **Parents need to be trained** on the importance of education and gender equality so as to ensure that it sinks with what young people would have been taught. There is a need to engage and educate religious elders and community leaders who are the decision-makers. This is key to changing the attitude of a community on child marriage. Leaders should be educated on the harmful effects of traditions such as child marriage. This will help villages to declare an end to some harmful practices including child marriage. **Providing scholarships** or cash transfers to girls. The Government should make schooling more affordable for girls, this in many ways can directly reduce child marriage.

## We found that ....

**COVID-19 lockdown restrictions** played a role in the increase of child marriage/child pregnancy. During this period children were not attending school as a result they were at home. When they were at home most of their parents would leave them alone when they went to the farms. This meant girls spent more time with men and boys than they would do in school, leading to a greater likelihood of engagement in risky sexual behavior and an increased risk of sexual violence and exploitation. With limited supervision, lack of entertainment, and lack of information on sexual rights children would indulge in sexual activities. As a result, a lot of girls got pregnant and when schools opened a lot of girls dropped out of school.

“**COVID-19 increased the child pregnancy rate in our community because young people had plenty of time to misbehave as they did not have full supervision since parents were not always available to monitor them.**” – Village Health worker

## How can we do it differently?

Government should ensure continued learning during school closures through **distance education which is accessible to every young person**, including sensitization messages on gender equality, to continually engage and educate all girls throughout school closures and ease their return upon reopening of schools. **Create an enabling policy environment** to allow access to education by eliminating policies and practices that expel pregnant girls and establishing continuation policies and strategies to facilitate the continued education of pregnant girls and adolescent mothers.

## We found that ....

There is **limited to no access to SRH Services** in farming compounds. SRH services are not easily accessible in farming compounds because there are no nearby health institutions in the areas. The people have to travel very long distances to access the services at health institutions in Bindura town. Compound areas have village



health workers (VHW) who **only provide condoms** and do not have other services such as STI testing and treatment. Condoms are not frequently available in farming areas. It is even worse for children under the age of 16 as they are below the age of consent. The current laws in Zimbabwe, particularly the **Public Health Act, restrict children under the age of 16 from accessing SRH services** such as contraceptives and emergency family planning pills because they are below the age of consent.

“**The village health worker only distributes condoms around the compound, some she leaves in illegal bars (Shabhini) so that people can collect freely or you can get them from her place. However, sometimes when you go to get condoms at her place, she might not have them because she might not have received condom supplies.**” – *Young person*

## How can we do it differently?

There is a need to have clinics in each and every 5km radius. If finances do not allow **mobile clinics** to be used for providing SRHR services for everyone, especially young people. Services should not be limited to free condom contributions but also to cater to STIs and HIV testing and treatment. Acceleration of the **Amendment of Section 35 of the Public Health Act** to all the provision of SRHR services for young people under the age of 18.

## We found that ....

Even though there are limited sexual reproductive services a huge constraint is that the services are **youth unfriendly**. Most of the village health workers are females and some males find it difficult to request or ask for STI assistance from them. VHW are community members who have been living in the community for a long time. They have established relationships with the young people's parents. It is difficult for young people to access the services because the Village Health Workers sometimes judge young people and at times, they do not preserve the **principle of confidentiality**.

“**Village health workers have been in this area for a long time and most have relationships with our parents. It is very difficult to ask them for condoms because we see them as our parents.**” – *Young person*

## How can we do it differently?

Government has to **invest in strengthening the capacity of the already existing village health workers** to provide youth-friendly services. Training has to be provided on youth-friendly services. **Strict penalties** can be introduced for those who breach confidentiality in the Health Sector. This will help young people to access SRH services. **Youth Health Workers** can be introduced in communities and clinics. It is easy for young people to access services when they feel that the person providing them with the services is a young person and not the same age as their parents.

# Commitments by Members of the National Assembly

A national Dialogue meeting was held with Members of the Parliament from the Youth and Health Portfolio Committee. The following are the commitments made by the **Honourable Members of parliament**:

- **Lobby** as Members of Parliament for clinics in every 5 km radius.
- **Increase joint synergies** between the health and youth committees so as to compliment all health efforts.
- There is a Youth Bill that hasn't been presented in parliament the Youth Portfolio Committee of **Youth will push for the Bill to be passed**. Without a Youth Bill it means there is no law for the youths. The bill should talk about every sector of the economy believed to affect the youth including health.
- **Policy alignment** on age of consent, we will accelerate the amendment of section 35.
- For **Empowerment** there are policies and initiatives that are already there which include Venture Capital. We will ensure that the venture Capital benefits young people in the whole country (All Districts).
- We will **engage** the committee on Primary and Secondary Education and the committee on Secondary and Tertiary Education for the construction of educational facilities. This will help to ensure that young people have access to low-cost education.

# CONCLUSION

For the solutions to child marriages/pregnancies to result in lasting change, the way in which farming compound communities are monitored, and managed socially and economically must be transformed. Young people in the farming compounds should demand more space to inform and influence the government sector. Through these research exercises, we can harness the collective energy of young people. Young people can play a pivotal role in this transformational change, not just in giving ideas. They can provide information about their experiences at the grassroots level, and they can influence the design of the enabling environment to harness the potential of livelihood innovation and design. Looking forward, more research around the intersectionalities of child marriages will be crucial to gaining a deeper understanding into the challenges that young people face in similar circumstances face.

# RESEARCHER PROFILES



## Bridget Madziro

.....

**District:** Bindura  
**Occupation:** Student  
**Age:** 24  
**Interests:** Cooking and listening to music



## Nigel Muzariri

.....

**District:** Bindura  
**Occupation:** Farmer and entrepreneur  
**Age:** 21  
**Interests:** Listening to music



## Thelma Doma

.....

**District:** Bindura  
**Occupation:** Student  
**Age:** 22  
**Interests:** Watching movies



## Pharoah Ngandu

.....

**District:** Bindura  
**Occupation:** Farmer  
**Age:** 25  
**Interests:** Playing Soccer

# RESEARCHER PROFILES



## Bridget Madziro

.....

**District:** Bindura  
**Occupation:** Student  
**Age:** 24  
**Interests:** Cooking and listening to music



## Nigel Muzariri

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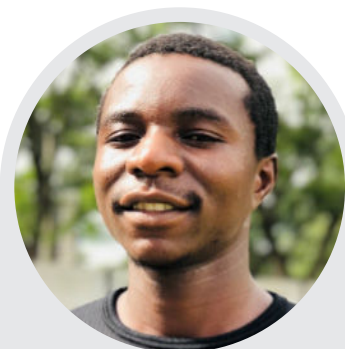
**District:** Bindura  
**Occupation:** Farmer and entrepreneur  
**Age:** 21  
**Interests:** Listening to music



## Thelma Doma

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**District:** Bindura  
**Occupation:** Student  
**Age:** 22  
**Interests:** Watching movies



## Pharoah Ngandu

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**District:** Bindura  
**Occupation:** Farmer  
**Age:** 25  
**Interests:** Playing Soccer



## Adrian Mazuva

.....

**District:** Bindura  
**Occupation:** Entrepreneur  
**Age:** 29  
**Interests:** Playing Soccer

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# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

## **The Restless Development analysts and writers for the report included:**

Tafadzwa Kazembe

Steven Chinembiri

Maria Malomalo

The research team would like to thank the team at HIVOS for their thoughtful strategic direction of the research as well as the authorities and young people in Bindura for being accommodative and accepting to be part of this research. We would like to thank our Partner FOST for collaborating with us.

This research was made possible with funding from HIVOS.

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