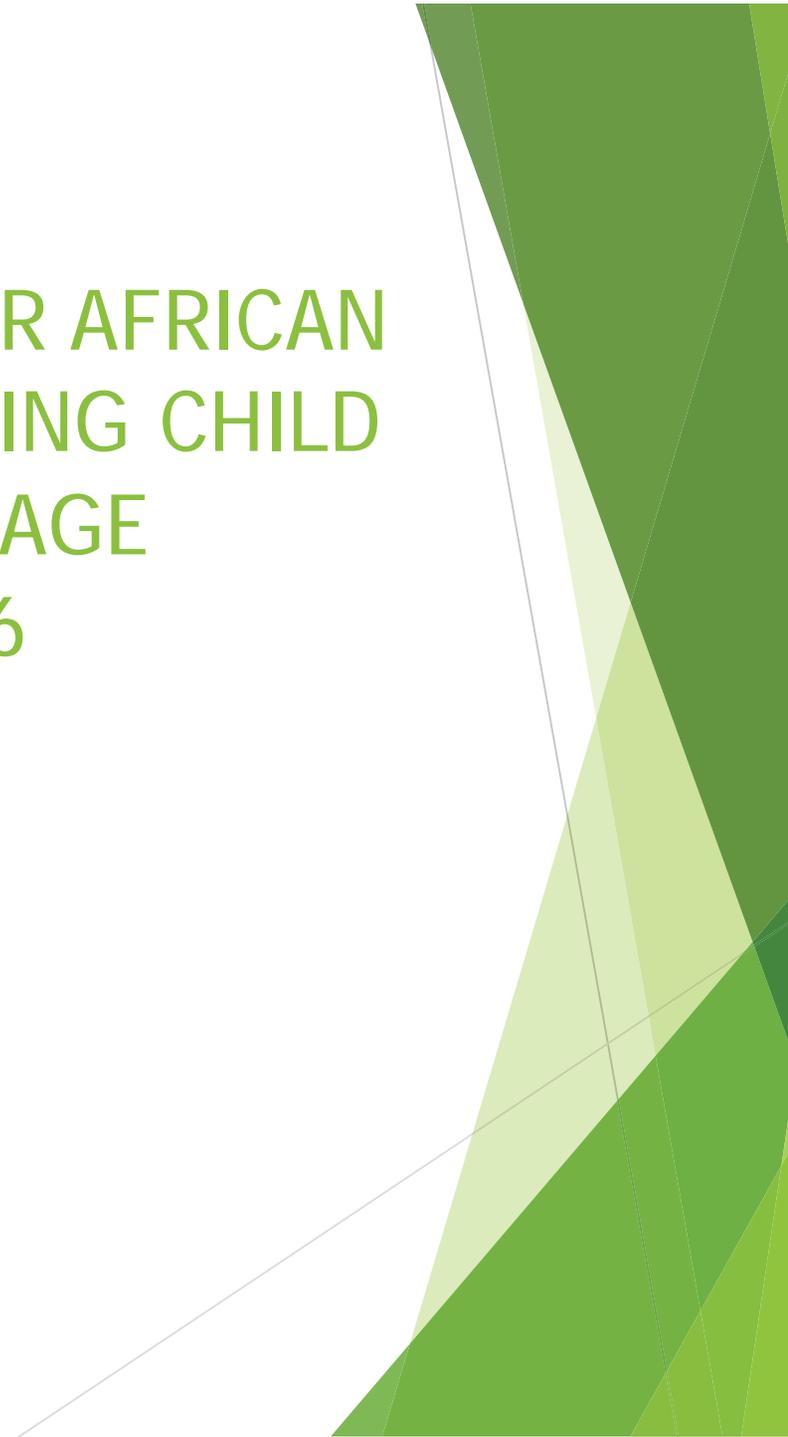
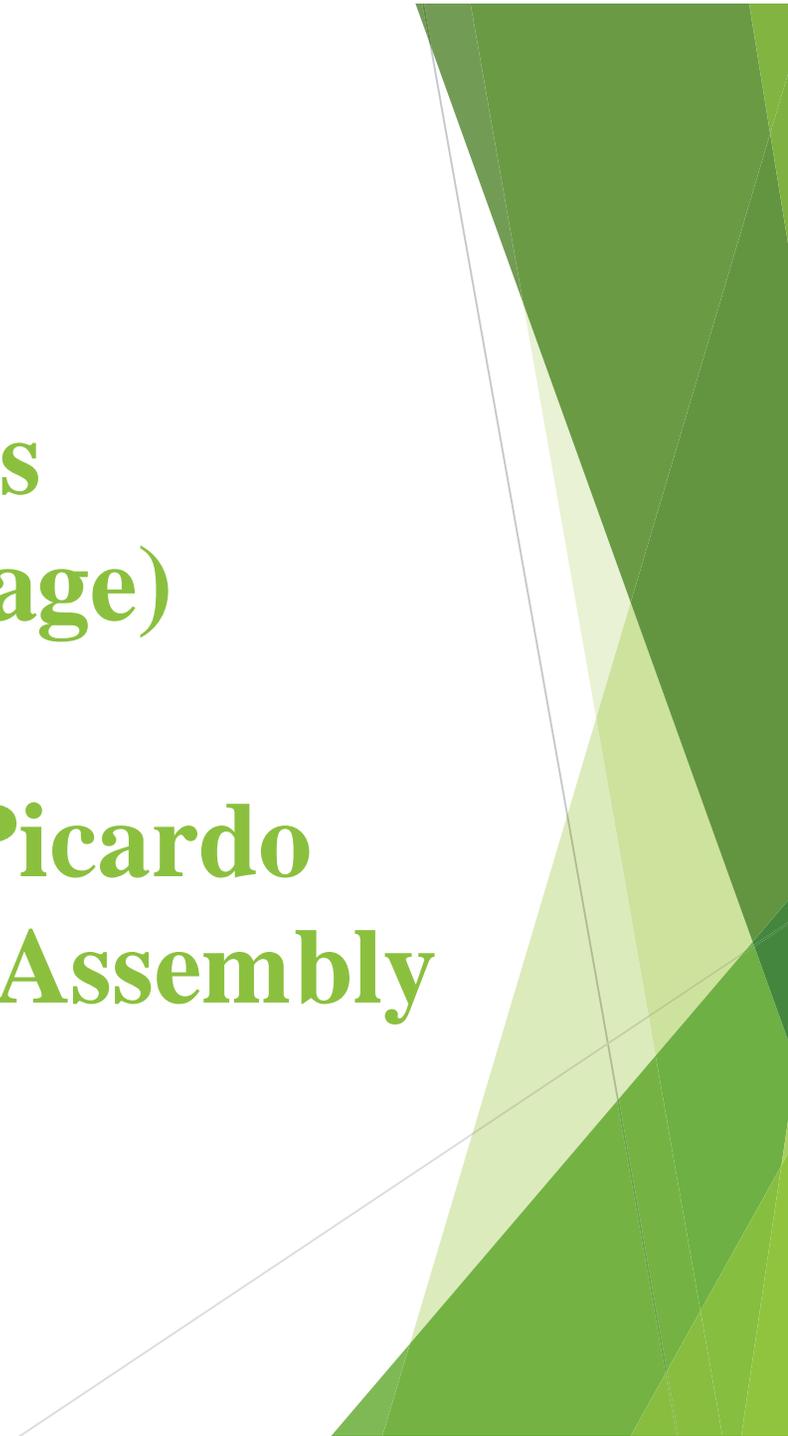


CAPACITY BUILDING SEMINAR FOR AFRICAN
PARLIAMENTARIANS ON ADDRESSING CHILD
EARLY AND FORCED MARRIAGE
GHANA 2nd and 3rd 2016



Early Marriages (Premature Marriage)

**By: Juliano Victória Picardo
Member of the National Assembly
Mozambique**



In these seven minutes I will address the point that early marriages are one of the expressions of sexual abuse and a human rights violation.

I hope that vibrant exchanges among parliamentarians and with experts as well as with civil society will provide for the most comprehensive and efficient framework for our children through:

Promoting the adoption of national legislation in conformity to international standards on the protection of children's rights as well as fostering the political will to achieve the effective implementation of international legal norms;

Mobilize all relevant actors to encourage measures pertaining to sexual and reproductive health, on the biggest possible scale.

Recommendations: adoption of key concerted strategies that promote the development of communities, including through partnerships with local administrative authorities so as to ensure that our girls rights are protected.

Early Marriages

Is one of the most serious problems of human rights in Mozambique but largely ignored in the country, hence the need for greater awareness of the issue and in particular for parliamentarians and members of the Executive branch.

- ▶ Mozambique is one of the countries of the world with the highest rates of early marriage, affecting one (1) in every two (2) girls, preventing the personal, academic and financial growth of these girls.



Mozambique is among the ten countries most affected in the world, and is still behind in the prevention and combating efforts.

U.D.S-2011 (health-development-index), 48% of girls aged 20-24 years were married before age 18 and 14% before reaching the age of 15.

Early Marriages in Mozambique impacts greatly the rights and health of children. As forced and early marriages have become increasingly less common among the richest sectors of society in all regions of the world, they are still common in Africa and South Asia.

The following table illustrates the situation.



Name of the country		% of girls married before the age of 18
Níger		74,5
Mali		71,5
Índia		70,6
Bangladesh		66,2
Guiné		63,1
República Centro-Africana		57,0
Moçambique		55,9
Burkina Faso		51,9
Nepal		51,4
Etiópia		49,2
Malawi		48,9
12	Madagáscar	48,2
13	Serra Leoa	47,9
14	Camarões	47,2
15	Eritreia	47,0
16	Uganda	46,3
17	Índia	44,5
18	Nicarágua	43,3
19	Zâmbia	41,6



In Mozambique the prevalence of early marriages is higher in rural areas with the highest rates in the center and north of the country.

According to IDS (2011) 56% of girls in rural areas and 36% in urban areas.



Causes:

Poverty;

Lack of education (formal, religious, and informal);

Economic pressure on the poorest households;

Social practices – cultural (including initiation rites)



Good Practices

In Mozambique the early marriage are not legally covered

- . Social action strategy for orphan children;
- . Improvement of Family law and the constitution;
- . Comprehensive policies and legislation on domestic violence;
- . Promotion of Girl's access to education;
- . Establishment of an adequate Children's Rights legal framework;
- . Establishment of centers for reporting abuse and violence against children.

Recommendations:

Greater transparency in the distribution of wealth;

Encourage ethical values such as honesty, accountability and transparency;

Extend assistance to adolescents and young people in areas of education and reproductive health.

Greater pressure on civil society and the government to develop a national strategy for the prevention and fight against early marriages.

Greater accountability and allocation of appropriate funding to activities related to combating child, early and forced marriage.



HANK YOU

cardojv@yahoo.com.br
ozambique



