

J U N E 2 0 1 8

**REGIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK OF
ACTION ON ENDING CHILD MARRIAGE: 2018-2021**

Middle East and North Africa/Arab States

CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	4
Acronyms	6
Foreword	8
Introduction and background	10
Methodology/process of framework development	12
Situation analysis	13
Regional Accountability Framework of Action	18
Key principles of this framework	19
Priority Areas of Intervention	20
Coordination, M&E and reporting framework	23
Potential challenges in implementing the Framework	24
ANNEX 1: Comparative advantages of UNICEF-UNFPA work on child marriage in relevant areas	27

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The development of the Regional Accountability Framework to End Child Marriage in the Middle East/Arab States (RAF) was managed and coordinated by UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office, Child Protection Section and UNFPA Arab States Regional Office, Gender, Human Rights and Culture Section.

With huge gratitude to UNICEF and UNFPA Country Offices in Egypt, Morocco, Jordan, Yemen, Sudan, Iraq, and Lebanon for their valuable inputs and participation in this process.

Acknowledging key insights and contributions received from RAF members from Plan International, Terre des Hommes, CARE, Save the Children, International Rescue Committee, Women's Refugee Commission, World vision, LAU, Berkeley Human Rights Center, University of Bedfordshire, Girls not Brides, UNWOMEN, ESCWA, UNRWA, UNCHR.

ACRONYMS

BCC	Behaviour Change Communication
C4D	Communication for Development
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CM	Child Marriage
CO	Country Office
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
ESCWA	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GNB	Girls Not Brides
ICRW	International Centre for Research on Women
ICT	Information and communication technology
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
IRC	International Rescue Committee
LAS	League of Arab States
LSCE	Life Skills and Citizenship Education
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys
NLG	No Lost Generation
RO	Regional Office
SC	Save the Children

SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
TDH	Terres des Hommes
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
WHO	World Health Organization
WRC	Women’s Refugee Commission

FOREWORD

Child marriage is a human rights violation which remains widespread in the Middle East and North Africa region, where 1 in 5 girls have been married before the age of 18. Child marriage leads to a lifetime of suffering for affected girls and has enormous repercussions for society at large. Girls who marry as children are less likely to remain in school and more likely to experience domestic violence. Adolescent girls are more likely to die from pregnancy or childbirth complications than women in their 20s, and their children are more likely to be stillborn or die in the first month of life.

Currently in the Middle East and North Africa/Arab States region, an estimated 40 million women and girls have been married as children. Despite progress to reduce child marriage in the region in the past 25 years, with the prevalence dropping from one third of all girls to one fifth of all girls under 18 years-old, progress appears to have stalled in the past decade. Current rates remain alarming. Prevalence varies across the region, ranging from a low two per cent in Tunisia to a high of 34 per cent in Sudan. National averages do not always capture trends in child marriage at the sub-national level. Within the past decade, worrying trends of increase in child marriage in humanitarian settings in the region have been observed, rendering child marriage both a development and humanitarian concern. The 2017 Human Rights Council Resolution to end child, early and forced marriage in humanitarian settings further affirms the need for addressing child marriage as part of humanitarian responses.

To reach Sustainable Development Goal 5.3 on ending all harmful practices such as child marriage and female genital mutilation by 2030, stakeholders in the MENA/Arab States need to substantially increase efforts to prevent child marriage and enhance the response to girls who have already been married to make sure no girl is left behind.

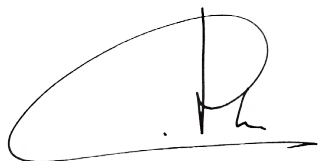
To strengthen coherence in the response to child marriage and support countries to eliminate the practice, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) have joined forces with partners* to develop and adopt a common *Regional Accountability Framework of Action to End Child Marriage in the Arab States/Middle East and North Africa (RAF)*. Building on the global joint UNFPA/UNICEF programme to accelerate action to end child marriage, and the key findings and recommendations of a 2017 regional study on child marriage, the RAF is the result of an extensive process of consultation.

The study highlighted three key priorities - firstly, to close gaps in the laws prohibiting child marriage across the region and to ensure their enforcement; secondly, to accelerate multi-sectoral programming including in health, education and social protection, and to ensure girls have access to schools and stay longer in education; and thirdly to engage with communities and households to overcome entrenched attitudes and behaviours that allow child marriage to persist.

*United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Women's Refugee Commission (WRC), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Terre des Hommes (TDH), Save the Children, Girls Not Brides (GnB), UNWOMEN, UNHCR, CARE International, Plan International.

The main purpose of the RAF is to bring together UN agencies, civil society, donors and academia across different sectors (health, education, protection, social policy) around one common strategy and action plan to achieve these priorities.

UNICEF and UNFPA will continue to work with partners to support the operationalization of the RAF with the aim of changing realities for millions of children and give them better opportunities to realize their potential.



Geert Cappelaere

UNICEF Regional Director for
the Middle East and North Africa



Luay Shabaneh

UNFPA Regional Director for
the Arab States



INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

This Regional Accountability Framework of Action on Ending Child Marriage in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)/Arab States region (RAF) has been developed at a crucial time. The RAF includes a commitment by development and humanitarian partners to work together to end child marriage in the region in line with ongoing UN reform. Furthermore, child marriage is now firmly part of the global development agenda, which will require member states to report progress to address the growing prevalence of child marriage in the region. Within the region, child marriage is also prioritized under the long-term strategic UN-League of Arab States cooperation on sustainable development 2018-2022, which calls for joint collaboration for results and regular monitoring. This Framework sets out a plan of action to support countries to meet their accountabilities with respect to the elimination of child marriage.

With more than 700 million girls and women¹ alive today who were married as children and 1 billion girls and women who will be married as children by 2030 unless the trends change, child marriage is increasingly recognized as a major human, child and women's rights violation with significant impact on social and sustainable development. Considerable evidence proves that girls who marry as children are more likely to be out of school, socially isolated, unemployed, suffer domestic violence, and die due to complications during pregnancy and childbirth.

Prevalence of child marriage is often linked to educational status, especially at the secondary level, as well as the economic status of households², with girls from families living in the poorest economic quintiles having a higher chance of being married as children. In addition, social and cultural norms also play a significant role in the MENA region with respect to the prevalence of child marriages.³ In MENA, these are shaped by systemic patriarchy, conservative interpretations of Islam and the impact of long periods of widespread instability, insecurity, conflict and displacement.

Child marriage impacts families and national economies and leads to intergenerational cycles of poverty. A recent World Bank costing study has highlighted that child marriage will cost developing countries trillions of dollars by 2030 if it continues unabated. In contrast, ending child marriage would have a large positive effect on the educational attainment of girls and their children, contribute women and girls' empowerment and increase their expected earnings and household welfare.⁴

UNICEF and UNFPA's partnership in applying a social norms and behaviour change perspective to child marriage is central to the implementation of the framework. Several initiatives are ongoing including a jointly produced manual and training package on social norms and change, originally focused on ending female genital mutilation/cutting. Additionally, practical tools on social norms programming and measurement have been developed.

1 UNICEF Ending Child Marriage, Progress and Prospects, 2014. https://www.unicef.org/media/files/Child_Marriage_Report_7_17_LR..pdf

2 USAID/ICRW, PACT and IGWG - New Insights on Preventing Child Marriage, April 2007. <https://www.icrw.org/publications/new-insights-on-preventing-child-marriage>

3 A Social Norms Perspective on Child Marriage: The General Framework, Draft, for UNICEF by the Behavioral Ethics Lab, University of Pennsylvania, May, 2014. <http://repository.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1012&context=pennsong>

4 World Bank Child Marriage Costing Study, June 2017. <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2017/06/26/child-marriage-will-cost-developing-countries-trillions-of-dollars-by-2030-says-world-bankicrw-report>

The Global Programme focuses on five key outcomes:

1. Adolescent girls at risk of and affected by child marriage are better able to express and exercise their choices,
2. Households demonstrate positive attitudes and behaviours toward investing in and supporting adolescent girls,
3. Relevant sectoral systems deliver quality and cost-effective services to meet the needs of adolescent girls,
4. National laws, policy frameworks and mechanisms to protect and promote adolescent girls' rights are in line with international standards and are properly resourced,
5. Government(s) and partners within and across countries support the generation and use of robust data and evidence to inform policy and programming, track progress and document lessons learned⁵.

The Global Programme is in its first phase, during which acceleration of regional efforts around child marriage are prioritized. A human rights-based approach, government ownership and leveraging of investments in child marriage are among the core principles driving the UNFPA-UNICEF partnership⁶.

5 UNICEF website, Child protection from violence, exploitation and abuse, UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage, 2 September 2016. https://www.unicef.org/protection/57929_58022.html

6 UNFPA and UNICEF Fact Sheet on Ending Child Marriage. https://www.unicef.org/protection/57929_92681.html

METHODOLOGY/PROCESS OF FRAMEWORK DEVELOPMENT

In the context of the UNICEF-UNFPA Global Programme, UNICEF MENA Regional Office, in partnership with the International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW), undertook a stock-taking and analysis of the existing data and information on child marriage in six countries of the region; including Yemen (Global Programme country), Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Sudan (hereafter referred to as 'the Study')⁷. The study was completed in 2017 after a comprehensive process of desk review and country and regional in-depth consultations.

Subsequent to the completion of the ICRW study and as a result of Country Office requests for technical support on child marriage-related work, the UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office and UNFPA Arab States Regional Office embarked upon a joint and participatory process of consultation from August to December 2017. The objective of these consultations was to operationalize the recommendations of the study and develop a Joint Regional Accountability Framework of Action to End Child Marriage in the MENA/Arab States region .

These consultations took place in several stages in Amman, Jordan and Cairo, Egypt and were held with UNICEF-UNFPA Senior Regional Advisors and team members in August and September 2017 to map ongoing work on child marriage and recommend key areas of action. In November, the recommendations of the study as well as those of the UNICEF-UNFPA regional-level consultations were shared with selected UNICEF-UNFPA country offices and key partners in a two-day Core Group Meeting in Amman. Participants included other UN agencies, International Non-Governmental Organizations and donors. The plenary and group-work discussions and presentations reflected the strong commitment of partners in the prevention of child marriage.

This process validated the key outcome areas recommended by the study and the regional-level meetings, adding valuable new insights and more specific recommended actions for the Regional Accountability Framework. It highlighted the strengths of each of the partners, ensuring synergy and coordination rather than duplication of work. The Framework was further strengthened and validated in early December 2017 with UNICEF and UNFPA Country Offices, before finalization a final draft was presented during the second consultation on child marriage on the 16-17 April 2018. This consultation involved the development of an inter-agency 2-year work plan, and re-affirmed commitment and partnership between key UN Agencies and international civil society organisations in working together to end child marriage in the region under the auspice of the framework.

7 UNICEF Study on Child Marriage in MENA, undertaken by ICRW, July, 2017.

SITUATION ANALYSIS⁸

One in five girls in MENA/Arab States are married before the age of 18. A recent trends analysis, shows that the percentage of women in the MENA/Arab States region who were married before 18 has been slowly declining the past 25 years.;⁹ however within the last decade, the rate of decline has begun to decrease¹⁰. Some evidence suggests that the increase is linked to humanitarian crisis and/or prolonged conflict and forced displacement in countries in the region¹¹. The high number of humanitarian situations adds another layer of urgency to the work on ending child marriage in the MENA/Arab States Region. Child marriage in humanitarian settings is increasingly being prioritized as a key human rights violation and the experiences of the countries in the MENA region will be of importance to other regions as well. There are currently 9 countries in the region either in conflict or impacted by conflict (Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Sudan, Libya, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Djibouti).

In conflict situations, families have more limited options on all fronts. In the face of uncertainty, insecurity, poverty and the danger of expulsion, destitution and rape, many parents may choose child marriage for their daughters as part of a negative coping mechanism and misunderstood way of 'protecting' them from harm or family dishonour.¹² In June 2017, the 35th Session of the Human Rights Council adopted a resolution on child, early and forced marriage in humanitarian settings and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union dedicated its 692nd meeting to child marriage.¹³ It is important to note that child marriage in MENA child marriage is both a humanitarian and development issue.

OVERALL

The MENA/ Arab States region has the second youngest population in the world, with one out of five persons being between the ages of 15 and 24. The region is home to nearly half of the world's IDPs and 57.5 per cent of the global refugee population. The region has witnessed an increase in the number of countries embroiled in conflicts over the past two decades, including Iraq, Syria, Libya and Yemen.

As a result of multiple factors, including poverty, poor educational outcomes and conflict, the growing young population of MENA/Arab States faces many challenges. One of the most important is the limited access to jobs adding to youth dissatisfaction. However, with adequate investments in education and employment, the region's youth are also its key to greater prosperity and stability. As identified in various agency and government reports, girls' and women's empowerment is key in any successful youth empowerment programme.

8 UNICEF Regional Brief: Study on Child Marriage in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Yemen and Sudan, July 2017

9 UNICEF End Child Marriage Progress and Prospects Report, 2014. https://www.unicef.org/media/files/Child_Marriage_Report_7_17_LR..pdf

10 A Profile of Child Marriage in MENA, UNICEF 2018, <https://www.unicef.org/mena/reports/profile-child-marriage>

11 Child Marriage in Humanitarian Settings: Spotlight on the Situation in the Arab region, UNICEF, UNFPA, TDH, Care, WRC, University of Bedfordshire, 2018, <https://www.unicef.org/mena/sites/unicef.org.mena/files/2018-08/CM%20in%20humanitarian%20settings%20MENA.pdf>

12 Under Siege, The Devastating Impact on Children of Three Years of Conflict in Syria, 2014. https://www.unicef.org/publications/index_72815.html

13 UNICEF and UNFPA Child Marriage Updates – 30 June 2017 – email from Nankali Maksud, the Joint Programme Coordinator.

PREVALENCE OF CHILD MARRIAGE

Child marriage decreased in MENA/Arab States from 1985 to 2000 more than in any other region of the world, from 34 per cent to 18 per cent. There is, however, considerable variation within the region on child marriage ranging from 3 per cent before the age of 18 in Algeria to 32 per cent in Yemen. In the six countries covered by this regional study, the per cent of women aged 20-24 married before age of 15 ranged from a low of 0.3 per cent in Jordan to a high of 11.9 per cent in Sudan. The percentage of women aged 20-24 who married before the age of 18 was lowest among Lebanese women in Lebanon at 6 per cent and highest among Syrian women in Lebanon at 40.5 per cent.

With respect to adolescent use of contraception, early pregnancy and childbirth, for the countries with available data, the percentage of married adolescents aged 15-19 who were currently using any method of contraception ranged from just 5.6 per cent in Sudan to 32.6 per cent in Morocco. Adolescent fertility ranged from a low of 26 girls per 1000 in Jordan to 87 per 1000 in Sudan. Overall, the percentage of girls and women aged 15 to 19 who had begun childbearing ranged from 4.5 per cent in Jordan to 10.9 per cent in Egypt. Only Egypt and Jordan had nationally representative data on violence. Overall, 16.5 per cent of married women and girls aged 15 to 19 in Egypt had experienced physical or sexual spousal violence in the past 12 months, compared to 18.2 per cent in Jordan.

Sudan faces the greatest challenges with a high percentage of girls married before the age of 15 (11.9) and of girls married before the age of 18 (34.2). Yemen has the lowest median age of first marriage and Egypt has the highest percentage of adolescent childbearing.

With respect to child marriage in humanitarian contexts, data indicates an increase in the concerned MENA/Arab States countries¹⁴. There is also anecdotal corroboration and information from humanitarian workers and partners from their interactions at the grassroots level.¹⁵

The Bekaa study of 2016 among Syrian refugees in Lebanon has identified that the proportion of 15 - 19 year-old girls who are currently married is substantially higher at every age than it was in Syria seven years earlier, in 2009. The study found that 13 per cent of girls at the age 15 were married and 37 per cent of girls were married at age 17. The study also points to lack of legal marriage registration among a majority of the married girls, as well as an increase in early pregnancy.

14 Child Marriage in Humanitarian Settings: Spotlight on the Situation in the Arab region, UNICEF, UNFPA, TDH, Care, WRC, University of Bedfordshire, 2018, <https://www.unicef.org/mena/sites/unicef.org.mena/files/2018-08/CM%20in%20humanitarian%20settings%20MENA.pdf>

15 The Prevalence of Early Marriage and Its Key Determinants Among Syrian Refugee Girls/Women, the 2016 Bekaa Study, Lebanon, AUB/UNFPA and SAWA. <http://www.unfpa.org/news/new-study-finds-child-marriage-rising-among-most-vulnerable-syrian-refugees>

CHILD MARRIAGE IN COUNTRIES COVERED BY THE STUDY

	% of women aged 20-24 years married before age 15	% of women aged 20-24 years married before age of 18	Median age at first marriage of women aged 25-49 years
Egypt ¹⁶	2.0	17.4	20.8
Jordan ¹⁷	0.3	8.4	22.4
Jordan (Syrian) ¹⁸		18.4 ¹⁹	
Jordan (Palestinian) ²⁰		18.3 ²¹	
Lebanon (Lebanese) ²²	Unknown	6.0	Unknown
Lebanon (Syrian) ²³	Unknown	40.5	Unknown
Lebanon (PRL) ²⁴	Unknown	14.0	Unknown
Lebanon (PRS) ²⁵	Unknown	25.0	Unknown
Morocco ²⁶	Unknown	Unknown	26.3
Sudan ²⁷	11.9	34.2	Unknown
Yemen ²⁸	9.4	31.9	18.2

LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS

All countries covered by the study have ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). All countries except Sudan have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Violence Against Women (CEDAW). In Egypt, Morocco, Lebanon, Jordan and Yemen, the ratification of CEDAW is subject to various reservations, to ensure compliance with Shariah Law. Of the six countries, Egypt is the only one with a minimum age for marriage of 18, with no judicial exception. Jordan and Morocco both provide judges discretionary rights to marry girls that are younger than 18. In Sudan and Yemen, puberty is broadly used as the age at which marriage of girls is appropriate. CRC and CEDAW committees have highlighted the need for states to adopt legislation that sets the minimum age of marriage at 18 years.

16 Egypt DHS 2014

17 Jordan Population and Family Health Survey 2012

18 Syrian living in Jordan

19 UNICEF Jordan Country Office (2015). A Study on Child Marriage in Jordan 2014 p.22. [www.unicef.org/mena/UNICEFjordan_earlymarriagelstudy2014\(1\).pdf](http://www.unicef.org/mena/UNICEFjordan_earlymarriagelstudy2014(1).pdf). Note data is girls aged 15-17 years as % of all (registered) marriages

20 Palestinian living in Jordan

21 Ibid

22 UNICEF Lebanon Baseline Survey

23 Syrians living in Lebanon

24 Palestinians living in Lebanon

25 Palestinians living in Syria

26 Morocco Population and Family Health Survey (ENPSF) 2010-2011

27 Sudan MICS 2014

28 Yemen DHS 2013

RATIFICATION OF INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS RELATED TO CHILD MARRIAGE FROM THE STUDY

	Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age of Marriage and Registration of Marriage	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
Egypt	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified
Jordan	Ratified	Not ratified	Ratified
Lebanon	Ratified	Not ratified	Ratified
Morocco	Ratified	Not ratified	Ratified
Sudan	Ratified	Not ratified	Not ratified
Yemen	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified

Egypt and Sudan have national strategies for the prevention of child marriage emanating from the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Children. In Lebanon, child marriage is mentioned in the action plan to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The regional situation analysis throws light on the correlation between legal frameworks and the prevalence of child marriage. In addition to legal changes, enforcing the law remains difficult in most countries of the region. The study also refers to the existence of 'seasonal' and 'tourist' marriages which are temporary and further undermine the rights of adolescent girls.

CHALLENGES IN CURRENT PROGRAMMING

1) Empowerment of girls:

Main challenges in terms of empowerment of girls include their limited knowledge of their rights, the repression of their voice and agency, and restriction of their social and physical mobility. This results in lack of basic freedoms, limited access to education and life-skills especially for rural and refugee groups and gender-based violence, which is highly prevalent especially among child brides. Such violence is rarely reported and access to justice is seldom.

2) Promotion of positive practices among families, communities and thought leaders:

Child marriage is often perceived as necessary or acceptable. This may be based on either a common concept of 'security' or 'safety' of the girl, economic hardships of the family, and/or religious and cultural reasons. These perceptions are now exacerbated due to conflict and displacement in the region.

3) Service delivery and systems strengthening:

Key challenges in this area include the often-missing trust required for girls and families to access services, as well as the weak capacity and coordination of stakeholders in providing quality services, and the cultural and educational barriers faced by girls and their families. These factors are particularly acute among isolated/marginalized communities.

4) Legal, policy environment and fiscal space:

Establishing and implementing legal frameworks on ending child marriage remain daunting. These legal frameworks are often not seen as a political priority, especially in times of conflict. Yet, such legal frameworks have been identified as necessary for social norms to change. Legal loopholes remain such as when child marriage is prohibited but not criminalized or when judges can permit it in spite of the law. Broader legal discrimination against girls and women such as those concerning nationality, custody and divorce also undermine efforts to ban child marriage.

5) Data and evidence generation:

There is need for robust evidence generation on the drivers of child marriage to inform programming and develop baselines for measuring the effectiveness of interventions. Additionally, coordination and collaboration among stakeholders on child marriage research and knowledge management must be strengthened in particular also to ensure sound methodologies and data quality.

REGIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK OF ACTION

OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this Regional Accountability Framework of Action on Ending Child Marriage is realizing the rights of adolescent/young girls in the MENA/ Arab States Region in the most effective way, and to contribute to their well-being, participation, protection and empowerment. It is intended to operationalize the UNICEF and UNFPA Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage as well as the findings of the regional study on child marriage within the context and priorities of the region. The framework is coordinated by UNICEF and UNFPA, leading UN agencies in the area of ending child marriage in the region, with a focus on the humanitarian context.

This framework has been developed with reference to a number of key global and regional frameworks and strategic documents. Child marriage is a human rights violation and goes against the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, CRC, CEDAW, Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage, and Registration of Marriage, the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa, African Charter on the Rights and the Welfare of the Child, etc. The CRC recommends that the minimum age of marriage be 18 years, while CEDAW obligates States to ensure, on the basis of equality of men and women, the right to freely choose a partner. CRC Articles 24, 28 and 34 refer to child marriage-related issues of harmful traditional practices, the right to education and protection from sexual abuse/exploitation. In November 2013, the CRC and CEDAW issued a strong recommendation against child marriage, including: 1) raising the minimum age of marriage to 18; and 2) conforming customary and regional law with federal/civil laws. Child marriage is also addressed in the Sustainable Development Goals:

SDG Goal 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Target 5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation

Indicator 5.3.1 Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18

KEY PRINCIPLES OF THIS FRAMEWORK

Based on the consultations that took place in 2017 and early 2018 as well as the evidence generated at regional and country level, this four-year framework reflects the way the region will work to support affected countries to address and mitigate the impact of conflict, humanitarian crisis and fragility on the prevalence of child marriage. This Framework will guide partner organisations on the strategic changes required to better support countries in their response to trends in the region.

In this context, the key principles guiding implementation of this framework are:

1. A focus on child marriage in humanitarian settings given strong indications that child marriage prevalence is increasing in such contexts;
2. Moving towards programming across different sectors by promoting greater multi-sectoral engagement and accountability, with a focus on health and education, and continuing to strengthen cross-sectoral collaboration with gender and behaviour-change sectors, to prevent and mitigate child marriage in the region;
3. Greater emphasis on more contextualized, localized and targeted approaches to address child marriage in prevalence areas.
4. Moving beyond the UNICEF-UNFPA partnership to include a range of partners and actors in order to better coordinate and leverage existing resources to address the current trends in child marriage;
5. Using the regional accountability framework of action on ending child marriage as a resource mobilization tool to expand the funding available to Yemen and other affected countries.
6. The RAF also takes into consideration the role of regional actors in leading the process through technical assistance /quality assurance including a strong emphasis monitoring the implementation and generation and dissemination of public goods
7. Leveraging existing strong regional initiatives rather than establishing new ones with the limited human and financial resources in the region. Strengthening and expanding partnerships around child marriage especially advocacy to reduce and end child marriage will be key to successfully implementing this Framework.

PRIORITY AREAS OF INTERVENTION^{29,30,31}

The Regional Accountability Framework is linked to the five outcomes of the Global UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage, as well as the UNFPA Regional Strategy on Prevention and Response to Gender-Based Violence in the Arab States Region³². The Framework focuses on the following five priority areas: 1) empowerment of girls; 2) promotion of positive practices among families, communities and thought leaders; 3) service delivery and systems strengthening; 4) legal, policy environment and fiscal space; and 5) data and evidence generation.

In view of widespread conflicts, subsequent displacement of millions of children and families and an increase in the prevalence of child marriage in the affected communities, the Regional Accountability Framework will have a focus on both humanitarian and development contexts, mainstreamed across all outcome areas and recommended actions.

Key Outcome 1 • adolescent girls at risk of and affected by child marriage are better able to express and exercise their choices

Partners review and synergize their work with young girls, optimizing each other's strengths and leveraging approaches, tools and resources.

Output 1.1: Girls in targeted/high-risk areas have increased access to safe and empowering environments in the home, school/other learning environments, health care facilities and other existing community based delivery platforms

The need for safe environments/spaces was one of the key recommendations of the regional child marriage report. However, scaling up safe spaces to date has faced several challenges, including costs, capacities impacting their sustainability. To address this, the Framework will go beyond this more traditional approach to safe spaces to work across different sectors to establish safe spaces/environments in the home, schools, health care centers, youth led community services and other existing delivery platforms and ensure that they are safe and empowering for at risk girls.

Output 1.2: Girls at risk of marriage/young married girls have access to quality education

Many young girls especially in humanitarian settings are unable to access empowering educational opportunities especially at the higher levels. To respond to this, this area will focus on optimize existing life skills and citizenship education programmes and out of school education initiatives with stronger gender equality/ empowerment elements.

Output 1.3: Girls at risk of marriage/young married girls have access to vocational training/ marketable skills (economic empowerment)

In a region with some of the highest rates of female unemployment, and in a context where many more families are impoverished due to conflict and displacement, this is a priority. To respond to this, this area will aim to maximize the use of the planned initiatives in the UN Regional Framework for Youth to target high prevalence areas at national and sub national levels.

Output 1.4: Girls' voices and opinions inform development/humanitarian work in MENA/ Arab States

Increasing opportunities for girl's participation and engagement remains critical for their empowerment. Building on existing initiatives including the Adolescents and Youth Participation Toolkit, the Framework will support country programmes to strengthen the participation of girls in programming.

29 These recommendations come from the regional study as well as consultations with UNICEF and UNFPA teams/partners/donors.

30 Girls Not Brides website, How Can We End Child Marriage. <https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/>

31 UNIATTTYP Regional Framework of Joint Strategic Actions for Young People in the Arab States/MENA Region.

32 UNFPA Regional Strategy on Prevention and Response to Gender-Based Violence in the Arab States Region (2014-2017) <http://arabstates.unfpa.org/en/publications/unfpa-regional-strategy-prevention-and-response-gender-based-violence-arab-states>

Key Outcome 2 • Households demonstrate positive attitudes and behaviours toward investing in and supporting adolescent girls

Partner with thought leaders, evaluate CM-related social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) programmes and conduct evidence-based programmes, which are measured for enhanced impact

Output 2.1: Religious leaders are equipped/mobilized to support reduction of CM

Religious leaders continue to play an important role and need to remain engaged, despite the known challenges and complexities in the region due to religious differences and tensions. Nonetheless, there is little evidence on what works in respect to engagement of religious leaders. In response, the Framework will evaluate initiatives targeting FBOs, parliamentarians, traditional and camp leaders to act as agents of change in their communities, to uphold the right of adolescent girls, against child marriage.

Output 2.2: Behaviour change interventions to address social norms are evidence-based and measured

As child marriage is often directly linked to social norms and decisions made by young girls, parents, and community leaders a community focus in awareness raising is important. This Framework will have a strong focus on strengthening gender responsive social norms programmes through capacity building, development of models and tools for social norms and behaviour change measurement.

Output 2.3: Programmatic engagement with boys and men on child marriage is strengthened

In view of the deeply engrained patriarchal societies in the region, and the important decision-making role of fathers and other male figures, their engagement is necessary for positive social change to take place. This framework will build on tools, good practices and partnerships at country level, to strengthen their engagements with boys and men to make them positive agents of change on child marriage and gender equality.

Key Outcome 3 • Relevant sectoral systems deliver quality and cost-effective services to meet the needs of adolescent girls

Partner organizations capitalize on each other's comparative advantage to promote and strengthen cross- and multi sectoral programming to end child marriage through engaging the health, social, justice and education sector

Output 3.1: Build cross-sectoral technical capacity of stakeholders

The social services sectors including health, education, child protection, are best positioned to generate change in the conditions of young girls and as a result, child marriage. This framework will work closely with the sectors to identify clear roles, accountabilities to contribute to the results in this Framework.

Specific work will focus on the development of child marriage related indicators and information per sector that can be integrated into sectoral capacity-building efforts, trainings, systems-strengthening, SOPs, essential packages of services, case-management systems and data collection.

Area 3.2: Cross-sectoral programming at community and institutional level funded/supported

The Framework will convene partners and organizations working on ending child marriage and advocate for inclusion of its initiatives to promote cross sectoral engagement on ending child marriage through partnerships across sectors

Key Outcome 4 • National laws, policy frameworks and mechanisms to protect and promote adolescent girls' rights are in line with international standards and are properly resourced

The partners in this Framework have experience in advocating for stronger laws on child marriage at country level which needs to be sustained. This Framework will continue working with country and regional partners to further influence policies, laws and budgets to address child marriage.

Area 4.1: Child marriage policy for humanitarian contexts is developed

The regional context requires that partner organizations in the Framework have a clear position on child marriage programming in the humanitarian context. This Framework will advocate for and develop a programmatic, policy and advisory note on addressing child marriage in humanitarian settings, which will guide teams and partners in MENA countries.

Area 4.2: Legal frameworks are aligned with international standards on child marriage

This is mostly a country level function. This Framework will ensure timely support to countries through the provision or facilitation of access to technical assistance and resources, to further strengthen this work. The Framework will establish an Inter-Agency Monitoring and Evaluation Reference Group in order to monitor and track the “compliance, implementation and enforcement” of country laws, policies and standards to address child marriage, given the increasing use of legal exceptions in current laws to sanction child marriage in the region.

Area 4.3: Legal environment more conducive to ending child marriage

Partner organisations in the Framework will engage with and leverage relevant human-rights reporting mechanisms/platforms for stronger national accountability on child marriage reduction. These are strategic opportunities to promote ending child marriage.

Area 4.4: CM national strategies and implementation plans have been developed, implemented and monitored

Child marriage and GBV are both prevalent and inter-linked, thus requiring greater attention of regional organizations. This Framework, will leverage regional organizations and international peace related agendas to reduce child marriage and gender based violence (GBV). The Framework will also continue to support countries to develop costed and budgeted national action plans and strategies to end child marriage.

Key Outcome 5 • Government(s) and partners within and across countries support the generation and use of robust data and evidence to inform policy and programming, track progress and document what works

Partners enhance coordination regarding research on child marriage to ensure a more efficient use of existing resources and value for money

Area 5.1: CM related research is coordinated among key partners

A regional research reference group is established to harmonize, improve and coordinate research on child marriage especially in humanitarian settings. In the region, there is currently no such coordination mechanism resulting in duplication, quality concerns and lack of sharing. This is especially a concern when resources are limited and there remains a gap in data and research on child marriage.

Area 5.2: Evidence on effective child marriage programming in MENA is available to inform public goods

This Framework will provide opportunities to document, learn and share experiences on “what works” in order to ensure greater efficiency, effectiveness and impact.

COORDINATION, M&E AND REPORTING FRAMEWORK

This framework of strategic actions aims to accelerate the work undertaken by all partners in the MENA/ Arab States region to reduce child marriage. The framework is meant to be an accountability mechanism, within which partners coordinate and report on the agreed upon activities and indicators, selected within the Global Partnership to Accelerate the End of Child Marriage.

Regional and country office annual plans will include recommended actions in the Framework based on contextual relevance. The regional organisations in the RAF consortium will provide the required and requested technical guidance. Regular conference calls and bi-annual meetings will be held to monitor and report on progress of the Regional Accountability Framework. Annual updates will be provided to the Global Child Marriage Coordinator in New York.

Focal points will also advocate and support age- and sex-disaggregated data collection across key sectors in humanitarian programming. This is a cross cutting priority relevant to all thematic areas.

Where outputs or activities include support to regional consultations, forums or meetings, UNICEF and UNFPA will play a role as conveners and facilitators of partnerships at the regional and country levels.

This will be the guiding mode of operation among partners within the Framework, especially in relation to strengthening South-South cooperation within the region and through North-South and triangular partnerships and networks. The experiences, lessons learned, and good practices of addressing child marriage in humanitarian settings will be of particular interest to other regions with prolonged conflict. Partnership on child marriage in the region will build on existing initiatives and networks.

POTENTIAL CHALLENGES IN IMPLEMENTING THE FRAMEWORK

Challenge: Continuation of the conflicts in the MENA/Arab States Region or further deterioration of the humanitarian situation.

Action: The strategies and interventions in the framework have been designed to address and take into account the context of programmatic responses in humanitarian settings of the region. These will be synergized with the existing humanitarian response plans and initiatives.

Challenge: Competing priorities and work overload in intervention areas

Action: The Regional Accountability Framework reflects a shift in how partners do business and moves towards a more multi- and cross-sectoral model of programming. The concrete actions and interventions have been agreed upon with the respective sectors at regional and country level.

Challenge: Lack of sufficient financial or human resources, as well as strong partnerships at the country level.

Action: The Regional Accountability Framework will be used as a resource mobilization tool beyond the financial contribution from the Global Programme to End Child Marriage. Donors have been actively engaged throughout the process of developing the Regional Accountability Framework.



ANNEX 1: COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGES OF UNICEF- UNFPA WORK ON CHILD MARRIAGE IN RELEVANT AREAS

Priority Areas	UNICEF MENA RO	UNFPA ASRO
1) Empowerment of girls	<p>Work with girls integrated into the youth/sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDs programme of UNICEF.</p> <p>UNICEF leading the Regional Youth Framework for Action which includes work with girls across various agencies and sectors.</p> <p>UNICEF Life Skills and Citizenship Education (LSCE) initiative provides for a comprehensive framework on life skills programming tailored to the MENA region</p>	<p>UNFPA focuses on ensuring that reproductive health services are youth-friendly, including for young girls, with a focus on access to information and safe-spaces.</p> <p>UNFPA has led the elaboration of “Listen, Engage and Empower,” a strategy to address the needs of adolescent girls in the Whole of Syria</p>
2) Promotion of positive practices among families, communities and thought leaders	<p>Under various programmes, UNICEF has training sessions for girls, families and thought leaders with child marriage component.</p> <p>UNICEF works with media, religious leaders, judges, parliamentarians on child marriage.</p> <p>UNICEF has developed practical tools on social norms and behaviour change programming and measurement to facilitate a robust evidence-base for the development of social norms and behaviour change interventions addressing child marriage.</p>	<p>UNFPA works closely with religious leaders and parliamentarians in the region to uphold the rights of girls.</p> <p>UNFPA RO has supported the elaboration of Communication for Behavioral Change strategies to End Child Marriage in countries in the region (Sudan, Somalia, Jordan, Iraq/Kurdistan, Morocco)</p>
3) Service delivery and systems strengthening	<p>In education, focus on out of school children and life-skills and citizenship education addresses girl’s education and gender equality.</p> <p>In health, focus is on strengthening access to quality services especially for young girls/mothers through maternal/newborn care programmes. UNICEF is also working on health system strengthening, case management, social protection and social workforce strengthening.</p> <p>Inclusion of information on CM in training to service providers including in humanitarian settings.</p>	<p>UNFPA focuses on sexual and reproductive health services to women and girls, including access to information. UNFPA is also advocating for delaying first pregnancies.</p> <p>Moreover, UNFPA supports the governments in creating a multisectoral response to GBV, ensuring coordination across the Justice, Police, Health and social sector through the creation of a referral system and capacity building of service providers. Child Marriage being a form of GBV, is included in all services related to GBV response.</p>

4) Legal, policy environment and fiscal space

Child poverty studies conducted to inform policy.

Social policy and social protection/CCTs being designed, implemented and evaluated.

UNFPA works extensively with parliamentarians, as agents of change, advocating for legal reform.

UNFPA, UNWOMEN and UNDP are implementing a joint programme on gender justice, mapping the laws impacting on women's life (including on child marriage) in 20 countries in the Arab States. The mapping will be used for future advocacy.

UNFPA is building capacities of National Human rights Institutions in the region on sexual and reproductive rights tracking, monitoring and reporting systems

5) Data and evidence generation

Support and undertake various surveys such as MICS and other studies with information on child marriage including in humanitarian settings.

Social norms and behaviour change guidance tools on how to undertake formative research on the drivers of child marriage and establish baselines for measurement.

UNFPA support countries in the undertaking of the national census and undertake various qualitative and quantitative research on Sexual and reproductive health and GBV, including child marriage in development and humanitarian settings.

Key Outcome 1 • Adolescent girls at risk of and affected by child marriage are better able to express and exercise their choices

1.1: Girls in targeted/high-risk areas have increased access to empowering and quality safe spaces/are safe at home, school, health care centers and in other spaces

1.2: Girls at risk of marriage/young married girls have access to quality education

1.3: Girls at risk of marriage/young married girls have access to vocational training/marketable skills

1.4: Girls' voices and opinions inform development/humanitarian work in MENA/ASRO

Outputs	Activities 2018-2021	Agencies		Time Frame				Indicators			Means of verification	2018-2021 Requested Resources (US\$)
		Lead	Contributing	Jan-Dec '18	Jan-Dec '19	Jan-Dec '20	Jan-Dec '21	Indicator	Base-line	Target		
1.1. Girls in targeted/high-risk areas including married and pregnant girls have increased access to empowering and quality safe spaces/are safe at home, school, health care centers (SRH services) and in other spaces (Empowering Environment)		UNICEF, UNFPA	Plan, IRC, CARE		x	x	x	Conceptual guidance note on making environments safe and empowering for girls developed	0	1	Conceptual guidance document	
1.1.1	Contextualise and implement programmatic guidance to strengthen sectoral systems and cross-sectoral collaboration to create safe and empowering environments for adolescent girls in the home, school/other learning environments, health care facilities and other existing community based delivery platforms.	UNICEF, UNFPA	Plan, IRC, CARE		x	x	x	# of countries supported to implementing environment models	0	At least Six countries (to be verified in RAF rollout I	Regional and Country Office Programmatic Reports and work plans	80000

Outputs	Activities 2018-2021	Agencies		Time Frame				Indicators			Means of verification	2018-2021 Requested Resources (US\$)
		Lead	Contributing	Jan-Dec '18	Jan-Dec '19	Jan-Dec '20	Jan-Dec '21	Indicator	Base-line	Target		
1.1.2	Share good examples and provide technical assistance to targeted countries to implement the programmatic guidance to strengthen sectoral systems and cross-sectoral collaboration	UNICEF, UNFPA	IRC			X	X					40,000
1.1.3	Evaluate implementation of the programmatic guidance and roll out at scale.	UNICEF, UNFPA					X					300000
Subtotal Output 1.1.												420000
1.2	Girls at risk of marriage/young married girls have access to quality education (Empowerment through education)	UNICEF	UNFPA, Plan, CARE	X	X	X	X	Availability of Joint CP/education guidance	0	1	Guidance document	
								# of countries affected by humanitarian context that have cash-transfers/incentive programmes with a girls' education element	4 (Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan, Syria)	9 countries	Country Office Programmatic reports	
								# of countries supported to implement girls' education initiatives in child marriage high risk areas	1 (Yemen)	6 countries	Regional and Country Office Programmatic reports	
1.2.1	Develop a simplified guide for COs to improve targeting, advocacy and use of educating programmes in areas of high prevalence of child marriage.	UNICEF	Education partners, Plan, CARE	X	X	X	X					150,000

Outputs	Activities 2018-2021	Agencies		Time Frame					Indicators			Means of verification	2018-2021 Requested Resources (US\$)
		Lead	Contributing	Jan-Dec '18	Jan-Dec '19	Jan-Dec '20	Jan-Dec '21	Indicator	Base-line	Target			
1.2.2	Compile good practices and innovative approaches (both in formal and non-formal education) on reaching out of school girls through roll out of LSCE and girls' education initiatives in areas at high risk of child marriage (both development and humanitarian contexts)	UNICEF	Plan, CARE	x	x	x	x						80,000
1.2.3	Support relevant country programmes on how to support girl's education in emergencies through the use of cash-based programming	UNICEF	CARE	x	x	x	x						150,000
Sub-total output 1.2													
1.3	Girls at risk of marriage/young married girls have access to vocational training/ marketable skills (economic empowerment)	UNFPA	UNICEF, UNDG Youth Actors, Plan, CARE										220,000
1.3.1	Build on the employment pillar of the UN Regional Framework for Youth 2018/19 to leverage existing employment initiatives support families to prevent child marriage.	UNFPA, UNICEF	ILO, UNHCR, Plan	x	x	x	x						50,000
360,000													

Outputs	Activities 2018-2021	Agencies		Time Frame				Indicators			Means of verification	2018-2021 Requested Resources (US\$)
		Lead	Contributing	Jan-Dec '18	Jan-Dec '19	Jan-Dec '20	Jan-Dec '21	Indicator	Base-line	Target		
1.3.2	Develop a guidance tool for COs on how to leverage and strengthen public/private partnerships to promote digital literacy, access to internet, and vocational training for girls as a way to empower them economically	UNICEF	Consortia of LSCE partners		x	x	x					300,000
1.3.3	Support the development of model to increase engagement in private sector or entrepreneurship opportunities in select high risk areas including mapping of job market in those areas	UNICEF	Consortia of LSCE partners		x		x					100,000
1.3.4	Develop a technical guideline on gender responsive social protection programming to respond to girls' vulnerabilities and link with humanitarian livelihood sector planning.	UNICEF	UNFPA, CARE	x								20,000
Sub-total output 1.3.											470,000	

Outputs	Activities 2018-2021	Agencies		Time Frame					Indicators			Means of verification	2018-2021 Requested Resources (US\$)
		Lead	Contributing	Jan-Dec '18	Jan-Dec '19	Jan-Dec '20	Jan-Dec '21	Indicator	Base-line	Target			
1.4 Girls' voices and opinions inform development/humanitarian work in MENA (agency empowerment)		UNICEF, UNFPA	TDH, NLG partners, GnB, Plan, IRC, CARE	x	x	x	x	Models for girls' participation in programme implementation and monitoring documented	0	1	1	Document on models for girls' participation	30,000
1.4.1	Leverage regional initiatives (i.e. No Lost Generation, Regional Youth Programme, etc.) to increase girls' participation especially in child marriage high-risk areas	UNICEF, UNFPA	Plan, NLG partners, Save the Children, IRC, CARE	x	x	x	x	# of COs rolling out youth engagement tool in high prevalence areas	5	10	10	Country Office Programmatic Reports	50,000
1.4.2	Identify and document models for best practice on girls' participation in programme implementation and monitoring	UNICEF, UNFPA	Plan, NLG partners, Save the Children, IRC, WRC CARE			x	x	Technical guideline on gender responsive social protection programming to respond to girls' vulnerabilities developed	0	1	1	Technical guideline document	80,000
1.4.3	Support relevant country programmes in adolescent led initiatives addressing child marriage and other issues affecting girls	UNICEF	Plan, NLG partners, Save the Children, IRC, CARE	x	x	x	x						100,000
Sub-total output 1.4													230,000

Key Outcome 2 • Households demonstrate positive attitudes and behaviours toward investing in and supporting adolescent girls

- 2.1:** Religious leaders are equipped/mobilized to support reduction of CM. to empowering and quality safe spaces/are safe at home, school, health care centers and in other spaces
- 2.2:** Behavior change interventions to address social norms are evidence-based and measured.
- 2.3:** Programmatic engagement with boys and men on child marriage has increased/been strengthened.

Outputs	Activities 2018-2021	Agencies		Time Frame				Indicators			Means of verification	2018-2021 Requested Resources (US\$)
		Lead	Contributing	Jan-Dec '18	Jan-Dec '19	Jan-Dec '20	Jan-Dec '21	Indicator	Base-line	Target		
2.1 Religious and community leaders are equipped/mobilized to support reduction of CM.		UNFPA, UNWOMEN	UNICEF, TDH, GNB, Plan, CARE	x	x	x	x	Report documenting work with religious leaders	0	1	Report	
								# of public declarations by religious institutions announced in support of ending child marriage	0	3	Public declarations	
2.1.1	Document and evaluate ongoing work with religious leaders at country level as well as work of other partners (e.g. TDH)	UNFPA, UNWOMEN	Plan, CARE		x	x	x					100,000
2.1.2	Develop multi-year partnerships at regional level with various key religious institutions/leaders/female religious leaders on CM with M&E component.	UNFPA, UNWOMEN	UNICEF, CARE	x	x	x	x					200,000
Subtotal Output 2.1.											300,000	

Outputs	Activities 2018-2021	Agencies		Time Frame				Indicators			Means of verification	2018-2021 Requested Resources (US\$)
		Lead	Contributing	Jan-Dec '18	Jan-Dec '19	Jan-Dec '20	Jan-Dec '21	Indicator	Base-line	Target		
2.2 Behavior change interventions to address social norms are evidence-based and measured.		UNICEF	CARE	x	x	x	x	# of countries that have received technical assistance to measure evidence-based BCC interventions.	0	4	Regional and Country Office Programmatic Reports	450,000
2.2.1	Build the capacity of targeted countries to develop evidence based behavior-change programming including effective gender analysis	UNICEF	UNFPA, CARE	x	x	x	x	# of countries that have received technical assistance to implement evidence-based BCC interventions.	4	At least 8	Regional and Country Office Programmatic Reports	100,000
2.2.2	Behavioral Change Programmatic Guidance and Measurement Tools are made available to address social norms in targeted countries with technical support to implement the tools in high prevalence areas.	UNICEF	UNFPA, Plan, GNB, CARE	x	x	x	x					200,000

Outputs	Activities 2018-2021	Agencies		Time Frame				Indicators			Means of verification	2018-2021 Requested Resources (US\$)
		Lead	Contributing	Jan-Dec '18	Jan-Dec '19	Jan-Dec '20	Jan-Dec '21	Indicator	Base-line	Target		
2.2.3	Utilize the conceptual and programmatic guidance on making environments safe for girls through cross-sectoral programming to promote BCC programming at community level (linkage with outcome 1, area 1)	UNFPA, UNICEF	Plan, CARE	x	x	x	x					150000
Subtotal output 2.2.												450,000
2.3 Programmatic engagement with boys and men on child marriage has increased/ been strengthened.		UNFPA, UNWOMEN	UNICEF, GNB, Plan, IRC, CARE	x	x	x	x	Compendium of good practices on engagement with boys and men in MENA developed	0	1	Compendium	
2.3.1	Equip partners with tools, good practices and knowledge on programmatic engagement with boys and men through development of a compendium of good practices.	UNFPA, UNWOMEN	UNICEF, Plan, IRC, CARE	x	x	x	x	# of COs that have received technical assistance to implement programming engaging boys and men	0	3	Regional and Country Office Programmatic Reports	350,000
Subtotal output 2.3.												150,000

Outputs	Activities 2018-2021	Agencies		Time Frame				Indicators			Means of verification	2018-2021 Requested Resources (US\$)
		Lead	Contributing	Jan-Dec '18	Jan-Dec '19	Jan-Dec '20	Jan-Dec '21	Indicator	Base-line	Target		
2.3.2	Provide technical support to country partners on programmatic engagement of boys and men addressing child marriage	UNFPA, UNWOMEN	UNICEF, Plan, IRC, CARE		x	x	x					100,000
2.3.3	Convene a regional consultation to show-case/share/discuss the engagement of men and boys in gender equality.	UNFPA, UNWOMEN	UNICEF, Plan, CARE			x						100,000
Sub-total Output 2.3											350,000	

Key Outcome 3 • Relevant sectoral systems deliver quality and cost-effective services to meet the needs of adolescent girls

3.1: Build cross-sectoral technical capacity of stakeholders .

3.2: Cross-sectoral programming at community and institutional level funded/supported.

Outputs	Activities 2018-2021	Agencies		Time Frame				Indicators			Means of verification	2018-2021 Requested Resources (US\$)
		Lead	Contributing	Jan-Dec '18	Jan-Dec '19	Jan-Dec '20	Jan-Dec '21	Indicator	Baseline	Target		
3.1 Cross-sectoral technical capacity of stakeholders is strengthened (cross sectoral work at system level)		UNICEF, UNFPA (UNFPA Lead on Health, UNICEF lead on education and social policy)	TDH, GNB, CARE	x	x	x	x	Guidance note to define key roles and accountability of health, education and protection sectors and their workforce in ending child marriage with specific indicators (endorse through cross-sectoral consultation) developed	0	1	Guidance note document	
								# of public declarations by religious institutions announced in support of ending child marriage	1 (Yemen)	4	CO programmatic reports	
								Evidence-based advocacy documenting linkages between child marriage and other sectors developed	1 (Yemen)	4	Regional and Country Office Programmatic Reports and work plans	
3.1.1	Develop guidance note to define key roles and accountability of health, education and protection sectors and their workforce in ending child marriage with specific indicators (endorse through cross-sectoral consultation)	UNFPA, UNICEF	Plan	x	x	x	x					80,000

Outputs	Activities 2018-2021	Agencies		Time Frame				Indicators			Means of verification	2018-2021 Requested Resources (US\$)
		Lead	Contributing	Jan-Dec '18	Jan-Dec '19	Jan-Dec '20	Jan-Dec '21	Indicator	Baseline	Target		
3.1.2	Develop technical/advocacy briefs and communication material on cross-cutting programming including in humanitarian settings	UNICEF, UNFPA, CARE		X	X	X	X					50,000
3.1.3	Engage key academic institutions/training organizations to develop and provide technical support/capacity building support on 1 and 2 above	UNICEF, UNFPA		X	X	X	X					60,000
3.1.4	Ensure that considerations on child marriage high prevalence areas are included in out of school response strategies, through: 1) Use of OOSCI disaggregated data to inform development of response strategies targeting OOSCI girls; 2) Prioritize OOSCI responses as relevant to child marriage prevention in high prevalence areas.	UNICEF		X	X	X	X					150,000
Sub-total output 3.1												340,000
3.2	Cross-sectoral programming at community and institutional level is funded/supported.	UNICEF, UNFPA	UNWOMEN, NLG partners, TDH					# of CM-related cross-sectoral partnerships documented at CO level	0	2 (Jordan and Yemen)	Regional and Country Office Programmatic Reports and work plans	
								Roster of experts developed	0	1	Roster of experts	

Outputs	Activities 2018-2021	Agencies		Time Frame				Indicators			Means of verification	2018-2021 Requested Resources (US\$)
		Lead	Contributing	Jan-Dec '18	Jan-Dec '19	Jan-Dec '20	Jan-Dec '21	Indicator	Baseline	Target		
3.2.1	Identify and capitalize on existing funding and advocacy opportunities: UN Women's trust fund with NGO partners; No Lost Generation (NLG) Platform, Empower Girl Platform to promote cross-sectoral work	UNFPA, UNICEF	UNWOMEN, NLG partners	x	x	x	x					20,000
3.2.2	Convene regional meetings to amplify the role/contributions of local NGOs to multi sectoral and inter personal communication models especially child rights/youth rights and women's rights organizations at national, regional and international level	UNFPA, UNICEF	GNB, TDH, CARE	x	x	x	x					100,000
3.2.3	Establish an investment case for a cross-sectoral model in Yemen to inform programming on child marriage in humanitarian settings with a focus on resilience of families/adolescent girls.	UNICEF, UNFPA		x	x							150,000
3.2.4	Document Jordan's coordination mechanism CM in development and humanitarian settings as a best practice of multi-sectoral coordination.	UNICEF	GNB, UNFPA		x							50,000
3.2.5	Develop a roster of experts on CM	UNICEF, UNFPA		x	x							10,000
Sub-total output 3.1											330,000	

Key Outcome 4 • National laws, policy frameworks and mechanisms to protect and promote adolescent girls' rights are in line with international standards and are properly resourced

4.1: Child Marriage policy for humanitarian contexts is developed.

4.2: Legal frameworks are aligned with international standards on child marriage.

4.3: Legal environment more conducive to ending child marriage.

4.4: CM national strategies and implementation plans have been developed, implemented and monitored.

Outputs	Activities 2018-2021	Agencies		Time Frame				Indicators			Means of verification	2018-2021 Requested Resources (US\$)
		Lead	Contributing	Jan-Dec '18	Jan-Dec '19	Jan-Dec '20	Jan-Dec '21	Indicator	Baseline	Target		
4.1 Child Marriage policy for humanitarian contexts developed		UNICEF, UNFPA	GNB	x	x	x	x	Programmatic advisory note on CM in humanitarian contexts developed	0	1	Advisory note document	
								# of countries that include CM in Humanitarian Appeals /action plans with CM programmes included	1 (Yemen)	6	Humanitarian Appeals	
								Technical guidance note on CM linkages with the Women Peace and Security agenda for practitioners and policy-makers developed	1 (Yemen)	1	Technical guidance document	
4.1.1	Collaborate with key partners to advocate and develop a programmatic guidance note to respond to child marriage programming in humanitarian settings .	UNICEF, UNFPA	UNHCR, CARE	x	x							30,000

Outputs	Activities 2018-2021	Agencies		Time Frame				Indicators			Means of verification	2018-2021 Requested Resources (US\$)
		Lead	Contributing	Jan-Dec '18	Jan-Dec '19	Jan-Dec '20	Jan-Dec '21	Indicator	Base line	Target		
4.1.2.	Develop a technical guidance note on CM linkages with the Women Peace and Security agenda for practitioners and policy-makers	UNFPA, UNICEF	ESCWA	x	x							50000
Sub-total output 4.1												80,000
4.2	Legal frameworks are aligned with international standards on child marriage	UNFPA, UNICEF	TDH					# of countries where legislation on child marriage is monitored	6	8	CO programmatic reports	
4.2.1	Facilitate knowledge exchange to judges, law-makers and parliamentarians to prevent child marriage in line with the best interest of the child/age of child marriage in collaboration with regional allies/alliances.	UNFPA	UNICEF, TDH	x	x	x	x					120,000
4.2.2	Establish Inter-agency monitoring and evaluation reference group (MERG) to monitor and track the application of legislation on child marriage and provide support and guidance to countries.	UNFPA, UNWOMEN	TDH, UNICEF, UNWOMEN		x	x						100,000
Sub-total output 4.2												220,000

Outputs	Activities 2018-2021	Agencies		Time Frame				Indicators			Means of verification	2018-2021 Requested Resources (US\$)
		Lead	Contributing	Jan-Dec '18	Jan-Dec '19	Jan-Dec '20	Jan-Dec '21	Indicator	Baseline	Target		
4.3 Legal environment more conducive to ending child marriage		UNICEF, UNFPA	TDH, Plan, CARE					# of human rights mechanisms referring to child marriage in MENA	0	TBD based on CRC and CEDAW reporting calendar at CO	Human rights treaty body reports, resolutions and general comments	
4.3.1	Provide technical support to partners to support/influence national periodic reporting to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Human Rights Council (HRC), HLPF/SDGs and CEDAW	UNICEF, UNWOMEN and UNFPA	Plan, CARE	x	x	x	x					100,000
4.3.2	Integrate child marriage into existing regional efforts to improve access to justice for children including civil registration of births and marriages.	UNICEF	UNFPA	x	x	x	x					100,000
Sub-total output 4.3											200,000	

Outputs	Activities 2018-2021	Agencies		Time Frame				Indicators			Means of verification	2018-2021 Requested Resources (US\$)
		Lead	Contributing	Jan-Dec '18	Jan-Dec '19	Jan-Dec '20	Jan-Dec '21	Indicator	Baseline	Target		
4.4 CM national strategies and implementation plans have been developed, implemented and monitored.		UNFPA, UNICEF		x	x	x	x	# of countries supported on the development of national costed child marriage action plans	0	3	Child marriage action plans by country	
								Technical support available to COs to develop and implement national strategies and costed action plans to address child marriage	No	Yes	Access to roster of experts	
4.4.1	Support the development of specific national costed action plans on child marriage including guidance on how to accurately cost and budget a multi-sectoral national strategy to address child marriage that can be adapted and used at national level.	UNICEF, UNFPA		x	x	x	x		0	3		100,000
Sub-total output 4.4											100,000	

Key Outcome 5 • Government(s) and partners within and across countries support the generation and use of robust data and evidence to inform policy and programming, track progress and document lessons

5.1: CM related research is coordinated amongst key partners.

5.2: Evidence on effective child marriage programming in MENA is available to inform public goods.

Outputs	Activities 2018-2021	Agencies		Time Frame					Indicators			Means of verification	2018-2021 Requested Resources (US\$)
		Lead	Contributing	Jan-Dec '18	Jan-Dec '19	Jan-Dec '20	Jan-Dec '21	Indicator	Base-line	Target			
5.1: CM related research is coordinated amongst key partners		UNFPA, UNICEF	TDH, GNB, CARE						Inter-agency research reference group is in place and functional	0	1	Inter-agency research group meeting minutes	
5.1.1	Establish Inter-Agency Regional level research reference group on child marriage research[1] with focus on humanitarian and developmental settings to facilitate quality and quantitative research that fill gaps on CM data	UNFPA, UNICEF	Plan, ESCWA, CARE, TDH, Save the Children, GNB, UNWOMEN, WRC	x					# of RAF led regional studies on child marriage (closing gaps)	0	3	Studies on child marriage	100,000
5.1.2	Conduct research to fill gaps in evidence on child marriage	UNFPA, UNICEF	CARE, WRC, JHU, TDH, Save the Children, GNB, Plan, ESCWA, IRC, UNWOMEN	x	x	x	x						300,000

Outputs	Activities 2018-2021	Agencies		Time Frame				Indicators			Means of verification	2018-2021 Requested Resources (US\$)
		Lead	Contributing	Jan-Dec '18	Jan-Dec '19	Jan-Dec '20	Jan-Dec '21	Indicator	Base-line	Target		
5.1.3	Strengthen availability of national and sub-national representative data on child marriage through advocating for integration of child marriage module in MICS and DHS.	UNICEF		x	x	x	x					100,000
Sub-total output 5.1												
5.2 Evidence on effective child marriage programming in MENA is available to inform public goods		UNICEF	UNFPA, TDH, CARE	x	x	x	x	# of countries utilizing social norm measurement tools to monitor progress in social norm related efforts	0	4	Regional and Country Office Programmatic Reports and work plans	
								# of CM related programming staff trained on M&E		6	Location and names of trained staff	
								# of innovative approaches on CM documented in the region	0	4	Documents on innovative approaches	
								Model for costing the consequences of child marriage piloted	No	Yes	Model for costing CM	
5.2.1	Document and disseminate good practices on effective child marriage programming including in humanitarian settings	UNICEF, UNFPA, CARE	IRC, Plan			x	x					80,000

Outputs	Activities 2018-2021	Agencies		Time Frame				Indicators			Means of verification	2018-2021 Requested Resources (US\$)
		Lead	Contributing	Jan-Dec '18	Jan-Dec '19	Jan-Dec '20	Jan-Dec '21	Indicator	Base-line	Target		
5.2.2	Support country offices working on child marriage to strengthen M&E capacity on social norms interventions through provision of training, guidance and tools.	UNICEF	UNFPA, GNB, CARE	x	x	x	x					100,000
5.2.3	Provide technical support on piloting new approaches on CM to promote innovation and document lessons learned	UNICEF	UNFPA, IRC, CARE	x	x	x	x					100,000
5.2.4	Develop and pilot model for costing the consequences of child marriage using existing examples (i.e. WB, ES-CWA).	UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESOWA, UNWOMEN		x	x	x	x					600,000
Sub-total output 5.2											880,000	

Outputs	Activities 2018-2021	Agencies		Time Frame				Indicators			Means of verification	2018-2021 Requested Resources (US\$)
		Lead	Contributing	Jan-Dec '18	Jan-Dec '19	Jan-Dec '20	Jan-Dec '21	Indicator	Base-line	Target		
COORDINATION		UNICEF, UNFPA		x	x	x	x					250,000
TOTAL												5,500,000



United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa
16 Abdel Qader Al-Abed Street
P.O. Box 1551
Amman 11821 Jordan

Tel: +9625502400
<https://www.unicef.org/mena>
menaro@unicef.org

facebook www.facebook.com/UNICEFmena
twitter www.twitter.com/UNICEFmena
Instagram www.instagram.com/unicef_mena



United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Arab States Regional Office
70 A Al nahda street
Maadi Sarayat, Cairo, Egypt

Tel: +20225223900
<https://arabstates.unfpa.org>

facebook www.facebook.com/UNFPAArabic/
twitter www.twitter.com/UNFPA_Arabic

