

CHILD MARRIAGE

A MAPPING OF PROGRAMMES AND PARTNERS IN
TWELVE COUNTRIES IN EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA



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The information contained in this report is drawn from multiple sources, including interviews and a review of materials available online and provided by organizations. The content offers a representative range of work being done on child marriage by a number of organizations in the countries selected, but may not include each and every organization focusing on the issue.

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Acronyms

APDA	Afar Pastoralist Development Association (Ethiopia)
AU	African Union
CAMA	The Alumni Association for Camfed graduates
CAMFED	Campaign for Female Education
CECAP	National Coalition to End Child Marriage in Mozambique
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
DFID	Department for International Cooperation (United Kingdom)
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
FAWETZ	Forum for African Women Educationalists Tanzania
FGM/C	Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting
GNB	Girls Not Brides
IPPF	International Planned Parenthood Federation
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
KOICA	Korea International Cooperation Agency
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MoWCA	Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs (Ethiopia)
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NORAD	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
NUEW	National Union of Eritrean Women
PEPFAR	United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SALC	Southern Africa Litigation Centre
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VSO	Voluntary Service Overseas
YWCA	Young Women's Christian Association

Glossary

Adolescent birth rate measures the annual number of births to women 15 to 19 years of age per 1,000 women in that age group. It represents the risk of childbearing among adolescent women aged 15 to 19.¹

Betrothal is a promise to marry or to be engaged for the purpose of marriage and includes any coerced act that may lead to marriage or results in marriage.

Child marriage includes any legal or customary union involving a boy or girl below the age of 18.

Child marriage prevalence is the percentage of women aged 20 to 24 years who were married or in union before 18 years of age.²

Comprehensive sexuality education includes scientifically accurate information about human development, anatomy and reproductive health as well as information about contraception, childbirth and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV.³

Delaying age at marriage refers to upward movements in the average age at marriage within a group. This is different than decreasing the rate of child marriage since, for example, a programme may be successful at raising the average age of marriage from 15 to 17 years, an accomplishment that would not change the number of those getting married under age 18.

Evidence-based programming refers to programmes that are based on evaluated programmes that are using an experimental design. The programme results should be replicated in more than one study and peer reviewed.⁴

Female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) includes any procedure that intentionally alters female genital organs for non-medical reasons. The procedure does not have health benefits for girls. On the contrary, it can cause severe bleeding, problems urinating and, later, cysts, infections as well as complications in childbirth and increased risk of newborn deaths. According to the World Health Organization, more than 200 million girls and women alive today have been cut in 30 countries in Africa, the Middle East and Asia where the practice is concentrated and is mostly carried out on girls between infancy and age 15.⁵

Safe space is a formal or informal place where women and girls feel physically and emotionally safe. It is a space where women and girls can enjoy the freedom to express themselves without the fear of judgement or harm. The key objectives of a safe space are to provide an area where women and girls can socialize and rebuild social networks; receive social support; acquire contextually relevant skills; access safe and non-stigmatizing multisectoral response services⁶ (psychosocial, legal, medical) to gender-based violence; and receive information on issues relating to women's rights, health and services.

Sexual violence is a sexual act committed against someone without that person's freely given consent.⁷

A **theory of change** is a tool for developing solutions to complex social problems. A basic theory of change explains how a group of early and intermediate accomplishments sets the stage for producing long-range results. A more complete theory of change articulates the assumptions about the process through which change will occur and specifies the ways in which all of the required early and intermediate outcomes related to achieving the desired long-term change will be brought about and documented as they occur.⁸

¹Millennium Development Goals Indicators. The official United Nations site for the MDG Indicators is: <https://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Metadata.aspx?IndicatorId=0&SeriesId=761> (accessed 1 September 2017).

²United Nations Children's Fund, *The State of the World's Children*, 2016, UNICEF, New York.

³United Nations Population Fund website, www.unfpa.org/comprehensive-sexuality-education (accessed 1 September 2017).

⁴Cornell University, 2017, <http://evidencebasedliving.human.cornell.edu/2010/05/04/evidence-based-programming-what-does-it-actually-mean/> (accessed 1 September 2017).

⁵World Health Organization fact sheet, updated February 2017, www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs241/en/ (accessed 1 September 2017).

⁶'Women's and Girls' Safe Spaces', UNFPA Regional Syria Response Hub, 2015, <http://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/woman%20space%20E.pdf> (accessed 15 August 2017).

⁷United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, updated 22 March 2017, www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/sexualviolence/definitions.html (accessed 1 September 2017).

⁸Adapted from Anderson, A., 2005, 'The Community Builder's Approach to Theory of Change: A practical guide to theory and development', The Aspen Institute Roundtable on Community Change, New York. See: <http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/A-Theory-of-Change-on-Child-Marriage-Brief.pdf> for an example of a theory of change that addresses child marriage.

Executive summary

Child marriage can have devastating consequences for individual girls and their future children. Typically, it cuts short or ends a girl's education, compromises her reproductive rights, sexual health, future employment and earnings and perpetuates personal and community poverty. Globally, more than one in four girls are married as children – before the age of 18. In East and Southern Africa, the share is 36 per cent, and 10 per cent of girls in the region are married by age 15.

This report presents the results of a mapping of programmes and partnerships that seek to prevent and mitigate the effects of child marriage in East and Southern Africa. The mapping focused on 12 countries in the region where the prevalence of child marriage is greater than 30 per cent⁹: Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, South Sudan, Tanzania (United Republic of), Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The findings are intended to serve as a basis for knowledge-sharing and strengthened coordination among government, development partners, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, and youth-led organizations, and include the identification of best practices that can be replicated and taken to scale.

Mapping Methodology

The mapping was guided by the results framework used in the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage. The framework focuses on five outcomes that are designed to create integrated and systematic programme interventions:

- **Outcome 1** focuses on empowering girls, so that they are able to make effective choices about their lives.
- **Outcome 2** focuses on promoting positive practices at the level of the individual, family and community, changing attitudes and behaviours and creating self-sustaining, girl-friendly environments.
- **Outcome 3** aims to directly strengthen critical education, health and social protection systems and structures to expand access, utilization and improve the quality of services for adolescent girls.
- **Outcome 4** focuses on legal frameworks and development policies aimed to protect and promote adolescent girls' rights.
- **Outcome 5** gives particular attention to data and

evidence-based programming through research and analysis of trends, patterns and what works at scale to inform policies and interventions.

The mapping explored child marriage programmes and partnerships that were operational between 2010 and 2017, many of which are still ongoing. It collected information on eight intervention areas based on the outcomes listed above:

- Empowerment and asset-building;
- Economic empowerment;
- Enhanced educational opportunities;
- Sensitization/awareness-raising of individuals, families and communities;
- Sexual and reproductive health information and services;
- Safeguarding rights and social protection for adolescent girls and families;
- National law and policy reform, strengthened implementation and legal enforcement; and
- Research and evidence-gathering activities.

Information for the mapping was drawn from a desk review, formative consultations, key informant interviews, questionnaires distributed to implementing agencies at the country level, and a review of materials provided by responding organizations. In total, 38 key informant interviews and 59 survey responses informed the mapping. In most cases, the data collected at the country level are not a representative sample of all programmes and partners that work to address the issue of child marriage and should only be considered a snapshot of the current situation. However, the survey responses combined with the interviews do provide a credible picture of current issues and programme trends in the region.

Findings and recommendations

As programmes were reviewed and assessed against the framework outlined above, five major themes emerged: **advocacy, programming, coordination, monitoring and evaluation, and funding**. The mapping suggests that these particular areas are key for future knowledge-sharing and for increasing the scale and effectiveness of programme delivery.

⁹ Child marriage rates exceeding 30 per cent among women aged 20 to 24 years who were first married or in union before age 18.

Advocacy

Current advocacy efforts, such as the African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage and recent legal reforms, underpinned by the Southern African Development Community's Model Law on Eradicating Child Marriage and Protecting Children Already in Marriage, have increased awareness among parliamentarians on the effects of child marriage. But in most countries, this has yet to be translated into effective action with measurable impact.¹⁰

Advocacy needs to continue to keep child marriage high on the national agenda and to generate sustained political 'buy-in'. Advocacy messages should be coordinate and harmonized to reach all actors. Moreover, they should avoid 'demonizing' the practice of child marriage, which could alienate certain target groups who may indeed have few options.

Programming

The number of girls affected by child marriage in the 12 countries involved in the mapping is enormous. Although greater attention is now being given to the issue of child marriage, existing programmes do not have the capacity to meet current needs. Several respondents expressed concern about pocket areas with high child marriage rates that are not being addressed by existing programmes.

While a majority of the responding partners indicated that they implement a wide range of interventions, they were limited in terms of the number of girls reached and geographic coverage. In some cases, they said they were taking on too many different kinds of interventions and spreading themselves thin. More than half of the programmes included in the mapping reported that they address seven or more of the eight intervention areas.

Most of the responding programmes work with girls between 10 and 19 years of age and include both married and unmarried girls. About 20 per cent of the respondents stated that they specifically work with survivors of child marriage. However, informants expressed a concern that very young adolescent girls and those already married may be neglected in current programming.

The mapping found that child marriage practices vary widely among districts and even communities. And that they are closely interconnected with traditional practices and social norms surrounding female genital mutilation/cutting, notions of family honour, puberty (menarche), virginity, parental concerns surrounding premarital sex and pregnancy, dowry pressures, the perception that marriage provides protection from HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, and the desire to secure social, economic or political alliances. In some contexts, particularly where women have low status, child marriage is seen as an effective way to reduce household poverty and relieve the financial burden that girls place on their families.

Interventions are most effective when they respond to the specific context in which child marriage takes place and are able to intersect the child marriage trajectory. Findings from the literature, validated through the mapping, show that evidence-based programming, often articulated through a 'theory of change', is crucial for achieving sustainable results at national and local levels. Some of the programmes reviewed demonstrated linkages to existing evidence; others were less clear on the larger programmatic perspective or how the programme was situated vis à vis a national and local theory of change.

A majority of responders emphasized the need to ground child marriage programming within local communities to ensure that community members and girls themselves are included as partners throughout the project cycle. Respondents highlighted the value of a process in which community members identify the problem and find solutions, while also identifying and taking responsibility for the factors that may be hindering progress. Changing deeply entrenched social norms requires continuous and systematic interventions and communication to sensitize various groups within a community, including through community dialogues, which were undertaken by a majority of the programmes reviewed.

In terms of prevention, respondents reported that interventions that make use of mentors and role models for girls are often effective. They appreciated that young people can make a difference by speaking up and defending their rights, especially when they

¹⁰ Lloyd, Cynthia B., 2009, *New Lessons: The power of educating adolescent girls*, The Population Council. Broad correlational studies have shown that where female educational attainment is high, child marriage prevalence is lower. However, there is a need to look at what types of investments in education promote better outcomes for girls and how this is correlated with reductions in child marriage rates.

are supported by an established structure. The kind of interventions that have helped in this regard are encapsulated in the 'safe space' concept, with a focus on training and leadership opportunities for young people. Such programmes should include already married girls that may be missing in the current focus on preventing child marriage. The mapping identified the need for targeted support to married girls so they can continue or return to school, access appropriate sexual and reproductive health services, engage in income-generation and livelihood programmes, or get help to dissolve the marriage.

Respondents also indicated the need for large-scale interventions and system strengthening. For example, education systems should ensure that girls stay and thrive in school, and health systems should provide access to adolescent-friendly health services.

Coordination

A majority of respondents highlighted fragmentation, duplication and lack of coordination as the main challenges to effective programme delivery and use of available resources. Coordination mechanisms are essential for preventing programmes from working in silos or 'bubbles' and for increasing linkages with other programmes and actors.

Clearly defined focus areas are useful for delegating responsibilities, preventing duplication, ensuring geographic coverage and holding players accountable.

Monitoring and evaluation

The mapping found relatively low levels of monitoring and evaluation, research and evidence-gathering to assess the coverage and effectiveness of programmes. Only half of the programmes stated that they include research and evidence-gathering as part of their implementation, and a third of the programmes have not yet been evaluated, either because they are in the early stages of the programme cycle or are not able to afford an independent evaluation.

Funding

The mapping found that many child marriage programmes are implemented by small organizations that make do with limited resources and funding, but still manage to achieve results. Several respondents called upon the donor community to recognize smaller organizations and make funding available to expand their programmes. But respondents also raised caveats in regards to what civil society organizations can accomplish: Increasing the impact of programmes will depend on the development of scalable models, backed up by firm commitment and long-term support, including financing. This will require large-scale, multi-year funding from sources beyond traditional donors.

Conclusion

The mapping stressed that the impact of existing child marriage programmes can be strengthened if advocacy and awareness campaigns are complemented by evidence-based, multisectoral interventions. Furthermore, it suggested that programmes should address the needs of girls at the individual level through empowerment and asset-building, while maintaining a broader focus on system strengthening for improved access to education, health and social protection services.

Increasing the scale and effectiveness of programme delivery can best be accomplished through programmes that work together in a coordinated way - under a national strategy and (costed) action plan, which is informed by a theory of change and back by solid political commitment and financing. The presence of such a strategy and plan appears to increase both the effectiveness of programming through enhanced coordination and increased commitment among players.

Part I. Background and findings



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Chapter 1. Mapping objective and methodology

The objective of this programme and partnership mapping was to provide an up-to-date status report on child marriage initiatives/programmes in 12 countries with the highest prevalence of child marriage¹¹ in East and Southern Africa. It also aimed to identify good and promising practices that can be taken to scale. The findings are intended to serve as a basis for knowledge-sharing and strengthened coordination among government; development partners; and non-governmental, civil society and youth-led organizations.

Conceptual framework

Child marriage programmes use one or a combination of approaches and interventions. In 2007, a global analysis of factors and programmes undertaken by the International Center for Research on Women identified eight general types of strategies for preventing child marriage.¹² Subsequent research by Malhotra and others (2011)¹³ and Marcus and Page (2014)¹⁴ found that these strategies are widely employed by actors to prevent and mitigate the effects of child marriage.

¹¹ Child marriage rates exceeding 30 per cent among women aged 20 to 24 years who were first married or in union before age 18.

¹² International Center for Research on Women, 2007, *New Insights on Preventing Child Marriage: A global analysis of factors and programs*, ICRW, Washington, D.C.

¹³ Malhotra, A., et al., 2011, *Solutions to End Child Marriage: What the evidence shows*, International Center for Research on Women, Washington D.C., <https://www.icrw.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Solutions-to-End-Child-Marriage.pdf> (accessed 1 September 2017).

¹⁴ Marcus, Rachel, and Ella Page, 2014, *Changing Discriminatory Norms Affecting Adolescent Girls Through Communication Activities: A review of evidence*, Overseas Development Institute, London, www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/9042.pdf (accessed 1 September 2017).

¹⁵ UNFPA/UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage, Programme Guidance 2017, Draft.

The eight strategies are reflected in the results framework for the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage,¹⁵ which has five outcomes:

-  **Empower adolescent girls at risk of and affected by marriage.**
-  **Work with families and communities to promote positive attitudes and behaviours towards girls.**
-  **Ensure that health, education, protection and other systems are responsive to the needs of girls.**
-  **Support governments in creating a positive legal, policy and financial environment for ending child marriage.**
-  **Use and build data and evidence on what works at scale to end child marriage.**

The conceptual framework for this mapping exercise corresponds to the Global Programme's results framework by categorizing the interventions as follows:

- 1. Empowerment and asset-building for girls**, such as safe spaces, life-skills development (including cognitive, personal and interpersonal skills) and comprehensive sexuality education (in and out of school).
- 2. Economic empowerment of girls**, including livelihood/vocational skills such as demand-driven job training, income-generation activities, financial savings activities and/or conditional or unconditional monetary or material support incentives for families.
- 3. Enhancing educational opportunities for girls**, such as support to enrol and remain in formal primary and secondary education and non-formal education, providing non-formal educational activities for girls, encouraging out-of-school girls to return to school, improving the overall quality of education, and addressing threats to school participation – such as improving physical infrastructure (like water and sanitation facilities along with menstrual hygiene management), providing alternative pathways for learning, training teachers, encouraging gender-responsive teaching, and reforming curricula and textbooks.
- 4. Providing sexual and reproductive health** information and services to girls, such as improved access to adolescent-friendly sexual and reproductive health information and services (including modern contraception) in health facilities

and through outreach services in communities and schools, and by addressing community norms and attitudes on adolescent sexual and reproductive health (for example, on early childbearing and access to information and services).

- 5. Improving social protection and realization of rights** for adolescent girls and their families. This includes social protection services, mental health and psychosocial support, safety and security (for example, counselling, helplines, shelters), access to justice and legal aid, referral systems, and birth and/or marriage registration.
- 6. Supporting national legal and policy reform** to strengthen implementation and law enforcement through, for example, advocacy with parliamentarians, politicians and decision makers, traditional and religious leaders, and the general community. It also includes national-level policy development and legal reform, development of national strategies and action plans and/or enhancement of law enforcement mechanisms.
- 7. Research and evidence-gathering activities.**
- 8. Advocacy and coordination** at national and regional/global levels.

Data collection

The information presented in this report was drawn from a desk review, formative consultations, key informant interviews, questionnaires distributed to implementing agencies at the country level, and review of the materials provided by responding organizations.

Information on programmes was identified through:

- Key stakeholders and programmes implementing interventions corresponding to the eight key areas for child marriage prevention and mitigation that were identified and confirmed by UNFPA and UNICEF regional offices;
- Contact with UNFPA and UNICEF staff and a review of reports in each country office;
- Web searches for programmes mentioned in key background pieces;
- Visiting UN, government and non-governmental organization (NGO) websites with known programmes;
- A document review in the author's personal library on child marriage; and
- Web searches using key words.

The questionnaire was distributed to relevant UN and government agencies and civil society organizations, including the Girls Not Brides national network with members in the 12 countries. The questionnaire was available as an online survey tool (Survey Monkey) and as a Word document in English and in French.

In total, 97 responses (38 key informant interviews and 59 survey responses) contributed to the mapping (Annexes 1 and 2 provide a detailed list). The review included programmes from any of the 12 countries that were operational between 2010 and 2017; some programmes are still ongoing.

Data analysis

All responses received have been included in the analysis and are reflected in the respective country profiles. The data analysis is based on the eight intervention areas outlined above. The qualitative data gathered through key stakeholder interviews and questionnaires was transcribed and analysed and sorted in thematic areas. The analysis is presented under respective country profiles. All draft country profiles were shared with UNFPA and/or UNICEF country offices and validated by relevant staff.

Limitations

Despite the variety of methods used, there are certain to be numerous small-scale efforts that are not well known and lack a virtual presence or documentation, or within which child marriage prevention and related work is situated within broader social change or service-provision efforts.

Fifty-nine agencies completed the questionnaire (see Annex 2). Despite multiple attempts to enlist additional organizations, the response remained low. In most cases, the country-level data collection can therefore not be considered as a representative sample and the information gathered should only be considered a snapshot of the current situation. However, through the combined survey responses and key informant interviews, the mapping does provide a credible picture of current issues and programme trends in the region.

How this report is organized

This report is divided into two sections.

Part I provides background on the mapping process and on child marriage in the region. It also presents the main findings and recommendations resulting from the mapping exercise.

Part II lists regional and national partners addressing child marriage, along with descriptions of projects and programmes they have implemented in each of the 12 countries studied. The final chapter offers additional evidence and good practices on preventing child marriage and mitigating its harmful effects.

Annex 1 lists the people interviewed for this study and Annex 2 lists the organizations that responded to the mapping survey, by country.



Chapter 2. Child marriage: Context and policy environment

Globally, more than one in four young women (29 per cent) were married before the age of 18¹⁶. Of the world's 1.1 billion girls, 22 million are already married, and the number will grow as populations increase.¹⁷

Child marriage in Africa

The prevalence of child marriage in East and Southern Africa, at 36 per cent, is higher than the global average, and 10 per cent of girls in the region were married before age 15.¹⁸ However, prevalence varies within and among countries – from 52 per cent in South Sudan¹⁹ to 6 per cent in South Africa. In 12 countries in the region – the subject of this mapping – the prevalence of child marriage is greater than 30 per cent.²⁰

In all other regions of the world, current rates of progress mean that the number of child brides is declining each year. This is not the case in Africa. In fact, even doubling the rate of reduction in child marriage would not be enough to reduce the number of child brides. A growing population combined with a slow decline in the practice of child marriage in Africa will put millions more girls at risk. If current trends continue, almost half of the world's child brides in 2050 will be African.²¹

Inequitable progress

While prevalence of child marriage across Africa is slowly declining, progress has not been equitable: Since 1990, prevalence has been halved among the richest, but remains unchanged among the poorest.²²

Higher prevalence of child marriage in Africa is found in rural areas and among the poorest segment of the

population: Girls in rural areas are twice as likely to marry in childhood as girls from urban areas. Similarly, girls from the poorest 20 per cent of households are twice as likely to marry before age 18 as girls from households in the richest quintile.²³

Causes and consequences

Child marriage can have devastating effects on individual girls and their (future) children: Typically, it cuts short or ends a girl's education, compromises her reproductive rights, sexual health, future employment and earnings, and perpetuates personal and community poverty. While gender inequality, poverty, tradition and lack of education are acknowledged as root causes of child marriage, the mapping showed a rich diversity in how child marriage is interconnected with local traditions and rites. These include female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C), notions of family honour, puberty (menarche), virginity, parental concerns surrounding premarital sex and pregnancy, dowry pressures, the perception that marriage provides protection from HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, and the desire to secure social, economic or political alliances. In some contexts, particularly where women have low status, child marriage is seen as an effective way to reduce household poverty and relieve the financial burden that girls place on their families. Child marriage tends to increase in humanitarian emergencies and conflict settings. Economic shocks, such as natural disasters and protracted crises, have a direct impact on girls.

The lack of a functioning civil registration system (which provides proof of age for children), weak legislative frameworks that include provisions allowing underage marriage with parental consent or court approval, customary or religious laws that condone child marriage and the lack of accompanying enforcement mechanisms hinder the prevention of child marriage and erode the effectiveness of official legislative intentions.²⁴

¹⁶ United Nations Children's Fund, Ending Child Marriage: Progress and prospects, UNICEF, New York, 2014, https://www.unicef.org/media/files/Child_Marriage_Report_7_17_LR.pdf (accessed 1 September 2017).

¹⁷ UNICEF, 2014.

¹⁸ UNICEF global databases, 2016, <https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/child-marriage/>

¹⁹ Figure not verified by the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) due to the ongoing conflict and displacement.

²⁰ UNICEF global databases, 2016, <https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/child-marriage/>

²¹ UNICEF, 2014.

²² United Nations Children's Fund, A profile of child marriage in Africa. UNICEF, New York, 2015.

https://www.unicef.org/media/files/Child_Marriage_Report_7_17_LR.pdf (accessed 1 September 2017).

²³ UNICEF, 2015.

²⁴ UNICEF 2005 Early marriage: A harmful traditional practice. A statistical exploration, https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/Early_Marriage_12_lo.pdf (accessed 1 September 2017).

Meeting the challenge

If Africa is to effectively address the issue of child marriage, it is paramount that resources are coordinated and prioritized for programming that is based on evidence and demonstrates results at scale. The UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage (2016-2019) is enhancing investments in and support for married and unmarried girls and making visible the corresponding benefits. It is doing so by employing a multisectoral approach and engaging key actors – including young people as agents of change – in catalysing shifts towards positive gender norms; increased political support and resources and positive policies and frameworks; and an improved data and evidence base.

Global, regional and national policy environment

The following outlines the policy environment in which child marriage is being addressed.

Global

Ending child marriage is a global development priority, as outlined in **target 5.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals**, which calls on governments to eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and FGM/C. One of the indicators for the target is the percentage of women aged 20 to 24 who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18. Reducing the rate of child marriage will also support the achievement of many the other Sustainable Development Goals, including Goals 1 (no poverty), 2 (zero hunger), 4 (quality education), 8 (economic growth), 10 (reduced inequalities) and 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions).

The Universal Declaration on Human Rights states in Article 16 that men and women of full age have the right to marry and found a family, and are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution. Furthermore, it says that marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of intending parties.

The **UN General Assembly resolution on child, early and forced marriage** adopted on 21 November 2014 reaffirms earlier resolutions on the issue. It recognizes that child, early and forced marriage is a practice that severely impairs girls and women's human rights, is a threat to their health, education and economic and social status and is inherently linked to deeply

rooted gender inequalities, norms and stereotypes. The resolution also states that child marriage is a barrier to development that perpetuates the cycle of poverty. Through this resolution, countries agreed to enact, enforce and uphold laws and policies to end the practice and to develop and implement holistic, comprehensive and coordinated responses and strategies in cooperation with stakeholders, including civil society, to promote and protect the human rights of all women and girls. This includes their right to education and to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality. The resolution encourages continued UN action on the issue and specifically recognizes the need to include clear commitments on child, early and forced marriage in the post-2015 development agenda. On 19 December 2016, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a **second resolution on child, early and forced marriage** at its 71st session.

In 2015, the **United Nations Human Rights Council** unanimously adopted a resolution co-sponsored by over 85 States to strengthen efforts to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage. The resolution is the first-ever substantive resolution on child marriage adopted by the Council.

In June 2017, the **United Nations Human Rights Council** adopted a resolution recognizing the need to address child, early and forced marriage in humanitarian contexts. Noting that 9 out of the 10 countries with the highest child marriage rates are fragile States, it calls upon States and a wide range of other actors to take specific actions to address child marriage. And, for the first time, it says that these efforts are particularly important in humanitarian contexts.

The **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women** states, in Article 16(1), that men and women have equal rights to enter into a marriage, that they have the same right to freely choose a spouse, and to enter into marriage only with their free and full consent. More importantly, Article 16(2) states that the betrothal and marriage of a child shall have no legal effect, and that all necessary action, including legislation, shall be taken to specify a minimum age for marriage.

The **Convention on the Rights of the Child** recognizes that children are entitled to human rights in their own right. The provisions relating to child marriage include the following: Article 1: A child means every human being below the age of 18 years unless, under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier. Article 2: Freedom from discrimination on any

grounds, including sex, religion, ethnic or social origin, birth or other status. Article 3: In all actions concerning children... the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration. Article 6: Maximum support for survival and development. Article 12: The right to express his or her views freely in all matters affecting the child in accordance with age and maturity. Article 19: The right to protection from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parents, guardian or any other person. Article 24: The right to health and to access to health services, and to be protected from harmful traditional practices. Articles 28 and 29: The right to education on the basis of equal opportunity. Article 34: The right to protection from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. Article 35: The right to protection from abduction, sale or trafficking. Article 36: The right to protection from all forms of exploitation prejudicial to any aspect of the child's welfare.

Regional

The African Women's Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights calls on State Parties to ensure that women and men enjoy equal rights and are regarded as equal partners in marriage. Article 6 specifically provides that appropriate national legislative measures should be taken to guarantee that:

- The minimum age of marriage for women shall be 18 years.
- No marriage shall take place without the free and full consent of both parties.
- Monogamy is encouraged as the preferred form of marriage and that the rights of women in marriage and family, including in polygamous marital relationships, are promoted and protected.
- Every marriage shall be recorded in writing and registered in accordance with national laws, in order to be legally recognized.

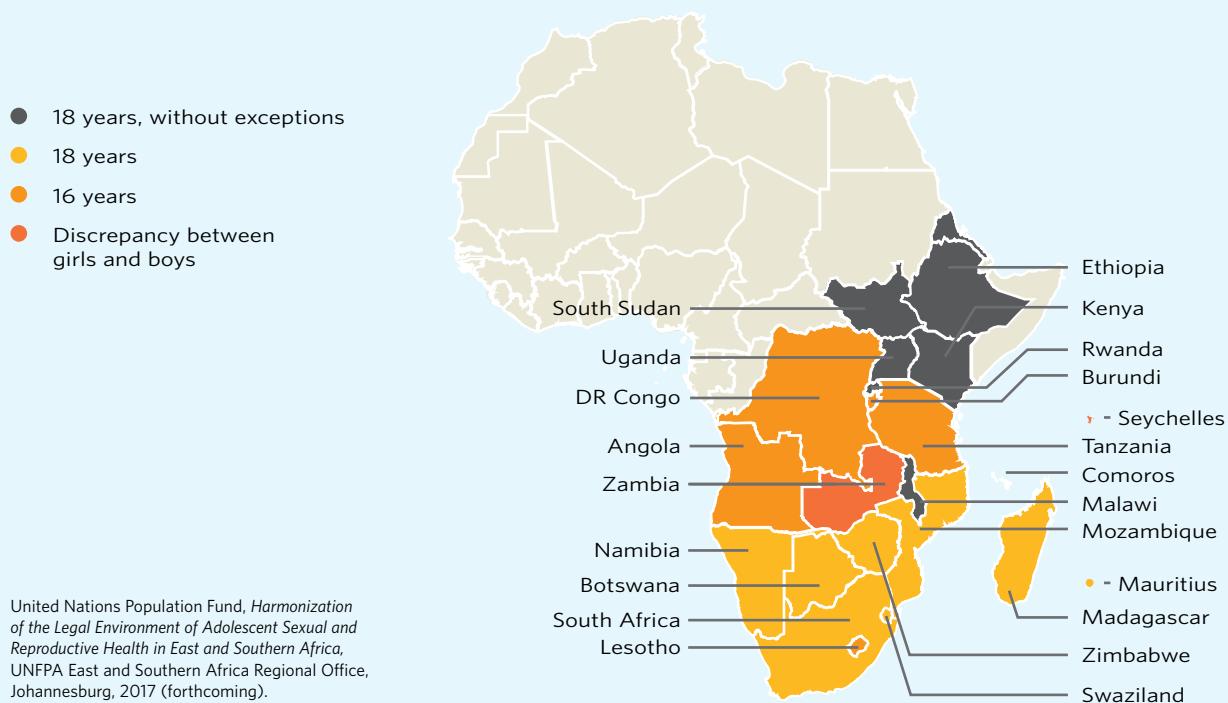
The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child provides for the protection of children against harmful social and cultural practices in Article 21. Article 21(2) states that child marriage

and the betrothal of girls and boys should be prohibited and that effective action, including legislation, should be taken to specify the minimum age of marriage to be 18 years and make registration of all marriages in an official registry compulsory. In 2016, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Parliamentary Forum adopted the **Southern African Development Community Model Law on Eradicating Child Marriage and Protection of Children Already in Marriage**. The Model Law is based on evidence and child protection principles. It provides guidance for Member States to harmonize their national laws to prevent child marriage by ensuring that policies and legal frameworks are revised and inconsistencies, contradictions and gaps, such as existing provisions for parental or judicial consent, and conflicts between customary and statutory law, are removed. Through the Model Law, the SADC Parliamentary Forum has established a strong regional baseline for how national laws and policy frameworks can cut across customary, religious and civil marriage systems, as well as suggesting concrete measures and interventions to prevent and mitigate the effects of child marriage. The SADC Model Law also put an emphasis on collating and sharing up-to-date child marriage data through comprehensive monitoring and evaluation.

National

National laws regulating consent to marriage among the 12 countries that are the focus of this mapping, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Malawi, South Sudan and Uganda have set the age of consent to marriage at 18 years, and do not permit exceptions. The remaining countries allow for marriage below age 18 with either parental consent and/or court approval. The combination of customary and statutory laws in many countries in the region complicates the age of consent to marriage. In most cases, there is conflict between different legal systems. In addition, some countries have differing ages of consent to marriage for males and females. Relevant country-level legislation is presented in the country profiles.

Figure 1. Legal age for marriage in East and Southern African countries



Chapter 3. Mapping findings and recommendations

The consolidated findings below are drawn from key stakeholder interviews and questionnaires. Five major themes emerged: **advocacy, programming, coordination, monitoring and evaluation, and funding**. Although there is a degree of overlap among them, the categories reflect the main areas of focus and concern of the stakeholders and mapped programmes. The mapping suggests that these areas are important in addressing future knowledge-sharing and collaboration among partners and countries.

Advocacy

Findings

Advocacy efforts have been largely successful; what is most important now is focusing on the practical needs of girls.

Respondents believed that the current advocacy efforts at regional and national levels have increased awareness and strengthened commitment to accelerate action to end child marriage, especially among influential stakeholders such as parliamentarians. For example, as a result of the AU Campaign to End Child Marriage and the SADC Model Law, the

minimum age for marriage is now under scrutiny in many countries. Several respondents acknowledged the impact that large-scale advocacy campaigns have had, but requested that more attention now be given to filling the gap between talking about the issues and addressing the practical situation for children. In the words of one informant: *"Not much has been done in regards to putting in place practical initiatives that explicitly protect children from child marriage."*

At the national level, respondents saw their responsibility as acting upon and sustaining decision makers' commitments. This requires ongoing engagement with parliamentarians and relevant ministries to ensure that there is a sustained political buy-in and capacity at the technical level of government.

Recommendations

Advocate to place the rights of girls high on the national agenda.

Advocacy should aim to place child marriage high on the agenda and ensure sustained political buy-in and technical capacity at all levels through coordinated and harmonized advocacy messages and technical assistance directed to all actors. Building on current advocacy achievements, more attention should be focused on filling the gap between talking about

the issues and addressing the practical situation for children. This means translating the commitment expressed in national campaigns into large-scale programmes that prevent and mitigate the effects of child marriage.

Avoid 'demonizing' the practice of child marriage, which could alienate certain target groups.

Advocacy messages should be scrutinized to minimize potentially negative impact. This includes criminalizing the practice, which could alienate those who, in reality, have very limited choices and believe that marriage is the best option available to them. Rather, a less judgemental approach should be taken, which lays out sound evidence for the harmful effects and proposes alternative solutions that can help address the underlying causes that leads to the practice.

Programming

Girl-focused programming

Findings

Programmes have limited focus on very young adolescent girls and married children.

Most of the responding programmes work with girls across the age range of 10 to 19 years and include both married and unmarried girls. Only around 20 per cent of respondents stated that they specifically work with survivors of child marriage. More programmes that address the specific needs of very young adolescent girls and already married girls are needed.

The use of mentors and role models for girls is often successful.

The respondents reported success with using mentors and role models; in this way, younger girls can experience first-hand what they can aspire to. Supporting the development of self-respect and a sense of empowerment means that a girl can be better prepared to stand up for herself, rather than accepting that adults will make decisions for her. Seeing how older girls have invested in their own future, learning negotiation skills from them in a safe environment, and having the opportunity to receive support from other girls in their community has been shown to have a positive effect. One respondent described this as a 'social vaccine' for girls. Several respondents also found that when girls understand that child marriage is a violation of their right to education, they are more likely to say no to marriage.

Respondents appreciated that young people can make a difference by speaking up and defending their rights, especially when they are supported by an established structure. The kind of interventions that have helped young people to speak up are encapsulated in the 'safe space' concept, with a focus on training and leadership opportunities for young people and support to build confidence. The organization known as the Campaign for Female Education (Camfed) reported that their Learner Guide Programme has shown great potential: *"The power of CAMA members [an association of Camfed graduates] and other politically and socially engaged local young women should not be underestimated in the fight to end child marriage. Supporting these women, who have*



a unique knowledge of and commitment to solving the challenges facing young marginalized girls, will unleash their potential to help the next generation in an effective and sustainable way."

These types of interventions may be appropriate in societies where child marriage takes place primarily between children of similar ages. However, it was also pointed out that they may have less impact in communities where the decision to marry is completely in the hands of adults (especially the father and other male members of the family), and when a girl is married to a man that is older and often unknown to her.

Recommendations

Put girls' empowerment at the forefront of programming and seek their involvement.

To challenge the assumption of girls as passive beneficiaries, programmes should put adolescent girls at the forefront of programming and ensure that they are included in the entire project cycle. Programmes that work directly with girls, such as the creation of safe spaces, should use rights-based approaches. They should aim to build girls' confidence and enable them to stand up for their rights. The involvement of older girls and young women as mentors and role models, within a safe environment, are effective strategies for helping younger girls make positive decisions for the future. Interventions should focus both on girls that are at risk of marriage and also address married girls' needs.

The role and responsibility of men and boys

Findings

Many programmes target girls only and may miss important avenues for change.

One respondent asked "Where are the boys and men in this?" – a fundamental question that appears inadequately addressed in child marriage programming. After all, it is men (and generally not women) that wed children. Thus it is reasonable to think that the men that marry underage girls should be held accountable for their actions and learn how to negotiate with families to avoid becoming a perpetrator of child marriage. Other respondents found that there is a need to sensitize men on the importance of girls safely continuing their education. It was also noted that many interventions in schools are targeting girls only, which may miss important avenues to effect change. However, although some of the programmes in the mapping report include boys, and/or address boys as their primary target, there is currently no body of evidence that looks specifically at the effectiveness of targeting boys in child marriage prevention.

Recommendations

Explore the role of men and boys in preventing child marriage.

Programmes should explore and extend the knowledge and evidence base of how men and boys can be engaged in the prevention and mitigation of child marriage. Men and boys should be taught strategies to negotiate family pressures to marry underage girls, and



those that do should be held accountable for their actions.

Communities

Findings

Interventions are most effective when they are endorsed by community gatekeepers.

To increase general commitment to end child marriage, respondents highlighted working with, and close to, communities, including gatekeepers such as religious, clan and women leaders as well as government staff, teachers and political movements, such as youth and women's leagues and the community law enforcement mechanism.

Respondents reported that religious and traditional leaders can be supportive to the cause of ending child marriage and that involving chiefs in enforcing bylaws has helped to reduce local child marriage prevalence. It was acknowledged, however, that it is difficult to reconcile this with a government legal system that is driven by punitive action that criminalizes child marriage.

Strengthening the capacity of local government officers and engaging community structures has shown positive and sustainable results in the promotion of child rights.

Respondents highlighted the value of a participatory process – where community members identify the problem and find solutions while also identifying and taking responsibility for the factors that may hinder progress. One programme officer reported: *"The community march to the district commissioner's office helped to get buy-in from the district commissioner and the police commander, who then got involved in child marriage prevention."*

The mapping found that investing in capacity development of community members is seen to enhance

the chances of building intrinsic accountability for child marriage prevention; it also helps sustain changes in practices beyond the funding period. A role for NGOs at the local level may be as providers of technical assistance in the development of a community-based theory of change, which would be tailored to shift attitudes and practices in the local setting.

Informants stressed the importance of involving girls themselves in any interventions.

Working on child marriage prevention and mitigation at the local level can have a liberating effect on an entire community, especially when its members, including girls themselves, are involved in identifying behaviours and practices that are perpetuating and deepening the cycle of poverty.

Social norms are hard to change and require systematic and long-term efforts.

A majority of programmes reported the inclusion of community dialogues in their interventions, which they used for social mobilization and change. It was pointed out that social norms on adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights are difficult to change and therefore require continuous, systematic and long-term interventions and communication with various groups in a community.

Recommendations

Ground programmes in local communities and seek their partnership.

Actors should ensure that child marriage prevention programmes are grounded in, and responsive to, the context of target communities. This means that programmes should be built on a sound analysis of the local child marriage narrative, and that the development and implementation of national action plans and strategies include a 'bottom-up' approach. The national theory of change should be

"The community march to the district commissioner's office helped to get buy-in from the district commissioner and the police commander, who then got involved in child marriage prevention."

contextualized to the local setting and must be based on an understanding of the child marriage trajectory, pinpointing the crucial moments of girls' vulnerability. It should also address interconnected issues, such as initiation of sexual activity, and other harmful practices, such as FGM/C, dropping out of school, becoming pregnant and entering the labour force. This entails acknowledging that children marry for a variety of reasons, including escaping family abuse, family poverty or the desire to become an adult, thereby gaining some measure of independence and power. In contexts of children marrying children of a similar age, programmes must recognize children's agency: Children marrying (and also divorcing) other children requires different responses than adult men marrying girls and should reflect input from community and grass-roots organizations. This will help ensure that programmes address issues underlying child marriage, such as gender inequality, and effectively respond to factors that trigger or accelerate exposure to risks.

Efforts should be made to strengthen capacity of local government officers and community structures to promote child rights within the government.

The capacity of local communities should be strengthened to support programming. Such capacity-building should involve all categories of local leaders and professionals that are supportive of the cause to end child marriage and to develop and enforce bylaws. In addition, a sense of local ownership needs to be established among service staff in health services and educational settings to support the process of internalizing prevention and mitigation practices. Community involvement must be sustained throughout the project cycle so that a sense of accountability for child marriage prevention develops. This is how changes in the practice will be sustained beyond the funding period. It is especially important that girls themselves to take a leading role in interventions.

Education

Findings

Support for education is important in preventing child marriage.

Structural, large-scale education initiatives, including support for girls to complete primary education and improve their access to secondary education, are seen as important by responders. Yet there is a lack of evidence on the timing and types of interventions that work best in different contexts.

Respondents believe that parents need to be better informed about the right to education so that they can support their daughters in staying in school and demand safe, pedagogically sound, quality education.

Across the region respondents noted that the capacity and number of secondary schools are too low, meaning that children are required to travel far or organize accommodations – for example, in student hostels for weekly boarding. With little accountability attached to their operation, hostels were reported to be inadequately supervised. Moreover, they were often unsafe and unhealthy environments for young people pursuing their education, exposing them to increased risks of transactional sex, pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections and gender-based violence.

Targeted interventions to those most in need of education have been shown to be successful.

Camfed works with multidimensional forms of support. It has demonstrated that targeted interventions that actively support access to learning for those most in need show improvements in beneficiaries' attendance and learning outcomes. The results from other programmes that use singular, conditional cash transfer interventions without functional support do not show the same level of improvement. Camfed further points out that while cash transfers have been shown to improve access to education, there is limited evidence on the impact on learning outcomes. This is a crucial distinction, since access alone does not guarantee that students will receive a quality education.

Out-of-school adolescents, including married girls, require targeted attention.

It is the responsibility of the national education body to ensure that out-of-school adolescents can return to and succeed within the educational system. This mapping did not receive input from any programme that specifically addresses the systemic changes that are needed for ensuring that students return to school after marriage or pregnancy. Schools need to be equipped to give these girls a realistic opportunity to thrive, which would include care facilities for babies and support to delay further pregnancies.

Recommendations

Ensure that the education system can anticipate and respond to the multiple needs and demands of adolescent girls.

As awareness increases, actors need to ensure that the school system is able to anticipate and respond to increased demand from girls to access education. It is

imperative to implement large-scale pilot interventions with child marriage prevention in mind. For example, pressure to marry may be more pronounced at the end of primary and the start of secondary school, and educational systems must be prepared to respond appropriately. Programmes should be evidence-based and build on current knowledge about combining conditional cash transfers with functional support (mentors). Educational interventions should proactively support the reintegration and retention of married and pregnant girls in secondary school; this includes care facilities for babies and support to delay further pregnancies. Proposed large-scale programmes should be rigorously evaluated to produce strong evidence for replicable and scalable models.

The school curriculum should include comprehensive, age-appropriate and gender-sensitive sexuality education, which should be taught by trained instructors. In addition to sexuality information, schools should facilitate access to adolescent-friendly sexual and reproductive health services.

An accountability mechanism should be instituted at the national level with a mandate to assess school safety and the quality of education. The mandate should encompass ancillary services such as hostels to ensure that these provide adequately supervised, safe and healthy environments.

Parents need to be informed about their children's right to education, so that they can support their daughters in remaining in school and demand safe, pedagogically sound, quality education. In some settings, it might be appropriate to articulate this as a responsibility that parents and guardians are held accountable for.

Educational interventions should be implemented to establish a pathway for girls from education to economic empowerment with job opportunities in mind.

Health service delivery and social protection

Findings

Input from organizations that provided health service delivery or social protection was unexplainably low, perhaps because few services explicitly address the consequences of child marriage.

The mapping received input from only five organizations that provide services (such as

reproductive health services) directly to girls.²⁵ The reason for this is unclear. It may be that some service delivery organizations do not recognize their role in child marriage prevention and mitigation and therefore do not participate in forums where other organizations that work on this issue are found. The lack of input from service delivery organizations may also indicate that few services explicitly address child marriage and its consequences, such as early pregnancy, potential pregnancy-related morbidity, and sexual and gender-based violence.

Recommendations

Ensure that health and social protection services are responsive to the practical needs of adolescent girls.

Government and other providers of health services should ensure increased access to social protection and adolescent girl-friendly services. These should include contraceptives to delay pregnancy and prevent sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, and counselling about sexual and gender-based violence, based on individual needs, marital status and mobility of girls.

Coordination

Findings

Strengthened coordination of programmes and increased focus on the comparative advantage of individual organizations can enhance results.

While a majority of responding programmes indicated that they implement a wide range of interventions, they proved to be limited in terms of number of girls reached and geographic coverage; in some cases, they felt they spread themselves thin in trying to cover too many activities. More than half of the programmes indicated that they address at least seven of the eight programme areas. According to key stakeholders, it may be necessary to limit the range of activities and focus on areas of comparative advantage to ensure quality.

When asked what would improve the effectiveness of their own programming, respondents answered 'coordination' and 'collaboration' with others and 'capacity development' for their own organizations. Simply knowing who is working where can have a significant impact on the effectiveness of any one programme.

²⁵ Distinguishing between different types of organizations is not clear-cut since many organizations implement a combination of programmes. However, a distinction was made between service delivery organizations and those undertaking campaigns/advocacy and girl-focused programming.

"The power of CAMA members [an association of Camfed graduates] and other politically and socially engaged local young women should not be underestimated in the fight to end child marriage. Supporting these women, who have a unique knowledge of and commitment to solving the challenges facing young marginalized girls, will unleash their potential to help the next generation in an effective and sustainable way."

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While coordination mechanisms exist in most countries, they can be improved, and should ideally be government led.

While a majority of respondents underscored the need for more and better quality coordination, only four indicated that they are not currently part of any coordination effort.²⁶ Coordination is important for the practical implementation of programmes. As one respondent noted: “*When different stakeholders work together as a team, involving and informing each other on progress, programme implementation becomes easier and becomes more successful.*”

Respondents' requests for improved coordination can be interpreted as an appeal for better collaboration mechanisms and partnerships with role clarity, more trust among actors, and formalized delegation of responsibilities among actors and services. There is a sense that many programmes work in ‘bubbles’ with few linkages, articulated roles or accountability to the national change process. Several programmes report what seems to be an unrealistic assortment of programme indicators. This could merely signify that there are no other services in the area, but it may also suggest a suboptimal coordination effort.

The mapping indicates that the presence of a national strategy and a (costed) national action plan increases the general sense of commitment among players and ensures that the government takes the lead and is accountable for the coordination. Wider and more inclusive dissemination of such strategies and plans to state institutions and civil society organizations seems to have a positive effect on the ability to articulate a theory of change.

The process of developing a theory of changes tends to encourage coordination and collaboration.

Analysis suggests that the process of establishing an agreed theory of change at national and regional settings supports the type of coordination that leads to collaboration and partnerships. It may be that an accepted, context-specific theory of change allows actors to identify and pledge their commitment based on their comparable strengths. Accountability can be established based on commonly agreed responsibilities. It is doubtful, however, that this can be systematically implemented without strong leadership from the government.

Recommendations

Ensure that programmes function as a strategic part of a wider national strategy and (costed) action plan, informed by an agreed theory of change.

Coordination is intrinsic to the development and implementation of a context-specific theory of change. It is also essential in articulating roles and accountabilities, ensuring that individual organizations share the workload. A database of all ongoing child marriage projects at district and national levels is one step in that direction.

Developing a national strategy and a (costed) national action plan should aim to increase both the effectiveness of organizations and the general sense of commitment among players. The resulting strategy should be widely disseminated within relevant state institutions and to civil society organizations. The dissemination process should aim to increase linkages with other programmes and actors. Where appropriate, the government may take the lead in national and regional coordination. The coordination mechanism can be supported by a reporting system for child marriage that involves key government partners and other actors, where appropriate. Coordination activities should be recognized as a specific activity and have a budget line in the costed national action plan.

At the national level, identify the comparative advantage of organizations and determine the programme interventions with the greatest impact.

This means ensuring the right mix of partnership for results, which may entail moving beyond traditional partners and actors. The capacity of individual actors should also be enhanced, to address the practical needs of girls seeking to delay marriage, cope as a child bride, or divorce their spouses.

Monitoring and evaluation

Findings

Monitoring is regarded as an integral part of the coordination and accountability process.

Respondents highlighted the need for established frameworks for systemic monitoring across government structures that are responsible for addressing child marriage.

²⁶ A majority (88 per cent) indicated that they take part in information-sharing meetings (that is, who does what where) at national, regional and/or subregional levels. About half take part in joint needs assessment and planning, collaborative evidence-gathering and evaluation endeavours, and 65 per cent indicated that they are part of national-level networks, meetings and forums.

Two thirds of the programmes in the mapping include research and evidence-gathering and a third reported that their interventions had been evaluated. The relatively low rate of completed evaluations is explained by the fact that many programmes in the mapping are still in the early stages of the programme cycle. However, some smaller NGOs stated that they were not able to afford an independent evaluation.

Recommendations

Regularly monitor and evaluate programmes as well as changes in attitudes and practices.

Programmes must be regularly monitored: It is important to assess changes in attitudes and practices in health, education, women's affairs, the justice sector, police and other government sectors and among non-State actors at national, regional and local levels. In addition, government and national actors need to support partners to strengthen, analyse and make use of available data, such as school drop-out rates (through an education management information system), adolescent pregnancies (through a health management information system) and delay in age of marriage.

Funding

Findings

A wider range of funding sources is needed to effectively address the magnitude of the problem.

Child marriage prevention and mitigation is both time- and resource-intensive. The study found that many countries and programmes, both those funded by governments and civil society organizations, rely on a small number of donors, especially UNICEF and UNFPA. This implies a need to expand the funding base to ensure that child marriage programming is implemented on a scale where it can have a significant impact on the numbers of young people affected.

Small organizations are accomplishing a lot with few resources, but they are no substitute for firm commitment and long-term financial and other support on the part of the government.

The mapping found that many child marriage programmes are implemented by small organizations

that make do with limited resources and funding, but still manage to achieve results. Several respondents called upon the donor community to recognize small organizations and make funding available to expand their programmes. But respondents also raised caveats in regard to what civil society organizations can accomplish: The magnitude of the problem requires firm commitment and long-term support, including financing from the authorities. Moreover, there is a danger in (over)reliance on community-based organizations for driving the change process, since this may influence the scalability and sustainability of the resources.

Recommendations

Develop scalable models to increasing the capacity of programmes, backed up by firm commitment and long-term support, including financing.

The numbers of affected girls are enormous, and current programmes do not have the capacity to meet the needs. It is therefore crucial to develop readily scalable models at subnational or national levels, using existing platforms in strong sectors, such as schools and health systems. The magnitude of the problem requires firm commitment and sustained support, including financing.

Seek large-scale, multi-year funding beyond traditional donors.

The scale of programming needed to effectively address child marriage requires significant funding. The current reliance on resources from UNICEF and UNFPA needs to be supplemented by funding that is significantly larger in scale. This means mobilizing and sustaining political will among governments, civil society organizations, the private sector and donors – beyond those that are traditional contributors – to plan, budget, finance and implement large-scale, multi-year interventions.

Part 2. Partnerships and programmes



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Chapter 4. Partnerships: regional and national stakeholders

Regional stakeholders

Below is a list of regional initiatives and organizations working in the area of child marriage in East and Southern Africa.

African Union campaign to end child marriage

The African Union (AU) Campaign to End Child Marriage was launched in 2014 during the 4th AU Conference of Ministers of Social Development, in collaboration with the Ford Foundation, UNICEF, UNFPA, Plan International and the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. The

campaign was initially planned for two years, but was extended to 2017. The purpose of the campaign is to accelerate efforts to end child marriage in Africa by raising awareness of the negative impact of the practice and the potential of countries to harness demographic dividends and accelerate economic growth.

The campaign promotes legal and policy reform and the protection and promotion of human rights through regional and national capacity development, advocacy and technical support.

The campaign has resulted in the adoption of an African Common Position on child marriage by heads of state in June 2015 and the 1st African Girls Summit, held in Zambia in November 2015. The campaign has also succeeded in putting child marriage on the development agenda of AU Member States, most of which had not developed a national response to child marriage before the launch of the campaign. As of May

2017, 19 countries in Africa, including seven in East and Southern Africa,²⁷ had launched the campaign, and a growing number of governments are developing national strategies or action plans that are aimed specifically at decreasing child marriage.

Furthermore, the campaign has supported capacity development for traditional and religious leaders, parliamentarians, the media and ministries of health and gender and works to create awareness of the socio-economic impact of child marriage by building social movements and social mobilization at the national and grass-roots levels. It aims to reach the community level by supporting the development of national strategies and action plans, and works to build on existing activities of governments and partners to end child marriage. The campaign has been engaging directly with communities through town hall meetings across participating countries and through advocacy and social mobilization, with support from the AU Child Marriage Goodwill Ambassador, Mrs. Gumbonzvanda, chief executive officer for Rozaria Memorial Trust and former general secretary of the World YWCA.

The campaign has developed a comprehensive monitoring and results framework that is used for country-specific reporting of progress; monitoring and evaluation are integral aspects of all activities.

The AU campaign and its activities related to advocacy and capacity-building of national stakeholders are supported by the Commonwealth, Ford Foundation, Girls Not Brides, the Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices, Plan International, Save the Children, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women, Voluntary Service Overseas, World Vision and the Young Women's Christian Association, among others.

Commonwealth

The commitment from Commonwealth heads of state to address child marriage has grown stronger over three successive meetings (2011, 2013 and 2015), indicating the importance of parliamentarians advocating for change in their home countries. The Commonwealth Secretariat encourages States to share best practices and experience through the Commonwealth Roundtable on Early and Forced Marriage. Within Member States, national human rights institutions play a pivotal role in addressing child marriage. The 2015 Kigali Declaration, 'Moving from aspiration to action to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage in the Commonwealth', has

been adopted and put to practical use in 21 countries. The Human Rights Commission of Mozambique, for example, has produced a report on child marriage and teenage pregnancy, and the Malawi Human Rights Commission identified 80 traditional chiefs and established a Commonwealth Chiefs' Caucus that works to formulate local bylaws against child marriage. In rural districts, the Chiefs' Caucus, together with the Commonwealth Network against Child Marriages in Malawi (a network of young men and women, including survivors of child marriage) advocate for young people to stand up for their rights and to stay in school.

Girls Not Brides

Girls Not Brides is a global partnership of more than 700 civil society organizations committed to ending child marriage. The partnership was initiated in September 2011 by The Elders, a group of independent global leaders working together for peace and human rights, as part of their efforts to draw more attention to the harmful practices that hold girls and women back, and encouraging and empowering others to work to create a world without child marriage. The working principle is that social change cannot succeed without community engagement. Towards that end, members of Girls Not Brides raise awareness of the harmful impact of child marriage by encouraging open, inclusive and informed discussion at the community, regional, national and international level. They also facilitate learning and coordination among organizations working to end child marriage and mobilize policy, financial and other necessary support.

Girls Not Brides partnerships in the 12 countries with the highest rates of child marriage in East and Southern Africa include almost 150 national and international NGOs and community-based organizations. Such partnerships encourage locally based organizations to engage with their governments to ensure the campaign's goals are achieved in partnership with civil society. Girls Not Brides was also a key partner to the SADC Parliamentary Forum in the development of the SADC Model Law on Eradicating Child Marriage and Protecting Children Already in Marriage, which was adopted in 2016.

Inter-African committee on traditional practices

Child marriage is one of 13,000 identified harmful traditional practices in Africa. The Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices disseminates advocacy messages through the media and involves

²⁷ Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

decision makers and religious leaders in the fight against such practices, including FGM/C and child marriage. It also seeks to sensitize communities to the negative outcomes of FGM/C and of the need for women and girls to assume greater autonomy.

FGM/C is the main focus for the Inter-African Committee, however the practice is interlinked with child marriage as a constituent part of the rites of passage that are celebrated in many African communities. The route to adulthood involves many steps and stages in African societies. FGM/C is part of that context and is connected to the training that young girls are given to become good wives. If FGM/C is performed on girls aged 8 to 12 years, it then follows that the girls must get married soon after. For the Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices, it is essential that, where FGM/C is performed, the sensitization programmes to curb the practice should also be addressed in the context of preventing child marriage.

International Planned Parenthood Federation African Region

Young people are at the forefront of the International Planned Parenthood Federation's (IPPF) work. Through its Member Associations it provides youth-friendly services, including contraception and comprehensive sexuality education. The organization's community-level programmes address child marriage as an important aspect of sexual and reproductive health among youths. The Regional Office supports Member Associations through capacity development and has undertaken a mapping of laws that are significant for sexual and reproductive health and rights in the context of child marriage in six countries. IPPF is also encouraging national Member Associations to join networks to promote and ensure that youth themselves are heard, in particular on issues concerning sexuality and reproductive health and rights. IPPF's future plan is to focus on preventing child marriage, separating it from the mainstream youth programme, and to develop specific objectives and milestones for monitoring and evaluation.

Plan International

Plan International is currently implementing a programme called 18+ Ending Child Marriages in Southern Africa. It is based on a review of what drives child marriage in the region and the key principles and programmes that can be taken to scale. The programme is innovative in its multi-level and subregional approach. This includes a subregional

advocacy strategy that facilitates learning and strengthens collective impact, which can lead to broader changes across the region.

Population Council

The Population Council conducts research and delivers solutions to improve lives around the world. The organization's research agenda is focused on gathering evidence on what works best to delay child marriage, end FGM/C and keep girls in school.

Save the Children

Save the Children takes a comprehensive and holistic approach to its work on child marriage. Its programming is based on the need for quality education, access to health services, and child rights. To complement its work with children, it is also working with leaders at all levels. Save the Children has developed and is implementing the 'Choices, Voices, Promises' programme focusing on discriminatory gender norms across three levels: the individual level (working with girls and boys), the family level and the community level. The programme works across all three to ensure that girls and boys feel empowered to challenge the gender inequality and discrimination they face, and that family and community members support necessary changes. Programme evaluations have found that participating girls (and boys) are more likely to talk to their parents about the challenges they face, including staying in school and delaying marriage. Similarly, participating fathers and mothers are more likely to recognize the dangers of child marriage and their daughters' potential to contribute to the community.

Save the Children joined the AU Campaign to End Child Marriage in 2014 and is supporting its advocacy activities; the accountability, monitoring and evaluation aspects of the campaign; and processes to reform national laws to raise the minimum age of consent for marriage.

The Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum

The SADC Parliamentary Forum is a regional inter-parliamentary body composed of members of parliament from SADC Member States, representing over 3,500 parliamentarians in the SADC region. The aim of the forum is to provide a platform to support and improve regional integration through parliamentary involvement, and to promote best practices in the role of parliaments in regional integration and cooperation.

The specific objectives of the forum are to address issues including, but not limited to, the promotion of human rights, gender equality, good governance, democracy and transparency; promotion of peace, security and stability; hastening the pace of economic cooperation, development and integration on the basis of equity and mutual benefits; facilitating networking with other inter-parliamentary organizations; promoting the participation of NGOs, business and intellectual communities in SADC activities; familiarizing the people of SADC with the aims and objectives of the organization; and informing SADC of popular views on development and issues affecting the region.

Southern Africa Litigation Centre

The Southern Africa Litigation Centre (SALC) was instrumental in the preparations for the SADC Model Law on Eradicating Child Marriage and Protecting Children Already in Marriage. SALC's analysis of the recent decline in child marriage in sub-Saharan Africa and SADC countries is raising concern that the decline is limited to girls in the richest urban communities and those with secondary and higher educations. In areas outside urban centres and among those with lower or no education, poverty, gender inequality, insecurity and tradition continue to perpetuate child marriage. SALC has 11 programmatic areas, and although addressing child rights is not a stand-alone programme, SALC will support efforts by organizations and individuals to protect and promote child rights in the region.

United Nations Population Fund

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is the lead UN agency for delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled. Its Strategic Plan for 2014-2017 identifies child marriage as a priority at the impact level, and under its work on adolescents and youth (Outcome 2), Output 8 is dedicated to adolescent girls and child marriage. The programmatic implications are further elaborated in the 2013 Strategy on Adolescents and Youth, which is operationalized in the multi-country initiative called Action for Adolescent Girls and the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage.

United Nations Children's Fund

The United Nations Children's Fund's (UNICEF) work on child marriage is a corporate priority, reflected in the UNICEF Strategic Plan for 2014-2017 at both the impact and outcome levels, under Child Protection Outcome 6. UNICEF's Gender Action Plan for 2014-

2017 also identifies ending child marriage as one of four targeted priorities. Specialized programming on child marriage started in 2014 and has further been strengthened through the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage. Child marriage programmes in UNICEF are focused on child and social protection, gender equality and education as well as a safe learning environment and improved educational quality, which includes school infrastructure (the aim is to ensure that girls stay and learn in school).

The UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage

This global programme, jointly implemented by UNFPA and UNICEF, focuses on 12 countries worldwide, four of which are in East and Southern Africa: Ethiopia, Mozambique, Uganda and Zambia.

At the regional level, the global programme works with governments and civil society partners at all levels to promote and protect the human rights of girls. This includes assistance to countries for the development of relevant policies and programmes as well as the strengthening of monitoring and evaluation systems to gauge progress towards ending child marriage. Under the programme, UNFPA and UNICEF are supporting the AU Campaign to End Child Marriage. In addition, UNFPA conducted a regional review of adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights laws and policies in all 23 countries in the East and Southern Africa region. It also supported the drafting and dissemination of the SADC Model Law and is currently providing technical assistance to the drafting of a Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Bill for the East and Southern Africa Community. The programme is currently partnering with Girls Not Brides and the SADC Parliamentary Forum to develop a toolkit that can guide advocacy and domestication of the Model Law in member countries.

Voluntary Service Overseas

Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) is implementing a two-year (2016-2018) programme called Taking Action to End Child Marriage in Southern Africa. It focuses on the health-related impacts of child marriage, while also recognizing the interconnections with sexual and reproductive rights, socio-economic issues and the imperative of investing in young people. The current programme is based on initial community consultations and research with young people, who defined the practice of child marriage as one of the main barriers to their well-being. Furthering the need for specific and

detailed understanding of child marriage in each of the participating countries, VSO is collaborating with the World Health Organization to explore the drivers of child marriage, while involving youth in the formulation of effective strategies. The results of their research will provide direction to the specific content of future programme activities.

VSO is also working in advocacy and capacity development, which will continue. It has supplied parliamentarians with contextualized evidence-based child marriage information and trained members of parliament from Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe on the impact of child marriage and effective prevention strategies. Parliamentarian volunteers from Ireland, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom are working with parliamentarians from SADC countries to initiate legal reform in areas relevant to the prevention of child marriage. These areas include social protection and rights associated with education, especially in the context of childcare options for girl students with children.

VSO has a memorandum of understanding with the African Union, which recognizes VSO as the lead civil society organization in the campaign to end child marriage. At the same time, VSO works with other networks, such as Girls Not Brides.

Young Women's Christian Association

The Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) is a faith-based organization that advances the empowerment, leadership and rights of women, young women and girls in more than 120 countries around the world. The YWCA defines child marriage as a form of gender-based violence and an unacceptable violation of the rights of girls and young women. The organization invests in education and economic empowerment of women and girls to prevent child marriage; in health, social and other programmes to support girls already married; and in appropriate legislative measures to terminate the marriage, if desired.

National Stakeholders

Table 1 provides a listing of programmes, by country, of national stakeholders involved in child marriage that responded to the request for information. The list is based on self-reporting by partners.



CHILD MARRIAGE
A MAPPING OF PROGRAMMES AND PARTNERS IN TWELVE COUNTRIES IN EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

Table 1. Overview of programmes implemented by national stakeholders involved in issues relating to child marriage in the 12 countries mapped

		ASSET-BUILDING	ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT	EDUCATION	COMMUNITY AWARENESS	SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS INFORMATION AND SERVICES	SOCIAL PROTECTION SERVICES	LEGAL AND POLICY REFORM	RESEARCH AND EVIDENCE	BENEFICIARIES	AGE RANGE (YEARS)
Comoros	Commissariat à la Solidarité, à la Protection Sociale et à la Promotion du Genre and the Fédération Nationale des Associations des Sages Femmes en Union des Comores	x	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	Girls, married	15 to 19
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Aide Rapide aux Victimes des Catastrophes	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	Girls, unmarried & married	10 to 19
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Cadre de Récupération et d'Encadrement pour l'Épanouissement Intégral des Jeunes	-	-	-	x	-	x	-	-	Girls, in school	12 to 19
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Groupe d'Animateurs pour la Promotion et Échanges Culturels	-	-	x	x	-	x	x	-	Girls, survivors	15 to 19
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Réseau des Jeunes Engager contre les Mariages et Grossesses Précoces	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Girls, in and out of school	10 to 19
Eritrea	Ministry of Health	x	x	-	-	x	x	x	-	Girls, unmarried & married, in and out of school	10 to 19

CHILD MARRIAGE
A MAPPING OF PROGRAMMES AND PARTNERS IN TWELVE COUNTRIES IN EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

Table 1. Overview of programmes implemented by national stakeholders involved in issues relating to child marriage in the 12 countries mapped (continued)

		ASSET-BUILDING	ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT	EDUCATION	COMMUNITY AWARENESS	SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS INFORMATION AND SERVICES	SOCIAL PROTECTION SERVICES	LEGAL AND POLICY REFORM	RESEARCH AND EVIDENCE	BENEFICIARIES	AGE RANGE (YEARS)
Eritrea	UNICEF	x	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	Girls, unmarried & married, in and out of school	10 to 20 ++
Eritrea	National Union of Eritrean Women	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Girls, unmarried & married, in and out of school	15 to 20 ++
Eritrea	National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	x	Girls, unmarried, married, in and out of school	10 to 14
Ethiopia	Afar Pastoralist Development Association	x	-	x	x	x	x	x	-	Girls, in and out of school	10 to 20 ++
Ethiopia	Afar Women's and Children's Affairs Bureau, Samara	x	-	x	x	x	x	x	-	Girls, unmarried & married, in and out of school	10 to 20 ++
Ethiopia	Bureau of Women and Children's Affairs	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Girls, unmarried & married	10 to 19
Ethiopia	Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Girls, unmarried & married	10 to 20 ++
Ethiopia	Mujejeguwa-Locka Women Development Association	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	Girls, unmarried & married	10 to 20 ++
Ethiopia	Norwegian Church Aid	x	x	x	x	-	x	x	x	Girls, unmarried & married	10 to 19

CHILD MARRIAGE
A MAPPING OF PROGRAMMES AND PARTNERS IN TWELVE COUNTRIES IN EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

Table 1. Overview of programmes implemented by national stakeholders involved in issues relating to child marriage in the 12 countries mapped (continued)

		ASSET-BUILDING	ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT	EDUCATION	COMMUNITY AWARENESS	SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS INFORMATION AND SERVICES	SOCIAL PROTECTION SERVICES	LEGAL AND POLICY REFORM	RESEARCH AND EVIDENCE	BENEFICIARIES	AGE RANGE (YEARS)
Ethiopia	Tigray National Regional State Bureau of Women Affairs	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	Girls, unmarried & married	15 to 19
Ethiopia	UNFPA	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Girls, unmarried, married & survivors, in and out of school	10 to 19
Ethiopia	World Vision Ethiopia	x	x	x	x	-	x	x	-	Girls, unmarried, married & survivors, in and out of school	15 to 19
Madagascar	UNFPA - Adolescent and youth	-	x	-	x	x	x	x	-	Girls, unmarried & married, in and out of school	10 to 20 ++
Madagascar	UNFPA - Gender-based violence	x	-	x	x	x	x	x	-	Girls, unmarried & married, in and out of school	10 to 20 ++
Madagascar	UNICEF	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Not working directly with girls	
Malawi	UNFPA - Safeguard Young People Programme	x	-	-	x	x	-	x	x	Girls, in and out of school	10 to 24
Malawi	UNFPA- Gender Equality and Women/Girl Empowerment	x	-	x	x	x	-	-	-	Girls, in and out of school	10 to 20 ++
Malawi	ActionAid Malawi	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	Girls, in and out of school	10 to 20 ++

CHILD MARRIAGE
A MAPPING OF PROGRAMMES AND PARTNERS IN TWELVE COUNTRIES IN EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

Table 1. Overview of programmes implemented by national stakeholders involved in issues relating to child marriage in the 12 countries mapped (continued)

		ASSET-BUILDING	ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT	EDUCATION	COMMUNITY AWARENESS	SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS INFORMATION AND SERVICES	SOCIAL PROTECTION SERVICES	LEGAL AND POLICY REFORM	RESEARCH AND EVIDENCE	BENEFICIARIES	AGE RANGE (YEARS)
Malawi	Centre for Social Concern and Development	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Girls, out of school	15 to 19
Malawi	Girls Empowerment Network	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Girls, unmarried & married	10 to 19
Malawi	Plan International Malawi	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Girls, unmarried & married, in and out of school	10 to 19
Malawi	Ujamaa Pamodzi Africa	x	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	Girls, in school	10 to 19
Mozambique	UNFPA, UNESCO, UN Women, UNDP and UNICEF	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Girls, unmarried & married, in and out of school	10 to 24
Mozambique	Women and Law in Southern Africa	x	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	Not working directly with girls	
Mozambique	Civil Society Forum for Child Rights	x	-	x	x	x	x	x	-	Girls, unmarried & married	10 to 19
Mozambique	Girl Move Foundation	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Girls, unmarried, in school	12 to 15
Mozambique	Plan International Mozambique	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Girls, unmarried & married	10 to 14
South Sudan	UNFPA - Adolescent and youth-friendly health services	x	x	-	-	x	-	-	-	Girls, unmarried & married, in and out of school	10 to 24

CHILD MARRIAGE
A MAPPING OF PROGRAMMES AND PARTNERS IN TWELVE COUNTRIES IN EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

Table 1. Overview of programmes implemented by national stakeholders involved in issues relating to child marriage in the 12 countries mapped (continued)

		ASSET-BUILDING	ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT	EDUCATION	COMMUNITY AWARENESS	SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS INFORMATION AND SERVICES	SOCIAL PROTECTION SERVICES	LEGAL AND POLICY REFORM	RESEARCH AND EVIDENCE	BENEFICIARIES	AGE RANGE (YEARS)
South Sudan	UNFPA - Gender-based violence	x	-	-	x	x	x	-	-	Not working directly with girls	
South Sudan	Confident Children out of Conflict	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	x	Girls, unmarried & married	10 to 19
South Sudan	Plan International South Sudan	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	Girls, unmarried & married, in and out of school	10 to 19
South Sudan	UNICEF	x	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	Girls, unmarried & married	10 to 20 ++
Tanzania	Campaign for Female Education Tanzania	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Girls, in and out of school	15 to 19
Tanzania	Centre Against Gender-based Violence	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	Girls, in and out of school	15 to 19
Tanzania	Children's Dignity forum	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Girls, in and out of school	10 to 19
Tanzania	Forum for African Women Educationalists Tanzania	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Not working directly with girls	
Tanzania	Plan International Tanzania	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Girls, unmarried & married, in and out of school	10 to 19
Uganda	Joy for Children Uganda	x	-	-	x	x	-	x	x	Girls, unmarried & married	15 to 19

CHILD MARRIAGE
A MAPPING OF PROGRAMMES AND PARTNERS IN TWELVE COUNTRIES IN EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

Table 1. Overview of programmes implemented by national stakeholders involved in issues relating to child marriage in the 12 countries mapped (continued)

		ASSET-BUILDING	ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT	EDUCATION	COMMUNITY AWARENESS	SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS INFORMATION AND SERVICES	SOCIAL PROTECTION SERVICES	LEGAL AND POLICY REFORM	RESEARCH AND EVIDENCE	BENEFICIARIES	AGE RANGE (YEARS)
Uganda	BRAC Uganda	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Girls, married & unmarried, out of school	10 to 19
Uganda	Straight Talk Foundation	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Girls, in school	10 to 19
Uganda	The REACH Programme	x	-	-	x	x	x	x	-	Girls, unmarried, married & survivors, out of school	10 to 19
Uganda	UNFPA	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	Girls, unmarried & married, in and out of school	10 to 19
Uganda	White Ribbon Alliance	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	Girls, unmarried & married	10 to 19
Uganda	World Vision Uganda	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Girls, unmarried & married	10 to 20 ++
Zambia	Forum for African Women Educationalists of Zambia	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Girls, unmarried & married	10 to 19
Zambia	Plan International Zambia	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Girls, unmarried & married	10 to 14
Zambia	UNFPA	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	Girls, unmarried & married, in and out of school	10 to 19

CHILD MARRIAGE
A MAPPING OF PROGRAMMES AND PARTNERS IN TWELVE COUNTRIES IN EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

Table 1. Overview of programmes implemented by national stakeholders involved in issues relating to child marriage in the 12 countries mapped (continued)

		ASSET-BUILDING	ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT	EDUCATION	COMMUNITY AWARENESS	SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS INFORMATION AND SERVICES	SOCIAL PROTECTION SERVICES	LEGAL AND POLICY REFORM	RESEARCH AND EVIDENCE	BENEFICIARIES	AGE RANGE (YEARS)
Zambia	UNICEF	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Girls, unmarried & married, in and out of school	10 to 20 ++
Zambia	Women and Law in Southern Africa	x	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	Girls, unmarried & married	10 to 19
Zambia	Young Women's Christian Association of Zambia	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Girls, unmarried & married	10 to 19
Zimbabwe	Campaign for Female Education Zimbabwe	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Girls, unmarried & married	15 to 19
Zimbabwe	Plan International Zimbabwe	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Girls, unmarried & married, in and out of school	10 to 19
Zimbabwe	Tag a life International Trust	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Girls, unmarried & married	10 to 19
Zimbabwe	UNFPA	x	x	x	-	x	-	-	-	Girls, unmarried & married, in and out of school	10 to 19
Zimbabwe	Rozaria Memorial Trust	x	-	x	-	-	-	-	x	Girls, unmarried & married, in and out of school	10 to 19

Chapter 5. Programmes: by country

Comoros

An estimated 32 per cent of women aged 20 to 24 in the Comoros were married by age 18, and 10 per cent were married before age 15.²⁸ Although child marriage is recognized as a problem, attitudes, customs and harmful practices persist in Comorian society. A lack of data and qualitative research prevents an in-depth analysis of the problem, the drivers and effective ways of addressing child marriage.

Drivers of child marriage

Comoros is a low-income country. According to the last household survey, conducted in 2014, almost 18 per cent of the population live under the international poverty line.²⁹ The incidence of poverty is highest in rural areas and on the island of Mwali.

In 2015, the adolescent birth rate in the Comoros was 67 per 1,000 girls aged 15 to 19.³⁰ Culturally, pregnancy before marriage is not accepted, and parents may step in and arrange a marriage to preclude an out-of-wedlock pregnancy. Contraceptives are available, but are generally not accepted by parents, and it is not easy for a girl to secretly use contraceptives. The country's youth centres have contraceptives available, but such centres are non-existent in rural areas. Rates of sexual violence among adolescents are high: Nearly 13.9 per cent of adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 have experienced some form of physical or sexual violence.³¹

Only 60 per cent of boys and 50 per cent of girls are enrolled in primary school (net enrolment), and the gender gap widens in secondary school.³² Very few girls progress to university, since that involves moving overseas to France or neighbouring countries. It is suggested that this lack of opportunity also affects girls' decisions about marriage.³³

Government commitment and policy environment

The 2005 Comorian Family Code fixes the legal age of marriage at 18 years. However, under Muslim law, the age of majority and eligibility for marriage is 14 to 15 years; in some cases, marriages may be arranged even earlier, especially for girls.³⁴ The lack of a uniform legal age for marriage makes law enforcement problematic. The 2017 National Child Protection Policy provides for interventions aimed at protecting girls who are victims of child marriage. However, essential prevention, rehabilitation and reintegration services for vulnerable children are in the formative stage and lack human resources and materials.³⁵ A policy of legislative reform for improved child protection is in progress.³⁶

Coordination

There is no national coordination forum for child marriage in the Comoros.

Programmes and partners

Commissariat à la Solidarité, à la Protection Sociale et à la Promotion du Genre (government) and Federation Nationale des Associations des Sages Femmes en Union des Comores – FNASFUC (NGO).

Title of programme

Advocacy and Sensitization Project.

Objectives

To raise awareness about the National Child Protection Policy.

Description

The purpose of the project was to sensitize local leaders, teachers, parents and girls themselves with the aim of preventing child marriage and improving the health of married girls. The project provided quality sexual and reproductive health information and improved access to adolescent-friendly sexual and reproductive health services, including modern

²⁸ UNICEF global databases, 2016, based on the DHS 2012.

²⁹ World Bank website, www.worldbank.org/en/country/comoros/overview (accessed 27 July 2017).

³⁰ World Bank website, Data, <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.ADO.TFR> (accessed 27 July 2017).

³¹ DHS 2012.

³² UNICEF website, https://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/comoros_2674.html (accessed 27 July 2017).

³³ Stakeholder interview.

³⁴ Stakeholder interview.

³⁵ Stakeholder interview.

³⁶ United Nations Children's Fund, 'Comoros, Country programme document 2015-2019', UN document E/ICEF/2014/P/L.5, UNICEF, New York.

contraception. It aimed to improve birth and marriage registration of girls who are victims of child marriage.

The project supported national-level policy development and legal reform and contributed to the development of national strategies and action plans. It also worked to enhance law enforcement mechanisms and supported a national data collection system on trafficking, violence and harmful practices.

Programme scope

The project was implemented from June 2016 to April 2017 (11 months).

It targeted girls under the age of 18, victims of early and forced marriage and girls at risk of dropping out of school. It also addressed teachers, local authorities such as religious leaders, village leaders and cadis (judges), and individual girls' families, especially parents.

The size of the total target population is not known, however about 80,000 people have benefited from the outreach and sensitization sessions.

Partners

Fondation Sanofi Espoir, UNFPA, UNICEF and Coopération Française.

Funding

Fondation Sanofi Espoir.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Thirty-seven per cent of women aged 20 to 24 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) were married before age 18, and 10 per cent were married before age 15.³⁷ While rates of child marriage are high countrywide, they tend to be higher in rural versus urban areas.³⁸ In 2010, women aged 20 to 24 living in rural areas were 1.7 times more likely to be married

³⁷ UNICEF global databases, 2016, based on DHS 2013-2014.

³⁸ Male, Chata, and Quentin T. Wodon, 2016, 'Basic Profile of Child Marriage in the Democratic Republic of Congo', Health, Nutrition, and Population Knowledge Brief: Child marriage series, World Bank Group, Washington, D.C., <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/44831467831741265/Basic-profile-of-child-marriage-in-the-Democratic-Republic-of-Congo> (accessed 27 July 2017).



before age 18 than their urban counterparts. The lengthy military conflict in the DRC has increased the incidence of child marriage by creating a climate where sexual violence is widespread, with limited rule of law and impunity for perpetrators.

Drivers of child marriage

The underlying factors for child marriage in the DRC include gender inequality, poverty, local customs and harmful cultural practices. A large proportion of DRC society, especially in rural areas, believe that girls should marry at the onset of menstruation (usually 10 to 12 years old).³⁹ After that, a girl is considered a woman and her role is to give birth and take care of children. In urban areas, child marriage is often prompted by pregnancy. The adolescent fertility rate in 2015 was 122 births per 1,000 women aged 15 to 19.⁴⁰

Low educational attainment is also associated with child marriage, both as a driver and an outcome. Half of women aged 20 to 24 with a primary education married before age 18, compared to 23 per cent of women aged 20 to 24 with a secondary or higher education.⁴¹

The low status of girls is also apparent in the practice of polygamy, where the marriage of a girl child is part of the financial settlement of a family debt.⁴² A 'bride price' is paid by the groom or his kin to the kin of the bride to confirm the marriage. The practice has been found to encourage child marriage, since parents forcibly marry daughters off in order to collect the bride price or to finance the bride price of a son.⁴³

Government commitment and policy environment

The DRC family law States that both parties must personally consent to being married, and that the legal age of marriage is 18 for men and 15 for women.

In response to the AU Campaign to End Child Marriage, which was launched in the DRC in May 2015, the country developed the National Strategy to End Child Marriage (2015-2018). The strategy is not costed.⁴⁴

Coordination

Coordination meetings are conducted by the Ministry of Gender, in which all partners and NGOs working on child marriage participate. There is also an NGO network for organizations working on the Red Card programme: Youth Forum on ICPD and MDGs, known as YOUTHFIM; Afia MAMA; Cadre de Récupération et d'Encadrement pour l'Épanouissement des Jeunes, or CREEIJ; Wings of the Hearts; Ligue pour la Zone Afrique pour la Promotion de l'Enfant et de l'Élève, or LIZADEL; Groupement des Agents de la Population et de l'Etat Civil, or GAPEC; and Confédération Nationale de la Jeunesse Islamique en RDC, or CNJIC.

Programmes and partners

UNFPA and UNICEF

UNFPA and UNICEF jointly support the development of a national child marriage strategy.

UNFPA

Title of programme

Red Card to Early Marriages.

Description

UNFPA is supporting a campaign called 'Red Card to Early Marriages and Adolescent Pregnancies'. The campaign is being implemented from July to October 2017 as a follow-up to the national launch of the AU Campaign to End Child Marriage in 2016 and is sensitizing communities in the provinces of Haut Katanga, Sud Kivu and Mai Ndombe as well as in the city of Kinshasa on the negative consequences of child marriage, using both traditional media (television and radio) and social media. It also supports the setting up of networks with opinion leaders engaged in the fight against child marriage and teenage pregnancy.

Examples of campaign activities implemented by CREEIJ, Groupe d'Animateurs pour la Promotion et Échanges Culturels and RJEMGP appear below:

³⁹ Male and Wodon, 2016.q

⁴⁰ World Bank website, Data, <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.ADO.TFRT> (accessed 27 July 2017).

⁴¹ Girls Not Brides website, girlsnotbrides.org/child-marriage/democratic-republic-of-the-congo/ (accessed 27 July 2017).

⁴² Free the Slaves, *Wives in Slavery – Forced Marriage in the Congo Brief*, 2015.

⁴³ State Department, United States of America, 27 February 2014, 'Democratic Republic of the Congo', *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2013*.

⁴⁴ Stakeholder interview.

Aide Rapide aux Victimes des Catastrophes - ARVC

Title of programme

Preventing Early and Forced Marriage in South Kivu in the DRC.

Objective

Adolescents in 19 project intervention communities are supported and institutional protection systems reinforced.

Programme scope

The four-year programme (2017-2020) targets 12- to 19-year-old married and unmarried girls, including victims and survivors of child marriage, early marriage and forced marriage. The total target population in Uvira, Fizi and Walungu is estimated at 50,000. By March 2017, the programme had reached 61 communities: 243 cases were opened, resulting in the arrest of perpetrators of child marriage; 1,050 cases of child marriage were referred for community mediation; and 725 survivors received psychological support provided by the programme in the three intervention sites.

Partners

Ministry of Gender, Family and Children, Girls Not Brides, Women Thrive Alliance.

Funding

Local funds.

Cadre de Récupération et d'Encadrement pour l'Épanouissement Intégral des Jeunes - CREEIJ

Title of programme

Red Card to Early Marriages.

Objective

To train community leaders on the prevention of child marriage.

Description

The campaign focused on preventing and responding to child marriage by providing information to communities on the legal provisions concerning the practice. After a brief training session, male community leaders established networks to identify and support victims of child marriage in their communities.

Programme scope

The project targeted 80 community leaders in South Kivu province; 40 in Bukavu city and 40 in Uvira territory.

Partners

UNFPA; Department of Gender, Ministry of Planning; town and territory officials, local youth networks.

Funding

UNFPA.

Groupe d'Animateurs pour la Promotion et Échanges Culturels

Title of programme

Red Card to Early Marriages.

Objective

To train opinion leaders who will set up networks to identify early marriages and support and track girl victims and survivors.

Description

The members in the network identify early marriages and cases where there is an early or unintended pregnancy. The role of network members is to support the girls and ensure that they are accepted back into the family and community. The campaign also includes activities to help girls enrol in and remain in primary and secondary school or non-formal education.

Programme scope

June 2016 to June 2017 in Kisenso municipality in Kinshasa.

By May 2017, 40 leaders had been trained and a network of 40 committed leaders had been set up; 637 cases of child marriage have been identified.

Partners

The campaign is carried out under the supervision of the Ministry of Gender, Family and Children. Other partners include the ministries of planning, youth and health, UNFPA, politicians, youth leaders, religious organizations, the Catholic Church, and the organization for Advancement of Women and Children's Rights.

Funding

UNFPA.

Réseau des Jeunes Engager contre les Mariages et Grossesses Précoce - RJEMGP

Title of programme

Red Card to Early Marriages.

Objective

To end the practice of child marriage through the sensitization of families and communities.

Description

The programme conducts awareness-raising activities to change attitudes toward child marriage in communities and families. The campaign aims to mobilize broad involvement through community sensitization and intergenerational dialogues on issues such as girls' education and teenage pregnancies and its associated health risks. It has established a network of committed leaders, including neighbourhood leaders, traditional chiefs and religious leaders, to act as focal points and influence family members to reject child marriage and to build a protective environment for children. The programme also seeks to prevent early and unintended pregnancies and provide support for married girls and creating safe spaces for unmarried girls and child brides. The safe spaces are used for comprehensive sexuality education and reproductive health, including family planning and hygiene during menstruation. In addition, the programme is also supporting girls (married and unmarried) in continuing their education through literacy programmes, trade apprenticeships and empowerment training.

Programme scope

The programme period is 2016-2020.

The programme targets girls aged 10 to 19, including girls in and out of school and survivors of child marriage.

By 2016, five provinces (Upper Katanga, South Kivu, Mai-Ndombe, Maniema and Kinshasa) had been reached out of the 26 provinces in the DRC. To date, 11 networks have been created. In Kinshasa, 59 cases of child marriage and 45 cases of early pregnancy were identified among the 141 families that were reached.

Up-scaling opportunities

The programme's vision is to cover the entire DRC.

Partners

UNFPA, Ministry of Gender and Family, local youth NGOs (YOUTHFIM), Afia MAMA, CREEIJ, Wings of the Hearts, LIZADEL, GAPEC, CNJIC and the Young Parliamentarians' Network.

Funding

UNFPA.

Eritrea

Forty-one per cent of women aged 20 to 24 in Eritrea were married by age 18, and 13 per cent were married by age 15.⁴⁵ The population surveys do not show local variations, but it is assumed that the high incidence of child marriage cuts across all areas and regions with minor variations. The prevalence of FGM/C is 83 per cent among girls and women aged 15 to 49.⁴⁶

Drivers of child marriage

Child marriage is driven by poverty, strong gender norms and patriarchal ideals of purity.⁴⁷ Although specific rules and customs of marriage (such as bride price, family arrangements, etc.) differ slightly among the country's ethno-linguistic groups, the predominant perception is that girls should marry early.⁴⁸ A factor related to child marriage is the limited access to education: 64 per cent of women aged 20 to 24 with no education and 53 per cent with only primary education were found to be married by age 18, compared to just 12 per cent of women with secondary schooling or higher.⁴⁹

Government commitment and policy environment

Prior to independence in 1991, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front introduced legislation that abolished forced marriage, bride price, child marriage, kidnapping and dowries. The Eritrean Civil Code (article 581 and 329) stipulates 18 years for marriage.⁵⁰ In 2015, the legislation on child marriage was substantiated in the Civil Procedure Code, Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code. However, formal laws are at times

⁴⁵ UNICEF global databases, 2016, based on Population and Health Survey 2010.

⁴⁶ UNICEF website, 'Statistical Profile on FGM/C in Eritrea', updated in February 2016,

[DATA UNICEF Child protection FGMC women prevalence updated Feb 2016 and UNICEF Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting Country profiles Aug 2016https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/country_profiles/Eritrea/FGMC_ERI.pdf](https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/country_profiles/Eritrea/FGMC_ERI.pdf) (accessed 01 September 2017).

⁴⁷ Stakeholder interview.

⁴⁸ Eritrea Ministry of Information, March 2016, www.shabait.com/articles/nation-building/21449-child-marriage-human-rights-health-and-development (accessed 01 September 2017).

⁴⁹ DHS 2002.

⁵⁰ Girls Not Brides website, www.girlsnottbrides.org/child-marriage/eritrea/ (accessed 27 July 2017)

⁵¹ Girls Not Brides website. www.girlsnottbrides.org/child-marriage/eritrea/ (accessed 27 July 2017).

superseded by customary laws.⁵¹ Customary practices differ from place to place and may not mention age restrictions for marriage.⁵²

The Government of Eritrea launched the AU Campaign to End Child Marriage in June 2016, but has yet to finalize a national strategy on child marriage.

Coordination

Eritrea is working to end child marriage through a multi-stakeholder approach including government ministries (including those covering health, labour and human welfare, education, and justice), the National Union of Eritrean Women (NUEW), religious leaders, partners and local communities.⁵³ The current Joint Programme on Gender Equity and Advancement of Women in Eritrea, Bi-annual Work Plan 2017/2018 is coordinated by the Ministry of National Development. The main implementing partners are the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour and Human Welfare, and NUEW, with support from UNICEF.⁵⁴ Coordination meetings are scheduled to take place every quarter or as the need arises.

Programmes and partners

Ministry of Health

Title of programme

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Child Protection.

Objective

To empower communities to reduce the incidence of child marriage through behaviour change.

Description

The programme is providing safe spaces for girls, life-skills development and comprehensive sexuality education for girls who are both in and out of school. It sensitizes communities and raises awareness among girls, boys, fathers, mothers, traditional leaders, religious leaders, administrators and civil society on adolescent sexual and reproductive health.

Programme scope

The programme started in 2015 with the Ministry of Health; in 2016, NUEW joined in. In the current work plan, it is a joint programme with the Ministry of Health, NUEW and the Ministry of Labour and Human Welfare. It covers the whole country, targeting 10- to 19-year-old unmarried and married girls, both in and out of school,

and survivors of child marriage (including divorcees, widows and partners of dissolved marriages).

Partners

Ministries of health, education, justice, labour and human welfare, and national development; NUEW; National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS), and UNICEF.

Funding

UNICEF.

UNICEF

Title of programme

Child Marriage Prevention.

Objective

To identify the drivers of child marriage and support the development of a national strategy.

Description

Overall, UNICEF's support to the government is focused on community mobilization to ensure that the messages about child marriage are reaching the most vulnerable populations living in remote areas, including those with low levels of education and income. It also aims to empower and stimulate women's participation in decision-making. The activities emphasize community awareness and education through advocacy with local government authorities, religious leaders, community associations and law enforcement authorities.

In support of the National Strategic Plan development process, UNICEF is undertaking research to enhance understanding of the root causes of child marriage.

Programme scope

The programme began in 2015 and will run until 2021. The primary beneficiaries are 250,000 children below the age of 18 and their caretakers in targeted communities. By February 2017, 80,000 people had been reached through face-to-face seminars. The geographic coverage includes four of the six administrative zobas: Anseba, Gash Barka, Southern Red Sea and Northern Red Sea.

Partners

Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour and Human Welfare, NUEW.

⁵¹ Stakeholder interview.

⁵² Stakeholder interview.

⁵³ Stakeholder interview.

Funding

UNICEF.

National Union of Eritrean Women – NUEW

Title of programme

Alleviate Harmful Traditional Practices.

Objective

To ensure that communities have the knowledge and are adequately equipped to take action against all harmful practices and establish 'child-marriage free' communities.

Description

NUEW has conducted a range of programmes to educate families and communities on the dangers of child marriage and other harmful practices. NUEW's programmes promote awareness, employment, workshops, seminars, training and life-skills programmes using a holistic approach. The activities that address child marriage are part of an integrated programme that tackles harmful practices, including FGM/C and violence against women. The project is implemented in three phases: breaking the silence, sensitization campaigns and law enforcement. The programme activities also include establishing committees against child marriage at the grass-roots level.

Programme scope

The programme covers all of Eritrea, targeting unmarried and married girls, both in and out of school, aged 15 and older. The programme indicators include the number of cases reported, awareness events organized, and young people and schools reached. By February 2017 the programme had reached all communities with awareness-raising activities.

Partners

Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour and Human Welfare, Ministry of Local Government, NUEW.

Funding

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the UN Joint Programme on Gender Equity, with co-financing from local communities.

National Union of Eritrean Youth & Students – NUEYS

Objective

To address child marriage by supporting both children and the community, thus improving girls' educational performance and reducing school drop-out rates.

Description

The focus of the NUEYS programmes is to improve educational performance of girls in school and provide information about gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights. Key interventions include community sensitization and referral to health and social protection services as well as advocacy with parliamentarians and local decision-makers.

Programme scope

The programme covers all of Eritrea, targeting unmarried and married girls, both in and out of school, aged 10 to 14. The programme indicators include educational performance of girls in school and number of peer groups formed. The annual reach of the five-year programme (2014-2018) is 200 girls.

Partners

Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour and Human Welfare, Ministry of Local Government, NUEW, UNFPA and UNICEF.

Funding

UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF, with co-financing from local communities.



"Forty-one per cent of women aged 20 to 24 in Eritrea were married by age 18, and 13 per cent were married by age 15."

Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, 40 per cent of women aged 20 to 24 were married by 18 years of age, and 16 per cent were married before age 15.⁵⁵ The highest rates of child marriage are reported from the Amhara region (44.8 per cent), Gambella (43 per cent),⁵⁶ Tigray (34.1 per cent), Addis Ababa (32.3 per cent) and Benishangul Gumuz (31.9 per cent). The prevalence of FGM/C is 83 per cent among girls and women aged 15 to 49 years.⁵⁷ The recent decline in child marriage rates in some rural areas is attributed to improvements in girls' access to education.

Drivers of child marriage

Child marriage remains a deeply rooted tradition in Ethiopian communities. Customs such as marriage by abduction and forced unions between cousins (*abusuma*) perpetuate the practice.⁵⁹ High child marriage rates are also related to lack of access to quality education and economic opportunities for girls, which are associated with social norms limiting women and girls' decision-making, including in relation to reproductive choices. In 2015, the World Economic Forum reported that only 14 per cent of women aged 25 and over in Ethiopia had completed primary education, compared with 37 per cent for men.⁶⁰

Government commitment and policy environment

Building on the Constitution, the Family Code sets the minimum age for marriage at 18 for both males and females. Child marriage is criminalized in the Criminal Code.

The Government of Ethiopia is seeking to end child marriage by 2025. National policies include The National Alliance to End Child Marriage and the National Strategy and Action Plan on Harmful Traditional Practices against Women and Children.⁶¹ The current action plan was launched in June 2013

under the leadership of Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs (MoWCA). The government has pledged a 10 per cent increase in financial resources to address child marriage. Households, communities and institutions are targeted in the National Communication Strategy on Child Marriage, and the government, together with development partners, are seeking to influence child marriage practices through social mobilization and awareness-raising.⁶² Efforts are being made to harmonize policies and legal frameworks and to ensure effective law enforcement through increased capacity of service providers. Establishing national and regional databases to systematically collect data on child marriage trends and prevalence will further enhance programming capacity. The government emphasizes strategic partnerships among the implementing partners and strategies for accountable and effective national resource mobilization.⁶³

The Government of Ethiopia launched the AU Campaign to End Child Marriage in November 2014.

Programme coordination

The MoWCA coordinates activities at the federal level and oversees the implementation and monitoring of the National Alliance to End Child Marriage and the FGM/C National Action Plan. The Bureau of Women and Children's Affairs coordinates the implementation of the National Strategy at regional and zonal levels. The MoWCA calls monthly meetings to monitor the implementation of the plan. UNFPA and UNICEF, as the lead UN agencies, support the National Alliance both financially and technically.

Programmes and partners

Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs

Title of programme

End All Forms of Harmful Traditional Practice against Women and Children.

⁵⁵ UNICEF global databases, 2016, based on DHS 2011.

⁵⁶ National Strategy and Action Plan on Harmful Traditional Practices against Women and Children in Ethiopia, 2013.

⁵⁷ United Nations Children's Fund, *Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: A statistical overview and exploration of the dynamics of change*, UNICEF, New York, 2013.

⁵⁸ Marshall, Elizabeth Presler, et al., March 2016, 'Child Marriage in Ethiopia - A Review of the Evidence and an Analysis of the Prevalence of Child Marriage in Hotspot Districts', Overseas Development Institute, London, www.odi.org/publications/10452-child-marriage-ethiopia-review-evidence-and-analysis-prevalence-child-marriage-hotspot-district (accessed 1 September 2017).

⁵⁹ Girls Not Brides website, www.girlsnottbrides.org/child-marriage/ethiopia/ (accessed 1 September 2017).

⁶⁰ World Economic Forum, 2015, *Gender Pay Gap Report 2015*.

⁶¹ Marshall et al., 2016.

⁶² Girls Not Brides, July 2015, 'Lessons Learned from Selected National Initiatives to End Child Marriage', www.ungei.org/Girls_Not_Brides.pdf (accessed 1 September 2017).

⁶³ Government of Ethiopia, National Report on the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) and the Outcome of the 23rd Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly (2000), www.unece.org/sites/default/files/uploaded-documents/Beijing20/NationalReviews/natl_review_ethiopia_-eng.pdf (accessed 1 September 2017).

Objective

To improve well-being, reduce poverty and improve health, education and the empowerment of girls and women, along with their children and families.

Description

The programme has four components: 1) community-based activities to change social norms, including community 'conversations', school-based clubs and economic incentives to support girls to remain in school, 2) advocacy with decision makers and opinion leaders and policy dialogue at the national and international level, 3) capacity development for concerned ministries from the national to the community level, 4) monitoring the implementation of the government plan, evaluation of outcomes and impact, and lessons learned to ensure evidence-based planning and policy development.

Programme scope

This is a multi-year and multi-partner-funded programme. The UNFPA-supported programme to end child marriage was launched in 2012 and ended in 2015. The five-year UNICEF-supported programme started in 2014 and will end in 2019-2020. The programme funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) (2011-2017) is being implemented in the Amhara region.

Partners

All members of the End Child Marriage and FGM National Alliance.

Funding

UNICEF, UNFPA, DFID and the Ethiopian Government.

Afar Bureau Women's and Children's Affairs**Title of programme**

Ending Child Marriage and FGM/C.

Objective

To strengthen community and institutional capacity for social mobilization, to end child marriage and FGM/C at kebele, woreda and regional levels and to ensure that at least one woreda declares total abandonment of FGM/C and child marriage by the end of 2017.

Description

The programme seeks to create community awareness through dialogue sessions with adolescents, parents and traditional leaders. Messages on harmful practices and child marriage are distributed during Friday prayers by religious leaders. Community members get information through the *dagu* system, a known, traditional method for information-sharing.

Programme scope

The programme is implemented in nine Afar woredas. By May 2017, the programme had reached 629,306 people (345,941 male and 283,365 female) in 11 districts: Asayita, Afambo, Mille, Chifra, Ab'ala, Amibara, Awash Fentale, Dulacha, Bure Modayita, Argoba and Addar.

Partners

UNICEF, UNFPA.

Funding

UNICEF, UNFPA.

Amhara Bureau of Women and Children's Affairs**Title of programme**

Ending Child Marriage Programme.

Objective

To end child marriage practices and empower girls and women.

Description

The programme provides participants with life-skills training, conducts community conversations, supports families through a revolving fund and aims to strengthen community structures and religious institutions. The programme delivers awareness-raising activities through the publication of materials, pamphlets and radio programmes.

Programme scope

The five-year programme works with unmarried girls, 10 to 19 years old, both in school and out of school. It is implemented in Amhara's 168 woredas (administrative divisions) with a total population of 500,000. By April 2017, the programme had reached approximately 120,000 people.

Partners

UNICEF, the Bureau of Health, the Bureau of Education and the Justice Bureau.

Funding

UNICEF.

Tigray State Bureau of Women and Children's Affairs**Title of programme**

Ending Early Child Marriage.

Objective

To enhance adolescent girls' financial abilities by

encouraging saving, and to raise community awareness of the consequences of child marriage.

Description

The programme contributed to the government commitment to end child marriage by supporting non-State actors in their efforts in this regard and by increasing institutional capacity and community-level knowledge to promote and protect the rights of women, youth, adolescents and children. Project activities included training of mentors, fortnightly sessions with girls, and strengthening of school and health facilities through commodities. Schools were supported with materials such as reference books, exercise books, pens, soap and other sanitary items that encourage girls' school attendance. The mentors identified at-risk girls and referred them to schools, to health facilities and/or to legal assistance. Girls' school clubs referred girls at risk to school directors. The programme also supports education on financial literacy and helped adolescent girls open bank accounts. In addition, the programme identified and disseminated best practices for upscaling.

Programme scope

The six-month programme, implemented between January and June 2016, focused on unmarried and married girls, 10 to 19 years old. A total of 2,400 girls regularly attended sessions and opened new bank accounts in three *kebeles* (smallest administrative unit) of Kola Temben district.

Up-scaling opportunities

The programme will be scaled up through the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage described below.

Partners

UNFPA.

Funding

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Italian Republic.

UNFPA

Title of programme

Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage.

Objective

To support girls' empowerment by providing safe spaces and gender clubs where girls can develop confidence and the capacity to raise concerns and ideas

Description

Programme activities support girls' empowerment, access to life-skills education and reproductive information and services for unmarried and married adolescent girls and their husbands. Through the programme, UNFPA Ethiopia will continue to strengthen partnerships with government organizations, NGOs, community structures and other stakeholders to address child marriage in the context of harmful practices. Using the community conversation methodology, parents, community and religious leaders, boys and men are targeted to change community attitudes on child marriage and girls' education. Capacity development will be provided for service providers to ensure sure that adolescent girls have access to adolescent-friendly health care.

Programme scope

The four-year (2017-2020) programme is targeting girls aged 10 to 19 in Tigray, Benishangul Gumuz and Gambella and provides reproductive health services in selected Amhara and Afar woredas.

Partners

MoWCA, UNICEF, faith-based organizations and existing structures such as the health extension workers, Women's Development Army and women's associations.

Funding

UK Aid and European Union.

Afar Pastoralist Development Association – APDA

Title of programme

Stopping Harmful Practices in Afar region.

Objective

To ensure that members of the Afar community are aware of the dangers of early marriage and are able to act on that knowledge.

Description

This effort to stop early marriage is embedded within an overarching programme to stop harmful practices that impact negatively on women's reproductive health. The programme addresses community leaders, including clan and religious leaders as well as women and youth leaders. Additionally, it provides assistance to girls who experience problems associated with child marriage and FGM/C. Community change agents or women extension workers (trained, literate women) provide counselling and support to girls at risk. The programme also seeks to ensure that girls complete secondary education: APDA partners with a literacy initiative

in Afar and uses Koranic teachers to explain Islamic marriage rights. Locally made films are used to reach out to youth groups.

Programme scope

The current programme began in 2010 and will run until December 2017.

APDA works with girls both in and out of school in addition to married women and divorcees. It includes women of all ages in their programme.

APDA works in 25 districts in the Afar region. The estimated total population in the 25 districts is 350,000.

Partners

UNFPA; Bureau for Women's, Youth and Children's Affairs; the Justice Bureau; and the Sharia Bureau and Court.

Funding

Afar Friends Sweden; Ethiopiaid UK and Ethiopiaid Australia; Barbara May Foundation Australia; Welthungerhilfe, Germany; Catholic Organization for Relief and Development Aid (CORDAID) Netherlands; Bread for the World Germany; Pestalozzi Children's Foundation Switzerland; UNFPA.

Mujejguwa-Locka Women Development Association - MLWDA

Title of programme

Preventing Child and Early Forced Marriage and Health Complications among Women in Gumuz Mandura and Danguer Woredas in Benishangul Gumuz regional state.

Objective

To contribute to improvements in the living conditions of women and girls in Bullen and Pawi woreda, Metekel zone in the Benishangul Gumuz regional state.

Description

The programme worked to reduce maternal and child mortality by creating awareness among community members. It helped diversify the livelihoods of poor women by providing income-generating activities and the organization of self-help groups. It also facilitated referral of fistula and uterine inversion patients to health services. The programme provided safe spaces for girls through a shelter facility and reunified them with their families; it also helped rehabilitate survivors of gender-based violence. Marginalized girls were empowered through vocational training (food preparation, tailoring) and goat-rearing, bread-baking,

modern beekeeping and small trading opportunities for income-generation. The programme provided educational materials for girls in formal primary and secondary education. Gender clubs were organized in schools and sanitary materials were provided to girls. To encourage out-of-school girls to return to school, the project sought to sensitize the community about the importance of girls' education. The project trained teachers in gender-responsiveness, organizing and assisting gender clubs, and supporting girls to remain in school. It also conducted review meetings with concerned government officials, other civil society and community-based organizations, and with community representatives about the quality of education and teaching and learning processes. In addition, the programme provided comprehensive sexuality education for girls in and out of school and improved access to adolescent-friendly sexual and reproductive health information and services (including modern contraception) through the training of health centre officials, nurses and health extension workers. Girls and boys received information about sexual and reproductive health.

Programme scope

The two-year programme was implemented between April 2013 and March 2015.

The total population of the three woredas where the programme was implemented was calculated to be 110,126. The direct beneficiaries of the project were 648 women, including 75 who suffered fistula and uterine inversion. It also reached 3,240 of the women's family members. It is estimated that more than 20,600 people benefited from awareness-raising activities and 19 self-help groups were organized.

Partners

Government officials from the *kebele* to the regional level, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women, OXFAM GB.

Funding

UNFPA.

Norwegian Church Aid

Title of programme

Engaging Faith-based Organizations for the Well-being of Women and Girls in Ethiopia.

Objective

To enhance community knowledge of the negative effects of FGM/C, child marriage and other harmful practices.

Description

The programme encourages faith-based partners to integrate FGM/C and child marriage prevention into their systems and structures, to address girls and women in their teachings, to support the rescue of girls from child marriage, and to stop the blessing of unlawful, underage or forced marriages. The programme has established referral linkages from schools and communities to the police. Some schools have instituted secret boxes to report on the incidence of or rumours of when a child marriage is planned. After receiving legal services, the girls may be referred to other services.

Programme scope

The programme has a national reach with a focus on Amhara; Somali; Afar; the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples; and Oromia regional states. The duration of the programme varies by setting (1 to 5 years).

The total target population is 7,000 religious leaders and faith-based community members and more than 350,000 community members. From October 2014 until December 2015, when the programme ended, the programme had reached more than 2,000 religious leaders.

The programme has verified that planned child marriages have been cancelled and girls have been rescued in intervention sites.

Additionally, NORAD will commence implementation of a new project on early marriage in Gambella, entitled Accelerating Action to Ensure the Well-being of Adolescent girls. The project is expected to run from July to December 2017.

Partners

Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahido Church, Inter-Religious Council of Ethiopia, Ethiopia Muslim Development Agency.

Funding

UNFPA, UNICEF, Government of Norway.

World Vision Ethiopia

Title of programme

It Takes a World to End Child Marriage.

Objective

The programme objective is to reduce harmful practices, strengthen the child protection system to prevent and respond to child marriage and reduce the social and economic drivers of child marriage.

Description

The programme supports the establishment of community-based child-focused structures and community conversation groups that are involved in community change processes to prevent and respond to child marriage and other forms of violence against children. Overall, the programme aim is to catalyse a global movement to change attitudes, raise awareness and drive courageous and effective action to end violence against children. It includes activities to strengthen prevention and response measures, increase the available long-term funding for ending violence against children, and strengthen community accountability.

Programme scope

The five-year programme (2016-2020) is conceptualized as a campaign that will target 1 million children, 5 to 18 years of age, both in and out of school, in Amhara;



Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Region; Oromiya; Benshangule Gumuz; Tigray; and Addis Abeba. By April 2017, 20,000 children had been reached.

Madagascar

In Madagascar, 41 per cent of girls are married by age 18, and 12 per cent by age 15.⁶⁴ Six per cent of adolescent girls are already divorced, widowed or separated.⁶⁵ There are significant regional variations in child marriage rates: Almost two thirds of girls in some of the poorer regions of Madagascar are married before age 18, significantly higher than the national average.⁶⁶ The southern region of Toliara shows the highest prevalence of child marriage, with 69 per cent of women aged 20 to 24 years old married before age 18, followed by Mahajanga in the north-west at 59 per cent, Antsiranana in the north at 58 per cent, and Fianarantsoa in the east at 41 per cent.⁶⁷

Drivers of child marriage

Education, poverty and child marriage are interconnected in Madagascar, with approximately 91 per cent of the population living below the poverty line. Girls who marry young are mostly poor, uneducated and come from rural areas. Nearly 70 per cent of girls with no education marry early, compared with 28 per cent of those with secondary education.⁶⁸

Regular drought, the El Niño phenomenon and infertile soil in the south as well as frequent cyclones add to the problems. The *El Niño/Drought Situation Report*⁶⁹ noted a dramatic increase in negative coping mechanisms in crisis-affected areas. This includes economic exploitation, such as children working in mines, leading cattle, working as domestic help or transporting water, sexual exploitation, prostitution and child marriage. Deteriorating family relations were linked to the loss of livelihoods, increased violence within the family and a feeling of marginalization among affected communities.

Malagasy traditional practices vary according to the ethnic community and the region, but are found in all ethnic communities. There are a large number of forbidden behaviours and actions, which if contravened denote disrespect for the ancestors. The continuation of the family line is very important, and procreation is regarded as the purpose of marriage.⁷⁰

As a girl reaches puberty, she is perceived to be ready for marriage and pregnancy. Traditionally, pregnancy out of wedlock is not accepted. In some instances, the girl herself may want to marry in order to respect tradition.⁷¹ That said, child marriage or living together as if married does not only occur in the context of traditional practices; it may also be of a girl's or boy's own free will.⁷² These unions take place without parental consent and are not arranged as part of traditional rites. In the south, there are also sexual initiation rites where parents allow girls as young as 12 to have a boy/man staying overnight.⁷³ When the girl becomes pregnant, the boy/man and the girl are married. In these communities, it is important that girls are able to demonstrate their fertility, which is a precondition for marriage.⁷⁴ In cases of rape, informal financial settlements are common, after which the girl will be given to the perpetrator to marry.⁷⁵

Government commitment and policy environment

In 2007, the government changed the minimum age of marriage to 18 for both girls and boys in the Marriage and Matrimonial Act. However, customary marriages are common and not subjected to any age limitation. Customary marriages are rarely reported to the Civil Registrar and, due to lack of legal awareness and the prevailing culture of impunity, abuses are rarely reported. Other policies with relevance for preventing child marriage include the Youth National Policy and the National Gender-Based Violence Strategy.

⁶⁴ UNICEF global databases, 2016, based on ENSOMD 2012-2013.

⁶⁵ UNICEF, 2015.

⁶⁶ DHS 2003/MICS 2006, UNFPA Annex 1: Profiles of 10 countries with the highest rates of child marriage https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/ChildMarriage_8_annex1_indicator-definition.pdf (accessed 1 September 2017).

⁶⁷ Andrianasolo, Nadeche, October 2013, 'The Girl Child Marriage Practice in Madagascar: A critical analysis', http://repository.up.ac.za/bitstream/handle/2263/43646/Andrianasolo_Girl_2013.pdf?sequence=1 (accessed 29 April 2017).

⁶⁸ Girls Not Brides website, www.girlsnottbrides.org/child-marriage/madagascar/ (accessed 28 July 2017).

⁶⁹ United Nations Children's Fund, June 2016, *El Niño/Drought Situation Report*.

⁷⁰ Andrianasolo, 2013.

⁷¹ Stakeholder interview.

⁷² Reported as a result of the National Strategy to Fight against Child Marriage preparation process, for which data were collected in six regions.

⁷³ Stakeholder interview.

⁷⁴ Stakeholder interview.

⁷⁵ Stakeholder interview.

In June 2015, the Government of Madagascar launched the AU Campaign to End Child Marriage in Africa and, in 2016, the Ministry of Population, Social Protection and Promotion of Women was tasked with the drafting of a national strategy to prevent child marriage. The development of the National Strategy to Fight Against Child Marriage, which UNICEF and UNFPA support, includes the review of existing data and the gathering of new information from stakeholders at regional and local levels. The strategy addresses 22 regions of which six have particularly high prevalence.

Coordination

Coordination meetings are organized with the National Steering Committee for the National Strategy to Fight against Child Marriage. The meetings are chaired by the Ministry of Population, Social Protection and Promotion of Women and attended by ministries with responsibilities for preventing and addressing child marriage, UN agencies and NGOs. Since 2001, child protection networks have been established at the local level, comprising medical professionals, counsellors and other relevant stakeholders. These networks have the ability to address child marriage at the community level.

Programmes and partners

UNFPA

Title of programme

Adolescent and Youth Programme.

Objective

Increase availability of and access to youth-friendly information and services, including life skills and sexual education.

Description

The programme seeks to increase access to health service delivery and strengthen the capacity to provide comprehensive sexual and reproductive health programmes to young people.

Programme scope

The programme began in 2015 and will end in 2019. It targets adolescents and youth aged 10 to 24 in three regions.

Partners

Ministry of Youth and Sports.

Funding

UNFPA.

UNFPA

Title of programme

Gender-Based Violence Programme.

Objective

Increase national capacity to prevent and respond to gender-based violence and harmful practices, including in humanitarian settings.

Description

The programme works to ensure that referred gender-based violence survivors receive psychosocial and/or medical care. It will also work towards a legal response mechanism, such as a specific law against gender-based violence.

Programme scope

The programme targets girls, women, boys and men, 10 to 49 years old, in five regions over five years. The programme began in 2015 and will end in 2019.

Partners

Ministry of Population, Social Protection and Women Advancement.

Funding

UNFPA.

UNICEF

Title of programme

Fight Against Child Marriage.

Objective

To ensure that the National Strategy to Fight against Child Marriage is finalized and implemented.

Description

The Fight Against Child Marriage programme is implemented in collaboration with the Government of Madagascar. It has five sub-components: strengthening the child protection system, protecting children against violence, protecting children against exploitation, fighting against child marriage, and protecting children during emergencies. The focus is on developing services, building stakeholder capacity, promoting child participation, empowering communities and reinforcing coordination through child protection networks.

The Child Protection Programme supports the improvement of services to safeguard girls/children from violence, including sexual violence. Services include drop-in centres with integrated medical, psychosocial and police services and provision of

material support or incentives to families, especially in the Antananarivo City area. The Let Us Learn education project is implemented in collaboration with the education sector and specifically targets retention of adolescent girls in school.

Programme scope

The five-year (2015-2019) programme works with children and adults in five target regions. The primary beneficiaries at the national level are government officials and civil servants, teenagers, children, communities, youth and social mobilizers.

Partners

Ministries of population, social protection and promotion of women, youth, justice, and education; NGOs.

Funding

Government and UNICEF.

Malawi

In Malawi, 46 per cent of women are married by the age of 18, and 9 per cent are married by age 15.⁷⁶ Child marriage is common across all three regions of Malawi, although rates are highest among the poorest, least educated girls living in rural, remote areas of southern Malawi.⁷⁷

Drivers of child marriage

Although there is no conclusive study on the underlying causes of child marriage, poverty is cited as one of the main contributors. Malawi's traditions and patriarchal culture encourage early sexual initiation, which is often followed by a marriage celebration.⁷⁸ Social norms dictate that when girls reach puberty, they should get married,⁷⁹ and society generally renounces pregnancy outside of matrimony.⁸⁰ Marrying off daughters can be a way for poor families to receive a dowry, and girls themselves may see marriage as a way out of poverty or violent family situations. In the northern part of the country, a form of debt repayment called *kupimbira* is practised in which a girl is given in marriage to a creditor for failure to repay a debt.⁸¹

Another factor is the practice of transactional sex: Girls engage in sex to get money or food, sometimes coerced by her family. The defilement or rape of girls is yet another cause of child marriage, particularly when the rape results in pregnancy.⁸² The Ministry of Education provides for sexuality education and life skills in schools, but schools are not allowed to distribute contraceptives, such as condoms. Girls are often withdrawn from school when families face financial constraints.⁸³

Government commitment and policy environment

In February 2017, the Malawi Parliament voted to amend the Constitution to make marriage before the age of 18 illegal, removing an earlier provision that allowed children to marry at 15 with parental consent. The amendment aligns the Constitution with the 2015 Marriage, Divorce and Family Relations Act enacted by the Parliament. Other relevant legislation includes the Gender Equality Act (2013) and the Education Bill, which states that education is universal and compulsory for all and that girls who become pregnant while in school or who drop out due to marriage have the right to continue their education.

Malawi launched their national child marriage campaign in November 2014.

Coordination

The national task force to end child marriage is chaired by the Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare and includes civil society organizations, government and UN agencies. The meetings are held quarterly.

Programmes and partners

UNFPA

Title of programme

Safeguard Young People (SYP).

Objective

To contribute to improved sexual and reproductive health status of young people aged 10 to 24 years with special focus on HIV prevention.

⁷⁶ UNICEF global databases, 2016, based on MICS 2013-2014.

⁷⁷ Stakeholder interview.

⁷⁸ Stakeholder interview.

⁷⁹ Stakeholder interview.

⁸⁰ Stakeholder interview.

⁸¹ Stakeholder interview.

⁸² Stakeholder interview.

⁸³ Stakeholder interview.

Description

The programme provides safe spaces and comprehensive sexuality education for girls (both in and out of school) by establishing and strengthening out-of-school clubs. Teachers are trained and supported to provide life skills through online and face-to-face comprehensive sexuality education. Girls are taught menstrual hygiene management and how to sew sanitary pads, which is a practical aspect of supporting girls to remain in secondary education.

Programme scope

The six-year (2014-2019) programme addresses in- and out-of-school youths (10 to 24 years old) in Dedza, Mangochi, Chiradzulu, Nkhatabay, Mchinji and Chikwawa.

Partners

District Health Offices, Ministry of Health, Malawi Girl Guides Association, Youth Net and Counselling (YONECO).

Funding

UNFPA and the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation.

UNFPA

Title of programme

Gender Equality and Women/Girl Empowerment.

Objectives

To further the government's commitment to reduce gender inequalities in access to resources and development opportunities, in support of the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy and accelerated attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.

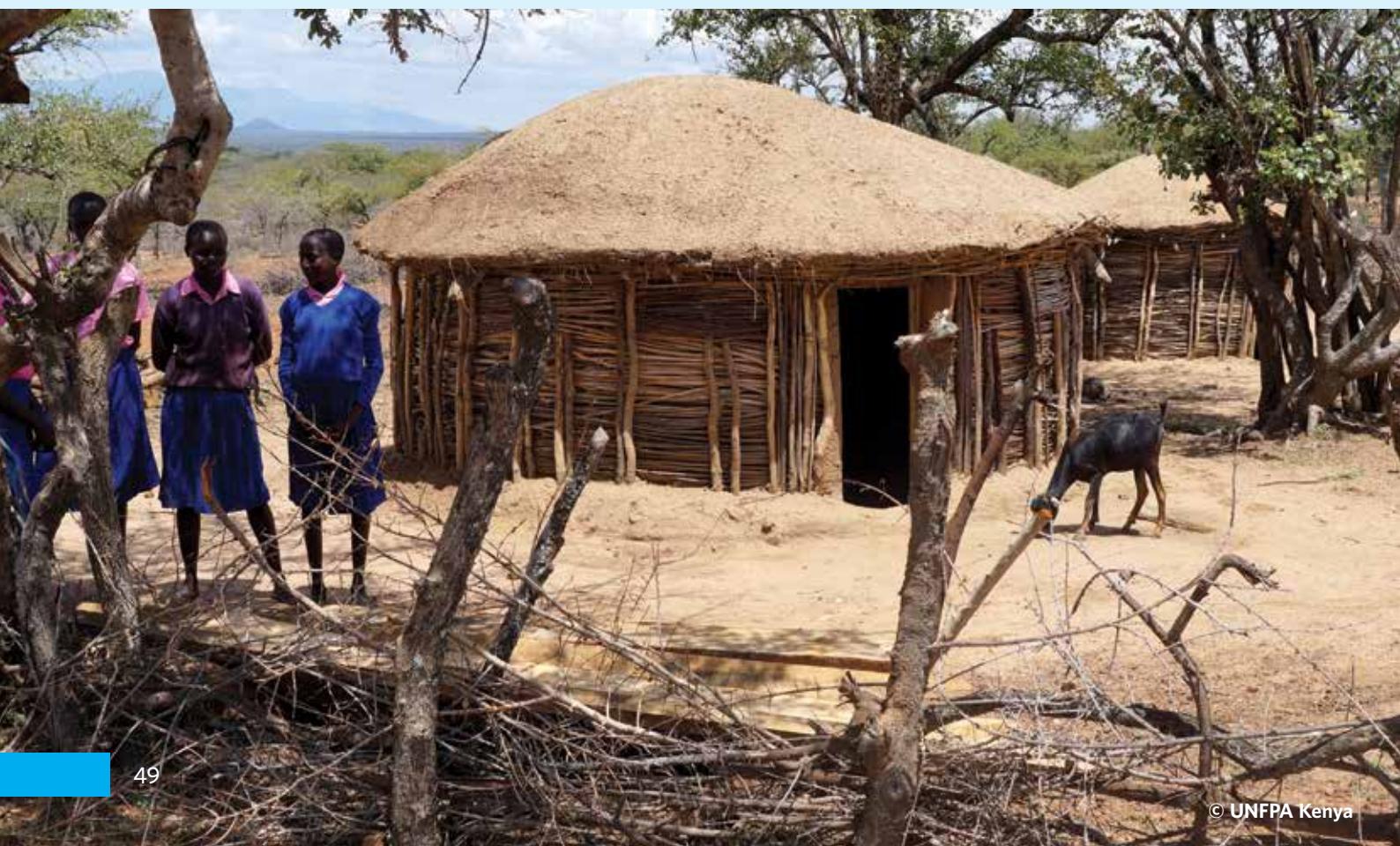
Description

The programme worked with in- and out-of-school girls and boys aged 10 to 20+ years, engaging community support structures to enhance girls' education, including mothers' groups, boys' and girls' clubs, community action groups, local leaders, parents, civil society organizations and government departments.

Programme scope

The programme was implemented between 2012 and 2016 in 13 (out of 28) districts in three regions: Chitipa, Karonga, Nkhatabay and Mzimba in the Northern Region; Dowa, Mchinji, Salima and Dedza in the Central Region; and Mangochi, Machinga, Chiradzulu, Chikwawa and Nsanje in the Southern Region.

The programme directly reached 21,748 women, 11,840 men and 5,964 girls through structured groups and individually targeted interventions. The programme indirectly reached a total of 268,659 people (123,253 male and 145,406 female) through general interventions such as community awareness campaigns,



counselling, mobile health clinics and provision of basic infrastructure, such as girls' toilets and school blocks.

Up-scaling opportunities

Activities have been embedded in the UN Joint Girls' Education Programme, which is an ongoing programme as well as part of core UNFPA activities.

Partners

Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare.

Funding

European Union, UNFPA.

ActionAid Malawi

Title of programme

Promoting Girls' Education and Ending Child Marriages Campaign.

Objective

To get more girls to enrol and stay in school.

Description

The programme is promoting girls' education to ensure that girls stay in school, complete a full cycle of primary education and transition to secondary and tertiary education. Interventions include working with various stakeholders, including chiefs and ward councillors, to ensure that girls don't drop out due to early marriage. Girls' empowerment is provided through girls' clubs and conferences and by placing female teachers into rural schools to serve as role models for girls. Exposure to different role models and types of careers is emphasized.

Programme scope

The five-year (2012-2017) programme work with girls and boys (aged 10 to 20+) both in and out of school. It engages teachers, school governance structures, local leaders, parents and local government in 12 districts in the three regions: peri-urban areas of Lilongwe, Ntchisi, Dedza, Mchinji, Mzimba, Rumphi, Chitipa, Nsanje, Neno, Chiradzulu, Machinga and Phalombe. The total target population is 200,000 children, of which half are girls.

By March 2017, the programme had reached approximately 275,000 children, of which 180,000 are girls.

Up-scaling opportunities

The programme will be up scaled to other Traditional Authority areas in the programme districts.

Partners

Community-based organizations in each of the districts, Activista (Youth) Network, Civil Society Education Coalition, Teachers' Union of Malawi, Girls Not Brides Malawi and Ujamaa Pamodzi, UN Women, UNFPA, UNICEF and the ministries of gender and education.

Funding

Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), UNICEF.

Centre for Social Concern and Development - CESOCODE

Title of programme

Empowering Girls to Lead Change on Ending Child Marriage in Malawi.

Objective

To empower girls to be the advocates for ending child marriage through awareness-campaign meetings, life-skills training, peer education and community dialogues.

Description

The programme empowers girls by providing life skills, peer education and advocacy skills. By including girls themselves in the fight against child marriage, they grow more confident and bring positive change to the community. The programme uses Facebook, What's-app and phone SMS messages to communicate.

Programme scope

The two-year programme (2016-2017) works with out-of-school girls aged 15 to 19 in rural areas of Blantyre and Neno districts. The total target population is 2,000 girls.

By March 2017, the programme had reached 1,255 girls. As a result of the programme, 75 per cent of girls in intervention areas have increased their knowledge of strategies to end child marriage and know where to report cases of child marriage. Five girls had averted marriage and returned to school.

Partners

District Youth Office, Girls Not Brides Malawi, Girls Empowerment Network, the Police, District Social Welfare, religious and village leaders.

Funding

Gloria Nolan Fund - USA.

Girls Empowerment Network – Genet

Title of programme

More than Brides, 18+ and ENGAGE.

Objective

Empower girls to make healthy decisions about their lives.

Description

The programmes work to ensure that young people are better informed about sexual and reproductive health and rights, including adverse effects of child marriage, and are empowered to voice their needs and rights.

Programme scope

The programmes will be implemented for four to six years (More than Brides, 2016-2021; 18+, 2016-2019; and ENGAGE, 2016-2020) and are directed to both unmarried and married girls, 10 to 19 years old. The total target population is 20,000. By March 2017, the programme had reached approximately 5,000 girls in Nkhata Bay, Mulanje, Phalombe and Thyolo areas.

Funding

Simavi-Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Plan International and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Plan International Malawi

Title of programme

18+, Programme on Ending Child Marriages.

Objectives

To empower all girls at risk of child marriage within the target areas to decide if, when and whom they will marry by the year 2019 and to eradicate the gender norms and practices that drive child marriage in these areas by 2019.

Description

The project promotes girls' access to sexual and reproductive health services and education and increases the capacity of duty bearers to develop and enforce laws and bylaws that support an end to child marriage.

Programme scope

The five-year programme (2016-2020) addresses both unmarried and married girls in and out of school. It directly targets 1.2 million girls across the country, with an indirect impact on 6.2 million girls. It is currently implemented in five districts.

Partners

Women in Law in Southern Africa (WLSA), Girls Empowerment Network (GENET), Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation (CHRR), Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWEMA), Action Aid, African Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF).

Funding

NORAD, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Ujamaa Pamodzi Africa

Title of programme

The Girls Empowerment and Self-Defence (GESD) (IMpower) Training Programme.

Objectives

To research and evaluate the impact of the IMpower programme on the rate of school drop-out due to early marriage and teenage pregnancy; and to teach the IMpower programme to all girls in school where the programme is operating.

Description

Ujamaa-Pamodzi, a Malawi-based NGO, teaches a standardized six-week programme on the IMpower violence prevention system, designed by a panel of international experts. The curriculum for girls and young women includes 12 hours of interactive empowerment instruction, which reaches well beyond the boundaries of the existing school-based life-skills classes. The IMpower programme empowers girls to master a wide range of abuse avoidance techniques; all participants gain a minimum of six hours of hands-on practice of key skills over the course of the six-week programme. The skills include setting boundaries and diffusion tactics, verbal assertiveness and negotiation, and physical self-defence skills. Girls exit the programme fully prepared to verbally express themselves, to say 'no' to early marriage, early pregnancy and non-consensual sex, and to physically fight off larger male attackers in single and multiple-assailant scenarios. The programme is encouraging boys to help end violence against girls in school and is teaching boys empathy, consent, gender equity and intervention skills.

Programme scope

The programme was implemented from January 2015 to March 2017 and worked with in-school girls and some boys, 10 to 19 years old, in the seven districts of Malawi. It also worked with teachers and mothers' groups in schools. By March 2017, approximately 25,000 students had participated: 16,000 girls and 9,000 boys. The programme was being implemented

in seven districts: Salima, Mangochi, Dedza, Lilongwe, Mzimba, Machinga and Nkhatabay.

Research conducted in partnership with Johns Hopkins University has showed a reduction in the incidence of sexual assault by 39.5 per cent in programme areas.

Up-scaling opportunities

The programme covers seven districts in Malawi, but only reaches a few schools. It is currently working with girls in school, but could be expanded to reach out-of-school girls, since they face the same challenges and very few organizations are reaching them. To be even more successful, the programme would target the community around the schools where it is operating.

Partners

Community-based organizations and relevant government officials working in the communities, UNICEF, ActionAid Malawi.

Funding

UNICEF.

Mozambique

In Mozambique, 48 per cent of women are married before the age of 18, and 14 per cent are married before age 15.⁸⁴ Child marriage is more prevalent in rural than in urban areas, and is more heavily concentrated in northern and central regions. The highest rates are found in Nampula, followed by Niassa and Cabo Delgado, Manica, Tete and Sofala.⁸⁵

Drivers of child marriage

Child marriage is recognized as one of Mozambique's most serious but largely ignored development challenges. The vast majority of child marriages are de facto unions, not legally registered marriages. They are formalized through payment of a bride price (*lobolo*) – a customary practice – to a girl's family.⁸⁶ About a fifth of married girls aged 15 to 19 have husbands who are 10 or more years older than they are.⁸⁷ Young girls are also married off as

second or third spouses; about 9 per cent of married girls aged 15 to 19 in Mozambique have co-wives.⁸⁸

Regional variations in child marriage rates suggest that specific socio-cultural phenomenon affect child marriage prevalence. Norms about the age when marriage is appropriate or desired are often determined by *madrinhas* and *matronas*, who conduct initiation rites for young adolescent girls.⁸⁹ This is most common in ethnic groups in northern and central regions, which also have the highest incidence of child marriage. A large proportion of child brides are living below or very close to the poverty line, and it is only in the richest quintile that a lesser incidence rate is detected.⁹⁰ While 94 per cent of girls in Mozambique enrol in primary school, more than half drop out by the fifth grade, and only 11 per cent continue on to study at the secondary level. Just 1 per cent continue on to college.⁹¹ According to key stakeholders, the deteriorating economic situation due to flooding and other natural disasters is seen as a risk factor that may increase child marriage rates.⁹²

Government commitment and policy environment

The Family Law stipulates the minimum age for marriage to be 18 years, although exceptions are permitted: The law allows marriage at age 16 with parental consent. The Civil Code regulates marriage in general, but is not seen as effective for regulating minimum age in customary marriages. A comprehensive Domestic Violence Statute protects women and children against domestic violence in the family and wider community.

The Government of Mozambique is committed to eliminating child marriage; it launched the National Strategy on Eliminating Child Marriage and a costed National Action Plan in December 2015. The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action is responsible for its implementation. The strategy and action plan involves five line ministries and national institutions, civil society, academic institutions and United Nations agencies. However, key stakeholders report that the government investment in preventing and mitigating

⁸⁴ UNICEF global databases, 2016, based on DHS 2011.

⁸⁵ United Nations Children's Fund, 2011, *Child Poverty and Disparities in Mozambique* 2010, UNICEF Mozambique, Maputo www.unicef.org.mz/cpd/documents/CPD-Summary.pdf (accessed 1 September 2017).

⁸⁶ United Nations Children's Fund, 2015, *Child Marriage and Adolescent Pregnancy in Mozambique: Policy brief*, UNICEF Mozambique, Maputo, www.unicef.org.mz/en/child-marriage-and-adolescent-pregnancy-in-mozambique-policy-brief/ (accessed 1 September 2017).

⁸⁷ MICS 2008.

⁸⁸ DHS 2011.

⁸⁹ UNICEF, 2015, *Child Marriage and Adolescent Pregnancy in Mozambique*.

⁹⁰ Male and Wodon, 2016, 'Basic Profile of Child Marriage in Mozambique', Health, Nutrition, and Population Knowledge Brief: Child marriage series, World Bank Group, Washington, D.C., online, accessed July 2017.

⁹¹ United States Agency for International Development website, 'Education: Mozambique', <https://www.usaid.gov/mozambique/education> (accessed July 2017).

⁹² Stakeholder interview.

child marriage is inadequate in comparison to the magnitude of the problem.

Mozambique launched a national child marriage campaign in June 2014.

Coordination

The National Strategy to Prevent and Eliminate Child Marriage in Mozambique is implemented under the leadership of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action.

The National Coalition to End Child Marriage in Mozambique (CECAP) was founded in 2013. The coalition is composed of 38 member organizations, 31 local NGOs and 7 international NGOs, together with UNFPA, UNICEF, DFID and the European Commission. At the provincial level, the coalition is represented in 66 provinces (northern and central Mozambique). The monthly meetings and activities are coordinated by the Civil Society Forum for Child Rights, which serves as the CECAP Secretariat.

Programmes and partners

UNFPA, UNESCO, UN Women, UNDP and UNICEF

Title of programme

Action for Girls and Young Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health in Mozambique (Rapariga Biz).

Objective

The help girls and young women in two provinces realize their sexual and reproductive health and rights by improving their capacity make informed choices and their access to related services.

Description

Rapariga Biz is the first 'One UN' programme for adolescent girls in the country, bringing together UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women and UNESCO. The programme strategy is based on the safe space model (safe space, mentorship and a girls' network). It aims to provide the most vulnerable girls and young women with opportunities for social participation, leadership, citizenship, life skills, literacy, economic empowerment and information on sexual and reproductive health and rights. Community-based adolescent sexual and reproductive health service delivery and economic empowerment activities further enhance the availability and quality of services and information at the community level, including capacity development for such services when targeted to adolescents. Activities also involve families, communities, community and

religious leaders, boys and men. Moreover, the programme focuses on sexual and reproductive health and rights at the policy level, through activities that include capacity development; policy advocacy; data and research; and coordination, management, monitoring and evaluation. The programme is underpinned by a Real-Time Monitoring System and results framework linked to government targets for the global Sustainable Development Goals. The monitoring system includes mobile data collection using smart phones and tablets.

Programme scope

The programme targets one million adolescent girls and young women aged 10 to 24 in 20 districts in Zambezia and Nampula provinces, accounting for approximately 45 per cent of the total population. The programme began in May 2016 and will end in April 2020.

Partners

UNFPA (lead), UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, and UN Women. Implementing partners: Government of Mozambique; ministries of youth and sports, education and human development, health, gender, child and social affairs, and justice; and civil society organizations.

Funding

Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

Civil Society Forum for Child Rights – ROSC

Title of programme

Child Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy in Mozambique: A Community Intervention Approach.

Objective

To ensure that: adolescent girls at risk of, and affected by, child marriage are better able to express and exercise their choices; households demonstrate positive attitudes and behaviours towards investing in and supporting adolescent girls; relevant human services systems deliver quality and cost-effective services to meet the needs of adolescent girls; national laws, policy frameworks and mechanisms to protect and promote adolescent girls' rights are in line with international standards and are properly resourced.

Description

The programme supports adolescent girls in intervention areas to access and remain in primary and lower-secondary school or non-formal education. It further supports non-formal, primary and secondary

schools to implement interventions to improve the quality of education for adolescent girls. Through community dialogues it promotes gender equitable norms, including the delay of child marriage. The programme works with service delivery points in implementation areas to ensure that the guidelines for adolescent girl-friendly health and protection services are operational.

Programme scope

The programme started in 2015 and will run for three years. It targets girls aged 10 to 19 years old at risk of and affected by child marriage in seven provinces: Maputo, Sofala, Manica, Zambezia, Nampula, Cabo Delgado and Niassa. The total target population is 1,750 girls, 250 in each province. By March 2017, the programme had reached approximately 1,000 girls in Maputo, Sofala and Manica.

Partners

Forty-three members of CECAP, members of national and international NGOs, UNFPA and UNICEF.

Funding

Terre des Hommes Germany.

Girl Move Foundation

Title of programme

Projecto Mwarusi. Acredita em ti!

Objective

To decrease levels of child marriage and early pregnancy through better secondary-school access for girls, increased use of non-formal education, improved health and hygiene behaviours and knowledge.

Description

The project is an innovative pilot supporting young girls (*or marusis*, which means 'girl' or 'maiden' in the local dialect) in 6th and 7th grade. The project is led by mentors recruited from the 'Girl Move Academy' (university graduates). The mentors act as role models and demonstrate to the girls that they can dream bigger and aim higher for their education and professional life. The training and education provided by the mentors is conducted in safe spaces offered by the community. It focuses on school support and life skills, which include financial literacy training. The duration of the intervention with the girls is currently one year, with an extra 6 months (two sessions a month focused on the establishment of personal savings and income-generating activities). The project is measuring impact through the number of girls that transition from primary to secondary school and rates related to school dropout, project attendance, pregnancy, child marriage

and course completion, which include obtaining an identity card, developing a safety plan, a life plan and a savings plan.

Programme scope

The project started in March 2014; no end date has been set. It targets unmarried, in-school girls, aged 12 to 15, in grades 6 and 7 in Marrere and Napipine in Nampula and in Beira City. By July 2017, approximately 1,200 girls had benefited directly from the programme. So far, transition rates from primary to secondary school have dropped from 83 per cent to 35 per cent among project participants, and rates of early pregnancy have fallen from 46 per cent to 13.5 per cent.

Up-scaling opportunities

The aim is for Project Mwarusi to become a nationwide intervention model that can be endorsed by any school. The project will be scaled up to the City of Beira in Sofala province from March 2017 to September 2018.

Partners

CECAP; HELPO (a Portuguese organization); Hospital and Health Clinic of Marrere; Social Business School; Ministry of Education and Human Development; Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action; Catholic Mission of Marrere; São Pedro Parish (Napipine); Population Council; Pressley Ridge Portugal; Católica University, Lisbon and Oporto, Portugal; Católica University de Mozambique; Eduardo Mondlane, University, Maputo; Lúrio University, Nampula; Pedagógica University, Nampula; Politécnica University, Nampula, Zambeze, Beira; Women and Law in Southern Africa Research and Education Trust.

Funding

The project in Nampula is funded by the Girl Move Foundation, which is financed by the Portuguese private sector. The funding for Beira will be provided by the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the DREAMS Innovation Challenge.

Plan International Mozambique

Title of programme

Yes I Do Programme.

Objectives

To ensure that girls in intervention sites are protected from child marriage and are able to decide when and with whom they will marry and have children.

Description

The programme is working with champions of change to bring about behavioural change in matters related to harmful practices that compromise girl's rights. It is also working with the government and other civil society organizations on advocacy for legal reform to ensure better protection against all forms of gender-based violence.

Programme scope

The programme, which commenced in 2016 and will be concluded in 2020, works with girls aged 10 to 14 who are married or at risk of marriage, boys and community members in Nampula province. It addresses community gatekeepers in Nampula province (Mogovolas, Rapale and Nampula City). The secondary beneficiaries are 795,579 girls and 5,130,037 people in the general population in Nampula (estimates provided by the National Institute of Statistics).

Partners

Members of the Yes I Do Alliance: The Civil Society Forum for Child Rights in Mozambique, Population Services International (PSI), Associação Coalizão da Juventude Moçambicana, Maputo (COALISAO), Men for Change Network (HOPEM), CECAP.

Funding

Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Women and Law in Southern Africa - WLSA

Title of programme

Jornadas de Formação Reflexão de Combate aos Casamentos Prematuros.

Objective

To raise awareness of the National Strategy for Preventing and Combating Child Marriages, ensure that organizations plan their interventions in accordance



with the national strategy and that child marriage is recognized as a violation of children's rights.

Description

The programme provided information to grass-roots organizations and addressed child marriage in national and international children's rights legislation. Organizations included youth and women's groups, youth parliamentarians, and religious and traditional leaders. An accompanying training manual allowed participating organizations to replicate the training. The contents covered children's rights, cultural values and practices that undermine rights, including sexual and reproductive rights.

Programme scope

The programme (April 2016-June 2017) was implemented in six provincial capitals: Niassa, Cabo

Delgado, Nampula, Zambézia, Tete and Manica. The programme measured its impact by the number of participants and the number of intervention plans formulated by participating organizations. The direct beneficiaries were 150 participants drawn from civil society organizations working on children's rights. It is estimated that an additional 650 secondary beneficiaries in participating organizations benefited. The training was carried out in four provinces, with more than 100 participants in total; 100 intervention plans were designed in correspondence with the national strategy.

Partners

UNICEF and CECAP.

Funding

UNICEF.



South Sudan

In South Sudan, an estimated 52 per cent of girls are married before age 18 and 9 per cent are married before age 15.⁹³ Polygamy is common, with 41 per cent of unions involving more than one wife.⁹⁴

Drivers of child marriage

According to data⁹⁵ collected prior to the outbreak of conflict in 2013, pastoralists' areas showed the highest rates of child marriage, while girls in urban areas tended to stay in school and marry at an older age (not coincidentally, urban areas have more schools, including secondary schools and beyond). With ongoing conflict, displacement and food shortages, all of South Sudan is considered a high-risk area for child marriage.⁹⁶ Based on information collected from community members during monitoring visits, separated and unaccompanied adolescent girls are at increased risk of child marriage.⁹⁷ Extended family members often identify marriage as the only solution for an adolescent girl who is separated from her primary caregivers.

Community expectations are widespread that girls should be married as they reach puberty, which is connected to the belief that childbearing should start early to maximize the number of children a woman will have over her lifetime. With limited secondary education options, parents may see marriage as the only option for girls. Only 6.2 per cent of girls complete primary school and, of these, 20.4 per cent of females drop out of secondary school due to marriage, pregnancy or lack of food and insecurity.⁹⁸ The concept of girls as 'investments' typically means that girls are consigned to marriage at an age when the family believes they will fetch the highest bride price, which often coincides with menarche. A girl who refuses marriage may face severe sanctions, including beating, ostracization and imprisonment.⁹⁹

Child marriage is also often perceived as the safest option, since the risk of pregnancy outside of marriage is considered more harmful. Early pregnancy as a

result of child marriage is a leading cause of maternal mortality (maternal mortality in South Sudan is 2,054 deaths per 100,000 live births). This means that a 15-year-old girl in South Sudan has a greater chance of dying in childbirth than of finishing school.^{100, 101}

Government commitment and policy environment

The Transitional Constitution of South Sudan (2011) provides women and men with equal rights with respect to entering marriage: "No marriage shall be entered into without the free and full consent of the man and woman intending to marry." The Child Act (2008) accords every child the right to be protected from early marriage and stipulates that "every female child has a right to be protected from sexual abuse, exploitation and gender-based violence including rape, incest, early and forced marriage, female circumcision and FGM." Different ethnic groups have customary laws that may contradict national laws and that often discriminate against women. For example, in the case of rape of an unmarried woman/girl, she may be forced by customary law to marry the perpetrator, with the perpetrator expected to pay a bride price to her family.

The Government of South Sudan is committed to addressing the challenges and accelerating the eradication of child marriage as part of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Coordination

A Child Marriage Task Force has been established under the leadership of the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare with support from UNFPA and UNICEF. The task force is coordinating and co-implementing national efforts to develop a National Action Plan to prevent child marriage, a national road map, campaign and policy to address and end child marriage in South Sudan. The task force meets once a month and is open to all relevant UN agencies, NGOs and civil society organizations.

⁹³ UNICEF global databases, 2016, based on Sudan Household Health Survey 2010.

⁹⁴ CARE, 'Inequality and Injustice: The deteriorating situation for women and girls in South Sudan's war. A progressive gender analysis: 2013 - 2016, <http://insights.careinternational.org.uk/publications/inequality-and-injustice-the-deteriorating-situation-for-women-and-girls-in-south-sudan-s-war> (accessed 1 September 2017).

⁹⁵ Sudan Household Health Survey 2010.

⁹⁶ No prevalence study on child marriage has been conducted since the onset of the conflict in December 2013.

⁹⁷ Stakeholder interview.

⁹⁸ Education Cluster Assessment 2016, 2009/2010 Basic Education Statistics report.

⁹⁹ Stakeholder interview.

¹⁰⁰ Index Mundi, <https://www.indexmundi.com/g/r.aspx?v=2223> (accessed 28 July 2017).

¹⁰¹ Human Rights Watch website, March 2013, 'This Old Man Can Feed Us, You Will Marry Him: Child and forced marriage in South Sudan', www.hrw.org/report/2013/03/07/old-man-can-feed-us-you-will-marry-him/child-and-forced-marriage-south-sudan (accessed 28 July 2017).

The national Gender-Based Violence Sub-Cluster is chaired by UNFPA and co-chaired by the International Medical Corps; UNFPA and UNICEF provide technical and financial support. UNICEF leads the Child Protection Sub-Cluster.

Programmes and partners

UNFPA

Title of programme

Adolescent and Youth-Friendly Sexual and Reproductive Health/HIV Services.

Objective

To make reproductive health information and youth-friendly health services, including age-appropriate and gender-sensitive HIV/AIDS prevention, accessible to adolescents and youth.

Description

The project aims to improve access for young people (10 to 24 years old) to comprehensive sexuality education and youth-friendly reproductive health services and information, including HIV prevention. It does so by equipping health facilities with materials and supplies and training health service providers in syndromic management of sexually transmitted infections. The programme is also engaged in community mobilization activities, including sensitization and community dialogue. Support is provided for community- and school-based activities, including training of physical education teachers on sexual and reproductive health/HIV and comprehensive sexuality education and on human rights and gender equality. These activities aim to strengthen the work initiated by the Y-Peer Network in raising community-awareness and improving referral pathways for youth-friendly services and HIV prevention, teenage pregnancy and child marriage.

Programme scope

Reproductive health information and youth-friendly health services are provided through two health facilities in Juba and Terekeka. The service sites are accessible to approximately 10,000 adolescents and youth. UNFPA is planning to extend this project to Jonglei State by June 2017. The above activities will also be implemented in conflict-affected areas. The project duration is from 2016 to 2021, with a possible extension and geographic expansion starting in 2018.

Partners

Adventist Development and Relief Agency, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Youth, Culture and Sports, Ministry of General Education and Instruction, UNESCO.

Funding

UNFPA.

UNFPA

Title of programme

Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response Targeting Women and Adolescent Girls.

Objective

Ensuring protection of women and girls and life-saving services in response to gender-based violence, including in emergencies.

Description

This is an integrated programme that aims to ensure the safety and dignity of women and girls, including through access to life-saving services related to gender-based violence. The programme seeks to create awareness on gender-based violence prevention, risk mitigation, and available gender-based violence/adolescent sexual and reproductive health services. It establishes safe spaces for mobilization and psychosocial support, case management and referrals to other specialized services. Social and recreation activities aim to increase adolescent girls' participation. The project is being implemented from 2016 to 2021, with a possible extension and geographic expansion starting in 2018.

Partners

Intersos, International Medical Corps.

Funding

Common Humanitarian Fund.

UNICEF

Title of programme

Prevention and Response to Gender-Based Violence.

Objective

To ensure that survivors of gender-based violence have access to quality services.

Description

The programme includes activities that are relevant for child marriage prevention and mitigation, such as a transit centre in Juba, which provides emergency shelter for vulnerable women and children (including girls fleeing child marriage). 'Women and Girls' Friendly Spaces' offer referral services along with psychosocial support, recreation and skills building (literacy, numeracy, sanitary pad-making, knitting, sewing, etc.). The skills-building activities have an income-

generating component but are not a fully-fledged income-generating programme. The child protection programming is implemented through the WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) programme approach, which supports facility improvements at schools and distributes dignity kits, prioritizing girl's enrolment and retention. The programme also supports reproductive health care throughout the country and aims to increase adolescent access to reproductive health services. The Community Care programme component works with communities to transform harmful social norms into more positive and gender-equitable social norms. At the field level, the programme works with local and traditional leaders, including religious leaders.

The programme supported the development of a Social Protection Policy, which was adopted in 2016, and the development of the 2008 Child Act; it will support the eventual updating of the Child Act.

Programme scope

The programme has been implemented since 2007 as part of the UNICEF gender-based violence programme and does not have a specific end date. The annual target for 2017 is to reach 160,000 women, girls, boys and men. It prioritizes women and children, but men and boys are important to include in prevention and behaviour change activities. By March 2017, 31,868 people had been reached in Central Equatoria (Juba and Yei), Western Equatoria (Yambio and Mundri), Jonglei (Bor, Twic East and Pibor) and Upper Nile (Fashoda).

Preliminary results from ongoing research by Johns Hopkins University reveal that parents in intervention areas are increasingly delaying the marriage of their daughters and keeping them in school longer. Results also show that women have growing decision-making power within the home.

Partners

Community Care programme: Voice for Change and Sudd Relief and Development Action (SRDA). General Gender-Based Violence programme: Confident Children out of Conflict, American Refugee Committee and Israel Forum for International Humanitarian Aid (IsraAID).

Funding

United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance and the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA).

Confident Children Out of Conflict – CCC

Title of programme

Case Management and Prevention of Gender-Based Violence for Children Affected by Conflict.

Objective

To ensure girls stay in school.

Description

The programme provides case management and prevention of gender-based violence (including child marriage) for children affected by conflict; it also raises awareness on child marriage in the community and offers shelter for vulnerable children, including survivors.

Programme scope

The 6- to 12-month programme addresses vulnerable girls under 18 years of age in urban Juba. The programme has found that it is able to protect girls that are under threat of marriage.

Funding

UNICEF Common Humanitarian Fund.

Plan International South Sudan

Title of programme

Because I am a Girl (BIAAG).

Objective

To promote girls' rights to education and freedom from rights violations and abuse.

Description

The programme seeks to influence communities, families and governments through advocacy to stop harmful traditional practices that limit girls' abilities to enjoy their right to take part in the community. The programme works with girls and boys, community leaders, parents, the government and other stakeholders to create a supportive environment for girls.

Programme scope

The 10-year (2012-2022) programme is targeting a population of 90,000 in Yei. Approximately 50,000 had been reached by March 2017.

Up-scaling opportunities

Plan International South Sudan is currently working to scale up the programme to other locations.

Partners

The programme is implemented in partnership with the Yei local government.

Funding

Sponsorships and grants.

Tanzania

Thirty-six per cent of girls in Tanzania are married by age 18 and 7 per cent are married by age 15.^{102, 103} The rates for child marriage vary by region, urban or rural residence, religion and socio-economic status in Tanzania's 31 political administrative regions and among its 120 ethnic groups. Dodoma, Lindi, Rukwa and Tabora as well as Mara, Morogoro and Shinyanga have reported high proportions of girls married by age 15.¹⁰⁴ Nationally, 9 per cent of females ages 20 to 24 are separated, divorced or widowed, with Lindi and Dar es Salaam showing the highest rates.¹⁰⁵

Drivers of child marriage

Marriage is perceived to protect a girl against poverty and provide a reprieve for the family.¹⁰⁶ Girls from poor households are twice as likely to marry as children compared to girls from wealthy households.¹⁰⁷ The lack of access to affordable education, particularly secondary education, is also associated with high prevalence rates. In 2015, the Population Council found that married girls were disproportionately illiterate: 58 per cent of females aged 15 to 24 who were married by age 15 were illiterate, compared to 12 per cent of their unmarried peers.¹⁰⁸

Teenage pregnancy is both a driver and a consequence of child marriage: 44 per cent of women are either mothers or pregnant with their first child by age 19; 23 per cent of girls aged 15 to 19 have already begun childbearing.^{109, 110} Poor knowledge of sexuality, contraceptive methods and lack of access to sexual and reproductive health services increases the risk for unintended teen pregnancies.¹¹¹ Society disapproves of pregnancy outside marriage, and parents tend to marry off a daughter to her sexual partner if she is found

to be sexually active.¹¹² Girls are routinely tested for pregnancy in school and pregnant girls are expelled. In a 2013 study, the Centre for Reproductive Rights found that the wide practice of pregnancy testing in schools and banning girls from re-entering school after childbirth lacked support in the country's legislation.¹¹³

Other practices associated with child marriage include FGM/C and initiation ceremonies that vary according to the cultural customs of various ethnic groups.¹¹⁴

Government commitment and policy environment

The sections of the 1971 Marriage Act allowing girls to marry at age 15 with parental consent and at age 14 with court permission were ruled unconstitutional in July 2016 by Tanzania's High Court. The Education Act (1978), which prohibits child marriage while at school, is also being reviewed. Actors working to prevent child marriage find existing laws inadequate and point out that ethnic and regional variations are allowed to override national commitments.¹¹⁵

The Sexual Offences Special Provision Act of 1998 guarantees equality for women and protects women and children from sexual and other violence, including FGM/C. The narrow definition of rape leaves married women and girls largely unprotected from sexual violence by their husbands.¹¹⁶

The costed National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children in Tanzania 2017/2018-2021/2022, launched by the Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children contains targets to reduce teenage pregnancy from 27 to 5 per cent, to reduce FGM/C prevalence from 32 to 11 per cent, and reduce child marriage rates from 47 to 10 per cent.

¹⁰² DHS 2015-2016.

¹⁰³ United Nations Children's Fund, 2016, *The State of the World's Children 2016*, UNICEF, New York.

¹⁰⁴ United Nations Children's Fund, 2010, *Children and Women in Tanzania, Volume 1: Mainland*, UNICEF Tanzania, Dar es Salaam, www.unicef.org/tanzania/SITAN_Mainland_report.pdf (accessed 1 September 2017).

¹⁰⁵ Population Council, Tanzania Commission for AIDS, Zanzibar AIDS Commission, and the United Nations Children's Fund, 2015, *The Adolescent Experience In-depth: Using data to identify and reach the most vulnerable young people, Tanzania 2009-2012*, Population Council, TACAIDS, ZAC and UNICEF Tanzania, Dar es Salaam, www.popcouncil.org/uploads/pdfs/2015PGY_AdolDataGuidesTanzania2009-12.pdf (accessed 1 September 2017).

¹⁰⁶ Stakeholder interview.

¹⁰⁷ DHS 2010.

¹⁰⁸ Population Council et al., 2015.

¹⁰⁹ Human Rights Watch, 2014, 'No Way Out. Child Marriage and Human Rights Abuses in Tanzania', www.hrw.org/report/2014/10/29/no-way-out/child-marriage-and-human-rights-abuses-tanzania (accessed 1 September 2017).

¹¹⁰ United Nations Children's Fund, 2010, *Children and Women in Tanzania*.

¹¹¹ Stakeholder interview.

¹¹² Stakeholder interview.

¹¹³ Center for Reproductive Rights, 2013, *Forced out - Mandatory pregnancy testing and the expulsion of pregnant students in Tanzanian schools*, https://www.reproductiverights.org/sites/crr.civicactions.net/files/documents/crr_Tanzania_Report_Part1.pdf (accessed 15 September 2017).

¹¹⁴ Stakeholder interview.

¹¹⁵ Stakeholder interview.

¹¹⁶ Otoo-Oyortey, N., A. Kwateng-Kluvitse and L. Howard-Merrill, 2016, *Now Girls Know their Rights: Lessons from an intervention on child marriage and female genital mutilation in Mara Region, Tanzania*, Forward, London, <http://forwarduk.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Forward-Tanzania-Report-Compressed.pdf> (accessed 1 September 2017).

Coordination

Key stakeholders identified a need for clarifying mandates among UN organizations, while national NGOs also need support to strengthen coordination, the dissemination of existing policies and implementation of existing plans.

Programmes and partners

Campaign for Female Education Tanzania - Camfed

Title of programme

The Learner Guide Programme.

Objective

To inform vulnerable girls about their rights and choices and decrease pregnancy and marriage rates using the well-being, sexual and reproductive health and life-skills curriculum developed specifically for the Learner Guide programme.

Description

Rural-based young women graduates (who are part of an alumni association called CAMA) are supported to return to their local schools, where they are tasked to provide encouragement to marginalized school girls and deliver a tailored life-skills and well-being programme to complement the academic curriculum. The weekly Learner Guide sessions are an opportunity for girls to ask questions or raise concerns with someone they can relate to and trust. In return for their commitment, the young women graduates, called Learner Guides, gain access to interest-free loans to start local businesses and to a mobile technology platform through which they can connect with each other and access new resources. The initiative is enabling young women to transition to a secure adulthood while simultaneously providing a platform from which they can support vulnerable girls at school to navigate the same transition, thereby helping them avoid early marriage and pregnancy.

Programme scope

The programme benefits vulnerable children (particularly girls) and recent graduates from secondary school. It has been operational since 2014 and is being implemented in 137 lower secondary schools covering

11 districts representing some of the most marginalized communities in rural parts of Pwani, Morogoro, Iringa and Tanga regions. The Learner Guide Programme preparations started in 2013; it became operational in 2014. By March 2017, 873 young women had been trained as Learner Guides and 107,282 children have been supported by Learner Guide activities.

The project has been effective in increasing learning outcomes among marginalized girls. It has also demonstrated a rise in academic confidence among students in intervention schools and improved retention.¹¹⁷ The likelihood of a marginalized girl dropping out of school between the baseline and the midline was 38 per cent greater for those in comparison schools than in Camfed partner schools. Research conducted by the REAL centre found that Camfed support improved both retention and learning rates of marginalized girls. On average, marginalized girls who received Camfed support almost tripled their learning scores in contrast to their peers who did not receive support. Academic success provides girls with more opportunities, career options and greater control over whom and when they marry. Camfed alumni have a higher average age of first marriage than the national average.

Up-scaling opportunities

CAMA is a sustainable and effective force for change and members are improving opportunities for the next generation through their dedicated philanthropy. As the CAMA network grows, so too will the number of Learner Guides wishing to support vulnerable children in school, multiplying the returns of their own education to the benefit of their communities. This will lead to a greater mass of marginalized girls benefiting from vital life-skills sessions delivered by local female role models, who will hopefully become inspired to become Learner Guides themselves after school.

Partners

Ministries of education, science and technology, social welfare and health; National Examination Council and Institute of Education; Community Development Committees; parent representatives; teachers; traditional and religious leaders; and young women.

Funding

DFID, The Queen's Trust, Pearson International.

¹¹⁷ The Midline Survey Report (revised May 2016) for the project, 'A New Equilibrium for Girls', funded under DFID's Girls' Education Challenge Step Change Window, provides an evaluation of Camfed's interventions in 991 government secondary schools in 24 districts in Zimbabwe and 11 districts in the United Republic of Tanzania, including the Learner Guide Programme. The University of Cambridge Research for Equitable Access and Learning Centre (2016) analysed data collected over a two-year period for approximately 2,500 girls in rural Tanzania.

"The programme has been implemented since 2007 as part of the UNICEF gender-based violence programme and does not have a specific end date. The annual target for 2017 is to reach 160,000 women, girls, boys and men."

Centre Against Gender-Based Violence

Title of programme

Say No to Early Marriage.

Objective

To reduce the number of early marriages and early pregnancies by at least 40 per cent within three years.

Description

The programme implements participatory drama workshops with girls. The resulting skits are presented to larger audiences in the form of theatre, where the audience learns about the potential consequences of child marriage and early pregnancy.

Programme scope

The one-year programme (until July 2017) aims to reach 2,000 people in three wards (areas), which includes 60 direct participants and a total audience of 1,940 community members.

Partners

Ward executive officers and village leaders.

Funding

Annual contribution by members.

Children's Dignity Forum – CDF

Title of programme

Mobilizing Action to Safeguard the Rights of Girls in Tanzania.

Objective

To respond to multiple forms of gender-based violence against girls and young women, particularly those living in rural areas confronting entrenched social norms and discriminatory laws and policies.

Description

The programme addresses gender-based violence, child marriage and FGM/C. To do so it has established

five in-school and five out-of-school clubs. The clubs meet monthly and members are trained in life skills, leadership and sexual and reproductive health. The programme is using a rights-based approach in which women and girls, boys, men, families, traditional and religious leaders, teachers, the police, lawyers, health workers, the media and civil society organizations are called upon to challenge discriminatory gender norms.

Programme scope

The three-year programme (2016-2018) targets 4,500 girls and young women (aged 9 to 17 years) in and out of school in Tarime district, Mara region. By April 2017, the programme had reached 1,500, about a third of its target.

Partners

Local and national government agencies, local authorities and existing child protection structures, Foundation for Women's Health, Research and Development (FORWARD), Plan International, Right to Play, Chama Cha Uzazi na Malezi Bora Tanzania (UMATI), Wadada Centre.

Funding

Comic Relief.

Forum for African Women Educationalists Tanzania – FAWETZ

Title of programme

Tuseme Empowerment Programme.

Objective

To empower girls to fully participate in decision-making, public speaking and expressing their views, defending their rights and taking up leadership positions in the community.

Description

'Tuseme' (a Swahili word meaning 'Let us speak out') is a gender empowerment programme designed to help both girls and boys identify and talk about gender limitations affecting their academic and social development.

Tuseme uses a participatory methodology and theatre for development techniques to make the community aware of the importance of education, especially for girls. FAWETZ also provides livelihood and vocational skills for girls through separate support from grants.

Programme scope

The programme started in 2007 and is ongoing. The training takes place over three to five days in 17 districts (seven schools in each district). The target population per year is more than 700,600 students.

The Tuseme programme was evaluated in 2015 by the Government of Tanzania and UNICEF. It showed that the number of teenage pregnancies has dropped in intervention areas.

Up-scaling opportunities

Replication of Tuseme to other schools is ongoing. For example, Mtwara Rural District rolled out Tuseme in all 118 primary schools.

Partners

Community and traditional leaders, opinion leaders and like-minded organizations, community development officials and social welfare workers, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Tanzania Education Network /Mtandao wa Elimu Tanzania (TEN/MET) and development partners.

Funding

African Initiative, Children in Crisis Italy (CIC), FAWETZ, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Save the Children, UNESCO, UNICEF.

Plan International - Tanzania

Title of programme

Preventing Child Marriage in Tanzania.

Objective

To change perceptions and attitudes towards child marriage by working directly with girls and with parents, teachers and local authorities such as Ward Development Committees and Village Development Committees and traditional and religious leaders.

Description

Plan International Tanzania is running multiple projects concurrently to address child marriage in different locations in Tanzania. The projects are designed within the framework of Tanzania's national policy documents on child protection and child rights.

One of the projects offers training and awareness-raising activities to sensitize the community about child marriage and related child protection issues, such as gender-based violence and FGM/C. Another of Plan's projects uses soccer as a medium to engage community stakeholders to address issues around child marriage. In this project, Plan International Tanzania is setting up local football leagues and organizing matches to offer a platform for dialogue between participants and a space where information dissemination about child marriage can take place. Girls are reached with information about sexual and reproductive health through similar events. The vocational and entrepreneurship training project is offered directly to several hundred girls to equip them with skills that will increase their chances of gaining self-employment in the future. Community-based training centres are established to reduce barriers of access to vocational training for girls with babies. Girls are supported to establish savings groups. Other community-wide savings groups for parents will also be established to provide alternative sources of income for families. The project will work to identify capacity gaps within local civil society organizations and facilitate capacity-building in selected areas, such as financial and operational management.

Programme scope

The programmes are implemented in Mara, Geita, Ifakara, Rukwa regions and work with both unmarried and married girls, 10-19 years old.

The programme is currently being evaluated.

Partners

The programme works with local partners – Children's Dignity Forum (CDF), New Light Children Center Organization (NELICO), and is a member of the Ending Child Marriage Network (TECMN).

Funding

European Commission, NORAD, German Federal Ministry for Economic Development Cooperation (BMZ).

"The likelihood of a marginalized girl dropping out of school between the baseline and the midline was 38 per cent greater for those in comparison schools than in Camfed partner schools."

Uganda

In Uganda, 40 per cent of girls are married by age 18 and 10 per cent are married by age 15. Arranged marriages for adolescent girls¹¹⁸ without their consent are common, especially in rural areas.^{119,120,121} Kampala tends to have lower rates of child marriage while Karamoja and the north have the highest, followed by the eastern, east central and western areas.¹¹²

Drivers of child marriage

Child marriage in Uganda is driven by a complex set of factors that includes traditional cultural norms and societal expectations of and by the girl child, exacerbated by gender discrimination, low education levels, poverty and lack of capacity to enforce government policies and national laws.¹²³ There is an expectation of bride price, and in the eastern part of Uganda this is often paid in the form of cows. Family destitution may increase the pressure on girls to get married since parents often assume that marriage will benefit them both financially and socially, while also relieving financial burdens on the family. The marriage or betrothal of children in some parts of Uganda is valued as a means of consolidating powerful relations among families, for sealing deals over land or other property, or even for settling disputes.¹²⁴

The higher incidence of early marriage and teenage pregnancy in eastern and northern regions is linked to low levels of secondary school retention for girls, limited access and utilization of family planning methods, and cultural practices.¹²⁵ FGM/C affects about 90 per cent of the girls among the Pokot, Sabiny and other communities spread across six districts in north-eastern Uganda.¹²⁶

Traditionally, puberty is seen as a signifier of readiness for marriage. In fact, there is a taboo in some ethnic groups against the girl staying with her original family after she has started menstruating. Child marriage, adolescent sexuality, and unplanned pregnancies are interlinked, and it has been shown that pre-marital pregnancy precipitates child marriage.¹²⁷ For a girl who gets pregnant, marriage may be the only option.¹²⁸ In a study from eastern Uganda, adolescents attributed teenage pregnancy and subsequent child marriage to a lack of parental care and concern, especially inadequate provision of basic necessities, lack of control over girls' mobility, and inadequate parental guidance and mistreatment of girls at home.¹²⁹

In conflict and humanitarian settings, marrying early may be seen as a survival strategy due to insecurity, displacement, loss of family and trauma as well as difficulties continuing education due to a lack of safety and access to schools. In these settings, informal marriages may be more common because boys are not able to pay any bride price and sanctioned marriages are rare.¹³⁰ Forced marriages as well as the abduction of young girls and women into marriage with the rebels have been reported in northern Uganda.¹³¹ Child marriage is reportedly more prevalent among the internally displaced and those in refugee camps.¹³² As the economy deteriorates in some areas of Uganda, there are fears that this will lead to a rise in this harmful practice.

Government commitment and policy environment

The 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda and the Penal Code (amendment) Act (2007) set the legal age of marriage or engagement in sexual acts at 18 years. The Penal Code Act, section 129, stipulates that any person who performs a sexual act with another person below

¹¹⁸ UNICEF global databases, 2016, based on DHS 2011.

¹¹⁹ International Federation for Human Rights and Foundation for Human Rights Initiative, 2012, 'Women's Rights in Uganda: Gaps between policy and practice', Kampala (unpublished).

¹²⁰ Bantebya, G. K. F. K. Muhangizi and C. Watson, 2014, *Adolescent Girls and Gender Justice: Changes and continuity in social norms and practices around marriage and education in Uganda*, Overseas Development Institute, London.

¹²¹ Bantebya, G. K., F. K. Muhangizi and C. Watson, 2013 *Adolescent Girls and Gender Justice: Understanding key capability domains in Uganda*, Overseas Development Institute, London.

¹²² Government of Uganda and UNICEF Uganda, The National Strategy to End Child Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy 2014/2015-2019/2020: A society free from child marriage and teenage pregnancy, www.unicef.org/uganda/NATIONAL_STRATEGY_ON_CHILD_MARRIAGE-PRINT_READY.pdf. (accessed 1 September 2017).

¹²³ Stakeholder interview.

¹²⁴ Joy for Children, 2013, 'Child, Early and Forced Marriage in Uganda', Kampala (unpublished), www.joyforchildren.org.

¹²⁵ Department of Social Work and Social Administration, School of Social Sciences, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Makerere University, 2017.

¹²⁶ Department of Social Work and Social Administration, Makerere University, 2017.

¹²⁷ Bantebya, Muhangizi and Watson, 2014.

¹²⁸ Ochan W., C. Nalugwa and F. A. Apuuri, 'Too Young for Motherhood: Profile, consequences and drivers of teenage pregnancy In Uganda,' in: The Republic of Uganda and UNFPA Uganda, 2013, *The State of Uganda Population 2013 Report*, pp. 118-130.

¹²⁹ Sekiwunga, R., and S. R. Whyte, December 2009, 'Poor Parenting: Teenagers' views on adolescent pregnancies in eastern Uganda', *African Journal of Reproductive Health*, vol. 13, no. 4, pp. 113-127.

¹³⁰ Schlecht, J. E. Rowley and J. Babirye, 2013, 'Early Relationships and Marriage in Conflict and Post-Conflict Settings: Vulnerability of youth in Uganda', *Reproductive Health Matters*, vol. 21, no. 41, pp. 234-242.

¹³¹ Rubin, D. C., P. Green and A. Mukuria, 2009, 'Addressing Early Marriage in Uganda', Futures Group, Health Policy Initiative, Task Order 1, Washington, D.C.

¹³² Schlecht, Rowley and Babirye, 2013.

the age of 18 commits an offence (defilement) and is liable to life imprisonment. The sentence is death if the offence is committed against a child below 14 years of age; if the child is infected with HIV; if the perpetrator is a parent or guardian, a person in authority or a serial offender; and where the victim is a disabled person (aggravated defilement). Other legal provisions are made in the Children (amendment) Act (2016), the Domestic Violence Act and the Female Genital Mutilation Act.

The national launch of the AU Campaign to End Child Marriage and the National Strategy on Ending Child Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy (2014/2015-2019/2020) were launched in June 2015. The strategy has broad buy-in from within the government structure: It is headed by the First Lady and is implemented by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development and includes the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Justice and the Prime Minister's Office.

The Universal Primary Education and Universal Secondary Education Programme, together with initiatives aimed at increasing the number of girls entering university, have led to a rise in girls' enrolment and completion of school. The Gender in Education Policy by the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Sports pledges government commitment to facilitate re-entry of girls who drop out as a result of teenage pregnancy and early marriage. Further commitment to end child marriage and teenage pregnancies is articulated in the revised National Strategy for Girls' Education in Uganda, the Adolescent Health Policy (currently under review) and the National Adolescent Reproductive Health Policy.

Coordination

The government has disseminated the National Strategy to End Child Marriage through a number of regional and district meetings to raise awareness and to build consensus and support at district levels. The strategy includes a multisectoral monitoring and evaluation framework.

Programmes and partners

Uganda is one of the focus countries for the UNICEF-UNFPA Global Programme for Accelerating Action to End Child Marriage.

UNFPA

Title of programme

Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage and Better Life for Girls.

Objective

To address adolescent girls at risk of and affected by child marriage by strengthening their ability to express themselves and exercise their choices.

Description

The two programmes are complementary and seek to promote socio-economic asset-building for girls in order to prevent child marriage and teenage pregnancy and to improve accessibility and utilization of age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health information and services by adolescent girls. The programmes support a multimedia campaign that engages communities (including religious and cultural leaders) in target districts to invest in girls' education and to address gender and rights issues. They initiated Male Action Groups that meet regularly to talk about ways to prevent adolescent pregnancy. The role of the groups is to act as an alert system and report to the local council cases of child marriage, defilement and gender-based violence. They may also engage communities in discussing issues leading to adolescent pregnancy.

Programme scope

The five-year programme (2015-2019) is working with girls aged 10-19 years, unmarried and married, in and out of school. The programme is expected to reach 412,012 girls living in 17 districts: Karamoja (7), Eastern (7) and Acholi (3). Of the total target population, 210,877 are in primary school and 119,135 are in secondary school. In addition, 54,000 out-of-school girls will benefit from the economic empowerment programme. The programme is also expected to reach 2,261,530 secondary beneficiaries.

By April 2017, 22,459 girls had been enrolled in empowerment and livelihood clubs; of these, 1,010 (4.5 per cent) of the girls have started income-generating activities. A total of 756 (670 primary and 86 secondary) schools receiving support have functional safe spaces. All of the targeted schools have at least one staff member trained in sexual and reproductive health and rights, and all the girls in the schools receiving support who have started menstruating are using hygienic methods and materials to manage it. In addition, 61 per cent of hospitals, 83 per cent of health centres IV and 62 per cent of health centres III in the 14 districts have at least two health personnel trained in providing youth-friendly services. Finally, 131,421 adolescents and young people have received sexual and reproductive health services, 140 Male Action Groups have been formed, and 4,420 parents have been reached with adolescent/youth sexual and reproductive health messages through community dialogues.

Up-scaling opportunities

New donors, such as the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), are showing increased interest in programming for adolescent girls.

Partners

Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Ministry of Education and Sports, Ministry of Health, district local governments, BRAC, Straight Talk Foundation, Girls Not Brides.

Funding

UK Aid, European Union, KOICA.

BRAC Uganda

Title of programme

Empowerment and Livelihoods for Adolescents (ELA).

Objective

To offer adolescent girls the opportunity for a better life through mentorship, life-skills training and microfinance.

Description

The programme seeks to empower and provide girls with opportunities for building assets; it provides safe spaces and life-skills development for girls out of school. The livelihood/vocational skills component includes demand-driven job training and income-generation activities. The programme provides improved access to adolescent-friendly sexual and reproductive health information and services, including modern contraception.

Programme scope

The programme, which started in 2007 (no end date) targets out-of-school girls, 10 to 19 years of age, in 19 districts in northern, eastern, central and northeast (Karamoja) regions of Uganda. By April 2017, 24,371 adolescent girls are/have been enrolled in clubs, 681 safe spaces have been created, approximately 500 girls have been trained in livelihood activities such as rearing poultry and livestock, and 22,780 girls have been trained in life skills.

Childbearing among girls involved in the programme were 22 per cent lower than their non-participant peers. Moreover, knowledge about sexual and reproductive health and condom use increased by 26 per cent among programme participants.¹³³

Joy for children Uganda

Title of programme

Girls Advocacy Alliance.

Objectives

To encourage community adoption of alternative positive cultural norms, values, attitudes and practices that protect girls and young women from gender-based violence and economic exclusion.

Description

The programme works with girls and young women affected by gender-based violence and economic exclusion living in poor rural and urban slum communities.

Programme scope

The programme (2016-2020) targets girls aged 15 to 19 in Lira, Tororo, Kamuli, Buyende, Alebtong, Bukeeda and in Central Uganda. The total target population is one million; by March 2017, the programme had reached approximately 200,000.

Funding

Government of Netherlands, Terres des Hommes, Plan International.

Straight talk foundation

Title of programme

Better Life for Girls.

Objective

To contribute to a school environment for adolescent girls that is responsive to their gender and age-specific needs related to sexual and reproductive health and rights information and services; and to equip health workers to deliver such information and services.

Description

The programme seeks to increase accessibility and use of age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health and rights information and services by adolescent girls in school and health facilities. It does so through the establishment of school empowerment clubs. The programme also supports Male Action Groups in Eastern Uganda and Karamoja districts, which meet on a monthly basis and engage with the community on early child marriage and teenage pregnancy issues. Additionally, representatives of cultural institutions that address early/child marriage in target districts are supported to conduct early child marriage dialogues in their communities.

¹³³ Evaluations of programmes include: 'Women's Empowerment in Action: Evidence from a randomized control trial on ELA model' (2015) by the World Bank, London School of Economics and BRAC; 'The Youth Watch: Problem or promise', (2012) by the MasterCard Foundation and BRAC; 'Girls' Clubs Having "Big and Meaningful" Impacts on Young Women's Empowerment', by the World Bank.

Programme scope

The programme (2016-2020) targets 244,000 in-school girls aged 10 to 19. By March 2017, 52,000 girls had been reached; 756 school board members and head teachers from 670 primary and 86 secondary schools in 14 districts had been trained in sexual and reproductive health information and services and supported to monitor and supervise related programmes in their schools. Forty school-based peer educators had received sexual and reproductive health information and life skills (3 peer educators per school, 7 schools per district for 2 Acholi districts); 756 girls clubs in schools had been supported to make re-usable sanitary pads with local materials to improve menstrual hygiene management; 510 health workers in 153 hospitals, health centres IV and health centres III across 17 districts had received refresher training on sexual and reproductive health; 40 community-based peer educators had been trained on sexual and reproductive health information and life skills; 40 representatives from cultural institutions had been reached through sensitization and in follow-up workshops to address child marriage in the districts; and 70 Male Action Groups in Eastern Uganda and 7 districts in Karamoja had been supported to monitor and report teenage pregnancy and child marriage in their sub-counties. It was noted that advocacy on child marriage has increased at the national level, including on issues related to menstrual hygiene management.

Funding

UNFPA, KOICA.

The REACH programme**Title of programme**

Accelerated FGM/C and Child Marriage Abandonment in Kapchorwa, Kween and Bukwo.

Objective

To carry out social mobilization to facilitate open and public declarations of support for abandonment of FGM/C and child marriage at the community level.

Description

The programme targets children at risk in the districts and works through children's grandmothers who have been trained to drive change at the community level

Programme scope

The eight-year programme (2009-2017) is operating in Karamoja and Sabiny regions; the target population for intervention is more than 500,000.

Funding

The Government of Uganda, UNICEF and UNFPA as part of the Joint Programme to End FGM/C.

White Ribbon Alliance – WRA**Title of programme**

Act Now to End Teenage Pregnancy.

Objectives

To create awareness about the drivers of teenage pregnancy among public and political leaders.

Description

The programme is designed as a campaign advocating for the implementation of a funded, well-coordinated and multisectoral plan to end teenage pregnancy in Uganda that brings together key ministries. It also seeks to empower communities to protect girls' rights to education and social protection and support girls in reaching their full potential.

Programme scope

This campaign (2016-2019) is targeted at the national level and five districts. It addresses policy makers, including the Office of the Prime Minister, parliamentarians and senior officials in key ministries, district administration, youth, community and traditional leaders.

The programme is targeting 1.4 million unmarried and married girls, aged 10 to 19, with a special focus on those aged 15 to 19 at risk of becoming pregnant. By March 2017, the programme had reached approximately 180,000 girls.

Partners

Youth organizations and networks, the National Population Council, Reproductive Health Uganda, UNFPA and UNICEF.

Funding

Gates Foundation through the White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood Global Secretariat for year one.

World Vision Uganda**Title of programme**

End Violence Against Children.

Objectives

To contribute to adolescent girls' active participation in society in targeted areas.

Description

The programme focuses on empowering girls; raising awareness and policy advocacy at district and national levels. Interventions include life skills, health information, economic empowerment and social protection. The intention is to make households increasingly aware of the benefits of investing in adolescent girls and ending child marriage. It seeks to empower communities to engage duty bearers in the prevention of child marriage and other forms of violence against children.

Programme scope

The five-year programme started in 2017 and aims to reach in- and out-of-school girls and boys, 6 to 19 years

of age as well survivors of child marriage over age 19. The total target population is six million children in 40 districts over the course of the programme. By March 2017, approximately 1.2 million children had been reached directly by the programme in more than 10 districts.

Partners

Uganda Parliamentary Forum for Children (UPFC), Uganda Child Rights NGO Network.

Funding

UNICEF, World Vision International Funding and USAID.



Zambia

In Zambia, 31 per cent of girls are married before age 18 and 6 per cent are married before age 15.¹³⁴ Although prevalence is high throughout the country, the Eastern province is reported to have the highest rates, especially Chadiza, Katete and Petauke districts.^{135, 136}

Drivers of child marriage

The practice of child marriage is more common in children from poor families and among those living in rural areas, not attending school and who are pregnant. It is also more common among orphans and stepchildren, among those considered 'difficult' or 'hard to manage', and who are without adequate supervision or support.^{137, 138} Girls' lack of access to education contributes to the likelihood of child marriage: 65 per cent of women aged 20 to 24 with no education were married or in union by the age of 18, compared to 17 per cent of women with a secondary or higher education.¹³⁹

Zambia has a complex situation with different types of child marriages. The majority of child-to-child marriages are not 'forced', and peer marriages are common in some areas.¹⁴⁰ The majority of these marriages do not adhere to traditional processes and the bride price is tokenistic, made as an 'IOU' (a signed document acknowledging a debt), or not paid at all.¹⁴¹ These marriages may not last and divorce is common.¹⁴² The decision to marry is often pragmatic. Children are looking for ways to escape harsh treatment by parents or intolerable living conditions in the family home.¹⁴³ In situations where there are limited life choices, marriage offers the possibility of having a recognized, respected role in society. Additionally, it situates teenage pregnancy within a formalized relationship – making it more acceptable. Another perceived benefit is the reduction in the number of dependents in a household.¹⁴⁴ Families see an additional source of labour as another potential benefit. Peer pressure is yet another possible factor in adolescents' desire to get married. They attach

great significance to friendships, social approval and acceptance among peers and the community at large. Adolescents are also highly influenced by the actions and behaviours of their peers, which include child marriage. Poverty is another factor driving child marriage in the context of the reported commercialization of sex, where girls exchange sex for small gifts and may end up pregnant and forced to marry.

Government commitment and policy environment

The existing legal framework in Zambia is not absolute in terms of defining the minimum age for marriage. The legal system is dualist in nature and, as a result, marriages can take place in accordance with either customary or statutory law.¹⁴⁷ The Marriage Act establishes the legal age for marriage at 21, but also allows younger people to marry subject to written consent from a parent or guardian. For those requiring consent, section 33 stipulates that both parties must be at least 16 years old – otherwise the marriage will be void. However, this provision can be averted by an application to a judge of the High Court, who can consent to a marriage if the particular circumstances of the case are not contrary to the public interest. The National Gender Policy defines 'child marriage' as marriage of children younger than 18 years. The Education Act (part IV, section 18) provides for offences against any person who marries a student, or takes a child out of school to be married.

Zambia launched its national campaign to end child marriage in April 2013. A National Strategy on Ending Child Marriage in Zambia for 2016-2021 was approved in April 2016. A costed National Action Plan was signed in 2017.

Coordination

The Ministry of Gender is responsible for the coordination of 11 ministries, which are tasked with working on preventing and mitigating child marriage.¹⁴⁸

¹³⁴ UNICEF global databases, based on DHS 2012-2014.

¹³⁵ Plan International Zambia, 2016, <https://plan-international.org/zambia/girls-act-against-child-marriage> (accessed 1 September 2017).

¹³⁶ Zambia Daily Mail, 1 February 2017, Plan International launches "Yes I do" project to end child marriages' <https://www.daily-mail.co.zm/plan-international-launches-yes-i-do-project-to-end-child-marriages/> (accessed 1 September 2017).

¹³⁷ Mann, Gillian, Padraig Quigley and Rosal Fischer, April 2015, 'Qualitative Study of Child Marriage in Six Districts of Zambia', produced by Child Frontiers for UNICEF Zambia, www.unicef.org/zambia/Qualitative_study_of_child_marriage_in_six_districts_of_Zambia.pdf (accessed 1 September 2017).

¹³⁸ Zambia Ministry of Gender, 2016, Zambia National Strategy on Ending Child Marriage in Zambia 2016-2021.

¹³⁹ UNFPA Zambia, Child Marriage Country Profile, 2012.

¹⁴⁰ Mann et al., 2015.

¹⁴¹ Mann et al., 2015.

¹⁴² Mann et al., 2015.

¹⁴³ Stakeholder interview.

¹⁴⁴ Stakeholder interview.

¹⁴⁵ Mann et al., 2015.

¹⁴⁶ Zambia Civil Society Scaling Up Nutrition Alliance, 2016, 'Multi-level Barriers to HIV Prevention and Adequate Nutrition among Adolescent Girls', Lusaka.

¹⁴⁷ Munshiya, Elias, 18 March 2017, 'Statutory Recognition of Customary Marriages In Zambia: Reforming colonial marriage laws', Blog, www.eliasmunshiya.org (accessed 1 September 2017).

¹⁴⁸ The coordinating mechanism includes the Ministry of Chiefs and Traditional Affairs, the Ministry of Labour and Social Services, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Sports, Youth and Child Development, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services, the Ministry of General Education, the Ministry of Higher Education, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Local Government and Housing.

Other coordinating mechanisms include the NGO Network on Ending Child Marriages. Women and Law in Southern Africa chairs the network and Plan International Zambia provides the secretariat.

Programmes and partners

UNFPA

Title of programme

Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage.

Objective

To reduce child marriage by 20 per cent by 2017 in target districts.

Description

The programme is based on the safe space model¹⁴⁹ and includes activities to support girls in enrolling in and remaining in primary, secondary and non-formal education. The safe space curriculum encompasses empowerment and asset-building for girls, life skills, comprehensive sexuality education, economic empowerment, entrepreneurship for income-generation and savings activities.

Programme scope

The four-year programme (2015-2019) targets 17,257 girls aged 10 to 19 in three districts, 190 traditional leaders, 5,540 men, 5,540 women and 4,485 boys. By May 2017, 6,555 girls and 743 boys (a total of 7,298 young people) had been reached with information.

Partners

YWCA, Ministry of Chiefs and Traditional Affairs.

Funding

UK Aid and the European Union.

UNICEF

Title of programme

Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage.

Objective

To support the government in developing a model to address drivers of child marriage in two districts.

Description

At the national level, UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Gender to develop a national communications and advocacy strategy. UNICEF is also supporting the Civil Society Network on Ending Child Marriage to create a social movement to address the drivers of child marriage. The programme builds on ongoing decentralization processes and supports line ministries and other stakeholders to coordinate and jointly plan – through district multisectoral work plans – interventions to address the drivers of child marriage. The national theory of change will be contextualized for districts and identify the demand for services as well as specific bottlenecks in service delivery. The focus is on increased enrolment and retention of girls (and boys) in school; improved adolescent (and youth) sexual and reproductive health; the inclusion of peer volunteers; and enhanced child protection, particularly from violence, abuse and exploitation, through strengthening of the child protection system. District capacity will be bolstered to gather evidence, advocate and lobby for increased resources.

Programme scope

The programme, which started in 2013 and is ending in 2019, has both national and district coverage. The interventions work with and through children, families, traditional and religious leaders and national and subnational policy makers, along with networks of civil society organizations.

Partners

Ministries of gender, chiefs and traditional affairs, general education, health, and community development and social services.

Funding

UK Aid and the European Union.

Forum for African Women Educationalists of Zambia – FAWE

Title of programme

Enhancing Domestic Accountability for Retaining Children in School.

Objective

To empower adolescent girls and young women with essential life skills to reduce child marriage.

¹⁴⁹ According to UNFPA, a safe space is a formal or informal place where women and girls feel physically and emotionally safe. The term 'safe', in the present context, refers to the absence of trauma, excessive stress, violence (or fear of violence), or abuse. It is a space where women and girls, being the intended beneficiaries, feel comfortable and enjoy the freedom to express themselves without the fear of judgement or harm.

Description

Programme interventions include life skills, negotiation skills, assertiveness training, self-esteem and economic empowerment through financial savings groups for girls and young women. It also includes four safe houses to shelter girls at risk, survivors of child marriages and gender-based violence. FAWE provides child marriage survivors with a scholarship programme to support their re-entry into the school system, which entails shelter for 100 survivors per year and the operation of 'transit' schools for out-of-school children, which prepare them for re-entry into the mainstream education system. It also has One Stop Centres where child marriages are reported to Police Victim Support Units and referred for free legal service through other civil society organizations; teen mothers are referred to health centres for medical services, including HIV testing, counselling and contraception. At the community level, the programme is raising awareness on the existing legal child protection instruments, encouraging individuals and communities to claim and use these rights. The programme also includes an Attitude and Change Campaign, which addresses the social norms that put girls at risk by building the capacity of boys and young men to be change agents and to improve gender relations.

Programme scope

The programme started in 2015 and is implemented in Southern, Northern, Western, Eastern and Lusaka provinces. The target population for the programme is 7,500 girls aged 15 to 19 years and children aged 10 to 14. By March 2017, the programme had reached approximately 4,300 of the target population; 634 children had been extricated from child marriages and re-entered into the school system; 140 girls at risk and survivors of child marriage had been provided with safe shelter between 2016-2017; 300 teen mothers had been supported with scholarships to re-enter the formal school system; and approximately 4,500 out-of-school children had been enrolled in transit schools.

Partners

UNICEF, USAID, World Vision, Gender-Based Violence Survivor Support (GBVSS), Pact World, NORAD, Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), Norwegian Church Aid, Zambia Governance Foundation, European Union, Churches Health Association of Zambia, Government of the Republic of Zambia – United Nations Development Programme on Gender-Based Violence.

Funding

UNICEF, European Union, USAID, NORAD, DANIDA, Norwegian Church Aid, Zambia Governance Foundation, Churches Health Association of Zambia.

Plan International Zambia

Title of programme

18+ Programme on Ending Child, Early and Forced Marriage.

Objective

To mobilize girls at risk of child marriage so that they have the capability to choose if, when and whom to marry; to transform, through the building of social movements, the gender norms and practices that drive child marriage; and to facilitate an enabling legal and policy environment to protect girls from child marriage.

Description

Plan International Zambia implements eight projects under the 18+ programme: Yes I Do, Ending Teenage Pregnancy and Child Marriage, Fighting Child Marriage in Zambia, Building Skills for Economic Resilience of Girls and Mothers to End Child Marriage, Child Protection and Participation, Law Working for Girls and Boys, Promoting Girls' Education - Keeping Girls in Schools, Engaging with Law, Policy and Practice at National and Subregional Level, Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health - Youth have the Rights, and Zambia Community HIV Prevention. Plan Zambia also work with empowerment and asset-building for girls through the Champions of Change Curriculum for Girls and Boys, which includes a specific module on ending child early and forced marriage.

Programme scope

The programme started in 2013 and ends in 2022. The primary beneficiaries for the 18+ programme are girls aged 10 to 14 at risk of child, early or forced marriage and those already married in Eastern, Central and Luapula provinces. By March 2017, approximately 100,000 girls had been reached; the aim is to reach 500,000 girls directly and an additional one million indirectly.

Partners

Lifeline, Society for Women and AIDS in Zambia (SWAZ), WLSA, Children in Need Network (CHIN), Access to Child Justice, YWCA, Afya Mzuri, Zambian National Education Council (ZANEC), Generation Alive, National Legal Aid Clinic for Women, Women Change and Panos.

Funding

NORAD, SIDA, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pact/USAID, individual sponsorship.

Young Women's Christian Association of Zambia - YWCA

Title of programme

End Child Marriage.

Description

The project uses a safe space model where girls meet in small groups of 25-30 with a trained female mentor in their community and school. The girls are provided with life-skills information to increase their ability to make informed decisions and reduce the risk of getting married early.

Programme scope

The programme started in August 2016 and will end in December 2019. It targets girls in school and out of school, aged 10 to 19 years old. It includes girls at risk of child marriage and girls who are already married. The programme is implemented in Luapula, Eastern and Lusaka province and had reached 3,777 girls as of March 2017.

Partners

UNFPA, ministry of chiefs and traditional affairs, education and health.

Funding

UNFPA.

Women and Law in Southern Africa - WLSA

Title of programme

Ending Child Marriage 18+.

Objective

To end child marriage and contribute to social, legal and economic empowerment of children.

Description

The programme advocates for legal reform to criminalize child marriage. It provides capacity development for stakeholders on child protection laws and sensitizes communities and traditional leaders on the negative effects of child marriage.

Programme scope

The programme is being implemented from 2016 to 2019 in Mansa, Chisamba and Vubwi areas. It is

targeting both unmarried and married girls, 10 to 18 years of age.

Partners

PLAN International Zambia.

Funding

NORAD.

Zimbabwe

In Zimbabwe, 34 per cent of women are married by age 18, and 4 per cent are married by age 15.¹⁵⁰ Child marriage predominantly affects girls in the poorest wealth quintiles in rural areas. Prevalence is highest in Mashonaland Central (50 per cent), followed by Mashonaland West (42 per cent), Masvingo (39 per cent) and Mashonaland East (36 per cent).¹⁵¹

Drivers of child marriage

Child marriage is affected by a complex interaction between socio-cultural and religious factors, in addition to poverty.¹⁵² In some districts, teenage pregnancies are a risk factor for marriage; however, in other districts this is not necessarily the case.¹⁵³ The Zimbabwe National Family Planning Strategy 2016-2020 and Family Planning programme stipulate that health workers can distribute contraception to children starting at age 16. In some circumstances, providers can supply contraceptives to even younger persons without parental knowledge or agreement if it seen as necessary for preventing a pregnancy. Despite this progressive policy, access to contraception is undermined by reluctance among providers and lack of youth-friendly services.¹⁵⁴

The probability of young women marrying is lower when a girl has at least a secondary education: According to a 2014 household survey, the average age at marriage is 17.2 years for girls with no education and 23.6 for girls with more than a secondary education.¹⁵⁵ Forty-four per cent of women aged 15 to 19 with a primary education had begun childbearing compared to 19 per cent of girls who had a secondary education.¹⁵⁶

¹⁵⁰ Extended analysis of MICS 2014.

¹⁵¹ Extended analysis of MICS 2014.

¹⁵² Stakeholder interview.

¹⁵³ Stakeholder interview.

¹⁵⁴ Stakeholder interview.

¹⁵⁵ DHS 2015.

¹⁵⁶ Secondary analysis of MICS 2014.

Government commitment and policy environment

In January 2016, the Constitutional Court declared the practice of child marriage unconstitutional and set 18 as the minimum marriage age for girls and boys. This ruling followed a case brought before Zimbabwe's Constitutional Court in January 2015 in which two former child brides challenged the Marriages Act. Other legislation with relevance for child marriage are the Domestic Violence Act of 2007, which includes child marriage as a form of domestic violence.

The second National Gender Policy (2013–2017) is currently operational and includes targets on gender, constitutional and legal rights, gender education and training, and reduction of gender-based violence. The inter-ministerial committee on rape and sexual abuse includes a focus on child marriage, and the Ministry of Women's Affairs, Gender and Community Development – with support from UNICEF, UN Women and UNFPA – has drafted a National Action Plan and Communication Strategy on Ending Child Marriage. The Action Plan is yet to be adopted and costed.

In July 2015, the Zimbabwean Government launched the AU Campaign to End Child Marriage.

Coordination

According to the National Action Plan, the Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development has the mandate to call national-level coordination meetings. Meetings are supposed to be held quarterly, but are currently called on an ad hoc basis.

The Girls Not Brides network meets quarterly.

Programmes and partners

UNFPA

Title of programme

Sista2Sista Girls Empowerment Clubs.

Objective

To increase the self-efficacy of adolescent girls in making responsible decisions about their lives and their health through increased uptake of sexual and reproductive health services (HIV testing, use of contraception), with the goal of reducing rates of teenage pregnancy, school dropout and child marriage.

Description

The programme is supporting the National Action Plan's objectives by establishing girls' clubs, a mentorship programme and youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services. The girls' clubs are each made up of 25 girls that are considered at risk of child marriage, pregnancy or dropping out of school. An adult female mentor manages the clubs; she facilitates 40 sessions over 12 months as outlined in the manual for the Sista2Sistaclubs. After the first year, the next 12 months are dedicated to follow-up; in total, the girls are mentored for a minimum of two years. The mentorship programme supports girls in accessing social networks, including the basic education assistance module. Mentors also work with parents/guardians to increase girls' school participation.

In addition, UNFPA supports access to adolescent- and youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services through local public health facilities and community committees, consisting of young people, educators, local leaders, parents and health staff. The committees host community dialogues to raise awareness of the sexual and reproductive health challenges that young people face, including child marriage.

Programme scope

The programme works with adolescent girls, 10 to 19 years old, in 46 districts (26 districts in 2013–2016). The programme has provided more than 20,000 vulnerable girls and approximately 760,000 community members (including youth and parents) with sexual and reproductive health information.

In the intervention areas, the fertility rate among club graduates is less than 1 per cent compared to the national average rate of 22 per cent.

Up-scaling opportunities

The programme is already in the process of scaling up to an additional 20 districts in 2017–2020 with funding from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

Partners

Family AIDS Caring Trust Mutare, World Vision, Zimbabwe AIDS Prevention and Support Organization (ZAPSO), Zimbabwe Community Health Intervention Research Behavioural Change Programme (ZICHIRE), Midlands AIDS Service Organization (MASO), Matabeleland AIDS Council (MAC) and Regai Dzive Shiri.

Funding

DFID, SIDA, Irish AID.

Campaign for Female Education Zimbabwe - Camfed

Title of programme

Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights Campaign.

Objective

To reduce school drop-out rates attributed to pregnancy and/or early marriage in supported schools using the Learner Guide approach and to enhance student access, retention and achievement in the secondary cycle, with special attention to disadvantaged girls.

Description

Rural young women graduates are supported to return to their local schools, where they are tasked to provide encouragement to marginalized school girls and deliver a tailored life-skills and well-being programme to complement the academic curriculum. The initiative supports the introduction of the new Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education's guidance and counselling curriculum and introduction of sexual and reproductive health components to life-skills programmes. The programme also supports referrals of children who may need financial assistance; in some instances, referrals are made for cases of abuse.

Programme scope

The four-year programme started in 2016 and will end in 2021. It works with girls 15 to 19 years old in and out of school. The programme benefits vulnerable children (particularly girls) and young women graduates from secondary school. It focuses on Camfed's 28 partner districts nationwide. The sexual and reproductive health component plans to reach at least 56,000 children in 800 secondary schools. Camfed has trained 1,700 young women in sexual and reproductive health and over 59,000 children have attended sexual and reproductive health sessions conducted by Learner Guides. Awareness campaigns on child marriage have been carried out across partner districts. An evaluation shows that school enrolment and completion rates for girls in the intervention sites have increased.

Up-scaling opportunities

The programme is a sustainable and effective force for change. Moreover, members are improving opportunities for the next generation through their dedicated philanthropy. As the Learner Guide network

grows, so too will the number of young women wishing to support vulnerable children in school, multiplying the returns of their own education to benefit their communities. This will lead to a greater mass of marginalized girls benefiting from vital life-skills sessions delivered by local female role models, who will hopefully be inspired to become Learner Guides themselves after school.

Funding

DFID Zimbabwe.

Plan International Zimbabwe

Title of programme

18+.

Objectives

To contribute to ending child marriage in Zimbabwe by empowering boys and girls who are at risk of or affected by child marriage; mobilizing and raising public awareness in communities to prevent child, early and forced marriage; and building the capacity of duty bearers at different levels to establish and strengthen child protection mechanisms, with the ultimate aim of a fully functional national child protection system.

Description

The 18+ programme in Zimbabwe works with girls, the community and policy makers. At the individual level, the programme focuses on empowerment, particularly for girls at risk of getting married, survivors of child marriage and/or young mothers. At the community level, it works with parents, mothers and fathers of girls who are at risk of getting married, chiefs, religious leaders, men, boys, child protection structures and influential people. At the policy level, the programme works through advocacy to encourage policy and legal reform. The programme incorporates research that looks at positive deviance to document ways that girls are able to delay marriage.

Previous programmes implemented by Plan International include Creating a Supportive Environment to End Child Marriage in Zimbabwe (April 2015-March 2016) and Responsive Approaches to End Child Marriage in Zimbabwe (November 2014-March 2015).

Programme scope

The three-year programme started in July 2016 and will end in July 2019. It works with girls and boys, 10 to 18 years of age who are at risk of marriage,

unmarried, married or survivors of child marriage, particularly targeting girls at upper primary school age, both in and out of school. The intervention areas include Manicaland province, Kwekwe district of Zhombe Silobela Kwekwe (urban), Torwood, Redcliff resettlement areas, Matebelaland North in Tsholotsho, Mutoko and Epworth. An estimated 2 million people have been reached through various forms of media.

Partners

Government ministries, Girls Not Brides Zimbabwe Coalition, embassies, media, universities and colleges, network service providers, churches, traditional leaders and local authorities.

Funding

Canadian and German governments.

Rozaria Memorial Trust

Rozaria Memorial Trust is a Zimbabwean registered non-profit organization that works to advance rights and promotes access to education, health and entrepreneurship for women and young people, especially girls in resource-poor communities.

Description

Rozaria Memorial Trust works by creating girls' clubs with in- and-out-of-school girls, and girls identified as at risk (including married girls, widows and divorcees, each with specific support needs). It also undertakes research that is currently exploring the mental health impact of child marriage on adolescents and children in Murewa district and in Busia, Kenya. The research findings will guide the national, regional and global policies towards ending child marriage in Africa.

Programme scope

The programme is engaged in global advocacy as well as community-based initiatives in Mashonaland East and Mashonaland Central provinces. The work is focused on adolescent girls, but also funds initiatives that stimulate education, health and entrepreneurship for women and young people in resource-poor settings.

Partners

Rozaria Memorial Trust collaborates with a wide range of Zimbabwean, regional and international partners. In Zimbabwe it works closely with Roots Africa, Shamva Ministries of Primary and Secondary Education as well as Health and Child Care in Murewa.

Tag a Life International Trust -TaLI

Title of programme

Ending Child Marriages in Zimbabwe.

Objectives

To raise awareness among girls of their right to not marry at a young age and to support communities in ending child marriage.

Description

The programme educates girls on leadership, economic empowerment and sexual and reproductive health and rights, including their right to protection from exploitation – specifically child marriage, sexual and gender-based violence and sex trafficking. It also supports victims of child marriage and sexual and gender-based violence to report cases and informs girls of the existing law. In addition, the programme sensitizes the community through public-awareness campaigns using the Girls Not Brides consortium and the media, including social media, radio and television. It provides basic counselling to children and their families/guardians, and supports access to health services, the police and legal services.

Tag a Life International Trust coordinates the Girls Not Brides network in Zimbabwe and works through coalitions such as Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe and the Child Coalition to instigate legal reform.

Programme scope

This ongoing programme (2016-) is working with 10- to 24-year-old married and unmarried girls, but also other groups, such as teachers, boys, men, local and national leaders and parliamentarians to raise awareness of the rights of girls and the law and to address the consequences of child marriages at the individual and societal levels. The programme is currently implemented at the community level in four districts of Midlands province.

Partners

Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development, other government departments, civil society organizations and international NGOs, the police, courts, parliament and communities

Funding

UNICEF and PEPFAR.



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Chapter 6. Additional evidence from the Population Council

The following is additional evidence provided by the Population Council on its programmes addressing child marriage in the region.

In **Zambia**, the Population Council is implementing the **Adolescent Girls Empowerment**. The programme is designed to find the best way to improve girls' social, health and economic resources so they can stay in school longer, avoid early marriage, delay sexual activity and prevent unintended pregnancy, HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. It is providing 10,000 girls in rural and urban Zambia with a combination of health and financial education and life skills during weekly girls' group meetings led by young women from the community. The programme includes the provision of vouchers entitling girls to health services provided by facilities in the community and girl-friendly individual savings accounts developed in partnership with a Zambian financial institution.

The **Council's Berhane Hewan programme in Ethiopia** was one of the first rigorously evaluated projects with the explicit objective of increasing girls' age at marriage. It took a multifaceted approach, engaging girls, their families, and their communities in building

adolescent girls' social, health, and economic assets and reducing their vulnerability. Community conversations were used to encourage discussion of the effects of child marriage. Families were offered school supplies to help overcome the economic barriers to sending girls to school. Families who kept girls unmarried during the two-year enrolment were awarded a sheep or a goat. An early evaluation of the project found that girls aged 10 to 14 in the experimental site were 90 per cent less likely to be married at the end of the two-year enrolment period compared to girls in the control site, and three times more likely to be in school. Married girls in the project site were three times more likely to be using family planning compared to married girls in the control site. Berhane Hewan was awarded first prize in a 2013 UNFPA contest to identify good practices related to adolescents and youth; judging criteria included relevance, innovation, impact and reproducibility. However, the programme evaluation was unable to determine which component of the intervention had the most impact. To generate this evidence, the Council expanded the study in Ethiopia and also launched projects using **similar approaches in Burkina Faso and the United Republic of Tanzania**. The Council evaluated the effectiveness of four strategies to delay age at marriage among girls:

- Informing communities about the dangers of child marriage using community meetings and the engagement of religious leaders.

- Supporting girls' education with cost-effective efforts, such as providing girls with school supplies or uniforms, making it easier for families to send girls to school.
- Providing conditional economic incentives to families for keeping girls unmarried. For example, girls received chickens or a goat if they remained unmarried and in school for the two-year duration of the project.
- Combining all these approaches.

The study found that strategies to delay child marriage that are designed to be simple and sustainable work best. In Ethiopia, it was possible to significantly delay child marriage by offering educational support: Girls aged 12 to 14 were 94 per cent less likely to be married at the endline than girls in that age range at the baseline. In communities where girls were offered two chickens for every year they remained unmarried and in school, girls aged 15 to 17 were half as likely to be married at endline than girls in that age range at baseline. In communities that were engaged in conversations about the value of educating girls and the harms of child marriage, girls aged 12 to 14 were two thirds less likely to be married at endline than girls in that age range at baseline. In communities where all the strategies were employed, girls aged 15 to 17 were two thirds less likely to be married at endline than girls in that age range at baseline.

In the United Republic of Tanzania, in communities where girls were offered goats for remaining unmarried and in school, girls aged 15 to 17 were two thirds less likely to be married than girls of the same age who lived in a comparison area where the programme was not offered. The interventions to keep girls aged 12 to 14 unmarried and in school did not achieve a statistically significant effect. However, in the case of the full model, which included provision of all three interventions, there is evidence of a positive effect among girls aged 12 to 14 and 15 to 17.

The **Meseret Hiwott** project in Ethiopia used community-based mentoring to reduce married girls' social isolation and build their knowledge and skills regarding HIV and reproductive health. Married girls are often uneducated and lack access to health information and legal protection. Married girls are also at higher risk of unwanted pregnancy and unsafe abortion. The project supported married girls with HIV prevention and reproductive health services and trained adult female mentors who live in rural communities to go house-to-house to invite married girls and young women aged 10 to 24 years to participate in the programme. Groups of girls gathered in safe community locations regularly over a four-month period to learn from their mentors. The Meseret Hiwott curriculum included assertiveness

and communication skills; hygiene and gender issues (including gender-based violence); HIV and AIDS (including transmission and prevention, voluntary counselling and testing, prevention of mother-to-child transmission and anti-retroviral therapy); reproductive health (including family planning, maternal and child health and nutrition, and sexually transmitted infections); harmful practices (including early marriage, FGM/C; and financial literacy).

Between 2008 and 2013, more than 300 female mentors were recruited, trained, and deployed. These mentors gathered, taught and counselled more than 230,000 married girls and young women in rural Amhara. An evaluation showed that girls who participated in Meseret Hiwott were more likely than nonparticipants to report that their husbands helped with domestic work, their husbands accompanied them to the clinic, they used family planning, and that they received voluntary counselling and testing for HIV. Improvements on these measures were even more likely for girls whose husbands participated in the Council's Addis Birhan programme for husbands. For example, girls who participated in Meseret Hiwott were nearly eight times more likely than nonparticipants to receive voluntary counselling and testing for HIV. If their husbands were Addis Birhan participants, they were more than 18 times more likely to receive voluntary counselling and testing.

These results show that programmes that involve both wives and husbands can result in incremental improvements to the health and well-being of married girls.

The Population Council is **identifying the elements of formal schooling that lead to more protective behaviours, reduce HIV risk, and improve learning outcomes among poor young people in Malawi**. When good-quality schooling is available, disadvantaged children stand a better chance of escaping poverty. Indeed, in the poorest countries it is likely that schooling makes the greatest contribution to children's futures. But in Malawi, one of the world's poorest countries, nearly half of girls marry before age 18, and young people face high risk of HIV infection. Schools in rural Malawi have limited resources and inadequate supplies, extremely high student-teacher ratios, and a dearth of trained teachers.

To better understand the effect of school quality on learning and health, the Council began following the progress of more than 2,500 in-school and out-of-school adolescents in the Balaka and Machinga districts of Malawi in 2007. Multiple rounds of data on young people's schooling experiences, learning, and

health outcomes have been collected. Longitudinal studies of this duration and breadth are unusual, and such comprehensive data on young people from a developing country are rare. With each round of data collection, participants are asked a series of questions about their experiences in school, including attendance, grade repetition, classroom environment and educational attainment. The participants complete a literacy and numeracy test to assess their learning. In 2010, 2011 and 2013, the data collection expanded to include testing, with consent from participants and their parents, for exposure to HIV and herpes.

The study's longitudinal design, encompassing repeated assessments of the schooling environment and yearly follow-up of a sample of in- and out-of-school adolescents, permits the direct comparison of outcomes and experiences reported over time. This information provides a uniquely rich and broad picture of the relationships between schooling, educational outcomes and HIV risk among young people in Malawi. Council findings will inform policy recommendations and programme designs for school and community-based interventions that reduce HIV risk and improve student learning.

Key findings thus far are on target: Progression through school is associated with a lower risk of early premarital sex and marriage for girls. However, it is common for

students to start their schooling late, repeat grades and withdraw temporarily or permanently. Nearly 25 per cent of girls' dropout is related to pregnancy. Many girls who leave school face a rapid loss of both literacy and numeracy skills. Further, because girls leave school during adolescence at much higher rates than boys, over time a gender reversal in literacy outcomes and a widening gender gap in numeracy outcomes is observed, both in favour of boys. Girls who can read and those who can do math are less likely to report their sexual behaviour inconsistently than those without these skills. Literate girls marry and have children significantly later than girls who cannot read. Girls who attend school are significantly less likely to engage in premarital sex than their peers who have recently left school.

By Round 5 of data collection (2011), girls who were currently attending secondary school were about 60 per cent less likely to test positive for herpes than girls who had dropped out before completing primary school. Girls who perceive themselves to be at risk of becoming infected with HIV are more likely to marry early than girls who perceive no risk of future infection. The Council continues to analyse this dataset to learn more about the effects of schooling. It is also pursuing additional funding to implement interventions to improve girls' literacy and numeracy based on these findings.

Annex 1. List of people interviewed

In total, 38 interviews were conducted of which 18 were formative regional consultations and 20 were with gender or youth focal points in UNFPA and UNICEF country offices.

Country-level contact information for implementing agencies was provided from the key informant interviewees and other sources, such as the Girls Not Brides networks. More than 153 survey invitations were sent out via email to government and NGO partners in the 12 target countries. The questionnaire was also distributed directly by key informants to encourage participation in the survey. The questionnaire was available as an online survey tool (Survey Monkey), and as a Word document in English and in French.

Eighteen formative regional consultations with key informants from UN offices and regional organizations:

- UNICEF: Jonna Karlsson;
- UNICEF: Leisa Gibson, Gender Advisor;
- UNFPA: Satvika Chalasani, Technical Specialist, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights;
- Population Council: Chabu Kangale, Zambia Population Council;
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency: Eva Atterlöv Frisell, Regional Team for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights;
- World YWCA: Ritah Muyambo, Head of Programmes;
- Commonwealth Secretariat: Karen McKenzie;
- African Union Commission: Kenneth Oliko;
- African Union/Rozaria Memorial Trust: Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda;
- Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum: Boemo Mmandu;
- Plan International: Lazarus Mwale;
- Southern Africa Litigation Centre: Nyasha Chingore;
- Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices: Dr Morissanda Kouyaté;
- Save the Children: Doris Mpoumou;
- Girls Not Brides: Francoise Kpeglo Moudouthe;
- Girls Not Brides: Kate Whittington;
- Voluntary Service Overseas: Bongai Mondeta; and
- International Planned Parenthood Federation: Nathalie Nkoume.

Twenty national-level key informants from UNFPA and UNICEF country offices:

- Comoros: UNFPA, Mamadou Boina Maecha;
- Democratic Republic of the Congo: UNFPA, Okende Lokushe;
- Eritrea: UNFPA, Yordanos Mehari;
- Eritrea: UNICEF, Samuel Isaac;
- Ethiopia: UNFPA, Bethlehem Kebede;
- Madagascar: UNFPA, Andriamanana Tolotra;
- Madagascar: UNICEF, Arisoa Raoelison;
- Malawi: UNFPA, Dorothy Nyasulu;
- Malawi: UNICEF, Miriam Kaluwa;
- Mozambique: UNFPA, Deborah Nandja;
- Mozambique: UNICEF, Lilit Umroyan;
- South Sudan: UNFPA, Viola Riak;
- South Sudan: UNICEF, Jennifer Melton;
- Tanzania: UNFPA, Christine Mwanukuzi-Kwayu;
- Tanzania: UNICEF, Pedro Guerra;
- Uganda: UNFPA, Penninah Tomusange;
- Zambia: UNFPA, Sibeso Mululuma and Precious Zandonda;
- Zambia: UNICEF, Sylvi Hill; and
- Zimbabwe: UNFPA, Tamisayi Chinhengo.

Annex 2. Survey response overview

The table below lists the organizations that responded to the survey in the 12 countries studied. A total of 59

organizations responded. Ethiopia received the most responses (nine), followed by Malawi and Uganda (seven each). The response received from the Comoros combines two programmes and is considered to be an accurate reflection of the fact that child marriage has not yet become a priority for the government.

COUNTRY	ORGANIZATIONS
Comoros	1. Commissariat à la Solidarité, à la Protection Sociale et à la Promotion du Genre and the Fédération Nationale des Associations des Sages Femmes en Union des Comores (Two programmes combined in one response)
Democratic Republic of the Congo	1. Aide Rapide aux Victimes des Catastrophes 2. Groupe d'Animateurs pour la Promotion et Échanges Culturels 3. Réseau des Jeunes Engager contre les Mariages et Grossesses Précoce 4. Cadre de Récupération et d'Encadrement pour l'Épanouissement Intégral des Jeunes
Eritrea	1. Ministry of Health 2. UNICEF 3. National Union of Eritrean Women 4. National Union of Eritrean Youth & Students
Ethiopia	1. Ministry of Women and Children' Affairs 2. Afar Bureau for Women and Children's Affairs 3. Amhara Bureau of Women and Children's Affairs 4. Tigray Bureau of Women and Children's Affairs 5. UNFPA 6. Afar Pastoralist Development Association 7. Mujejeguwa-Locka Women Development Association 8. Norwegian Church Aid 9. World Vision Ethiopia
Madagascar	1. UNFPA – Adolescent health 2. UNFPA – Gender-based violence 3. UNICEF
Malawi	1. UNFPA – Safeguard Young People 2. UNFPA – Gender equality and women 3. ActionAid Malawi 4. Centre for Social Concern and Development 5. Girls Empowerment Network 6. Plan International Malawi 7. Ujamaa Pamodzi Africa
Mozambique	1. UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women and UNESCO (Joint) 2. Civil Society Forum for Child Rights 3. Girl Move Foundation 4. Women and Law in Southern Africa 5. Plan International Mozambique

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COUNTRY	ORGANIZATIONS
South Sudan	1. UNFPA – Adolescent girls 2. UNFPA – Gender-based violence 3. UNICEF 4. Confident Children out of Conflict 5. Plan International South Sudan
Tanzania	1. Camfed Tanzania 2. Centre Against Gender-based Violence 3. Children's Dignity Forum 4. Forum for African Women Educationalists Tanzania 5. Plan International Tanzania
Uganda	1. UNFPA 2. BRAC Uganda 3. Joy for Children Uganda 4. Straight Talk Foundation 5. The REACH Programme 6. White Ribbon Alliance 7. World Vision Uganda
Zambia	1. UNFPA 2. UNICEF 3. Forum for African Women Educationalists of Zambia 4. Plan International Zambia 5. Women and Law in Southern Africa 6. Young Women's Christian Association of Zambia
Zimbabwe	1. UNFPA 2. Camfed 3. Plan International Zimbabwe 4. Rozaria Memorial Trust 5. Tag a Life International Trust







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