

VISION:

A world without child marriage where girls and women enjoy equal status with boys and men and are able to achieve their full potential in all aspects of their lives.

IMPACT

Girls can decide if, when, and whom to marry

Married girls lead healthy, empowered lives

RESULTS

Girls at risk of child marriage participate more in decisions that affect them, including regarding marriage

Girls at risk of child marriage benefit from improved educational and economic opportunities as alternatives to child marriage

Girls are better able to avoid early pregnancy and to refuse unwanted sex

Married girls are better protected from violence, exploitation or abuse

Married girls increasingly access and use services and supports of all kinds

Married girls increasingly access divorce, annulment and child custody

Community, traditional and religious leaders take greater action to end child marriage and realise the rights of girls

Community, traditional and religious leaders increasingly support alternative roles for girls beyond marriage

Men and boys increasingly take action to end child marriage

Families engage less in exchange of dowry and bride price

Service providers take greater action to prevent child marriage and support the needs of married girls

Law enforcement officials increase implementation and enforcement of legal frameworks to prevent child marriage and protect married girls

Law enforcement officials increase use of civil registration systems for birth and marriage

OUTCOMES

GIRLS

- Girls are increasingly aware of their rights
- Girls have the opportunity to develop solidarity with one another through peer groups and collective action
- Alternative economic, social roles for girls and women exist and are valued
- Increased access of married and unmarried girls to health, education, economic, and legal support

FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Families, communities and young people are increasingly aware of the harmful impact of child marriage and alternatives available
- Families, communities and young people value alternative options to child marriage
- Families and communities prefer not to marry girls as children
- Men prefer not to marry girls who are still children
- Increased use of media to inform and support norm change to end child marriage

SERVICES

- Increased access to safe, quality formal and non-formal education for girls
- Increased access to health services for adolescent girls, married and unmarried
- Health and education services establish protocols on identifying the warning signs and addressing the risks of child marriage
- Improved economic security for girls
- Increased commitment of programmes to prevent and mitigate risk of child marriage

LAWS AND POLICIES

- National laws reflect international and regional human rights standards
- Robust legal framework against child marriage in place that sets 18 as the minimum legal age for marriage and protects girls' and women's rights
- Governments develop supportive policy frameworks with adequate resourcing across Ministries to increase educational, economic and social opportunities for girls at risk of child marriage and married girls
- Strengthened civil registration systems for birth and marriage
- Increased accountability and monitoring of national / regional / community institutions

STRATEGIES

EMPOWER GIRLS

A wide range of programmes invest in girls, their participation and their well-being

MOBILISE FAMILIES & COMMUNITIES

Families, communities and young people are engaged to change attitudes and behaviours related to child marriage

PROVIDE SERVICES

Services across sectors reinforce one another and are tailored to the specific needs of girls at risk of child marriage and married girls

ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT LAWS & POLICIES

A robust legal and policy framework for preventing child marriage and supporting married girls is in place and effectively enforced

CATALYSING STRATEGY

Ending child marriage will require long-term, sustainable efforts. Change will ultimately take place within communities, but has to be supported and catalysed by collective efforts at national, regional and international levels. Adequate resources must be made available to support effective implementation of strategies. All those working to address child marriage should evaluate programmes, share promising practices, and coordinate their efforts to achieve maximum scale and impact. Recognising that child marriage does not take place in a vacuum, efforts to end child marriage should not be isolated from broader development efforts and should play an integral part in achieving development goals around the world.

PROBLEM:

Every year approximately 15 million girls are married as children across countries, cultures, religions and ethnicities. Child marriage is rooted in gender inequality and in the low value accorded to girls, and is exacerbated by poverty, insecurity and conflict. It denies girls their rights, choice and participation, and undermines numerous development priorities, hindering progress towards a more equal, healthy and prosperous world.