

The Regional Action Forum to End Child Marriage in Arab States/MENA (RAF) is delighted to share its October 2024 newsletter covering the latest child marriage updates.

## RAF MEMBER FEATURED IN NEW SRHM PODCAST!



RAF member Dr Aisha Hutchinson, Senior lecturer in Social Sciences at King's College, was featured in a recent SRHM podcast episode to speak about the research study done in collaboration with the RAF, and entitled “Setting research priorities for prevention and response to child marriage in communities in the Arab region: findings from a multi-stage Delphi study involving practitioners across the region.”

Listen to the podcast here: <https://bit.ly/3TPtS3Y>

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD (IDGC) UPCOMING EVENTS!

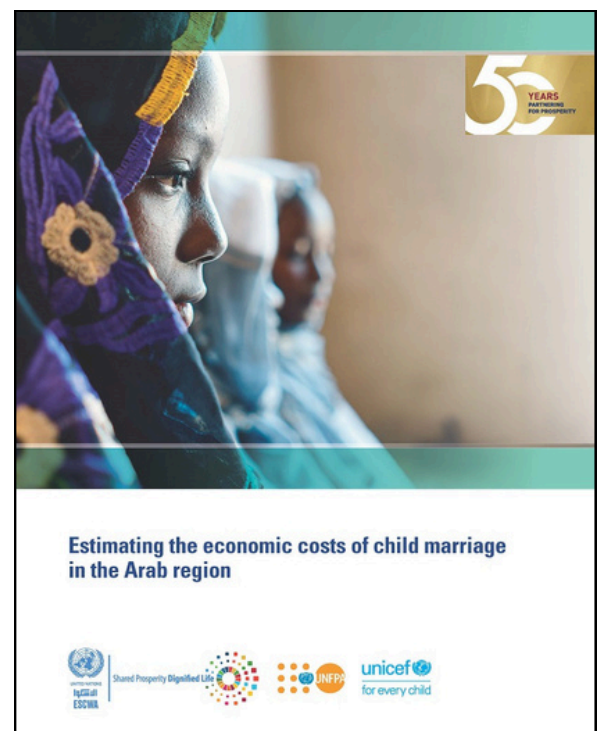
**(1) VIRTUAL LAUNCH: COST OF CHILD MARRIAGE IN MENA REPORTS  
OCTOBER 10TH, 2024**

REGISTER [HERE](#) TO ATTEND THE EVENT!

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), in partnership with the UNFPA Arab States Regional Office, UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office, and UN Women Regional Office for Arab States, conducted three studies to estimate the cost of child marriage in the Arab region.

The findings from these studies will be presented on [October 10th of 2024 from 14:00 – 16:00 \(Amman time\)](#), initiating a discussion with stakeholders on the implications and next steps for addressing child marriage in the region.

The event will also feature a panel of RAF experts who will comment on the significance of the findings for research, advocacy and child marriage prevention in the region.



## (2) INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD EVENT

OCTOBER 14TH, 2024

In 2022, the Arab Girl Summit in Amman, Jordan, brought together adolescent girls, League of Arab States member states, UNICEF, UNFPA, and Plan International in order to debate and collaborate issues affecting girls' rights and well-being.

In 2024, girls in the Arab world are facing worsening conditions due to conflict, economic crises, migration, climate change, and weak enforcement of international law. In response, UNICEF, UNFPA, and Plan International are reconvening the girls-led steering committee from the 2022 summit, alongside a new steering committee as well as key civil society actors that focus on girls' rights in the region.



**Plan International, UNICEF, and UNFPA are honored to invite you for the launching of this year's flagship International Day of the Girl (IDG) event.**

The launching will take place in Amman, Jordan, on October 14, 2024, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM (Arab Agenda TBD). We would be privileged if you would join us, the girl-led steering committee, civil society and girls' rights actors from across the Arab region.

**This year's IDG, led by girls and for girls, has three main objectives:**

- Reflect on contextual developments and discuss pressing priorities from 2022's summit recommendations;
- Formulate a practical action plan and Call to Action with clear commitments from stakeholders to systematically advance the adoption of the 2022 Arab Girl Summit recommendations;
- Review and present the latest evidence on what works for adolescent girls including relevant findings on focus multi-sectoral approaches.

The launching event will feature a contextual overview presented by the girl-led steering committee, and presentation of latest evidence on girls' rights in the region including:

- Making the Case for Multi-Sectoral Investments in Adolescent Girls (UNICEF)
- The power of investment in adolescent girls: Lessons learned from UNFPA
- Estimating the Economic Costs of Child Marriage in the Arab Region (ESCRM)

The event will also include an interactive workshop from 12-2PM, dedicated for the girl-leaders and civil society actors, aiming to identify action plans to advance the recommendations of the 2022 Arab Girl Summit.

The action plan resulting from the interactive workshop will be circulated to all attendees of the launching event and the interactive workshop, and a girls-led committee will work with Plan International, UNICEF, and UNFPA to seek the support of the League of Arab States and its member states for the action plan.

Please confirm your participation and/or the participation of a representative from your organization by replying to this email by Monday, September 30, 2024. For any inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact the organizers at: [sara.halawani@plan-international.org](mailto:sara.halawani@plan-international.org)



The event, scheduled for October 14th, 2024 in Amman, will include panel discussions, the presentation of new evidence, and interactive workshops where girls and civil society stakeholders will co-lead discussions on key priorities. You can register by sending an email to: [sara.halawani@plan-international.org](mailto:sara.halawani@plan-international.org)

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