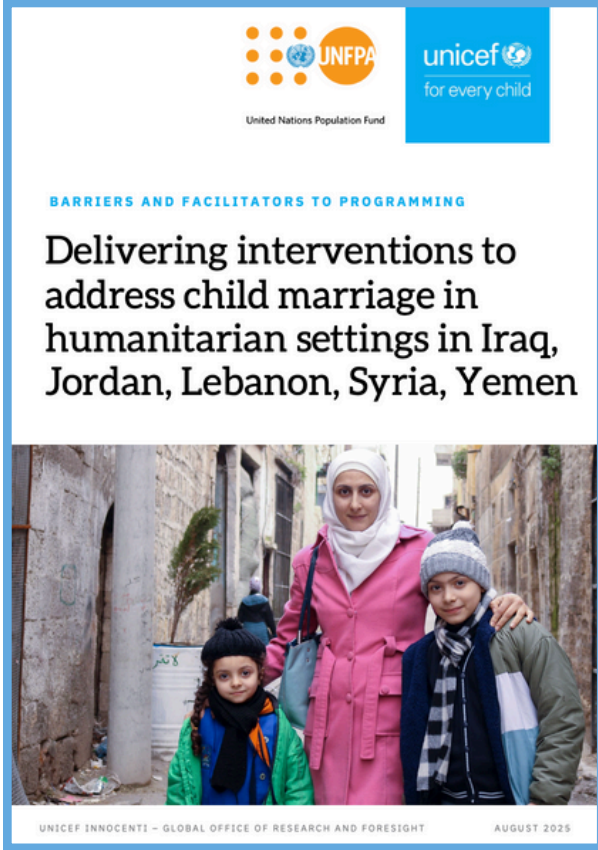


The Regional Action Forum to End Child Marriage in Arab States/MENA (RAF) is delighted to share its November 2025 newsletter covering the latest child marriage updates.

### CHILD MARRIAGE IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS STUDY



Programming to prevent and respond to child marriage in humanitarian settings is crucial for protecting the health and safety of women and girls, yet there is limited documentation or evaluation of effective practices. UNICEF Innocenti – in coordination with UNICEF MENARO, UNFPA ASRO, and RAF – conducted a study in five Middle Eastern countries, engaging with over 60 practitioners and policymakers to identify challenges and facilitators in designing such programs. The study emphasizes the importance of putting girls at the center of programming and addressing their immediate and long-term needs in complex humanitarian contexts. It also highlights the need for improved monitoring, evaluation, and accountability, considering the cultural, normative, and logistical factors that impact implementation.

Read the full study in English and Arabic [here](#).



## **BUILDING GIRLS' FUTURES IN CONFLICT AND CRISIS-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA REGION**

11 October 2025 – Today, we celebrate the International Day of the Girl Child and its 2025 theme "*The Girl I Am, The Change I Lead – Girls at the Frontlines of Crisis*," we honor the incredible strength, resilience, and hope of every girl – especially those living in communities torn by conflict, crisis, and displacement.

In the Middle East and North Africa, girls face unique challenges that threaten their health, safety, livelihoods, and dreams. One of the most pressing issues is child marriage, which often occurs quietly but has devastating consequences. As a result, preventing and responding to child marriage is often a life-saving intervention for many girls in the region.

On International Day of the Girl Child 2025, RAF members emphasized the importance of amplifying girls' voices to build a more equitable and inclusive future, as they continue working together to eradicate child marriage. They highlighted that every girl's voice matters and called for collective action to address child marriage, gender inequalities, empower girls, and ensure they had the opportunity to shape their own futures. Recognizing the challenges faced by girls in Arab states and the MENA region, RAF members called for increased investments in education, protection, and girls' participation, to create a world where all women and girls can thrive.

[Read the full statement here.](#)

Featured IDGC Stories by Yemen Women Union are also available [on the RAF website here.](#)

# WEBINAR: ADDRESSING CHILD MARRIAGE IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES IN TIMES OF INCREASED UNCERTAINTY, VIOLENCE, AND DISPLACEMENT



CHILD MARRIAGE REMAINS A DEEPLY ROOTED ISSUE IN PALESTINE, AFFECTING THOUSANDS OF GIRLS – PARTICULARLY IN REFUGEE AND CONFLICT-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES. DESPITE EFFORTS TO RAISE THE LEGAL AGE OF MARRIAGE TO 18, WEAK ENFORCEMENT, JUDICIAL EXEMPTIONS, AND ONGOING HUMANITARIAN CRISES CONTINUE TO UNDERMINE PROGRESS. THE PRACTICE IS CLOSELY LINKED TO POVERTY, GENDER INEQUALITY, AND PROLONGED INSTABILITY, WHICH LEAVE FAMILIES WITH LIMITED OPTIONS AND PUSH MANY GIRLS INTO EARLY MARRIAGE AS A FORM OF PROTECTION. ON 22 OCTOBER 2025, RAF HELD A WEBINAR THAT BROUGHT TOGETHER EXPERTS, PRACTITIONERS, AND COMMUNITY LEADERS TO EXAMINE THE LATEST DATA, LEGAL CHALLENGES, AND COMMUNITY-BASED EFFORTS TO PROTECT CHILDREN AND PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY.

[WATCH THE RECORDING HERE.](#)

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