



unicef 
for every child

Maturity Model Desk Review, Assessment and Action Planning

COUNTRY: INDIA

Development of maturity model and assessment
tools for harmful practices policies

Maturity Model Desk Review, Assessment and Action Planning

COUNTRY: INDIA

Development of maturity model and assessment
tools for harmful practices policies

Acknowledgment

The maturity model and assessment tools for harmful practices policies for the Global Programme to End Child Marriage was produced by United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) headquarters’ offices with support from Matthew Dalling (consultant). We would like to thank colleagues in the countries where the tool was field-tested, for their constructive feedback in enriching the tool.

For more information about the tool, please contact Joseph Mabirizi(jmabirizi@unicef.org)

The Global Programme to End Child Marriage is generously funded by the Governments of Belgium, Canada, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, and the United Kingdom, the European Union through the Spotlight Initiative, and Zonta International

List of acronyms

CM	Child Marriage
CPC	Child Protection Committee
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
ECM	Elimination of Child Marriage
ETP	Ethical Tea Partnership
GPECM	Global Programme to End Child Marriage
JPFGM	Joint Programme on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation
MoWCD	Ministry of Women and Child Development
NCRB	National Crime Records Bureau
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund

Contents

List of acronyms	2
I. Background	5
II. Methodology	7
III. Key findings	7
Governance and coordination structures (Overall rating 2.4)	8
Policy and legislative framework (Rating 2.1)	9
Engagement and participation (Rating 2.3)	10
Financing and human resources (Rating 2)	11
Access to services (Rating 2.3)	12
Data collection, monitoring and evaluation (Rating 2.1)	13
IV. Prioritization of actions for India	14
Appendix A: Desk review	20
Appendix B: Country data visualization India	30



I. Background

According to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) 2019–2021 for India, the rate of child marriage decreased from 26.8 per cent to 23.3 per cent compared to the previous NFHS-4 for 2014–2015. While the situation for very young Indian girls is slightly improving, child marriage continues to be a major problem. Roughly 7 per cent were married before the age of 15 years. There is also a concerning stagnation and even an increase in some states in India. Four states now account for more than half the child marriage burden in the country (Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Maharashtra). Reporting of child marriage increased during the pandemic with the second wave witnessing a spike in children losing their parents (COVID orphans) with fears of a risk of early marriage especially for girls.

In addition to its immediate negative impact on physical growth, mental and emotional development and education opportunities, there are perpetual cycles of poverty promoted through the practice of child marriage. Mothers that were excluded from educational attainment from an early age, and faced a high incidence of disease, often feel the financial burden that forces the practice of child marriage on to the next generation.¹ Eventually, adolescent girls often have little control over when and to whom they will be married. Rather, for many girls, life is dictated by a combination of patriarchal societal norms, monetary concerns and negotiations between parents and in-laws. Additional considerations of prestige and honour are also of paramount importance. The importance of dowry continues to be a prime concern central to the negotiation of a marriage.²

Drivers of early marriage include prolonged closure of schools which were closed for most of 2020-2021 and resumed at 50 per cent attendance later in the year. During the pandemic, lack of access to remote learning, coupled with digital gender divide, resulted in dropout of adolescents and put them at risk of child marriage, migration and child labour. Economic pressures, especially in low-income households, have increased pressure on early marriages. Lockdown restrictions also delayed roll-out of parenting programmes and adolescent programmes in schools. Natural disasters, coupled with local governance elections, have also impeded programme implementation.

While the Government has been involved in addressing the issue, the child protection and allied systems and their front-liners have been overburdened with COVID-related responsibilities. Hence, the consistent engagement for prevention and response to child marriage has been a challenge.

Purpose

This document aims to accelerate change to achieve the 2030 elimination of harmful practices Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A draft maturity model or framework for harmful practices with articulated benchmarks has been developed and populated for review and feedback from country-level stakeholders. The model aims to provide an integrated strategy on measuring processes, systems and services and information based on a Public Policy Management approach.³ This framework is intended to complement and augment the Global Programme to End Child Marriage (GPECM) framework and the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation (JPFGM). In India as Female Genital Mutilation is not practised this report focuses primarily on elimination of child marriage (CM).

Based on the draft maturity model and assessment tools, rapid assessments were conducted in 12 countries⁴ to measure the level of maturity of their processes, systems and services to eliminate harmful practices. Draft Action Plans were developed based on identified actions (short, medium and long term), to inform existing national action plans and advocacy strategies.

It is against this background that a desk review was conducted, the draft maturity model was completed and prototyped, and the draft findings of this country level-report are shared. This reflects the inception stage of sensitizing country-level stakeholders on the potential utility of a comparable maturity model to accelerate action for change across 12 countries.

II. Methodology

The desk review comprises core documents shared by the country including various documents such as laws, policies, strategies, guidance and standards, monitoring and evaluation reports which touch on the topic of harmful practices. Furthermore, competency frameworks from other countries are included to provide insight into the format, methodology and content of harmful practices frameworks that have been developed in other contexts. The findings of the review will be included in an Appendix to complement the findings of this desk review and will help to inform the strengths and gaps in harmful practices programming.

The desk review was completed by using several key questions or 'lenses' defined by the six operational/ functions areas and sub-domains of the draft maturity model on harmful practices. The questions posed to answer these goals include the following:

- 1. What is the effectiveness of government structures, including coordination across government departments, between centralization levels, and between formal and informal actors?
- 2. What is the effectiveness of the legal and regulatory framework, as well as specific policies related to prevention and elimination of harmful practices?
- 3. What is the extent to which key stakeholders, including children and women, are involved in planning interventions for the prevention and response to harmful practices?
- 4. What are the sources, adequacy and availability of funds and human resources to support elimination of harmful practices?
- 5. What is the availability and access to prevention and response services for women and children most-at-risk of harmful practices?
- 6. What is the effectiveness of data collection and monitoring and evaluation systems, whether it is being done nationally into the situation for children and women at risk of harmful practices, and into programmes addressing their needs?

III. Key findings

The key findings of the desk review and draft completed maturity model are organized in terms of the questions we aimed to answer. Where information was limited, or gaps were identified, this is included under each question. Each Operational/functional areas (Intermediate outcome)

comprises benchmarks or 'Sub-domains', so for example for the Intermediate outcome on 'Governance and coordination structures' there are three sub-domains – namely Political commitment, Coordination structures and National Action Plans. Each is rated in the maturity model between 1–4.

1. Weak - Building 2. Average - Enhancing 3. Good - Integrating 4. Excellent - Mature



Governance and coordination structures

Measurement standard for mature rating: The country has strong political commitment to eliminate harmful practices with high level declaration spelling out its commitments; there is a national multi-sectoral coordination structure in place with an institutionally mandated lead, which meets routinely, and there is a Plan of Action (NPA) with clearly defined targets aligned to national statistics frameworks.

A1 Political commitment: There is strong political commitment for the elimination of harmful practices in India with a declaration made at Prime Ministerial level as well as by the Minister of Women and Child Development. This declaration was transmitted across the country, with ongoing follow-up from the Minister. There is no dedicated national mechanism for elimination of harmful practices, yet under the flagship gender equality programme called Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) for gender equality, regular multi-sectoral reviews are held at national and district levels. In addition, states have review mechanisms in place around programmes for ending child marriage. There is no earmarked funding at national level for this but some states do have specific allocations especially for girl child cash transfer programmes to prevent child marriage. At national level, through BBBP, some of the prevention work is addressed but funding is limited and scattered.

A2 Coordination structures: The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) is the lead ministry responsible for harmful practices. There are,

however, limited resources and capacities available for implementation and convening roles. There is a national task force for BBBP but work is mainly sectoral and meetings take place intermittently. Lately, with some restructuring, this has potential to improve. All UNICEF programming states have district-level task forces, which have varied levels of implementation and impact. There is no national level body responsible for the elimination of harmful practices, though district-level task forces do meet, usually quarterly. There are individual child marriage prohibition officers with statutory functions but the scale and scope of these is unclear. Overall, mechanisms are in place to eliminate harmful practices with good political will and commitment. Challenges remain in the area of implementation, convergence and funding.

A3 National Plan of Action: In 2013, India drafted the National Plan of Action on Prevention of Child Marriage. More recently, individual states, among them Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Bihar, have proposed strategy plans and roadmaps for the prevention of child marriage.⁵ According to the GPECM Annual Report for 2021, 131 district action plans are presently approved for implementation in 175 districts in 10 states, giving a strong impetus to Elimination of Child Marriage (ECM) programming.

Elimination of Child marriage is covered in the National Children’s Action Plan of 2018. Given the diversity of India, a national plan is considered to have limited utility as there are state-level plans to end child marriage. These state plans are quite detailed and provide the accountabilities including costing; there are also detailed district plans in around 175 districts across 14 states.

Reduction of child marriage and the related SDG target on eliminating child marriage are included in the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) and are monitored and tracked. As there is no National Plan in place the impact is diffused. Given the sensitivity around elimination of harmful practices, state plans have varying levels of details steering away from too much emphasis on violations and focusing rather on prevention and empowerment of girls.

Name of Country	Overall Score	Sub-Domains	Specific Score
Governance & Coordination	2,4	A1: Political commitment	2,7
		A2: Coordination structures	1,8
		A3: National Action Plans	2,8

Policy and legislative framework

Measurement standard for mature rating: There are enacted laws and policies which specifically protect women and girls, including the most-at-risk from harmful practices. These are operationalized through implementing mechanisms and enforcement measures at national and sub-national levels, and routine monitoring and review mechanisms are in place to ensure these laws are in line with international human rights standards.

B1 Legislation, policies and implementation mechanisms for harmful practices: Child marriage is recognized as a violation of human rights and its eliminations is included in target 5.3 of the SDGs. Over the past 30 years, India took several legal steps to strengthen the legislative and policy frameworks supposed to protect adolescents from child marriage. In 1992, it acceded to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and in the following year ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). National efforts began in 2006 with the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act setting the legal age of marriage to 18 years for girls, and 21 years for boys. While this law is in place it is not effectively implemented due to lack of financial and human resources and lack of child protection system structures beyond districts.

There is a proposal to raise the minimum age of marriage for girls to 21 years of age, but there are significant challenges in terms of the acceptability of this given the strong patriarchal society. As a result, this has not been approved. There are child protection monitoring agencies in place but again these have variable and limited effectiveness especially since most child marriage cases are not reported. There are policies in place to eliminate child marriage but there are gaps in terms of adaptation and implementation beyond national level.

Name of Country	Overall Score	Sub-Domains	Specific Score
Policy and Legislation	2,1	B1: Legislation, policies and implementation mechanisms for harmful practices	2,1

Engagement and participation

Measurement standard for mature rating: There is an independent complaints mechanisms that accepts complaints by or on behalf of women refused or receiving harmful practices services which replies within a stipulated timeframe; civil society are extensively engaged in strengthening political commitment, planning and budgeting processes, and monitoring and reporting around harmful practices; there are engagement forums for women, youth and children with Government support, and there are community-based protection mechanisms in place also engaging with women and children. The effectiveness of these mechanisms is monitored through fully functional accountability mechanisms.

C2 Civil society engagement, including women and children: Overall there appears to be limited consultation with Civil Society Organizations (CSO) and women and children around the planning, implementation, budgeting, monitoring and reporting process for harmful practices. There have been state-level consultations between Ministry and CSOs, which included analysis of the current situation of women and girls and trends on child marriage. There is selected participation of CSOs in national-level meetings but this space is shrinking due to fears of state backlash and hence requires attention. At the district level, CSOs are part of the district task force meetings and support in implementing the action plan on ending child marriage. The SDG shadow reports and recommendations to the proposed amendment of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act are spaces for civil society to express their views. There are Government-supported helplines like ChildLine India, child protection structures and One Stop Centres for women and child survivors of violence in states. However, there is no mechanism for feedback and reporting that allows for children and women's groups to engage with Government on any critical issues around protection and safeguarding.

C3 Community-based mechanisms for harmful practices prevention: There are research guidelines and legal instruments that require mandatory consent to engage with children, and which ensure any safeguarding incidents are reported. However, there are no strong monitoring mechanisms to review these. Community-based mechanisms such as youth and women-led collectives are in place but mostly supported by CSOs. It is unclear how effectively they are meeting needs.

C1 Independent complaint mechanism: There is a complaints mechanism linked to the Ministry of Women and Child Development, but these are not independent.

Name of Country	Overall Score	Sub-Domains	Specific Score
Engagement and participation	2,3	C1: Independent complaint mechanism exists for children and women	2
		C2: Civil society engagement, including women and children	2
		C3: Community-based mechanisms for harmful practices prevention	2,5

Financing and human resources

Measurement standard for mature rating: Adequate financial resources have been allocated by Government and partners, with Government meeting the majority of the costs; the funding is realized on time and is accessible to the relevant sectoral Ministry(s), with regular reviews of allocation taking place. Routine capacity-building is provided to key stakeholders with supportive supervision services on harmful practices and with significant sustained coverage.

D1 Financing of harmful practices services: There are limited budgetary commitments provided by the Government for implementation of relevant programmes or activities to address harmful practices: There is allocation by the Government through BBBP but this has limited funding and is supplemented by CSOs and UNICEF in many states. There is Government funding through national and sub-national budgets but this is limited and insufficient to address the issue of child marriage at scale. It is usually CSOs and donors that deploy resources including for prevention work. Efforts are ongoing to leverage State funding. While there is no national-level plan of action, the gender equality BBBP scheme has a Government allocation, although utilization and leveraging funds from other ministries is a challenge.

D2 National budget establishment: The Ministry of Women and Child Development is responsible for the allocated budget for ending child marriage, which is channeled through the BBBP scheme. The mandate for BBBP and budget are limited. Work is underway to revamp the guidelines and strengthen the focus on adolescent empowerment and gender equality, which are important drivers of child marriage. The national budget allocation is decided upon by the Ministry with limited consultation with service providers. With allocation of some budgets to states they have the flexibility to plan according to their needs, though it is unclear how this takes place. There is also strong commitment for cash transfers and roll out of the BBBP scheme with the need to develop policies and costed action plans.

D3 National budget execution: Under the BBBP scheme there are delays in funds being disbursed and utilized, although there is advocacy to limit delays. There is a manual which was developed to streamline reporting and monitoring required for budgetary allocation.

D. National budget amount: There are limited funds available. Allocation varies from state to state; in high prevalence states there is a fund allocation to delay child marriage through cash transfers.

D5 National budget monitoring and review: There are a few systematic instruments in place to track budget expenditure: analysis is undertaken through publicly available data by CSOs, though there is no systematic review.

D6 Human resources: There are human resources available at different state and Government platforms that continue to address the issue of harmful practices, although there are capacity challenges. Limited training has been undertaken by Government on the issue of harmful practices, and these are usually led by CSOs.

Name of Country	Overall Score	Sub-Domains	Specific Score
Financing & HR	2	D1: Financing of harmful practices services	2,2
		D2: National budget establishment	2
		D3: National budget execution	2
		D4: National budget amount	2
		D5: National budget monitoring and review	2
		D6: Human resources	2,3

Access to services

Measurement standard for mature rating:

There are clearly-defined and gender-responsive SOPs or protocols for the elimination of harmful practices, which are regularly reviewed and revised to adapt to emerging situations. There is an excellent awareness of harmful practices among policymakers, with Government-led and funded national-level scale-up prevention and response-related services including integrated case management and referral services, which are accessible at national and sub-national levels. These are user friendly and gender responsive.

- E1 Availability of Standard Operating Procedures and/or protocols for harmful practices services: There are SOPs and guidelines across states, districts and nationally but implementation and knowledge among duty bearers is still limited. This is evidenced by the fact that most of child marriage cases are not reported.
- E2 Understanding and articulation of harmful practices system: Under the programme there are various awareness-raising and prevention activities on the girl child and equality issues. CSOs are also very active in raising awareness to prevent child marriage across states. UNICEF also supports various social behaviour change approaches, such as the UNICEF edutainment series Tara Hai Tayyar on ending child marriage, gender-based violence, violence against children, and COVID-19-appropriate behaviour, which reached around 5 million people. The GPECM Annual Report for 2021 recommends that there is a need to develop and integrate tailored social behavior change modules in existing training institutes including the police and judicial academies etc.
- E3 Modelling testing and scaling of harmful practices services: The GPECM Annual report for 2021 recommends that there is a need to pilot and scale up service delivery-based platforms, non-traditional platforms and multimedia digital platforms to enhance reach and efficacy of services.
- E4 Availability of harmful practices services, case management and referral systems: It was rated that there is good access to harmful practices services, case management and referral systems with the challenges being around implementation and effectiveness, and translating policies into plans and actions.

Data collection, monitoring and evaluation

Measurement standard for mature rating:

There are administrative data systems as part of a broader national statistics system, which at regular intervals generates gender and age disaggregated data on harmful practices and includes information on hard-to-reach populations; data is regularly used for policy, planning and monitoring of programmes and there are data security and governance mechanisms, such as legislation, in place which ensure confidentiality. Harmful practices issues are routinely captured through population, longitudinal and/or cross-sectional surveys and inform design of prevention and response service interventions. There is also centralized coordination of the data by the national statistics offices with relevant ministries and agencies.

- F1: Administrative data systems and monitoring to routinely generate data on harmful practices: The BBBP program has mandated a data portal which UNICEF has supported in past. This has administrative data points which capture the programme operational indicators. Currently Government is planning to modify this for wider coverage. Formal data collection plans are absent but data on child marriages averted at district level are reported. There is a civil registration system in place but it this does not capture child marriage or female genital mutilation. It captures topics related to birth and death registration. The patient health information system does not highlight child marriages in India. According to the GPECM Annual Report for 2021 there is no standardized Management Information System (MIS) platform, and availability of administrative data from Government sources addressing adolescent programmes is a constraint in the country. A process of developing programme-specific MIS capturing data collected manually from available Government sources is underway.
- F2 Data security and governance: There are ad hoc approval processes in place for data collection, access to data sharing and researcher requirements. There are plans in place for a national database linked to the BBBP flagship programme for data management. Various states have varying levels of competencies in documenting data processes.
- F3 Research and surveys: The National Family Health Survey has questions capturing harmful practices and is conducted on average at four-year intervals. The sample size is sufficient to extrapolate data at district, state and national levels.

Name of Country	Overall Score	Sub-Domains	Specific Score
Access to Services	2,3	E1: Availability of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)and/or protocols for harmful practices services	2
		E2: Understanding and articulation of harmful practices system	2,5
		E3: Modelling testing and scaling of harmful practices services	2
		E4: Availability of harmful practices services, case management and referral systems	2,8

Name of Country	Overall Score	Sub-Domains	Specific Score
Data collection, monitoring and evaluation	2,1	F1: Administrative data systems and monitoring to routinely generate data on harmful practices	1,3
		F2: Data security and governance	2
		F3: Research and surveys	3

IV. Prioritization of actions for India

Governance & Coordination

A1: Political commitment.

Rating: 2.7

- Short Term (1-2 yrs)**
- Continue to advocate for high level statements speaking out on harmful practices.

A2: Coordination structures.

Rating: 1.8

- Short Term (1-2 yrs)**
- Advocate for regular meetings at all levels (national/state/district) to review the national priorities and the state and district-level action plans on child marriage and promote inter-sectoral convergence. UNICEF already does this but will focus on strengthening this where it's not regular.
 - Advocate for more earmarked funding on ECM/Adolescent empowerment (this is already undertaken through UNICEF's support to the operational guidelines of the BBBP scheme).
 - Advocate for MoWCD to convene different ministries for improved inter-sectoral convergence and also leverage resources to sustain this. For example, MoWCD has signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Skill Development to promote non-traditional livelihoods and UNICEF provided the technical support for the same).

- Medium Term (2-5 yrs)**
- Work with MoWCD to operationalize the revised operational BBBP guidelines that have clearly defined some of these processes and mechanisms.
 - Advocate for technical support to regularize the district-level task forces where irregular and where UNICEF has a presence.
 - Advocate to ensure the BBBP national task force regularizes meetings and reviews implementation of BBBP.
 - Advocate for technical support for strengthening the role and capacities of prohibition officers to prevent child marriage and also advocate for adequate monitoring and coordinating structures to support them.
 - Advocate for better implementation of BBBP operational guidelines that define these coordination structures.

A3: National Action Plans.

Rating: 2.8

- Short Term (1-2 yrs)**
- Work with states to ensure they operationalize state plans and strengthen the implementation of BBBP and other schemes at the central level.
 - Support operationalizing the state and district action plans in UNICEF priority states.

- Medium Term (2-5 yrs)**
- Advocate for better monitoring of SDG targets and for them to be embedded in monitoring mechanisms at state and national level.
 - Advocate for this within the existing MoWCD mission and schemes.

Policy and Legislation

B1: Legislation, policies and implementation mechanisms for harmful practices.

Rating: 2.1

- Short Term (1-2 yrs)**
- Advocate to ensure that any reforms to the law on child marriage focus on comprehensively covering elements of adolescent empowerment, coverage of social protection and other essential services and adequate systemic interventions to address the issue
 - Advocate for more robust Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MIS) to both report and prevent child marriages and focus on follow-up interventions to ensure continuity of schooling and skilling.

- Medium Term (2-5 yrs)**
- Advocate that the proposed amendment empowers adolescent girls (with access to education and services) to make informed choices as well as to increase the age of marriage.
 - Support strengthening of child protection structures at all levels to ensure better implementation of the policy and adaptation of child protection policies, such as strengthening the child protection committees in villages and wards to ensure child protection needs are addressed.

Engagement and participation

C1: Independent complaint mechanism exists for children and women.

Rating: 2

- Short Term (1-2 yrs)**
- Better streamlining of these mechanisms within MoWCD.

- Long Term (5+ yrs)**
- Work with the Government to allow for community feedback mechanisms.

C2: Civil society engagement, including women and children.

Rating: 2

- Short Term (1-2 yrs)**
- Support other such consultation processes in the new revamped mission of the MoWCD.
 - Facilitating spaces for CSOs, women and children participation in key events where UNICEF supports the MoWCD.
 - Advocate for their involvement in important consultations and deliberations where possible.

- Medium Term (2-5 yrs)**
- Continue leveraging spaces for their participation in district task forces and at state level especially where UNICEF supports the Government.

C3: Community-based mechanisms for harmful practices prevention.

Rating: 3

- Medium Term (2-5 yrs)**
- Advocacy to ensure the safeguarding laws like the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) do not impinge on the privacy and do not end up controlling the sexual agency of adolescents.
 - Work to strengthen the child protection committees at all levels and ensure adequate investments are made to sustain them.

Financing & HR

D1: Financing of harmful practices services.

Rating: 2.2

- Short Term (1-2 yrs)**
 - Work with MoWCD to ensure smooth allocation and leveraging of funds from other departments/ministries.
- Medium Term (2-5 yrs)**
 - Advocate for more costed state and district action plans for ending child marriage.
 - Advocate for dedicated investments in preventive work on ECM, and empowerment/cash plus programmes for girls.
 - Advocate for inter-sectoral convergence and leveraging of funds from different schemes through costed action plans on ending child marriage.
 - Leverage and advocate for more funding in existing schemes and for a national costed plan.

D2: National budget establishment.

Rating: 2

- Short Term (1-2 yrs)**
 - Advocate for national action plan for ECM.
- Medium Term (2-5 yrs)**
 - Support improved implementation of the BBBP funds and using the operational guidelines to leverage other ministry funds.
 - Advocate for assessment of the needs of the service providers and their engagement in the planning process.
 - Advocate for budget through existing schemes and ensure a greater focus on ending child marriage and adolescent empowerment.
 - Advocate more political commitment at the national level and to reflect this within schemes like BBBP.

D3: National budget execution.

Rating: 2

- Medium Term (2-5 yrs)**
 - Support the Government to operationalize the BBBP guidelines that commit to streamlining funding.

D4: National budget amount.

Rating: 2

- Medium Term (2-5 yrs)**
 - Work with the Government to increase this funding especially for high prevalence states like Bihar.

D5: National budget monitoring and review.

Rating: 2

- Medium Term (2-5 yrs)**
 - Invest in more analysis on budget review and ensure this is embedded in state and district action plans.

D6: Human resources.

Rating: 2.3

- Short Term (1-2 yrs)**
 - UNICEF undertakes consultations with judiciary and other stakeholders on critical legislation like POCSO that has implications for adolescent's sexual agency and in turn harmful practices.
- Medium Term (2-5 yrs)**
 - Advocate for reforms in laws through consultations. Support capacity building and system strengthening initiatives.

Access to Services

E1: Availability of Standard Operating Procedures and/or protocols for harmful practices services.

Rating: 2

- Short Term (1-2 yrs)**
 - Better advocacy for implementation of SOPs at state level.

E2: Understanding and articulation of harmful practices system.

Rating: 2.5

- Short Term (1-2 yrs)**
 - Support the Ministry to develop a community plan and to leverage resources.
- Medium Term (2-5 yrs)**
 - Put in place more programming and interventions tailored for hard-to-reach areas and the most vulnerable.

E3: Modelling testing and scaling of harmful practices services.

Rating: 2

- Short Term (1-2 yrs)**
 - Provide technical support to ensure villages are child marriage-free.

E4: Availability of harmful practices services, case management and referral systems.

Rating: 2.8

- Short Term (1-2 yrs)**
 - Advocate for more robust MICS to capture this data at national level, currently done through helpline.
- Medium Term (2-5 yrs)**
 - Improve standardization of these procedures and for better reach to most vulnerable.
 - Advocacy for better access to these services and to ensure their quality is standardized across all states.
 - Advocate for improving the quality of services, technical support to ensure they are child- and gender-friendly.

Data collection, M&E

F1: Administrative data systems and monitoring to routinely generate data on harmful practices.

Rating: 1.2

-
- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Short Term (1-2 yrs) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support the MIS for the BBBP and the MoWCD's Mission Shakti programme and support operationalization of the MIS for states. |
| Medium Term (2-5 yrs) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advocate for one portal and MIS for all schemes to ensure duplication in MIS is reduced.• Advocate for mandatory systems to collect data on marriages and report child marriages. |

F2: Data security and governance.

Rating: 2

-
- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Short Term (1-2 yrs) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Technical support to the BBBP and Mission Shakti programme to operationalize the MIS in states. |
|-----------------------------|---|

F3: Research and surveys.

Rating: 3

-
- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Short Term (1-2 yrs) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analyse NFHS data to understand the prevalence of child marriage closely and the links to other issues such as GBV and schooling. |
|-----------------------------|---|

Appendix A: Desk review

No. 1 Evaluation research

Name of document:

United Nations Children's Fund, 'Improving Adolescent Lives in India: An impact evaluation', Center for Evaluation and Development, November 2021, retrieved from www.socialscisearch.org/trials/7595.

The Adolescent Empowerment Programme (AEP) operated in four districts of four states (Sivasagar in Assam, Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, Purulia and one Kolkata ward in West Bengal, and East Singhbhum in Jharkhand) and set out to cover 50 per cent of the adolescent population in each of these districts. The programme's goal was to empower adolescents and make them agents of change for themselves and their communities, simultaneously making their surrounding aware of and responsive to their rights and needs.

Objectives of the AEP programme:

- The goal of Pillar I was to empower adolescents through activities that increased their knowledge, encouraged dialogue with their peers, enabling an understanding of issues particular to their age group, as well as removing barriers to their agency and confidence. Depending on the activity, male and female adolescents within the ages of 10–19 years were to be reached, both in and out of school.
- Pillar II was targeted more broadly towards communities, especially influential community members and leaders, and parents of adolescents. These adults were understood as the foundation that frames the knowledge, agency and confidence of these adolescents, and targeting them would ensure a modification in the social norms and traditions that hold adolescents back.
- Pillar III, focused on public services and authorities. The knowledge of, and access to, services would enhance adolescents' physical and mental well-being and help them overcome any external barriers to their empowerment.

In addition to its immediate negative impact on physical growth, mental and emotional development, and education

opportunities, UNICEF stresses the perpetual cycles of poverty promoted through the practice of child marriage. Mothers that were excluded from educational attainment from an early age, and faced a high incidence of disease, often feel the financial burden that forces the practice of child marriage on to the next generation.

Child marriage is recognized as a violation of human rights, and its elimination is included in target 5.3 of the SDGs.

Over the past 30 years, India took several legal steps to strengthen the legislative and policy frameworks supposed to protect adolescents from child marriage. In 1992, it acceded to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and in the following year, ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. National efforts began in 2006 with the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act setting the legal age of marriage to 18 years. In 2013, India drafted the National Plan of Action on Prevention of Child Marriage. More recently, individual states, among them Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Bihar, have proposed strategy plans and roadmaps for the prevention of child marriage. Furthermore, the Government set up programmes such as Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) schemes in the 1990s to tackle different causes of early marriage.

These have been especially expedient in India, where child marriage rates, especially for girls under 15 years of age, have declined according to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Annual Report 2015b. While it is true that the situation for very young Indian girls is slightly improving, child marriage continues to be a major problem. In fact, the latest National Family and Health Survey (NFHS-5) finds that 27 per cent of women aged 20–24 years were married before the age of 18 years.

Roughly 7 per cent were married before achieving the age of 15 years according to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Annual Report 2015b. Adolescent girls often have little control over when and to whom they will be married. For many girls, life is dictated by a combination of patriarchal societal norms, monetary concerns and negotiations between parents and in-laws. Additional considerations of prestige and honour are also of paramount importance. The importance of dowry continues to be a prime concern central to the negotiation of a marriage.⁶

No. 2 Survey report

Name of document:

United Nations Children's Fund, 'Improving the Lives of Women and Children in Assam's Tea Communities Programme 2018–2021: End-line survey report (ILP)', UNICEF, 2021.

What is the Ethical Tea Partnership Programme:

The Ethical Tea Partnership (ETP) programme in Assam has been ongoing since 2014 in three districts focusing mainly on child protection issues. UNICEF has been working among the TG population of Assam with TG Management and TG Associations since 2007 in key-development sectors such as child protection, water, -sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and nutrition. In 2014, UNICEF started more intensive programming with funding from the ETP in three districts (Dibrugarh, Sivasagar, and Tinsukia (Phase-I of the ETP programme). The latest phase is characterized by inclusion of a multi-sectoral integrated initiative with activities and expected outcomes across sectors such as health, child development and nutrition, education, child protection, Social Protection, Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), communication for development and business practice change.

Findings in terms of child protection and adolescent empowerment:

- In the surveyed TGs, prevalence of child marriage among girls aged 15–19 years was found to be 5 per cent during the baseline survey which declined considerably to 2 per cent during the endline.

- Enquiry into the knowledge, attitude, and practices (KAP) of ETP-formed adolescent group members revealed that about three quarters (73 per cent) of them believed that social issues such as child marriage and GBV are decreasing in their community. A similar proportion (73 per cent) of group members also disapproved of violence against girls and boys. Improvement of attitude towards child protection issues was more tangible among boys than in girls.

- Nearly all adolescents (95 per cent) surveyed (3,196) reported that they have access to and are supported by functioning reporting and grievance redressal mechanisms.

- Among parents of the surveyed adolescents, attitude has also changed over time; however, changes during the past two years have been marginal owing to reasons such as restrictions on community-based activities of the programme.

- Almost half of the adolescents' parents reported that they disapproved of issues such as child marriage, gender-based violence, discrimination, sexual harassment, and alcoholism (57 per cent) and they make efforts to support adolescents (49 per cent).

No. 3 Evaluation report

Name of document:

United Nations Children's Fund, 'India Country Programme Evaluation 2018–2022', UNICEF, 2021.

The evaluation assessed the effectiveness, relevance and coherence of the Country Programme in terms of independent assessment of results, continued relevance to the country programme, and internal and external coherence of convergent priority areas.

The thematic focus in the area of child protection was on ending child marriage in West Bengal.

Some useful findings and observations in the report:

- Rising levels of poverty and inequality, barriers to education and increased distress and mental health-associated issues, heightened vulnerabilities to gender-based violence and violence against children, and families increasingly resorting to negative coping strategies such as child marriage and child labour.
- The 2018–2022 UNICEF Country Programme had a focus on gender with ending child marriage as a flagship priority. NFHS-5 data notes a reduction in child marriage from 47 per cent to 27 per cent over the past decade. However, stagnation and deterioration in some districts of some states has been noted in the PSN and MTSR, due to the cumulative impact of various vulnerabilities (including the impact of the pandemic) and hence the indicator additions of district-level programming, with the emphasis on parenting and involving boys and men. The CP and MTSR both noted the adoption of a multi-sectoral approach, moving beyond issue based programming.
- The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) also reported that child marriage increased during the pandemic. According to NCRB data, in 2020 a total of 785 cases were registered under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act. In 2019, 523 child marriages were recorded in files while in 2018, the data stood at 501. According to experts, the rise in child marriage cases may be due to increased reporting of the incident.

- The PSN noted the persistence of child marriage, especially among girls from the rural areas, poor socioeconomic background, and with little or no education. It also noted that child marriage among boys could be eliminated by 2030.

- Government officials reported that numbers of early marriages had come down significantly but reporting of early marriage was an issue. However, by leveraging citizen action to report marriages, and by taking legal action against those who are facilitating/arranging child marriages, there is hope that more early marriages will be reported or prevented.

- At the village, block and district levels the institutional structure for preventing child marriage is the Child Protection Committee (CPC), mandated by the state.

Some recommended strategies related to child marriage:

- Leveraging resources for ECM, which has led to Government-specific commitments and allocations for this agenda, was an important strategy.
- Capacity-building of all state officials on ECM-related areas such as social and behavioural change communications and cash-plus.
- Evidence generation, high-level political advocacy which led to raising visibility and informed programme design. Both these were relevant for the state's acceptance of child marriage and the need for state action.
- Advocacy for an expert group to strengthen Rules to the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act and develop an Action Plan for Ending Child Marriage. The latter has prioritized prevention as a strategy thereby addressing causes of child marriage.
- Partnerships to augment state efforts; convening state and civil society efforts as well as engaging with caste- and faith-based leaders.
- Promotion of continuation of education, supporting school-to-work transition, links to skills development and parental skills development (the latter should be uniformly implemented across all intervention regions).

No. 4 Guidelines

Name of document:

Ministry of Women and Child Development, 'Implementation Guidelines for State Governments/UT Administrations', Government of India, 2019.

These serves as reference materials with all the necessary practical information on the components of BBBP and how to implement, monitor and report it at various levels. These are also intended to serve as an effective reference manual for officials at the national and state/Union Territory (UT) levels for policy guidance and monitoring. The guidelines cover key components of the scheme as well as modalities of implementation. It also lays down monitoring and reporting formats to be used at different levels. It is expected that these guidelines are used by the target

audience as a reference material for understanding scheme strategy and its processes. It will also help them to ensure effective implementation of the Scheme at all levels. BBBO aims to celebrate girls and enable their education. The objectives of the scheme are:

- To prevent gender-biased sex-selective elimination.
- To ensure survival and protection of girls.
- To ensure education and participation of girls.

Recommendation related to child marriage:

- Prevention of early child marriage may be done aggressively in order to highlight the importance of allowing girls to complete their school education and preferably opt for higher education/career/skill building/vocational education etc.
- Special efforts need to be made for prevention of child marriage on Akshaya Tiritiya, organized on a massive scale in North India.

Nr 5 Annual report

Name of document:

United Nations Population Fund-United Nations Children's Fund, Global Programme to End Child Marriage (annual report 2021), UNFPA-UNICEF, 2021.

Includes an update on the programme status reflecting on the country context; three significant achievements in 2021, any changes to the country's programme strategy and components, and a section on innovative approaches. Also identifies partnerships and Joint UNFPA-UNICEF work and a reflection on how key principles are being applied – such as a human rights approach, 'Leave No one Behind', and gender-transformative approaches. The document also highlights key programme challenges and support needed before going into detail by Outcome and Output level on specific achievement of results.

Programme performance is measured around the Global Partnership output and outcome performance metrics based on the immediate outcome categories in the results framework.

Immediate outcomes include:

- Empowerment of adolescent girls: Enhanced knowledge, education and life-skills, and attitudes of marginalized adolescent girls on matters such as their rights, relationships, sexual and reproductive health and financial literacy, including in humanitarian contexts.

- Community engagement and transformation: Adolescent boys, families, traditional and religious leaders, community groups and other influencers demonstrate more gender-equitable attitudes and support for girls' rights.
- Strengthening systems: Increased capacity of education, health, child protection and gender-based violence systems to deliver coordinated, quality programmes and services that meet the needs of adolescent girls and their families, including in humanitarian contexts.
- Social protection and partnerships: Increased capacity of national and sub-national social protection, poverty reduction and economic empowerment programmes and services to respond to the needs of the poorest adolescent girls and their families, including in humanitarian contexts
- Policies and legislation: Enhanced capacity of governments to fund, coordinate and implement national, and sub-national action plans and systems to end child marriage.
- Data and evidence generation and use: Increased capacity of governments and non-government organizations to generate, disseminate and use quality and timely evidence to inform policy and programme design, track progress and document lessons.
- Programme effectiveness and efficiency.

No. 6 Assessment report

Name of document:

Global Programme to End Child Marriage, 'Joint Assessment of Adaptations to the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage in light of COVID-19', GPECM, 2021, www.unicef.org/media/111236/file/Child-marriage-COVID-19-assessment.pdf.

The assessment was conducted from April 2021 to July 2021 and included all 12 programme countries and all implementation levels (global, regional, national and community). The assessment identified and analysed the Global Programme response, mitigation and protection measures adopted during the COVID-19 pandemic and considered the extent to which interventions were continued as planned, adjusted, or postponed. Opportunities and challenges related to programme adjustments to the COVID-19 situation were taken into consideration in the analysis and recommendations. The assessment questions were organized around three criteria: relevance, effectiveness and coherence.

Executive Summary findings include:

- Relevance: COVID-19 has reconfirmed the validity of the Phase II Theory of Change; there were no newly identified needs that were outside the scope of the global ToC, the drivers of child marriage were still relevant, although some of them had gained relevance.
- Effectiveness: Most country offices endeavoured to maintain contact with the adolescent girls targeted under the Global Programme through digital platforms or mass media and through community-based partners, committees, volunteers and networks. However, the adoption of virtual technologies raised concerns regarding the quality of these approaches and their ability to influence adolescent girls' agency or gender and social norms. Several learnings from the adjustments to the pandemic have the potential to shape future programming. This includes: i) the use of virtual methods with beneficiaries, allowing larger reach (with some caveats); ii) the need for multi-pronged approaches in programmes aimed at changing in-gender

norms or developing skills; and iii) flexibility in adjusting programming and in reallocating budgets.

- Coherence: Overall, the process of adjusting the Global Programme to COVID-19 restrictions was coherent both internally within agencies, and externally, between agencies.

Key recommendations include:

- The Global Programme should advocate with governments to continue developing aligned multi-sectoral policies, legal instruments and budgeted strategies contributing to ending child marriage, with a focus on addressing the various drivers of child marriage at national, sub-national and local levels, and to seek improved harmonization between sectors. The Global Programme should reinforce its efforts to reach the most vulnerable and marginalized adolescent girls, boys and their families through policy advocacy and programming targeting them specifically.
- The Global Programme should continue to develop complementary multi-channel approaches to reach target populations based on country specificities and context.
- The Global Programme should continue advocacy and systems-strengthening with governments with a view to maintaining access to essential services for adolescent girls and boys in contexts of heightened vulnerability, including in humanitarian crises.
- The Global Programme should articulate further its strategy to leverage social cash transfer programmes and other forms of income-generation opportunities for adolescent girls and their families, since these are a key tool to prevent child marriage.
- While the Theory of Change remains valid, the Global Programme should adjust its results framework and indicators, as well as further support country offices for monitoring, data generation and analysis, in order to reinforce evidence-based programming.

No. 7 Evaluation

Name of document:

United Nations Population Fund-United Nations Children's Fund, 'Joint Evaluation of the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation: Accelerating change Phase III', UNFPA-UNICEF, 2021. <<https://www.unfpa.org/joint-evaluation-unfpa-unicef-joint-programme-abandonment-female-genital-mutilation-accelerating>>.

The Joint Evaluation assesses the Programme contributions to outputs and outcomes during Phase III of the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation 2018–2021 (the Joint Programme). It supports evidence-based decision-making and informs programming beyond 2021, including the strategic direction, gaps and opportunities for the Joint Programme in addressing gender and social norm change.

Key conclusions include:

- The Joint Programme continues to be a strategic and relevant response by UNFPA and UNICEF to the global issue of FGM implementing across 17 countries.
- Phase III design appropriately recognized the importance of positioning FGM on the political agenda of regional entities and supporting accountability systems as it does engaging with the African Union.
- There has been progress in the development of both costed national action plans and monitoring functions, although lower than planned. The Joint Programme

has appropriately recognized the need for dedicated budgets and has advocated as such.

Key recommendations include:

- Continue to strengthen global policy and advocacy strategies.
- Strategically strengthen and support implementation of accountability systems. The Joint Programme should also advocate for fully funded national legal and policy frameworks. In countries where national governments are tackling complex situations around FGM, the Joint Programme should continue to build on its achievements to date.
- Strengthen links with other streams of work towards enhanced access to quality services for FGM prevention, protection and care.
- Accelerate use of the ACT Framework to generate data on social norm change.
- Build the post-Phase III Joint Programme to be gender transformative.
- Continue considered use of public declarations of abandonment as an indicator.
- Incorporate a humanitarian approach within the post-Phase III Joint Programme design.

No. 8 Evaluation report

Name of document:

United Nations Population Fund-United Nations Children's Fund, 'UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage: Joint evaluation', UNFPA-UNICEF, New York, May 2019, <www.unicef.org/sites/default/files/2019-06/GP-2019-Evaluation.pdf>.

The report presents the findings of the evaluation of the first phase of the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage (GPECM). The programme is jointly managed by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The programme is implemented in 12 countries in 4 regions with multiple partners and stakeholders at the national, regional and global levels.

Key findings and conclusions include:

- The programme is well aligned to global and regional frameworks and commitments to end child marriage.
- The application of the GPECM has been responsive to local contexts and has been adopted in each country, although only a few countries have formally adopted the Theory of Change.
- The widespread acknowledgment that child marriage impinges on children's rights and welfare provides a strong foundation and rationale for the ending child marriage agenda.
- Despite efforts to target high prevalence areas and reach the most vulnerable, in many instances, interventions have not yet reached the most remote areas, including many of those that are furthest behind.
- Outcome 1 – The GPECM is increasingly able to reach adolescent girls with activities under Output 1.1, having reached nearly 5.5 million girls by mid-2018, far exceeding the programme's objective to reach 2.5

million girls by the end of 2019.

- Outcome 2 – Country offices have significantly expanded community outreach (Output 2.1) and the GPECM shows signs of scaling up, reaching approximately 11.5 million individuals with information related to ending child marriage in the first half of 2018, significantly more than in 2016 and 2017 combined.
- Outcome 3 – Country offices have increased targets for girls' access to health and protection services every year of the GPECM and have collectively exceeded targets each year.
- Outcome 4 – UNFPA and UNICEF have worked collaboratively at the highest levels to support governments to develop and implement national/state action plans to end child marriage.
- Outcome 5 – GPECM investments in research and data have contributed to building a stronger evidence base on child marriage, although tracking has not offered an indication of data quality and usability to date.

Key recommendations include:

- Prioritize normative leadership.
- Expand framework for country contextualisation (Theory of Change).
- Consolidate and strengthen the evidence-based knowledge management.
- Define and monitor jointness, convergence and complementarity.
- Strengthen and contextualize monitoring and reporting systems.
- Invest in human resources.
- Strengthen the programme.
- Find funds.

No. 9 Benchmarking Child Protection Systems Strengthening Assessment Tool

Name of document:

United Nations Children's Fund, 'Child Protection Systems Strengthening: Approaches, benchmarks and interventions', UNICEF, 2021, <www.unicef.org/documents/child-protection-systems-strengthening>.

The Child Protection Systems Strengthening Maturity Model developed by UNICEF elaborates priorities, processes, and results to be achieved in each phase of child protection systems strengthening and provides comprehensive benchmarks to effectively manage investments and results in systems strengthening.⁷ The benchmarks are defined by the Intermediate Outcomes and defined by benchmarks or sub-domains. This tool was developed and later completed by 155 UNICEF country offices, including India, in December 2021. This serves to measure the level of maturity, or benchmark the status of child protection systems strengthening. UNICEF has developed detailed and summary guides on the benchmarking tool, which will be adapted for the Indian context.

This tool will be used as the primary framework to benchmark the level of maturity of the Indian Child Protection System, with an addition added to identify priority actions needed to improve the ratings or level of maturity.

The intermediate outcomes identified in the tool include:

- Legal and policy framework.
- Governance and coordination structures.
- A continuum of services.
- Minimum standards and oversight mechanisms.
- Human, financial and infrastructure resources.
- Mechanisms for child participation and community engagement.
- Data collection and monitoring systems.

No. 10 Global policy document

Name of document:

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, 'Building Blocks for Policy Coherence for Development', OECD, 2009, www.oecd.org/gov/pcsd/44704030.pdf.

To meet the challenge of building strong child protection systems while building a global partnership for development, governments need to ensure that their policies are supportive or, at a minimum, do not undermine their development policies. In other words there needs to be policy coherence for development (PCD). This aims to exploit positive synergies and spillovers across public policies to foster development – "it entails the systematic application of mutually reinforcing policies and integration of development concerns across government departments to achieve development goals along with national policy objectives".⁸

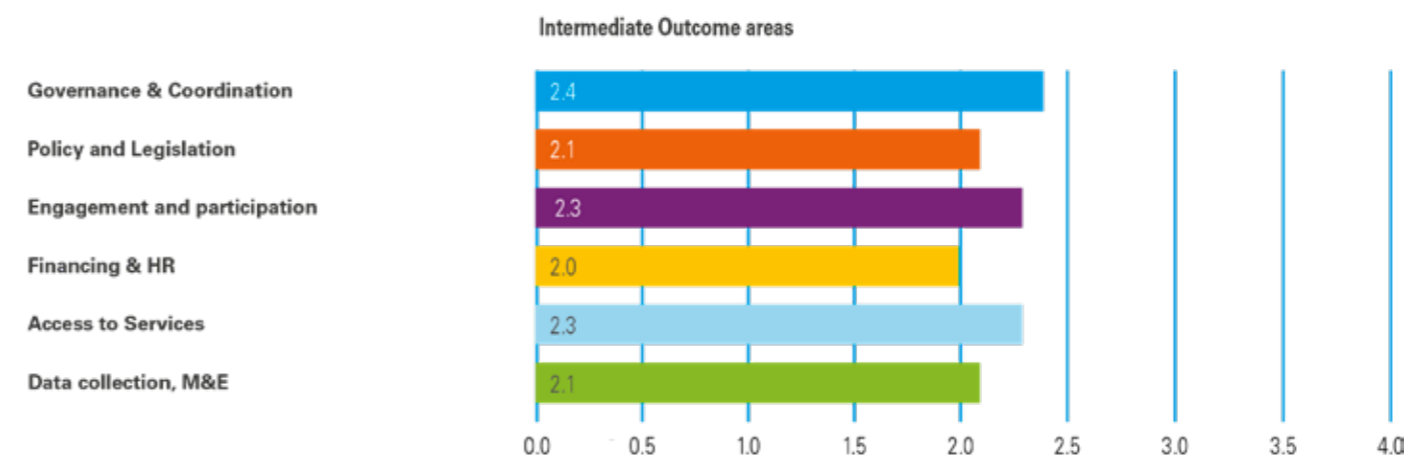
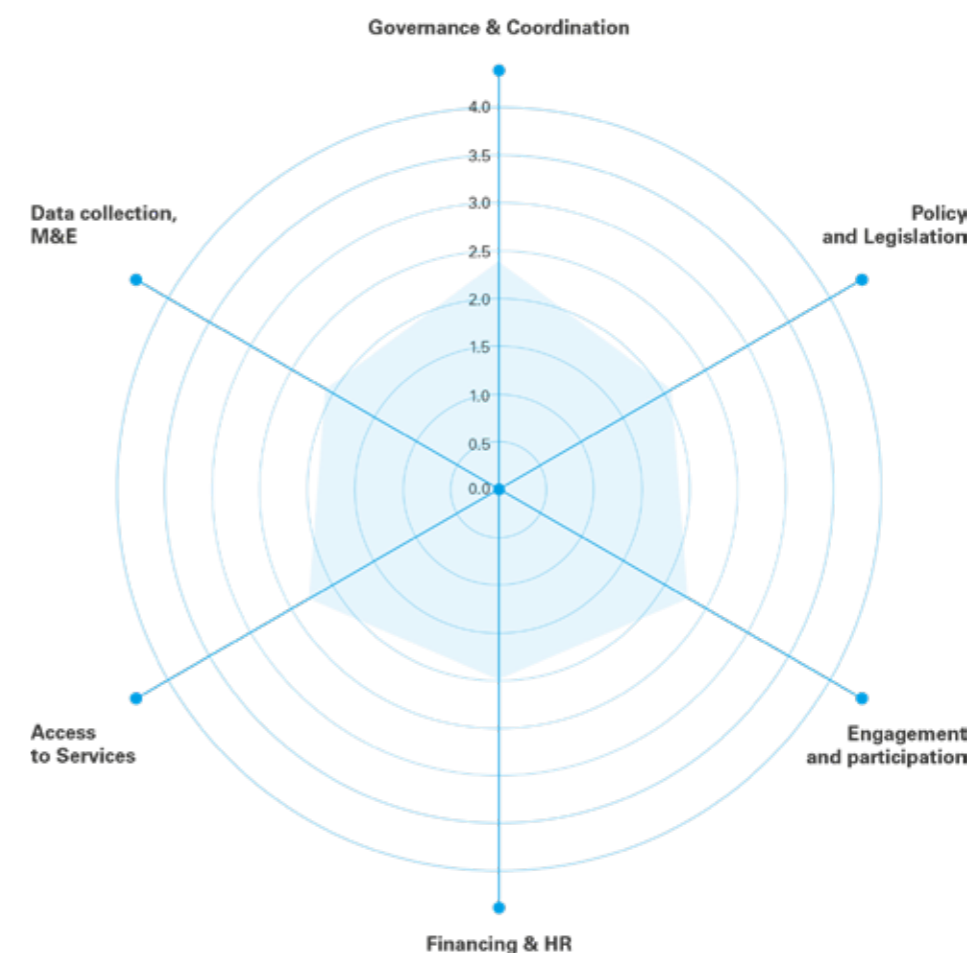
Progress towards policy coherence is understood as a three-phase cycle, with each phase of the cycle supported by one of three building blocks. The PCD approach requires that all three building blocks are in place with sufficient weight given to each phase of the policy coherence cycle. These include three Phases: *i) Setting and prioritizing objectives; ii) Coordinating policy and its implementation, and iii) Monitoring, analysis and reporting.*

These three phases are also known as critical building blocks and there are nine lessons derived across the three phases of the cycle above to promote PCD.

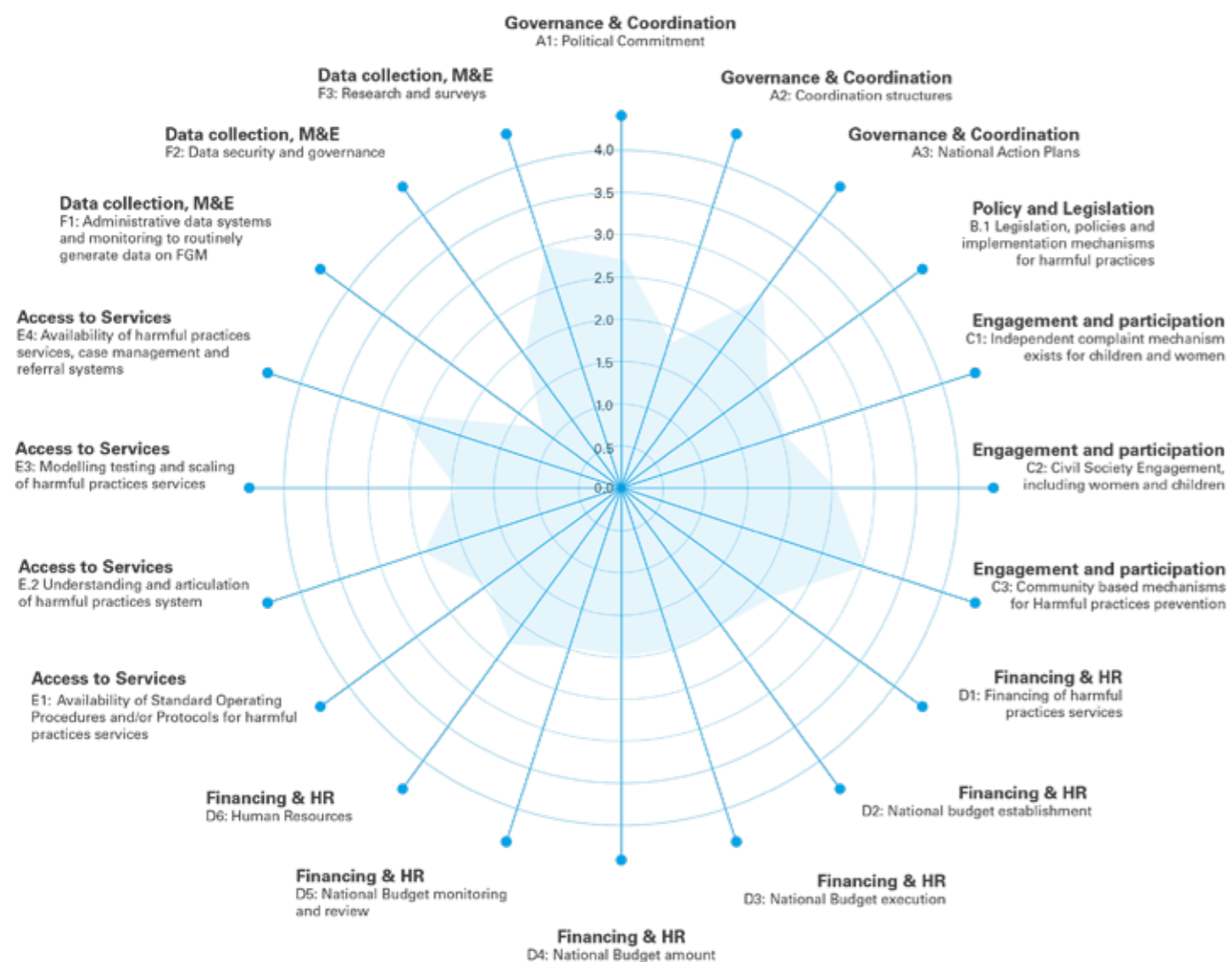
Appendix B: Country data visualization India

Name of Country	Overall Score	Sub-Domains	Specific Score
Governance & Coordination	2,4	A1: Political commitment	2,7
		A2: Coordination structures	1,8
		A3: National Action Plans	2,8
Policy and Legislation	2,1	B1: Legislation, policies and implementation mechanisms for harmful practices	2,1
Engagement and participation	2,3	C1: Independent complaint mechanism exists for children and women	2
		C2: Civil society engagement, including women and children	2,5
		C3: Community-based mechanisms for harmful practices prevention	3
Financing & HR	2	D1: Financing of harmful practices services	2,2
		D2: National budget establishment	2
		D3: National budget execution	2
		D4: National budget amount	2
		D5: National budget monitoring and review	2
		D6: Human resources	2,3
Access to Services	2,3	E1: Availability of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)and/or protocols for harmful practices services	2
		E2: Understanding and articulation of harmful practices system	2,5
		E3: Modelling testing and scaling of harmful practices services	2
		E4: Availability of harmful practices services, case management and referral systems	2,8
Data collection, monitoring and evaluation	2,1	F1: Administrative data systems and monitoring to routinely generate data on harmful practices	1,2
		F2: Data security and governance	2
		F3: Research and surveys	3

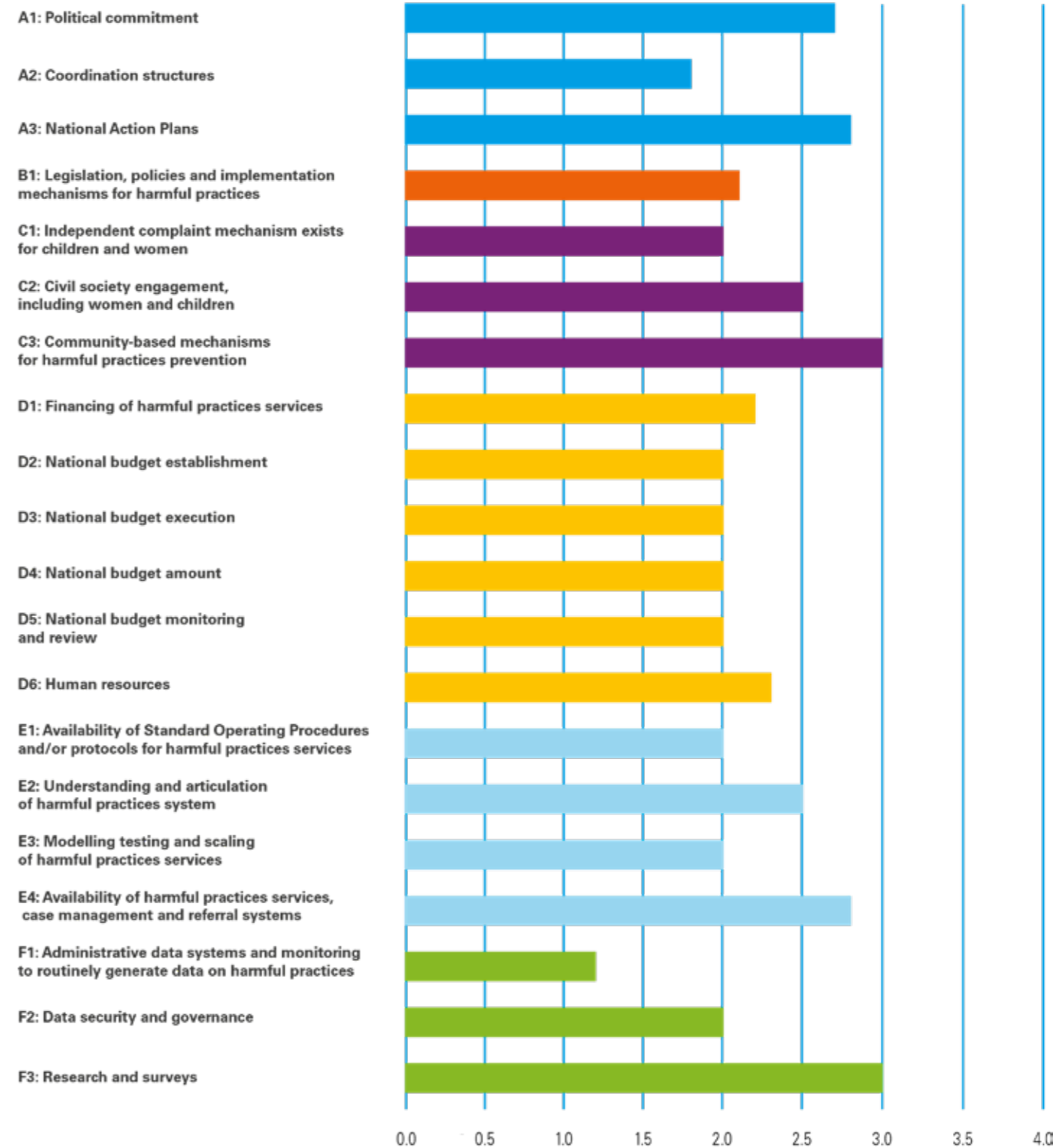
Intermediate Outcomes Summary



Sub-Domains Summary



Intermediate Outcome areas



Endnotes

- 1 United Nations Children's Fund, 'Improving Adolescent Lives in India: An impact evaluation', Center for Evaluation and Development, November 2021, <www.socialsciceregistry.org/trials/7595>.
- 2 Ibid.
- 3 The PPM approach formulates and influences public policy through a public policy process or 'the policy cycle' consisting of five major stages – namely agenda setting; formulating and legitimisation of goals and programmes; programme implementation, evaluation and implementation, decision about the future of the policy and programme. Source: RIPLEY, Randall B., (1985), 'Stages of the policy process'. In: McCool, Daniel, C., Public Policy Theories, Models, and Concepts: an anthology, Prentice Hall 1995, <https://perguntasapo.files.wordpress.com/2012/02/rypley_19851995_stages-of-the-policy-process.pdf>.
- 4 These include Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Lebanon, Mozambique, Nepal, the Niger, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zambia.
- 5 United Nations Children's Fund, 'Improving Adolescent Lives in India: An impact evaluation', Center for Evaluation and Development, November 2021, retrieved from www.socialsciceregistry.org/trials/7595.
- 6 Dalmia, Sonia, and Pareena G. Lawrence, 'The Institution of Dowry in India: Why it continues to prevail', The Journal of Developing Areas, 38, no. 2, 2005, :pp. 71–93.
- 7 United Nations Children's Fund, 'Child Protection Systems Strengthening: Approaches, benchmarks and interventions', 2021. Retrieved from: www.unicef.org/documents/child-protection-systems-strengthening.
- 8 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, 'Policy Framework for Policy Coherence for Development', OECD, 2012. Working paper 1.

Photo credits:

Cover | © UNICEF-UN0723950

Page 4 | © UNICEF-UN0707371-Katragadda

Page 6 | © UNICEF-UN0723994

Maturity Model Desk Review, Assessment and Action Planning

COUNTRY: INDIA

Development of maturity model and assessment
tools for harmful practices policies