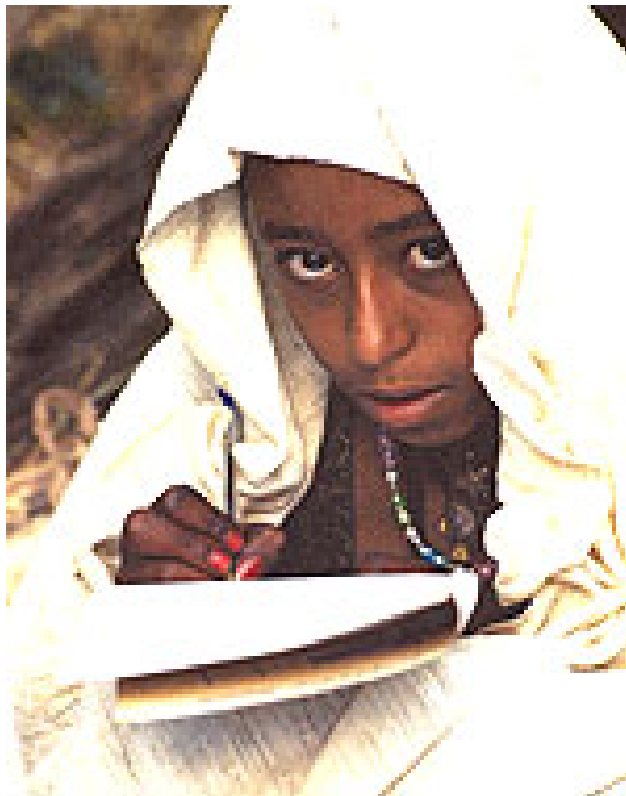


# Stop Child Marriage in Ethiopia

A Proposal to the Smith Foundation  
August 15, 2005



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## Executive Summary

Ethiopia has one of the most severe crises of child marriage in the world today, with 19% of girls married by age 15 and about 50% married by age 18.

Once married, a young girl is often separated from her family to become a junior member of her husband's family. Her movements may be restricted and her education ended. She may be subjected to sexual coercion and expected to prove her fertility by bearing children at an unsafe age. One result of this may be obstetric fistula, a serious medical condition in which a hole develops between the bladder, vagina, and sometimes rectum of a young girl, causing physical suffering, humiliation, and social ostracism.

With your help, the Stop Child Marriage program can give hope to generations of girls in Ethiopia. In an effort to find feasible alternatives to child marriage that will be effective in Ethiopia and elsewhere, the program will work with girls, parents, and communities to promote later, chosen, and legal marriage. The campaign will do this in these ways:

- Raising awareness of the prevalence of early marriage and the human rights abuse it constitutes
- Publicizing and working to support enforcement of the law that establishes 18 as the legal age of marriage
- Engaging communities through public campaigns, pledges, or incentives
- Raising awareness of parents, community leaders, and policymakers to the health and human rights implications of young girls marrying older men

The Domini Global Giving Fund requests a grant of \$10,000 to support all activities of the Stop Child Marriage program in Ethiopia. Program activities will be executed by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the world's largest international source of funding for population and reproductive health programs.

**Please note that your donation will be matched 50% through the partnership of the Domini Foundation and the United Nations (UN) Foundation.** One hundred percent of funds raised will go directly to the implementing partner of the specified program. Unlike many other charitable organizations, the UN Foundation will not use any of your grant for transaction or processing fees.

The program will be evaluated through short reports prepared by UNFPA and its partners, which will examine the impact on the incidence of child marriage, incidence of sexually transmitted diseases, average school-leaving age of girls, and other factors.

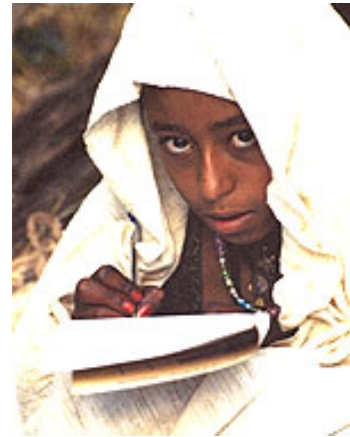
The Domini Global Giving Fund seeks to work with organizations that have in-depth experience and proven expertise in the complex international issues addressed by our programs. Rather than directing grants to specific aspects of specific projects, we allow our partner organizations to use the funding we provide in the way they believe will be most effective. As a result, your donation to the Stop Child Marriage program will be used effectively to protect the health and human rights of young girls.

## The Crisis of Child Marriage

On the day before her wedding, 12-year-old Tizalem's hair was braided. She soaked her hands in a henna-like dye and was dressed in traditional white clothing that hid her face.

A marriage contract prepared by village elders listed the cattle and other gifts to be provided by Tizalem's family and the family of her fiancé, who was 24. Her mother had agreed to her daughter's early marriage on condition that the contract prohibited sexual relations until Tizalem was 15. She didn't notice until Tizalem had signed it that the elders left out the clause.

Ethiopia is a country where a shocking proportion of girls are married as children, especially in rural areas. Tizalem and other Ethiopian girls are not alone in their experience of child marriage. Of 331 million girls aged 10 to 19 who live in developing countries (excluding China), 163 million will be married by their 20th birthday. Ethiopia is a country with extremely high rates of child marriage, especially in rural areas.



Tizalem on her wedding day.  
Photo: UNICEF.

Child marriage often takes place within the context of poverty and gender inequality. It poses serious health risks, at times threatening a girl's survival. Once married, a girl may be subjected to sexual coercion and expected to prove her fertility by bearing children at an unsafe age. Her risk of contracting HIV is higher than for unmarried girls of the same age. She is often separated from her family to become a junior member of her husband's family. All these factors reinforce the "feminization" of poverty, and its continuation from one generation to the next.

### *Obstetric Fistula*

The most significant risk a child bride faces in giving birth is prolonged or obstructed labor, which can result in obstetric fistula. Writing in the *New York Times*, Nicholas Kristof described obstetric fistula as "almost unknown in the West but indescribably hideous for millions of sufferers in the poorest countries of the world."



"It typically occurs," Kristof explained, "when a teenage girl cannot deliver a baby because it is too big for her pelvis. After several days without access to a doctor, the baby dies and the girl is left with a hole between her bladder, vagina and sometimes rectum. The result is that urine and sometimes feces drip constantly down her legs. In some cases, she is also left lame from nerve damage."

Kristof met a woman named Mahabouba Mohammed in Ethiopia. "She had been sold into virtual slavery at the age of 8, raped by her master at 12 and then set out into the bush at 13

Patient at Fistula Hospital in Addis Ababa. Photo: Shaleece Haas.

to deliver the baby on her own. After a long labor, she delivered the dead baby herself but suffered crippling internal injuries, including a fistula.

“Ms. Mohammed crawled back to the village, but the baby’s father was horrified by her smell. He confined her in a faraway hut and removed the door — so that hyenas, attracted by the odor, would tear her apart at night. The girl fought off the hyenas and crawled for a day to reach an American missionary, who eventually brought her to the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital...”

Fortunately, obstetric fistula is preventable, and can often be corrected with a relatively inexpensive operation — transforming the lives of the patients. The fistula hospital in Addis Ababa provides surgery for up to 1,000 women a year, achieving a complete cure in 90% of cases.

## **Sponsors of Stop Child Marriage in Ethiopia**

Stop Child Marriage is a program of the **Domini Global Giving Fund**, a donor-advised fund established by the Domini Foundation in partnership with the UN Foundation. **Thanks to this unique partnership, your direct grant to the Stop Child Marriage program will be matched at a rate of 50%.**

Program activities of Stop Child Marriage are executed by the **United Nations Population Fund** (UNFPA), an international development agency that promotes the right of every woman, man, and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity. UNFPA supports countries in using population data for policies and programs to reduce poverty and to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person is free of HIV/AIDS, and every girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect.

As the world’s leading multilateral agency on population, UNFPA is the most prominent international advocate for reproductive health and rights, including the right to choose the number and spacing of one’s children.

Working in partnership with other United Nations agencies, governments, communities, NGOs, foundations, and the private sector, UNFPA raises awareness and mobilizes the support and resources needed to reach the targets set forth at the International Conference on Population and Development and in the Millennium Development Goals.

### ***Past Achievements***

UNFPA supports programs that assist adolescent girls and women, among other groups:

- Family planning and avoidance of unwanted pregnancies
- Safe pregnancy, childbirth, and motherhood
- Prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS
- Combatting violence against women

Since 1969, with the help of UNFPA, access to voluntary family planning programs in developing countries has increased and fertility has fallen by half, from six children per woman to three. Nearly 60% of married women in developing countries have chosen to use contraception, compared with 10% to 15% when UNFPA began its work.

The **United Nations Children's Fund** (UNICEF), one of UNFPA's partners in the Stop Child Marriage program, has worked effectively in Africa to ensure that children have an equal opportunity in education, which is critical to postponing marriage and to the overall development of girls.

In **Egypt**, UNICEF and its partners led 80 training workshops aimed at raising awareness of female genital mutilation and child marriage, reaching 600,000 adults in rural locations. One hundred forty literacy classes disseminated information on the dangers of child marriage. In **Guinea-Bissau**, UNICEF used daily television and radio broadcasts on the consequences of early marriage. And in **Niger**, UNICEF advocated against child marriage by training village chiefs, producing dramas in local languages for television and radio, and holding community debates. UNICEF also trained hospital staff on the medical complications that may result from early pregnancies.

### **Giving Hope to Girls in Ethiopia**

The Stop Child Marriage campaign supports pioneering work to promote viable alternatives to child marriage in Ethiopia, and to help provide opportunities for girls and young women. It supports research and partnership development, and focuses on the following goals:

- Ensuring access to school and extending time in school
- Expanding access to non-formal educational services
- Providing basic primary and reproductive health services
- Strengthening social support and services

### **Stop Child Marriage: A Program of the Domini Global Giving Fund**

Stop Child Marriage is one of 13 programs approved for funding through the Domini Global Giving Fund. **Direct grants to each program (except for the Crisis Response Fund) are eligible for matching funding of 50%, thanks to the partnership of the Domini Foundation and the UN Foundation.**

#### ***Goals***

UNFPA is working to improve social and economic opportunities for adolescent girls in Ethiopia through its collaborative efforts with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Population Council, and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF).

## *Methods*

The program will produce strategies to find feasible alternatives to child marriage. Methods employed will include the following:

- Community assessment in selected regions
- Mobilization of community and opinion leaders toward ending child marriage
- Recommendations for action that can be adapted by other countries with a high prevalence of child marriage

Specific activities in Ethiopia will include the following:

- Outreach, values clarification, and mobilization targeting caregivers, religious and community leaders, girls and boys, and other stakeholders
- Training for parents
- Community outreach and networking by local nongovernmental organizations
- Advocacy training for youth, caregivers, religious leaders, and other stakeholders
- Community dialogue on child marriage, poverty, education, and health
- Outreach by political leaders to communities
- Public service announcements
- Fundraising initiatives to keep girls in school, including reimbursement of families, e.g. through purchase of goats
- Establishment of girls' centers for education, life skills, and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS
- Provision of microcredit loans and educational grants

## *Evaluation*

Evaluation of the Stop Child Marriage program is critical, not only for future activities in Ethiopia, but because the program is intended to identify methods and strategies that have the greatest likelihood of success in other countries with a high incidence of child marriage.

The success of each strategy is measured qualitatively and quantitatively by answering questions such as these:

- Has the incidence of child marriage decreased in Ethiopian communities?
- Has the incidence of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases decreased?
- Has the average school-leaving age of girls increased?
- Has the reported incidence of violence against women decreased?
- Have microcredit programs succeeded in supporting new women-owned businesses?
- Have political leaders and other opinion leaders expressed support for alternatives to child marriage?

UNFPA and its partners in Ethiopia are asked to produce short reports and to evaluate the successes and lessons learned from the project. These will be collected and evaluated to identify strategies that should be replicated in other countries.

### *Future Funding*

Stop Child Marriage is carried out by UNFPA, which receives contributions from governments, nongovernmental organizations, UN organizations, and foundations.

In 2004, a total of 166 countries supported UNFPA. The largest contributions were from the Netherlands (\$112 million), the United Kingdom (\$42 million), Sweden (\$42 million), and Japan (\$41 million).

The UN Foundation, the partner organization of the Domini Global Giving Fund, has contributed over \$57 million in project support to UNFPA, of which more than half has gone specifically toward the social and economic development of adolescent girls. Targeting programs that address the crisis of child marriage in Ethiopia represents the UN Foundation's second generation of support for adolescent girls, building upon lessons learned from earlier efforts. In addition, with funding from a U.S.-based Indian philanthropy, the UN Foundation provided a grant to UNFPA to support efforts by the Population Council to find alternatives to child marriage in India.

Stop Child Marriage will also receive funding from contributors to the Domini Global Giving Fund.

### **Conclusion**

The Domini Global Giving Fund requests a grant of \$10,000 to support all activities of the Stop Child Marriage program in Ethiopia. **Please note that your donation will be matched 50% through the partnership of the Domini Foundation and the UN Foundation.** One hundred percent of funds raised will go directly to the implementing partner of the specified program. Unlike many other charitable organizations, the UN Foundation will not use any of your grant for transaction or processing fees.

With your help, Stop Child Marriage can give new hope to girls in Ethiopia. By finding alternatives to child marriage, this program can protect girls in Ethiopia and elsewhere from the subjugation, poverty, violence, and devastating health effects that are linked to child marriage, and provide them an opportunity for better health, more education, greater personal and economic self-determination, and a brighter future.

<b>Budget for Empowering Girls and Finding Alternatives to Child Marriage in Ethiopia: 2005 - 2006</b>						
	Participants	Frequency	Cost/per	\$ Total	Recipients	
<b>Community Mobilization</b>						
<i>Country level</i>						
1.1 Caregivers outreach, value clarification and mobilization	30	5	\$2,000	\$10,000	150	
1.2 Religious and community leader outreach, value clarification and mobilization	30	5	\$2,000	\$10,000	150	
1.3 Girls and boys outreach, value clarification and mobilization	30	5	\$2,000	\$10,000	150	
1.4 Other stakeholder outreach, value clarification and mobilization	30	5	\$2,000	\$10,000	150	
1.5 Parent-to-parent peer education training	30	5	\$2,000	\$10,000	150	
1.6 National NGO community outreach, value clarification and mobilization	30	2	\$2,000	\$4,000	60	
1.7 National NGO network organization	-	1	\$1,000	<u>\$1,000</u>	<u>0</u>	
				<b>\$55,000</b>	<b>810</b>	
<i>Global level</i>						
1.8 International network organization functioning				\$2,000	0	
<b>Total Community Mobilization</b>				<b>\$57,000</b>	<b>810</b>	
<b>Advocacy Strategy and Partnership Building</b>						
<i>Country level</i>						
Advocacy training for youth, caregivers, religious leaders and other						
2.1 stakeholders	30	5	\$2,000	\$10,000	150	
2.2 Community dialogues on child marriage, poverty, education and health	30	25	\$300	\$7,500	750	
2.3 Political leader outreach to community	3	5	\$1,800	\$9,000	15	
Integrated media activities (public service announcements and existing						
2.4 programming)	100,000	5	\$5,000	\$25,000	500,000	
2.5 Parent-to-parent peer education	30	5	\$4,500	<u>\$22,500</u>	<u>150</u>	
				<b>\$74,000</b>	<b>501,065</b>	
<i>Global level</i>						
2.6 Advocacy efforts for partnership building (presentations and outreach)	-		\$5,000	\$5,000	0	
2.7 Partner site visits (4 persons x \$6,000)	-		\$24,000	\$24,000	0	
2.8 Global media advocacy strategy (PSA finish and broadcast)	-		\$20,000	\$20,000	0	
2.9 "Keep a girl in school" fundraising initiative	-		\$20,000	<u>\$20,000</u>	<u>0</u>	
				<b>\$69,000</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Total Advocacy Strategy and Partnership Building</b>				<b>\$143,000</b>	<b>501,065</b>	
<b>Education and Empowerment</b>						
<i>Country strategy</i>						
Girls' center providing education and empowerment, life-skills and SRH and						
3.1 HIV/AIDS prevention for married and unmarried girls	30	5	\$20,000	\$100,000	150	
Education and empowerment, including life-skills and SRH and HIV/AIDS						
3.2 prevention for married girls	30	5	\$20,000	<u>\$100,000</u>	<u>150</u>	
<b>Total Education and Empowerment</b>				<b>\$200,000</b>	<b>300</b>	
<b>Methodology of Subsidiary</b>						
<i>Country strategy</i>						
"Keep a girl in school" family reimbursement strategy (\$200 = 2-3 goats = 1 girl						
4.1 with secondary education)	150	5	\$200	\$150,000	750	
4.2 Microcredit loans	30	5	\$1,000	\$150,000	150	
4.3 Educational grants (1 year = \$500; 4 years - high school equivalency - = \$2,000)	30	5	\$2,000	<u>\$300,000</u>	<u>150</u>	
<b>Total Methodology of Subsidiary</b>				<b>\$600,000</b>	<b>1,050</b>	
<b>Budget Total</b>				<b>\$1,000,000</b>	<b>503,225</b>	

## **Domini Foundation Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors of the Domini Foundation maintains ultimate control over the funds and operations of the Domini Global Giving Fund. It selects the charitable programs to be included in the Fund, approves all grant recommendations to specific programs, and maintains the charitable status of the Foundation under federal income tax law.

### **Amy Domini: Chair and President**

Amy Domini is Founder and CEO of Domini Social Investments LLC and a founder of KLD Research & Analytics, Inc., specialists in corporate accountability research. In 2005, *Time* magazine named her to the Time 100 list of the world's most influential people. Also in 2005, President Clinton honored her at the inaugural meeting of the Clinton Global Initiative for helping protect children and the environment through the Domini Global Giving Fund.

As an investment professional, Amy advises individuals and institutions on integrating their social and financial criteria into their investment decisions. Since 1987, she has served as a private trustee with Loring, Wolcott & Coolidge Office, a fiduciary services company.

Ms. Domini is the author of *Socially Responsible Investing: Making a Difference and Making Money* (Dearborn Trade, 2001) and *The Challenges of Wealth* (Dow Jones Irwin, 1988), and a coauthor of *Investing for Good* (Harper Collins, 1993), *The Social Investment Almanac* (Henry Holt, 1992), and *Ethical Investing* (Addison-Wesley, 1984). She is a frequent guest commentator on CNBC's Talking Stocks and various other radio and television shows.

Ms. Domini serves on the board of the Church Pension Fund of the Episcopal Church in America. She is a past board member of the National Association of Community Development Loan Funds, an organization whose members work to create funds for grassroots economic development loans, and the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, the major sponsor of shareholder actions in social and environmental issues. She is a member of the Boston Security Analysts Society.

Ms. Domini holds a B.A. in international and comparative studies from Boston University, and holds the Chartered Financial Analyst designation.

### **Kathryn Bushkin**

Kathy Bushkin is the executive vice president and chief operating officer of the United Nations Foundation. Prior to joining the UN Foundation, Ms. Bushkin served as president of the AOL Time Warner Foundation, which she led from its creation in 2001. Before joining AOL, she was a senior managing director at the global public relations company Hill and Knowlton, director of editorial administration at *U.S. News & World Report*, and press secretary for Senator Gary Hart.

Throughout her career, Ms. Bushkin has taken an active role in a range of philanthropic activities. She currently serves on the boards of the International Women's Media Foundation, City Year, Share Our Strength, Internews, and the National Women's Law Center. In 1999 she and Art Bushkin founded the Stargazer Foundation, which operates a Web platform that provides free online tools for nonprofits.

Kathy Bushkin holds a B.S. in audiology and speech pathology from Purdue University.

### **Ellen Hume**

Ellen Hume is director of the Center on Media and Society at the University of Massachusetts Boston. An experienced journalist, teacher, speaker, administrator, conference director, and television commentator, she is the founding executive director of PBS's Democracy Project, where she developed special news programs that encouraged citizen involvement in public affairs. She was a White House and political correspondent for the *Wall Street Journal* from 1983 to 1988, and a Washington-based national reporter with the *Los Angeles Times* from 1977 to 1983. From 1988 to 1993, she served as executive director and senior fellow at Harvard University's Shorenstein Center on the Press, Politics and Public Policy.

Ms. Hume holds a B.A. in American history and literature from Harvard University and honorary doctorates from Kenyon College and Daniel Webster College.

### **Lindsey W. Parker**

Lindsey Parker is a trustee at Loring, Wolcott & Coolidge Office. She joined the firm in 1993 to work principally with its socially responsible investing clients. Ms. Parker chairs the Social Responsibility in Investments Committee for the National Episcopal Church and serves on its Economic Justice Loan Committee. She is a Trustee of The Trustees of Donations for the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts and a board member of the Concord Art Association. She is a member of the Social Investment Forum and a graduate of National Graduate Trust School. Prior to joining Loring, Wolcott & Coolidge Office she worked in the Equity Research Department of UBS Securities in New York.

Ms. Parker holds a B.A. in history from Princeton University.

### **Cherie Wendelken**

Cherie Wendelken is codirector of the Brooks Family Foundation, and maintains a special interest in children and the environment. She has eight years of research and consulting experience in Asia for clients including Arthur D. Little, Japanese and American construction firms, preservation planners, and developers of affordable housing. Dr. Wendelken was appointed to the faculty of Harvard University in 1993 and taught architectural history and Asian studies there until 2004.

Dr. Wendelken holds a B.A. in anthropology and architecture from S.U.N.Y at Buffalo and a Ph.D. in architecture from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

**Rana Zincir**

Rana Zincir currently coordinates several initiatives in the area of arts and culture, peace building, and philanthropy. Based in Turkey and northern Cyprus, she advises international donors with grant-making programs in Turkey while also working with several Turkish foundations and NGOs. She is coordinating a Ford Foundation research initiative on Islamic philanthropy for the Third Sector Foundation of Turkey, and a European Cultural Fund initiative on local cultural policymaking for Anadolu Kultur. She is also an advisor to a community development and cultural heritage project led by local government and the Global Heritage Fund for the city of Kars in eastern Turkey. As a member of the Greek Turkish Forum and as a coordinator of several conflict resolution projects, her work entails rapprochement between Greece, Turkey, and Cyprus. She was the executive producer of a major international arts event held in Cyprus in May 2005, the first time civilians were granted permission to use war-ravaged buildings within the United Nations Buffer Zone.

Prior to becoming a Fulbright Fellow at Sabanci University in Turkey, Ms. Zincir worked with the Ford Foundation in New York City as a program associate in economic development, where her focus included corporate community involvement and development finance. Her work at Domini Social Investments before joining the Ford Foundation was her first introduction to shareholder advocacy and social investing.

Ms. Zincir holds a B.S. in political science and economics from Columbia University and an M.Sc. in development studies from the London School of Economics.