Ending Child Marriage Through Traditional Authority — Senior Chief Theresa Kachindamoto's Annulment Network in Dedza, Malawi

Gender Equality · Good practice · Malawi

Quality score: 74/100

Evidence strength: Strong

Summary

Since becoming senior chief of Dedza in 2003, Theresa Kachindamoto used her authority over ~900,000 people and a network of sub-chiefs to annul hundreds of child marriages and return girls to school, helping drive Malawi's 2017 law raising the marriage age to 18.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Transferability / replicability	2/3
Impact on gender equality	1/1
Effectiveness	1/1
Efficiency	0/1
Evaluated outcomes	0/1
Sustainability	1/1
Achievement / evidence	1/1
Gender-mainstreaming embedding	1/1
Curator validation	1/1

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-09-24

Senior Chief's Office, Dedza District — accessed 2026-09-24

Global Citizen — Meet the Southern Malawi Chief who Stopped 850 Child Marriages — accessed 2026-09-24

UN Women Australia — Chief Kachindamoto's life mission to end child marriage in Malawi — accessed 2026-09-24

IPPF Africa — Leading Efforts To End Child Marriage: Senior Chief Theresa Kachindamoto — accessed 2026-09-24

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