A world without child marriage where girls can exercise their rights and achieve their full potential.



www.GirlsNotBrides.org

MPACT

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

regarding

marriage

RESULTS

OUTCOMES

STRATEGIES



CATALYSING STRATEGY Girls and adolescents can decide if, when and whom to marry

Girls are better able to avoid early pregnancy, to refuse unwanted sex and to engage in informed and consensual safe sex if they so

desire, regardless

of their marital

status

Married girls are better protected from violence, exploitation and abuse Married girls access and use services and supports of all kinds Married girls have increased access to divorce, annulment and child custody Girls have increased access to education and economic empowerment opportunities Service providers take greater action to prevent child marriage and support the needs of girls who are – or have heen – married Adolescent girls and young women have fewer unmet contraception needs and unwanted pregnancies

Law enforcement officials increase implementation and enforcement of legal frameworks and effectively utilise judicial and justice systems to prevent child marriage and protect married oiele

Girls and adolescents who are - or have been - married lead healthy, empowered lives

Guidance readily available for judges to implement a mitigation model when asked to grant exceptions to girls who marry before the legal minimum age Law enforcement officials increase their use of civil registration systems for birth and marriage

GIRLS AND ADOLESCENTS

- Girls are aware of and can exercise their rights and challenge harmful gender norms
- Girls can develop solidarity with one another through peer groups and collective
- Girls and women can take advantage of economic opportunities and transformed gender roles
- Girls who are or have been married or in informal unions have increased access to essential services including health, sexual and reproductive health and rights, education, child protection, gender violence support, economic assistance and legal support

ADVANCING GIRLS' RIGHTS

A wide range of programmes invest in

girls - including the most excluded

and marginalised - to increase their

knowledge, skills and assets, and

supporting their decision-making power, collective action, choice and

AND LEADERSHIP

control of their futures

FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Families, communities and young people are aware of the harmful impact of child marriage and informal unions and the available alternatives for girls
- Families, communities and young people value and encourage alternative options to child
 marriage.
- Families and communities including boys and men – prefer not to marry girls before age 18 and understand the negative effects on girls' wellbeing
- Families and communities value girls' rights and encourage them to participate in decisions that
- Families and communities demonstrate shifts in social norms away from child marriage and towards gender equality

Families, communities, young people

and leaders are engaged to transform

norms, attitudes and behaviours related

to child marriage and gender inequality

MOBILISE FAMILIES AND

COMMUNITIES

SERVICES

- Girls have increased access to safe, quality formal and nonformal education
- Girls who are or have been married have increased access to health care services, including maternal and mental health care
- Girls have increased access to sexual and reproductive health care services, including safe abortion
- Child protection, gender-based violence, legal and justice systems have capacity to prevent and respond to child marriage, including support for girls at risk
- Girls have increased access to livelihood support and social protection
- Girls who are pregnant, wish to enter unions or are already married have increased access to health, education, economic and psychosocial support
- Targeted interventions in place to identify and reach the girls most at risk, including those affected by conflict and humanitarian crises

Quality services across sectors reinforce one another and are tailored to the specific needs of girls, including those at risk of child marriage and those who are – or have been – married

LAWS AND POLICIES

- National laws reflect international and regional human rights standards
- Robust legal framework on child marriage in place, setting the same minimum legal age for marriage for girls and boys to protect their rights
- Governments develop supportive policy frameworks with adequate resources across ministries to increase educational, economic and social opportunities for girls at risk of child marriage and married girls
- Civil registration systems for birth and marriage strengthened
- Effective accountability and monitoring mechanisms in place to ensure delivery of policy commitments at national, regional and community level
- Civil society, girls and youth can influence policy and hold duty-bearers to
 account.
- Marginalised girls and those who are pregnant, in a union or married have greater access to legal aid and support

PROVIDE SERVICES

ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT LAWS & POLICIES
A robust legal and policy framework exists for preventing child
marriage and supporting girls who are – or have been – married or
in informal unions

Ending child marriage and supporting girls who are – or have been – married requires long-term, sustained efforts. Change will ultimately take place within communities, but work with communities will drive greater transformations if it is supported by collective action at national, regional and international levels. Adequate resources must be made available for collective action by civil society and the effective implementation of gender-transformative and feminist strategies. All those working to address child marriage should evaluate programmes, share promising practices and coordinate their work to achieve maximum scale and impact. Child marriage does not take place in a vacuum; work to end the practice should play an integral part in initiatives to achieve broader development and rights goals around the world.

PROBLEM:

Every year, approximately 12 million girls around the world marry or enter unions before age 18. Child marriage is practiced across countries, cultures, religions and ethnicities. It is rooted in – and perpetuates – gender inequality, patriarchy (systems controlled by and for men) and the belief that girls and women are worth less than boys and men. It exists in a universe of other inequalities, intersecting oppressions and discriminatory social norms based on factors like gender, race, class and age, and is exacerbated by poverty, lack of education, insecurity and conflict. Child marriage denies girls their rights, choice and participation, and undermines many development priorities. It limits progress towards a more equal, healthy and prosperous world where we can all reach our full potential.