## **How the CCPCs are created**

The Community Child Protection Committees (CCPCs) are community structures whose main objective is to support the protection of children by working as ‘change agents to promote and safeguard the rights and welfare of children by reporting, documenting all cases of child abuse and refer such them to relevant institutions for further action. The CCPCs also acts as a link between the law enforcers, the community and children. The CCPCs are established with support from the traditional leaders (the area chiefs) who helps in recommending names of individuals based on the criteria that is shared to them by Caritas, and when these have been selected and engaged, trainings in various aspects of child protection follows which include, child protection and safeguarding, PDEP methodology, case management and documentation and VAC INSPIRE strategies among others.

The CCPCs are selected from representing different villages from a particular community and the composition include:

* Traditional leaders
* Civic leaders/Counsellors
* Health personals (community health workers mostly)
* Teachers
* Local CSOs
* Church leaders
* Neighbourhood watches
* Tradition marriage counsellors
* Youth and ordinary community members

## **Details on how children are withdrawn from CEFM and taken back to school**

With regards to how the referral services works in cases of CEFM, the CCPCs are first and foremost guided by the steps in cases management toolkit developed by SCI as per training.

Therefore, in case management, each case takes into considering the four (4) guiding principles of children’s rights with regards to ensuring that

1. the best interest of the child is upheld in all aspects,
2. there should not be any form of discrimination regardless of the status of the child or nature of the case whether it was forced marriage or the child made that decision due to peer pressure, abuse or other factors;
3. the CCPCs must always ensure that they do no further harm or must ensure the survival and development of children is considered in the casement management process and;
4. the CCPCs ensure the involvement of the child, this includes participation in making decision making on how and what they want to be supported.

For instance, when a case of CEFM is reported, the CCPCs first engaged the parents to the child to explain the legal provisions and the implications of CEFM and immediately the child is withdrawn from

the marriage to prevent further harm. Thereafter, one CCPC is assigned an individual case, this CCPC first focuses on the needs of the child with regards to the family background in relation to his/her best interest.

The CCPC then works with the parents/legal guardian of the child to ensure that the victim receive medical care. Consent of the victim is ensured ahead of any medical examination. The objective of the medical care is to rule out any possibility of contracting STDs/Is and unwanted pregnancies.

Whilst this process is taking place, the assigned CCPC (selected based on competence) also helps the victims to understand and understand their rights especially the importance of education and the effects of CEFM to the children and youth, counselling and mentorship are also provided. With the help of the school and other CCPC members the child is then readmitted back to school where they are given information about the Child rights Clubs and the possibility to join.

Ongoing mentorship and support to the victim continues at the school level, while other peers are also enlightened on the importance of education and the re-entry policy (the peer-to-peer sensitisation on children’s rights is done at a different forum, during assembly and club days by the esblished child rights club members with support from the matron/patron who is a teacher from the same school and also sits in the CCCP). The school management keeps monitoring the academic performance of the survivor and the CRC matron/patron tracks the performance and reports to the CCPC who documents the updates.

On the other hand, other CCPCs continues with following up the case through the law enforcers to ensure that the perpetrator is dealt with as prescribed by the law (the penal Code) to deter others from committing the same/similar offense – (that is in an event that the perpetrator is above 16 years old, and if the perpetrator is below 16 years old - peer to peer marriages, counselling is extended to both the girl and the boy and the two are separated and taken to different schools taking into consideration the processes described above. Parents to both children are sensitised on children’s rights and effects of child marriages. In an event that the marriage was due to peer pressure - parents are then engaged to take back their children to school and CCPC continues to monitor and provide the mentorship and support to the children involved. And in an event that the marriage was initiated by parents, this is reported to the law enforcers and action is taken as prescribed by the law.

## **What are the 23 target communities in 6 districts of the CCPCs?**

The following are the communities in each district;

* **Kalabo District:**
	+ Nalionwa CCPC
	+ Kalenga CCPC
	+ Muyumba
	+ Malasha CCPC
* **Nkeyema District:**
	+ Nakuyuwa CCPC
	+ Nkeyema CCPC
	+ Kamasis CCPC
	+ Kamanya CCPC
	+ Kamakokwa CCPC
* **Ngabwe District:**
	+ Mumbachala CCPC
	+ Mukubwe CCPC
	+ Iwonde CCPC
	+ Ngabwe CCPCs
	+ Lwamala CCPC
* **Mkushi District:**
	+ Chimbukuma CCPC
	+ Makopa CCPC
	+ Kasansama CCPC
* **Siavonga District:**
	+ Mpango,
	+ Siamatika
	+ Sianyoolo
* **Sinazongwe District:**
	+ Nang’ombe
	+ Maamba
	+ Nkadabbwe

**Success of CCPCs**

The CCPCs have been very impactful in contributing to ending CEFM, without the CCPCs in the target communities, it would have been a challenge for Caritas and Save the Children to achieve some of the impact the project has documented. CCPCs are purely volunteers who have been trained to holistically look into the plight of children and ensure that all children regardless of the background or status fully enjoy their rights. The CCPCs have been and are still being supervised by District Volunteers (DVs) and the local church structure members called; Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP) who are also the defenders of human rights in the catholic church using the Catholic Social Teachings. The CCPCs have been very instrumental in dealing with CEFMs and because of this work, Caritas has received overwhelming requests from various communities far from our target areas to establish more CCPCs to curb child marriages.