



INVESTING IN KNOWLEDGE FOR ENDING CHILD MARRIAGE

Publications Catalogue
2016–2017

UNFPA-UNICEF
GLOBAL PROGRAMME TO
ACCELERATE ACTION TO
END CHILD MARRIAGE

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#ENDChildMarriage

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Acronyms and abbreviations

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
APRO	UNFPA Asia-Pacific Regional Office
ASRO	UNFPA Arab States Regional Office
BDT	Bangladeshi taka
CCT	conditional cash transfer
C4D	Communication for Development
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey(s)
ECM	Ending child marriage
ESA	Eastern and Southern Africa
ESARO	Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office
GBV	gender-based violence
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICRW	International Center for Research on Women
ICT	information and communication technology
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MENARO	UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office
MHM	menstrual hygiene management
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey(s)
NGO	non-governmental organization
NPR	Nepalese rupee
ODI	Overseas Development Institute
ROSA	UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia
SRH	sexual and reproductive health
SRHR	sexual and reproductive health and rights
STI	sexually transmitted infections
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
US\$	United States dollars
WCA	West and Central Africa
WCARO	West and Central Africa Regional Office

Introduction

The UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage is turning commitments into tangible action for children. It promotes the right of girls to delay marriage, addresses the conditions that keep the practice in place and cares for girls already in union. The Global Programme is being implemented in 12 countries with high prevalence and/or high burden of child marriage: Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Yemen and Zambia.

The Global Programme, as one of its five outcome areas, aims to generate and use robust data and evidence to inform programmes and policies relating to adolescent girls. Investing in data, and generating and disseminating evidence on what works to prevent child marriage is essential to developing smart, effective policies and programmes that can lead to large-scale change.

This publications catalogue showcases research that was produced or supported by the Global Programme in 2016 and 2017, across the 12 implementation countries and the four regions where these countries are located: Eastern and Southern Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, South Asia and West and Central Africa.

To learn more about the Global Programme, visit www.unicef.org/end-child-marriage or contact Nankali Maksud, Coordinator of the Global Programme, at nmaksud@unicef.org.





**EASTERN AND
SOUTHERN AFRICA**

CHILD MARRIAGE

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



Research report, 2017
88 pages

Contact:

Maja Hansen (mahansen@unfpa.org)



Available at:

https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Child%20marriage%20mapping_final_digital.pdf

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

Carina Hickling, UNFPA ESARO, UNICEF ESARO

The mapping provides an up-to-date status report on child marriage initiatives and programmes in 12 high-prevalence countries in Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) through a desk review of available literature and programme documents as well as key informant interviews and surveys among implementing actors.

The findings show how evidence-based programming, often developed through a theory of change (ToC), is crucial for achieving effective interventions and sustainable results at the national and local levels. However, there are generally relatively low levels of monitoring and evaluation, research and evidence gathering to assess the coverage and effectiveness of programmes being implemented. The findings show that, although it is important to ensure geographical coverage and reach of girls through, for example, system strengthening interventions, there is also a need to scale up individual-level prevention and mitigation programmes. Further, while most actors indicated that they implement a wide range of interventions, they were still limited in terms of number of girls reached and geographical coverage.

MENSTRUAL HEALTH MANAGEMENT IN EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA: A REVIEW PAPER

Siri Tellier, Maria Hyttel, WoMena, UNFPA ESARO

The study provides an overview of menstrual health management (MHM) policies and programmes in Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA), with a focus on education, school and community-based sexual education, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), sexual and reproductive health (SRH), workplace support and humanitarian programming. The study also opens up discussions on MHM in relation to marginalized groups of women and girls, such as persons with disabilities, prisoners and transgender men. Through a review of available literature from 23 countries in the ESA region, the study identifies research gaps both in terms of topics and methodological issues, and provides recommendations on how to address them.

In general, there are few national policies or programmes on MHM in ESA, and until recently, little attention had been given to the issue in international policies. The study discusses the negative impact of inadequate MHM on overall health and education outcomes as well as on employment and work performance. One enabler for better MHM is education; when lacking, this represents a potential barrier. Although MHM goes beyond the supply of and access to sanitary products, supply and access are still important aspects that have to be integrated for MHM programmes to be effective. The study also shows linkages to WASH interventions and the importance of sanitation facilities for an effective MHM.



**Menstrual Health Management
in East and Southern Africa:
a Review Paper**

Siri Tellier and Maria Hyttel, WoMena

Research report, April 2018
52 pages

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Available at:

<http://womens.dk/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/UNFPA-Review-Menstrual-Health-Management-Final-04-June-2018.pdf>



Research brief, March 2016
12 pages

Contact:
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Available at:
www.unicef.org/ethiopia/Briefing.pdf

SURPRISING TRENDS IN CHILD MARRIAGE IN ETHIOPIA

Nicola Jones, Guday Emirie, Bekele Tefera, Elizabeth Presler-Marshall, ODI, UNICEF Ethiopia

The research brief summarizes findings from three studies on child marriage in Ethiopia (the three studies shown below).

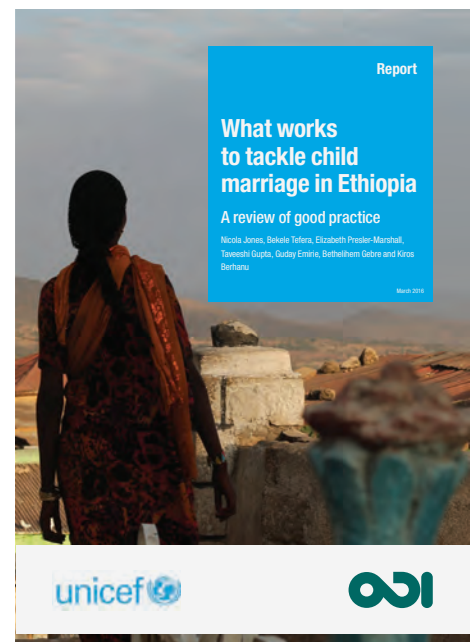
The brief shows that although child marriage is outlawed in Ethiopia, and awareness of the law is increasing, millions of girls remain at risk. Patterns of child marriage across different regions in the country are highly diverse, with prevalence increasing in some regions and decreasing in others. This diversity is important to continue to track and to consider in planning and implementation of programmes. The findings show that the biggest drivers of child marriage are social and religious norms on the roles of girls as wives and mothers. Poverty does not emerge as a strong driver, but rather, social status. Hence, most successful programmes not only focus on child marriage, but also on gender inequality and norms in general, and include boys and men in their work. Further, it is shown that many girls marry because they lack viable alternatives in the form of education or labour.

WHAT WORKS TO TACKLE CHILD MARRIAGE IN ETHIOPIA: A REVIEW OF GOOD PRACTICE

Nicola Jones, Bekele Tefera, Elizabeth Presler-Marshall, Taveeshi Gupta, Guday Emirie, Bethelihem Gebre and Kiros Berhanu, ODI, UNICEF Ethiopia

The study reviews 54 programmes targeting child marriage and assesses successful interventions. It provides a qualitative analysis of seven of these programmes, which are being implemented in five regions. The study builds on a literature review of programme documents as well as a community mapping, focus group discussions, and interviews with key programme stakeholders.

The findings show that key features of successful programming include tailoring programmes to their local environment, targeting community and religious leaders, educating parents through existing government interventions, supporting girls' clubs, and involving men and boys to promote alternative masculine norms and behaviours. Further, the findings show that facilitating cross-sectoral cooperation, securing local ownership and helping communities to develop reporting chains for girls at risk are key to tackle child marriage. Where programming addresses key structural drivers of child marriage, including broader social norms that reinforce gender inequality, limited accessibility to secondary education and economic poverty, the study shows that transformative effects are more likely.



Research brief, March 2016
126 pages

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Available at:
www.unicef.org/ethiopia/Good_practice_programming.pdf

ONE SIZE DOES NOT FIT ALL: THE PATTERNING AND DRIVERS OF CHILD MARRIAGE IN ETHIOPIA'S HOTSPOT DISTRICTS

Nicola Jones, Bekele Tefera, Guday Emirie, Bethelihem Gebre, Kiros Berhanu, Elizabeth Presler-Marshall, David Walker, Taveeshi Gupta and Georgia Plank, ODI, UNICEF Ethiopia

The study identifies the 'hotspots' for child marriage in Ethiopia, investigates factors that maintain the practice, and explores the protective mechanisms that enable children to avoid child marriage. The coverage of the study is nationwide, but it focuses on the identified hotspot districts. It builds on a review of 2011 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) and Census data as well as interviews with 600 individuals from hotspot districts.

The main finding is that 'one size does not fit all' in terms of how to tackle the practice of child marriage. Across the country, child marriage assumes different forms, occurs for different reasons – in some places increasingly driven by the adolescents themselves rather than by their parents – and is being reduced by different protective mechanisms. This knowledge is important to take into account in programme planning and implementation.



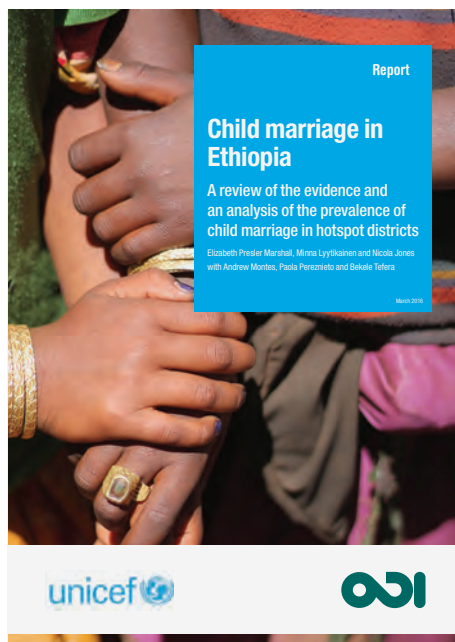
Research report, March 2016
158 pages

Contact:
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Available at:



www.unicef.org/ethiopia/Hotspots.pdf



Research report, 2016
52 pages

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CHILD MARRIAGE IN ETHIOPIA: A REVIEW OF THE EVIDENCE AND AN ANALYSIS OF THE PREVALENCE OF CHILD MARRIAGE IN HOTSPOT DISTRICTS

Elizabeth Presler Marshall, Minna Lyytikäinen and Nicola Jones, with Andrew Montes, Paola Perezniato and Bekele Terefa, ODI, UNICEF Ethiopia

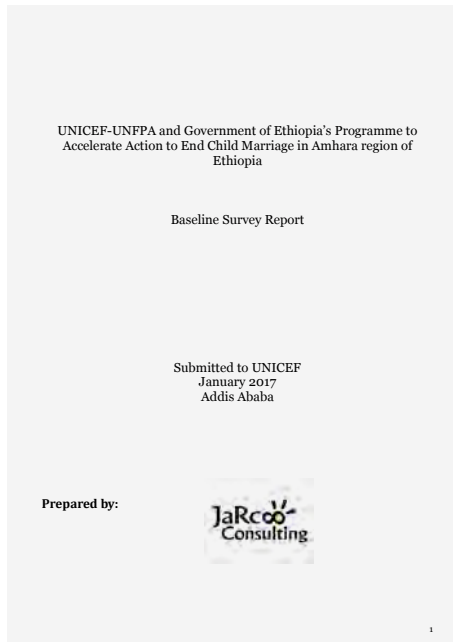
The study analyses Ethiopia's national Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) 2011 and Census 2007 data to identify hotspots for child marriage prevalence, review progress to date and remaining challenges, provide an overview of factors shaping the context in which child marriage occurs (i.e. social and economic factors) and review available evidence on child marriage in the country.

The findings show that Ethiopia has been able to significantly reduce child marriage prevalence. It emerged from the DHS 2011 that only 8 per cent of women aged 15–19 were married before age 15, while nearly 40 per cent of women aged 45–49 had been married by age 15. Young girls also increasingly stay in school longer. Wealth affects child marriage rates; wealthier families more rapidly abandon the practice than do poorer families. The findings also show that prevalence of child marriage varies greatly among regions and districts.



Available at:

https://www.unicef.org/ethiopia/Evidence_Review.pdf



Research report, January 2017
70 pages

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Available on demand

UNICEF-UNFPA AND GOVERNMENT OF ETHIOPIA'S PROGRAMME TO ACCELERATE ACTION TO END CHILD MARRIAGE IN AMHARA REGION OF ETHIOPIA: BASELINE SURVEY REPORT

JarCoo Consulting, UNICEF Ethiopia

The baseline is designed to compare a treatment group (targeted by the programme intervention) with a non-treatment group in the Amhara region in order to test how well the programme is achieving its objectives. The baseline also aims to help set targets and benchmarks for a midline and an end-line, and to highlight any early programme design issues that need to be modified.

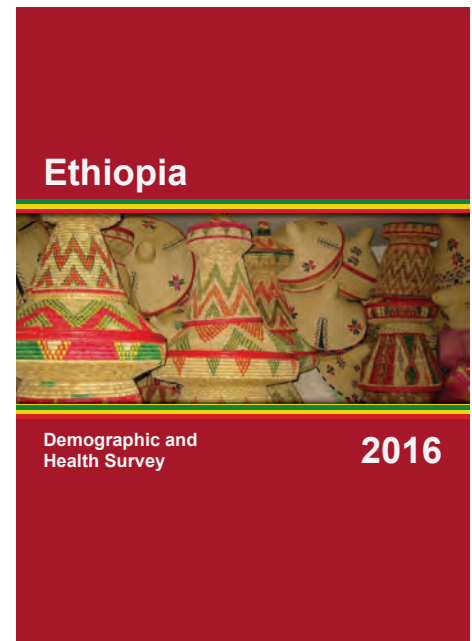
The findings show how adolescent girls (10–17 years) in the Amhara region are empowered to voice their rights through increased awareness about the prevention, impacts and consequences of child marriage, and through improved access to health services, education and economic opportunities as alternatives to child marriage. Families and communities increasingly take action to end child marriage and to realize the rights of girls. In addition, there is an improved provision of tailored services (education, health, legal and economic support) to adolescent girls in order to prevent child marriages and support the needs of married girls. Laws and policies that protect adolescent girls from child marriage, and that respond to the needs of married adolescent girls are increasingly implemented and enforced by regional and local government institutions. Despite the level of evidence generated on child marriage (and girls' empowerment in general), the baseline findings suggest that there is a lack of in-depth understanding of child marriage in the Amhara region.

ETHIOPIA DEMOGRAPHIC AND HEALTH SURVEY 2016

Central Statistical Agency Ethiopia, UNICEF Ethiopia

The Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) provides up-to-date estimates of key demographic and health indicators, and a comprehensive overview of population and maternal and child health issues in Ethiopia.

With reference to child marriage, the survey shows that the median age at first marriage is 17.1 years among women aged 25–49, and 23.7 years among men in the same age cohort. However, age at first marriage has increased for women and girls: more than 30 per cent of women born in the 1970s married before age 15, compared to only 10 per cent of women born in the 1990s.



Demographic and Health Survey, July 2017
551 pages

Contact:
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Available at:

<https://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR328/FR328.pdf>



INQUÉRITO DE INDICADORES DE IMUNIZAÇÃO, MALÁRIA E HIV/SIDA EM MOÇAMBIQUE (IMASIDA) 2015

Ministério da Saúde (MISAU), Instituto Nacional de Estatística (INE)

The survey provides up-to-date estimates of key demographic and health indicators and a comprehensive overview of population and maternal and child health issues in Mozambique.

The findings cover data on the socio-demographic characteristics of the population, fertility, adolescent pregnancies, family planning, contraceptive use, maternal and child health, malaria, the prevalence of anemia, Human Immunodeficiency Virus/ Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome- (HIV/AIDS) related knowledge, attitudes and behaviours, HIV prevalence and male circumcision.



Demographic and Health Survey, June 2016
68 pages

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Available (in Portuguese) at:

https://mz.usembassy.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/182/2017/06/IMASIDA-2016_Relatorio-de-Indicadores-Basicos-for-Web.pdf



PowerPoint presentation, June 2017
(research report to be published)
22 pages

Contact:
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Available on demand (in Portuguese)

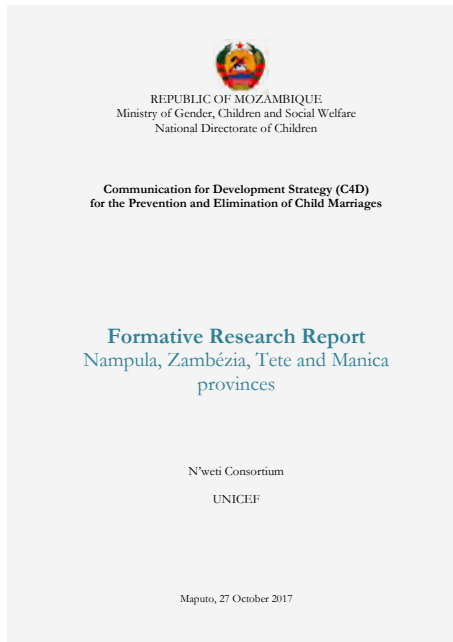
“SEM A RÁDIO, A COMUNIDADE NÃO FICA NADA BEM”: PESQUISA EXPLORATÓRIA COM AS OUVINTES DA RADIONOVELA OURO NEGRO NA PROVÍNCIA DE NAMPULA

Elena Colonna, PCI Media Impact

The objective of the study is to capture listening habits and opinions on the format and content of the radio programme Ouro Negro, as well as potential behaviour changes among listeners through qualitative interviews with female listeners in the Nampula Province.

The findings show that most respondents listen to the radio for local information, and some specifically to get the information in the local languages. The respondents in general listened to Ouro Negro one to three times a week. Analysis of the data shows that Ouro Negro stories were able to provide the listeners with the right combination of local reality and relevance as well as innovative ideas. This allows the audience to identify with characters and stories, and encourages them to aspire for change. Adolescent listeners were found to be interested not only in the thematic areas dedicated to them, such as sexuality, but also in areas such as nutrition and antenatal care.

The findings have been used to improve the format and the content of the programme to even better respond to listeners’ habits and opinions.



Research report, October 2017
122 pages

Contact:
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Available on demand

COMMUNICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT (C4D) STRATEGY FOR THE PREVENTION AND ELIMINATION OF CHILD MARRIAGES: FORMATIVE RESEARCH REPORT – NAMPULA, ZAMBÉZIA, TETE AND MANICA PROVINCES

N'weti Consortium, UNICEF Mozambique

The study identifies cultural barriers, social norms and taboos that could affect the implementation of a successful Communication for Development (C4D) programme. Moreover, the formative research identifies meaningful examples of positive deviance models based on the rural communities of the Zambezia, Nampula, Manica and Tete districts, using a set of mixed methods including a literature review and focus group discussions.

The findings show that, in addition to poverty, the main causes of child marriage are deeply rooted discriminatory gender norms that dictate that girls and young women must be submissive towards boys, men and elders. In regions with a high prevalence of child marriage, traditional ideas of the role of women as mothers and housewives are influenced by family values, teaching provided during initiation rites, and other socio-cultural aspects. There are also social norms on the appropriate time (not necessarily age) to marry, which causes girls at a young age to undergo initiation rites to prepare them for marriage. Persistent norms and traditions leave girls with little to no ability to decide and influence events, and to have an impact on their own lives.

The findings have been used to inform a further contextualization of the theory of change (ToC) for the Global Programme and to develop a customized community dialogue methodology to promote social change in Mozambique.



UNDERSTANDING THE NUTRITIONAL BEHAVIOURS OF ADOLESCENT GIRLS IN NAMPULA PROVINCE

Gain, ThinkPlace, UNICEF Mozambique

The objective of the research is to understand motivations and barriers affecting nutritional behaviours among adolescent girls in two urban districts in the Nampula Province. The study is based on qualitative data collection, such as focus group discussions, one-on-one interviews and observations of adolescent girls and their influencers.

The findings show that adolescent girls have limited agency and decision-making permission within their parents' households. However, their decision-making power increases when they are at, or in proximity to, their schools. Adolescent girls and their influencers in general find it hard to identify a healthy, balanced diet. In urban settings, leveraging TV soap operas seems to be the best channel to influence behaviours. It is also recommended for interventions to create protein-rich nutrient food that can be sold at school markets, since this approach seems to be aligned to adolescent girls' motivators. The findings have informed the content of the Girls Mentoring Training Programme, which from 2018 also includes an adolescent nutrition component.

Available at:

www.gainhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/GAIN-Report-Understanding-the-Nutritional-Behaviours-of-Adolescent-Girls-in-Nampula-Province-December-2017.pdf



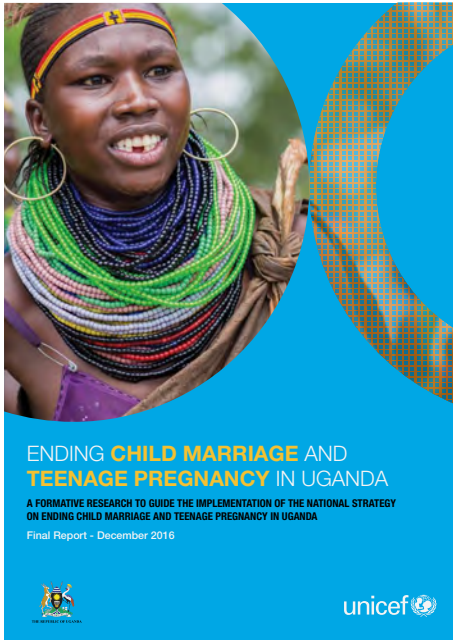
Research report, December 2017

77 pages

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Research report, December 2016
81 pages

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ENDING CHILD MARRIAGE AND TEENAGE PREGNANCY IN UGANDA: A FORMATIVE RESEARCH TO GUIDE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGY ON ENDING CHILD MARRIAGE AND TEENAGE PREGNANCY IN UGANDA

Dr. Florence Kyoheirwe Muhanguzi, Prof. Grace Bantebya Kyomuhendo, UNICEF Uganda

The objective of the report is to identify underlying factors that drive child marriage, as well as female genital mutilation (FGM) and early pregnancy in Uganda, through a qualitative study using in-depth and key informant interviews.

The findings highlight how the practice of child marriage has persisted amidst legal and socio-economic transformation in Uganda: 15 per cent of girls are married by the age of 15, and 49 per cent by the age of 18. Uganda has made progress in addressing adolescents' vulnerability to harmful practices by establishing a supportive legal and policy framework, and by expanding education opportunities. The continuity of the practice of child marriage is due to 'sticky norms' rooted in traditional cultural perceptions about the definition of childhood (girlhood) and transition to adulthood (womanhood). It has been noted that the family is a pivotal point in child marriage, either in facilitating its persistence or in ending the practice. Given that child marriage and teenage pregnancy are driven by multiple factors, there is a need for integrated holistic programming. Programmes that involve multiple actors to create synergy and address multiple needs of communities are recommended.

The findings are used by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development to inform the implementation of the National Strategy on Ending Child Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy.

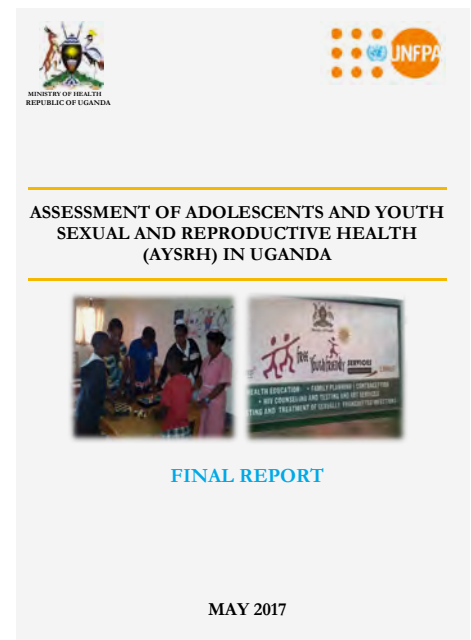
ASSESSMENT OF ADOLESCENT AND YOUTH SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH (AYSRH) IN UGANDA

Ministry of Health, UNFPA Uganda

The study aims to identify sexual and reproductive health (SRH) needs of adolescent girls and boys and to identify available SRH services in Uganda.

The findings show that only a few of the respondents were ever married (3.8 per cent), currently married (3.2 per cent) or currently pregnant (2.2 per cent). However, the prevalence of unintended pregnancies was high (41.5 per cent), especially among girls enrolled in school at the time of the survey. The findings show that awareness of menstruation among girls was high (80 per cent) and just over half (56.4 per cent) reported having experienced their first menstrual period. Awareness of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) was also high (93.6 per cent), but having ever tested for HIV was low (42.5 per cent), with a 1.9 per cent self-reported HIV infections. Self-reported ever infection with sexually transmitted infections (STIs) was twice as high among females (13 per cent) than males (6 per cent), and the most common self-reported chronic diseases were asthma (20.7 per cent) and hypertension (5.3 per cent).

About 71 per cent of the 127 health facilities in the study did not have a specific adolescent-targeting corner/clinic, and the overall coverage of SRH services in the different facilities varied. The findings are used to inform the development of the country's Adolescent Health Strategy.



Research report, May 2017
173 pages

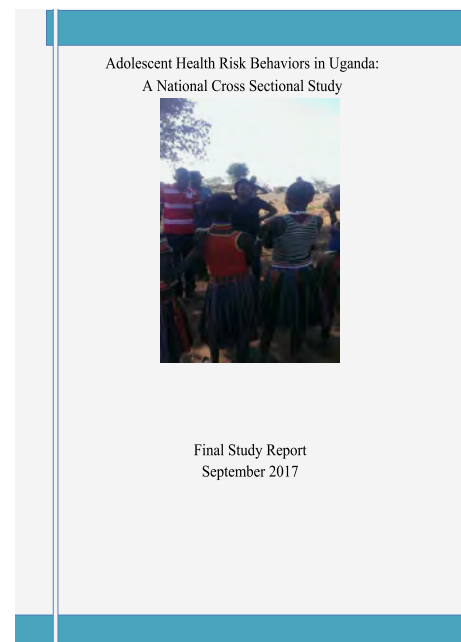
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ADOLESCENT HEALTH RISK BEHAVIORS IN UGANDA: A NATIONAL CROSS SECTIONAL STUDY

Makerere University School of Public Health, UNICEF Uganda, UNFPA Uganda, WHO, UN Women, UNAIDS

The objective of the study is to generate nationally representative, empirical evidence on health risk behaviours and associated social and health outcomes, including on schooling, teenage pregnancy, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), sexually transmitted infections (STIs), injuries, mental health and gender-based violence (GBV) among adolescents aged 10–19. The study builds on quantitative interviews in 162 enumeration areas located in 95 districts.

The findings highlight the prevalence of risk behaviours in the country, including child marriage and teenage pregnancy. Regarding child marriage, the findings show that 3.8 per cent of the respondents have ever been married, with levels similar in rural (3.6 per cent) and urban (4.4 per cent) areas. None of the adolescents aged 10–14 had ever been married, compared to 1.6 per cent among adolescents aged 15–17, and 18.6 per cent among those aged 18–19. More female adolescents (6.2 per cent) reported ever being married than male adolescents (0.9 per cent). Having ever been married was also more common among adolescents who stopped schooling (20.8 per cent) and those who had never been to school (16.7 per cent).

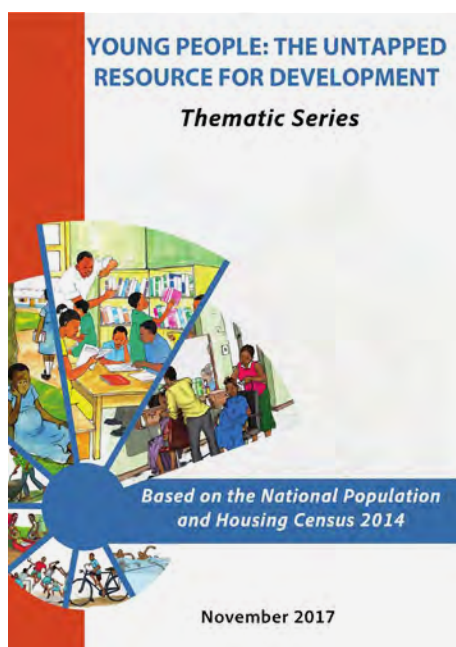


Research report, September 2017
175 pages

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Available on demand



Research report, November 2017
101 pages

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YOUNG PEOPLE: THE UNTAPPED RESOURCE FOR DEVELOPMENT THEMATIC SERIES: BASED ON THE NATIONAL POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS 2014

Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), UNFPA Uganda

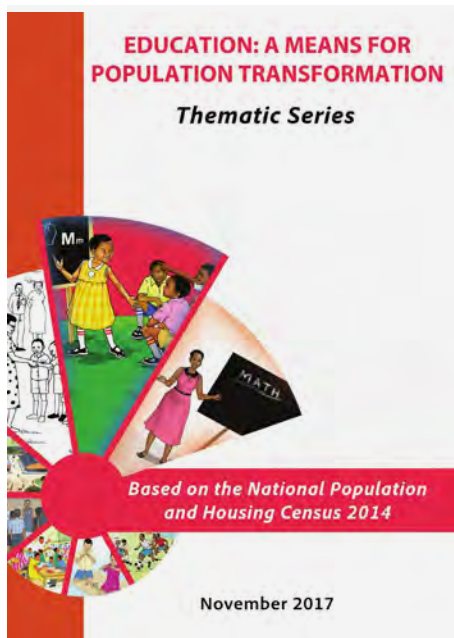
The overall objective of the National Population and Housing Census 2014 was to provide data for planning at all levels. This secondary analysis focuses on data concerning adolescents nationwide.

The study presents detailed findings covering indicators on different aspects of the youth population, e.g. migration, pregnancy, disability, education and literacy, access to health services, economic activity, and information and communication technology (ICT). The findings show that 7 per cent of adolescents aged 10–19 were married and about 1 per cent were widowed, divorced or separated. Among youth aged 18–30, 56 per cent were married; with the share of married females (65 per cent) higher than that of males (44 per cent). 17 per cent of the teenagers (13–19 years) had already begun child bearing with at least one child, and the numbers were slightly higher in rural than in urban areas. The proportions of working adolescents (10–19) and youth (18–30) were 47 per cent and 78 per cent, respectively. The level of education of the working youth was generally low, with 66 per cent having either no formal or only primary-level education.



Available at:

http://uganda.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Youth%20Monograph%20Report_Final%2008-12-2017_0.pdf



Research report, November 2017
99 pages

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Available on demand

EDUCATION: A MEANS FOR POPULATION TRANSFORMATION THEMATIC SERIES: BASED ON THE NATIONAL POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS 2014

Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), UNFPA Uganda

The overall objective of the National Population and Housing Census 2014 was to provide data for planning at all levels. This secondary analysis focuses on data concerning education nationwide.

The report provides a detailed analysis of child enrolment, retention and completion rates of education. Approximately 41 per cent of all pupils enrolled in the first year of primary school were of the target age. The trend of enrolment in secondary school by age and level indicated a high (67 per cent) enrolment in the first year of secondary school, but a very low enrolment in the following years. For example, enrolment rates in the sixth year of secondary school were only 6 per cent of the population at the targeted age. This is a proxy for a high dropout rate at the secondary level.

Educational attainment among various educational levels (primary, secondary and tertiary) is low nationally and regionally for various population groups. The report highlights that the completion rate is less than 40 per cent and poses the major question – Where are Uganda's children if they are not in school?

ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY IN ZAMBIA

Population Council, Central Statistics Office, UNFPA Zambia

The objective of the policy brief is to map prevalence and determinants of adolescent pregnancy in Zambia, and to provide recommendations on how to reduce the prevalence. The brief is based on a nationwide literature review, key informant interviews with organizations working with adolescents, and in-depth interviews with adolescent girls.

According to the 2013–2014 Zambia Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), 28.5 per cent of girls aged 15–19 have ever been pregnant or had a live birth. The prevalence of adolescent pregnancy is higher in rural areas, where 37 per cent report ever being pregnant or having a live birth, compared to 20 per cent in urban areas. Between 2007 and 2014, a total of 120,024 in-school girls became pregnant and dropped out of education. Most of these girls were in primary school when they became pregnant.

It emerged that the main determinants for adolescent pregnancy were a lack of access to, and information about, sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services, poverty, social and cultural determinants (such as gender inequality, child marriage and peer pressure), lack of information on sex and sexuality, and lack of viable opportunities for adolescents.

Available at:



<http://zambia.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Adolescent%20Pregnancy%20in%20Zambia.pdf>



Policy brief, June 2017
4 pages

Contact:

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CHILD MARRIAGE IN ZAMBIA

Population Council, Central Statistics Office, UNFPA Zambia

The objective of the policy brief is to identify hotspot areas for both child marriage and teenage pregnancy in Zambia through an analysis of the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) and Census data broken down to the lowest geographical level.

Findings reaffirm that although child marriage prevalence among women aged 20–24 who reported being married before 18 years have declined by 25 per cent (from 41.6 per cent in 2007 to 31.4 per cent in 2014), the prevalence is still among the highest in the world. Although child marriage affects all girls, those with less education, living in rural areas and from the lower wealth quintiles are the most vulnerable. The data analysis shows that child marriage prevalence is highest in the Northern, Muchinga and parts of the Copperbelt Provinces. Zambia has dual legal systems, with both formal and customary law, that establish different minimum legal ages of marriage; interventions need to target these two systems in order to make them align.

CHILD MARRIAGE IN ZAMBIA

Child marriage, the marriage of a person below the age of 18, deprives adolescent girls of their reproductive health rights and impinges upon their opportunity to realize their full potential and enjoy their human rights as established in various international treaties. Adolescent girls have a right to education, health, dignity, nondiscrimination, and quality of life. Protecting, promoting, and fulfilling these rights is necessary to ensure that adolescents grow into healthy, skilled, productive, independent, and responsible adults, and yet the prevalence of child marriage in Zambia stands in the way of ensuring these rights. To protect, promote, and fulfil the right of adolescent girls, there is a need to eradicate child marriage.

Prevalence of Child Marriage
In 2015, following the 2013–14 Zambia Demographic and Health Survey (ZDHS), the Population Council and UNFPA conducted a study to establish the areas where child marriage is most likely to occur in Zambia. Study methods included a literature review and a multivariate analysis using the 2013–14 ZDHS and data from the 2010 Census of Population and Housing. Findings reaffirm that child marriage is very high in Zambia. Although child marriage has declined by 25% from 41.6% to 31.4% among women aged 20–24 who report being married before they were 18 years old (see Figure 1), it is still among the highest in the world. According to the 2013–14 ZDHS, child marriage affects more girls than boys—

Child Marriage Affects More Girls than Boys

- Among 15–19-year-old adolescents, 16.5% of girls are married compared with 1% of boys.
- Among 20–24-year-olds who are already married, 21.4% of females were married before age 18 as compared with only 2.2% of males.

Protecting girls from child marriage is a national priority in protecting girls' rights and achieving progress in national development.

Figure 1. Percentage of 20–24-year-old females married by age 18

Year	Percentage
2002	42
2007	41.6
2014	31.4

JUNE 2017

POPULATION COUNCIL
Khan, Othman, Epstein

Policy brief, June 2017
4 pages

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Available at:



<http://zambia.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Child%20Marriage%20in%20Zambia.pdf>

STATUS OF SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS IN ZAMBIA
Comprehensive Sexuality Education and Adolescents Sexual and Reproductive Health

This brief is Part 2 of a three-part series entitled "Status of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Zambia," reporting on progress, gaps, and existing challenges in SRHR.

In 1994, the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) affirmed that Sexual and Reproductive Health and rights (SRHR) are human rights. Pursuant to this, several international instruments contributed to global consensus on how reproductive health rights are intrinsically linked to other fundamental human rights. The Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ) has fully committed to fulfilling the SRHR of all people by ratifying 11 international instruments of law (seven global and four regional treaties) (see Table 1).

In addition to ratifying global and regional treaties, Zambia has also committed to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Some SDGs directly relate to SRHR. These are: ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages (Goal 3); ensuring quality education for all (4); achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls (5); reduced inequalities (10); and enhancing partnerships to achieve SDGs (17). Other SDGs have an indirect effect on SRHR. These include decent work (8), and peace, justice, and strong institutions (16). Government is therefore obligated to ensure that it respects, protects, and fulfills every person's rights.

Using a human-rights-based approach, the Government of Zambia under the leadership of the Human Rights Commission, and in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Women and Law in Southern Africa, and with technical facilitation by the Population Council, conducted an assessment of the status of SRHR in the country guided by a global assessment framework (see Table 2). The aim was to assess Zambia's commitment to fulfilling government obligations on seven SRHR-related themes. The themes, selected through a consensus-building approach, are:

JUNE 2017

POPULATION COUNCIL
Khan, Othman, Epstein

Policy brief, June 2017
8 pages

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Available at:

http://zambia.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/SRH%26R%20in%20Zambia%20-%20Part%202_1.pdf

STATUS OF SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS IN ZAMBIA: COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION AND ADOLESCENTS SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Population Council, Central Statistics Office, UNFPA Zambia, United Nations Zambia, Women and Law in Southern Africa

The objective of the policy brief is to assess Zambia's commitment to fulfill government obligations related to seven sexual and reproductive health and rights- (SRHR) related themes: (i) access to contraceptive information and services; (ii) access to safe abortion and post-abortion care services; (iii) maternal health care; (iv) prevention and treatment of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV); (v) comprehensive sexuality education; (vi) violence against women and girls; and (vii) rights of marginalized populations, particularly adolescents and sex workers. The assessment builds on a desk review and a consultative process with stakeholders.

The policy brief presents progress, gaps and existing challenges in providing SRHR in Zambia. Overall, under each theme, Zambia is making steady progress in fulfilling SRHR, although challenges remain.



**MIDDLE EAST AND
NORTHERN AFRICA**



Research report and country briefs, 2017
161 pages

Contact:

Anthony MacDonald (amacdonald@unicef.org)

CHILD MARRIAGE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

ICRW, UNICEF MENARO, UNFPA ASRO

The aim of the study is to take stock of the work being carried out to end child marriage at the country level in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Sudan and Yemen. It is one of the first studies globally with a dedicated focus on gender, previously identified as a gap in child marriage programming and critical for the region given that gender inequality underpins many social norms (e.g. perceptions on the role and value of girls in society, family honour, maintenance of kinships, transition to adulthood) and practices.

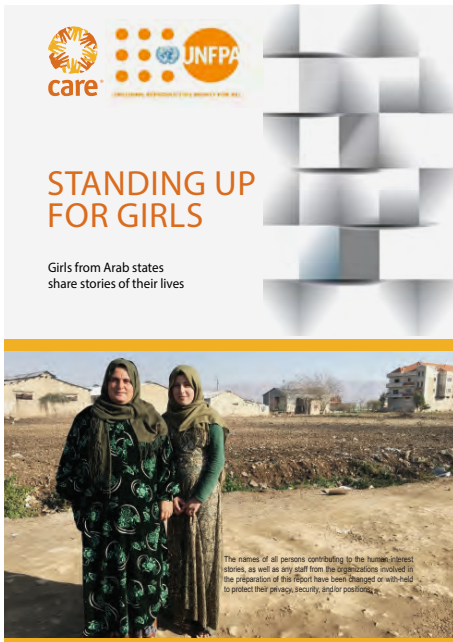
The findings show that the prevalence of child marriage remains high in the region. Overall, one in five girls in the Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA) are married before the age of 18; however, in Sudan and Yemen, the prevalence level is one in three. Gaps persist in laws prohibiting child marriage (three out of six countries have not defined the appropriate age of marriage as 18). Where child marriage laws exist, enforcement is weak. Conflict continues to be one of the major drivers of child marriage. The practice is often used as a response to economic insecurity, as a coping mechanism or as a means to promote inter-family alliances within displaced and host communities. Barriers to girls' empowerment are another significant driver of child marriage. This includes restricted mobility due to insecurity, gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual harassment in public spaces, as well as restricted access to, and knowledge about, education, health and justice services.

More evidence is needed on child marriage in humanitarian settings both in terms of prevalence and on "what works" to end the practice. Of particular relevance is knowledge of the interlinkages between education, health and child marriage.



Available at:

<https://www.unicef.org/mena/reports/child-marriage-middle-east-and-north-africa>



Research report, May 2018

47 pages

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Available on demand

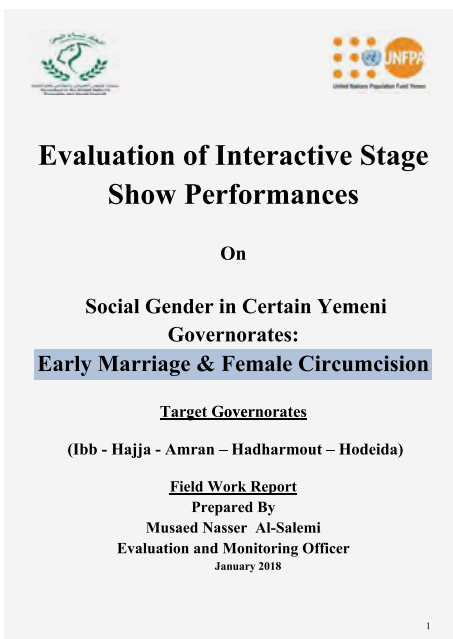
STANDING UP FOR GIRLS: GIRLS FROM ARAB STATES SHARE STORIES OF THEIR LIVES

CARE MENA, UNFPA ASRO

The objective of the study is to identify, document and disseminate the impact of programmes in the Arab States (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, the State of Palestine, Iraq and Sudan) which target adolescent girls and have resulted in delaying child marriage, preventing teenage pregnancies and combatting female genital mutilation (FGM).

The report captures stories told by the girls themselves, as well as by their mothers, community leaders and aid workers, on the risks and unmet needs for girls in refugee camps and host communities. Gender-based violence (GBV) and the attainment of fair and equitable sexual and reproductive health (SRH) are sensitive and often misunderstood subject areas. Even discussing such issues is considered taboo in many cultures and contexts where deeply held beliefs, practices and religion continue to play a key role in everyday life. As the report demonstrates, GBV can undermine the health, dignity and autonomy of its survivors, yet it continues to be shrouded in a culture of silence. While great strides have been made, large numbers of girls continue to be subjected to different forms of violence, and lack access to basic services that can support their health, safety and right to justice. The report shows that evidenced-based, locally owned efforts that support women and girls at all levels of society are key to ensure change.

YEMEN



Evaluation, January 2018

39 pages

Contact:

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Available on demand

EVALUATION OF INTERACTIVE STAGE SHOW PERFORMANCES ON SOCIAL GENDER IN CERTAIN YEMINI GOVERNORATES: EARLY MARRIAGE & FEMALE CIRCUMCISION

Nicola Jones, Guday Emirie, Bekele Tefera, Elizabeth Presler-Marshall, ODI, UNICEF Ethiopia

The objective of the study is to determine change in attitudes and behaviours among people in Ibb, Hajja, Amran, Hadharmout and Hodeida governorates, who were reached by community interventions through interactive stage show performances, in order to assess the impact of these interventions.

The findings show that many people in the audiences agree to change their behaviours after watching the interactive theatre shows. The assessment showed that some university teachers, graduates and community members did change their perceptions on harmful practices. Respondents mentioned that child marriage caused a major risk for girls. They stated that it was better to avoid such risks rather than consider the potential benefits of such a practice. It emerges from the evaluation that there is a need to expand the activities to ensure wider coverage and to be in a better position to evaluate long-term impact.



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SOUTH ASIA



MAPPING OF CHILD MARRIAGE INITIATIVES IN SOUTH ASIA

Carol Boender, UNICEF ROSA, UNFPA APRO

The research reviews South Asian countries' efforts to end child marriage through interviews and a literature review of material related to existing initiatives.

The findings show that there are an extensive number of initiatives and programmes in the region working to end child marriage. The report divides the initiatives into three different sections: creating capacity for choice for adolescent girls; creating alternative paths to child marriage; and working with legal structures and responses.

The findings serve as a basis for sharing information between partners and for identifying good and promising practices in the region.



Available at:

<http://asiapacific.unfpa.org/publications/mapping-child-marriage-initiatives-south-asia>

Research report, 2016
45 pages

Contact:

Kendra Gregson (kgregson@unicef.org)

Ingrid Fitzgerald (fitzgerald@unfpa.org)

SUMMARY OF A BASELINE STUDY TO ESTIMATE THE NUMBER OF CHILD MARRIAGES IN SOUTH ASIA 2014–2017

UNICEF ROSA

The objective of the study is to look at whether immediate (annual) changes in the marriage behaviour of the under-18 population (both females and males) can be measured with data that include and go beyond the standard Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey/Demographic and Health Survey (MICS/DHS) sources. The study targets all South Asian countries with a quantitative method known as the Markov model with Monte Carlo simulations. A Markov model is a modelling tool that predicts repetitive movements or actions over time across mutually exclusive states. In turn, Monte Carlo simulations produce distributions of the probabilities of different outcomes (events) occurring in a population.

The findings show that the prevalence of child marriage is expected to decrease if current trends continue, and with targeted interventions, the decrease could be accelerated. However, larger issues, such as misreporting age at marriage and assessing impact of child marriage programmes, require specifically designed surveys and evaluations that are currently unavailable.

The findings are used to set targets for interventions aimed at reducing the prevalence of child marriage. An implicit goal of the study was to develop a consistent methodology for tracking child marriage prevalence across the South Asian countries, which could be replicated at the end of the programme period to allow for comparison between baseline and end-line data.

Summary of a Baseline Study to
Estimate the Number of Child Marriages in South Asia 2014–2017

UNICEF Regional office for South Asia
September 2016

Research report, September 2016
20 pages

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Available at:

www.unicef.org/rosa/sites/unicef.org/rosa/files/2018-08/Summary%20of%20CM%20Baseline%20Study%20Final.pdf





Report on the Expert Group Meeting on the Evidence Base for Accelerated Action to End Child Marriage in South Asia

Bangkok, Thailand
September 26 to 28, 2016



Meeting report, September 2016

62 pages

Contact:

Kendra Gregson (kgregson@unicef.org)
Ingrid Fitzgerald (fitzgerald@unfpa.org)

REPORT ON THE EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON THE EVIDENCE BASE FOR ACCELERATED ACTION TO END CHILD MARRIAGE IN SOUTH ASIA

Erin Fletcher, UNICEF ROSA, UNFPA APRO

The UNFPA Asia-Pacific Regional Office (APRO) and the UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia (ROSA) hosted a three-day expert group meeting in September 2016 to examine evidence concerning programmes and policies to end child marriage in South Asia. The meeting convened representatives from country offices of UNFPA, UNICEF and United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) in South Asia and surrounding countries, experts from academia, and representatives from organizations implementing programmes in the region.

The meeting identified emerging issues from new research on key factors and drivers of child marriage in South Asia, and provided a platform for discussing innovative programming and evaluation methods. While much of the formative research on child marriage has focused on gender inequality, there is still a great deal to learn about other potential drivers, such as poverty and conflict. Discussions often returned to the idea of putting girls and/or boys at the centre of programming on child marriage, as well as the ethical responsibility that accompanies efforts to empower girls with aspirations and opportunities, negotiation skills, livelihoods skills and education. Many questions remained concerning evaluations. Ultimately, the meeting did not have the scope to address the specifics of how to implement evaluations in programming or conclude on how to balance the priorities of building the evidence base versus implementing more programmes, and how to allocate funds between the two.



Available at:

<https://www.unicef.org/rosa/reports/report-expert-group-meeting-evidence-base-accelerated-action-end-child-marriage>



KEY DRIVERS OF THE CHANGING PREVALENCE OF CHILD MARRIAGE IN THREE COUNTRIES IN SOUTH ASIA

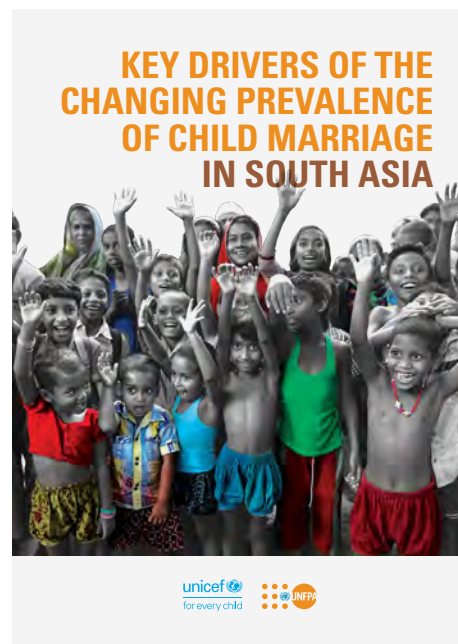
University of Maastricht, School of Governance, Stephan Dietrich, Aline Meysonnat, Victor Cebotari, Julia Reinold, Franziska Gassmann, Inez Roosen, Neil Foster-McGregor, UNICEF ROSA, UNFPA APRO

The study identifies key drivers of, and mitigating factors against, child marriage at the macro and household levels, and provides empirical evidence on which changes in the macro-environment that have been most effective in reducing prevalence of child marriage in Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan, building on a literature review and an analysis of Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) data.

The study shows that an improved macro-economic environment only seemed to have a positive effect on reducing child marriage prevalence where social norms had already begun to reject the practice: in regions where child marriage is less prevalent, increased economic activity was associated with a decrease in the phenomenon. This is especially visible in Pakistan, a country with comparatively lower prevalence of child marriage. In Bangladesh and Nepal, countries with higher prevalence of child marriage, increased economic activity had only a modest impact on reducing child marriage. The study shows that drivers of child marriage are complex, interrelated, and at times, context-specific. Although child marriage is on the decline, ending the practice must entail efforts at both the macro and household levels.

The study provides a basis to profile locations where prevalence of child marriage has declined or where it remains high, and to tailor interventions accordingly.

www.unicef.org/rosa/sites/unicef.org/rosa/files/2018-08/KEY%20DRIVERS%20changing%20prevalance%20of%20child%20marriage.pdf



Research report, November 2017
90 pages

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Available at:



Select Resources on Income/Cash Transfer Schemes as Interventions to End Child Marriage

Annotated Bibliography

Introduction

This document presents an annotated bibliography of articles and publications on income support initiatives including cash transfers designed to prevent or delay child marriage and a mapping of these initiatives in South Asia. The materials identified and presented to date are, for the most part, research papers. Other documents included are peer review articles, journalistic papers and several socio-economic publications. It primarily focuses on South Asia but it also includes literature from other regions as supporting background information. The main focus is incentives and schemes that have been assessed or evaluated but other relevant documentation on income support and cash transfers to end child marriage have also been included. In addition, section VII includes research on select income support/cash transfers initiatives that address the underlying drivers of child marriage. These initiatives were designed to alleviate poverty, increase labour participation, have better health outcomes and enhance access to education, but some appeared to have had a (in-)direct effect on the age of marriage.

Several search engines were scanned using word searches in the context of child marriage for terms such as *stipend*, *incentives*, *cash*, and *income*. Databases of select partner organizations and academic journals were also searched and a number of experts approached. Many references were also located using snowball sampling, in which the reference lists of articles and reports already cited in this bibliography were searched for new applicable references. Each reference in this bibliography is followed by a description of its key messages. In most instances, it presents abstracts of journal articles and summaries directly from the original articles. In some instances, parts of executive summaries were included. Studies are listed by the year of publication starting with the most recent and further alphabetized by name of first author. Most of the annotations include a hyperlink to the URL where the documents can be found on the World Wide Web. To ensure that these documents can still be accessed over time, repositories on Google Drive and Dropbox have also been created with direct links to the documents under each annotation.

[Google Drive](#)
[Dropbox](#)

The current bibliography is a first attempt to produce a dynamic document that will assist UNFPA and UNICEF staff at the country level in addressing directions for policy and action related to income support initiatives to prevent or delay child marriage through increased access to the data and lessons learned that have been generated in the South Asian region on this topic. No claim is made by any means that the bibliography is exhaustive. In fact, while searching for relevant materials, it became obvious that the amount of existing literature is sparse, less integrated and in most cases less detailed than hoped for. The bibliography at hand is thus very much a "work in progress" which intends to be thought provoking with regard to further research and to incorporate additional relevant information as it becomes available.

Research report, 2018

26 pages

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Available on demand

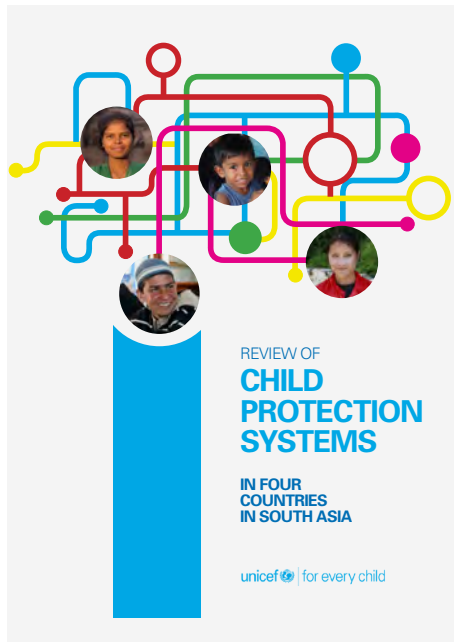
SELECT RESOURCES ON INCOME/CASH TRANSFER SCHEMES AS INTERVENTIONS TO END CHILD MARRIAGE: ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Marleen van der Ree, UNFPA APRO, UNICEF ROSA

The report presents an annotated bibliography of articles and publications on income support initiatives, including cash transfers, designed to prevent or delay child marriage, and maps these initiatives in South Asia.

The findings show that income support initiatives have, to some extent, been effective in increasing the age of marriage, but that further and more in-depth research on their impact is required. The limited number of studies that cover impact evaluations show mixed results and mostly challenge the idea that income support initiatives are effective in addressing the real issue of child marriage. Although the age of marriage might have increased, parents' and communities' attitudes about delaying the practice did not profoundly shift, nor did it translate into wider social change, including changes in girls' agency.

The bibliography is a first attempt to produce a dynamic document that assists UNFPA and UNICEF staff at the country level in addressing directions in policy and action related to income support initiatives to prevent child marriage, through increased access to the data and lessons learned on this topic from South Asia.



Research report, 2018
144 pages

Contact:

Kendra Gregson (kgregson@unicef.org)

REVIEW OF CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEMS IN FOUR COUNTRIES IN SOUTH ASIA

Ilan Katz, Marie Connolly, Hazel Blunden, Shona Bates, and Trish Hill, Social Policy Research Centre (SPRC) at the University of New South Wales and the University of Melbourne, UNICEF ROSA

The purpose of this study is to contribute to the global discussion on child protection system strengthening and facilitate learning about child protection systems and systems strengthening work in South Asia. The report synthesizes findings from desk reviews, fieldwork and back-to-office reports in Bhutan, the Maldives, Nepal and Pakistan.

The four countries studied are very diverse in terms of their size, geography, demographics, rate of development and policy context. Yet, there were many common themes evident in all countries. For example, it was evident in all four countries that a systems approach had become truly embedded in the discourse and to some extent in the delivery of services on the ground. Across the countries there was a view that the system was better than it had previously been, to varying degrees. This was despite some setbacks, particularly in the Maldives and Pakistan where there had been significant challenges to the strengthening of the systems. There was also a general belief among practitioners and professionals in all four countries that children were gradually being better protected from abuse, violence and exploitation, although this is difficult to determine due to a lack of reliable data. All four countries had either passed legislation before the mapping commenced, or had made progress in passing legislation and developing new policies and structures. While legislation and policy development are important to systems strengthening, it is far more challenging to ensure that system changes are implemented on the ground.

The purpose of the report is to inform future reform processes and ongoing discussions on child protection typologies.



Available at:

www.unicef.org/rosa/sites/unicef.org/rosa/files/2018-07/CPS%20report_web.pdf

A BASELINE SURVEY OF ADOLESCENT HEALTH AND RIGHTS ENHANCEMENT THROUGH INNOVATION AND SYSTEM STRENGTHENING: KEY FINDINGS

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), UNICEF Bangladesh

The baseline survey covers knowledge on and utilization of adolescent health services, current reproductive health status of adolescents, and prevalence of underweight and anemia among adolescents. The survey covers the Gazipur, Jamalpur, Tangail and Khulna districts through household surveys and an analysis of government administrative data.

The findings show that education is almost universal among the adolescents surveyed, although high levels of dropouts are observed among married adolescent girls. Adolescents are aware of the legal age of marriage. Adolescent boys have less knowledge on issues of health, nutrition and hygiene than girls, but girls face more restrictions than boys in visiting health facilities alone. Utilization of health services for both boys and girls is poor, and the preparedness of health facilities to provide services for adolescents is generally low.



Research brief, 2016
8 pages

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Available on demand



Research brief, 2016
4 pages

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Available on demand

A BASELINE SURVEY OF ADOLESCENT HEALTH AND RIGHTS ENHANCEMENT THROUGH INNOVATION AND SYSTEM STRENGTHENING: KEY FINDINGS QUALITATIVE STUDY

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), UNICEF Bangladesh

The qualitative part of the baseline survey covers challenges and opportunities with utilization of adolescent-friendly health services in the Gazipur, Jamalpur, Tangail and Khulna districts. The survey is based on 24 key informant interviews with persons working on the adolescent-friendly health programme ADOHEARTS.

The responses indicate that major challenges to adolescent-friendly health programmes include a lack of awareness among adolescents and parents where adolescent-friendly health services exist, inconvenient service providing times for adolescents (e.g. during school hours), and limited supplies and number of trained service providers at the health facilities. Child marriage is identified as another factor causing low utilization of adolescent-friendly health services. Potential solutions to the low utilization-levels are seen to be increased privacy at health facilities and to ensure gender-sensitive service provision.

The results of the baseline survey have influenced programme design of the ADOHEARTS adolescent-friendly health programme.

EVALUATION OF THE UNICEF BANGLADESH CHILD PROTECTION
PROGRAMME 2012–2016

UNICEF Bangladesh Country Office

Margaret de Monchy, Consultant
September 2016

EVALUATION OF THE UNICEF BANGLADESH CHILD PROTECTION PROGRAMME 2012–2016

Margaret de Monchy, UNICEF Bangladesh

The evaluation assesses the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of UNICEF’s national child protection programme, and determines how child protection interventions are being implemented and how to improve outreach.

The findings related to child marriage show that, based on evidence and lessons learned from previous projects aimed at reducing child marriage in Bangladesh, key areas where UNICEF and other organizations can effectively support the country’s progress towards ending the practice are: the empowerment of adolescent girls and boys with information, skills and support networks; education and mobilization of parents and community members; an offer of alternative pathways through child protection services for out-of-school children and girls at risk of child marriage; and the fostering of an enabling legal and policy framework. A recommendation from the evaluation is to advocate for, and support, the increased use of birth certificates by marriage registrars to determine minimum age for marriage.

The findings from the evaluation are used to improve UNICEF’s programme strategies and interventions.

Evaluation, September 2016

74 pages

Contact:

Neha Kapil (nkapil@unicef.org)



Available at:

www.unicef.org/evaldatabase/files/Final_CP_Evaluation_Report_Bangladesh_2016-002.pdf

CONTEXT OF CHILD MARRIAGE AND ITS IMPLICATIONS IN BANGLADESH

Department of Population Sciences University of Dhaka, UNFPA Bangladesh

The study examines child marriage from a multi-dimensional perspective in order to generate evidence for formulating effective policies, strategies and programmes. Quantitative data were collected through face-to-face interviews using a structured questionnaire, and qualitative data through in-depth interviews with key informants and case studies with victims of child marriage.

The findings provide in-depth insights into the causes and consequences of child marriage in Bangladesh, and concrete recommendations on how to end it. The findings show that the practice of child marriage is influenced by multiple causes; hence, a multi-dimensional approach is needed to prevent child marriage in the country and to minimize its negative consequences. More specifically, concerted efforts are needed at all levels – individual, community, institutional, state and policy – to affect the context and prevalence of child marriage.



Research report, 2017
311 pages

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Humaira Farhanaz (farhanaz@unfpa.org)

Available on demand

BASELINE SURVEY RESULTS: ACCELERATING ACTION TO END CHILD MARRIAGE IN BANGLADESH

Population Council, UNFPA Bangladesh

The baseline survey collects data on 2,990 adolescent girls aged 12–19 in 96 selected communities in Bogra and Jamalpur districts (both communities targeted by the programme and for control). The survey looks at socio-demographics, child marriage, social life, gender rights, experiences of violence, sexual reproductive health (SRH) and livelihoods among the adolescents.

The findings show how parents are usually motivated to marry off their daughters at early ages due to concerns for their sexual safety and security, and the need to conform to traditional societal expectations and to avoid higher costs associated with rising dowry demands with age. 82 per cent of all marriages in the survey areas were registered, including many under-age marriages. It is likely that these marriages were registered by presenting fake birth certificates as proof of age. Among those surveyed, five per cent of girls under the age of 16, 37 per cent of girls aged 16–17, and 59 per cent of girls aged 18–19 were married; approximately 21 per cent of girls aged 12–19 ever married, which is comparable to findings from other studies.

BASELINE SURVEY RESULTS
ACCELERATING ACTION TO END CHILD MARRIAGE IN BANGLADESH

INTRODUCTION
Despite considerable social and economic progress in Bangladesh, child marriage remains the norm. Population Council is partnering with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA) to empower girls with life skills and livelihood skills, and engage communities to address fundamental normative drivers of child marriage.

ABOUT THE PROJECT
The Accelerating Action to End Child Marriage project is designed to identify ways to scale up skill-building activities along with alternative community participation strategies to ensure long-term sustainability of the program. The project is a randomized controlled trial involving more than 13,000 girls aged 10-19 in 72 communities within two districts (Bogra and Jamalpur) of Bangladesh. The aim of the project is to develop and evaluate a skill-building program that is girl-centered, cost-effective, sustainable, and community owned; as well as identify pathways to scale. The research design builds upon the evidence-based BALIKA skill-building intervention by adding and evaluating a new community engagement component. Communities will be assigned to one of three different intervention arms, in order to test the potential value-add of different community engagement approaches, as

SEPTEMBER 2017

The program is generously funded by the Governments of Canada, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the European Union.

UKaid | EUROPEAN UNION | UNFPA | POPULATION COUNCIL

Policy brief, September 2017

8 pages

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Available on demand

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENTS

ACCELERATING ACTION TO END CHILD MARRIAGE IN BANGLADESH

The UNFPA/UNICEF Global Program to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage (GPECM) is implemented in 12 high prevalence and/or high burden countries including Bangladesh. With the goal of ensuring that girls fully enjoy their childhood, free from risk of marriage and that they experience healthier, safer, and more-empowered transitions. The GPECM focuses on building girls' skills and knowledge, engaging community members to promote gender equitable attitudes, strengthening relevant sectors to deliver quality services, ensuring laws and policies protect and promote adolescent girls' rights and generating and using robust data to inform programs and policies relating to adolescent girls.

BACKGROUND

The "Accelerating Action to End Child Marriage" program will be implemented in rural villages in the districts of Bogra and Jamalpur over a period of four years. The program will be implemented by the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA), and the Population Council will provide technical assistance in the design, implementation, and evaluation of the program. A key program objective is to create an enabling environment to empower girls. In support of this objective, community assessments were conducted to inform the program design. Information we collected will be used to ensure that the program we design will be feasible and acceptable according to the unique physical, economic, and social characteristics of the communities within which we work. This brief provides an overview of the community assessment results.



Primary school catchment area map, Bogra. The catchment area of the community assessment survey is expected to be the same as the catchment area of the school that will house the program. Each school has a locally drawn map of its catchment area that serves as our starting point.



Primary school in Jamalpur, August 2017

METHOD

The community is the unit of analysis. Information was collected from 96 communities (72 intervention and 24 control) in Bogra and Jamalpur districts. Data were collected over a period of 2.5 months. Six Research Assistants were deployed after a comprehensive 3-day training on qualitative assessment tools developed by the Population Council, reviewed by UNFPA, and approved by the Institutional Review Board of the Population Council. Research Assistants visited each community for three days and collected data systematically, that included secondary data collection, a transect walk, and semi-structured interviews. Secondary data were collected from union parishad offices and primary schools. These data include geographical area, population, number of educational institutions, and details about the student body in the primary school. A transect walk is a systematic touring of a defined area, accompanied by local guides. Transect walk involves walking, observing, talking to people in the community, and documenting their stories.

The program is generously funded by the Governments of Canada, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the European Union.



Policy brief, September 2017

4 pages

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Available on demand

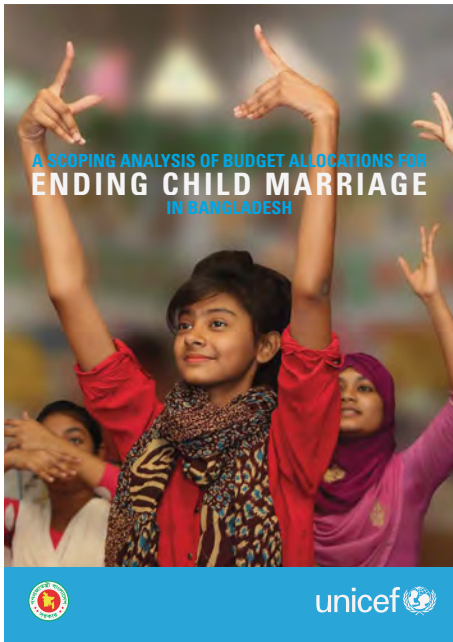
COMMUNITY ASSESSMENTS: ACCELERATING ACTION TO END CHILD MARRIAGE IN BANGLADESH

Population Council, UNFPA Bangladesh

The objective of the study is to assess perceptions of child marriage in local communities and to build acceptance for the implementation of child marriage interventions. The assessment is based on interviews with community members in 96 communities (72 intervention communities and 24 control communities) in Bogra and Jamalpur districts.

The findings show, for example, that in the communities, there are perceptions that the only viable work opportunities available to girls and women are low-status and less desirable agricultural work, something which may increase the prevalence of child marriage. Another issue that has to be taken into account when programming is the visibility and accessibility of activities and intervention sites for girls. When asked about available non-governmental organizations (NGO) services or activities in the communities, none of the respondents stated that they know of services or activities to prevent child marriage, even in those cases where they do exist.

The findings are used to inform programme design on how to create an enabling environment for girls' empowerment.



Research report, February 2018

74 pages

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A SCOPING ANALYSIS OF BUDGET ALLOCATIONS FOR ENDING CHILD MARRIAGE IN BANGLADESH

Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs, UNICEF Bangladesh

The objective of the study is to identify and analyse budget commitments and releases that have been potentially relevant for ending child marriage. The study uses FY2010/11–2015/16 budget data (allocation and expenditure) of development programmes from all ministries, departments and agencies, as well as of non-development (i.e. recurrent) programmes from seven key ministries to identify relevant budget data for programmes to end child marriage.

The study identifies as relevant to child marriage a total of 64 development programmes. The total revised budget amounts to nearly BDT138 billion (US\$1,754 million) for the period of FY2010/11–2015/16, or almost BDT23 billion (US\$292 million) annually (approximately 1.2 per cent of the total government budget). Safety net programmes, adolescent health and secondary education for girls comprise most of the investments related to ending child marriage. Budgeted amounts allocated to community awareness and protection from gender-based violence (GBV) appear negligible. Given that GBV is a key determinant of child marriage in Bangladesh, it is important to address the issue of how such programmes can be better budgeted.

The scoping analysis is a first step towards a full baseline assessment of government expenditures related to ending child marriage, and will assist line ministries and other stakeholders in ascertaining the relevance of budget commitments and releases and in discussing ways to improve programmes and policies to contribute to ending child marriage.



Available at:

www.unicef.org/bangladesh/ECM_Budget_Scoping_Analysis_-_February_2018.pdf



CONDITIONAL CASH TRANSFERS FOR GIRLS IN INDIA: ASSESSMENT OF A GIRL CHILD PROMOTION SCHEME FROM BENEFICIARY PERSPECTIVE

T.V. Sekher and F. Ram, International Institute of Population Sciences (IIPS), UNFPA India

The study examines the design and execution of conditional cash transfer (CCT) schemes by taking the Dhanlakshmi scheme as a case study in order to identify bottlenecks in programme implementation and explore the perceptions and attitudes of parents towards investing in girls. The study suggests ways in which CCT schemes can be better designed, targeted and coordinated to enhance the value and well-being of girls.

The findings show that CCTs can be used to incentivize parents to not abort girls before birth, by subsidizing what otherwise might be seen as an economic disadvantage. There are about 20 CCT schemes in India, mainly targeting girls' education and child marriage (with the condition that the girl remains unmarried until age 18). Interviews with targeted and non-targeted households reveal that in beneficiary households, girls seem to be higher valued. The Dhanlakshmi scheme provides a terminal benefit if the girl is not married by age 18, which 75 per cent of the parents said was the reason that they would not marry off their daughters at a younger age. The evidence from the study strongly advocates for continuing CCT schemes for girls, however by restructuring the incentives, modifying conditionalities and targeting economically weaker sections.

**Conditional Cash Transfers for Girls in India:
Assessment of a Girl Child Promotion Scheme from
Beneficiary Perspective**

Report

T.V. Sekher and F. Ram

International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS),
Mumbai

Study sponsored by

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)-India

2015

Research report, 2015
125 pages

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Available at:

<http://iipsindia.org/pdf/iipsReportCTGirlsInIndia.pdf>





Research report, October 2015
68 pages

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CHILD MARRIAGE & EARLY MOTHERHOOD: UNDERSTANDINGS FROM LIVED EXPERIENCES OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Dr. Nishi Mitra, Prof. S. Parasuraman, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, UNFPA India

The objective of the study is to understand the perspectives of girls and boys on issues related to child marriage and to explore, through the life history method, how child marriage intersects with other social determinants such as caste, class, religion, regional location, stress or conflict situations. The study aims to understand young people as agents of change in altering the norm and practice of child marriage. The study's target group consisted of 42 girls and 15 boys with whom in-depth interviews were conducted, and 40 focus group discussions were held with both adolescents and other key stakeholders in eight states (Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Rajasthan and West Bengal).

The lessons learned from the life histories show that it is important that interventions are designed to address the entire life cycle of individuals affected by child marriage. The study points to three critical drivers of child marriage: traditions, norms and beliefs, including customary forms of marriage; poverty and economy of scale; and resistance and exercise of 'choice' by adolescents who marry (e.g. by elopement) to defy parental and community structures. Further, the study shows how community awareness and counseling for parents are necessary to address the lack of sensitivity of the impact of child marriage on adolescents. Finally, skills development and employability need to be targeted to affect the rate of child marriage, by creating viable alternatives to the practice.



Available at:

<https://coeay.tiss.edu/cmap/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/CMEM-REPORT.pdf>



REDUCING CHILD MARRIAGE IN INDIA: A MODEL TO SCALE UP RESULTS

Jha, Jyostna et al., Centre for Budget and Policy Studies, UNICEF India

Through a literature review, the study analyses factors that perpetuate child marriage or that may reduce the practice, in order to develop a model to accelerate the reduction rate. Previous efforts to reduce child marriage have often been small-scale, with little possibility of being replicated; hence, they cannot serve as models for how to reach millions of girls.

The findings show that drivers of child marriage are poverty, high wedding costs and other economic considerations; lack of easy access to schooling, especially at the secondary level; political patronage, which weakens law enforcement agencies, vested interest groups and networks; and gender norms and prescriptions. Moreover, it emerges that drivers of change include access to safe, affordable and good quality secondary education; empowerment of women and girls; engagement with men and boys; incentives for change through social protection; agenda building and the influence of public opinion to promote behaviour change; and consistent laws and stricter enforcement. Further, it is important to tailor strategies to local patterns and prevalence.



Research report, January 2016
64 pages

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Available at:



<http://cbps.in/wp-content/uploads/Child-Marraige-UNICEF.pdf>

Demography India (2016)
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ISSN: 0970-454X

Research Article

Measuring Child Marriage from Census and Large Scale Data Systems in India

Sanjay Kumar¹

Abstract

Considering the negative impact of child marriage on women's health and empowerment, it is important to trace the levels and trends of child marriage at the national and sub-national levels in India. Various researchers have used different data sources and different ways to measure child marriage. The paper proposes deriving indicator from Census data to estimate the prevalence of child marriage as contrast to the widely used indicator derived from large scale surveys. The definitional and interpretation aspects of the indicator derived from Census have been discussed as well as levels, trends and differentials of child marriage are presented. The paper argues to consider estimation of child marriage from Census at the lower levels of geographies as the estimate from survey is associated with large confidence intervals, which might be one of the major issues to trace changes in child marriage rates at the district level from survey data in future, unless proper attention on statistical tests are given to detect significant decline from its previous round.

Introduction

Child marriage is one of the major challenges in many developing countries including India. It has been practiced in India since long as a result of deep rooted social and cultural norms. It is a phenomenon in which girls or boys are married before they attain the minimum legal age at marriage enforced by the law. Girls who marry early are not only denied their childhood, they are often socially isolated and cut off from family and friends and other sources of support, with limited opportunities for education and employment (UNICEF, 2014). A girl marrying before attaining proper adulthood age, poses significant adverse impact not only on her health but it is also surrounded by very low levels of her agency and empowerment. Early marriages are also associated with early childbearing which has higher risks of delivery complications and maternal and child morbidity and mortality (UNFPA, 2013). Thus, the consequences of child marriage is far reaching and it affects the current health, social and economic status of girl as well as of her children.

The continued high incidence of child marriage has become a major policy issue in many developing countries and various international and civil society organizations combating to end child marriage have regarded it as a human rights violation. Although child marriage is not directly addressed in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, it is linked to other rights and is recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as the "right to free and full consent to marriage" (article 16). The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women states that "the betrothal and the marriage of a child shall have no legal effect" and calls upon states to set legal minimum age for marriage and to make marriage registration compulsory (article 16). Education is a right for children and adolescents under the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child and other human rights instruments (UNICEF, 2008, 2009). The international community is increasingly aware of the negative impacts of child marriage on a wide range of development outcomes and ending child marriage is now part as one of the targets (5.3) of the Sustainable Development Goals (Wodon, 2017).

¹National Programme Officer, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), India. The views expressed in the paper are that of the author and does not reflect that of the affiliated Organization. Earlier version of this paper was presented during XXVIII Annual Conference of the Indian Association for the Study of Population (IASP) during December 7-9, 2016 at Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi. Email: skumar@unfpa.org

Journal article, December 2016
18 pages

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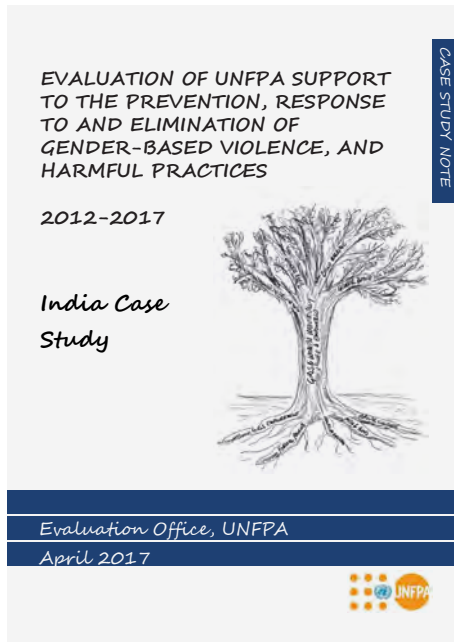
http://demographyindia.in/article_document/17/283115.pdf

MEASURING CHILD MARRIAGE FROM CENSUS AND LARGE SCALE DATA SYSTEMS IN INDIA

Sanjay Kumar, UNFPA India

The article looks at child marriage data collection and analysis from Census data compared with large-scale data systems, such as the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) and the District Level Household Survey (DLHS), and assesses socio-economic differentials of child marriage based on the available data.

Previous research often use different data sources and different ways to measure child marriage. This article proposes a deriving indicator from Census data to estimate the prevalence of child marriage, in contrast to the widely used indicator derived from large-scale surveys. The definitional and interpretation aspects of the indicator derived from Census data are discussed as well as levels, trends and differentials of child marriage. The article argues to consider the estimation of child marriage at lower geographical levels from Census data, because estimates from large-scale surveys are associated with large confidence intervals. This might be an issue when tracing changes in child marriage prevalence at the district level over time, unless proper attention is given to statistical tests in order to detect significant declines from previous rounds of the surveys.



Evaluation, April 2017
57 pages

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Available at:

http://india.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/UNFPA_GBVHP_India_Case_Study_FINAL_0.pdf

EVALUATION OF UNFPA SUPPORT TO THE PREVENTION, RESPONSE TO AND ELIMINATION OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE, AND HARMFUL PRACTICES, 2012–2017

Evaluation Office UNFPA India

The objective of the evaluation is to examine how UNFPA's work in combating gender-based violence (GBV) and harmful practices responds to country-specific contextual and institutional realities. It also assesses, at the programme implementation level, the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of UNFPA's support to the prevention, response to and elimination of GBV and harmful practices. The evaluation consulted 269 people from nine different stakeholder groups, including national and state governments, civil society, the United Nations system, academia and beneficiaries.

The findings suggest that successful in-house communication is focused on addressing specific audiences, while mass communication is best achieved through supporting partners. UNFPA has recently leveraged in-house and mass communication for the prevention of child marriage in Rajasthan by facilitating common action planning and inclusive involvement of stakeholders at all levels. The aim is to advance a clear set of jointly defined and complementary messages, and bring policy, practice, communications and media together. With respect to harmful practices, including gender-based sex selection and child marriage, sub-state-level analysis of population data has been a powerful tool in drawing policy attention to these issues, identifying where to prioritize interventions, suggesting possible activities, and serving as a possible tool for accountability of key stakeholders in addressing these practices.

SUPPORTING ADOLESCENT TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD: WHAT WORKS AND WHAT DOESN'T

J-Pal, UNICEF India

The objective of the study is to assess interventions, through a qualitative review of policies and programmes nationwide, that can ease the transition from adolescence to adulthood and reduce harmful practices.

The synthesis shows that cash transfers can help compensate for costs of education and can delay marriage by addressing economic constraints preventing adolescents and their families from making optimal decisions. Similarly, information and awareness programmes that target changing aspirations, especially for adolescent girls, can impact multiple outcomes. If norms can evolve through incremental changes in people's behaviours and expectations, then programmes effectively addressing behaviours can contribute to larger shifts in creating and sustaining new norms. It is important that this is accompanied by an in-depth understanding of the local context and the specific needs of adolescents, particularly girls.

On the basis of the review, a national workshop was organized with the national and state governments to develop an action agenda for social protection programmes for adolescent empowerment.



SUPPORTING ADOLESCENT TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD: WHAT WORKS AND WHAT DOESN'T



Research report, December 2017
24 pages

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Available on demand

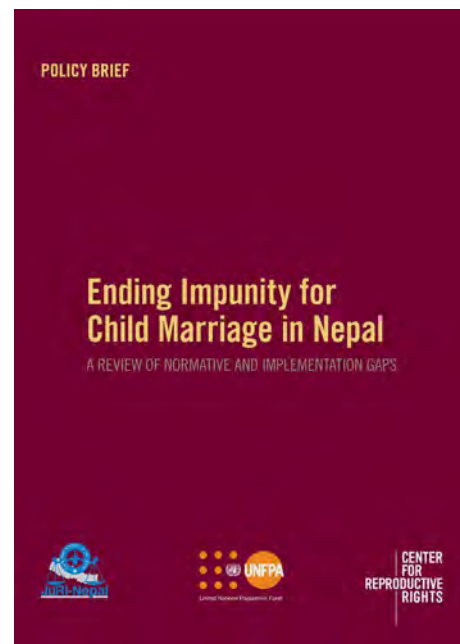
ENDING IMPUNITY FOR CHILD MARRIAGE IN NEPAL: A REVIEW OF NORMATIVE AND IMPLEMENTATION GAPS

Center for Reproductive Rights, JuRi-Nepal, UNFPA Nepal

The objective of the study is to identify legal gaps and inconsistencies that undermine efforts to address child marriage in Nepal.

The findings show that there are key gaps and loopholes in Nepal's child marriage laws. These include, inter alia, that a child marriage is valid unless and until it is voided at age 20, that the law does not define "consent" and that there are inadequate consequences for allowing or forcing children into child marriages.

The findings are used to inform policymakers, law enforcement officials and human rights defenders of the key legal gaps and inconsistencies that undermine efforts to end child marriage. Further, the findings are used as an advocacy tool to influence progressive legal provisions and law enforcement.



Policy brief, 2016
32 pages

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Available at:

https://nepal.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Ending%20Impunity%20for%20Child%20marriage%28final%29_25Nov16.pdf



Powerpoint presentation, 2016
39 pages

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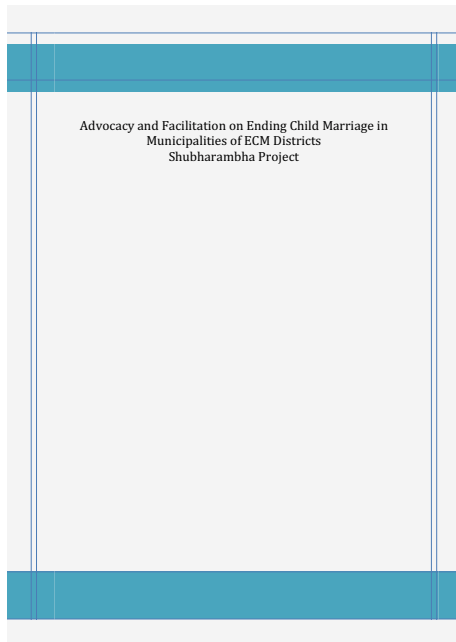
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LEVELS AND TRENDS IN THE PREVALENCE OF CHILD MARRIAGE IN NEPAL

Kazutaka Sekine, UNICEF Nepal

The study examines trends in prevalence of child marriage by estimating yearly prevalence rates between 1990 and 2014, based on Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) data, and by projecting the trajectory of child marriage rates up to 2030. Further, the study estimates the prevalence of child marriage by regions and sub-population groups to enable identification of regions or groups with stagnating rates of child marriage.

The findings show that despite an accelerated reduction rate over the past years, the target of ending child marriage by 2030 is unlikely to be achieved even if the current trend continues. The findings show that there is a close correlation between child marriage prevalence and place of residence, wealth quintile, education level and ethnicity, since there are large disparities between groups with different socio-demographic characteristics. However, drivers of child marriage seem to be complex; the determinants are not wealth or education alone. The evidence justifies the prioritization of intervention districts under the Global Programme, however, there is need to discuss even further improved targeting. For example, it is clear that there needs to be intensified interventions for girls who are Dalit, Muslim or from other terai castes, girls from the Central Terai and Mid-Western Mountain regions, and girls with no education or only primary education.



Research report, June 2016
23 pages

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Available on demand

ADVOCACY AND FACILITATION ON ENDING CHILD MARRIAGE IN MUNICIPALITIES OF ECM DISTRICTS – SHUBHARAMBHA PROJECT

Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development, Family Health Division (Ministry of Health and Population), Dist. Dev. Committees, Village Dev. Committees, Yuwalaya, et al.

The study identifies resource allocation and expenditure of local bodies (village development committees and municipalities) on issues related to ending child marriage. The study is based on consultations and interactive meetings with local government representatives of eight municipalities in Global Programme districts as well as an analysis of Municipal Assembly-approved decisions.

The findings show that all of the municipalities had allocated resources for various activities related to ending child marriage, amounting to a total of NPR43 million (US\$2.5 million). The study finds that the resources were mostly allocated for awareness-raising activities. The review initially also intended to analyse expenditures, however, this was not possible for all municipalities.

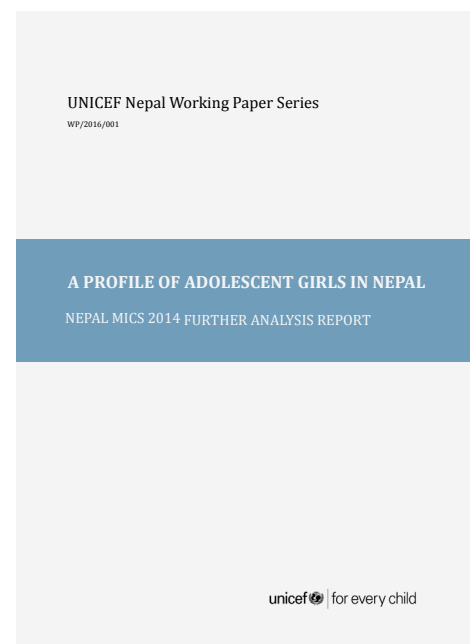
As a result of the findings, the Government decided to scale up integration of ending child marriage activities in annual and long-term planning processes nationally through government-earmarked resources for children. The review report is also used to advocate for conducting a similar practice in other urban and rural municipalities.

A PROFILE OF ADOLESCENT GIRLS IN NEPAL: NEPAL MICS 2014 FURTHER ANALYSIS REP

UNICEF Nepal

The study highlights descriptive statistics and trends in a number of domains through an analysis of Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2014 data, including use of mass media and information and communication technology (ICT), attitudes towards domestic violence, knowledge of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), and subjective well-being of female adolescents aged 15–19 in Nepal. Within these domains, sub-group analysis disaggregated by geographical areas as well as socio-economic characteristics helps identify the most marginalized adolescent groups for improved programming.

The findings show that, on average, over 90 per cent of the adolescents surveyed were able to read and write. However, the percentage of adolescents currently attending school dropped dramatically after age 16. This was especially true for female adolescents, who were significantly less likely to complete secondary education than their male peers. Access and usage of ICT, such as computers and internet, are also alarmingly low among female adolescents aged 15–19 in the country. Further, more than one-third of adolescent girls aged 15–19 believe that wife-beating is justified, and six out of ten adolescent girls surveyed did not have a comprehensive knowledge about how HIV can and cannot be transmitted.



UNICEF Nepal Working Paper Series
WP/2016/001

A PROFILE OF ADOLESCENT GIRLS IN NEPAL
NEPAL MICS 2014 FURTHER ANALYSIS REPORT

unicef | for every child

Research report, December 2016
44 pages

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Available at:

<http://unicef.org.np/uploads/files/409895379488945832-working-paper-series-2016-001-further-analysis-2016011.pdf>



EFFECT OF CHILD MARRIAGE ON GIRLS' SCHOOL DROPOUT IN NEPAL: ANALYSIS OF DATA FROM THE MULTIPLE INDICATOR CLUSTER SURVEY 2014

Kazutaka Sekine, Marian Ellen Hodgkin

The objectives of the study are to identify effects of child marriage on girls' education dropout rates, identify the "tipping point" when the risk of dropout due to marriage is the highest, and assess associated risk factors. The study covers girls aged 15–17 and young women aged 20–24 nationwide through a secondary analysis of Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2014 data.

The findings show that married girls in Nepal are ten times more likely to drop out than their unmarried peers. In addition, little or no education of the household head and belonging to the Kirat religion or to a traditionally disadvantaged social class are factors that further elevate the risk of school dropout due to child marriage. The findings underscore the need to delay girls' marriage so as to reduce girls' school dropout rates in Nepal. School-based programmes aimed at preventing child marriage should target girls from the fifth grade because they are at increased risk of dropping out, and should prioritize girls from the above-mentioned disadvantaged groups.



Journal article, July 2017
13 pages

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Available at:



<http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article/file?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0180176&type=printable>

Situation Assessment of Child Marriage in Selected Five Intervention Districts of Nepal

(Final Report)

By
Central Department of Population Studies
Tribhuvan University
Kirtipur

Submitted to
Program Team
Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage
UNFPA Country Office, Nepal

July 2017

Research report, July 2017
225 pages

Contact:
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Available on demand

SITUATION ASSESSMENT OF CHILD MARRIAGE IN SELECTED FIVE INTERVENTION DISTRICTS OF NEPAL

Central Department of Population Studies, Tribhuvan University, UNFPA Nepal

The study examines levels of child marriage in programme districts (Bajhang, Baitadi, Kapilvastu and Rolpa) in order to establish baseline values for output, outcome and impact indicators, and to understand stakeholders' knowledge, attitudes and behaviours related to combating child marriage. The study is based on a quantitative survey of 2,160 households and 1,568 girls and young women aged 10–24, as well as on qualitative focus group discussions, in-depth interviews, key informant interviews and institutional surveys. Additionally, the study compiles representative case studies on child marriage.

The findings show that 28 per cent of females and 16 per cent of males are married before the age of 20, while 14 per cent of females are married before 18 and four per cent before 15; the corresponding figures for males are four per cent and less than one per cent. Child marriage is more common in Rautahat district in Terai (54 per cent) and Kapilbastu (35 per cent), than in the hills and mountain regions (below 25 per cent). With regard to caste/ethnic groups, child marriage is highest among the Madheshi community (50 per cent), Dalits (48 per cent) and Muslims (43 per cent). The rates are much lower in Brahman/Chhetri (18 per cent) and Janajati (24 per cent) communities.



**WEST AND
CENTRAL AFRICA**

CHILD MARRIAGE, ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY AND FAMILY FORMATION IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA: PATTERNS, TRENDS AND DRIVERS OF CHANGE

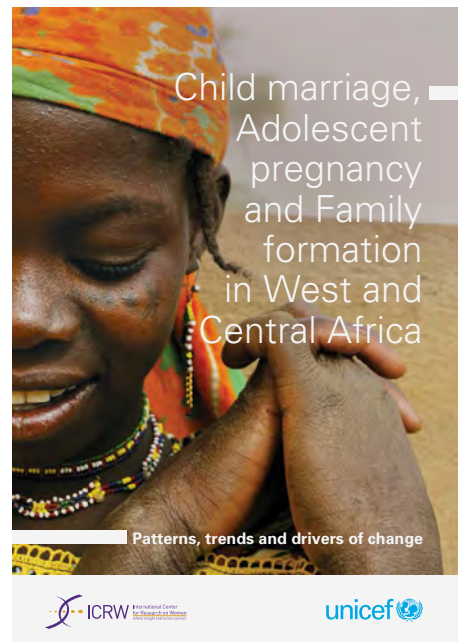
ICRW, UNICEF WCARO

The study reviews Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) and Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) data and available studies on child marriage to map determinants and find possible interventions in West and Central Africa (WCA).

The findings show that delays in age of marriage have been experienced across the region; two potential explanatory factors are an increase in girls' education and women's participation in the labour force. An increase in contraception use may also have led to delayed marriages. The study shows that there have been changes in the timing and structure of family formation behaviour, a process traditionally starting with marriage at a very young age throughout the region. Further research is needed to understand the geographical distribution of child marriage in the region and how this is linked to broader socio-cultural determinants, including ethnicity and religion. More research is also needed to understand how child marriage is linked to economic aspects beyond poverty, such as migration abroad, the use of remittances for education, and the impact of fast economic growth in some countries on gender roles in general.

Available at:

www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/Child_Marriage_Adolescent_Pregnancy_and_Family_Formation_in_WCA.pdf

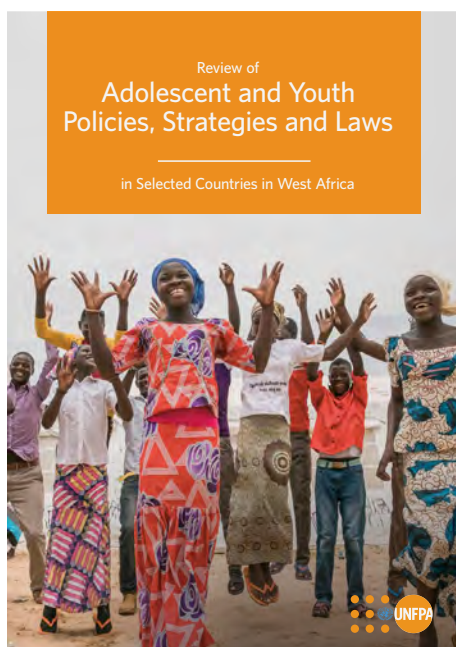


Research report, 2015

86 pages

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Research report, February 2017

48 pages

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Available at:

English: <http://wcaro.unfpa.org/en/publications/review-adolescent-and-youth-policies-strategies-and-laws>

French: <http://wcaro.unfpa.org/fr/publications/examen-des-lois-politiques-et-strat%C3%A9gies-relatives-aux-adolescents-et-aux-jeunes>

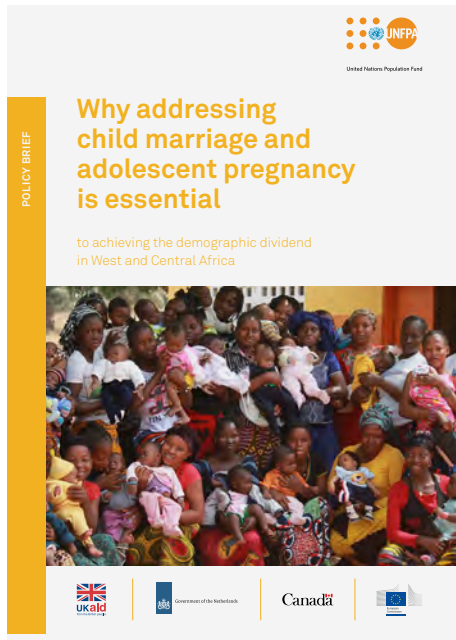


REVIEW OF ADOLESCENT AND YOUTH POLICIES, STRATEGIES AND LAWS IN SELECTED COUNTRIES IN WEST AFRICA

UNFPA WCARO

The objective of the study is to shed light on the complex legal and policy environments that govern the lives of adolescents, particularly adolescent girls, and how these laws and policies can impact their health, education, employment and development opportunities. The study is based on a qualitative desk review of legal frameworks (laws, penal codes and child rights acts) as well as ministerial-level policies and strategies (national policies or national strategies) in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Niger, Nigeria and Sierra Leone.

The review covers laws and policies related to child marriage, adolescent pregnancy, adolescent sexual and reproductive health (SRH), as well as education and youth employment. The review finds that while there were examples of enabling and supportive policies and laws, most countries had a complex – and often contradictory – set of laws, policies and strategies pertaining to adolescents and youth that may act as a significant barrier to adolescents' access to and uptake of health services, education and employment. This might increase their vulnerability to child marriage.



Policy brief, October 2017
8 pages

Contact:

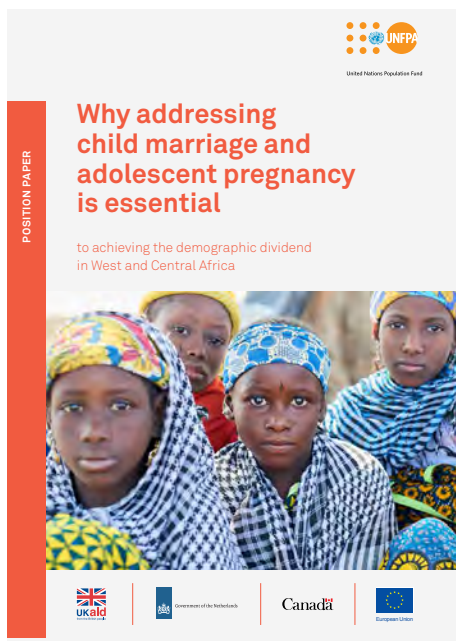
Anandita (philipose (philipose@unfpa.org))

WHY ADDRESSING CHILD MARRIAGE AND ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY IS ESSENTIAL TO ACHIEVING THE DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

UNFPA WCARO

The objective of the study is to provide evidence on why addressing child marriage and adolescent pregnancy is essential for harnessing the demographic dividend in West and Central Africa. The demographic dividend is important to the region because of its strong population growth, where the majority of countries have annual growth rates above two per cent, implying a population “doubling time” of 20 to 30 years.

The projections of child marriage in the region are alarming. They indicate that the consequences of child marriage are likely to affect an even larger number of girls in the coming years. Even if the current rate of decline in child marriage prevalence doubles, the progress will not be sufficient to offset the population growth, and the number of child brides will continue to grow. However, ending child marriage would significantly speed up the transition to lower fertility rates in many countries. Therefore, it is imperative to take measures to address child marriage and adolescent pregnancy in order to achieve the demographic dividend. Key recommendations include: creating an enabling legal and policy environment; providing quality education for girls, especially secondary education; expanding access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services and comprehensive sexuality education; and empowering girls by building their skills and social assets.



Position paper, February 2018
28 pages

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English policy brief

Available at:

<https://wcaro.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/UNFPA-POLICY-CM-WEB%20%282%29.pdf>



French policy brief

Available at:

<https://wcaro.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/FR-UNFPA-WCARO-CHILD-MARRIAGE-POLICY-WEB.pdf>



English position paper

Available at:

<https://wcaro.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/UNFPA-WCARO-CHILD-MARRIAGE-POSITION-PAPER-WEB.pdf>

ACHIEVING A FUTURE WITHOUT CHILD MARRIAGE: FOCUS ON WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

UNICEF Data and Analytics

The secondary data analysis determines levels of child marriage across West and Central Africa (WCA).

The findings show that across the region, four in ten young women are married in childhood. However, there is a tenfold difference in prevalence between the countries with the highest levels and countries with the lowest levels. Six of the ten countries with the highest prevalence of child marriage globally are located in WCA. There is some evidence of a generational decline in the prevalence, which is greater to some extent in marriage rates for girls below age 15. However, despite these trends, due to a growing population, the actual number of child brides is increasing. Unless progress is accelerated, it will take 100 years for the practice to be eliminated in the region.



Data brief, October 2017
6 pages

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Available at:



<https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Child-Marriage-WEB.pdf>





Research report, March 2016
100 pages

Contact:
Desire Yameogo (dyameogo@unicef.org)
Available on demand (in French)

ÉTUDE DE BASE DU PROJET « ACTIONS POUR PRÉVENIR LE MARIAGE D'ENFANTS DANS LE DISTRICT SANITAIRE DE DIAPAGA »

Sibiri Paul Sawadogo, Wendnsou Maria Sidonie Gouem, Mwangaza Action, Cooperazione Italiana, Associazione Italiana Donne per lo Sviluppo, UNFPA Burkina Faso

The study maps vulnerable adolescent girls (aged 12–19) who are likely to get married or are already married, in four communes in the Diapaga district, through a quantitative survey and qualitative interviews with 609 girls.

The findings show that 21 per cent of the respondents are already married or in union. Girls promised to marriage represent 15 per cent of all unmarried girls. The average age at marriage is 14.9 for all married girls, but in the Tambaga zone, it is lower, at 14.3. Of all married respondents, 46 per cent reported being a victim of forced marriage. Some girls say they “agreed” to marry a man they did not choose to honour their parents’ decision. Two-thirds of the teenagers were unaware that they had the right to refuse the husband imposed on them. The other third knew, but did not want to, or could not challenge the custom. Overall, girls give birth on average at age 15.8, barely one year (10.8 months) after marriage.

Only 26 of the 127 adolescent girls who said that they were married had ever attended school, and only two were currently attending school (yielding a 93 per cent dropout rate); 99 have never been to school. The vocational training needs of adolescent girls were expressed by parents and other local actors who would like to see the low enrollment rate offset by short-term training in income-generating activities. The aim is to contribute to the financial empowerment of adolescent girls and to the fight against poverty.

ÉTUDE SUR LE MARIAGE DES ENFANTS DANS LA RÉGION DU SAHEL

Initiatives Conseil International, UNICEF Burkina Faso

The objective of the study is to understand prevalence and causes of child marriage in the Oudalan, Seno, Yagha and Soum Provinces in the Sahel region, in all its dimensions (i.e. sociological, economic and cultural). The study is based on a combination of methods: a quantitative survey targeting 2,384 adolescents aged 12–24 and 3,455 households, a qualitative document review, 67 key informant interviews, 17 focus group discussions, and 16 life-story interviews with girls escaping marriage or currently in union.

The findings show that the prevalence of child marriage is high in the Sahel region, with 59–75 per cent of teenagers married in the different provinces. Adolescents who are victims of child marriage are Muslim (99.5 per cent) and are mostly Fulani (62.3 per cent). Many different factors militate for the continuation of the practice, for example, the perpetuation of customs combined with Islamic religious beliefs; the economic needs of some parents; and the desire of teenagers to follow their peers. The practice is also upheld by a lack of knowledge about the legal age of marriage, contraceptives and the rights of children. To be successful, interventions need to address several aspects that uphold the practice, such as traditions and norms, and the lack of services. There is also a need to better follow up on interventions with adolescent girls.



Research report, June 2016
156 pages

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Available on demand (in French)

ETUDE SUR LE MARIAGE PRECOCE DANS LA REGION DE LA BOUCLE DU MOUHOUN, BURKINA FASO

Population Council, UNFPA Burkina Faso

The survey was commissioned in order to understand socio-economic factors underlying child marriage in the Boucle du Mouhoun region, through quantitative and qualitative interviews with adolescents, parents and key informants.

The findings show that in the Boucle du Mouhoun region, 23 per cent of adolescent girls and two per cent of adolescent boys are affected by child marriage. At the provincial level, the Kossi Province has the highest proportion (34 per cent) of teenage girls married, followed by the provinces of Banwa (29 per cent), Nayala (22 per cent), Mouhoun (17 per cent) and Balé (seven per cent). The province of Sourou records a zero prevalence of child marriage. Adolescent girls who are affected by child marriage predominantly live in rural areas, are uneducated or have only primary education, are Muslim or belong to a traditional religion, and are from the Bobo ethnic groups. Socio-cultural, religious and economic factors, and ignorance of legal provisions of marriage, are used to justify the persistence of child marriages in the region. Among the socio-cultural factors, the fear of early pregnancy (source of dishonour for the family) was especially mentioned. However, respondents are aware of the negative consequences of child marriage, the most common being early pregnancy and childbirth complications.

There are limited economic opportunities for adolescent girls in the region. Alternative learning pathways, in combination with economic empowerment activities, need to be established, because, although there is formal education, some girls face challenges accessing it. Health facilities in general provide sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services, but do not specifically target adolescents. Possible interventions proposed by the respondents include awareness raising, advocacy with decision makers, education and empowerment of girls, promotion of sexual education, access to adolescent SRH services, and improvement of the overall response to child marriage, including in the child protection sector.



Research report, September 2016

106 pages

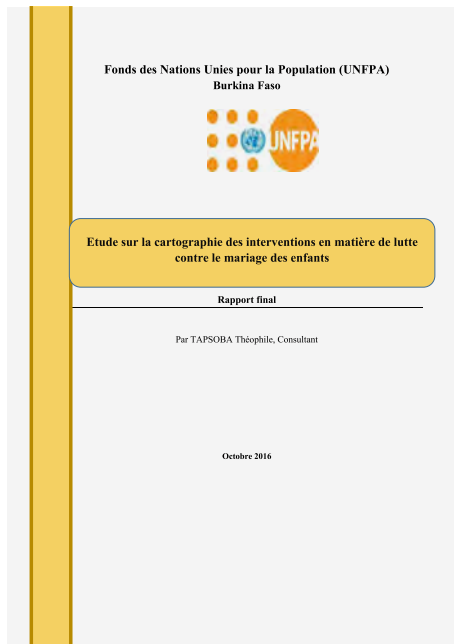
Contact:

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Available (in French) at:

www.girlsnotbrides.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/RAPPORT-FINAL-ETUDE-UNFPA_FINAL.pdf





Research report, October 2016
143 pages

Contact:

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Available on demand (in French)

ETUDE SUR LA CARTOGRAPHIE DES INTERVENTIONS EN MATIÈRE DE LUTTE CONTRE LE MARIAGE DES ENFANTS

Théophile Tapsoba, UNFPA Burkina Faso

The aim of the study is to map interventions related to ending child marriage in Burkina Faso from 2005. Prior to the study, due to a lack of this type of mapping, effective coordination between different actors has been difficult. A questionnaire was sent to each of the 13 Regional Directorates of Social Action and National Solidarity (DRASSN) to list child marriage-related activities by various actors in their region. However, the answers received lacked information needed to provide a full picture of the situation in the country.

The study presents an overview of the prevalence of child marriage across regions and lists activities taking place in the various regions. Almost half of all activities (48 per cent) focused on awareness raising, and 25 per cent on family mediation for the resolution of early marriage cases; other types of activities were less common (e.g. only six per cent focused on home visits).

ANALYSE SECONDAIRE SUR LE MARIAGE D'ENFANTS

Ministère de la Femme de la solidarité nationale et de la famille, Secrétariat Général, Direction générale des études et des statistiques sectorielles, Direction des statistiques sectorielles

The study analyses the number of child marriage cases reported to and managed by social services at the national and decentralized levels. The study analyses administrative data on early/forced marriage among individuals under the age of 18; it does not claim to be exhaustive since it only covers self-reported cases.

After a peak record of 812 complaints in 2011, there has been an annual decrease in the number of complaints. This observation gives rise to further questions. Is the increase in cases reported in 2011 due to the effects of the project to combat child marriage carried out from 2008 to 2010? Does the reduction seen from 2012 reflect a decrease in the prevalence of the practice or a low satisfaction of whistleblowers with respect to the support given? Girls are those who are mainly affected by child marriage, since boys only represent between 0.9 per cent (2014) and 2.7 per cent (2010) of all reported victims. In terms of care/services provided, the predominant methods are psychosocial care, return to their parents/family (hence not living in union with their partner any more), legal care and mediation. Between 2010 and 2014, 580 (or 24 per cent) of the 2,384 victims returned to their families.



Research report, January 2017
15 pages

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Available on demand (in French)

RAPPORT DE L'ÉTUDE SUR LES ENFANTS ET ADOLESCENT(E)S EN DEHORS DE L'ÉCOLE AU BURKINA FASO

Ministry of National Education and Literacy, UNICEF Burkina Faso

The study maps the prevalence of children and adolescents outside of school in Burkina Faso and creates a profile of children more likely to be out of school. It also identifies obstacles to the implementation of alternative strategies for education for children. The study is based on a secondary data analysis of household surveys, qualitative informant interviews (with, for example, parents, educational authorities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the sector) and focus group discussions with adolescents.

The findings show that in 2014, 49 per cent of children and adolescents aged 6–16 were attending school. School participation is highest at the primary level, particularly among children over the age of 11, although the official age range for primary school is 6–11. Although the official school entry age is 6, less than half of the 6- and 7-year-olds are in school. Among the poorest, there are proportionally more children who have never been to school (57 per cent) than children who have been to school, while the trend is reversed for richer children (only 31 per cent have never been to school). School dropouts are much higher in rural areas (92 per cent) than in urban areas (8 per cent). Regardless of age or level, orphans, children with disabilities and children residing more than 45 minutes from a primary school and more than 60 minutes from a post-secondary institution are most likely to be out of school. Sex is not a determinant of school exclusion, since there is no significant difference between boys and girls at risk of being out of school either in primary or in post-primary school. More than half of the children and adolescents outside school are involved in rural work.



Research report, July 2017
164 pages

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Available on demand (in French)



A profile of child marriage in Ghana

Prepared by the Data and Analytics section
Division of Data, Research and Policy
UNICEF New York
July 2016

Source for all charts: DHS 2014

Powerpoint presentation, July 2016
19 pages

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Available on demand

A PROFILE ON CHILD MARRIAGE IN GHANA

UNICEF Data and Analytics, UNICEF Ghana

The objective of the secondary data analysis of available Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) and Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) data is to highlight prevalence of, trends in, and projections for child marriage in Ghana on national and regional levels.

The findings show that the prevalence of child marriage has declined in Ghana over the last 20 years. However, there are regional disparities, with the three northern regions continuing to carry the heaviest burden of the prevalence. Girls living in rural areas are most at risk, together with out-of-school girls and girls living in the poorest households. Due to fast population growth rates, progress in reducing the prevalence of child marriage needs to be accelerated to enable a reduction in the absolute numbers of married girls over time.

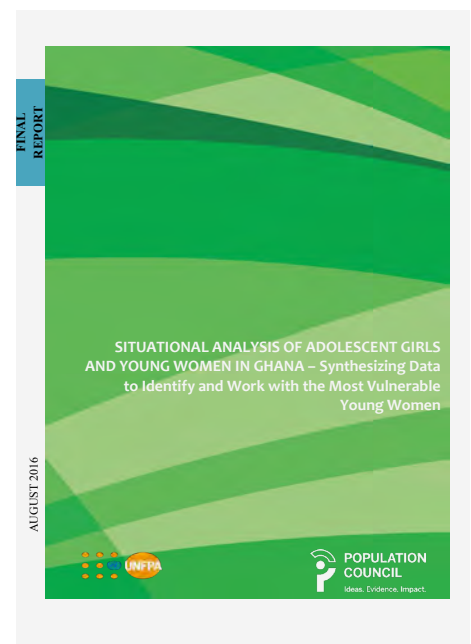
The findings informed the main situation analysis for Ghana's new National Strategic Framework on Ending Child Marriage and is widely used in national and international advocacy.

ANALYSIS OF ADOLESCENT GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN IN GHANA – SYNTHESIZING DATA TO IDENTIFY AND WORK WITH THE MOST VULNERABLE YOUNG WOMEN

Population Council, UNFPA Ghana

The study analyses the major trends and gaps in data on issues that impact adolescent girls in Ghana, such as teenage pregnancy, abortion, gender-based violence (GBV), education and child marriage, in order to identify and analyse factors that perpetuate the practice of child marriage, and to identify and make recommendations on relevant programme areas focused on adolescent girls and young women. The study combines a quantitative desk review of national surveys with qualitative key informant interviews and focus group discussions.

The study identifies poverty, place of residence, lack of education, pregnancy and cultural norms, such as betrothal marriage and exchange of girls for marriage, as the main drivers of child marriage. The consequences of child marriage include dropping out of school, pregnancy complications, loss of autonomy and increased risk of being a victim of GBV. It is recommended to develop tailored advocacy programmes for adolescent girls to combat the negative consequences of child marriage, with an emphasis on rural areas and the three northern regions. It is also recommended that UNFPA works to curb teenage pregnancies, a major driver for child marriages. In addition, it is recommended to advocate for law enforcement, ensure retention of married girls in education, and work towards the economic empowerment of out-of-school girls.



Research report, August 2016
158 pages

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www.girlsnotbrides.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/PopCouncil-UNFPA-InDepth-Situation-Analysis-Child-Marriage-Final-Report.pdf

FINAL BASELINE REPORT ON END CHILD MARRIAGE CAMPAIGN

Action Aid Ghana, UNICEF Ghana

The baseline study gathers data on the incidence of child marriage in 28 communities in four regions of Ghana, targeted by Action Aid Ghana's community programme to end child marriage. Further, the baseline explores causes and effects of child marriage, as well as people's perceptions of the practice. The baseline is based on a secondary analysis of administrative data and data from large-scale surveys (such as Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) and Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS)), as well as primary data from in-depth interviews and focus group discussions with adolescents, community leaders and district and regional level stakeholders.

The results show that among the girls surveyed, the Upper East region records the highest prevalence of child marriage (45 per cent) and Greater Accra the lowest (three per cent). In terms of drivers of child marriage, the district and regional level stakeholders emphasized poverty, however, at the community level, 78 per cent attributed teenage pregnancy as the major cause for child marriage in their communities. Key influencers and perpetrators of child marriage are seen to be parents, although marriages driven by the girls themselves do occur.

The baseline shows that a lot of community members do not know that marrying someone before age 18 constitute a child marriage. Hence, a recommendation from the baseline is to intensify community outreach programmes to create greater awareness to be able to end the practice.

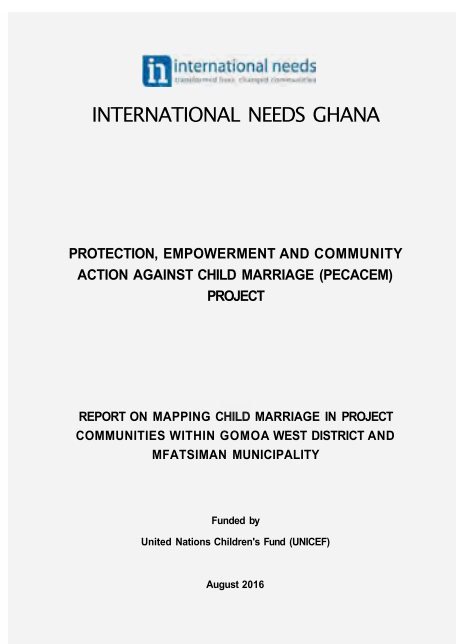


Research report, August 2016
91 pages

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Available on demand



Research report, August 2016
50 pages

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Available on demand


PROTECTION, EMPOWERMENT AND COMMUNITY ACTION AGAINST CHILD MARRIAGE (PECACEM) PROJECT: REPORT ON MAPPING CHILD MARRIAGE IN PROJECT COMMUNITIES WITHIN GOMOA WEST DISTRICT AND MFATSIMAN MUNICIPALITY

International Needs Ghana, UNICEF Ghana

The baseline study maps the situation related to child marriage and girls' development in 16 project communities in Mfatsiman and Gomoa West districts, to be able to assess the impact of community interventions. The study is based on a mixed methodology, comprising of focus group discussions with community leaders, district level workers, young women (aged 20–24) and adolescent girls (aged 13–17), as well as secondary data analysis of national and district level data.

The findings show that parents in the project areas have generally low educational status, many are engaged in vulnerable employment, and levels of poverty are generally high. Norms around girls' behaviour and their sexuality drive the practice of child marriage. The community environment is unprotective of girls due to an absence of prevention initiatives; information, counseling and guidance services on sexuality education and child rights; as well as a lack of protective laws and/or enforcement of these.

The baseline emphasizes the need to empower adolescent girls and to engage communities to be able to create social change and to make the local environment safer for girls.



BASELINE SURVEY REPORT

Christian Children's Fund of Canada

PROJECT TITLE:
Community Driven Solutions For Preventing The Incidence Of Violence Against Children Especially The Girl Child In 4 Districts In The Northern Region Of Ghana.

Project Location:
23 schools and 23 communities located in 4 Districts in the Northern Region namely Gushiegu, Sagnarigu, Kumbungu and Tolon District.

Christian Children's Fund of Canada logo and UNICEF logo.

BASELINE SURVEY REPORT: COMMUNITY DRIVEN SOLUTIONS FOR PREVENTING THE INCIDENCE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN ESPECIALLY THE GIRL CHILD IN 4 DISTRICTS IN THE NORTHERN REGION OF GHANA

Christian Children's Fund of Canada, UNICEF Ghana

The baseline determines knowledge levels on child protection issues, namely the prevention of and response to child abuse, in Tolon, Kumbungu, Gushiegu and Sagnarigu districts in northern Ghana, all targeted by a community-based outreach programme. Further, the baseline contributes to an understanding of key drivers and barriers to change in relation to prevention and response behaviours. The baseline is based on a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods, including secondary data analysis and interviews with key stakeholders, community members and children.

The findings show relatively high knowledge of child protection among parents and children. It was found that parents believe that the main source of unsafety for children is lack of physical needs (55 per cent), whilst the children reported it to be emotional abuse (shouting and insulting) (39 per cent) and physical abuse (27 per cent). 86 per cent of the children said that they have experienced harm in their homes. However, only 55 per cent of the parents reported to have subjected their child to harm. Similarly, none of the parents said that they have subjected their child to emotional abuse, while 31 per cent of the children indeed reported having experienced it. Only 36 per cent of the parents thought that they have a responsibility for the protection of the child.

Research report, 2017
75 pages

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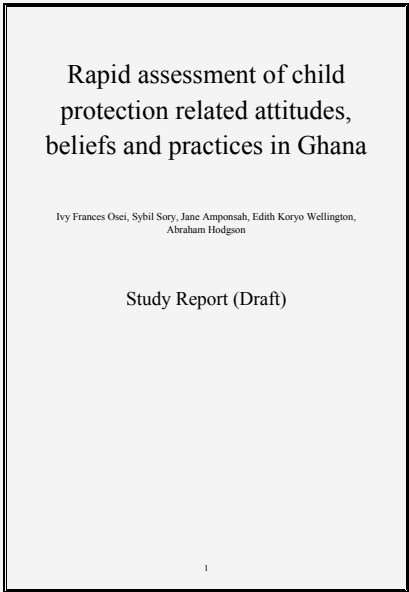
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RAPID ASSESSMENT OF CHILD PROTECTION RELATED ATTITUDES, BELIEFS AND PRACTICES IN GHANA

UNICEF Ghana, National Research Institute

The objective of the nationwide assessment of social norms related to child protection issues is to set benchmarks for measuring social norms change.

The findings show that cultural acceptance of different forms of violence against children, and especially girls, continues to be a major challenge in Ghana. However, compared to the Child Protection Baseline Survey carried out by UNICEF and the Government in 2013, the rapid assessment reflects higher levels of disapproval for child marriage/cohabitation for girls and boys by both adults and children, although child marriage/cohabitation for girls is still more accepted than for boys.



Rapid assessment of child protection related attitudes, beliefs and practices in Ghana

Ivy Frances Osei, Sybil Sory, Jane Amponsah, Edith Koryo Wellington, Abraham Hodgson

Study Report (Draft)

Research report, 2017
112 pages

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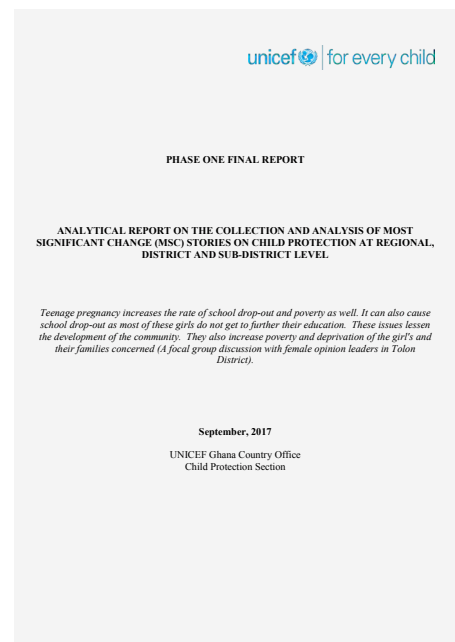
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ANALYTICAL REPORT ON THE COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS OF MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE (MSC) STORIES ON CHILD PROTECTION AT REGIONAL, DISTRICT AND SUB-DISTRICT LEVEL

Associates for Change (AfC), UNICEF Ghana

The study analyses, through primary data collection, most significant change stories related to child protection in the northern parts of Ghana. The study builds on an analysis of over 200 stories collected from communities targeted with the child protection toolkit and child marriage interventions in 2017.

The findings indicate an increase in knowledge among community members on the child protection issues that are covered during programme interventions, particularly issues of teenage pregnancy and child marriage. Attitudes and practices, however, do not seem to have undergone the same level of change.

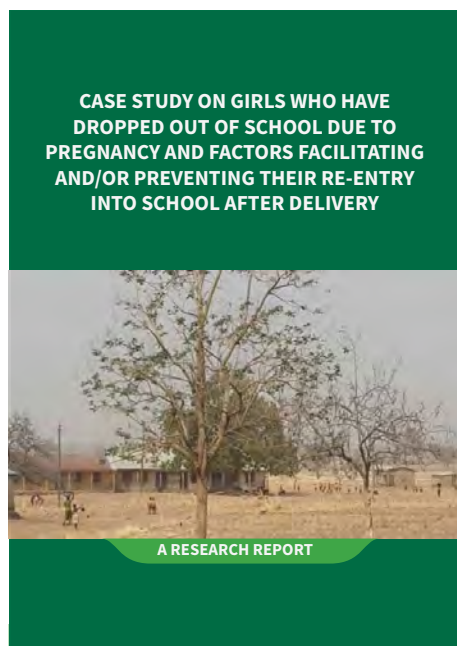


Research report, 2017
164 pages

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Research report, June 2017

80 pages

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Available on demand

CASE STUDY ON GIRLS WHO HAVE DROPPED OUT OF SCHOOL DUE TO PREGNANCY AND FACTORS FACILITATING AND/OR PREVENTING THEIR RE-ENTRY INTO SCHOOL AFTER DELIVERY

Institute for Development Studies, University of Cape Coast, Girls' Education Unit, UNICEF Ghana

The study aims to outline the socio-economic and cultural factors that lead school girls into pregnancy and to dropping out of school, and to explore the factors facilitating and/or preventing girls from going back to school after delivery. Further, the study assesses support systems that school-going mothers need and that are available to them in order to inform national education and adolescent pregnancy strategies. The study is based on a quantitative desk review as well as on a qualitative analysis of field findings from the Volta, Upper East and Central regions.

The findings show a strong correlation between school pregnancy and household instability and low incomes. The male partners of the school girls were mainly their peers, either in school, unemployed or in highly vulnerable informal jobs. The findings show that there are high levels of sexual activity among young people, but inadequate sexual education in schools. Major factors influencing retention and re-entry were found to be: girls' school performance and aspirations; how long girls stayed out of school during pregnancy and after childbirth; availability and quality of child care support after delivery; the school environment framed by head teachers, educational officers, teachers and peers; and parental attitudes and support to girls during pregnancy and after delivery. Another finding was that most of the girls who get pregnant and do not return to school end up in marriage. Consequently, child marriage among school girls in Ghana is often a direct consequence of pregnancy.

PROJECT ENDLINE REPORT



Christian Children's Fund of Canada

Funded by:
UNICEF

PROJECT TITLE:
Community Driven Solutions For Preventing The Incidence Of Violence Against Children Especially The Girl Child In 4 Districts In The Northern Region Of Ghana.

Project Location:
25 schools and 23 communities located in 4 Districts in the Northern Region namely Gushegu, Sagnarigu, Kumbungu and Tolon District.

OCTOBER, 2017



PROJECT ENDLINE REPORT: COMMUNITY DRIVEN SOLUTIONS FOR PREVENTING THE INCIDENCE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN ESPECIALLY THE GIRL CHILD IN 4 DISTRICTS IN THE NORTHERN REGION OF GHANA

Christian Children's Fund of Canada, UNICEF Ghana

The objective of the end-line is to assess change in knowledge, attitudes and behaviours related to child protection issues among community members in programme areas. The end-line is based on a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods, including secondary data analysis and interviews with key stakeholders, community members and children.

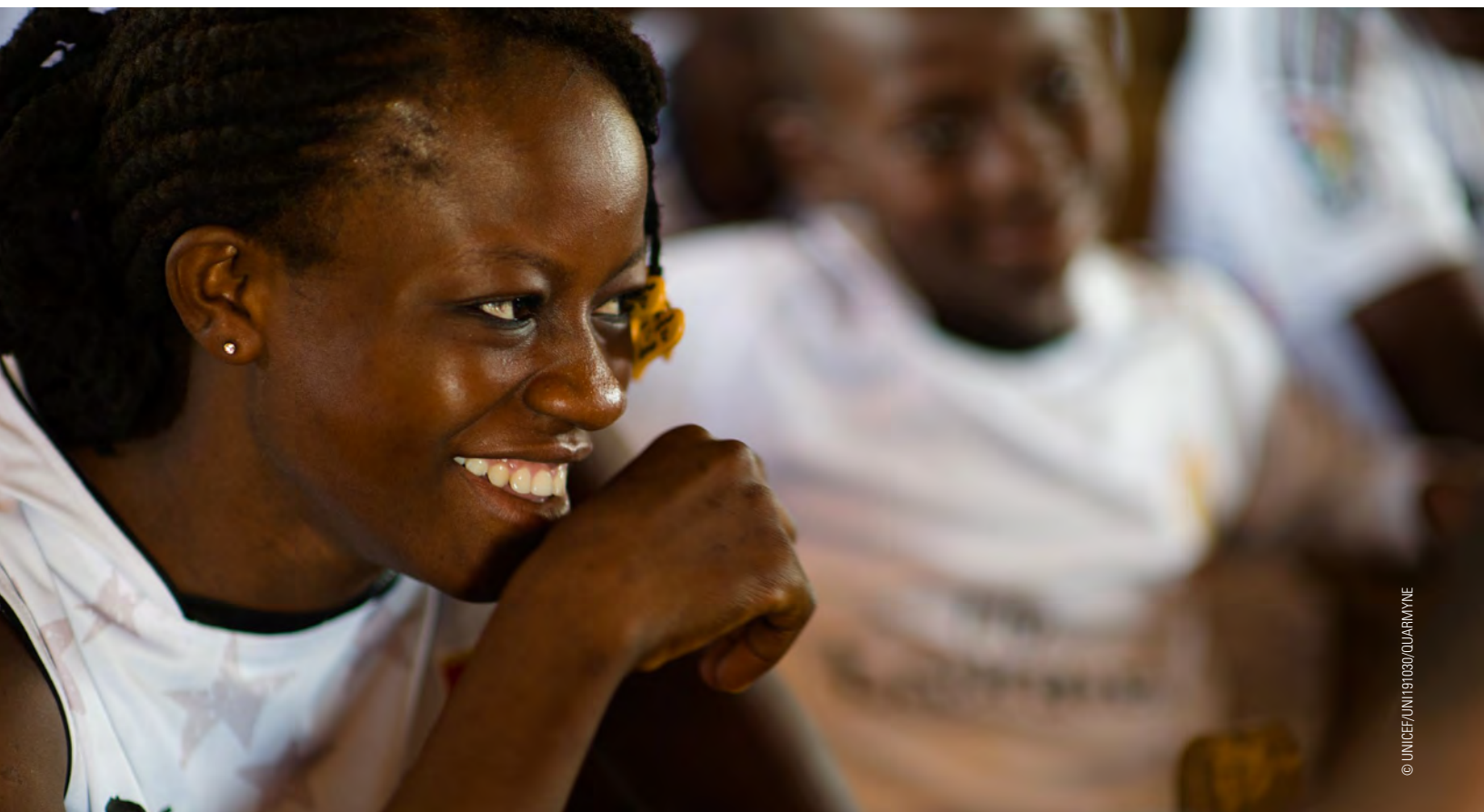
The findings show that, at the community level, sensitization activities have led to increased knowledge and awareness of child protection issues. The report documents how community members' perceptions of the importance of child protection have improved, with respondents saying that it is everyone's responsibility to protect children from harm. Practices also seem to have improved, with less children having experienced physical harm or emotional abuse (e.g. shouting or insulting) by their parents or guardians compared to before the community interventions. Parents and guardians also increasingly show love and affection for their children. However, there is still a very low level of people reporting cases of harm against children to the authorities.

Project report, October 2017
71 pages

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Available on demand



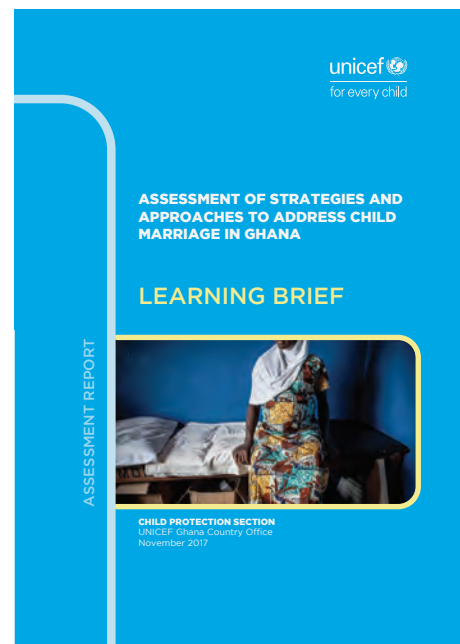
ASSESSMENT OF STRATEGIES AND APPROACHES TO ADDRESS CHILD MARRIAGE IN SUPPORTED DURING THE 2014–2016 PERIOD FOR THE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TO CHILD MARRIAGE IN GHANA: LEARNING BRIEF

UNICEF Ghana

The objective of the study is to establish evidence on the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and equity of UNICEF's ending child marriage investments, and to identify lessons learned on successful and less successful approaches to provide support to the implementation of the new Ghana National Strategic Framework on Ending Child Marriage (2017–2026). The study is based on a desk review of programme implementation reports, and key informant interviews with national and regional stakeholders and implementing partners.

The findings recommend, among other things, holistic programming that addresses the diversity and cross-sectoral nature of drivers of child marriage through approaches focused on: social and behaviour change, poverty reduction, adolescents' sexual and reproductive health (SRH), girls' education, vocational and technical training opportunities, parental education and parental care to support children's development. Further, interventions need to challenge gender norms that are inhibiting adolescent girls' protection and development. Multi-sectoral strategies are recommended to provide girls and boys with different life options beyond marriage and pregnancy.

UNICEF presented the findings at the December 2017 Ending Child Marriage National Stakeholders Forum organized by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, to ensure that past and current lessons learned inform sectoral dialogue, advocacy and programming across all relevant sectors in the country.



Learning brief, November 2017

32 pages

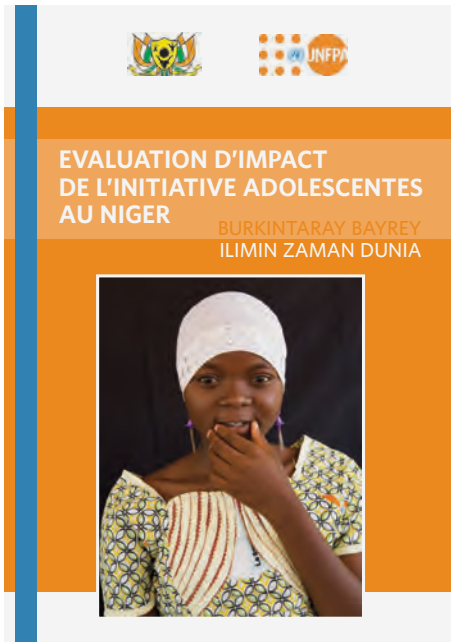
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Available at:

www.unicef.org/ghana/protection_11983.html





Evaluation, 2016
116 pages

Contact:

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Available on demand (in French)

EVALUATION D'IMPACT DE L'INITIATIVE ADOLESCENTES AU NIGER

SongES, Lafia Matassa, UNFPA Niger

The evaluation of the Ilimin adolescent initiative in Niger assesses the impact of the programme on the reproductive health, hygiene, life skills and financial abilities of teenage girls, as well as on their knowledge and behaviours regarding these topics, by comparing the results of girls within the programme to a control group of girls who are not targeted.

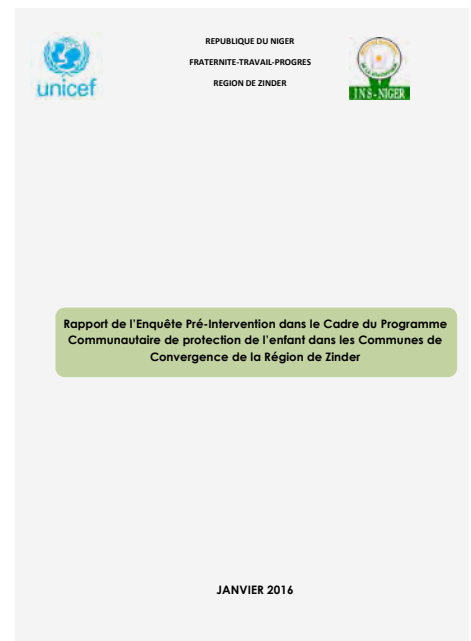
The evaluation shows that the targeted girls increasingly speak out against forced and arranged marriages as well as express their opinions about their potential husbands. The programme has helped the targeted girls to strengthen their social capital since they reported to have more friends and stronger social networks. The girls that have been part of the programme also feel less shy and less vulnerable as a result of self-confidence-building activities, and there is an increased number among these adolescent girls who feel that they can resist peer pressure. The knowledge of contraceptives and risks of teenage pregnancies have also increased, as well as the utilization of health services among the girls participating in the Ilimin programme.

RAPPORT DE L'ENQUÊTE PRÉ-INTERVENTION DANS LE CADRE DU PROGRAMME COMMUNAUTAIRE DE PROTECTION DE L'ENFANT DANS LES COMMUNES DE CONVERGENCE DE LA RÉGION DE ZINDER

Regional Institute of Statistics, UNICEF Niger

The main objective of the baseline survey is to obtain quantitative and qualitative data on knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding child protection issues among community members, to establish a baseline for the Niger community outreach programme in the Zinder region.

Through the collected data, it is possible to assess the level of knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding child protection, the health of mothers and children, domestic violence, education and child marriage.



Research report, January 2016
103 pages

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Available on demand (in French)

RAPPORT DE L'ENQUETE PRE-INTERVENTION SUR LE PROGRAMME COMMUNAUTAIRE DANS LES COMMUNES DE CONVERGENCE DE MARADI

Ministry of Population, Promotion of Women and Child Protection, Maradi Regional Directorate, UNICEF Niger

The main objective of the baseline survey is to obtain quantitative and qualitative data on knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding child protection issues among community members, to establish a baseline for the Niger community outreach programme in the Djirataoua, Guidan Amoumoune and Mayahi communes. Interviews were conducted with both adults as well as adolescents, and focus groups were held with community and religious leaders.

Through the collected data, it is possible to assess the level of knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding child protection, the health of mothers and children, domestic violence, education and child marriage.



Research report, January 2016
71 pages

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Research report, 2017
23 pages

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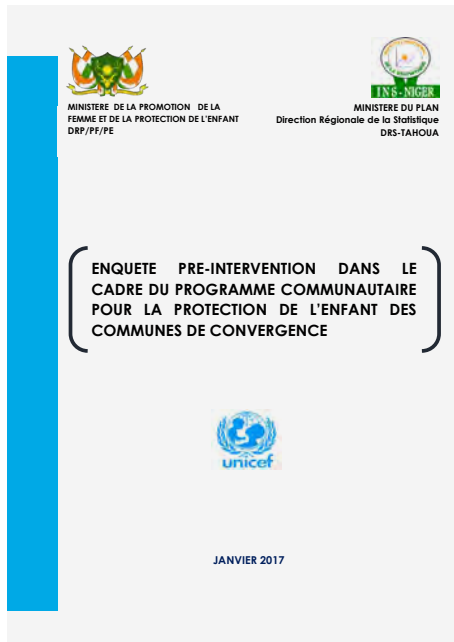
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RAPPORT DE L'ATELIER DE CAPITALISATION DU PROGRAMME HOLISTIQUE

Regional Child Protection Directorate, UNICEF Niger

The report aims to monitor and follow up on the community-based programmes in the Zinder, Maradi and Tahoua regions to track changes in attitudes and practices among participants, and, if necessary, to understand what hinders change.

The findings show that an average of 70 per cent of the participants have changed certain attitudes after the programme, for example, they were open to discussions in the family on topics previously considered taboo, they paid more attention to children, and the men helped more with domestic work. Through the community outreach programmes, 11,504 community members have become aware of the consequences of harmful practices such as child marriage, and about 150 cases of child marriage have been averted in the three regions. The report also recommends areas for further finetuning of the programmes, for example, to ensure greater local ownership and increased geographical coverage.



Research report, January 2017
79 pages

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ENQUÊTE PRE-INTERVENTION DANS LE CADRE DU PROGRAMME COMMUNAUTAIRE POUR LA PROTECTION DE L'ENFANT DES COMMUNES DE CONVERGENCE

Regional Institute of Statistics, UNICEF Niger

The main objective of the baseline survey is to obtain quantitative and qualitative data on knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding child protection issues among community members in implementation areas of the Niger community outreach programme in the Tahoua region, through household surveys.

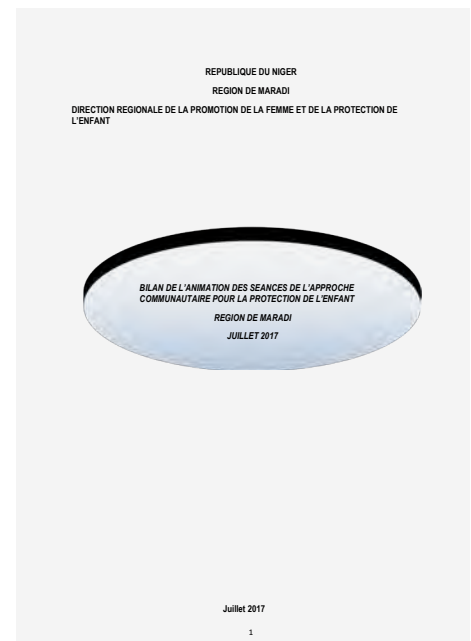
The findings show that nearly 63 per cent of the respondents think that "a girl becomes a good adult" by education; 17 per cent by dressing decently; and 11 per cent by learning to do household chores. Overall, the average marrying age is 21.2 for boys and 16.2 for girls. If a girl is not married at 16, 39 per cent of the respondents think she will have a bad reputation, 20 per cent think that she will not be able to find a husband in the community and 18 per cent think that she will be blamed in the community. Only 10 per cent believe that nothing bad will come to a girl for not being married at 16. The decision on child marriage is made by the father (in 80 per cent of the cases), as are decisions on education for children and on the health of the women in the household (in 90 per cent of the cases).

BILAN DE L'ANIMATION DES SEANCES DE L'APPROCHE COMMUNAUTAIRE POUR LA PROTECTION DE L'ENFANT – REGION DE MARADI

Maradi Regional Directorate for the Promotion of Women and the Protection of the Child, UNICEF Niger

The report summarizes findings from the Niger community outreach programme, analysed at a workshop with key stakeholders in Maradi in 2017. The objective of the workshop was to assess the results of the community outreach programme in the different communities and discuss potential obstacles to its successful implementation, and provide recommendations for how to overcome these.

The findings show that the programme has given community members a place to meet and discuss issues that affect them. Communities have also formed committees for the oversight of, for example, child protection, health and nutrition issues, and several women noted that they have got an increased space to talk and make decisions in their homes and communities after the outreach programme. All communities have also set up action plans on how to deal with issues arising, such as child marriages and girls' school attendance.



Workshop report, July 2017
58 pages

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Available on demand (in French)



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