



**GIRLS NOT BRIDES**

The Global Partnership  
to End Child Marriage

# **GENDER-TRANSFORMATIVE COLLECTIVE ACTION TO END CHILD MARRIAGE AND ADVANCE GIRLS' RIGHTS**

**THE EXPERIENCE OF COLIGAÇÃO PARA  
ELIMINAÇÃO DOS CASAMENTOS PREMATUROS,  
THE GIRLS NOT BRIDES NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP  
TO END CHILD MARRIAGE IN MOZAMBIQUE**

**JULY 2023**

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# INTRODUCTION

## Who this report is for

This report is for any group of civil society organisations (CSO) working collectively on child marriage at the national or sub-national level. African CSOs working to address child marriage are the primary audience, but other CSOs using a rights-based approach to advance gender justice and/or minority rights more broadly may also find it useful.

## What this report is for

The need to accelerate progress on child marriage and the link between child marriage and gender equality make intentional gender-transformative collective action critical. This report shares highlights from Coligação para Eliminação dos Casamentos Prematuros” (CECAP, the *Girls Not Brides* National Partnership to End Child Marriage in Mozambique). This CSO collective invested in a series of steps to strengthen their gender-transformative skills, knowledge and leadership to systematically analyse and address the root causes of gender inequality at the individual and systems levels.

By sharing the experience of one CSO collective – what they did and the difference it has made to their collective work – we hope to inspire and encourage other groups of CSOs to begin similar intentional gender-transformative journeys to accelerate higher impact and more sustainable change in the attitudes, systems and structures that perpetuate and promote child marriage.

## Acknowledgements

This report complements a 7-step guide on [How civil society organisations can use gender-transformative collective action to address child marriage and advance girls’ rights](#), produced by *Girls Not Brides: The Global Partnership to End Child Marriage*.

The guide is an adaptation – by and for CSOs – of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)-United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) Global Programme to End Child Marriage’s [Gender-transformative accelerator tool](#). This Tool was produced by the UNFPA and UNICEF headquarters’ offices, in collaboration with Collective Impact. Its adaptation into the 7-step guide and activities was made possible thanks to support from UNICEF and funding from the EU/Spotlight Initiative.

This country report was made possible through the hard work, support and active participation of members of CECAP, during the GTA Intensive Week.



### KEY TERMS

#### Gender-transformative approaches (GTAs)

GTAs aim to promote gender equality by fostering critical examination of gender roles, norms and dynamics. GTAs recognise and strengthen positive norms that support equality and aim to create an environment in which girls and women can exercise their rights, and make and act on their decisions – that is, have agency. This means promoting the relative position of girls, women and other groups that have been marginalised, and transforming the underlying social structures, policies, systems and broadly-held social norms that perpetuate and legitimise gender inequalities. They are intentional about challenging the status quo, rebalancing power, and redistributing resources towards people who have been historically marginalised, excluded and discriminated against on the basis of their gender.

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## List of acronyms

<b>CECAP</b>	Coligação para Eliminação dos Casamentos Prematuros, the Girls Not Brides National Partnership to End Child Marriage in Mozambique
<b>CSO</b>	Civil society organisation
<b>GTA</b>	Gender-transformative approaches
<b>SRHR</b>	Sexual and reproductive health and rights
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>SADC</b>	Southern African Development Community

## The CECAP journey

CECAP is made up of more than 60 CSOs, from the local to the international level, working on advocacy, knowledge-sharing and research to address child marriage and premature unions in Mozambique. It was set up in 2013 and became an official *Girls Not Brides* National Partnership in July 2014.

CECAP works with the government to ensure policies, laws and services are in place that support the rights of girls and young women. In July 2014, CECAP collaborated with the Ministry of Gender and Children Social Affairs to launch a national campaign to end child marriage and premature unions. In 2016, they played a significant role in the successful adoption of the [National Strategy to Prevent and Combat Child Marriage and Premature Unions](#) (available in Portuguese). They are also actively contributing to the development of national legislation to put into practice the [Southern African Development Community \(SADC\) Model Law for the Eradication of Child Marriage and Protection of Children Already Married](#).

CECAP has developed a collective advocacy and communications strategy, which has helped members to improve their grassroots work to address the main drivers of child marriage and premature unions. The strategy has strengthened collaboration with key government ministries, religious leaders, initiation counsellors, young people and the media. They co-authored a [policy brief](#) on child marriage and adolescent pregnancy in Mozambique with UNFPA and UNICEF.



### KEY TERMS

#### Child marriage

In this report, “child marriage” refers to all forms of child, early and forced marriage and unions where at least one party is under the age of 18. The term “premature unions” is often used in Mozambique to refer to situations in which a girl or adolescent lives with a partner as if married before age 18, so it is included here alongside “child marriage” to make this practice visible.

In Mozambique, the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage and *Girls Not Brides* are committed to enhancing civil society action towards ending child marriage and premature unions, and to advancing girls' rights more broadly – including those of girls who are married or in a union. This project aims to enhance the capacity of CSOs working at the national level to systematically analyse and address the root causes of gender inequality across all levels, from the individual to the institutional, informed by evidence and experience and maximising their understanding of context.

The key sections of this report are:

- **Evidence, data and learning:** root causes of child marriage and premature unions, and priorities for gender-transformative action in Mozambique.<sup>1</sup>
- **CECAP's priorities:** a snapshot of CECAP's current and emerging collective strategic choices and gender-transformative capacities.
- **Steps in CECAP's gender-transformative journey:** a summary of how the UNICEF gender-transformative accelerator tool was adapted and used to support critical collective reflection, skills-building and action planning to advance girls' rights and agency.

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1. UNICEF has a collection of [country profiles](#), which present statistics compiled from nationally representative data to create an overview of child marriage in each country.

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# EVIDENCE, DATA AND LEARNING FROM MOZAMBIQUE AND THE EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA REGION: ROOT CAUSES OF CHILD MARRIAGE AND PREMATURE UNIONS, AND PRIORITIES FOR GENDER-TRANSFORMATIVE COLLECTIVE ACTION

## Prevalence of child marriage and premature unions in Mozambique

In Mozambique, the minimum legal age of marriage is 18 years, based on the provision of the [Family Law 2004](#), with [no exceptions](#) (following its amendment in 2019).<sup>2</sup> However, 53% of girls are married or enter a union before age 18, and 17% before age 15. This makes Mozambique the country with the fifth highest prevalence of child marriage in Africa,<sup>3</sup> and the country with the highest prevalence in the Eastern and Southern Africa region.<sup>4</sup> This trend has not changed over the past 30 years. In fact, prevalence for marriage and union before age 18 increased from 51% to 53% between 1990 and 2015 (see below).

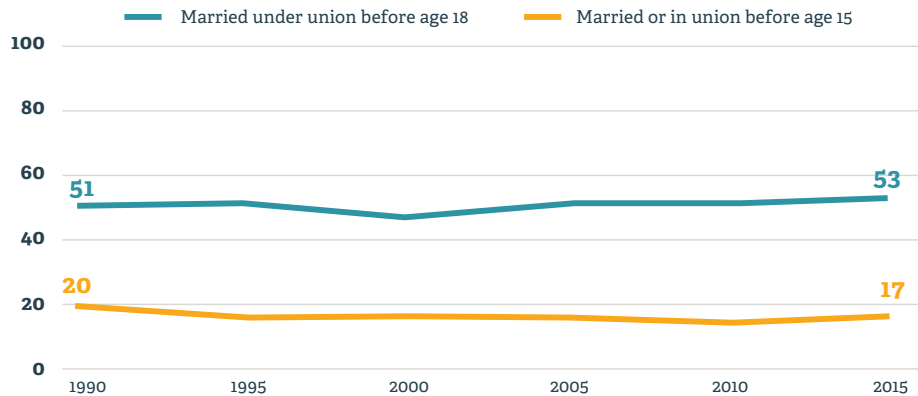
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2. All data from *Girls Not Brides'* Mozambique country profile [webpage](#), unless otherwise stated.

3. See the *Girls Not Brides* child marriage [atlas](#).

4. UNICEF, 2022, [Child marriage in Eastern and Southern Africa: A statistical overview and reflections on ending the practice](#).

**Figure 1: Percentage of women aged 20 to 24 who were first married or in a union before ages 15 and 18**

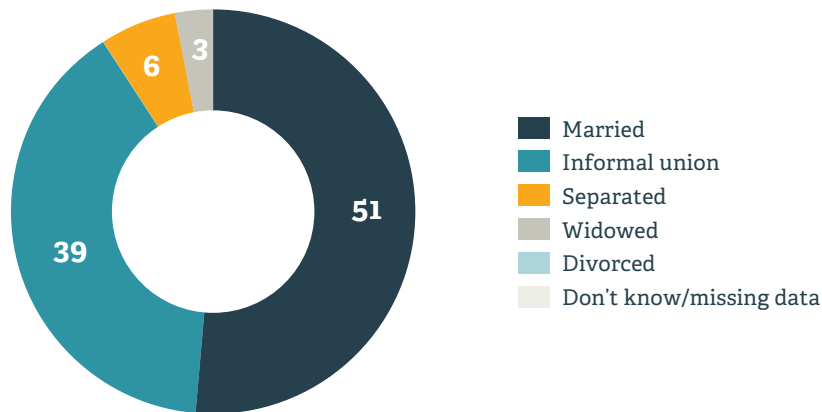


Source: Adapted from UNICEF, 2022, [Child Marriage in Eastern and Southern Africa: A statistical overview and reflections on ending the practice.](#)

Premature informal unions are significant in Mozambique: over one third (39%) of girls form unions that are not legally recognised. The informality of these relationships further impacts and limits girls' rights and agency.

A 2022 UNICEF report shows that child marriage and premature unions are more prevalent in rural areas than in urban ones.<sup>5</sup> Three provinces with the highest prevalence are in the Northern region.<sup>6</sup> In the province of Niassa, almost one quarter of women (24%) were married by age 15.<sup>7</sup>

**Figure 2: Percentage distribution of ever-married girls aged 15 to 17 years by current marital status**



Source: Adapted from UNICEF, 2022, [Child Marriage in Eastern and Southern Africa: A statistical overview and reflections on ending the practice.](#)

5. UNICEF, 2022, [Child marriage in Eastern and Southern Africa: A statistical overview and reflections on ending the practice.](#)  
 6. UNFPA, 2017, [Information sheet: Trends and patterns of child marriage in Mozambique – Evidence from the 2017 census.](#)  
 7. Girls Not Brides, 2020, [Child marriage atlas: Mozambique](#) [accessed June 2023].

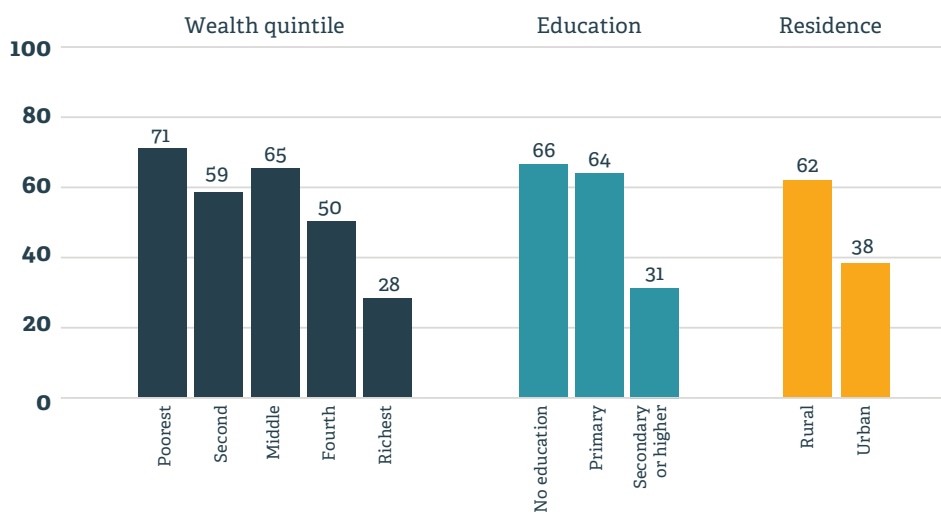
Child marriage and premature unions are rooted in gender inequality and the belief that girls are worth less than boys because of their sex. In Mozambique, child marriage and premature unions are also driven by:

- **Poverty:** Half of the population in Mozambique lives in [poverty](#).<sup>8</sup> This puts girls at increased risk of child marriage and premature unions, as many families see it as a way to reduce financial pressure, and may receive an additional income

if a bride price ([lobolo](#)) is paid. Figure 3 shows that 71% of girls and women from the poorest households marry before age 18, compared with 28% of those from the richest households.

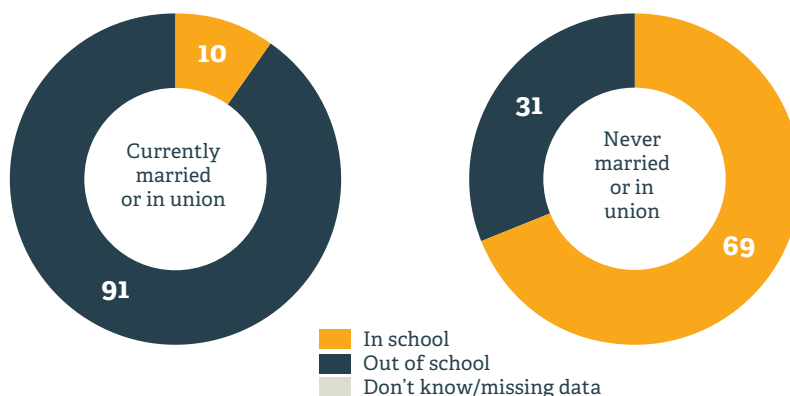
- **Lack of education:** Data analysis from a 2015 policy brief on child marriage and adolescent pregnancy in Mozambique indicates that girls with secondary education were 53% less likely to be married by age 18, compared with girls with no education at all.<sup>9</sup>

**Figure 3: Percentage of women aged 20 to 24 who were first married or in a union before age 18, by wealth quintile, education and residence.**



Source: Adapted from UNICEF, 2022, [Child Marriage in Eastern and Southern Africa: A statistical overview and reflections on ending the practice](#).

**Figure 4: Percentage distribution of girls aged 15 to 17 years by schooling status**



Source: Adapted from UNICEF, 2022, [Child marriage in Eastern and Southern Africa: A statistical overview and reflections on ending the practice](#).

8. World Bank Group, 2023, [Poverty and equity brief, Africa Eastern and Southern, Mozambique](#).

9. *Girls Not Brides*, UNFPA and UNICEF, 2015, [Child marriage and adolescent pregnancy in Mozambique: Policy brief](#).

- **Social norms and practices:** Polygamy is common in Mozambique – as in other countries in Africa and more broadly – and this links with child marriage and premature unions because many girls are married as second or third spouses to wealthy older men. The power differential is further exacerbated by the age gap which means low levels of autonomous decision-making for girls who marry prematurely. Longstanding gender norms that value girls' virginity also perpetuate child marriage and premature unions in rural Mozambique. Sexual initiation rites encourage the subordination of girls to their partners, and can limit their bodily autonomy.<sup>10</sup>
- **Adolescent pregnancy:** Child marriage and premature unions are both a cause and a consequence of adolescent pregnancy. In many cases, child marriage or premature union is a driver of early pregnancy; in others – particularly where sex outside of marriage or union is taboo – unintended pregnancy drives child marriage and premature unions. Mozambique has a high rate of pregnancies before age 15, and almost half (46%) of adolescents between age 15 and 19 are already mothers or pregnant for the first time.
- **Humanitarian settings:** A wide range of situations before, during and after natural disasters, conflicts and epidemics exacerbate poverty, economic instability, food scarcity, insecurity and lack of access to services like education. All these factors can increase the risk of child marriage, which is used as a coping mechanism by families under pressure. In Mozambique, multiple and consecutive climate shocks – including drought, two tropical cyclones in one season and floods – left an estimated 2.5 million people in need of lifesaving and resilience-building assistance in 2019.<sup>11</sup> A 2020 UNICEF report on the impact of COVID-19 in Mozambique showed that economic insecurity – resulting from lockdowns and the loss of jobs – and prolonged school closures can exacerbate trends of child marriage and premature unions, and transactional sex as coping and protective mechanisms.<sup>12</sup>



### Spotlight: Resolutions towards ending child marriage and premature unions

The Government of Mozambique co-sponsored the following UN Human Rights Council resolutions: the 2013 [resolution](#) on child, early and forced marriage; the 2017 resolution on recognising the need to address child, early and forced marriage in humanitarian contexts; the 2018 UN General Assembly resolutions on child, early and forced marriage; and the 2019 resolution on the consequences of child marriage. The country signed a [joint statement](#) at the 2014 Human Rights Council, calling for a resolution on child marriage, and has committed to end child, early and forced marriage by 2030, in line with [Target 5.3](#) of the Sustainable Development Goals.

### Spotlight: Raised earnings

A 2017 [World Bank/ICRW study](#) estimated that ending child marriage in Mozambique could prompt a 15.6% rise in earnings for women who married early, and would generate an additional \$375 million in earnings and productivity for the country.

10.. UNFPA, 2020, [The impact or rites of passage and cultural practices on adolescents' and young people's sexual and reproductive health in East and Southern Africa: A review of the literature](#).  
 11.. OCHA, 2019, 2018-2020 [Mozambique humanitarian response plan](#).  
 12.. UNICEF Mozambique, 2020, [The Impacts of COVID-19 on children in Mozambique: COVID-19 policy note](#).



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## Policies and laws addressing child marriage and premature unions in Mozambique

### A timeline

1994

In 1994, Mozambique ratified the [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#), which sets the minimum age of marriage at 18 years.

1997

In 1997, the country acceded to the [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women \(CEDAW\)](#), which obligates states to ensure free and full consent to marriage. During its review in 2019, the CEDAW committee expressed concerns about the persistence of harmful practices like child marriage and premature unions, and widespread impunity. It recommended that governments and their partners intensify engagements with communities – including leaders and parents – on the negative impacts of child marriage and premature unions, and to criminalise all harmful practices.

1998

In 1998, Mozambique ratified the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, including Article 21, on the prohibition of child marriage.

2005

In 2005, it ratified the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, including Article 6, which sets the minimum age for marriage as 18 years.

2016

In 2016, The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Affairs developed a [National Costed Strategy to Prevent and Eliminate Child Marriage \(2016-2019\)](#), which is being implemented in collaboration with UNICEF, UNFPA and CECAP. It outlines eight main pillars which are pivotal to ending child marriage and premature unions in Mozambique, including: a communications and social mobilisation campaign; improving girls' access to education, sexual and reproductive health services, family planning, and sex education; support for married girls; and reform of the legal framework.

2016

During its 2016 Universal Periodic Review, Mozambique supported recommendations to establish the minimum age of marriage at 18 and to operationalise a gender strategy within the education system to address child marriage.

2019

In 2019, the Child Rights Committee expressed concerns about the extremely high prevalence of child marriage and premature unions in Mozambique. The Committee urged the country to take all necessary measures to end child marriage and initiation rites for girls; to ensure that the National Strategy for Preventing and Combating Premature Unions and Child Marriages (2016–2019) is adequately resourced, extended beyond 2019 and effectively implemented; and to develop comprehensive awareness-raising campaigns with a range of stakeholders.

2019

Also in 2019, the Parliament of Mozambique approved the Law to Prevent and Combat Premature Unions. The law aims to prohibit, prevent, mitigate and penalise child marriage and premature unions, and establish mechanisms to protect children in those unions. The Parliament also approved a revision of the Family Law, criminalising the marriage of persons under age 18 with parental consent.

2020

As of 2020, Mozambique is one of 20 countries that committed to ending child marriage – including premature unions – under a [Ministerial Commitment](#) on comprehensive sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health services for adolescents and young people in Eastern and Southern Africa.



## Spotlight: Further initiatives

Mozambique is one of the countries where the [Spotlight Initiative](#) – a global, multi-year partnership between the European Union and United Nations – is supporting efforts to end all forms of sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices against girls and women. The [U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief \(PEPFAR\)/DREAMS Initiative](#) also works in Mozambique to reduce rates of HIV among adolescent girls and young women. Mozambique is a partner country of the [Global Partnership for Education](#).

## Impact of the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme and the Gender-Transformative Accelerator

Mozambique is a focus country of the [UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage](#), a multi-donor, multi-stakeholder programme working across 12 countries over four years. The Global Programme reached more than 200,000 Mozambican girls with life skills interventions and engaged approximately 5 million people as part of a mass media campaign against child marriage and premature unions in 2018.

Further impacts recorded from the Global Programme include:<sup>13</sup>

- Ongoing training of counsellors to deliver remote psychosocial support to young people.
- Development and use of comprehensive sexuality education in schools, along with support for menstrual hygiene, clean water and sanitation. This has had a direct impact on girls' access to education and opportunities to avoid child marriage and premature unions.
- Funding for grassroots organisations, which has supported policy formulation to address issues like gender-based violence. For example, a small amount of Canadian funding supported national consultations led by CSOs and the National Assembly, and resulted in legislation being introduced in 2019.

- Group education/dialogues for about 5,000 boys and men that address harmful masculinities and gender norms.
- Participation of more than 150,000 individuals (girls and women, boys and men) in group education/dialogue sessions on consequences of and alternatives to child marriage and premature unions, the rights of adolescent girls and gender equality.
- Support for 100+ primary, secondary or non-formal schools in programme areas to provide quality gender-friendly education that meets minimum standards.

Learning from phase I the Global Programme to enhance the gender-transformative potential of programming to end child marriage, UNICEF and UNFPA developed the Gender-Transformative Accelerator Tool for country-level programmes to identify and understand key concepts of gender inequality, power and resource redistribution. Girls Not Brides adapted this Tool as a 7-step guide on [How civil society organisations can use gender-transformative collective action to address child marriage and advance girls' rights](#).

13. UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage, 2022, Celebrating the fifth anniversary of the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage in East and Southern Africa: Reflecting on progress made and how to move forward bolder and better.

14. See <https://www.unicef.org/media/113201/file/GTA-Mozambique-2021.pdf>.

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## **Snapshot of CECAP at the beginning of this stage of their gender-transformative journey**

Since the enactment of the 2019 Law for Prevention and Combat of Premature Unions (LPCPU) 19/2019, which operationalises the SADC Model Law on the Eradication of Premature Unions, criminalisation of premature unions and protection of the sexual and reproductive health of children, CECAP has promoted its uptake using its broad base of community engagement, relationships with the media, decision-makers and government workers.

Through awareness raising, social mobilisation, public engagement and lobbying, CECAP's 2022 Communication and Social Mobilisation Plan aimed to increase uptake of the LPCPU and support girls' rights by targeting institutions, decision-makers and individuals across different levels of the socio-ecological model as follows:

- A. Influence central and local government bodies to provide services relevant to the implementation of the LPCPU.
- B. Mobilise and engage community leaders in the dissemination and application of the LPCPU.
- C. Stimulate knowledge by girls, parents and other segments of society on the provisions of the LPCPU.
- D. Promote positive social norms that support girls' voice and choice and gender equality through mass media campaigns.

# CECAP'S GENDER-TRANSFORMATIVE JOURNEY IN 2022

## Ranking of core elements for a gender-transformative approach to end child marriage and premature unions

As part of their 7-step gender-transformative journey, CECAP undertook a process of critical reflection and discussion of their collective work during a GTA Intensive Week. Supported by their Gender Advocates, they ranked their strategies and approaches along the Gender Integration

Continuum (GIC). They did this for each of the core elements for a gender-transformative approach to address child marriage and premature unions. The results of this process are shared in this section, with members' rationale when available.



### KEY TERMS

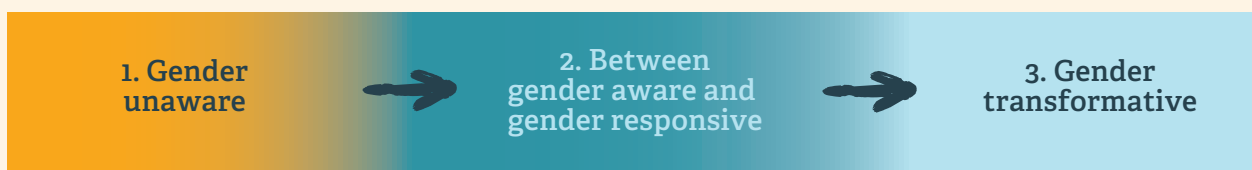
#### Gender Integration Continuum (GIC)

Gender integration can helpfully be viewed across a continuum that progresses from gender-unaware (or gender-unequal), to gender-aware (or gender-sensitive), to gender-responsive, to gender-transformative. The aim of gender-transformative approaches is to move programmes and interventions towards the right of this continuum.

If applied to programming, gender-aware (or gender-sensitive) programming acknowledges gender inequalities and may act on gender analysis insofar as needed to reach programme objectives. It does not necessarily prioritise girls' and women's needs specifically or address structural causes of gender inequality.

Gender-transformative programming goes further by actively aiming to promote gender equality and girls' and women's outcomes as a primary objective. It deliberately addresses discriminatory and harmful gender norms, roles, structures and institutions that perpetuate gender inequalities and gendered risks in the long term.<sup>15</sup>

#### Figure 5: The Gender Integration Continuum



15. UNICEF, 2021, [Being intentional about gender-transformative strategies: Reflections and lessons for UNICEF's Gender Policy and Action Plan – A compendium of papers](#), UNICEF Innocenti Office of Research.

## Gender-transformative core elements

The five core GTA elements<sup>16</sup> that CECAP ranked are: 1) Adolescent girls' skills, agency and leadership; 2) Family and community mobilisation; 3) Addressing masculinities and engaging boys and men; 4) Services and multi-sectoral collaboration; 5) Policies, laws and structural change; and, cross-cutting through all of these, 6) Gender norms and inequalities.

For more information on the GTA ranking and how to use it, please refer to Chapter 2, Steps 2 and 3 of the *Girls Not Brides* 7-step guide: [How civil society organisations can use gender-transformative collective action to address child marriage and advance girls' rights](#).

For more information on the GIC, see the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage [Technical note on gender-transformative approaches in the Global Programme to End Child Marriage](#).

### ASSESSMENT, REFLECTION, ACTION: WHAT CECAP DID DURING THEIR GTA INTENSIVE WEEK

#### Day 1: Core elements of a gender-transformative approach

- Presented an overview of the Gender-Transformative Accelerator Tool.
- Defined and clarified gender-transformative concepts and phases using the GIC and the core elements for implementing GTA.
- Discussed, then rated, CECAP's progress of in relation to each GTA core element on the GIC.
- Rated CECAP's progress, as a collective, in addressing the root causes of gender inequality and reshaping unequal power relations.
- Reflected on CECAP's thematic priorities.

#### Day 2: In-depth reflections on the socio-ecological framework

- Identified and prioritised 3-4 core elements and themes where programmes can accelerate progress towards gender-transformative approaches.
- Described and contextualised the existing challenges and opportunities for accelerated action across the socio-ecological framework.

#### Day 3: Roadmap for action – brainstorming and priority-setting actions

- Discussed ideas and reviewed potential actions to catalyse progress towards more gender-transformative approaches.
- Prioritised five clear, concrete and measurable strategic actions to create a roadmap for progress.

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16. UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage, 2020, [Technical Note on Gender-Transformative Approaches in the Global Programme to End Child Marriage](#).

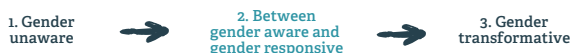
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## Day 1: Ranking the GTA core elements on the Gender Integration Continuum

Members of CECAP were encouraged to assess and then rate their collective action – rather than the work of any individual CSO – in relation to each GTA core element. This was based on scale definitions and conversations about their work in relation to each GTA element. Members were encouraged to share concrete examples of where and how this collective action took place.

The GTA Intensive Week in Mozambique differed from a similar programme in Nigeria (see the Nigeria country report) in two aspects: the week was facilitated by Gender Advocates, who were trained and supported with tools and skills to facilitate the process; and general discussion sessions replaced sessions on contextualisation. The ranking followed the same scale definitions in both countries, as found in the 7-step guide How civil society organisations can use gender-transformative collective action to address child marriage and advance girls' rights.

### 1) GTA ranking for Adolescent girls' skills, agency and leadership (GTA core element 1)



#### CECAP ranking: Gender responsive

*(Note: there was only a six-point difference between this ranking of gender responsive and the next one on the scale, gender transformative.)*

CECAP works to make girls aware of their rights. Greater awareness of their rights can help girls to protect themselves from premature unions and all forms of gender-based violence. Greater knowledge of rights and how privilege – especially those related to sex and age – are used and abused can create an environment for gender equality and social justice.

CECAP acknowledges that initiation rites act as a barrier to the fulfilment of rights. The messages given during this process need to be standardised, in a phased manner and respecting the age of those involved. This also requires cooperation with traditional leaders, who are responsible for the teachings passed on during ceremonies.

Programmes of CECAP members recognise the specific needs and roles of women and men. However, they are yet to capitalise fully on the potential of collective action and to develop a fully gender-transformative critique of root causes and approaches.

### 2) GTA ranking for Enabling environment: family and community mobilisation (GTA core element 2)

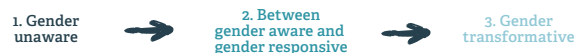


#### CECAP ranking: Gender transformative

Most CECAP members participating in the workshop are involved in community engagement. While project implementation is still only recent – due to delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic – most members have projects and strategic plans in place to respond to this component. This might be why this GTA element was ranked as CECAP's most gender transformative.

Members focussed on language as both a barrier and an opportunity: while radio can be used as a medium to share accessible messages in local languages, print materials – like pamphlets and posters – are less accessible for those who cannot read.

### 3) GTA ranking for Addressing masculinities and engaging boys and men (GTA core element 3)



#### CECAP ranking: Between gender aware and gender transformative

Mozambique is divided into patrilineal and matrilineal societies. CECAP is aware that – because of differences in culture and ways of life across the country – they must adapt their strategies and use tools that contain elements of transformation that respect socio-cultural differences. Engagement with religious, traditional and community leaders is a high priority given their role in upholding discriminatory norms and their potential to promote positive norms with high levels of influence over the life choices – including marriage – of community members.

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**“Training is important but it is also important to design strategies to improve the dissemination of the LPCPU and reduce the prevalence of premature unions and child marriage, so that the community as a whole, more than being aware of the existence of the LPCPU, becomes an active in the prevention of these practices.”**

**Celso Malaze/CECAP-Gaza**

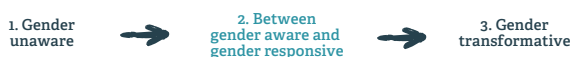
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**“Depending on the context, we need to find the appropriate language and entry points for transformation. Promoting girls’ education is typically an entry point. The community should lead the process, for example parental dialogues bring very good results. We work with the massungudotas, those in the community who hold power and make decisions and this is bringing very positive results.”**

**Filipe Boca/SOPROC Beira**

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#### **4) GTA ranking for Systems and services (GTA core element 4)**



#### **CECAP ranking: Gender responsive**

Members of CECAP work across several areas of services that are focused on adolescent girls’ right and opportunities for productive lives, including child protection and emergency services provision to girls in humanitarian contexts. However, members identified the need for improved collaboration and synergy amongst members.

#### **5) GTA ranking for Policy and structures (GTA core element 5)**



#### **CECAP ranking: Gender responsive**

This was the least gender-transformative element (with only 25% of voters rating it at this level). In its mission, the National Partnership places an important focus on advocacy and dissemination of the LPCPU. Members feel that CECAP’s advocacy was instrumental in the approval of the law in October 2019. The COVID-19 pandemic shortly afterwards prevented the benefits of the law being felt. Members consider the legal framework to be satisfactory, and are keen to re-engage their support for the law’s implementation.

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**“Unfortunately, every day we have alarming cases of young girls testing positive for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, and when we speak with them, they claim not to know how they are being infected because they use contraceptive methods. Hence the need to use mass media and information campaigns on the use of condoms to prevent infection for girls who have already begun to have sexual relations. It is important to focus not only on the prevention of early pregnancies among girls, but also on the prevention of diseases”**

**Valódia Nhamaango/Mahlhalhe Inhambane**

## Days 2 and 3: The GTA Road Map: Gender-transformative priorities and collective action

Following the ranking, CECAP voted to establish several priority areas for deep-dive sessions on how to best address the gaps identified. This enabled in-depth reflection on their previous individual and collective efforts. Members discussed challenges and barriers, and also looked to the future and identified opportunities to influence change collectively.

Using the Socio-Ecological Model to facilitate reflection, CECAP measured its current implementation against the five levels of the SEM: 1) the individual level (efforts centring girls); 2) the interpersonal level (interventions targeting families, friends and social networks); 3) the community level (programmes and projects intervening at the level of/with community-based organisations, faith-based organisations, women's groups, girls' clubs and youth groups); 4) the systems/institutions level (projects and programmes focused on services, including education and health, social protection including cash transfer programmes and information); and 5) the policies/legislative level.

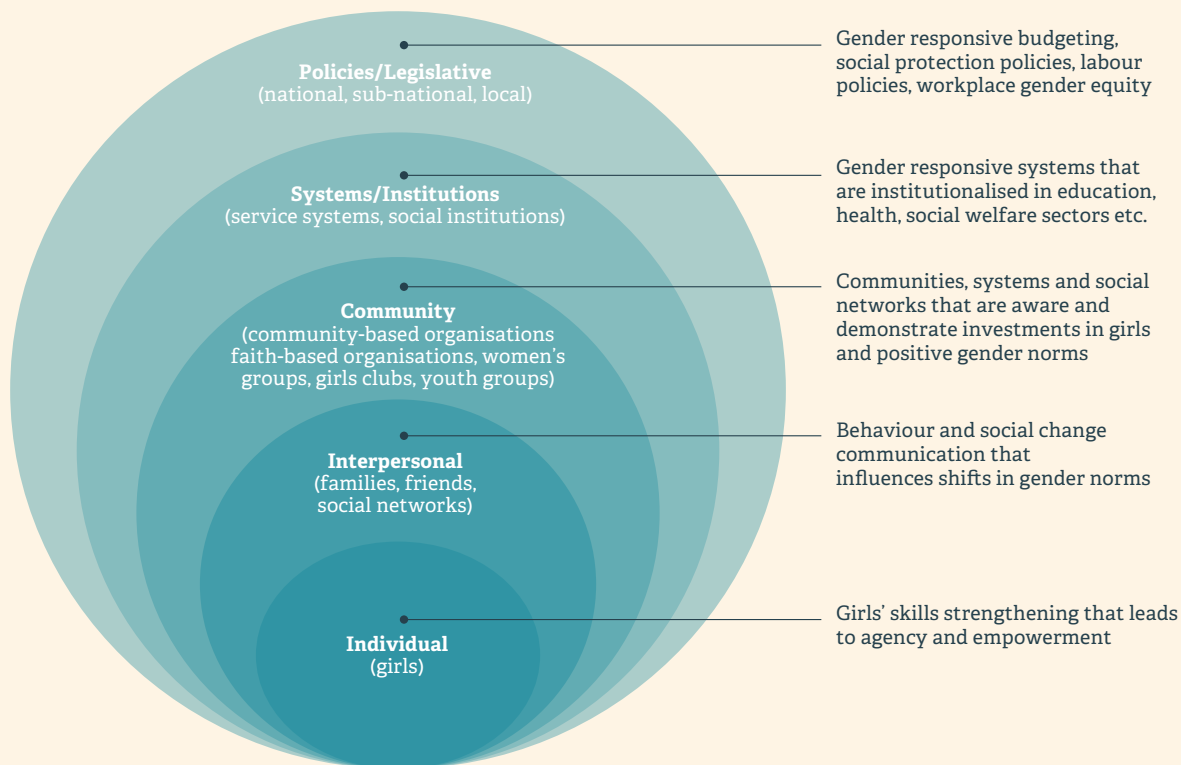


### KEY TERMS

#### The socio-ecological model

This is a conceptual framework depicting spheres of influence over human behaviours. It is central to the Girls Not Brides global theory of change and informed by the belief that there is no single solution to child marriage. Instead, a range of approaches and multiple partnership are needed to collectively catalyse change from the individual to the institutional level.

**Figure 6: The socio-ecological model and opportunities for gender-transformative programming**



Source: Adapted from UNICEF, n.d., [Technical note on gender-transformative approaches in the Global Programme to End Child Marriage](#).



Following a participatory and inclusive voting session, CECAP identified three priority elements. They considered the potential for structural change in norms and practices that promote child marriage and premature unions; they also considered the potential impact that acceleration of efforts in those areas could have on the other elements, and the overall project and programme goals, as identified by them.

The three priorities selected were:

**1. Adolescent girls’ skills, agency and leadership**

**Rationale:** The need to strengthen both soft and hard skills for girls cannot be overemphasised. For instance, one member noted that adolescent girls are not knowledgeable on sexual and reproductive health and rights, resulting in an increasing number of new HIV infections.

**2. Addressing masculinities and engaging boys and men**

**Rationale:** To address negative masculinities and ensure boys and men are active co-advocates for the rights of girls and women.

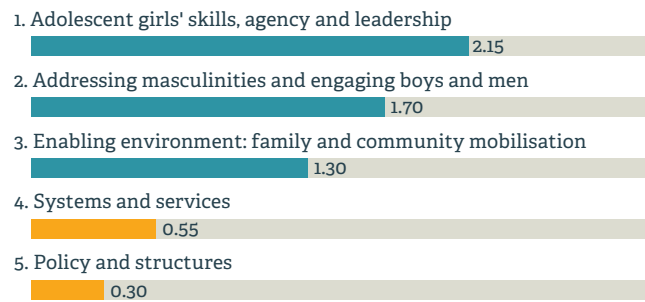
**3. Enabling environment: family and community mobilisation**

**Rationale:** So every member of the community can be part of creating this environment and making change happen for girls and women across society.

While the deep-dive session on Day 2 facilitated documentation of the National Partnership’s work across each of these priority areas, a particular focus was placed on the actions required for progression towards more gender-transformative action.

The deep-dive was followed by the road map action planning session on Day 3, where members agreed on actions that would take the identified opportunities forward and accelerate progress toward gender transformation.

**Figure 7: Results of voting on three priority components for deep-dive sessions**



**GTA Road Map priority 1: Adolescent girls’ skills, agency and leadership**

Collective actions agreed to strengthen gender-transformative approaches:

- Strengthen the capacity of schools to respond in a sustainable way to premature unions.
- Advocate for economic alternatives to provide opportunities for girls not to enter into premature unions.
- Advocate for and monitor the LPCPU to promote the existence of a legal framework for the protection of girls.
- Raise awareness and intensify the use of community radios to broadcast the LPCPU in local languages and media campaigns to disseminate CECAP’s work.
- Advocate for schools to be open to all girls and for greater investment in schools in the provinces.
- Strengthen capacity enhancement in gender-responsive budgeting.

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## **GTA Road Map priority 2: Addressing masculinities and engaging boys and men**

Collective actions agreed to strengthen gender-transformative approaches:

- Advocate for and prioritise increased funding for male engagement at the policy level.
- Push for collective technical capacity enhancement, so CECAP members can include a male engagement approach, discuss barriers and share knowledge.
- Monitor men arrested for domestic violence and involvement in early unions after their release.

## **GTA Road Map priority 3: Enabling environment: family and community mobilisation**

Collective actions agreed to strengthen gender-transformative approaches:

- Revise the key dissemination messages of the LPCPU and translate into more accessible language and translate into local languages.
- Advocate for the provision and availability of sexual and reproductive health services, including youth-friendly health services. This advocacy also aims to sensitise parents to support girls.
- Advocate for the Ministry of Education to include the LPCPU in school textbooks and teacher training manuals, so that young people grow up knowing it in a technical and accessible language.
- Create partnerships with artists to work on the dissemination of art, poetry and songs about premature unions in social networks.

## **In conclusion**

Through their GTA Intensive Week, as part of the 7-step guide on How civil society organisations can use gender-transformative collective action to address child marriage and premature unions, and advance girls' rights, CECAP members:

- Became more informed about gender-transformative approaches.
- Gained clarity on gender-transformative concepts and phases, as charted on the Gender Integration Continuum.
- Mapped their progress on the core elements of a gender-transformative approach, discussing and ranking their work in each element.
- Identified existing challenges and opportunities for accelerated action across the socio-ecological framework.
- Reviewed potential actions to catalyse progress towards more gender transformative approaches.
- Prioritised clear, concrete and measurable strategic actions to create a roadmap for progress.

The gender-transformative journey undertaken by CECAP in Mozambique was the beginning of an ongoing process of critical reflection and planning for collective action to address child marriage and premature unions, and gender inequality. This report outlines the key moments and collective priorities from this journey so far. It is intended to bring the [7-step guide](#) to life with real examples of how civil society organisations can use gender-transformative approaches to address child marriage and premature unions, and advance girls' rights. We hope it inspires organisations working collectively towards gender equality in contexts like Mozambique to undertake a similar reflective and planning process.



## **Spotlight: Members' voices on the 2019 Law to Prevent and Combat Premature Unions**

In preparation of the GTA Intensive Week, the facilitation team shared a series of questions on the LPCPU with members. Below are some of their responses, shared to provide further context on the issues covered in this report.

### **How does the LPCPU advance the voice and choice of girls and young women in Mozambique? Does the law respect the evolving capacities of girls?**

The LPCPU respects girls' developmental capacities in that it ensures comprehensive protection. Girls who were already in a premature union before the existence of the law are protected by their acquired rights in this existing union. It guarantees the best interest of girls.

### **What is the link between the minimum legal age of marriage and the age of consent in Mozambique? Voting age?**

In Mozambique, the age of 18 years is not yet the age of consent and autonomy of the individual – with the exception of marriage and voting. Someone aged 18 is not yet an adult who can answer for themselves in court, or have a driving license; the age for this is 21.

### **What are the consequences for girls who marry or form unions before the age of 18 if the law is involved?**

The LPCPU has no consequences for girls, but brings several benefits: the prohibition of marrying before the age of 18; registering of already existing unions; protection of acquired rights and government accountability in mitigating its negative effects on girls' lives.

### **What does the law say about women's right to leave a marriage, and custody of their children?**

Regarding filiation – that is, the fact of being the child of a particular parent or parents – the law protects the rights of children born in the union, recognising maternity and paternity, as stated in Article 10.

### **What support is there for girls who are "removed" from underage marriages?**

As measures for the Mitigation of Premature Unions, the LPCPU states, in Article 24, that there should be: adoption by the Government of policies and programmes to mitigate the effects of premature unions; creation of shelter and shelter homes for the reception, residence and care of those who enter premature unions; shelter and foster homes to offer security to children and provide opportunities for training and income-earning activities. CSOs have sought funds for prevention and actions to remove girls from premature unions.

### **Are the rights of girls in "illegal" unions/marriages affected? (For example, in India, girls in "illegal" marriage or unions under 18 years of age are unable to register for health services, education for their children or ante-natal checks, which impacts on their access to essential services and places them in situations of extreme dependency/vulnerability).**

According to the law they should not be affected, but safeguarded and attended to by the competent institutions.

## Annex 1: Road Map of Actions

Priority	#	Action	Step/process	Timeline	Support needed	Responsible persons/Support personnel	Timeline
Addressing harmful masculinities and the "cost" to men	1	Community mobilisation and dialogues	Revise/update the manual on community dialogues to integrate positive masculinities and power dynamics in gender relations. Strengthen/support the work of local CSOs to be gender transformative	2022/2023	Include male engagement indicators in the community dialogue manual and finalize the training module on male engagement (Mark Thorpe); check PCA with N'weti; analyse the indicators related to male engagement; revise manual for religious leaders	UNICEF responsible (partners: N'weti, HOPEM, CECAP, FDC, UNFPA)	Behaviours indicators revised/specific (as a basis, Collective Impact can check the indicators, then to be contextualized) [Raised awareness on the law and the VAC; foster community engagement in the application of the law and behavioural change; how to engage men (religious leaders; police etc.) to foster the culture of positive masculinity and zero tolerance to child marriage].
	2	Peer sessions for boys and men up to 24 years old	Expand and improve methodologies for mentoring boys and young men aged 10-24. A manual/curriculum	6 months	Review the Mentoring Manual to be piloted + propose common indicators with UNICEF and UNFPA	Spotlight, UNFPA, Global Programme, REDE HOPEM	Important to have common indicators (UNFPA+UNICEF)
	3	Radio soap opera (Black Gold)	Provide technical assistance so that the script reflects messages about positive masculinities and power relations. Reinforce messages in scripts.	Next year	Train writers and producers of Radio soap opera (Black Gold); develop indicators on male engagement (ex. number of stories with male engagement, what positive masculinities and another dimension (Transformative/power issue etc.) introduced as role modelling; think about linkages with first 2 activities... topic came up from the community dialogue on male engagement module)	Sabine, Gaia, and Zamzam (UNICEF) and Tassiana (UNFPA)	Indicators
	4	Positive parenting and role model parents	Continuation of radio spots and links with existing interventions (family model, ECD).	2022/2023	Family model analysis	UNICEF responsible (partners: N'weti, HOPEM, CECAP, FDC, UNFPA)	Behaviours indicators revised/specific (as a basis, Collective Impact can check the indicators, then to be contextualized) [Raised awareness on the law and the VAC; foster community engagement in the application of the law and behavioural change; how to engage men (religious leaders; police etc.) to foster the culture of positive masculinity and zero tolerance to child marriage].
Life skills and economic empowerment	5	Strengthening partnerships to expand economic opportunities	Mapping of organisations with gender transformative experiences/approaches in economic empowerment (e.g. linking school with employability) Development of strategic partnerships with these organisations	Next year	Sharing best practices Tools/checklist for the minimum component of GT into economic empowerment	CECAP (World Bank) UN Women (Muva e N'weti), UNFPA (FDC, FORUM MULHER, Coalition)	Important to have common indicators (UNFPA+UNICEF)

Priority	#	Action	Step/process	Timeline	Support needed	Responsible persons/Support personnel	Timeline
	6	Evidence-based advocacy for school funding by donors to allocate funds to the gender component	Scholarships to promote the retention rate of girls in schools and support the reintegration of married girls and early pregnancy in schools	Next year	Sharing best practices; support for advocacy material; revision of education evidence available for advocacy (also based on the mapping in activity above) and identification of gaps in the available evidence	UNFPA-UNICEF	Mapping review produced/advocacy guide produced/key recommendation from evidence review and GAP identified
	7	Financial literacy, vocational training, and small business start-up kits and Life skills and knowledge and negotiation skills to mitigate the impact of harmful social norms	Updating the economic empowerment manual to expand to less traditional female jobs such as electrician and plumber. Community mobilisation to support and prevent unintended negative consequences. Manuals on resilience and to prepare/respond/avoid risks at household and community levels.	2022	Review of design documents and activities and developed recommendations. Support with the development of the guidelines on life skills underway (UNICEF)	UNFPA-UNWOMEN (?) + UNICEF	Revision of guidelines completed and recommendations provided (UNFPA)
	8	Social protection schemes	Evidence-based advocacy for allocation of public and private funds (Ministry of Finance) Analysing the links between child benefits and child marriage	2022/2023	Analysing the links between child benefits and child marriage. Creating a one-pager with key messages	UNICEF (Carolina) e World Bank	Analysis and one page with a key message prepared, to be used for advocacy
Community mobilisation	9	Harmful practices (including rites of passage)	Develop an evidence-based national communication strategy to foster behavioural change to prevent and eliminate harmful practices (with specific interventions per target audience-for example, mothers, grandmothers, midwives, and traditional male leaders, schools, and teachers) adapted to different cultural/geographical contexts and languages	2022/2023	Gathering evidence to identify the best approach. GNB has a report coming out on the intersections of FGM and child marriage.	MGCAS with support from CECAP, UNICEF, NGOs	Desk review on evidence and development of a National communication Strategy

Note: FDC will develop a concept note on women's economic empowerment under the Spotlight Initiative. Integrating fathers and husband as champions of women's economic empowerment is another methodology we want to include to reduce risk of GBV and invest in male behavioural change.

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## Annex 2: Participant attendance

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Estrela Bila	YWCA
Eunice Margarido	Rede HOPEM
Mwema Uaciquete	Pathfinder
Ferosa Zacarias	FORCOM
Paula Sengo	Save the Children
Persilia Muianga	Visão Mundial
Mutemussa Gimo	Rede da Criança
Marta Uetela	FDC
Fatima Issa	MULEIDE
Nina Yengo	Plan International
Romão Khumayo	Pathfinder
Abed Maganda	FORCOM
Bercheba Julio	Actionaid
Gaia Segola	Ponto focal UNICEF
Vladimir Nomier	PF MGCAS
Adelaide Liquidão	Ponto Focal UNFPA
Marcia Mandlate	AMODEFA
Almiro Nhamuenda	AMODEFA
Nelson Alicene Mario	AMODEFA
Stelio Faiela	AMODEFA
Angelina Langa	YAM
Agripino Mavota	PF 3º Comissão AR
Felismina Amoda	AMODEFA
Por confirmar	CESC
Carmen Juvenal	RECAC
Nelio Zunguza	PF Gaza
Valodia Nhamaango	PF Inhambane
Isabel postano	PF Cabo Delgado
Stenio Abreu	PF Niassa
Gabriel Mutambe	PF Nampula
Felipe Tomas Boca	PF Sofala
Artur Choe	PF Zambezia
Anchia	PF Manica
Uric Mandiquisse	PF Tete



**“WE CAN ONLY END CHILD MARRIAGE IF WE ADDRESS THE ROOT CAUSE: GENDER INEQUALITY. WE WILL NOT ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY UNLESS WE ADDRESS CHILD MARRIAGE.”**

## **GENDER-TRANSFORMATIVE COLLECTIVE ACTION TO END CHILD MARRIAGE AND ADVANCE GIRLS’ RIGHTS**

**The experience of Coligação para Eliminação dos Casamentos Prematuros, the Girls Not Brides National Partnership to End Child Marriage in Mozambique**

*Girls Not Brides* is a global partnership of over 1,400 civil society organisations from more than 100 countries committed to ending child marriage and ensuring girls can fulfil their potential.



The Global Partnership  
to End Child Marriage

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