UNFPA–UNICEF
Global Programme to
End Child Marriage

GLOBAL CONSULTATION
ON CHILD MARRIAGE IN
HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS

MEETING REPORT
4-5 February 2020. Amman, Jordan

May 2020

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ENDING CHILD MARRIAGE:
THE COLLECTIVE DREAM

From an exercise conducted with consultation participants on what they hope to see happen one day on this issue

- A world where children are free to be children; where every child can live free from fear; where every child can live out of the shadow of poverty, hunger and terrible inequalities that compels them into child marriages

- A world where no mother or father is forced/compelled to get their daughter married, even though they know the devastating consequences; where every child is visible and has a voice

- A world where politics and borders and greed do not tear lives apart; where men see women as equals and stop the cycle of oppression

- A world where there is health, water, food, security and peace; where every girl is safe, happy and able to have a good life

- Girls and boys are able to choose who to love, as well as who to marry free of coercion, control and violence

- Girls who are forced into child marriage have effective alternatives

- Duty-bearers at all levels are accountable to adolescent survivors of child marriage

- Gender-based discrimination is addressed at the institutional and structural level to end child marriage

- Laws regarding the legal age of marriage are unified and consistent

- Education, health, social protection and gender-based violence/child protection sectors collectively serve adolescent girls

- Civil society organizations are at the centre of child marriage prevention and response and receive adequate support, both financial and technical

- Men and boys are systematically engaged in programming, and think of child marriage as a gender issue

- Practitioners learn together about how to end child marriage in humanitarian settings, and translate evidence into practice

- All programming is evidence-based

- Feminist actions and methods for ending child marriage become the norm

Bangladesh. December, 2018.
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INTRODUCTION

The UNFPA–UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage (the Global Programme) is a multi-country programme designed to support countries in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals agenda, including target 5.3 on ending harmful practices. The programme is entering its second phase in 2020, and this new phase includes a specific focus on addressing child marriage in humanitarian settings[1].

Responding to the need for more learning, exchange and guidance on how to address child marriage in the humanitarian-development continuum, the Global Programme convened 30 experts at a consultation on child marriage in humanitarian settings in Amman, Jordan on 4–5 February 2020. Experts included representatives of civil society, academic institutions and international organizations from the humanitarian and development sectors and at the global, regional and country levels. Individual presentations, panel discussions and group work sessions were designed to advance the following objectives of the meeting:

■ To **take stock** of existing initiatives and programmes, guidance and tools, and evidence on child marriage in humanitarian settings at global, regional and country levels and within the humanitarian and development sectors

■ To **identify opportunities** to strengthen the response to child marriage in existing humanitarian mechanisms (both for programming and accountability), as well as to strengthen the linkages between programming in development settings and humanitarian settings

■ To **map a way forward** for integrating actions to prevent and respond to child marriage in humanitarian settings in Phase II of the Global Programme and to support global, regional and national action in this area

This report is a summary of the presentations, discussions and recommendations made by the participants. The Global Programme is grateful for the rich contributions of all the participants that made this meeting and report possible. We hope it will serve as important documentation for future reference for practitioners.

While the meeting took place before the outbreak of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), its relevance is only further underscored by the current outbreak and its disastrous consequences for millions of people around the world. Breakdowns in livelihoods, services and support networks are heightening the vulnerability of girls and their families, with elevated risks of child marriage, gender-based violence, unintended pregnancy, ruptures in education, morbidities and even mortality. Now more than ever, it is clear that hard-won gains in girls' rights can be lost at any moment as a result of unforeseen humanitarian emergencies, and that development and humanitarian actors must always be prepared, with the right resources and tools, to protect and support those most in need.

Pakistan, August 21, 2007.
© Photo: Asad Zaidi/UNFPA

MAJOR THEMES: AN AGENDA FOR PROGRESS

Several overarching themes emerged from this consultation, showing a path forward for action on preventing and responding to child marriage in humanitarian settings.
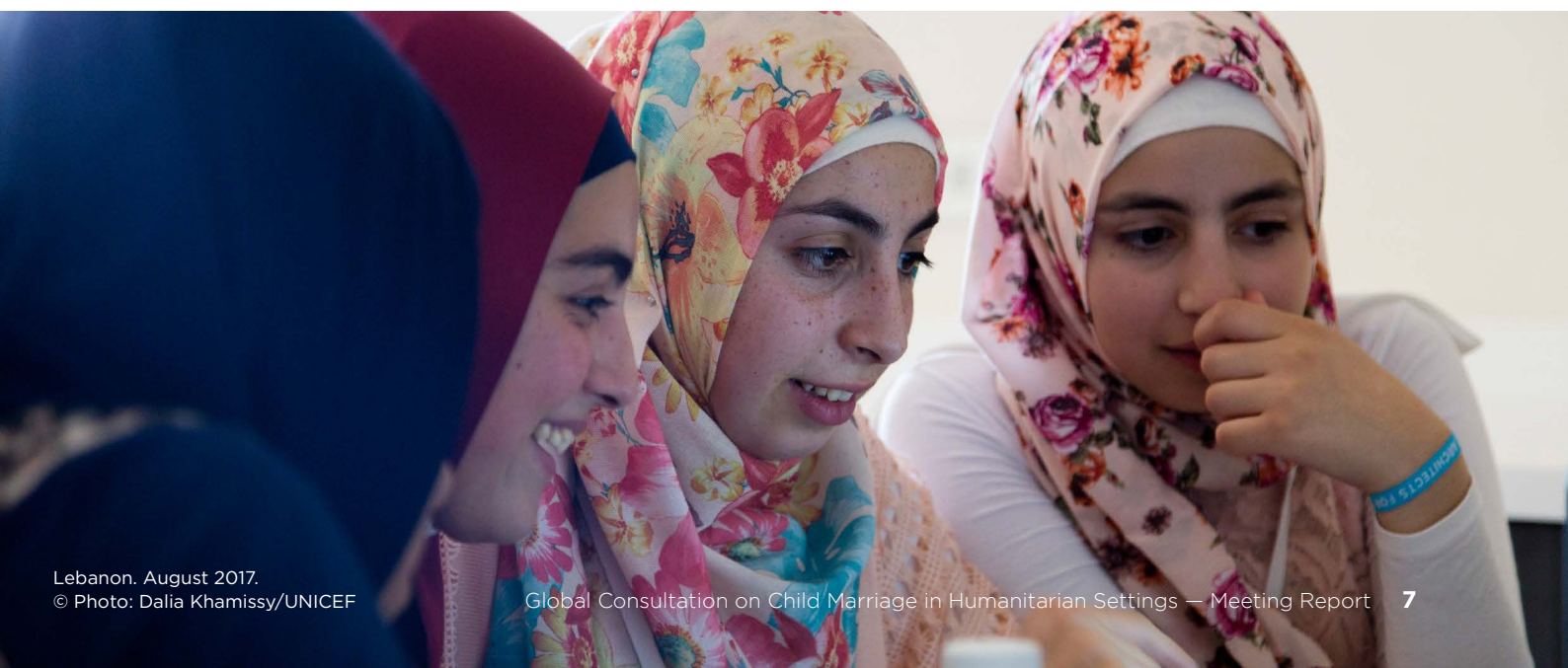
Increased global interest and momentum

Awareness of the linkages between humanitarian settings and child marriage has increased, as reflected in global resolutions, and the creation of the Global Programme as well as the Regional Accountability Framework of Action on Ending Child Marriage in the Middle East and North Africa/Arab States,[2] for example. Adolescent girls are increasingly talked about in the humanitarian agenda. There is an opportunity to engage donors more (including sharing of evidence and models) and influence broader humanitarian funding to be more responsive to adolescent girls, child marriage and harmful practices. There is also an opportunity to influence decision makers and development funding to enhance nexus/resilience programming in disaster-prone, protracted conflict and long-term displacement contexts.

Building on successful programming

Much has been learned about how to design and implement programming to address child marriage in humanitarian settings. Programmes must be evaluated to enhance effectiveness and modified for successful use in alternative contexts. There are opportunities for modification in programming through:

- Existing programmatic entry points, including women and girl safe spaces, health facilities, and education in emergencies programming

- Sharpened focus on subpopulations in existing programmes such as married and unmarried adolescent girls, younger and older girls, and men and boys (at community level, in services, and as leaders, because child marriage is a gender relations issue)

- The humanitarian reform agenda, with the push for localization, can drive support to community-based organizations and civil society organizations, which are critical for service delivery as well as social and behavioural change communication (both important interventions to address child marriage), and ensuring accountability to affected families and communities

[2] UNFPA Arab States Regional Office and UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office, Regional Accountability Framework of Action on Ending Child Marriage: 2018–2021, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Amman, 2018, accessed 20 May 2020.

Lebanon. August 2017.
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Coordination across sectors and across the humanitarian-development continuum

Addressing child marriage in humanitarian settings requires a holistic, multisectoral response that coordinates and enhances regional, global and national mechanisms, and uses existing structures without creating parallel systems or siloed responses. This means more networking and partnerships, for example across Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Child Protection, between Protection and other clusters such as Education and Health, between policy, practice and research, and in resource mobilization. All entities that have a role to play must be made aware of child marriage and how it relates to their specific sectoral objectives and interventions. The wider humanitarian and development sectors must be able to see the work that has been done on preventing and mitigating child marriage in humanitarian settings as well as in the humanitarian-development nexus on building resilience.

Enhanced guidance, standards, policies and definitions

There is a need for minimum principles, and a 'standardized' core model for humanitarian architecture to address child marriage, with differentiated approaches for refugees, displaced people, etc. The standards could build on available evidence and models, for example the Girl Shine model.[3]

In addition, better definitions and conceptual clarity are needed as these have implications for how child marriage is positioned in the humanitarian response – for example clarification of the relationship between child marriage and GBV, the framing of child marriage as GBV as opposed to a broader deprivation of rights, and adolescents' right and ability to choose marriage. This requires examination of the framing of child marriage in human rights instruments and agreed language on child marriage, harmful practices and GBV. Additionally, how are consensus and forced marriage defined when power imbalances exist (along various dimensions such as gender, age, ethnicity, or nationality) in humanitarian settings? The implications of the criminalization of child marriage also require clarification, as well as how the special circumstances of married, divorced, separated and widowed girls should be addressed in legal/judicial provisions.

Bangladesh. August, 2018.
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Advancing research to the 'next level'

Research and evidence should inform programming and policy around child marriage in humanitarian settings. A 'child marriage in humanitarian settings research agenda' (not simply research) should be implemented, with emphasis on evaluating and identifying what works (for whom), promising practices in implementation and solidifying a 'community of practice'. Areas for research that require funding and attention include understanding the differences between child marriage in climate-related emergencies versus conflict settings, among internally displaced people versus others, among recent arrivals versus long-term refugees, and more work on married, divorced and widowed girls, and on child grooms.

Driving long-term, sustainable change

Changing the equation on child marriage in humanitarian settings requires not only transformation of community-level norms, behaviours and culture, but also breaking through the structural vulnerabilities faced by women and girls, focusing on institutions such as the compulsory nature of marriage itself, the right to divorce, unequal access to decent work and pay, and women's leadership (which, in turn, can transform norms). Fully incorporating child marriage prevention and response into coordinated development/humanitarian programming in humanitarian settings will require equity and the equality of girls to be brought to the forefront, with a 'gender lens' focused on programming.

We need more focus on preparedness, as a focus on response is not sufficient. This requires sustained resource mobilization and advocacy for domestic financing in both the development and humanitarian spheres, and committed coordination across the spectrum of relevant actors.

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[3] See Box 1, page 14 for more information

BACKGROUND/SETTING THE SCENE

Nankali Maksud, UNICEF Headquarters

Global Programme to End Child Marriage, Phases I and II

- Child marriage is declining, but progress must be accelerated to meet the 2030 elimination goal

- Phase I (2016–2019) of the Global Programme improved services and outreach to at-risk adolescent girls, helped create an enabling environment in 12 target countries and strengthened data and evidence on drivers of child marriage

- Humanitarian settings pose additional challenges to the work of the Global Programme (within and beyond the programme countries), governments and civil society organizations seeking to end child marriage

- Lessons learned from Phase I of the Global Programme:

  - Prioritise normative leadership

  - Scale-up while leaving no one behind

  - Elevate data generation and knowledge management and consolidate the evidence base

  - Address the needs of adolescents through a multisectoral approach

  - Focus on gender transformation

Rachel Yates, Girls Not Brides

Opportunities to integrate child marriage in humanitarian responses[4]

- Given the growing importance of this issue, Girls Not Brides commissioned a recent review

- It is important to integrate child marriage and adolescent girls throughout the humanitarian cluster system

- This should not be seen as simply a 'protection issue'

- There is a need for involvement of civil society within humanitarian reform, including localization of humanitarian efforts

- There is a need for investment in research beyond key drivers of child marriage

- There is a need to understand 'what works' to end child marriage in different types of humanitarian settings

Summary of key discussion points

- More focus is needed on developing and implementing strategies to address child marriage specific to conflicts, disasters and humanitarian crises.

- There is a need to coordinate programming between the often disconnected humanitarian and development areas, including in the humanitarian-development nexus.

Dijibouti. February 2018.
© Photo: Shehzad Noorani/UNICEF

Chad. April 2017.
© Photo: Vlad Sokhin/UNICEF

PREVALENCE, DRIVERS AND CONSEQUENCES OF CHILD MARRIAGE IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS

Kara Hunersen, Johns Hopkins University

Comparative Study of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Egypt, Djibouti, Northern Iraq and Yemen[5]

- The proportion of adolescent girls aged 10–19 years old currently married were highest for internally displaced populations in Iraq and Yemen. Host population rates varied in comparison to displaced counterparts. The proportion of currently married girls was highest in Yemen when looking at both IDPs and host populations separately as well as in total

- Root causes for child marriage were similar across the countries included in this study. Child marriage was across the board:

  - A route to relieve economic burden of families and communities

  - A result of the prioritisation of the economic success of males

  - A result of pervasive gender norms that place women and girls solely in domestic roles in the household/community

  - A result of fear of the consequences associated with social deviance or spinsterhood

- Consequences of child marriage:

  - In Yemen, when boys experience child marriage, the consequences are mostly limited to their education coming to an end. For girls, consequences range from morbidities resulting from pregnancy, conflict in the family unit and intimate partner violence to poor child-rearing practices

  - In Egypt, consequences of child marriage for women and girls range from poor maternal health, limited registration of marriage and/or birth which may lead to future service delivery issues and social and geographic isolation to intimate partner violence

[5] Publication forthcoming.

Djibouti. February 2018.
© Photo: Shehzad Noorani/UNICEF

Nepal. November, 2014.
© Photo: Nicolas Axelrod/UNFPA

Jennifer Leigh, Johns Hopkins University

Comparative Study of Child Marriage Among Rohingya Refugees and Forcibly Displaced Persons from Myanmar and Nepalese Displaced by Earthquakes[6]

- Root causes of child marriage are similar across humanitarian settings studied and between humanitarian and non-humanitarian settings, with varying levels of importance depending on the context. Causes include:

  □ Physical and economic insecurity

  □ Lack of access to education

  □ Gendered notions of familial honour

  □ Cultural anxieties associated with girls and adolescents becoming sexually active or 'misbehaving'

- Factors that mitigate levels of child marriage are also similar across settings studied. They include:

  □ Knowledge of the range of consequences of child marriage

  □ An understanding of the legal age of marriage

  □ Economic stability (familial or individual)

  □ Adolescent-targeted programming (i.e. skills training, educational opportunities)

[6] Publication forthcoming.

Agnieszka Malachowska, Overseas Development Institute (ODI)/Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence (GAGE)

Child Marriage in Humanitarian Contexts: Insights from Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence (GAGE)

- GAGE is an ongoing research programme (2015–2024) in Ethiopia, Rwanda, Bangladesh, Nepal, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine, incorporating research on married girls. Its primary findings include:

  □ Married girls experience many types of violence in their homes and communities. Withholding food may be used as a weapon, girls may experience sexual abuse or their mothers-in-law may inflict physical or physiological violence

  □ Marriage is hard – girls are worried about poverty, violence, pregnancy, divorce, etc.

  □ Married girls have limited social support and may be isolated from natal families and peers

  □ Girls have little agency or decision-making power and this is amplified by marriage – their clothing may be chosen for them, physical mobility severely limited, and access to the Internet or smartphones controlled

  □ Married girls reported that pathways to economic independence are rare

Summary of key discussion points

- Research on child marriage in humanitarian contexts exists, but it is not always being translated into guidance and action

- There is a need for a strategic research agenda with regards to child marriage in humanitarian settings. Areas for research that require funding and attention include understanding the differences between child marriage

  □ in climate-related emergencies versus conflict settings

  □ among internally displaced people versus others

  □ among recent arrivals versus long-term refugees

  □ and more work on married girls, and on child grooms

- More evaluations are needed of programmes addressing child marriage in various humanitarian settings

- Mappings of programmatic gaps could underpin responses

- Child marriage measures must be integrated into rapid assessments

RESPONDING TO CHILD MARRIAGE IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS

Cluster response

Carina Hickling, UNICEF Geneva

The Child and Adolescent Survivors Initiative (CASI)

- CASI works to improve the quality of, and access to, services for child and adolescent survivors of sexual abuse in emergencies. It provides inter-agency support to country-level child protection and GBV coordination mechanisms and service providers on the response to child and adolescent survivors

- Data are rarely collected on the prevalence of child marriage in humanitarian settings because of a lack of funding and because this is not a prerequisite to programmatic responses

- Child marriage usually appears to be subsumed within other sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) issues

- The 'need'/drivers for child marriage can effectively be minimized where they are analysed and understood in the particular setting, and feed into a purposeful engagement with the affected population by the humanitarian response mechanisms

- Humanitarian actors must step up efforts to respond to the needs of girls at risk of child marriage and child brides

- This means ensuring access to ongoing support and services that are responsive to their developmental stage and specific needs

- CASI is working to build coordination and capacity of child protection and GBV Area of Responsibilities/national/local coordination mechanisms

Adrianna Vogelaar, UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office

Education, Emergencies and Child Marriage in the Middle East and North Africa

- Lack of access to education coupled with a humanitarian crisis is a strong predictor of increasing rates of child marriage. In Syria, for example, before the war broke out, the incidence of child marriage was low (at least at the national level)

- Barriers to not being in school during a humanitarian crisis include: the need to survive, lack of safety on the way to school, lack of functioning schools, distress/trauma, concerns about honour, stigmatization, sheer number affected

- There is a need for life skills and citizenship education programmes in humanitarian contexts to mitigate child marriage. Such programmes may offer:

  - Opportunities to engage in active citizenship

  - Empowerment of children and young people, resulting in improved life outcomes

  - Targeting of both girls and boys

  - Multiple entry points (in, around and out of school)

  - Creation of a conducive learning environment

  - Promotion of community and family engagement

  - A cross-sectoral and partnership agenda

Pakistan. February, 2008.
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Box 1: Girl Shine
(International Rescue Committee)

Girl Shine is a programme model and resource package that seeks to support, protect and empower adolescent girls in humanitarian settings. Girl Shine was designed to contribute to the improved prevention of, and response to, violence against adolescent girls in humanitarian settings by providing them with skills and knowledge to identify types of GBV and seek support services if they experience or are at risk of GBV.

The model was initially missing a child marriage component, but work is well under way to develop effective programming within the model to address child marriage and assist married adolescents with an initial focus on refugees in Uganda and Lebanon.

A formative study on the needs of adolescents at risk for marriage and child brides showed that: gender and social norms play a key role in child marriage; divorced and disabled girls are powerless; men were often ridiculed for conceding power to their wives; rape, beating and manipulation are common; and displacement heightens vulnerability.

In response, Girl Shine is in the process of field testing interventions including life skills sessions tailored to married girls, including content for diverse girls, and enhancing its GBV case management tools with a focus on child brides. Girl Shine is also developing materials for outreach to female and male caregivers of married and unmarried girls (including mothers-in-law) and service providers. Additional field testing and regional training of trainers is anticipated as child marriage is integrated into Girl Shine programming in impacted regions and countries.

**Presented by Angela Marshall,
International Rescue Committee**

Tunisia. December, 2017.
© Photo: Shehzad Noorani/UNICEF

Summary of key discussion points

- Need to look at the girl, her needs (voiced and unvoiced), and have a comprehensive response to these needs involving the different humanitarian actors

- All humanitarian actors must be aware of child marriage and how it relates to the different sectors/components

- Coordination – importance of building bridges between sectors and clusters, developing responses in a coordinated manner, sharing technical skills, optimizing funding

National and subnational response to child marriage in humanitarian settings
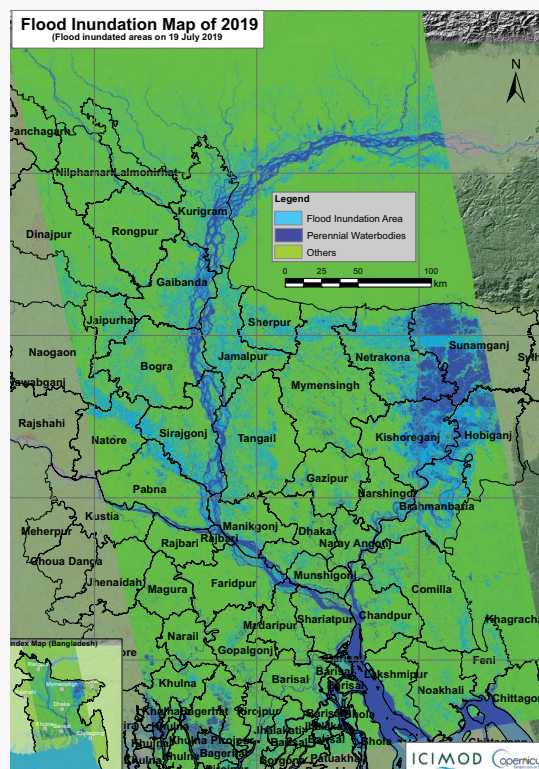
Bangladesh

Humaira Farhanaz, UNFPA Bangladesh and Irene Tum-webaze, UNICEF Bangladesh

Addressing Child Marriage During the Flood Response and in Rohingya Camps in Bangladesh
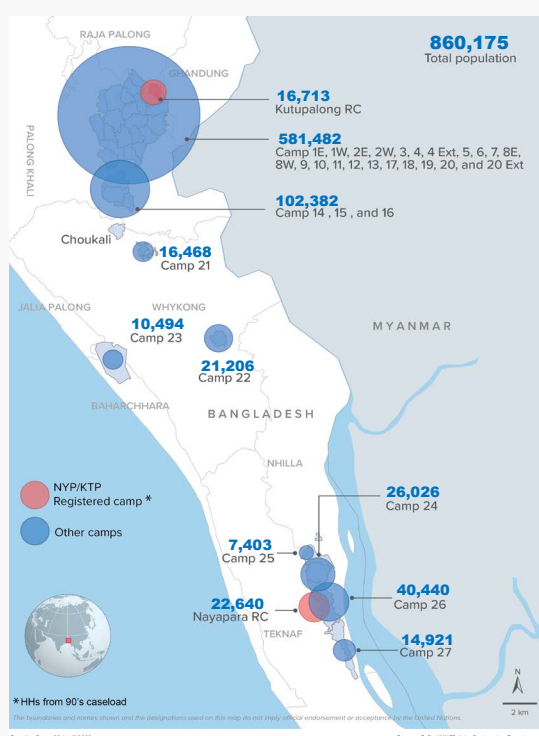
- Recent experience of addressing child marriage in two different types of emergency situations: floods and Rohingya camps

- Floods in Bogra in 2019 affected 42,000 people in 130 villages and three upazilas (districts), and in Jamalpur affected 1,200,000 people in 839 villages and seven upazilas

- In the Cox's Bazar district, there are an estimated 120,000 adolescents among nearly 1 million Rohingya refugees

The response:

- Girl Shine was rolled out to adolescent girls, 10–19 years of age (in refugee camps and host communities)

- Disaster Risk Reduction Skills for Adolescent Girls was used to assess and explore their vulnerabilities associated with disaster, and understand the role and responsibilities of adolescent girls in disaster situations

- Champions of Change – Adolescent boys, 10–19 years of age, living in refugee and host communities receive 20 life-skills sessions as part of the Champions of Change curriculum

- Multi-Purpose Child and Adolescent Centres – Social hubs and adolescent clubs were established in refugee camps and affected host communities in which boys and girls between 10–18 years old enrolled in life skills activities and vocational training for resilience and empowerment

- Religious and community leaders and other stakeholders were engaged on gender issues, GBV prevention and risk mitigation to end child marriage and other harmful practices

- Women Friendly Spaces and Women Led Community Centres (in refugee camps and host communities) – Group sessions were held with women and girls separately on gender, GBV and consequences of child marriage; adolescent sexual and reproductive health activities; GBV response services, awareness-raising, messages on ending child marriage and an empowerment through skills development programme

Source: International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, 2019

Source: Intersectoral Coordination Group, Bangladesh, 2019

Lessons learned from programming in the floods:

- Even though adolescent girls themselves may have awareness, they lack agency and voice within their community. It must be ensured that if they become volunteers, this does not put them in further difficult situations

- Security of women and girls in flood shelters is a concern and needs to be prioritised

- Needs of adolescents are not prioritised by Disaster Risk Reduction committees prior to and during disaster response. Capacity development is needed for subnational-level Disaster Risk Reduction committee members to address the needs of adolescents during disasters

Lessons learned in Rohingya camps and host communities

- Community stakeholders (especially religious leaders) in the Rohingya camps should be engaged from the beginning of programme design and implementation

- Finding suitable spaces for adolescent sessions within Rohingya camps is a challenge because of space constraints

- Sessions on child marriage at the Women Friendly Spaces should be organized not only separately for women and girls, but also together; more adolescent girls should be engaged in skills-building sessions at the Women-Led Community Centres

- Dropout rate of adolescent girls from programmes may be high because of incidences of child marriage, difficulties obtaining permission from parents and caregivers, and the long distance of sessions from their homes

Bangladesh. October, 2018.
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Syria

Fulvia Boniardi, UNFPA Syria Regional Hub
Adolescent Girl Strategy for the Whole of Syria

- The 2017 Syria Humanitarian Needs Overview identified adolescent girls, defined as girls aged 10–19 as a group particularly vulnerable to sexual violence and to child marriage leading to early pregnancy

- There is a need for a strategic framework to address the specific needs of adolescent girls in Syria, focusing on reproductive health and GBV

- The strategy will be aimed at strengthening and expanding on existing programming for adolescent girls in Syria, through cross-border programming managed from Turkey, Jordan and Syria

- Joint engagement is required from the reproductive health, child protection and education sectors

- The main objectives are to:

  □ Generate knowledge, data and evidence on the needs of, and varying impacts on, adolescent girls to inform programme design, track progress and document lessons on girls' programming

  □ Promote holistic, adolescent-friendly reproductive health and specialized GBV services to address the needs of adolescent girls

  □ Empower adolescent girls through mentorship programmes, cash transfer programming, young mothers' groups, adolescent girl and community advisory groups

As an example of a programmatic response, mothers aged 19 and younger were targeted through the Young Mothers Club. Two-hour sessions are offered once a week over two months on various life skills, sexual and reproductive health and GBV topics, particularly those relevant to new mothers. These include general health awareness, problem-solving, communication, language, critical thinking, prevention and treatment of prenatal and postnatal infections. More importantly, the Young Mothers Club was created to provide adolescent mothers with a safe and collaborative environment in which they can learn, grow and support each other through the many potential challenges of early motherhood. The programme was developed based entirely on direct engagement and consultations with the girls themselves.

Chad. April 2017.
© Photo: Vlad Sokhin/UNICEF

Yemen

Estelle-Emile Dade, UNICEF Yemen

Adapting the Global Programme to the Context of the Protracted Crisis in Yemen

Child marriage in Yemen is entrenched in the culture, and there is no minimum age of marriage in the legislation. Child marriage has increased in response to the conflict, and the programme has been modified to account for the humanitarian crisis. Using a whole-community approach to empowering girls and engaging community stakeholders, the programme has four components:

Empowerment

- Use life skills as an entry point for empowerment in schools, women's safe spaces and youth clubs
- Empowerment through peer-to-peer education targets girls and boys

Community engagement

- Work on social norms and behaviour change through influential community and religious leaders
- Community engagementInvolvement of empowered adolescent boys and girls
- Engagement of 'Men2Men' networks, father to mother councils, etc

Systems

- Programme embedded in UNFPA GBV programme with a range of multisectoral services provided to survivors
- Programme embedded in UNICEF adolescent interventions with a focus on cross-sectoral interventions with the education and health sectors
- Programme linked with case management systems of both organizations, with standard operating procedures on referral pathways
- Capacity-building for case workers in schools and health workers on referral pathways

Evidence generation

- Conduct studies on the drivers and patterns of child marriage in internally displaced person sites and host communities to inform programming
- Document programme implementation, lessons learned and good practices to inform programme scale-up or shifts in operational approach

Jordan

Ruba Kawafha, UNICEF Jordan and Pamela Di Camillo, UNFPA Jordan

A Mixed Methods Study on the Drivers of Child Marriage

From a study on the drivers of child marriage in Jordan, the key findings were:

- The proportions of children married before age 15 and before 18 are lower among households in the wealthiest quintile. The wealth gradient in child marriage is steeper for marriage under age 18 than for marriage under age 15

- Among those who report being ethnically Syrian there were higher rates of child marriage – almost one in every five Syrian young women aged 20–24 reported they were married before the age of 18 compared to one in every nine young women from Jordan

- From the one year that data were collected on divorce and whether respondents lived in rural areas (Badia as referred to in the Demographic and Health Survey) or Palestinian camps (Badia camps), those in Palestinian camps who were married as children were three times more likely to get divorced

- Social norms are a key driver of child marriage in Jordan; interventions targeting community perceptions and influencers are needed

- Girls' education is an important protective factor; attitudinal barriers to education must be addressed

- Family violence is both a driver and a consequence of child marriage

The response:

- National commitments include a National Action Plan on ending child marriage, Women's Machinery: Training of Trainers of Sharia' judges and campaigning

- The United Nations Country Team has a flagship initiative on the issue – Giving support to policy and research, high level advocacy events, gender justice and awareness campaigns

- Community-based initiatives include Communication for Behavioural Impact (COMBI) and communication for social change strategies engaging key stakeholders and decision makers to address deep-rooted norms perpetuating practices such as child marriage

- Non-governmental organizations support case management, awareness-raising sessions, livelihood programmes and initiatives for adolescent girls including empowerment and sexual and reproductive health

Pakistan. September, 2007.
© Photo: Asad Zaidi/UNFPA

Lebanon

Raghida Ghamloush, ABAAD (Resource Center for Gender Equality) Lebanon

Combatting Child Marriage of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon

ABAAD adopts a holistic care approach to provide protection and support services to GBV survivors/ right holders during times of peace, war and disasters. ABAAD also seeks to support and build the capacities of local, regional and international entities that are working on protection programmes, case management, sexual and reproductive health and rights, sexualities, mental health and psychosocial support.

- Through its pioneer 'Masculinities' programme, ABAAD effectively engages men in working towards an equitable society, free of hegemonic masculinities and violence against women

- The National Alliance to Protect Children from Early Marriage:

  □ Its goal is to increase the minimum age for marriage to 18, and also to end the practice of marriage of girls under 18 in cases of rape

  □ Composed of 54 local and international institutions and non-governmental organizations working in the fields of women's rights, child protection and human rights

- Supported by the National Commission for Lebanese Women Developing research, resources and tools, behaviour change interventions and capacity-building:

  □ ABAAD has produced a number of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials that have been adapted to the context of refugees from Syria in Lebanon including puppetry kits 'Violence is not a game' for front-line workers, and an animated video called 'Marriage is not a game'

Summary of key discussion points

- Empowering adolescent girls and young women to know about and exercise their rights, in continuing education and accessing vocational programmes, and delaying pregnancy is pivotal in ending child marriage

- There is a critical need for family and community engagement, recognizing what they see as the positives of marriage but providing alternatives to child marriage. It is an example of nexus programming, common in development contexts with the potential to improve community resilience when crisis hits and in the recovery phase

- Women need to be engaged by programmes, as mothers seeking young daughters-in-law for their sons, and as mothers marrying off their daughters in a bid to protect and secure a better life for their daughters

- Engaging men and boys in accountable practice and as change agents in gender transformation is crucial, as is engaging community and religious leaders

- Where boys are married early, programmes must recognize they are deprived of agency and choice as well

- Working with women-led organizations is key

- Continued systems strengthening is needed to ensure robust systems during a crisis, including health systems, civil registration and vital statistics; law enforcement; and the social service workforce

- Livelihood and cash-based initiatives to address economic stressors can contribute to ending child marriage

- Measuring programme impact and effectiveness is still a challenge

- It is important to question how scale is defined in humanitarian contexts, and what our ability is to reach numbers at scale

- Also, it must be considered what gender-responsive programming to address child marriage will look like in such contexts

- Humanitarian funding is an opportunity for child marriage programming as humanitarian responses tend to be large, but are often gender-blind

- More United Nations programming on ending child marriage is needed in the humanitarian-development nexus

Bangladesh. June 2020.
© Photo: Prince Naymuzzaman/UNFPA

Regional action in addressing child marriage in humanitarian settings

Sunita Palekar Joergensen, UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office

Global and Regional Frameworks to Combat Child Marriage

- The Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies is a global initiative of governments and donors, international organizations and non-governmental organizations. Its aim is to drive change and foster accountability from the humanitarian system to address GBV from the earliest phases of a crisis

- The GBV Accountability Framework is a multi-stakeholder initiative that takes advantage of the momentum created by commitments that bring global attention to GBV in emergencies

- Stemming from requests for technical support, knowledge exchange and a desire to collaborate, the Regional Accountability Framework of Action on Ending Child Marriage in the Middle East and North Africa/the Arab States region was created through a consultative process with United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, advocacy organizations and civil society. The principles underpinning the Regional Accountability Framework include:

  - A focus on child marriage in humanitarian settings

  - Moving towards programming across different sectors by promoting greater multisectoral engagement and accountability

  - Greater emphasis on more contextualized, localized and targeted approaches

  - Moving beyond the UNFPA–UNICEF partnership

  - Using the Regional Accountability Framework as a resource mobilization tool

  - Leading role of regional actors

  - Leveraging existing strong regional initiatives

Marta Gil, Terre des Hommes

Shifting the Traditional Response Architecture of Child Marriage in Displacement Contexts (Middle East and North Africa)

- Existing work at the regional level is rich

- Currently there is effective and efficient coordination at the regional level between:

  - The Regional Accountability Framework of Action on Ending Child Marriage (joint chairing between the Lausanne Foundation, UNFPA, UNICEF and Terre des Hommes)

  - The No Lost Generation and the Middle East and North Africa Gender Working Group, for cross-sectoral work

- Multi-partner discussions are taking place with the aim of developing a unified regional child marriage programme model (theory of change) that is context-grounded, measurable and cross-sectoral but specialized

- Many actors are advancing research that supports programmes and vice versa

- There is a growing focus on the agency of girls and young women (at risk of child marriage, married, divorced or widowed)

Opportunities for collaborative action going forward do exist:

- We can capitalize on regional initiatives but reinforce the already identified gaps:
    - Action-research and practice-based research
    - Programmatic model for child marriage in humanitarian settings, including accountability towards girls and adolescents
    - Evaluation and dissemination systems
    - Harmonized advocacy that is specialized for child marriage, but cross-sectoral
    - Cross-regional learning and exchange

- Address gaps in child marriage programming including in prevention, protection and rehabilitation (covering unmarried, married, divorced, separated and widowed girls)

- Reposition the issue of child marriage in humanitarian settings to examine, understand and address the complicated and unstandardized underlying social processes (such as long-term conflict and displacement)

Summary of key discussion points

- There is still a gap in addressing the needs of adolescent girls at the critical ages between 10 and 13 that are not part of child-, youth- or women-targeted spaces

- On engaging men and boys, there is a need for models beyond community conversations, including for example sport

- To address sexuality, and power over one's body, holistic approaches are needed

- Consideration must be given to definition of consensus and forced marriage where power imbalances exist, with girls having little space for dissent, and families often convincing girls that marriage is in their best interest

- Different and interlinked forms of violence should be considered as the drivers and solutions are often similar

- Differentiated approaches should be addressed for refugees and displaced people, etc.

- There is a need to find a balance between prevention and response. Divorced, separated and widowed girls should not be forgotten, as they need rehabilitation as well as the support to resist a second marriage by force

- It should be considered how accountability can integrate human rights perspectives and meaningful participation of civil society, girls and young people

Uganda. December, 2018.
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India. August, 2017.
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Addressing the need for guidance and standards

Mandira Paul, UNFPA Headquarters

Developing a Technical Guide to Respond to Child Marriage in Humanitarian Settings[7]

- UNFPA and UNICEF have drafted a technical guide on responding to child marriage in humanitarian settings at different stages of crises

- Target audiences are UNFPA and UNICEF country offices, primarily those included in the Global Programme, other partners working on child marriage at country level and global partners working on child marriage

- The guide covers response to child marriage across the humanitarian programme cycle, across the clusters and bridging the development-humanitarian continuum

- Feedback from small groups will be reflected in an updated version of the guide to be finalized in 2020

Summary of key discussion points

- There is a need to clarify the primary target of this guidance: harmful practices/GBV/child protection actors working in development settings with minimal previous exposure to humanitarian settings? Humanitarian actors with minimal previous exposure to harmful practices programming?

- Current input from the humanitarian side comes mostly from GBV and child protection actors working in humanitarian settings, because that is where the issue most commonly tends to be housed

- More engagement is needed with other humanitarian actors before the guidance can be finalized

- It would be useful to first state what the development world has to say about this issue, what we have learned

- More perspectives are needed that are informed by what communities think they can do

- It is necessary to determine who will be accountable for the implementation of the guidance

- It is suggested the document is not overdesigned. Rather, it should be tested, and revisited as necessary in the future

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[7] Publication of technical guide forthcoming.

PRIORITY ACTIONS IDENTIFIED BY PARTICIPANTS

At the conclusion of the consultation, participants were asked to identify their own national-, regional- and global-level priorities that would serve as stepping stones to advance efforts to address child marriage in humanitarian settings. Tables 1–4 present the priorities identified in four domains that were highlighted by participants for special attention: policies/frameworks, programmes, evidence-building and partnerships.

Table 1: Policies/frameworks

National level	Regional level	Global level
■ Promote gender mainstreaming within ministries	■ Advocate for and support the League of Arab States to take a stand on child marriage related to the minimum age of marriage at 18	■ Generate a policy brief on using legal frameworks towards ending child marriage in humanitarian contexts
■ Address child marriage and adolescent issues in national disaster risk reduction strategies	■ Learn from other regions on influencing regional bodies	■ Clarify relationship between child marriage and GBV
■ Implement and monitor a national action plan on child marriage, including for populations affected by humanitarian conditions	■ Bring discussion of humanitarian settings into regional mechanisms/fora on ending child marriage	■ Generate a position paper on child marriage as a harmful practice and its linkages with forced marriage
■ Advance policy on mental health and psychological well-being related to child marriage	■ Develop a gender justice policy for child marriage: survivor-centred approaches in law enforcement and access to justice in Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine and Iraq	
■ Develop thematic briefs on child marriage and GBV (not just in humanitarian settings)		
■ Ensure staff well-being		

Niger, October 2018.
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Table 2: Programmes

National level

- Expand programming targeting adolescent girls – particularly strengthened engagement/outreach to invisible girls (girls out of school, those with restrictions on mobility, etc, overlooked by the average programme or service)
- Develop a package of life skills responsive to humanitarian settings
- Develop resilience through education on life skills to adolescents and young people
- Support a reproductive delay programme
- Pilot prevention/social behaviour change programming (Communities Care) in new humanitarian contexts
- Pilot social norms change programming in humanitarian settings
- Promote coordination among child protection, GBV and sexual and reproductive health
- Bring child marriage into gender and GBV working group discussions and programming, and map all child marriage response and prevention initiatives
- Build capacity for child marriage case management and adolescent girls' programming
- Strengthen risk mitigation and multisectoral response models
- Better leverage the clusters to work together to deliver for adolescent girls
- Engage governmental actors and decision makers in all programming

Regional level

- Commit to truly addressing child marriage through the lens of adolescent girls, continue collecting voices of girls and inform programming and implement adolescent girls' advisory groups
- Activate regional working groups on ending child marriage, particularly in regions where no strong mechanism exists already
- Regional theory of change on ending child marriage, context grounded with a regional logic
- Capacity development of service providers of child protection, GBV and sexual and reproductive health services
- Update and disseminate the Girls Not Brides briefs on child marriage in humanitarian settings in Arabic
- Compendium/programme briefs on promising models from the Middle East and North Africa

Global level

- Advocate for framing programming on child marriage around the differentiated needs of adolescent girls, recognizing its close links to GBV, and also recognizing that adolescents have agency to enter into consensual relationships that should not be penalized
- Better understand differences in timelines and timeframes for action between humanitarian/non-humanitarian government/development actors
- Provide technical support to countries and regions for enhanced advocacy, policy and programming on child marriage in humanitarian settings
- Bring child protection, GBV and sexual and reproductive health and rights together, and support national and sub-national capacities
- Update the Girls Not Brides brief on child marriage in humanitarian settings , translate and disseminate it, to feed into UNFPA–UNICEF guidance on child marriage humanitarian settings
- Inputs and finalization of UNFPA–UNICEF technical guidance on addressing child marriage in humanitarian settings

Table 3: Evidence-building

National level

- Determine what kind of adolescent club with life skills programming is most effective in humanitarian settings

- Develop a better understanding of the needs of adolescent girls who are internally displaced (rural to urban) living in slums or urban peripheries

- Document lessons learnt and good or promising practices, analyse barriers for accessing services and meaningful adolescent engagement

- Provide better evidence on ending child marriage and climate change

Regional level

- Sharing knowledge at the regional level

- Engage with other regions through the Regional Accountability Framework (cross-regional learning) and support evidence-building and development of tools for adolescent-led action research

- Ensure more robust multi-country evaluations of successful programming

- Complete and disseminate the South Asia study on child marriage in humanitarian settings, including reflecting the results in regional programming

- Develop an evaluation tool for child marriage prevention in the Middle East and North Africa

- Strengthen evidence-building on the impact or needs for children divorced and widowed in Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Iraq

Global level

- Convene global conversations on ending child marriage in humanitarian settings, and support a global learning collective on what works, how tools are being used and methodologies being applied across country and regional contexts

- Raise visibility of promising practices and approaches

- Systematize case studies on child marriage in humanitarian settings by region

- Provide evidence of the impacts of cash transfers on child marriage to inform humanitarian programmes

- Share lessons learnt on GBV data collection in humanitarian settings, including on child marriage

Table 4: Partnerships

National level

- Support joint advocacy campaigns

- Tackle child marriage through digital feminism

- Develop back-to-school programming with education actors

- Engage religious leaders

Regional level

- Hold a regional meeting on child marriage in humanitarian settings in the context of human rights mechanisms

- Improve partnerships with regional bodies

- Harmonize/standardize approaches when conducting research across the Regional Accountability Framework partnership

- Expand the Regional Accountability Framework to ensure engagement and voice of local civil society organizations

Global level

- More advocacy with donors for child marriage funding in humanitarian settings

- Engage with civil society organizations working with men and boys to support stepping up efforts on male engagement in humanitarian settings

- Engage all regions in discussions on ending child marriage in humanitarian settings

Uganda. December, 2018.
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