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GIRLS NOT BRIDES

The Global Partnership
to End Child Marriage

Integrating child marriage into existing programmes

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Photo Credit: Robyne Hayes, ICRW



Objectives: Learn how to integrate child marriage prevention or response elements in your existing programmes (for example, on maternal health, education, access to justice).

This session is aimed at organisations with programmes that don't currently include an overt focus on child marriage but would like to strengthen their work in this area.

Session Outcomes

- *By the end of this session, you should be able to:*
 - Understand linkages between child marriage and other relevant program areas
 - Identify and use tools to develop and/or strengthen a focus on child marriage in your work.

Assumptions

- Understanding of causes of child marriage
- Understanding of consequences of child marriage

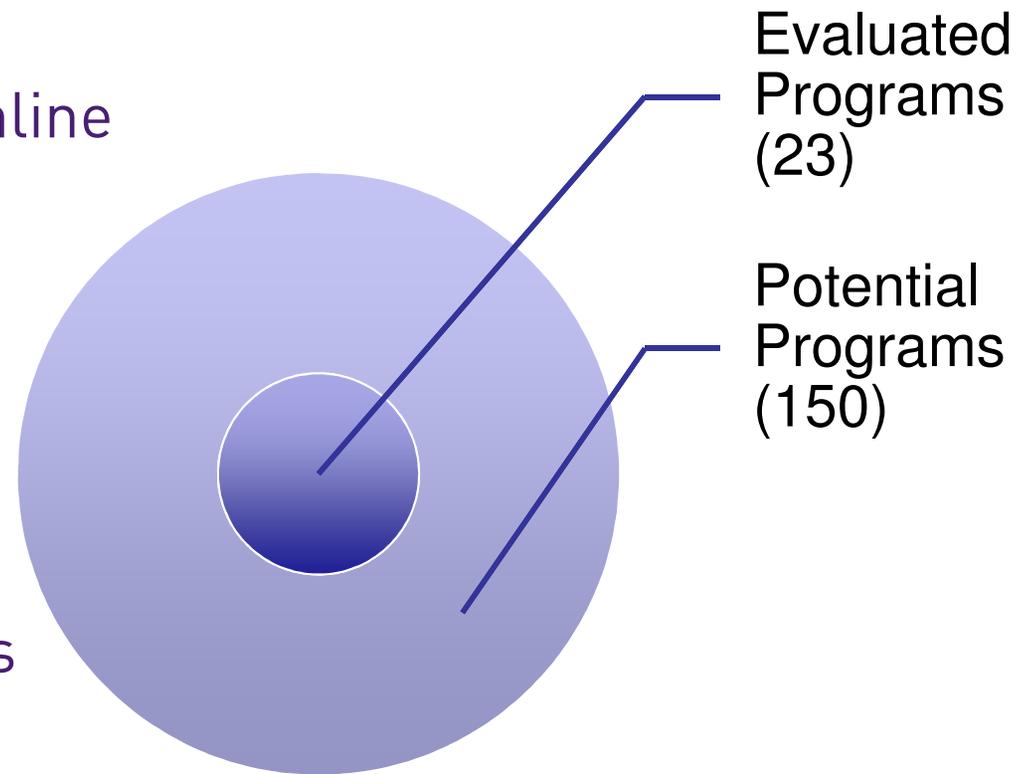
Overview

1. Presentation: solutions to end child marriage
2. Discussion: Child marriage as a cross-sectoral issue
3. Small-groups: Sector integration strategies
4. Report back and reflection

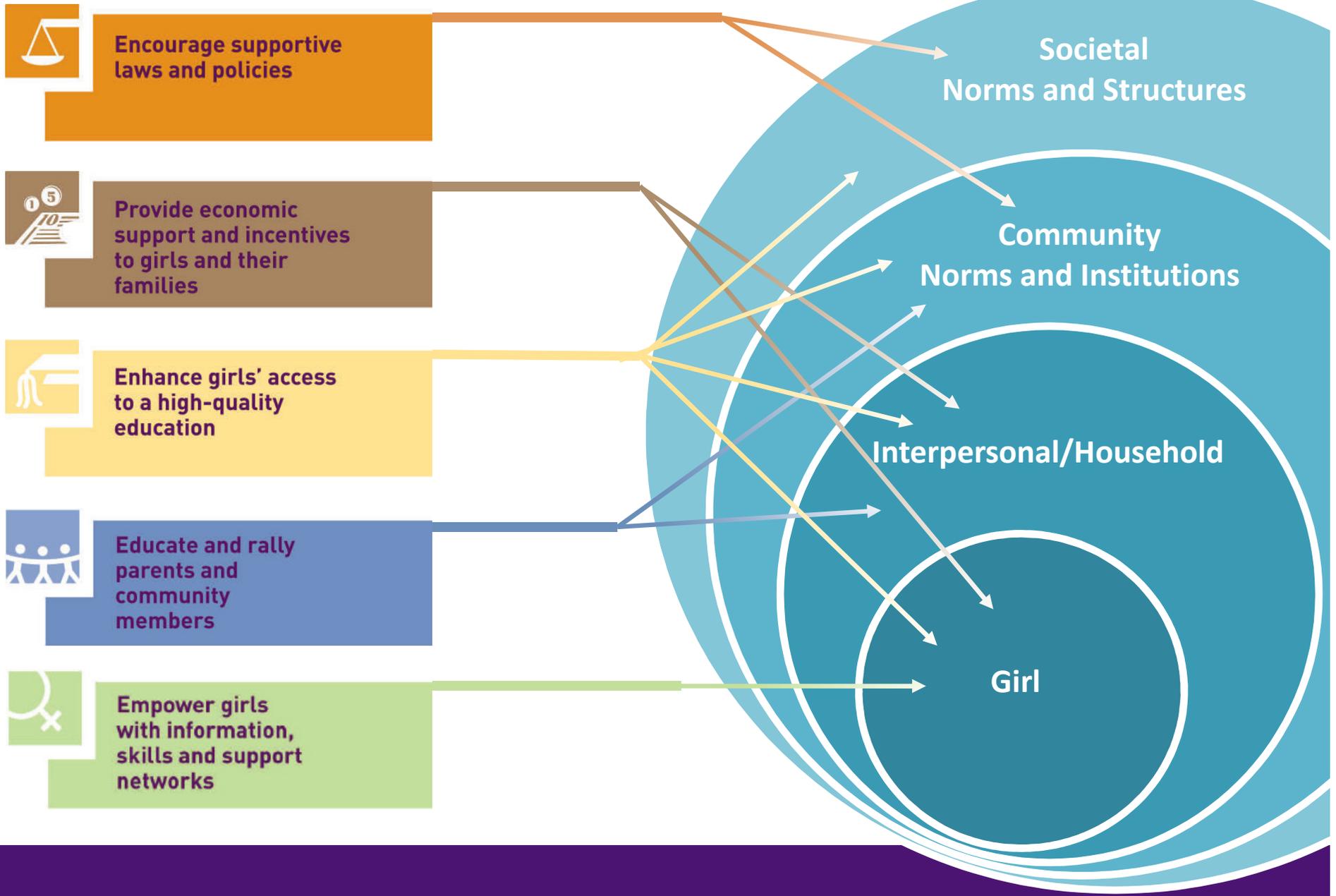
What The Evidence Shows: Solutions to End Child Marriage

ICRW Systematic Review

- Wide search: databases, online
- Programs and policies
- Documented evaluation
- Measure change in child marriage-related behaviors and/or attitudes



Strategies to End Child Marriage



M&E as an Integration Tool

- Your existing programmes may be impacting rates of child marriage but if you're not measuring marriage you won't know it
- Integrating indicators on child marriage into your M&E framework can help

No one set of indicators is appropriate for every project

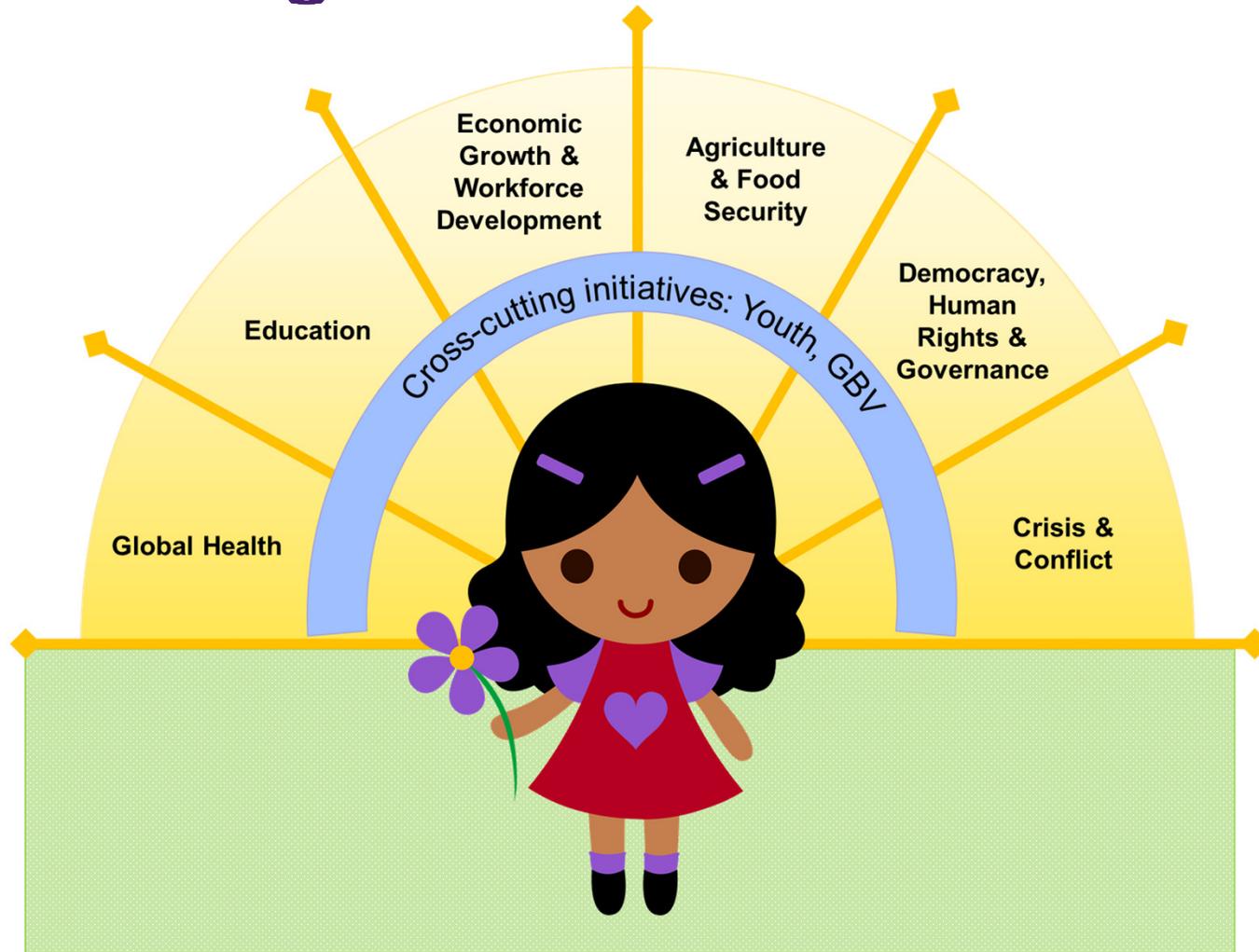
Projects vary in:

- Activities and objectives
- Type of participant/beneficiary

The important questions are different in different contexts.

- Geographically
- By socioeconomic group
- By level of development

Child Marriage: A Cross-Sectoral Issue



Integration Strategies: Global Health



- Comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education for married and unmarried adolescents
- Use of technology such as SMS or the Internet as tools for mass distribution of information
- Mass media and behavior change communication campaigns to influence and promote healthy sexual and reproductive health practices
- Education & mobilization of community members on the harmful health impacts of child marriage
- Sexual and reproductive health services tailored to married, unmarried adolescents, including maternal and child health programming
- Psychosocial services
- Youth-friendly services

Integration Strategies: Education



- Alternative, informal education for out-of-school girls
- Safe spaces
- Livelihoods/vocational training
- Economic support & incentives to help families overcome financial barriers to school attendance
- Community mobilization around importance of girls
- Initiatives to increase physical accessibility to school
- Initiatives to increase quality of education (teachers, curriculum)
- Initiatives to improve the safety of schools
- Train teachers on appropriate, non-violent instruction
- Monitor school campus
- Adequate, separate sanitation facilities for girls

Integration Strategies: Economic Development



- Workforce education and training- provision of technical and vocational skills
- Initiatives to increase financial literacy, savings and loans skills
- Connections with mentors, internships, and job placement
- Employment services – job placement, on-the-job training
- Entrepreneurship and enterprise development training
- Community mobilization around importance of investing in girls
- CCTs- conditional on the girl staying enrolled in a program, staying enrolled in school, or remaining unmarried until 18
- Financial support for school- (e.g., scholarships, school fees, materials, and/or uniforms)
- Subsidies or loans for key resources
- Partnerships with private sector actors

Integration Strategies: Agriculture & Nutrition



- Agricultural skills training – for both household consumption and income generation
- Life skills and empowerment training
- Nutrition education
- Targeting information and services to young mothers
- Provision of agricultural assets (e.g. livestock)
- Train and deploy female agricultural extension officers
- Property rights law reform

Integration Strategies: Democracy, Rights & Governance



- Empowering girls and women to advocate for their rights
- Working with men and boys to champion rights of women, girls
- Education campaigns with community members, local cultural and religious leaders, legal and police officers, and judicial officers so that all know the rights of women and girls related to child marriage and know their role in enforcing those rights
- Community mobilization around the importance of respecting and upholding the rights of women and children
- Coordination with local religious and cultural leaders to harmonize customary and national laws
- Access to justice through supportive judicial officers
- Establish minimum age of marriage of 18+ laws for girls, boys
- Stronger birth and marriage registration
- Enforcement of laws by legal and police officers

Integration Strategies: Crisis & Conflict Response



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- Safety & protection mechanisms
- Safe spaces
- Involve women and girls in design of response efforts
- Safe, accessible, quality schools
- Income generation opportunities
- Sexual and reproductive health and psycho-social services and counseling
- Strengthen legal frameworks

Integration Strategies: Gender-Based Violence



- Life skills and empowerment programs for women, girls
- Engaging men & boys
- Initiatives to enhance couple communication & joint decision-making
- Community mobilization – including education and sensitization through dialogue
- Legal aid
- Counseling and other health services targeted to women and girls who have experienced GBV
- Law enforcement
- Advocacy for gender-equitable laws & policies

Integration Strategies: Youth Programmes



- Engaging youth in programme design/implementation/eval
- Targeting vulnerable youth
- Innovative approaches to promote gender equitable norms among youth, e.g.: Sports, Dramas, Social media
- Safe spaces
- Life-skills and empowerment programming
- Initiatives to enhance livelihood skills and income-generation opportunities
- Initiatives that increase girls' access to, quality of school
- Opportunities for development of social networks
- Community sensitization & mobilization
- Youth participation in advocacy efforts

Small Group Activity

1. Define the problem(s) your project aims to address (justification).
2. Is child marriage addressed currently? Could it be?
3. Are there strategies we covered that you could integrate in the implementation of your project to strengthen a focus on child marriage prevention/response?
4. If so, are there relevant indicators you could measure in your program M&E to assess if you're having an impact?

Report back and Reflections