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# Gender-Based Violence In Schools: An Entry Point for Addressing Child Marriage

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# Child Marriage

- Malawi is one of the “Top 20 Hot Spots”
- Rooted in cultural traditions, economic considerations



# “Edna”-One Girl’s Story

A 6<sup>th</sup> grade student,  
avoided early  
marriage with the  
help of Safe Schools  
Community Action  
Planning Committee  
members in her  
community

-- *Chiramo Village,  
Malawi*





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# “Edna’s” Family



## “Edna” Today

With the assistance of Safe Schools, Edna was able to continue her studies and is pursuing her dream of becoming a teacher.





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# Safe Schools Program







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# Critical Program Components



Teacher Training

Student Life Skills

Community  
Counselors

Community Action  
Plans



# Impact on Child Marriage

Child marriage emerged as a key issue.

Communities decide how to address the issue.

In Malawi, 35 child marriages were avoided between October and December 2007.



## “Glory”: A Second Chance

A 5<sup>th</sup> grade student, was forced to marry at the age of 13. She has now re-enrolled in school after working with Safe Schools Community Counselors

*--Kaombe Village, Malawi*





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# “Glory” Today



Glory now attends school and has been trained as a Safe Schools “Peer Leader” to help other students live positive, healthy lifestyles.



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# Lessons Learned

- Integrated program approach
- Schools as an entry point to address child marriage





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Thank you!