External Evaluation Report of *Girls Not Brides*' Learning Work 2020-2023

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Acronyms

CEFMU - Child, early and forced marriage and unions

CRANK - Child Marriage Research to Action Network

CBO - Community-based organisation

CSO - Civil society organisation

EOL - Education Out Loud

FGD - Focus group discussion

FGM/C - Female genital mutilation/cutting

GBV - Gender based violence

KIIs - Key Informant Interviews

LAC - Latin America and the Caribbean

NGO - Non-governmental organisation

NP - National Partnership

OECD/DAC - Organisation for economic co-operation and development / development assistance committee

SDGs - Sustainable development goals

SH - Stakeholder

SP - State Partnership

SRHR - Sexual and reproductive health and rights

STEAM - Science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics

UN - United Nations

UNCRC - United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

UNFPA - United Nations Population Fund

UNICEF - United Nations Children's Fund

1 Executive summary

This executive summary presents the key findings and recommendations from an independent evaluation of *Girls Not Brides: The Global Partnership to End Child Marriage's* learning work from 2020 to 2023. The evaluation aimed to assess the relevance, effectiveness and impact of *Girls Not Brides*' initiatives to leverage knowledge, learning and evidence to address child marriage.

Background

As a partnership of more than 1,400 civil society organisations in over 100 countries, *Girls Not Brides* stands at the forefront of efforts to end child marriage[1] and promote girls' rights. The global Partnership is supported by a secretariat. The *Girls Not Brides* Secretariat Strategy 2022-2025 outlines learning objectives to position *Girls Not Brides* as an effective shared learning and knowledge hub that generates, shares and facilitates the uptake of insights and evidence to drive impact, and enables stronger coordination of global, regional and national evidence generation to accelerate change to end child marriage.

To evaluate the impact of its learning work and identify areas for improvement, *Girls Not Brides* commissioned an external evaluation of its learning work from 2020 to 2023. The evaluation employed a mixed methods approach consisting of two multilingual surveys, focus group discussions (FGDs), and key informant interviews (KIIs). These tools assessed four key domains:

- Domain 1 – Broad offer resource production and sharing: Focused on learning products and spaces for all members, like briefs, reports, toolkits and webinars.
- Domain 2 – Learning for influencing and programming: Explored tailored learning support for member organisations, and National and State Partnerships and coalitions to integrate evidence into programming and advocacy.
- Domain 3 – Leadership and influence: *Girls Not Brides*' role as a thought leader on the child marriage agenda.
- Domain 4 – Research coordination and uptake: Assessed the Child Marriage Research to Action Network (CRANK) for sharing evidence and coordinating stakeholders.

Objective and methodology

The core evaluation objectives were:

- To assess the level of access and uptake of *Girls Not Brides*' learning resources by member organisations, donors, partners and other key stakeholders in the sector, and how these have informed their work.
- To assess the role of *Girls Not Brides* as a thought leader, sharing learning, evidence and recommendations around addressing child marriage and supporting girls who are – or have been

[1] The term "child marriage" refers to all forms – formal and informal – of child, early and forced marriage and unions where at least one party is under age 18; we use this term throughout this report. In sections regarding Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), we use the full term "child early and forced marriage and unions, CEFMU" to align with the reality and preference of *Girls Not Brides* member organisations in LAC, where informal unions are more common than formal marriages among those under age 18.

– married (ever-married girls), building a global understanding of the issue and what works to address it.

- To draw recommendations for improving the *Girls Not Brides* knowledge, evidence and learning work in the next phase of strategy implementation.

The evaluation design was structured in several phases, commencing with a **desk review**, followed by two **co-creation workshops** facilitated by the evaluation team in collaboration with relevant *Girls Not Brides* team members. The outcomes of these workshops and the design phase guided the evaluation through sampling, data collection, data cleaning and data analysis. A mixed methods approach was used for the data collection, and a purposive sampling method was used by *Girls Not Brides* to identify the participants.

For the collection of **quantitative data**, two surveys were employed as an efficient and fast method for gathering reliable quantitative data directly from a large sample of users, thus ensuring comprehensive data collection. A "member survey" was designed to gather data under Domain 1, Domain 2 and Domain 3. A separate survey, exclusively for CRANK members, was created to collect data under Domain 4, specifically examining the coordination, dissemination and uptake of evidence. Survey Monkey provided basic statistical analysis of the quantitative data. This analysis was reviewed, cleaned, and supplemented by manual numerical analysis of basic statistics such as averages and percentages.

The collection of **qualitative data** involved conducting Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with *Girls Not Brides* and CRANK members and Key Informant Interviews (KII) with strategic partners and donors. FGDs were employed to collect data relevant to both Domain 2 and Domain 4. Open-ended responses from the surveys provided additional qualitative data. The data analysis process was wrapped up through two **co-validation exercises** with *Girls Not Brides* team members and representatives from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), where key findings were shared, and meaning was co-created through collective discussion and consolidated through the report writing and finalisation process.

Key findings

Conducting a thorough analysis of the data collected, this segment emphasises the responses and insights provided by *Girls Not Brides* member organisations and other key stakeholders. The findings have been organised around the evaluation questions for each domain, and include syntheses regarding the relevance, effectiveness and impact of *Girls Not Brides*' learning initiatives. The objective in this section is to ensure accountability and capture actionable recommendations based on systematic stakeholder input to inform future efforts.]

Domain 1 – Resource production and dissemination

Analysis of domain one focussed on the extent broad offer learning products developed by *Girls Not Brides* (e.g., briefs, learning series, toolkits, reports, webinars) are relevant, high-quality and useful. It looked at how dissemination channels used by *Girls Not Brides* (e.g., newsletters, webinars, Learning and Resources web pages, Resource Centre) are relevant and effective in reaching and engaging the intended users.

Overall, findings demonstrate that *Girls Not Brides* offers a wide range of learning products, which are highly relevant, of high quality and valuable to member organisations.

Relevance

Learning products were clearly relevant to member organisations' work. They align well with member organisations' organisational objectives, themes and interests, and are highly useful for their advocacy, proposal development and programming work. The content reflects member organisations' contextual and programmatic experiences to a considerable extent.

There were differing opinions on the inclusion of member organisations' context and level of regional representation; Some suggested that more regional representation and a greater focus on context specific content is needed, with supporting examples and case studies. Some also recommended more extensive engagement at the local and/or country level, including more focus on local and country engagement in online global learning spaces and in-country learning events.

Quality

Learning content – including learning products and online learning spaces – was rated highly for quality and satisfaction; it is understandable, informative, well-structured, contextualised and supported by examples, so enhancing understanding.

Usefulness

Girls Not Brides learning products are widely accessible and frequently used by respondents, who expressed high satisfaction with their formats. However, some would also like shorter, more concise, visual and easy-to-understand products like audio-visual materials, infographics and animations.

Access

A significant majority of respondents found it easy to access and participate in *Girls Not Brides*' online learning spaces. Many gained new learning and insights – including from other member organisations – and used this in their organisational programming and advocacy work. Language accessibility is positively viewed, though there is demand for additional languages to be included.

Fewer respondents reported having the opportunity to contribute their own experiences or engage with other organisations in online learning spaces. There is also a request to make learning more accessible for young people and people with disabilities.

To further enhance these learning spaces, recommendations primarily focus on addressing barriers to internet access, facilitating knowledge sharing between member organisations, improving communication and reminders – with a particular focus on young people and people with disabilities – and engaging with local contexts by involving local leaders, sharing data with grassroots organisations, and conducting in-country learning events.

Domain 2 – Learning for influencing and programming

The member survey and case studies provide strong evidence that *Girls Not Brides* has effectively supported member organisations, National Partnerships and coalitions by providing tailored learning support. This capacity enhancement has strengthened civil society actors' abilities to undertake evidence-based programming and influencing efforts to address child marriage.

The survey revealed high participation rates, satisfaction levels and perceived capacity gains across diverse learning modalities including workshops, peer exchanges and webinars. These spaces

played a pivotal role in fostering vital collaboration, knowledge exchange and collective action among member organisations.

The three cases showcased complementary models of tailored support aligned to member organisations' needs:

- Facilitating participatory research to generate evidence and equip member organisations with data for advocacy (LAC brief development)
- Providing intensive organisational development support to National Partnerships embarking on strategic planning processes (Uganda co-creation project)
- Conducting skills training workshops and exchanges to enhance capabilities for evidence-based advocacy (EOL-funded workshops in West Africa)

However, the evaluation also identified priorities for strengthening *Girls Not Brides*' capacity building approaches. This includes expanding high-demand training, promoting more in-person peer exchanges, customising workshops based on organisations' unique contexts, and prioritising building capacity among grassroots and youth groups with the greatest needs. Additional recommendations are fostering ongoing communities of practice for knowledge sharing and enhancing follow-up support after workshops to aid practical application.

By refining learning approaches based on systematic member input and tailoring capacity enhancement to critical needs, *Girls Not Brides* can further deepen civil society expertise. This will empower organisations to undertake even more effective, evidence-based programming and advocacy on child marriage going forward.

Domain 3 – Leadership and influence

Globally, *Girls Not Brides*' role as a thought leader that uses evidence to influence policy and programmatic interventions to end child marriage is widely recognised. *Girls Not Brides* is doing well on sharing learning, promoting promising practices and contributing to shaping the debate around the child marriage agenda. Continue this strong work.

The findings point towards continuing to strengthen *Girls Not Brides*' leadership role in spotlighting critical insights. Leveraging *Girls Not Brides*' vital role as a convenor in bringing together diverse child marriage stakeholders from different sectors, constituencies and regions is critical to build common understanding.

Key informants emphasised *Girls Not Brides*' convening role. Data also highlighted *Girls Not Brides*' distinct value in continuous efforts to unite disparate voices. The findings encourage the organisation to proactively focus efforts on increasing its leadership and influence at the regional level, by investing in convening regional actors and amplifying region-specific priorities.

Domain 4 – Research dissemination and coordination

The CRANK is effectively serving its core objective to disseminate evidence on child marriage priority topics and deepening many stakeholders' understanding of child marriage evidence, solutions and emerging priorities. Its role in evidence sharing is highly valued by diverse respondents.

The data confirms the CRANK's role in production of timely synthesis of evidence resources and meeting round up materials in an accessible and engaging format that allow stakeholders worldwide to benefit and draw from the latest evidence and discussions on child marriage to

support and inform their programmatic, research and advocacy efforts, identify research gaps and learn from the content and discussions of research meetings even if unable to directly participate.

The survey and FGD data converge to underline one of the CRANK's core strengths as an inclusive platform for disseminating the latest evidence on child marriage and facilitating global knowledge exchange between diverse stakeholders. The data affirms the CRANK's value in connecting actors across regions to shape a dynamic, shared understanding of priority issues and solutions related to addressing child marriage globally. The African perspectives underscore the CRANK's role in shaping regional and national efforts.

The survey results demonstrated a high satisfaction with the CRANK's evidence and knowledge exchange role amongst its diverse stakeholders including researchers, practitioners, advocates and policymakers. The CRANK was also considered effective in communicating technical information in a clear format to global audiences , with CRANK resources considered effective for informing members' work. The CRANK is successful in facilitating the sharing and discussions on priority research topics and identifying research priorities and gaps, ensuring there is a clear focus on evidence that provides learnings on solutions and what works to end child marriage and support married girls.

The CRANK successfully highlights valuable research, yet findings indicate additional emphasis could be placed on deriving practical lessons and recommendations from this evidence to catalyse research uptake. However, developing implementation guidance tailored to different users may require efforts beyond the CRANK's current scope and is likely better situated at regional and national levels.

Recommendations

Recommendations in this segment have been built on the information from the respondents and relating to the findings that have come through the different data collection tools. Some of the recommendations could be interconnected and relevant for multiple domains, and are being highlighted here as integrated areas of work.

Continue doing more of:

- Producing more "action-oriented" multimedia, multilingual learning products like briefs, toolkits, and videos. This can make the learning products be more accessible and contextual to younger, non-academic and even community-based stakeholders who can also make more use of these products within their own working areas.
- Leveraging inclusive online/in-person convenings for knowledge exchange and networking, to engage more stakeholders in the broader movement space. So, even those who are not directly engaging on CEFMU issues, can still find value in engaging with *Girls Not Brides* platforms and resources and be able to understand the connection with their areas of work and interests.
- Delivering tailored capacity building aligned with organisations' unique needs, contexts, and interests. This can be around topics like women's economic empowerment, climate change issues, or fundraising, that can enhance how the organisations are able to engage and build up their own portfolio of work.
- Asserting leadership by spotlighting critical issues and bringing together diverse voices. As a convenor *Girls Not Brides* brings value to the discourse and advocacy areas in the movement space, both globally and at the regional level.

- Generating accessible evidence review resources like CRANK meeting summaries and research spotlights. These products have shown to be quite valuable as an evidence-based resource which is being used by organisations for knowledge sharing and uptake for programming and advocacy engagements.

Start doing:

- Adopt targeted digital marketing strategies beyond membership to engage broader audiences, like young advocates and community-based organisations in the broader movement space, who are not directly working on CEFMU issues. This can help to expand alliances and interconnected working relationships.
- Strengthen expertise sharing and leadership on child marriage at regional and national levels. Building on the role that *Girls Not Brides* play at a global level, encouraging more regional and national leadership for more active participation and engagement of the platforms.
- Increase accessibility of knowledge products to users with different access needs and disabilities, to have a bigger outreach for users of the learning products.
- Have more country and regional specific learning products, highlighting practical and contextual practices. In particular, to strengthen its role as a knowledge broker to facilitate inclusion of evidence and knowledge from the global South.
- Provide long-term learning support to National Partnerships and coalitions. There is an ask from members for a long term strategy that focuses on sustained technical and financial support for national partnerships and their members.
- Provide more implementation guidance to translate CRANK evidence into practical tools for end users. Strengthening practices towards a more equitable knowledge system that can address systemic inequities which currently limit a diversity in the evidence (particularly evidence from grassroots organisations, southern-based research institutes, etc).
- Diversify CRANK coordination by establishing localised chapters focused on context-specific priority setting, could be based on themes or regional focus areas. This can also encourage more regional or national-level engagement of knowledge creation which will be more locally-based and contextual.

Conclusion

The evaluation affirms *Girls Not Brides*' vital role as a knowledge leader and its effectiveness in ensuring member organisations can access current, context-relevant evidence through diverse learning initiatives. But findings reveal opportunities to amplify impact by adopting more inclusive, locally-attuned, context-specific approaches that encourage more local and youth participation. By refining strategies based on systematic stakeholder feedback, *Girls Not Brides* can continue nurturing a dynamic evidence ecosystem that fuels progress towards ending child marriage and supporting ever-married girls worldwide.

2 Introduction and background

Girls Not Brides: The Global Partnership to End Child Marriage envisions 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. Currently, *Girls Not Brides* boasts a diverse membership base of over 1,400 organisations in more than 100 countries across Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas.

Girls Not Brides member organisations approach the issue from a variety of sectors, including girls' rights, gender equality, education, health, child protection and justice. Notably, 82% of member organisations operate at the community level, nearly 40% are youth-led and just 11% are international non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The *Girls Not Brides* secretariat works with member organisations and supporters to advance the knowledge base on child marriage, raise awareness of the issue, and campaign for legal and social change.

Steered by a secretariat and driven by its diverse membership, *Girls Not Brides* has been instrumental in spotlighting the issue of child marriage globally. The organisation has fostered an understanding of the actions needed to end child marriage and support girls who are – or have been – married (ever-married girls), and has played a critical role in advocating for effective laws, policies and programmes at the national, regional and global levels. It

Girls Not Brides has also generated resources to support the uptake of evidence, knowledge and learning, and played a critical role in amplifying a coordinated learning agenda on ending child marriage and supporting ever-married girls. Today, it stands as a dynamic global force on the issue, with a unique position to both coordinate global research efforts and ensure that research findings are broadly shared and used.

In 2021, following a period of self-analysis and consultation with member organisations, donors and partners, *Girls Not Brides* developed a Partnership Strategy 2022-25, providing a roadmap with six goals for collective action for the global Partnership. A separate Secretariat Strategy 2022-25 defines the role and work of the secretariat, focusing on three strategic objectives: movement-building, influencing and learning.

Against this backdrop, *Girls Not Brides* – in consultation with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) – conducted an evaluation of its learning work between 2020 and 2023. The learning work was selected as a focus because it is a core area for the secretariat's current and previous strategies, and an evaluation would help the organisation improve the implementation of its learning work throughout the remainder of the strategy period.

About *Girls Not Brides'* learning work

The strategic objective of *Girls Not Brides*' learning work is "Leverage knowledge, learning and evidence to address child marriage across the movement". *Girls Not Brides*' work in this area consists of:

- Being a "go-to" and trusted source of information on child marriage for civil society organisations, experts working in the field, interested governments, donors and the general public.
- A global knowledge and learning hub, working with member organisations to document, collate and share information and evidence on what works to end child marriage and support ever-

married girls, and supporting effective action and results within the global Partnership and broader movement.

- Facilitating peer learning and knowledge exchange with and between member organisations, National and State Partnerships and coalitions, and the broader movement.
- Supporting the uptake of knowledge, learning and evidence by member organisations and National/State Partnerships and coalitions to increase the quality and impact of their collective programming and evidence-based influencing.
- Coordinating global, regional and national evidence generation through convening diverse stakeholders, identifying evidence gaps and catalysing collective efforts to strengthen the evidence base on what works to end child marriage and support ever-married girls.
- Amplifying member voices, priorities, expertise and influence in the knowledge ecosystem.
- Influencing the learning and evidence agendas at global, regional and national level by centring member organisations' needs.

This evaluation aims to maintain accountability to *Girls Not Brides* member organisations, partners, donors and – most importantly – the millions of girls it serves worldwide. It will offer invaluable insights and recommendations to guide the secretariat's future endeavours.

3 Methodology

This section lays out the purpose and approach, scope, evaluation design, evaluation questions, data collection tools, and limitations and constraints in the assessment.

3.1 Evaluation purpose and approach

The core evaluation objectives are:

- To assess the level of access and uptake of *Girls Not Brides*' learning resources by member organisations, donors, partners and other key stakeholders in the sector, and how these have informed their work.
- To assess the role of *Girls Not Brides* as a thought leader, sharing learning (including learning from civil society organisations), evidence and recommendations around ending child marriage and supporting ever-married girls, building a global understanding of the issue and what works to address it.
- To draw recommendations for improving the *Girls Not Brides'* knowledge, evidence and learning work in the next phase of strategy implementation.

The evaluation was guided by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)/Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Quality Standards for Development Evaluation. It also abides by the professional Programme Evaluation ethics and standards of the Joint Committee on Standards for Educational Evaluation, the official source for evaluation standards in the United States and Canada. These standards were adapted to local and national contexts and the specific objectives of this evaluation.

The key evaluation quality standards adhered to were: partnership and collaborative approach, capacity development, accuracy, methodological rigour and quality control. We also practised the following evaluation ethics: integrity, honesty, clarity, fairness in addressing stakeholder needs and purposes, respect for local and cultural contexts, respect for the human rights and dignity of all stakeholders and participants, and reflective evaluation: mindful of privilege and power dynamics, and the interests and needs of different groups.

3.2 Scope

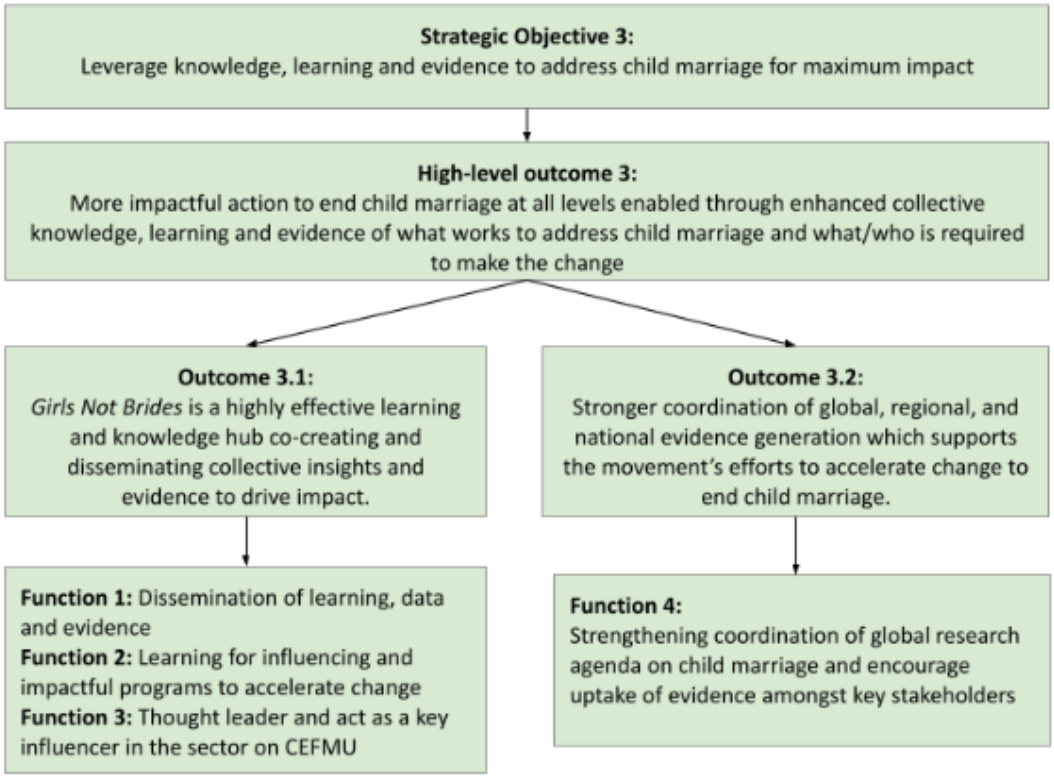
The evaluation assessed the relevance, effectiveness and impact of *Girls Not Brides*' learning work from 2020 to 2023. The learning objective included in the Sida proposal in 2020 related to Outcomes 3.1 and 3.2 of the Secretariat Strategy 2022-25 (See Table 1 below). So, the scope of the evaluation is on Outcomes 3.1 and 3.2 in relation to High-level outcome number 3 under Strategic Objective 3: Leverage knowledge, learning and evidence to address child marriage. The scope of the evaluation is displayed in the green boxes in Figure 1 below.

Table 1: Evolvement of learning objectives and outcomes between 2020 and 2022

Learning objective in 2020 Sida proposal	Learning objectives and outcomes in Secretariat Strategy 2022-25

Objective 2: The movement has evidence, information and learning to take effective action	**Objective 3:** Leverage knowledge, learning and evidence to address child marriage
Outcomes: ● Increased access by *Girls Not Brides* members to resources and materials to strengthen their work to end child marriage ● Key stakeholders adopt *Girls Not Brides*' positions on the best approaches to ending child marriage ● Increased research, learning and coordination among *Girls Not Brides* members and stakeholders to support the field	**Outcome 3.1:** *Girls Not Brides* is a highly effective learning and knowledge hub co-creating and disseminating collective insights and evidence to drive impact. **Outcome 3.2:** Stronger coordination of global, regional and national evidence generation which supports the movement's efforts to accelerate change to end child marriage.

Figure 1: Scope of the evaluation



3.3 Evaluation design

The evaluation design was structured in several phases, commencing with a desk review, followed by two co-creation workshops facilitated by the evaluation team in collaboration with relevant *Girls*

Not Brides team members. The outcomes of these workshops and the design phase are explained in the Inception Report. This report guided the evaluation through sampling, data collection, data cleaning and data analysis.

After the data analysis phase, two co-validation exercises with *Girls Not Brides* team members and Sida representatives where held, in which key findings were shared for collective discussion and validation. The evaluation process was wrapped up with the submission of a final written report to *Girls Not Brides*.

Desk review

The evaluation team received a set of selected publications and reports from *Girls Not Brides*, which laid the groundwork for the evaluation. To contextualise these learning materials within the scope of the evaluation, we reviewed additional resources available on the *Girls Not Brides* online Resource Centre. The desk review encompassed a wide range of document types, including yearly impact reports, thematic and advocacy briefs collaboratively crafted across various regions, research spotlights, and summaries of regional and global summits. This comprehensive approach aimed to gather a diverse range of data sources to inform the evaluation design.

Co-creation workshops

Two co-creation workshops were conducted, facilitated by the evaluation team. These workshops served as platforms for gathering inputs from *Girls Not Brides* secretariat team members. The collaborative discussions during these workshops proved instrumental in selecting the most pertinent evaluation questions, methods and samples for assessing each of the domains. Inputs from teams based in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) played a crucial role in the selection of specific case studies and samples to be focused on during the data collection. The outcomes of these workshops were pivotal in finalising the inception report.

Structure of the evaluation

Based on the outcomes of the co-creation workshops, the evaluation was structured around four interconnected domains encompassing Outcomes 3.1 and 3.2, along with *Girls Not Brides*' learning-related functions (as illustrated in Table 1 and Figure 1 on page 12). Each of these functions was associated with a specific workstream.

Domain 1: Broad offer resource production and dissemination

This domain focused on the learning products (like briefs, toolkits, reports, infographics, etc.) and learning spaces (like webinars) that *Girls Not Brides* compiles and shares with all member organisations. These learning products often cater to a wide audience and are informed by data, evidence and the experiences and learning of member organisations. A total of 29 learning products and 10 learning spaces were compiled and shared during the evaluation period.

Domain 2: Learning for influencing and programming (at country and regional level)

This domain focused on the in-depth support that *Girls Not Brides* offers its member organisations, National/State Partnerships and coalitions at the country and regional levels to use data, evidence and learning for their collective programming and influencing work. This support includes collaborative efforts with member organisations to review relevant data and evidence to inform their work, and offering support for training and capacity enhancement. In addition to the member

survey, three case studies were selected for assessment, as concrete examples of *Girls Not Brides'* work under this domain. These case studies are:

1. Collaborative process with civil society partners in LAC to develop an evidence-based brief highlighting the impacts of child marriage on girls' unpaid care work.
2. Co-creation process with members of *Girls Not Brides Uganda* to develop an evidence-based strategy and workplan for their collective programming and advocacy.
3. Using data, evidence and learning to strengthening collective advocacy in French-speaking West Africa to implement laws, policies and programmes to end child marriage and improve girls' access to education (a project funded by Education Out Loud).

Following extensive consultations with *Girls Not Brides* colleagues and member organisations in India, a collective decision was made not to include a fourth case study based in India. This was deemed necessary to safeguard the safety and security of *Girls Not Brides* and its member organisations in a context of heightened scrutiny of NGOs and CSOs involved in activities to influence government policies in the country.

Domain 3: Leadership and influence on the child marriage agenda

This domain focused on the role of *Girls Not Brides* in the global ecosystem, bringing knowledge, learning and evidence on ending child marriage to the global stage and exercising its role as a thought leader on child marriage.

Domain 4: Coordination, dissemination and uptake of child marriage research and evidence

This domain focused on *Girls Not Brides'* role in strengthening the coordination of the global research agenda on child marriage, and encouraging uptake of evidence by key stakeholders. We particularly focused on the Child Marriage Research to Action Network (the CRANK), a joint initiative implemented by *Girls Not Brides* and the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage.

Selection of data collection methods and relevant samples

In the co-creation workshops, it was collectively decided to employ a mixed methods approach to collect quantitative and qualitative data. A purposive sampling method was used to identify relevant participants for the assessment.

For the collection of quantitative data, two surveys were employed as the efficient and fast method for gathering reliable quantitative data directly from a large sample of users, thus ensuring comprehensive data collection. *Girls Not Brides* selected the sampling for the two surveys: 1) All member organisations and 2) All members of the CRANK.

The collection of qualitative data mainly involved conducting Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with regional member representatives and Key Informant Interviews (KII) with strategic partners and donors. The *Girls Not Brides* team shared a list of participants for the focus group discussions (FGD) and key informant interviews (KII), guided by criteria provided by the evaluation team.

Once the data was triangulated from the different methods used, the data analysis process was wrapped up through two co-validation exercises with Girls Not Brides staff and Sida representatives where key findings were shared, and meaning was co-created through collective discussion and consolidated along with the report writing and finalisation process

3.4 Evaluation questions

Six core evaluation questions were formulated under each domain. To delve deeper into these evaluation questions, sub-questions were developed to guide the data collection and analysis process. Annex 1 provides the detailed evaluation questions to guide inquiry under each domain.

Domain 1: Broad offer resource production and dissemination

- **Q1.** To what extent are the broad offer learning products developed by *Girls Not Brides* (e.g., briefs, learning series, toolkits, reports, webinars) relevant, high-quality, and useful for its users?
- **Q2.** To what extent have the dissemination channels utilised by *Girls Not Brides* (e.g., newsletters, webinars, Learning and Resource web pages, Resource Centre) been relevant and effective in reaching and engaging the intended users?

Domain 2: Learning for influencing and programming (at country and regional level)

- **Q3.** How effectively has *Girls Not Brides* supported member organisations, National and State Partnerships and coalitions at country and regional level with learning to support their influencing and programming on ending child marriage?

Domain 3: Leadership and influence on the child marriage agenda

- **Q4.** As the representative voice of an extensive global Partnership, to what extent does *Girls Not Brides* leverage its accumulated knowledge, learning and evidence to assert its role as a leading advocate and influencer in the child marriage landscape? How effectively does it shape the discourse, bring new perspectives (particularly from civil society), and prioritise the issue at global, regional and national levels? How often do other organisations seek its advice or form partnerships based on its expertise in work to end child marriage and support ever-married girls?

Domain 4: Coordination, dissemination and uptake of child marriage research and evidence

- **Q5.** To what extent has the CRANK: 1) supported the dissemination of evidence on child marriage priority learning topics to inform and strengthen child marriage interventions and policies; 2) fostered increased coordination among key stakeholders (including researchers, practitioners, policymakers, advocates and donors) in their research and programmatic responses, promoting a more harmonised agenda and evidence-based action to end child marriage.

3.5 Data collection

Surveys

Two surveys were used to gather input and feedback from a wide range of member organisations and stakeholders. One survey was conducted for all *Girls Not Brides* member organisations, with the objective to gather data under Domain 1, Domain 2 and Domain 3. A section of the survey was designed only for respondents from priority countries which *Girls Not Brides* provides deep accompaniment to: Burkina Faso, Guatemala, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Uganda (Domain 2).

A separate survey was created to collect data under Domain 4, for CRANK members (which also include some *Girls Not Brides* member organisations alongside other researchers, policymakers, practitioners and donors).

These surveys included a combination of closed and open-ended questions, allowing for a comprehensive exploration of key themes. The surveys were crafted through close collaboration between the consultant and *Girls Not Brides* teams. Multiple iterations were employed to refine and enhance the surveys, aligning them with the specific objectives of the evaluation.

The surveys were produced in *Girls Not Brides'* core languages (English, French and Spanish) to ensure all participants could effectively engage with them. All versions were set up in the Survey Monkey online platform by the consultant team, leveraging the platform's multilingual survey functionality.

The member survey was sent to heads of organisations and membership contacts of all 1,414[2] *Girls Not Brides* member organisations through Campaign Monitor on 23 August, 2023. Invitations were sent to multiple individuals within some organisations to encourage widespread engagement. The CRANK survey was sent via the same means on 24 August, 2023. The *Girls Not Brides* team members also sent follow-up emails to encourage participation and so gain more comprehensive feedback.

The administration and management of the surveys within the Survey Monkey platform was overseen by the evaluation team. The surveys were officially closed on 12 September, 2023, marking the culmination of the data collection phase.

Table 2: Survey respondents

Method	Process	Respondents
Member survey	Total number of individuals survey was sent to: 2,292 English: 1,794 French: 352 Spanish: 146 Total number of member organisations survey was sent to: 1,414 Note: Surveys were sometimes sent to more than one person per organisation	239 individuals responded to the survey Response rate: 10% of total sample size 175 respondents completed the survey (e.g. answered all relevant questions) Completion rate: 61% of respondents # Countries represented: 45 Types of organisations represented: National NGO or civil society organisation: 61% Women-led organisation: 41% Community-based organisation: 30% Youth-led organisation: 17% Regional organisation: 6% International NGO: 6% Coalition or network: 9% Other: 3%

[2] Accurate at the time of sending the survey on 23 August.

CRANK survey	Total number of individuals survey was sent to: 594 English: 522 French: 47 Spanish: 25	35 individuals who responded to the survey Response rate: 6% of total sample size Out of the 35 respondents, 57% are members of *Girls Not Brides* and 43% were CRANK members who are not members of *Girls Not Brides* (e.g. researchers, policymakers, practitioners or donors) 26 respondents completed the survey (i.e answered all relevant questions) Completion rate: 74% of survey respondents

Focus Group Discussions

Data collection through FGD involved a collaborative and interactive process using various digital platforms. FGDs were employed to collect data relevant to both Domain 2 and Domain 4, with a particular focus on the CRANK. The FGDs were conducted using online boards, chat discussions, and Zoom sessions, allowing participants to provide written inputs and engage in meaningful discussions. The following FGDs were carried out as part of the data collection process:

1. **Co-creation process on child, early and forced marriage and unions[3] and care:** This FGD involved representatives from 11 member organisations from two countries, Guatemala and Mexico. Participants shared their insights and experiences, contributing valuable data to the evaluation.
2. **Co-creation process in Uganda:** This FGD involved five members of the *Girls Not Brides Uganda* National Partnership.
3. **Education Out Loud (EOL) project in French-speaking West Africa:** Eight representatives from member organisations in from seven countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo) took part in this FGD.
4. **The Child Marriage Research to Action Network (the CRANK):** Six CRANK members engaged in discussions and shared their expertise.

These FGDs facilitated rich conversations and the collection of valuable insights, making them an integral part of the data collection process for the evaluation.

Key Informant Interviews

Data collection through KII involved engaging in online discussions with key representatives from strategic partners and donor organisations. These interviews were conducted via Zoom, providing a platform for in-depth conversations and data collection. The following strategic partners and donor organisations actively participated in the KII, offering their valuable insights and perspectives:

(a) 2 representatives from Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)

[3] Throughout the report, we have used the term "child marriage" to refer to all forms of child, early and forced marriage and unions where at least one party is under the age of 18. In this case, we use the full term to align with the reality and preference of Girls Not Brides member organisations in LAC, where informal unions are more common than formal marriages among those under age 18.

(b) 1 representative from Oak Foundation.
(c) 1 representative from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and 1 representative from United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).
(d) 2 representatives from Global Affairs Canada.

The KII with these strategic partners and donor organisations added a significant dimension to the data collection process, ensuring a well-rounded and comprehensive approach to gathering information and insights for the evaluation.

Triangulation of analysis

The data collected from these mixed methods was triangulated. Data triangulation (using different data sources) and method triangulation (employing various data collection methods) were used to arrive at the findings in the section below.

3.6 Constraints and limitations

Surveys

Both surveys encountered a notably low response rate in relation to the total sample size, which included the entire population of individuals the survey was sent to. The member survey elicited a 10% response rate, while the CRANK survey garnered a 6% response rate. Consequently, the survey results are not statistically generalizable to the entire sample and are only representative of those who actively participated in the surveys.

The member survey's length, with 54 questions, likely presented a challenge for respondents, resulting in a 61% completion rate. However, considering the length of the survey, this completion rate is high and satisfactory. Moreover, respondents actively responded to open-ended questions and provided ample qualitative data to supplement and enrich the quantitative data.

Recognising the potential impact of survey length on participation and completion rates, recommendations for enhancing future survey responses include shortening the survey to a more manageable and concise format to encourage higher participation. Pre-announcing the survey and its objectives in advance and collecting survey responses over a longer period can increase the response rate.

A section of the member survey (six questions) targeted respondents from priority countries only: Burkina Faso, Guatemala, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Tanzania and Uganda. Respondents were required to answer "yes" that they are from those countries to proceed to this section. Respondents were also prompted twice that the section is for member organisations from these priority countries only. During data analysis, when responses from this priority country section were cross-checked with the required member information question asking the respondent to select the country where their organisation is based, it was found that a range of 1-5 responses per question was received from respondents whose organisation is not based in one of the clearly stated priority countries. As it is not possible to explain the discrepancy in the reporting of the member organisation country, these responses are included in the data analysis and findings.

While conducting data analysis, we employed the DeepL online translation tool to translate open-ended survey responses from French and Spanish into English. The tool provided translations of sufficient quality for the purpose of data analysis. Any translated quotes featured in the survey results are based on these translations.

The number of survey responses varied for each question, depending on both the survey skip logic and whether respondents chose to skip specific questions. In any survey findings described throughout this report, “respondents” refers to the specific respondents who responded to each question, and not all respondents who took the survey.

Focus Group Discussions

In two of our FGDs, participants communicated in French and Spanish, while the facilitator conversed in English. Specifically, participants from West Africa discussing the EOL-funded project learning spaces used French, and participants from LAC discussing the care brief spoke in Spanish. Professional interpreters arranged by *Girls Not Brides* provided live interpretation between French and English and between Spanish and English using the Zoom meeting platform.

To document these discussions, we relied on the recorded interpretations from Zoom's dedicated English, French and Spanish channels. In addition, we used DeepL to translate the French and Spanish responses into English. The quotes and data analyses in this report are based on these English translations. While we have made significant efforts to ensure translation accuracy, translations might not always capture the full nuance of the original language. Nevertheless, we are confident that any adaptations are minimal and faithfully reflect the sentiments articulated by the participants.

Scheduling the CRANK FGD presented challenges, as many participants were unavailable on proposed dates. Despite rescheduling, only two participants were able to join the discussion. However, four respondents who could not attend the FGD provided written responses to the FGD questions via email, which were included in the CRANK data set. These written responses complemented the data collected from the survey and FGD, providing a more comprehensive view of the CRANK data.

4 Key findings and analysis

This section offers a thorough analysis of the data collected. It emphasises the responses and insights provided by *Girls Not Brides* member organisations and other key stakeholders. Organised around the evaluation questions for each domain, it synthesises evidence regarding the relevance, effectiveness, and impact of *Girls Not Brides*' learning initiatives. The objective in this section is to ensure accountability and capture actionable recommendations based on systematic stakeholder input to inform future work.

4.1 Domain 1: Broad offer resource production and dissemination

This domain focused on the learning products (e.g. briefs, toolkits, reports, infographics, etc.) and learning spaces (e.g., webinars) that *Girls Not Brides* compiles and shares with all member organisations. These learning products often cater to a wide audience and are informed by both data, evidence and the experiences and learning of member organisations. A total of 29 learning products and 10 learning spaces were compiled and shared during the evaluation period. The evaluation questions to assess this domain are:

Evaluation Question 1: To what extent are the broad offer learning products developed by *Girls Not Brides* (e.g., *briefs, toolkit, reports, infographics*) relevant, high-quality and useful for its users?

Evaluation Question 2: To what extent have the dissemination channels used by *Girls Not Brides* (e.g., newsletters, webinars, Learning and Resource web pages, Resource Centre) been relevant and effective in reaching and engaging the intended users?

Findings from the member survey

Relevance, quality, and usefulness of broad offer learning products

Overall satisfaction with learning products is high, with an average rating of 4.39 out of 5 and half of respondents rating their satisfaction level as 5. Respondents commented: *"We are very pleased with these products, which contain a wealth of information and strategies to combat child marriage"* and *"PAFED is satisfied with the products because they enable us to learn lessons so that we can continue to seek strategies to better combat child marriage in our communities."*

Relevance of learning products for member organisations' work was rated very highly at 4.6 out of 5, with 71% of respondents giving a rating of 5. The learning products demonstrate strong alignment with members' organisational objectives, themes and needs. For example, a respondent expressed: *"Girls Not Brides themes often touch on activities in our community. These themes become a resource tool for us."*

Learning products are also very useful for member organisations' advocacy, proposal and programming work. The survey findings show that 51% of respondents used the data or evidence in their work, 50% used the learning products to support their advocacy work, 48% developed new ideas or strategies, and 38% designed or improved projects or programmes. Respondents commented: *"We use the relevant global and regional information and data for designing the advocacy strategy papers and developing project proposals on diverse social and gender issues for specific socio-geographies."*

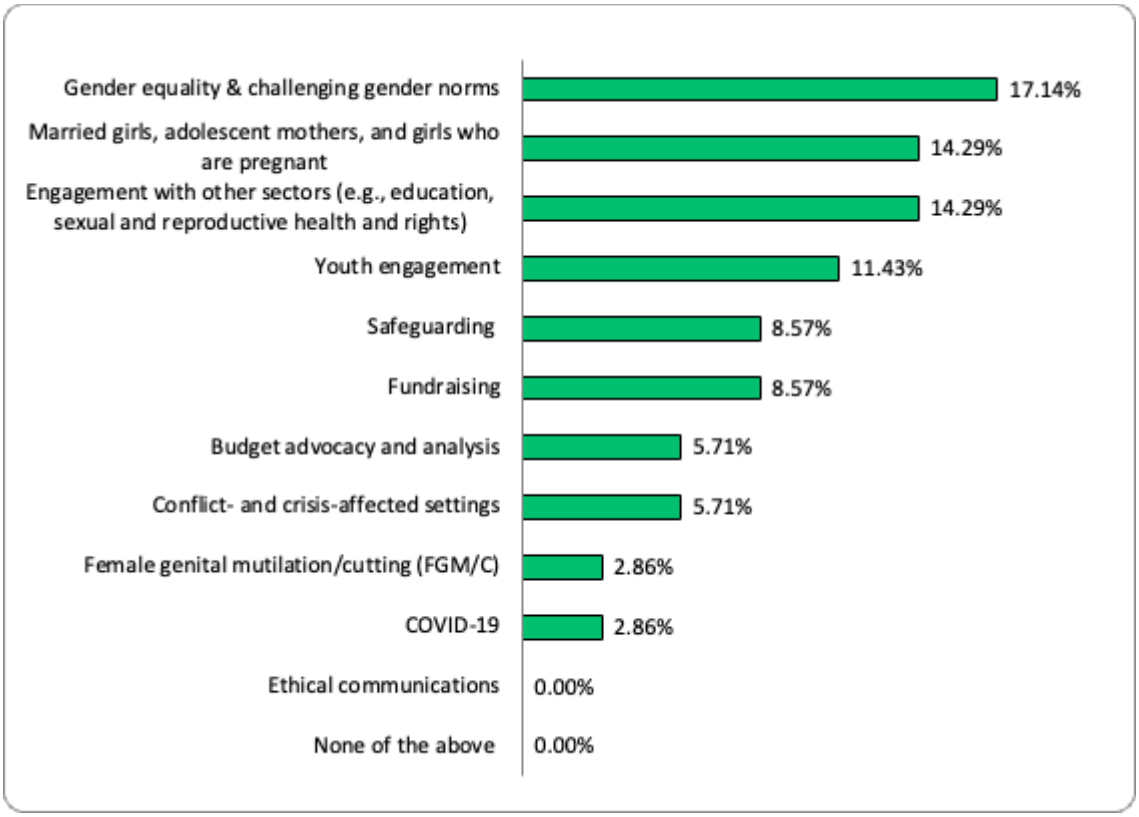
"Through the relevant and always available learning products, we have had the opportunity to gather materials and learnt info that assisted us in applying for grants."

"It helps me with advocacy, as a support tool (evidence) to facilitate understanding of the situation with authorities, colleagues, and other key actors."

Themes

Based on the survey data, *Girls Not Brides*' wide range of themes covered since 2020 have been well-received by respondents, with a satisfaction rating of 4.25 out of 5, and half of the respondents rating their satisfaction as a perfect 5. When examining the usefulness of themes, respondents were asked to choose their top five most useful themes out of the 11 existing themes presented. These survey results are displayed below.

Figure 2 . Usefulness of themes to respondents (n= 233)



About half the respondents (46%) expressed a desire for additional themes that are relevant to their work but not currently covered by *Girls Not Brides*' learning products. Open-ended responses providing theme suggestions were coded and categorised into the themes in Table 3 below. Some of these themes may already be covered by *Girls Not Brides*, but respondents may not be aware of them or may wish to emphasise these themes.

Table 3 . Themes suggested by respondents

Suggested themes (based on data analysis of open-ended responses)	Details of respondent suggestions & quotes

Education / girls' education (13 suggestions)	● Girls' education, school completion, inclusion education, reintegration (e.g. post-COVID), including for internally displaced girls and girls at-risk of early marriage. ● Adolescent girls: Higher education and skill development, skill training. ● Girls' education in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).
Conflict- and crisis-affected settings (10 suggestions) Note: This is an existing theme that was listed in the survey	● Peace-building. ● Early marriage among refugees and internally displaced persons. ● The resilience of women victims of GBV in areas affected by security crisis. ● SRHR in humanitarian settings.
Empowerment of girls, women, mothers, and girl mothers (6 suggestions)	● Economic empowerment ● "Capacity building...empowerment for girl mothers married at an early age and for mothers who have no choice but to marry their children." ● "Empowering single mothers who are victims of early marriage in Northern Uganda." ● "Campaign for making girls-friendly [schools], local governments and adequate funding for girls' empowerment."
Gender-based violence (5 suggestions)	● Gender-based violence and the environment. ● The resilience of women victims of GBV in areas affected by a security crisis.
Environment / climate change / climate action (5 suggestions)	● "Climate change and humanitarian setup"
Advocacy, laws, or rights (5 suggestions)	● Policy Advocacy regarding Children Act, 2013 ● International laws and girl rights ● "Country based advocacy and engagement of local Girls Not Brides members" ● 'Interface with UNCRC and local laws" ● "Engaging decision makers to help girls thrive"
Reintegration (4 suggestions)	● School reintegration for girls (12-16 years). ● Legal assistance, economic/socio-economic integration of girls and women who have been in early and forced marriages. ● "Reintegration of runaway child brides using rehabilitation [centres] or homes."
Mental health (4 suggestions)	● Psychological care for displaced girls and families. ● Psychosocial support and mental health for adolescents, girls and mothers.

Male / men / masculinity (4 suggestions)	● Engagement of men and boys (strategies) . ● "Male factor in [the] Girls Not Brides project." ● "Positive Masculinity."
Fundraising (4 suggestions) Note: This is an existing theme that was listed in the survey	● Fundraising. ● Resource mobilisation.

Other themes that were suggested by no more than a few respondents each include: beliefs – ethics, culture, faith, racism; strategies to end child marriage (mobilising the private sector, community-led approaches, girls' STEM education); forced labour/trafficking; direct funding/grant support to member organisations; training for member organisations (e.g. entrepreneurship, leadership, life skills); awareness-raising about child marriage; approaches to managing child marriage (case management, family engagement); menstrual hygiene; technology (digital literacy, artificial intelligence); people and youth with disabilities; entrepreneurship; food security; leaders (adolescent, cultural); comparative country analysis; life in tribal areas; marriage and consent; child-headed households; safe motherhood; healthcare; infrastructure; girls' access to public spaces and sports and mobility; gender and media; personal growth; proposal writing; and monitoring and evaluation.

The feedback from respondents suggests that while the existing themes listed in the survey have been well-received, there is also a need for diversifying and broadening the range of topics addressed by *Girls Not Brides*' learning products. As shown by the suggested themes that were highlighted by respondents, there is growing interest in topics such as girls' education; empowerment of girls and women; gender-based violence; the environment and climate change; advocacy/laws/rights; reintegration of girls and women who have been in early and forced marriages; and engaging with men, boys and masculinities. This desire for additional themes reflects the dynamic and evolving needs of member organisations working to address child marriage and promote gender equality.

Accessibility of learning products

The survey results indicate a very high level of access to *Girls Not Brides*' learning products among respondents:

- **Access:** Over 90% of respondents have accessed (e.g. viewed or read) a learning product, showing the learning products have wide reach.
- **Frequency:** Frequency of access is also high, with over half of respondents accessing resources more than 5 times per year. This demonstrates regular, ongoing use of the materials.
- **Language:** Language accessibility is viewed positively by over 90% of respondents, though some language localisation is still needed to cater to the diverse linguistic backgrounds of the membership. Respondents suggested the inclusion of these additional languages:Arabic, Bengali, French, Hindi, Nepali,Portuguese, Sindhi,Swahili, Urdu

- **Channels:** The predominant channels used to access learning products are email communications from *Girls Not Brides* (80%), webinars (60%), and the *Girls Not Brides* website (60%). Actual usage of channels correlates with preferences for channels. Over 80% prefer to access learning products through emails from *Girls Not Brides*, half through webinar, and almost half through the *Girls Not Brides* website.
- **Formats:** Satisfaction with product formats is high with a rating of 4.33 out of 5. Over 60% prefer reports; over 50% prefer case study, toolkit, or video; and over 40% prefer briefs.

Respondents also suggested specific recommendations to improve overall accessibility of learning products:

- Respondents suggested formats that are short, concise, visual and easy to understand to improve understanding and use. For example, *"More pictures and illustrations rather than lengthy write-ups would be better".*
- There was a call for increasing accessibility to a diverse audience, including young people and adolescents, by using informal and less technical language. For example, *"Could make some with more friendly and understandable language for all people, as well as focus on creating some whose target population are young people, particularly teenagers".*
- Almost half of respondents expressed concerns about the accessibility of learning products for individuals with disabilities or specific needs. Specific recommendations for this included: creating disability-friendly in-person meeting environments, incorporating braille and different sign language options, like Turkish sign language.

In summary, the widespread reach, frequent use and high satisfaction ratings indicate *Girls Not Brides'* learning products are broadly accessible. Increasing language accessibility and enhancing accessibility for young people and people with disabilities would further improve access.

Content of learning products

Girls Not Brides member organisations expressed high satisfaction with the content of the learning products in the survey, highlighting their accessibility and comprehensibility. Products were rated an average of 4.41 out of 5 on how easy they are to understand, with 57% rating a perfect 5. Respondents commented: *"The learning products are explanatory, descriptive, and informative"* and *"The language and choice of words used fit exactly into the reader's understanding."*

The content was found to be well-structured and supported by relevant data and examples, which enhanced their understanding. Respondents appreciated the informative nature of the materials, with respondents mentioning: *"The content is contextualised, supported by specific relevant data which gives a broad glimpse of the issue"* and *"There are explanations with examples always that makes it easy for someone to understand the content."*

Overall, respondents rated an average of 4.24 out of 5 for how much member organisations' experiences are reflected in the content, with 46% rating a 5. Among the regions with the highest respondents on this survey question, West, Central, East and Southern Africa had the highest rating (4.37, from 114 respondents), followed by South Asia (4.06, from 63 respondents), and finally LAC (3.2, 10 respondents).

There were differing opinions on input and inclusion of member organisations' experiences, even between respondents from the same country (Uganda): *"The products have been developed with*

case studies and real input from the members as part of a co-creation process" and *"Need to ensure that experiences should come from members."*

Contrasting comments were also expressed by respondents on regional representation, with some saying that representation is high while others saying more regional representation is needed: *"All regions are represented with a wide range of issues that address child marriage"* (respondent from Uganda) and *"At the regional level there is not so much experience in all sub regions, which should be expanded and socialized"* (respondent from Ecuador).

However, when reviewing overall recommendations for improving learning products, 9 respondents recommend increased incorporation of local/country contexts through examples, experiences and/or case studies.

Recommendations from respondents: Learning products

Respondents' recommendations for improving *Girls Not Brides*' learning products cover a range of key areas. Some of the notables recommendations that have been emphasised are the need for:

- Content in local languages, including Hindi, Portuguese and Kiswahili, among others.
- Simplified and youth-friendly language for better accessibility.
- Sharing of learnings through training to enhance understanding, with both in-person and online approaches being favoured.
- Inclusivity and local and country-specific examples and experiences.
- Incorporating audiovisual elements and infographics for enhanced engagement.
- Participation and feedback from partners and member organisations.
- More frequent communication, additional webinars and the use of platforms like LinkedIn.
- Content enriched with more case studies, promising practices, real stories and regional-specific material.

A summary of the respondent's recommendations for *Girls Not Brides*' learning products, detailing on them, and highlighting the number of respondents who made the suggestions are provided in Annex B.

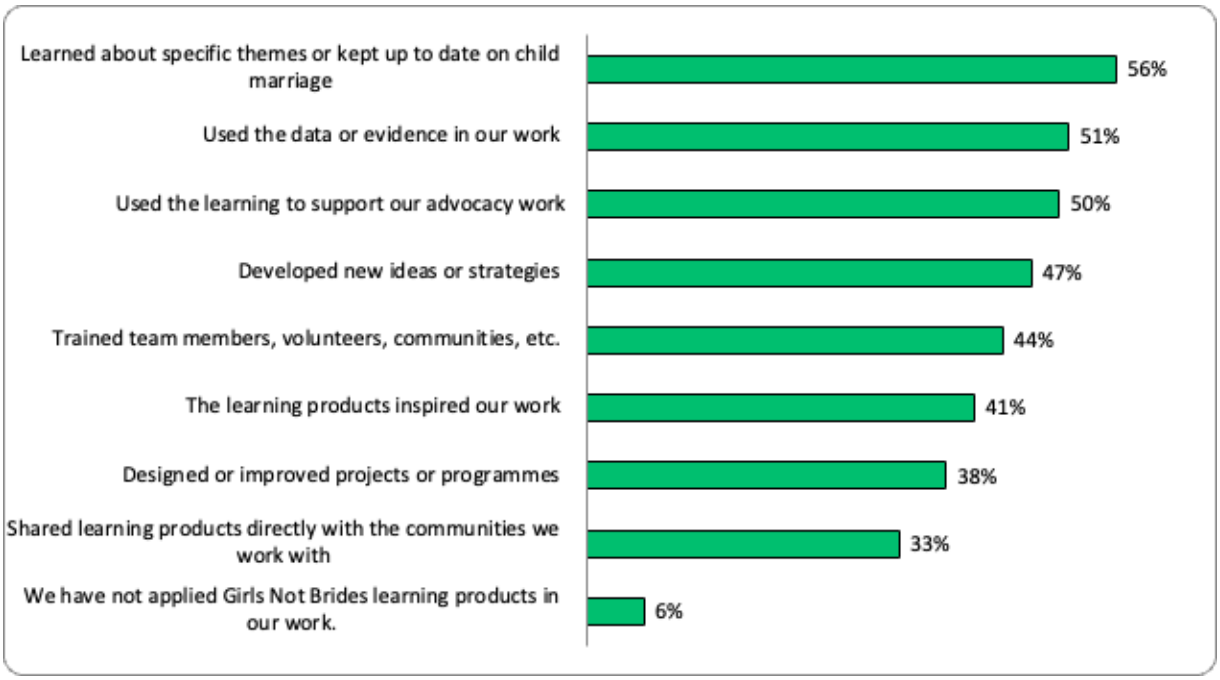
Uptake of learning products

Girls Not Brides' learning products have been widely applied by member organisations in various ways:

- Over half of respondents (56%) have used the learning products to stay up to date on child marriage issues. This indicates the resources are valued for providing updated information and as a credible source for new knowledge on the issue.
- Around half have utilised the data and evidence from the products to inform their work (51%) and advocacy efforts (50%). This shows the usefulness of the resources in shaping initiatives and messaging.
- Nearly half (47%) have developed new strategies based on the learning. This demonstrates the products have catalysed innovation and enhanced the capacity of member organisations to design evidence-based strategies based on the knowledge and data in the learning products.

- 44% have used the resources for training purposes with their teams, volunteers and communities. This highlights the value of the materials for capacity building.

Figure 3: Ways learning products have been applied by *Girls Not Brides* members (n=196)



The examples below demonstrate how some of the learning products have been applied:

"We started our bicycle project to educate and empower high school girls in Nepal in 2016 after we learned and realised that school drop-outs, especially for girls due to long commutes including other factors are one of the reasons for child marriage in Nepal from the reports/case studies shared in Girls Not Brides Global."

"The shared documents facilitated advocacy meetings with 120 community members in the town of Tougan. In terms of data and shared experiences."

"With the latest funding for the literacy and reintegration project for girl victims of marriage in Uvira/DRC, our organisation has applied the learning products through this training of girls in a humanitarian context linked to armed conflict in the province of South Kivu."

"We review statistical data from the Latin region, compare our performance with other experiences, and keep abreast of current events."

"During training workshops for Indigenous youth in Chiapas, we have played videos produced by Girls Not Brides when we talk about teenage pregnancy or sexual and reproductive rights in the communities."

The examples illustrate concrete applications in areas like launching bicycle projects in Nepal, facilitating advocacy meetings in Tougan, training girls in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, reviewing regional data in Latin America, and developing workshops in Mexico.

Online learning spaces

Girls Not Brides frequently organises online webinars, monthly learning series, CRANK quarterly research meetings, and other online global or regional learning events. Table 5 lists of some of the most recent learning spaces convened by *Girls Not Brides*.

Table 4 . The most recent learning spaces convened by *Girls Not Brides*

Webinars ● A journey to strengthen gender-transformative collective action to address child marriage: Lessons learnt from Nigeria and Mozambique
Learning series ● How cash transfer programmes can contribute to ending child marriage ● The latest trends and evidence on child marriage prevalence around the world (2022) ● Supporting married girls, adolescent mothers and girls who are pregnant ● Ethical communications around child marriage ● Gender-transformative collective action to address child marriage: Lessons learned from Africa ● Supporting joint advocacy on child marriage and girls' education in French-speaking West Africa ● Gender-transformative promising practice in Latin America and the Caribbean ● The latest evidence on child marriage: Trends in prevalence and burden around the world (2023)
CRANK quarterly research meetings ● Evidence on gender-transformative approaches to end child marriage ● Investing in and building the capacity of systems to address child marriage ● Child marriage in humanitarian settings ● Challenging gender norms to end child marriage ● What has girls' sexuality got to do with child marriage? ● Preventing child marriage at scale ● Supporting the most marginalised girls: What can we learn from the evidence on child marriage? ● Transforming gender and social norms to prevent child marriage and advance gender equality ● Child marriage in conflict- and crisis-affected settings: Learning from the latest evidence
CRANK global convening

- Day 1: Learning from the latest evidence – efforts to address child marriage and support married girls
- Day 2: Effective partnership and actions – strengthening the generation and use of evidence
- Day 3: A fresh lens on the child marriage research funding landscape – conversations with the funding community on strategies, priorities, synergies and opportunities

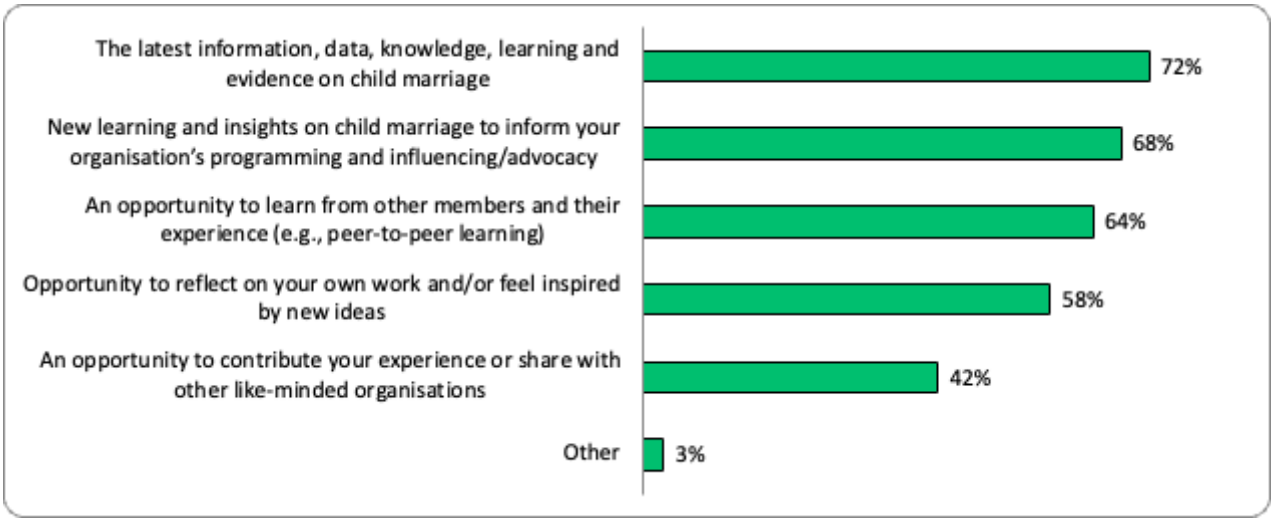
The survey results indicate that respondents are generally satisfied with the organisation's online learning spaces, with an average satisfaction rating of 4.3 out of 5. Approximately half of the respondents rated them at the highest level of 5.

A significant majority (83%) said it was easy to access *Girls Not Brides*' online learning spaces. Approximately 77% of respondents had participated in an online global learning space convened by *Girls Not Brides* since 2020, indicating active engagement.

The most common benefit of online learning spaces selected by respondents was access to the latest information, data, knowledge and evidence on child marriage (72%), followed closely by new learning and insights to inform organisational programming and advocacy efforts (68%). Peer-to-peer learning from other member organisations was the third most common benefit (64%), followed by an opportunity for self-reflection and inspiration (58%).

Less than half of respondents (42%) said they had the opportunity to contribute their own experience or share with other organisations. The opportunity to share experiences and learnings with others in *Girls Not Brides*' learning spaces also received a moderate rating of 3.3 out of 5. Approximately half of the respondents rated this aspect at 3 or lower, suggesting room for improvement in this area.

Figure 4: The benefits of online learning spaces (n = 151)



However, online learning spaces remain difficult to access for some respondents, given challenges with internet connectivity (25 respondents), sessions being held outside normal working hours (14 respondents), and activities being conducted in a language they are unable to understand (3 respondents). Additionally, a small number of respondents said they were not aware of activities or did not receive invitations to online spaces.

Respondents offered several overall recommendations for enhancing online learning spaces. A summary of recommendations is listed in Table 6 below.

Recommendations from respondents: online learning spaces

Table 5. Respondents' overall recommendations for *Girls Not Brides*' online global learning spaces[4]

Summary of respondent recommendations by category (Based on data analysis of open-ended responses)
Accessibility Address barriers to internet and information access (12 comments) ● Reduce bandwidth on the platform ● Subsidise internet costs ● Make mobile-friendly ● Share links through country networks ● Share links immediately after course Improve scheduling/timing (4 comments) ● Schedule events in advance as much as possible ● More flexible times Increase language accessibility (3 comments) ● Translate to local languages
Participation & engagement Share members' experiences/best practice/case studies (10 comments) ● Encourage members/partners to present/share their experiences more ● Share member experiences at global level ● Share through video Local context/engagement (5 comments) ● Engage local leaders ● Share data with grassroots ● More in-country learning events ● Include local issues for more members
Outreach

[4] See Annex B for examples of respondent comments

Meeting reminders (5 comments)

- Send more frequent reminders including through email
- Contact every member

Conclusion

Overall, the survey results demonstrate that *Girls Not Brides* offers a wide range of learning products, such as briefs, reports, case studies, and toolkits, which are highly relevant, of high quality, and valuable to its members.

Relevance

The relevance of these learning products to the member organisations' work is evident, as indicated by the high rating of 4.6 out of 5, with 71% giving a rating of 5. These products align well with their organisational objectives, themes and needs, and they are also found to be highly useful for member organisations' advocacy, proposal development and programming efforts. The content in the learning products reflect member organisations' own work and context to a considerable extent, with an average rating of 4.24 out of 5, and 46% rating it as 5. However, there were differing opinions on the inclusion of member organisations' experiences, and some respondents had contrasting views on the level of regional representation, with some suggesting that more regional representation is required.

Regarding recommendations for improving learning products, nine respondents suggested an increased incorporation of local/country contexts through examples and case studies. Additionally, there were recommendations for more extensive engagement at the local/country level, including online global learning spaces and in-country learning events.

Quality

The quality of the content is demonstrated by the high rating of 4.41 out of 5 for being understandable and informative. The content is well-structured, contextualised and supported by examples, enhancing understanding. Overall satisfaction with learning products is high, with an average rating of 4.39 out of 5, and half of the respondents rating their satisfaction level as 5.

A similar level of satisfaction is observed with online learning spaces, with a rating of 4.3 out of 5, and approximately half of the respondents giving it a rating of 5. Respondents find online learning spaces beneficial for gaining valuable knowledge and insights.

Usefulness

The high utilisation of *Girls Not Brides* learning products by respondents demonstrates their usefulness. Respondents have used the learning products to stay informed about specific child marriage themes (56%), apply the data or evidence in their work (51%), inform advocacy efforts (50%), develop new ideas or strategies (48%) and provide training to team members, volunteers and communities (44%).

Their widespread accessibility (with over 90% of respondents having access) and frequent use (more than half of respondents accessing the resources more than five times per year) confirm their value. Respondents express high satisfaction with the product formats, giving them a rating of

4.33 out of 5. However, respondents express a desire for formats that are shorter, more concise, visual and easy to understand, like audio-visual products, infographics and animations.

Access

A significant majority (83%) of respondents found it easy to access *Girls Not Brides*' online learning spaces. Approximately 77% of respondents have actively participated in online global learning spaces convened by *Girls Not Brides* since 2020. Respondents have significantly benefited from these online learning spaces, with 72% indicating that they have gained access to the latest information, data, knowledge and evidence on child marriage.

Additionally, 68% of respondents have acquired new learning and insights that inform their organisational programming and advocacy efforts. Peer-to-peer learning from other members is the third most common benefit (64%), followed by opportunities for self-reflection and inspiration (58%).

However, the opportunity to share experiences and learning with others in *Girls Not Brides*' learning spaces received a moderate rating of 3.3 out of 5. Less than half of respondents (42%) reported having the opportunity to contribute their own experiences or engage with other organisations in online learning spaces, suggesting room for improvement in this area.

There is also a demand for increased accessibility to a diverse audience, including adolescents and young people, by using less technical language. Additionally, enhancing accessibility for people with disabilities would further improve outreach.

Language accessibility is positively viewed by over 90% of respondents. However, respondents suggest the inclusion of additional languages, including Arabic, Bengali, French, Hindi, Nepali, Portuguese, Sindhi, Swahili, and Urdu. Channels for accessing learning products are widely used, with email communications from *Girls Not Brides* (80%), webinars (60%) and the *Girls Not Brides* website (60%) being the most commonly used.

To further enhance these learning spaces, recommendations primarily focus on addressing barriers to internet access, facilitating knowledge sharing, improving communication and reminders, engaging with local contexts – for example by involving local leaders – sharing data with grassroots organisations, and conducting in-country learning events.

4.2 Domain 2: Learning for influencing and programming

This domain focused on the in-depth support that *Girls Not Brides* offers its member organisations, and National and State Partnerships and coalitions at the country and regional levels to use evidence, data and learning for their collective programming and influencing work.

This support includes collaborative efforts with member organisations to review relevant data and evidence to inform their work, and offering training and capacity enhancement support. In addition to the member survey, a total of three case studies were selected to assess this domain. The evaluation question relevant to this domain is:

- **Evaluation Question 3**: How effectively has *Girls Not Brides* supported member organisations, National and State Partnership and coalitions at country and regional

level with learning to support their influencing and programming on ending child marriage?

Findings from the member survey: Learning spaces in priority countries

In priority countries/states, *Girls Not Brides* has provided country- or state-specific additional opportunities for learning. The priority countries are: Burkina Faso, Guatemala, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Tanzania and Uganda. In the member survey, respondents from these priority countries were asked to complete a specific section of six survey questions – including five closed-ended questions – focused on learning spaces. They covered topics like participation, enhanced organisational technical capacity, collaboration and peer-to-peer learning among member organisations.[5] Sixty eight respondents from priority countries answered all five close-ended questions. The breakdown of these respondents is as follows: India (20), Nepal (11), Nigeria (9), Uganda (8), Tanzania (5), Kenya (4), Mozambique (4), Niger (3), Burkina Faso (3) and Guatemala (1).

The findings of the member survey provide compelling evidence that *Girls Not Brides* has effectively supported member organisations with tailored learning opportunities to enhance their advocacy and programming to address child marriage.

The overall satisfaction with the support received through learning spaces was high, with an average rating of 4.07 out of 5. A substantial majority (72%) of respondents rated their satisfaction at 4 or 5, with 5 being the most frequently selected rating (41% of respondents).

Participation in learning spaces

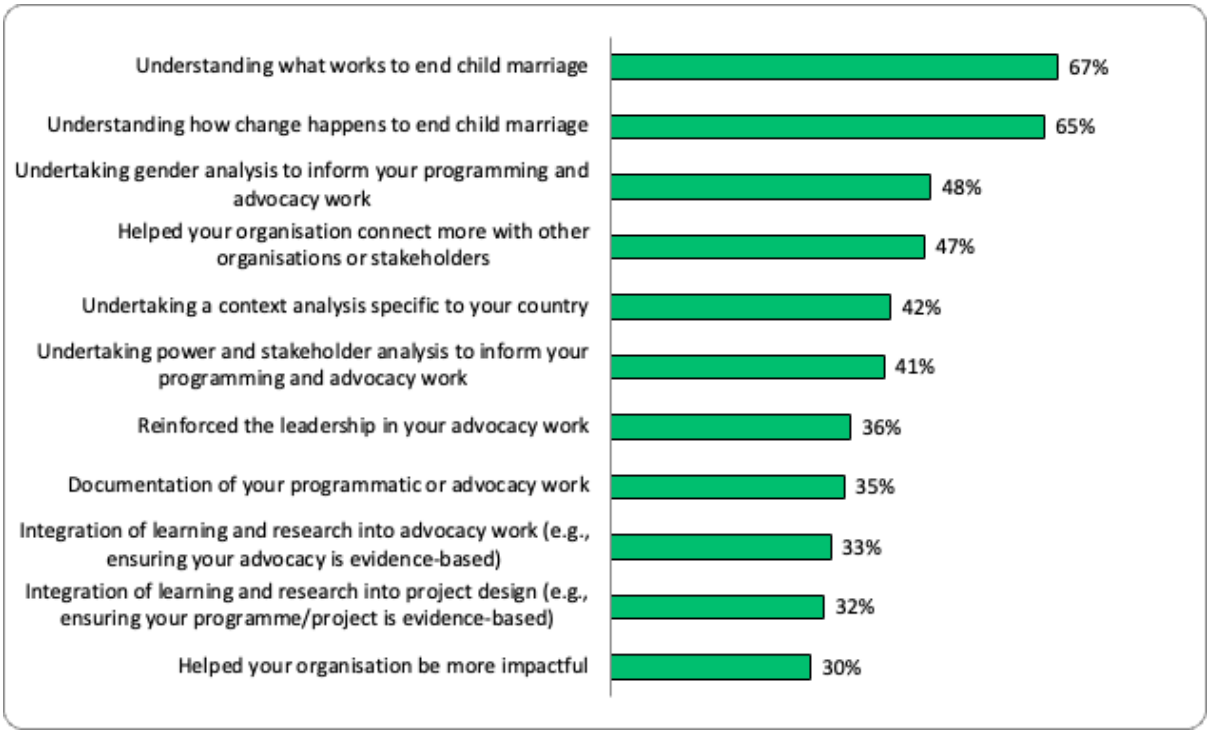
- A large majority (84%) of respondents reported participating in at least one learning space offered or supported by *Girls Not Brides* since 2020.
- Learning workshops, events and sessions during National Partnership/State Partnership or coalition meetings were the most widely attended, with 56% of respondents indicating their participation.
- Around half of the respondents have taken part in training or capacity enhancement sessions (52%).
- Country or regional-specific webinars were attended by 41% of respondents.
- Participation in peer learning sessions and regional learning convenings was relatively lower, with 21% and 16% of respondents participating, respectively.

Increased organisational technical capacity:

[5] When we cross-referenced responses from the priority country section with the mandatory member information question, which asked respondents to indicate the country where their organisation is based, we observed that some respondents whose organisations are not located in one of the clearly specified priority countries provided 1-5 responses per question. The survey instructions clearly outlined that this section was intended exclusively for priority countries, and respondents had to confirm their affiliation with Burkina Faso, Guatemala, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Tanzania, or Uganda by answering "yes" to proceed. They were also reminded twice that this section is designated for member organisations from these countries only. While we cannot explain the inconsistency in the reporting of member organisation countries, we have included these responses in the data analysis and findings.

- Participation in learning spaces was associated with a notable increase in organisational technical capacity. The member survey asked participants to rate on a 5-point scale whether their organisation's technical capacity increased through involvement in *Girls Not Brides*' learning spaces. The average rating was 4.07 out of 5, indicating member organisations perceived significant capacity gains from participating. This high level of reported organisational capacity enhancement provides evidence that member organisations strongly value the skills development support received through *Girls Not Brides* learning initiatives.
- About 75% of respondents rated their increased capacity at 4 or 5, with 5 being the most frequently selected rating (41% of respondents).
- The areas where respondents reported the most significant capacity increases included understanding what works to end child marriage (67%) and understanding how change happens in ending child marriage (65%). This was followed by increased capacity in undertaking gender analysis to inform programming and advocacy work (48%) and connecting more with other organisations or stakeholders (47%). Responses to further areas are shown in Figure 5 below.

Figure 5: Areas of increased organisational technical capacity resulting from participation in Girls Not Brides' learning spaces (n=69)



Collaboration and peer-to-peer learning

Respondents highlighted various ways in which learning spaces contributed to fostering collaboration and peer-to-peer learning. This included building new relationships and forming or expanding groups (68%), knowledge sharing and learning from others (68%), creating common visions (62%) and instilling a sense of collective power and motivation (52%). To a lesser extent, learning spaces helped in building collective member consensus and setting priorities (44%).

Recommendations from survey respondents on how to improve learning spaces are provided in Table 6 below.[6]

Table 6: Suggestions for improvement of learning spaces	
Q54: How could learning spaces offered or supported by *Girls Not Brides* be improved?	
Summary of respondent recommendations by category (Based on data analysis of open-ended responses)	Selected responses
Opportunities for learning and sharing ● Format ○ Observation tour, field visits ○ Webinar, workshop and documents to all stakeholders ○ More engagements with the regional convening ○ More countrywide events/learning spaces within the country ○ Cross-country learning and sharing event to all member organisations ○ More opportunities for peer learning and sharing ○ Regular training session and collect feedback ● Content ○ Share what member organisations are doing ○ Giving continuous functional learning opportunity among member organisations and monitor them to lead sections ○ Create more opportunities for members to interact	"Girls Not Brides will organise the cross country learning sharing event to all member organisations. It will be cover the story, change story in learning product from all country and organisation."

[6] See Annex B for examples of respondent comments.

Inclusivity ● Content ○ Marginalised and vulnerable groups ○ LGBTQ+ ○ Humanitarian settings ○ Local language ● Engagement ○ Grassroots ○ All members ○ Organisations that are not in *Girls Not Brides* Uganda leadership	"Ensure that the content is inclusive and addresses the needs of marginalised and vulnerable groups, including LGBTQ+ individuals and those in humanitarian settings." "Girls Not Brides has to try to engage all its members in regular sessions." "More involvement of organisations that are not in Girls Not Brides Uganda leadership in sharing their experiences too"
Organisational support ● Target organisations on a case by case basis ● Personalised follow up mechanism ● Have an organisational capacity development segment	"Should target case by case organisation since not all organisations are at the same level" "The learning spaces should integrate a more personalised follow up mechanism to generate the highest impact as learning is a process."
Feedback channels ● Establish clear channels for feedback ● Trainings - collect feedback ● Review feedback and make improvements	"Feedback Mechanisms: Establish clear channels for learners to provide feedback on the learning spaces, content, and user experience." "Regularly review feedback and make improvements accordingly."

Respondents provided valuable overall recommendations for improving learning spaces. The main areas for improvement included:

(1) Enhancing peer to peer learning opportunities

- Increase peer learning and knowledge sharing opportunities.
- Offer diverse learning opportunities, like observation tours, community visits, webinars and workshops, along with accompanying documents.
- Organise more countrywide and cross-country events to facilitate learning and sharing, including showcasing stories of change, and engage with regional convenings.
- Arrange regular training sessions and gather feedback from participants.

(2) Fostering inclusivity and engagement

- Stress the importance of creating inclusive content that addresses the needs of groups that are at risk and/or have been marginalised, including LGBTQIA+ individuals and those in humanitarian settings.

- Promote greater engagement with grassroots organisations and strive to involve all member organisations in learning spaces.
- Advocate for the involvement of organisations not affiliated with *Girls Not Brides Uganda* leadership to ensure a wider range of voices are heard.

(3) Tailoring organisational support

- Target organisations on a case-by-case basis, recognising that their learning needs and capacities may vary.
- Implement a more personalised follow-up mechanism to maximise the impact of learning.
- Introduce an organisational capacity development support to the existing plans to develop members capacity.

(4) Strengthening feedback mechanisms

- Establish clear channels for learners to provide feedback on training, learning spaces, content and the user experience.
- Emphasise the importance of regularly reviewing feedback and making improvements based on the feedback received.

Conclusion

In summary, the widespread participation, knowledge acquisition, application of learning, and high satisfaction documented in the survey offer substantial evidence that *Girls Not Brides* has effectively targeted and delivered learning support to member organisations. This has enhanced member organisations' capacity to engage in evidence-based programming and advocacy efforts to address child marriage.

Case studies

Three case studies were strategically selected to evaluate Domain 2 and provide diverse evidence of how *Girls Not Brides* has supported member organisations in learning to inform their influencing and programming work. Data was collected through focus group discussions. The three cases highlight different models of *Girls Not Brides*' support, which include facilitating collaborative research, in-depth organisational development and targeted skills training:

1. **The Latin America case** demonstrates *Girls Not Brides*' role in facilitating a collaborative process to develop an evidence-based brief, showing support for generating data and research to underpin advocacy. The focus group discussed how member organisations applied these learnings and leveraged the brief in regional advocacy.
2. **The Uganda case** showcases focused support for a National Partnership to include learning, data and evidence in their strategic planning, through an intensive co-creation process. The focus group discussed the effectiveness of tailored support towards strengthening organisational development capacity.
3. **The West Africa case** highlights skills workshops and mentoring as learning modalities to enhance country coalitions' capabilities for evidence-based advocacy and stakeholder engagement. The focus group discussed the impact of direct capacity enhancement tailored to member organisations' needs.

Collectively, these cases provide complementary evidence of how tailored learning support has enhanced the capacities of member organisations for impactful programming and influencing to address child marriage.

Case Study 1: Brief on child, early and forced marriage and unions (CEFMU) and care in Latin America and the Caribbean

Overview

In 2022, in alignment with its global and regional strategies, *Girls Not Brides* facilitated a collaborative process with civil society partners in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) to develop an evidence-based brief highlighting the impacts of CEFMU[7] on girls' unpaid care work. The goals were to:

- Integrate diverse voices and perspectives, especially those of girls, adolescents and youth.
- Strengthen the evidence base linking CEFMU and care.
- Inform advocacy at the 15th Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The process began with a literature review on CEFMU and care by *Girls Not Brides*. Then *Girls Not Brides* played a pivotal role in coordinating the collaborative process with 21 member organisations from LAC over several months. This group included grassroots groups working directly with Indigenous communities in Guatemala and Mexico.

In August 2022, surveys were designed with input from partners to gather evidence from those working with communities affected by CEFMU. *Girls Not Brides* convened virtual meetings for organisations to share findings, perspectives and recommendations. The *Girls Not Brides* team compiled inputs into a comprehensive brief summarising the latest data and stories that demonstrate the impacts of CEFMU on care work for girls.

A draft brief was circulated to partners for feedback. In October 2022, the final eight-page brief was published in English and Spanish. Key findings highlighted the heavy care workload borne by married adolescents, limiting their access to education and health services. *Girls Not Brides* facilitated member participation in disseminating the brief at the Regional Conference on Women in Argentina in November 2022.

At the end of August 2023, 11 members from Guatemala and Mexico joined an online FGD to reflect on their learning journey in developing the brief and its impact on their work to address CEFMU.

Key findings

Participatory development process strengthened member organisations' skills

The FGD reflected how the participatory development process strengthened member organisations' skills in generating community-driven data, integrating diverse voices – including adolescents – and undertaking joint analysis to build the knowledge base on CEFMU and care.

[7] We use the full term "child early and forced marriage and unions, CEFMU" here to align with the reality and preference of *Girls Not Brides* member organisations in LAC, where informal unions are more common than formal marriages among those under age 18.

Blending academic research with community-driven data underscored *Girls Not Brides*' role as a knowledge broker. For instance, the literature review provided a knowledge base and the brief made evidence more accessible to member organisations. As one member organisation representative said, the brief *"contains very relevant hard data, it is useful for dialogue with other institutions at the local level."* A representative from a Mexican organisation shared that the brief helped demonstrate links between CEFMU and care to local partners previously unaware of this issue.

Another member organisation from Guatemala explained that the brief provided *"arguments and data to carry out advocacy work"* in regional forums like the Regional Conference on Women in LAC. The jointly-developed brief brought visibility to CEFMU, asserting Southern leadership to shape regional discourse. One member organisation representative noted *Girls Not Brides* has *"important recognition in the region, it is a platform that generates bridges between organisations to address [CEFMU]."*

The experience of regional collaboration also strengthened connections between grassroots groups and national NGOs. As a member organisation representative shared, *"It was interesting to get to know the faces of those behind the collectives or member organisations and to connect with the work that we do."*

Furthermore, making surveys available in Indigenous languages, specifically Q'eqchi', a Mayan dialect, enabled adolescent participation and unveiled fresh insights. *"It helped understand the perspectives of girls and adolescents in rural areas… It was great that adolescents from rural areas had the opportunity to express themselves,"* remarked the NGO coordinator from Guatemala.

Recommendations from participants

Although the brief on care and CEFMU in LAC became a powerful asset during the Women's Conference, obstacles emerged, predominantly concerning policymaker interaction and the pragmatic application of the data. Challenges also manifested through language impediments and varied institutional capacities. The FGD participants made the following recommendations to address these challenges:

- Provide simplified and translated versions of the brief in local languages to make it more accessible to address the language barrier and varied capacities of the partners. As one member organisation representative suggested, *"This document may be adjusted so that it may come closer to youths, can be landed in a more friendly language for youths, that may be updated also through some tools."*
- Conduct more regular follow-up with organisations to support use of the findings to address the lack of practical application. As one member organisation representative said, *"Maybe we have not yet reached the point where we can really land this or speak and analyse this with girls and adolescents."*
- Allow more time during development for grassroots organisations to validate research before finalising briefs to address limitations around research validation felt by smaller NGOs. An NGO based in Guatemala conveyed their constraints, noting, *"we didn't have enough time to conduct, analyse, validate research"* given their focus on local implementation.
- Increase opportunities for joint strategising between organisations across borders to facilitate continued knowledge exchange and regional coordination. As one member organisation

representative shared, *"We need more collective strategies to further disseminate these documents, these key messages."*

- Leverage *Girls Not Brides*' convening power to bring grassroots voices into policy debates on CEFMU. This underscores *Girls Not Brides*' vital role in bridging community advocacy and regional policy spaces. A member organisation representative highlighted *Girls Not Brides*' *"important recognition in the region, it is a platform that generates bridges between organisations."*

Conclusion

This case demonstrates *Girls Not Brides*' effectiveness in supporting member organisations in LAC to conduct pioneering, participatory research on CEFMU and unpaid care work. By spearheading a collaborative development process, *Girls Not Brides* brought an overlooked issue to light and equipped member organisations with an evidence-based brief for advocacy.

The findings exhibit how this approach enhanced member organisations' skills in generating community insights, integrating voices that have been marginalised – like adolescents – and undertaking joint analysis to illuminate the impacts of CEFMU on girls' care workloads. Blending academic and community-driven research highlighted *Girls Not Brides*' role as a knowledge broker for grassroots communities.

Member organisations shared examples of leveraging the data and arguments in the brief for awareness raising, stakeholder engagement, and policy influence at local and regional forums like the Regional Conference on Women in LAC. Regional collaboration also connected grassroots groups with national NGOs.

However, member organisations noted challenges around language barriers, research validation constraints for smaller NGOs, and limited follow-up support to facilitate application of findings. Recommendations included translating versions into youth-friendly language, allowing more time for community-led research, increasing cross-organisational strategising, and leveraging *Girls Not Brides*' convening power to amplify grassroots voices in policy debates on CEFMU.

In summary, this case provides strong evidence of how *Girls Not Brides* bolsters member organisations' capacities to undertake pioneering, participatory research and advocate on overlooked aspects of CEFMU through collaborative learning processes. While identifying areas for improvement, the findings affirm *Girls Not Brides*' vital role equipping member organisations with cutting-edge, locally-informed knowledge products to illuminate and influence regional discourse on CEFMU.

Case study 2: Co-creation process in Uganda

Overview

Girls Not Brides has supported a diverse membership network committed to ending child marriage in Uganda since 2016. The *Girls Not Brides Uganda* National Partnership includes 132 civil society organisations united across sectors like education, health, child protection and justice. Over 80% are community-based groups, and 40% are youth-led.

In February 2023, *Girls Not Brides* extended support to *Girls Not Brides Uganda* to co-create a strategy process to enhance their existing capacity to demonstrate impact in accelerating work to end child marriage. The process involved a collaborative and synthesising approach with *Girls Not*

Brides Uganda, which included mapping and identifying key priority advocacy and influencing strategies/interventions, and defining change processes. Ultimately, this helped *Girls Not Brides Uganda* to develop a 5-year roadmap and a 3-year funded project (2023-2025). The process was guided by the alignment of the Secretariat Strategy, Partnership Strategy and the National Partnership Strategic Plan with the co-creation process aimed at:

- Integrating learning as a central component to ensure the project design is evidence-based and informed by global, regional and national learnings on what works to end child marriage and support married girls.
- Enhancing the capacity of members of *Girls Not Brides Uganda* through a collaborative process of designing an impactful programme.
- Supporting *Girls Not Brides Uganda* to articulate a clear vision of what they wish to accomplish in the short and long term, and a road map to get there.

The process kicked off with a 3-day in-person workshop in February 2023, facilitated by *Girls Not Brides* and a consultant. Twenty-five members of *Girls Not Brides Uganda* participated, representing all regions of Uganda. The agenda involved mapping their priorities, sharing lessons from prior efforts, and defining influencing strategies for 2023 to 2025.

During the design process, a learning approach was adopted to inform the design of an evidence-based, co-created project. This approach was a key strategy to enhance the impact of the NP advocacy work. The learning aspects included: learning from *Girls Not Brides Uganda* members on their work to end child marriage, evaluating the *Girls Not Brides Uganda* strategic plan 2018-2022 to establish the extent to which it met the anticipated results, promising practices on what works to end child marriage, and understanding the impact of *Girls Not Brides* Uganda's work.

Following the in-person workshop, a smaller Co-creation Core Team was formed with representatives from *Girls Not Brides Uganda*. To further enhance the Core Team's existing capacities in developing evidence-based project design, an additional four-day workshop was organised to support the finalisation of the co-created strategy. This group continued to meet virtually over the next several months to further develop the programme strategy, activities and budget. *Girls Not Brides* continuously provided technical support during these meetings to align the project with the Girls Not Brides Partnership Strategy.

At the end of August 2023, five members of *Girls Not Brides Uganda* joined an online FGD to reflect on their learning journey through the co-creation process and its impact on their work to end child marriage and support married girls.

Key findings

Through the focus group discussions, the participants were able to highlight the different ways that *Girls Not Brides* are engaging with the member organisations, and the value they bring to the work being done in the movement space.

***Girls Not Brides* facilitates inclusive strategy development process**

Participants in the focus group discussion emphasised that *Girls Not Brides* leveraged its prominent position and convening power to spearhead an inclusive, locally-driven strategy development process on ending child marriage. As one member representative stated, *"Girls Not Brides is one of the strongest networks in this country on [the] issue of child marriage, probably with the only one."*

By bringing together civil society actors from across Uganda, *Girls Not Brides* facilitated their agenda-setting on this issue.

***Girls Not Brides* offers intensive peer learning enabled contextualisation of global knowledge**

The focus group discussions highlighted how the intensive co-creation process led by *Girls Not Brides* effectively facilitated the development of an evidence-based strategy, while ensuring it was adapted to the Ugandan context. Discussions emphasised how the interactive sessions enabled productive peer learning between member organisations.

Through group work and plenary discussions, member organisations learned from each other's experiences implementing social norms programming, youth engagement approaches and budget advocacy initiatives in their contexts. Through interactive exercises, member organisations strengthened strategic planning skills and peer learning. For example, groups learned effective tactics from each other for engaging community leaders on social norms.

As one member organisation representative recounted, the interactive sessions went "beyond writing" and emphasised genuine peer learning, allowing participants to share context-specific insights and meet to find solutions grounded in local reality. The process integrated global, regional and national data and research to ensure the strategy drew upon the latest evidence, while still being tailored to realities in Uganda.

"It was very informative in nature but also it was beyond writing. But learning and understanding issues that you have on [the] ground also [also helped in finding ways] that can contribute to addressing the issue that you want to address, not only in your own district but also [in] another district when you all share the kind of interventions."

***Girls Not Brides* provides data and resources to shape evidence-based design**

To guide the development of a contextualised strategy, *Girls Not Brides* offered participants access to pertinent global data, tools and resources. As one member organisation representative noted, *"Girls Not Brides global has done this so well that sometimes they present data for Uganda, and you feel like you know even [more] about Uganda than we do."* The sharing of evidence and knowledge by *Girls Not Brides* played a pivotal role in grounding the strategy in current evidence while integrating insights gained from evaluating previous initiatives.

Furthermore, the focus group referenced the learnings derived from the 2020-2021 accelerator project in Uganda, where *Girls Not Brides* collaborated with partners on initiatives like budget advocacy to allocate funding to addressing child marriage. As one member organisation representative explained, *"The accelerator approach supported members [in analysing] the effectiveness of the budgets allocated to child marriage by the government. Data was utilised for evidence-based advocacy in National Partnership national level influencing spaces e.g., donor round table and engagements with policy makers [and] parliamentarians."*

Girls Not Brides facilitated a structured process of learning from past projects and activities, ensuring that this accumulated knowledge informs the development of the new strategy.

***Girls Not Brides* supports developing organisational capacities**

Member organisations highlighted how the participatory process strengthened their technical programme design and advocacy skills, which they could apply within their organisations. As one member organisation representative recounted, the strategy design activities enhanced capacity in areas like *"coming up with our own solutions,"* logframe development, indicator design and budgeting. Another noted increased skills in proposal writing and accessing funding opportunities.

By actively engaging in the co-creation process, member organisations enhanced their organisational capacities for evidence-based programming beyond just the national-level strategy design. One member organisation representative noted that the participatory process gave them *"a sense of ownership"* over the strategy.

In summary, by spearheading a member-driven, evidence-based co-creation process, *Girls Not Brides* strengthened civil society's ability to contextualise global knowledge, devise solutions tailored to the Ugandan context, and exhibit collaborative leadership in ending child marriage.

Recommendations from participants

During the Uganda FGD, participants identified several challenges faced by *Girls Not Brides Uganda* based on their experiences. They provided valuable recommendations on how to address these challenges to strengthen the Girls Not Brides Uganda work to end child marriage in Uganda.

- ***Girls Not Brides* to provide more consistent, long-term support and multi-year investment in programmes to avoid gaps in funding and engagement** with the Girls Not Brides' Partnership Uganda. One participant recommended the need for sustained long-term commitment with the previous pattern of short-term, disjointed projects with large breaks in between. He noted that these gaps made it difficult to maintain momentum and build on learnings. *"The partnership is more [focused on] long-term sustained engagement, [in fact,] a bit [more] long term. We have been much [more] hampered with the short-term programming and [of course,] with huge breaks in between."*
- **Increase opportunities for in-person capacity enhancement workshops and training**, especially across the districts within Uganda, to involve more member organisations. A recommendation was to have *"spaces [to ensure] that everybody comes in the room or through supporting more regional learnings."* Due to resource constraints, often only a fraction of member organisations are able to participate in capacity-enhancement workshops and training events. With over 100 member organisations and their teams, there is a need to expand reach.
- **Provide frameworks and support to further systematise and institutionalise collaboration between member organisations**. Additionally, facilitate exchange visits and cross-border collaboration between countries and regions to share learning. As one participant recommended, *"We would love to see something around cross-border learning, maybe because I know as a country we have some good practices."* While collaboration between member organisations has increased organically in recent years, there is a need to further sustain and institutionalise this collaboration.
- **Sustain efforts in mobilising funding and resources for grassroots member organisations.** Make extra effort to involve rural communities and address the barriers faced by them.
- **Ensure consistent financial backing for the in-country National Partnership coordinator role**, as it plays a vital part in providing valuable coordination support.

Conclusion

The intensive co-creation process facilitated by *Girls Not Brides* provided a valuable model for developing member-driven, contextual, evidence-based strategies to accelerate progress to end child marriage and support married girls. By leveraging its convening power to lead an inclusive strategy design process, *Girls Not Brides* supported Ugandan member organisations in enhancing their skills to contextualise global knowledge, promote peer learning and exert collaborative leadership.

The approach resulted in an owned, tailored roadmap that reflects national priorities and promising practices from around the globe. Participants emphasised that the consistent application of the co-creation methodology has the potential to strengthen civil society movements and drive progress towards ending child marriage across multiple geographies. The case of Uganda demonstrates that facilitating participatory, context-specific strategy development informed by current data ultimately catalyses impact by positioning National Partnerships to drive change agendas rooted in their contextual realities.

Case study 3: Education Out Loud (EOL) project in French-speaking West Africa

Overview

Launched in 2021, the EOL-funded project aims to unite civil society groups working on education and child marriage in West Africa and beyond. A key focus is strengthening collective advocacy to implement laws, policies and programmes that improve girls' access to education and end child marriage.

Learning is integral and involves gathering evidence, data, resources and tools on effective approaches to reinforce evidence-based advocacy.

In May 2023, a regional advocacy workshop held in Saly, Senegal, brought together representatives of education and child marriage coalitions from seven countries in French-speaking West Africa, including youth and women leaders. Participants shared strategies for evidence-based advocacy to address child marriage and barriers to girls' education and developed an action plan for joint advocacy within and across country coalitions.

In mid-August 2023, eight members from the seven countries – Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo – joined an FGD to reflect on the learning outcomes of the project.

Key findings

***Girls Not Brides* strengthening members' technical skills for enhanced advocacy**

The discussion reflects how participating in the training workshops significantly enhanced member organisations' skills, enabling more impactful programming and advocacy. Online and in-person sessions enhanced capacities in areas like budget advocacy, education policies, messaging, resource mobilisation and child safeguarding.

For instance, in Burkina Faso, participation in a six-week online training and mentorship programme on resource mobilisation resulted in the CONAMEB National Partnership securing collaborations and funding, including partnerships with UNICEF and UNFPA.

As one member organisation representative from Burkina Faso stated, *"Several individuals were recruited, and they had to be with us to acquire the necessary skills and knowledge. They also sought to ensure mentorship so that each organisation could develop an action plan by the end of the workshop. In Burkina Faso, following the training, we used all the skills gained to engage with other partners and secure additional resources for the organisation, notably UNICEF and UNFPA, with whom we have partnerships."*

In Togo, knowledge gained from online safeguarding training aided the coalition in enhancing its risk assessment planning. This underscores the tangible impact of these workshops in strengthening the organisational capacity of participating member organisations.

A member from Togo noted (translated from French), *"This was one of the prerequisites for those working with youth and children to participate in this training. It was essential to ensure that children would be safeguarded when they interact with them, particularly to ensure that the programme poses no risk to children and that our behaviour does not negatively impact them. This is the key takeaway from the information provided. Fundamentally, understanding the required behaviour is crucial. In our case, we assess risks and conduct risk assessments for the activities involving children and youth."*

Beyond skills, the workshops also equipped member organisations to harness data for evidence-based advocacy, particularly in Burkina Faso and Niger. As one member said, *"We are conducting this dynamics to provide [youths] with means and capabilities for them to conduct advocacy."* Members applied learning to improve research quality, advocacy platforms, and proposal development. The ability to effectively leverage data emerged as an instrumental factor in driving progress.

Girls Not Brides **elevates youth leadership and research focussed on youth engagement**

The discussion underscores the critical role of engaging young people in research and leadership roles in shaping effective advocacy events. As one member organisation representative remarked, "*We saw development of the leadership by youths with regards to education and the fight against child marriage."*

This project actively supported youth-led research in Burkina Faso and Niger, generating critical evidence on local child marriage and education issues. This not only produced data to inform advocacy, but also enhanced young people's ability and opportunity to actively shape solutions.

Multiple member organisations emphasised that creating platforms for young people to share their experiences and perspectives in person was vital for incorporating their voices into impactful advocacy events and messaging. As one member organisation representative stated, *"It is important to allow youth to share experiences in person."*

Girls Not Brides effectively supports coordination and collaboration

Effective coordination and collaboration are essential elements for driving progress around child marriage. As one Niger member organisation representative stated, the project facilitated *"collaboration between the Platform [the Niger national child marriage coalition] and the Coalition for education...We started developing joint programmes with initiatives in order to have joint and shared activities."*

Another member organisation representative from Niger remarked, *"Thanks to the EOL Project, we were able to reinforce the capacities of different associations...We really strengthened our capacities of the structures that are part of it."*

Previously disconnected coalitions within countries have come together, making them collectively stronger. A Niger member organisation representative highlighted, *"I think one of the results of the EOL Project is that we managed to create a collaboration between the Platform and the Coalition for education... We have lots of points in common... We were able to start working on child marriage and that always takes into consideration, first of all, to guarantee girls' education."*

The collaboration between child marriage coalitions and national education coalitions was noted to have profound impact. As one member organisation representative stated, it *"has made us very strong".* This finding emphasises the importance of cooperation among diverse actors to address child marriage.

Recommendations from participants

EOL learning spaces strengthened members' capabilities to advocate on child marriage and education issues. Participants provided valuable recommendations on how to expand these impactful modalities to drive further progress:

- **Further discussion is needed with member organisations on how to enhance current learning processes.** A participant from Burkina Faso commented that more time was needed during the online resource mobilisation training and mentoring programme for organisations to fully develop action plans: *"Time was very limited to perform all those activities."* The resource mobilisation programme involved twice weekly sessions spanning a three-month period, for a total of four training modules and dedicated mentorship check-ins.
- **Promote more in-person gatherings** now that COVID-related restrictions have eased to encourage networking. As one member organisation representative said, *"We would be very, very happy for meetings to take place in person."*
- **Develop customised training opportunities tailored to different organisational needs and contexts.** As a member organisation representative suggested, *"Take into account the different paces of other coalitions."*
- **Prioritise building capacities of youth leaders through dedicated training and platforms, recognising their immense potential to drive change.** Multiple participants emphasised the immense potential of meaningfully engaging young people in the work to address child marriage and barriers to education. One stated, *"And if there's any room for improvement with regards to Girls Not Brides interventions, especially within the framework of these projects, I believe we should place emphasis in the youth, in strengthening the youth capabilities and granting youths more participation."*
- **Foster a community of practice for continued sharing on education and child marriage issues.** As a member organisation representative recommended, *"We are asking Girls Not Brides to strengthen its experience-sharing meetings by setting up a community of practice on education."*
- **Sustain dissemination of data collection techniques and evidence-based advocacy methods** to further strengthen research and programming.

Conclusion

The EOL-funded project case study demonstrates *Girls Not Brides*' effective role in uniting civil society groups across West Africa to strengthen advocacy on child marriage and education. The intensive workshops enhanced organisations' skills for impactful programming and evidence-based advocacy. Member organisations collaboratively developed action plans to implement laws, policies and interventions improving girls' access to education and ending child marriage.

The project facilitated vital coordination between previously siloed child marriage and education coalitions, forging a unified movement. It also elevated youth leadership, enabling young change-makers to actively shape solutions in their communities. Participants noted that sustaining these impactful approaches through more in-depth learning and networking opportunities could continue driving change.

In summary, by offering member organisations with expertise, spurring collective action and engaging young people, the EOL-funded project strengthened civil society's capacity to advocate for progress. Participants voiced an eagerness to maintain the momentum sparked by the project's

hands-on training and convening of diverse stakeholders united behind a common goal of advancing girls' education and ending child marriage.

Conclusion

The member survey and case studies provide strong evidence that *Girls Not Brides* has effectively supported member organisations, National Partnerships and coalitions by providing tailored learning support. This capacity enhancement has strengthened civil society actors' abilities to undertake evidence-based programming and influencing efforts to address child marriage.

The survey revealed high participation rates, satisfaction levels and perceived capacity gains across diverse learning modalities including workshops, peer exchanges and webinars. These spaces played a pivotal role in fostering vital collaboration, knowledge exchange and collective action among member organisations.

The three cases showcased complementary models of tailored support aligned to member organisations' needs:

- Facilitating participatory research to generate evidence and equip member organisations with data for advocacy (LAC brief development)
- Providing intensive organisational development support to National Partnerships embarking on strategic planning processes (Uganda co-creation project)
- Conducting skills training workshops and exchanges to enhance capabilities for evidence-based advocacy (EOL-funded workshops in West Africa)

However, the evaluation also identified priorities for strengthening *Girls Not Brides*' capacity building approaches. This includes expanding high-demand training, promoting more in-person peer exchanges, customising workshops based on organisations' unique contexts, and prioritising building capacity among grassroots and youth groups with the greatest needs. Additional recommendations are fostering ongoing communities of practice for knowledge sharing and enhancing follow-up support after workshops to aid practical application.

By refining learning approaches based on systematic member input and tailoring capacity enhancement to critical needs, *Girls Not Brides* can further deepen civil society expertise. This will empower organisations to undertake even more effective, evidence-based programming and advocacy on child marriage going forward.

4.3 Domain 3: Leadership and influence on the child marriage agenda

This domain focused on the role of *Girls Not Brides* in the global ecosystem bringing knowledge, learning and evidence on ending child marriage to the global stage and exercising its role as a thought leader on the issue of child marriage.

Evaluation Question 4: As the representative voice of an extensive global Partnership, to what extent does *Girls Not Brides* leverage its accumulated knowledge, learning and evidence to assert its role as a leading advocate and influencer in the child marriage landscape? How effectively does it shape the discourse, bring new perspectives (particularly from civil society), and prioritise the issue at global, regional and national levels? How often do other organisations seek its advice or form partnerships based on its expertise in the fight to end child marriage?

Overview

Girls Not Brides is recognised as a critical voice to galvanise collective efforts towards ending child marriage and supporting married girls. This section looks at *Girls Not Brides* as a representative voice of an extensive global Partnerships and its role in shaping a global normative agenda to support efforts to end child marriage and support married girls.

Since *Girls Not Brides* works closely with different stakeholders across global and regional levels, it was critical to incorporate inputs from members of the global partnership, key donors, strategic and long-term partners in the larger ecosystem to address child marriage. This section triangulated responses from member organisations collected through a survey, key inputs from partners and regional colleagues through group discussions, and from donors and global partners through interviews.

KII formed a critical data source for this domain as the respondents have maintained a long and strong partnership with *Girls Not Brides* over many years and represent critical voices in the field of ending child marriage and promoting gender equality globally. They were able to share a historical perspective while situating their views in the current socio-political context. The discussion mostly focused on *Girls Not Brides*' overall role as an expert in the ecosystem of ending child marriage, and its relevance and effectiveness in steering critical policy and advocacy dialogues and influencing the normative agenda.

Key findings

Girls Not Brides is a critical voice in influencing global agenda

Overall, *Girls Not Brides* is seen as an expert and a critical voice in the ecosystem. Respondents via the member survey shared:

"Girls Not Brides always [participates] in global fora to present and influence donors and [UNGA] on the impact of child marriages on girls".

"Major stakeholders have adopted and implemented policies due to the influence from Girls Not Brides leadership and influence."

When asked about *Girls Not Brides'* leadership and ability to influence, survey respondents rated this very highly. Respondents rated *Girls Not Brides'* ability to contribute towards shaping the

debate around the child marriage agenda a score of 4.39 put of a 5. A respondent through the member survey shared: *"Bringing the child marriage on the UN agenda is a great success."*

Strategic communication and influencing are seen as a core strength of the partnership. This is echoed in the member survey findings where 85% of the respondents said that *Girls Not Brides* actively or very actively contributes to shaping the debate around the child marriage agenda. As a respondent shared in the survey, *"The recent Human Rights Council Resolution on Forced Marriage exemplified Girls Not Brides' leadership in the global space."*

***Girls Not Brides'* core strength lies in its convening power**

Girls Not Brides' strong function as a global movement builder connecting different stakeholders and bringing them on to the same platform for one cause was shared across data sources. During an interview, a key strategic partner reflected on *Girls Not Brides'* key role "*As movement builders, they have such expertise to share with other fields." Girls Not Brides'* organisational experience in creating and strengthening movements is well recognised and highlighted as a model for global partnerships and networks.

One of the strongest values that *Girls Not Brides* brings currently is being one of the largest networks representing diverse voices critical to ending child marriage and supporting married girls. Group discussion highlighted that *Girls Not Brides* has a different level of support and engagement with different regional and national networks, also highlighted in findings under Domain 2. A donor in the KII saw this as the Partnership's greatest strength, mentioning *"being a network is a value in itself, even if the network may not have achieved any goals or targets."*

In the current context of issues fatigue and rise of powers that silence and censor voices from the margins, *Girls Not Brides'* convening power to create an inclusive space to gather and share these critical voices is seen as its strength. A donor responding to *Girls Not Brides'* role as a thought leader shared that *Girls Not Brides* has been a leader in supporting the work to address child marriage and towards gender equality, especially when *"there is so much opposition and clamping down on gender equality and girl's rights."*

***Girls Not Brides* is a leading voice in highlighting complex but interrelated issues**

Girls Not Brides has been strategic in its positioning in the ecosystem, and while trying to not come across as provocative or controversial, it has not stayed away from engaging stakeholders who are often not very supportive of issues relating to child marriage.

The organisation has taken active steps to consistently highlight the links between ending child marriage and other key (sometimes competing) issues on the advocacy agenda. *Girls Not Brides* is also seen as a leader in speaking up on issues which might not often be thought of alongside child marriage – like sexuality and gender-based violence – but which have strong links to ending child marriage. A respondent in the KII shared that *Girls Not Brides* has been a leader in connecting issues that seem different but are all leading towards the same goal:

"Sometimes if you think of child marriage, it could be very siloed, but by bringing all these concepts together [that are] used in other types of programming that are not under the label of this child marriage but that obviously help with creating ecosystems that will protect girls."

Child marriage is seen as a complex issue requiring long-term intervention and advocacy, thus sitting outside of immediate and urgent humanitarian response efforts. However, *Girls Not Brides* through its learning platforms – like CRANK meetings – and global advocacy efforts continues to highlight this at a global level.

***Girls Not Brides* is recognised as a credible source of evidence and information**

Girls Not Brides holds high credibility in the larger ecosystem. KII participants shared that it is an organisation that uses data and information to engage in strategic topics of discussion. *Girls Not Brides* is highly recommended as the best source of information on data or evidence on child marriage or what works to end it, with a very high rating of 4.69 out of 5 as reported by the member survey.

Respondents in FGDs also shared that since the information and evidence that is shared by *Girls Not Brides* is rooted in the experiences of civil society organisations operating at the community and national levels, it holds a lot of credibility in the global arena. Through open-ended responses in the survey, member organisations shared:

"In my area, almost all the organisations fighting to end child marriage and teenage pregnancy are members, and we are using the knowledge we acquire from Girls Not Brides' toolkit, products, [and] learning experience [to] create change through working with the policy and law makers to formulate policy and law that shape policy position."

"We use global level information when we [develop] our fact sheet, [and] other work."

Research and evidence shared by *Girls Not Brides* is regarded with high credibility and thus often used to support and strengthen policymaking and shifting discussion towards ending child marriage. Discussion with member organisations in regional advocacy spaces emphasised this role and position of the organisation.

Member organisations and partners shared that *Girls Not Brides* resources are very relevant to effectively influence policymakers in prioritising certain issues and avoid duplication of efforts and resources. *"Helps policymakers see the state of evidence",* a respondent in the CRANK survey shared.

***Girls Not Brides* is effective at using learning and evidence to influence policy positions**

Member survey respondents agreed with the statement that *Girls Not Brides* is effective in using learning, data and evidence to shape policy positions and advocacy messaging. *Girls Not Brides* have acquired the position of a credible organisation bringing the latest research and best practices. Respondents shared that these resources become an effective tool when it comes to influencing state institutions and pushing for policy reforms. Respondents feel very strongly that *Girls Not Brides* is very effective at integrating learning and evidence effectively at influencing.

High ratings of above 4 showcase that member organisations regard *Girls Not Brides* as a learning organisation that contributes to sharing learning on what works to end child marriage (4.44); and actively promotes promising practices to influence the child marriage agenda (4.42). As member organisations shared:

"The Girls Not Brides global team succeeded in presenting the learning, data and evidence before the UN Bodies to influence the global policy by organizing parallel sessions in several global conventions (UN General Assembly, UN Women, Women Deliver, etc)."

"Lessons learned and information received from various sessions have implications for policy and [practice], and this is very important to influence policy and effect behavioral change regarding child marriage."

Girls Not Brides' role as a thought leader is highly regarded by colleagues located in different regions, specifically when it comes to sharing evidence and policy positions that are reflective of

realities from the majority world. *Girls Not Brides* also plays a crucial role in bringing new issues to focus on using data and information based on community-based work and grassroots civil society organisations. For example, highlighting LAC as an emerging area with regards child marriage work, an FGD respondent shared that *Girls Not Brides* resources strengthened their influencing work by putting together *"Position papers with clear demands on stakeholders."*

Building on their global position as a convenor, *Girls Not Brides* has been able to bring various stakeholders together, to share and consolidate evidence across various issues and demands to keep the momentum going. Often demands and voices from different stakeholders are seen as competing or distracting from the main issue, but *"Girls Not Brides, it's such a strong label and child marriage is such a strong topic"* to bring these voices together under one consolidated agenda, a KII respondent illustrated.

Recommendations from respondents

- **Need for clarity and consolidation on role of organisation**: It was agreed across all respondents that *Girls Not Brides* plays many roles towards an aligned agenda. Currently *Girls Not Brides* is positioning itself as a research hub, knowledge sharing platform, a member-driven organisation, global convenor, an influencer in the global policy space – roles that all support the large, complex work of ending child marriage, but are often seen as competing. A key partner in the KII recommended that they *"balance the roles of being a leader and convener and also funding source. And they are and it seems very deliberate and balanced, but that there can be a competition among roles there. It's very important that it's a broad network, that it's mostly not about competing for funds but sharing knowledge and contacts and so on".*
- **Pay more attention and focus on increasing leadership and influence at the regional level:** *Girls Not Brides*' leadership and influence is more highly regarded at the global level compared to the regional level (global is rated higher than regional by .17 rating points in the member survey). Respondents rated the global level higher than the regional level in these areas:

  Does *Girls Not Brides* influence the child marriage agenda in any of these ways?

  - Helps prioritise the child marriage issue in key influencing spaces (Global>Regional by 11%)
  - Plays a role of convener with different stakeholders to build common perspectives or commitments (Global>Regional by 10%)
  - Shapes the child marriage discourse (Global>Regional by 8%)
  - Brings new perspectives (Global>Regional by 5%)

  Comments from the member survey suggest the need for *Girls Not Brides* to improve its work on influencing on the child marriage agenda at the regional level, *"It contributes, but as I'm saying now, we'd like to have regional meetings to help influence the way we work".* While the links between issues at the global level have been highlighted as a strong role that *Girls Not Brides* plays, the same is not reflected at the regional level: *"Some of the links are not visible to me."*

  A key strategic partner also shared: *"going towards more regional advocacy. Shifting from, I mean, keeping the international that's already pretty solid and moving into like how can this be translated into regional and national context."* Respondents in the FGD echoed this by sharing that they would like to see *Girls Not Brides* take leadership in the regional level, in particular through more meetings to strengthen influencing and collaborative and collective efforts.

A key donor and long-term partner in the interview shared their hope to see more regional-level representation from countries that are often not prioritised. *"For example, how we can see representatives from the Arab states really taking the lead. Sometimes we have a very, very focused approach for certain regions."*

While recognising the challenges in bringing these missing voices to the global front, the respondent encouraged *Girls Not Brides* to prioritise "*long with the roles of leadership how we can really make sure that all this diversity and the real challenges that are coming from different regions are there in every space that we are having because that also comes with a lot of richness for what we are doing and informing what we are doing".*

- ***Girls Not Brides* needs to remain accountable to its member organisations:** A KII respondent who is a donor and long-term partner suggested the need for a *"general refresh".* Speaking in the context of having high visibility individuals from the Global North as Global Champions, which increased attention and investments to the overall agenda of ending child marriage and the work of the organisation, the KII respondent wondered if going forward the image of the organisation can be more representative of who it is accountable towards. "*I also would like to say that this comes with a recognition but also with the challenge at the same time and I think Girls Not Brides has been doing well in terms of having presence across regions. I think a challenge is also how we can have those faces you know like really speaking from the regional perspective more often in global spaces, right?"*

Conclusion

Globally, *Girls Not Brides*' role as a thought leader that uses evidence to influence policy and programmatic interventions to end child marriage is widely recognised. *Girls Not Brides* is doing well on sharing learning, promoting promising practices and contributing to shaping the debate around the child marriage agenda. Continue this strong work.

The findings point towards continuing to strengthen *Girls Not Brides*' leadership role in spotlighting critical insights. Leveraging *Girls Not Brides*' vital role as a convenor in bringing together diverse child marriage stakeholders from different sectors, constituencies and regions is critical to build common understanding.

Key informants emphasised *Girls Not Brides*' convening role, with one stating it is *"one of the strongest values that Girls Not Brides brings currently."* Continuing to unite disparate voices maintains *Girls Not Brides*' distinct value. The findings encourage the organisation to proactively focus efforts on increasing its leadership and influence at the regional level, by investing in convening regional actors and amplifying region-specific priorities.

4.4 Domain 4: Coordination, dissemination and uptake of child marriage research and evidence

This domain focused on *Girls Not Brides'* role in strengthening coordination of the global research agenda on child marriage and encouraging uptake of evidence amongst key stakeholders. We particularly focused on the CRANK initiative, which *Girls Not Brides* implements in partnership with the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage. The research question to assess this domain is:

Evaluation Question 4: To what extent has the CRANK initiative: 1) supported the dissemination of evidence on child marriage priority learning topics to inform and strengthen child marriage interventions and policies; 2) fostered increased coordination among key stakeholders (including researchers, practitioners, policymakers, advocates and donors) in their research and programmatic response, promoting a more harmonised agenda and evidence-based action to end child marriage.

Overview: The Child Marriage Research to Action Network

The Child Marriage Research to Action Network (the CRANK) was launched in 2021 through a partnership between *Girls Not Brides* and the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage. The CRANK aims to serve as a platform for sharing the latest evidence and research on child marriage, encouraging uptake of research findings, and supporting better coordination of the global research agenda.

As part of an evaluation commissioned by *Girls Not Brides* on their learning initiatives, an FGD was conducted with two CRANK members to gather feedback on the CRANK's effectiveness in disseminating child marriage research and evidence (Domain 4). Additionally, four members provided inputs through email responses to a set of follow-up questions.

A survey was also conducted to assess experiences and perspectives on the CRANK initiative. Out of 594 members and stakeholders contacted, 35 responded and 26 completed the survey. Out of the 35 respondents 57% aligned with *Girls Not Brides* membership and 43% were external stakeholders.

Regions represented included Global/All regions (28.57%), West and Central Africa (22.86%), Eastern and Southern Africa (20%), Latin America and the Caribbean (11.43%), East Asia and Pacific (11.43%), North America(2.86%) and Eastern Europe and Central Asia (2.86%).

Figure 6: Regional representation of the CRANK survey respondents

The survey respondent pool included researchers (50%), practitioners (31%), advocates (31%), policymakers (6%) and other professions (9%). Since respondents could pick multiple roles, the percentages add up to more than 100%.

Figure 7: Role/ profession of the CRANK survey respondents

The top 5 reasons respondents gave for becoming members of the CRANK are as follows:

1. To network with more actors working on child marriage (78.12% - 25 respondents)
2. To learn from the latest research and evidence on child marriage (75% - 24 respondents)
3. To support uptake of the child marriage evidence and research to better inform policy and practice (62.5% - 22 respondents)
4. To work towards a more harmonised and coordinated child marriage research agenda (68.75% - 20-0 respondents)
5. To share research and evidence on child marriage (53.12%-17 respondents)

The top 5 ways the respondents engage with the CRANK are:

1. Read CRANK emails (90.63% - 29 respondents)
2. Access CRANK resources on the *Girls Not Brides* website (65.63% - 21 respondents)
3. Read CRANK posts on *Girls Not Brides* social media channels (53.13% -17 respondents)

4. Attended the CRANK's global convening (43.75% - 14 respondents)
5. Attend quarterly research meetings (37.50% - 12 respondents)

Key findings

CRANK is an effective platform for sharing research and evidence

In the survey, over 60% of respondents rated the CRANK's meetings and convenings as effective or very effective spaces at connecting and sharing priority child marriage research evidence globally. This conveys high satisfaction with the CRANK's evidence and knowledge exchange role amongst its diverse stakeholders including researchers, practitioners, advocates and policymakers.

Insights from follow up feedback processes also illustrate the CRANK's core value as an evidence and knowledge sharing platform for child marriage stakeholders worldwide. One of the respondents in her feedback remarked:

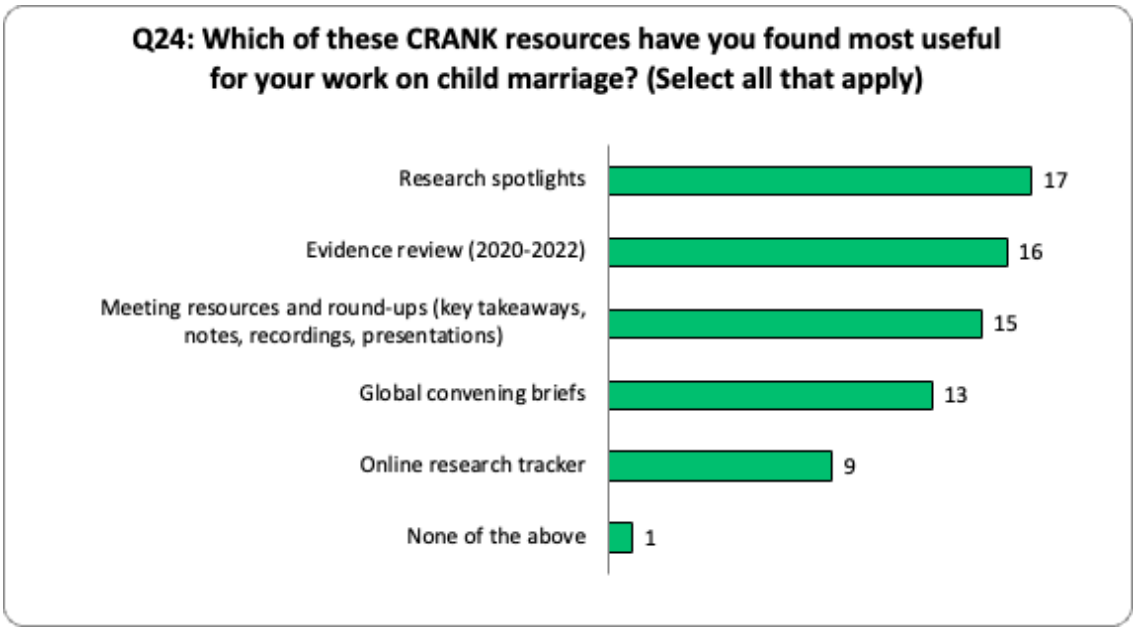
"I think it is very effective – the tracker and the literature reviews, and the convening and other resources really help facilitate a global space to share the latest evidence on child marriage, because they allow interaction and discussion, and also give faces to the names on reports and help build networks. The tracker and evidence reviews and other online resources really support accessing specific evidence when you need it."

Findings from the survey, FGD and additional feedback consistently highlight the CRANK's success in producing accessible, useful and timely resources synthesising the latest evidence and learning on child marriage.

In the survey, 52% of respondents rated CRANK resources as very accessible and 24% as accessible. This indicates the CRANK is effectively communicating technical information in a clear format to global audiences.

Additionally, 23% rated CRANK resources as very useful and 31% as useful for informing their work. The most useful resources were research Spotlights (rated very/somewhat useful by 62.96%), the evidence review (2020-2022) (59.26%), and meeting resources like roundups, notes, and presentations (55.56%).

Figure 8: Usefulness of CRANK resources



Reinforcing this, FGD participants positively noted the accessibility of resources like post-meeting roundups for those unable to attend live. One FGD participant found the meeting keynote summaries very helpful, sharing:

"CRANK is […] effective because of the post-session documentation/notes that are circulated among the members, which is really helpful, a good record of discussions, and allows those who have missed out to get the information and the context."

FGD participants highlighted the Research Spotlights as particularly useful for providing knowledge to inform their own work. For example, one participant explained the Research Spotlights provide helpful takeaways for taking research forward. Another shared that the CRANK evidence review proved particularly helpful for considering new research areas to prioritise.

In summary, both data sources highlight and affirm that a core strength of the CRANK is its production of timely synthesis of evidence resources and meeting round up materials in an accessible and engaging format that allow stakeholders worldwide to benefit and draw from the latest evidence and discussions on child marriage to support and inform their programmatic, research and advocacy efforts, identify research gaps and learn from the content and discussions of research meetings even if unable to directly participate.

The survey findings indicate the CRANK is valued as an inclusive platform for knowledge exchange and networking on child marriage. Specifically, 69% of survey respondents reported being very satisfied/satisfied with the CRANK as a platform to connect with others working on child marriage globally.

Additionally, in the survey open-ended questions, one respondent commented that the diversity of perspectives represented in CRANK meetings are valuable: *"The range of attendees really provides for cross-pollination of ideas."*

Aligning with this, insights shared in the FGD and email responses further demonstrate the CRANK's effectiveness as an inclusive learning network. One FGD participant highlighted that the CRANK enables junior scholars from countries in the Global South to engage with policymakers, sharing:

*"It's great to see more opportunities for early career researchers, especially from the Global South, to present their work."*One respondent remarked that the CRANK's strength is *"bringing in different types of research from more quantitative experimental data and more qualitative research."* The participant also emphasised that inclusion of diverse research approaches for example, quantitative experimental data and more qualitative research, and stakeholders helps to break down knowledge hierarchies.

In summary, the survey, FGD and emailed feedback converge to underline one of the CRANK's core strengths: serving as an inclusive platform for disseminating the latest evidence on child marriage and facilitating global knowledge exchange between diverse stakeholders. This aligns with 75% of survey respondents reporting they joined the CRANK to learn from the latest research and evidence. The data affirms the CRANK's value in connecting actors across regions to shape a dynamic, shared understanding of priority issues and solutions related to addressing child marriage globally.

Participation in CRANK has strengthened understanding of child marriage through sharing priority research topics and research gaps

In the survey, a large majority of respondents (83%) reported CRANK research meetings and convenings enhanced their understanding of evidence and solutions related to addressing child marriage and supporting married girls. Additionally, 72% of survey respondents reported that CRANK resources helped them identify child marriage research priorities or gaps.

Aligning with this, open-ended survey feedback shared:

"During these meetings I have received several case study and working examples with data – this is helpful to inform implementation."

"The evidence review completed has been particularly helpful for considering new areas to research. I have also been approached to share my research much more following presentations at CRANK."

“We have worked to highlight intersections of child marriage and FGM/C in our country profiles where it is relevant and this is used by activists, program staff, community orgs and research bodies.”

This highlights that the CRANK is demonstrating positive results in facilitating the sharing and discussions on priority research topics and identifying research priorities and gaps, ensuring there is a clear focus on evidence that provides learnings on solutions and what works to end child marriage and support married girls.

Reinforcing this, insights from the FGD and email responses indicate that CRANK brings to attention overlooked regions and issues by bringing localised data and insights. For instance, participants noted *Girls Not Brides*' role in highlighting Latin America and the Caribbean as a rising priority area for addressing child marriage, based on initial evidence shared by a member organisation.

By synthesising the latest research and emerging evidence on child marriage research priority topics and facilitating evidence-based experience sharing between stakeholders from different contexts, the CRANK helps enrich participant knowledge on child marriage interventions and policies. FGD participants specifically pointed to the Research Spotlights and evidence review as useful tools for informing and strengthening their work.

In summary, the feedback indicates the CRANK is effectively serving its core objective to disseminate evidence on child marriage priority topics and deepening many stakeholders’

understanding of child marriage evidence, solutions and emerging priorities. Its role in evidence sharing is highly valued by diverse respondents.

Participation in CRANK has strengthening interventions and policy actions through research uptake

The survey findings indicate the CRANK has increased many members' ability to strengthen child marriage interventions, advocacy, identify new evidence and inform priorities. For example:

- 64% of respondents reported participation in CRANK meetings increased their ability to identify current research/programmatic priorities and gaps. This indicates the CRANK is effectively helping members determine key priority areas and evidence needs.
- 56% reported increased ability to identify new evidence on child marriage, showing the CRANK provides valuable exposure to emerging research.
- 44% indicated CRANK participation strengthened their child marriage advocacy and policy efforts. This highlights the CRANK's role in informing advocacy.

These findings are particularly reflected in open-ended responses from African respondents:

"We have used CRANK findings to discuss and agree on areas of priority for Pan African Alliance On Ending Child Marriage (PAAECM)."

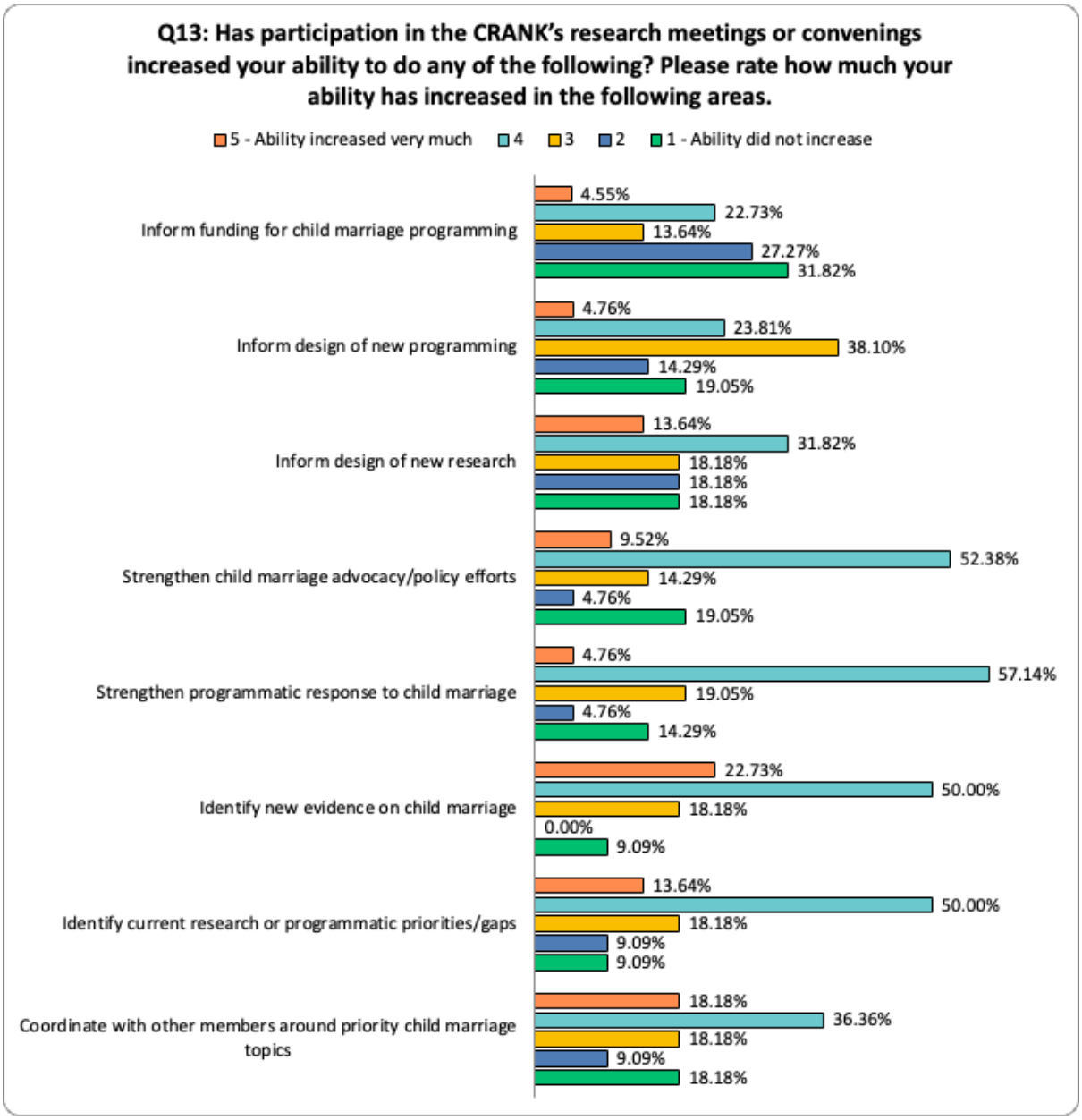
"As one of the leaders of the National Coalition in Nigeria, we have used information and documents from CRANK to support our programming and engagement with government and other partners."

"I recently decided to take my Child Marriage research a step further by developing a psychosocial support intervention for married girls in Ibadan, Nigeria as part of my Ph.D."

These survey results are further exemplified through insights from the FGD. One FGD participant noted that participation in the CRANK provided *"knowledge on how to capture data, analysis and reporting"* applied in their work. Respondents also highlighted the CRANK's contribution to events sharing updates with policymakers and programme managers.

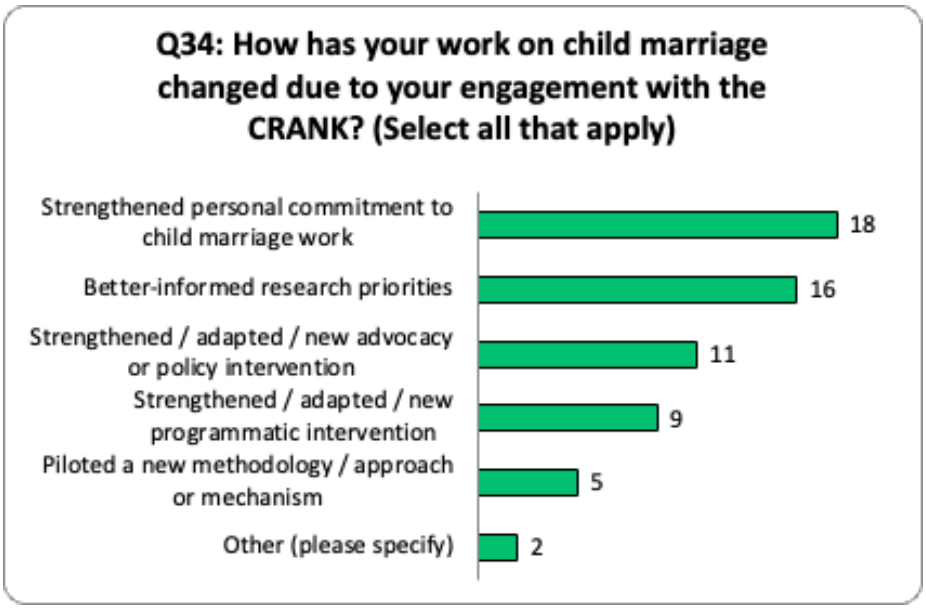
In summary, the survey, FGD and email data converge to demonstrate the CRANK's effectiveness in building member capacities to identify evidence, inform advocacy and determine priorities. The African perspectives underscore the CRANK's role in shaping regional and national efforts.

Figure 9: Stakeholders' participation in the CRANK's meetings or conventions in relation to strengthening their interventions and policy actions



The survey also identified the core areas of change attributed to members' engagement with the CRANK as follows: 72% reported strengthened personal commitment to child marriage work; 64% better-informed research priorities, 44% strengthened advocacy and policy interventions and 36% strengthened programmatic interventions.

Figure 10: Stakeholders' core areas of change attributed to members' engagement with the CRANK



However, around 40% of survey respondents highlighted needing more practical guidance from the CRANK on applying evidence to interventions and policies. This suggests some members feel additional effort is needed to translate the research highlighted by the CRANK into implementation tools.

Qualitative insights further demonstrate the CRANK's role in informing interventions and policies, while surfacing tensions in meeting diverse needs of the stakeholders. One FGD participant noted the disconnect *"between sharing research through CRANK and its practical application"*. The participant explained discussions often lack clear implementation recommendations, highlighting that guidance on application may require efforts beyond the CRANK's core knowledge sharing role. However, the work of developing practical tools and in-depth implementation guidance is currently beyond the CRANK's global role and aligns more with *Girls Not Brides*' expertise. As one of the respondents remarked:

"I think a much more powerful advocacy effort would be needed to ensure that the CRANK materials are systematically taken up by advocates and policy makers. I see Girls Not Brides secretariat as playing a role in informing its partners rather than advocating on child marriage. It could do more in the latter category, but would need to become a more political entity. Its regional networks probably are more active politically and engaged in advocacy."

In summary, the CRANK successfully highlights valuable research, yet findings indicate additional emphasis could be placed on deriving practical lessons and recommendations from this evidence to catalyse research uptake. However, developing implementation guidance tailored to different users may require efforts beyond the CRANK's current scope and is likely better situated at regional and national levels.

CRANK has Increased coordination of stakeholders in promoting a more harmonised child marriage evidence research agenda

A core function of the CRANK is to foster increased coordination among key stakeholders (including researchers, practitioners, policymakers, advocates and donors) in their research and programmatic response, promoting a more harmonised agenda and unified, evidence-based action to end child marriage and support married girls.

Survey results demonstrated high levels of success where the CRANK has fostered increased coordination. A total of 70% of respondents reported that CRANK meetings and convenings have contributed to their increased ability to liaise, network or coordinate with others working on child marriage, and 72% reported that CRANK resources have helped them identify key research priorities and gaps across the child marriage research agenda.

Qualitative data also provides examples of the CRANK facilitating coordination. As one respondent explained in their email feedback:

"I think the CRANK has contributed to greater coordination on some level. Its themes bring together researchers and actors who might not otherwise know each other, and it publicises studies that might otherwise sink beneath the waves."

Other feedback provides examples of how the CRANK enables coordination:

"The CRANK meetings plus the tracking of new and on-going research on the Girls Not Brides website has helped us to get a better sense of what research is completed, planned and on-going and has, can then help reduce wasteful duplication of research." (email feedback)

"I think CRANK is good at communicating a global research agenda and encouraging it in certain directions, and giving passion and energy to it." (email feedback)

"One of the biggest problems is that the academics and academic community tends to produce knowledge in a very isolated forum and it's not always accessible to practitioner or to the civil society organisations that we are working with or to the practitioner, to direct it… so the CRANK space bringing these actors together, discussing the evidence and the resources shared is really helping us practitioners".

While the CRANK survey revealed high satisfaction with the CRANK's networking role, further results indicated there is room for improvement in strengthening the coordination function among different levels of stakeholders and sectors. Specifically, 70% of respondents (19 out of 26) rated their satisfaction with the CRANK as a platform to connect and share with other child marriage stakeholders globally as 4 or 5 out of 5, while 42% of respondents (11 out of 26) gave a moderate rating of 3 or lower out of 5 for the CRANK's contribution to increased coordination among stakeholders across different levels and sectors.

One example of strengthening coordination across sectors – for example the child marriage and humanitarian sectors – was reported in the CRANK FGD and in one of the KII. Respondents shared that *Girls Not Brides* is one of the few actors that is advocating and producing knowledge to support ending child marriage in the humanitarian context. Child marriage is seen as a complex issue requiring long-term intervention and advocacy, thus sitting outside of immediate and urgent humanitarian response efforts. However, *Girls Not Brides* through its learning platforms such as the CRANK meetings and global advocacy efforts continues to highlight this at a global level.

"I really recognise that a lot of attention and effort has gone into carving out a specific focus for humanitarian research and programming in the CRANK space, because in the humanitarian sector globally, we don't [really] have space to have technical discussions [or about] evidence [or] about impact…"

The contradiction comes from high satisfaction with the CRANK's networking function but lower perception of its coordination effectiveness across stakeholders and initiatives. The open-ended comments provide insight into this. The dissatisfaction of some respondents seems to stem from a

perception that the CRANK is engaging with a limited subset of voices and organisations, rather than facilitating coordination across the full diversity of child marriage stakeholders. As one respondent commented:

"I think sometimes it feels as though [the] CRANK is engaging with the same people, who all have a similar perspective and do similar research and are part of the same sector and are known by the BIG organisations – I would like to see engagement with different sectors, and people who think/do research differently and maybe more thought about how smaller pieces of research such as PhDs fit into the picture etc."

Another participant noted the CRANK's focus on quarterly presentations rather than substantive coordination discussions:

"But if you want a better coordinated research agenda, it is necessary to bring diverse entities together to discuss the priorities and agree to emphasise certain areas and to coordinate their work."

Another contributor reflected on the success of the CRANK engaging UN agencies with a broad range of researchers and particularly civil society, but stated that a key challenge in the coordination function is how to bring government and regional bodies into these spaces, and the possible need to complement the CRANK global mechanism with more regional meetings where this can happen.

Beyond this, one respondent noted that it would be good to better understand how the CRANK is informing key donors and actors working on child marriage:

"It would be interesting to see how many of these themes (themes addressed in the CRANK meetings) have been reflected in the new investments on child marriage for example the Global Programme to End Child marriage – both in terms of interventions being prioritised and the new research agenda. With UN agencies such as UNICEF and UNFPA an active part of the CRANK it will be important to see how themes/issues coming out of the CRANK are reflected in the new global learning agenda of the Global Programme and that resources are prioritised for some of the gaps the CRANK has identified."

While most are satisfied with the CRANK's function to facilitate member sharing events, many feel the CRANK could strengthen its coordination efforts across sectors and more diverse actors, and there is a need for a stronger focus on processes for collaborative research, priority-setting, across the diverse child marriage field. Addressing these concerns represents an opportunity for the CRANK to strengthen its role as an integrator and coordinator.

The survey also asked respondents how effective CRANK resources and meetings are at highlighting evidence from underrepresented regions and knowledge types.

For CRANK's resources:

- 44% said they were very or somewhat effective at diversifying the evidence base geographically.
- 40% said they were moderately or minimally effective.

For CRANK's meetings/convenings:

- 48% rated them as very or somewhat effective for diversity.
- 22% said they were moderately or minimally effective.

In other words, less than half of the respondents felt that CRANK resources and meetings effectively diversified evidence from different geographical regions and knowledge areas. Some specific concerns were raised during this assessment. One participant highlighted that the CRANK's formal presentation style seems to limit practitioner involvement, while another mentioned the limited participation of governments and regions. This led to a recommendation to complement the global CRANK with regional meetings to enhance inclusion. This data clearly points out the need for substantial improvements in making the CRANK's activities more representative of diverse evidence and perspectives, especially those from marginalised regions and populations.

While the CRANK has made commendable efforts towards equitable knowledge sharing, such as translation, engagement with researchers from the Global South, and showcasing members' work, there are still significant systemic inequalities in the generation of evidence on child marriage, particularly concerning research and funding. Despite the CRANK's core objective of promoting equitable knowledge sharing, these challenges persist.

With child marriage heavily concentrated in the Global South, it is critical that voices from the Global South help guide the CRANK's priorities and knowledge production. As an FGD respondent explained, prevailing notions of "credible research" often discount young scholars and communities from the Global South, who may offer invaluable perspectives. Rethinking evidence to value diverse research approaches and knowledge is key. As this respondent stated, the CRANK's processes must be "modest" – meaning inclusive of diverse perspectives, especially from the Global South:

"I would love to see more space to think together about the implications of research. It feels more academic than utilisation focused. The spaces are more didactic than participatory, which limits digestion of information. This might also facilitate more networking. I would also bring in greater diversity of voices."

A critical entry point for this diversification could be transitioning focus to regional and national CRANK convenings, as suggested by several respondents. This would enable context-specific, Global South-led coordination and evidence sharing. Regional/national CRANK chapters led by local stakeholders are key to diversifying the research base and strengthening policy and advocacy efforts by spotlighting evidence generated in high-prevalence areas.

A large systematic review by Siddiqi and Greene (2021) mapped child marriage publications from 2000-2019 across four languages.[8] They found little investment in research from high-prevalence areas like the Sahel and French-Speaking Africa where data is most needed. The authors conclude that greater investment is required in intervention research and response efforts for married girls, exchanges across languages, and research situated in understudied high-prevalence contexts. This systemic issue constrains the CRANK's ability to diversify evidence sources.

Overall, while the CRANK has taken laudable steps towards equitable knowledge sharing, the survey and qualitative findings reveal continued need to improve Global South representation. However, the CRANK alone cannot remedy systemic funding biases. Suggestions to further diversify evidence rightly focus on strengthening Global South-led, context-specific coordination through regional and national platforms.

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[8] Siddiqi, M., & Greene, M. E. (2021). Mapping the field of child marriage: Evidence, gaps, and future directions from a large-scale systematic scoping review, 2000–2019. *Journal of Adolescent Health, 68*(5), 883-892. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jadohealth.2021.09.020

Recommendations from respondents

Improving CRANK meetings and convening

In the open-ended survey responses, stakeholders provided suggestions on how CRANK could enhance its meetings and convenings as spaces to share evidence. Common themes in the 13 responses included:

- Holding more regional convenings and strengthening regional coordination (mentioned in 3 responses). As one respondent shared, *"Meetings should be held region by region first and then a global convening will help with collation and prioritisation of advocacy issues emanating from regional convenings."*
- Being more inclusive of diverse research and perspectives from smaller/local organisations (suggested in 3 responses). For example, one respondent recommended *"Be more inclusive of ongoing research and grey literature, also working with people with lived experience of [child marriage]."*
- Making meetings more participatory and discussion-based rather than didactic (recommended in 2 responses). One respondent felt *"I would love to see more space to think together about [the] implications of research. It feels more academic than utilisation focused. The spaces are more didactic than participatory, which limits digestion of information. This might also facilitate more networking."*
- Tracking research utilisation after convenings (suggested in 2 responses). As one response stated, *"It is important for CRANK to track how findings are being used by networks and organisations as well as to influence evidence sharing by different regions."*
- Increasing member engagement through more regular touchpoints (mentioned in 2 responses).

Insights from the FGD and email feedback aligned with these suggestions. For example, one FGD participant recommended regional workshops to *"bring in government and regional bodies to connect."* Email feedback also highlighted the value of *"[complementing] regional meetings in Latin America, Africa and South Asia."* In terms of inclusion, an FGD participant noted that *"affected countries are often not considered to be of high research value, but they are most relevant for the work."* The need for more participatory and grounded discussions was mentioned in both data sources as well.

In summary, enhancing regional relevance, inclusion, interactivity, tracking influence, and member engagement emerge as consistent areas suggested for improving CRANK meetings and convenings across the different respondent feedback.

Improving CRANK's coordination efforts

The open-ended responses suggested several ways the CRANK could enhance coordination efforts. The most repeated recommendations focused on diversifying participation, enhancing regional coordination, facilitating joint strategising among stakeholders and boosting engagement through local outreach and polls (each suggested by 2-3 respondents).

One of the respondents emphasised the potential opportunities to enhancing regional coordination:

"maybe through annual regional meetings in Latin America, Africa and South Asia - Important for regional researchers to have opportunities to learn and connect with policy makers at a regional

level - also this may provide greater opportunities to bring in government and regional bodies to connect."

Respondents also shared insight on how the CRANK could adopt a more explicit and active advocacy role going forward:

"In looking forward […] firstly, it would be useful to do an annual stock-taking report; secondly, it would be useful to use such a report to advocate for investment and action; and thirdly, it would be important to support countries in using the global set of priorities as a starting point to develop national ones, with the ownership of all the stakeholders."

"One of the greatest challenges still is how best to bring in Government representatives – and perhaps the next phase could also look at opportunities for researchers along with government counterparts to present on the research and how it has resulted in policy or programmatic change."

Another opportunity for the CRANK's future work with donors to support a better-coordinated research agenda on child marriage, as reflected by one of the respondents:

"One potential gap in the aid architecture on child marriage is bringing in some of the actors involved in the CRANK (e.g. civil society and researchers) into the governance mechanisms of the Global Programmes to help advise and shape on research priorities – I recall that at the beginning of the Global Programme there was strategic advisory group which was broader than just UN partners and donors and maybe this needs to be re-instated if this isn't happening already."

Conclusion

As highlighted by Plesons et al. (2021), further effectiveness and implementation research are needed globally to identify successful approaches to ending child marriage and supporting married girls by 2030.[9] Key gaps remain around understanding what works to prevent child marriage and support married girls through intervention effectiveness and implementation research. Robust intervention studies are needed to identify successful approaches. Implementation research should elucidate how to deliver programs effectively in real-world settings at scale.

While the CRANK has made valuable contributions as a knowledge sharing platform in its initial 2.5 years, findings reveal important opportunities to amplify impact moving forward:

- Expand the CRANK's coordination role in the future by expanding from the existing global position to strengthening regional and national platforms. Regional CRANK chapters led by actors based in those regions would enable context-specific priority and agenda setting, knowledge exchange and collaborative advocacy to accelerate evidence-based progress. This links to the current challenge of engaging policymakers and government representatives, which could be better tackled through localised efforts.
- Clarify the CRANK's role in stimulating collective advocacy across diverse stakeholders at global, regional and national levels. Leverage the Global Programme and *Girls Not Brides*' relationships to support greater regional coordination and engagement of government representatives to better inform child marriage policy efforts.

[9] Plesons, M., Travers, E., Malhotra, A., Finnie, A., Maksud, N., Chalasani, S., & Chandra-Mouli, V. (2021). Updated research gaps on ending child marriage and supporting married girls for 2020–2030. *Reproductive Health*, 18(1), 1-14. https://doi.org/10.1186/s12978-021-01176-x

- Utilise *Girls Not Brides*' experience to develop practitioner-friendly tools – like implementation guidance or practical programming resources – based on evidence shared in CRANK spaces.
- Enhance efforts to address systemic inequities that limit diversity in evidence by advocating for the funding of research led by scholars from the Global South and by actively involving youth perspectives. While the CRANK may not directly fund research, it can contribute to coordinated advocacy on this issue.

5 Recommendations

Recommendations for the domains have been built on the information from the respondents and relating to the findings that have come through the different data collection tools. Some recommendations could be interconnected and relevant for multiple domains at the same time.

5.1 Domain 1: Broad offer resource production and dissemination

Continue doing:

- Produce practical, action-oriented resources like toolkits and case studies that provide concrete guidance and examples for advocacy and programming. Survey findings showed preference for practical formats like toolkits,case studies and briefs. Respondents requested "more action-oriented tools and guidelines", saying resources should "focus on practical application." Respondents highlighted their interest in having more informative tools, based on country-specific experiences and learning, which can help them for programmatic inputs.
- Respondents showcased having strong interest in accessing resources related to fundraising techniques and capacity. Thus, *Girls Not Brides* may consider having more learning sessions or training related to fundraising.

Start doing:

- Adopt more targeted digital marketing strategies leveraging email, social media and search engine optimisation to reach and engage audiences beyond just membership. This could include other stakeholders in the broader movement, young advocates and grassroots groups/ organisations, who are not directly working on CEFMU issues. This can help to expand alliances and interconnected working relationships. Tailored email campaigns, social media content, and Search Engine Optimisation (SEO) tools would enable resources to engage broader external audiences.
- Feedback from respondents indicated that resources can be tailored more to regional contexts and priorities. Focusing on local or country-specific contexts, and including member organisations in the resource development process can increase inclusion and representation of grassroots and community-based organisations.
- Consider featuring new, emerging or cross-cutting themes such as girls' education, skills training and economic empowerment, conflict- and crisis-affected settings, climate change issues, etc. There is growing interest in new thematic areas that respondents have highlighted are important to their work.

5.2 Domain 2: Learning for influencing and programming

Continue doing:

- Continue customising and expanding ways in which delivery of capacity strengthening and training to groups of members at the country level to meet critical needs. The findings validate the effectiveness of *Girls Not Brides*' approach of tailoring workshops, mentoring and training to align with organisations' unique contexts. This tailored capacity enhancement should be continued as it directly addresses members' specific requirements.

Start doing:

- Increase the duration of high-demand training based on feedback requesting more time to absorb concepts thoroughly. This responds to member survey findings.
- Promote more in-person exchanges post-COVID for deeper peer learning, as recommended in the EOL and Uganda case studies. This addresses the desire for in-person interactions voiced by member organisations.
- Prioritise enhancing capacity among grassroots and youth groups who often have high needs, a key survey recommendation. This focuses on underserved groups.
- Provide more extensive mentoring and follow-up after programmes to aid practical application, suggested in the LAC case. This facilitates implementation of skills.
- Create ongoing communities of practice for sustained skills sharing, validated by EOL recommendations. This sustains peer learning.
- Conduct training in local languages for accessibility, based on LAC feedback. This boosts inclusion.

5.3 Domain 3: Leadership and influence on the child marriage agenda

Continue doing:

- Assert leadership in synthesising and spotlighting salient issues identified through CRANK convenings, working groups and other research and convening functions. Sustaining *Girls Not Brides*' leadership role in spotlighting critical insights from civil society and grassroots organisation through regional and global convenings asserts its authority as a knowledge hub.
- Maintain and leverage *Girls Not Brides*' vital role as a convenor bringing together diverse child marriage stakeholders from different sectors, constituencies and regions to build common understanding. Continuing to unite disparate voices maintains *Girls Not Brides*' distinct value.
- Share *Girls Not Brides*' accumulated experience and exemplary capacity in engaging productively with diverse stakeholders, even controversial voices, with partner organisations and other movements to inform their advocacy. *Girls Not Brides* builds on its role as a convenor bridging disparate groups. Codifying and disseminating proven practices, values and techniques around multi stakeholder coordination can guide other actors.

Start doing:

- Proactively focus efforts on increasing *Girls Not Brides*' leadership and influence at the regional level. G*irls Not Brides* to take leadership in the regional level, in particular through more meetings to strengthen influencing and collaborative and collective efforts.
- Amplifying region-specific priorities through more convening at the regional and national level. Survey respondents rated *Girls Not Brides*' leadership higher globally than regionally, FGD

discussions also brought out the need for more leadership at regional level. Targeted regional engagement would address this gap.

5.4 Domain 4: Coordination, dissemination and uptake of Research and Evidence

Continue doing:

- Maintain production of accessible evidence synthesis resources like meeting summaries, research spotlights, and evidence reviews. Consider complementing these with creative, engaging formats to promote key concepts, evidence and discussion points. This could involve consistently developing supplemental graphics, videos or other multimedia to convey core insights from text-based resources in accessible ways. Evaluate which supplementary formats resonate most with diverse audiences through user testing or polls. Also explore potential for translating highly valued resources like evidence reviews into languages beyond English, French and Spanish based on member needs and input.
- Leverage the CRANK as an inclusive convening platform for global knowledge exchange through quarterly virtual meetings and potential in-person convenings.
- Conduct proactive, systematic outreach to identify and engage priority stakeholders and institutions from the Global South as speakers, such as by mapping key actors and organisations by region. Provide necessary support to increase accessible participation.
- Collaborate with *Girls Not Brides* to produce practical tools and guidance for policymakers and practitioners based on CRANK evidence. This could include adaptation guides, programme design resources, and advocacy briefs.

Start doing:

- Expand the CRANK's coordination role by expanding focus to regional and national platforms for context-specific coordination, evidence sharing and collaborative advocacy. This can be achieved through convening regional meetings, working groups and generating tailored content to address context-specific needs.
- Develop resources tailored for policymakers and government officials to increase their engagement. This could involve policy briefs, advocacy toolkits or programme adaptation guides to support their efforts to use CRANK evidence.
- Map out an explicit role for the CRANK in influencing funders and building stakeholder consensus by:
    - Leveraging the CRANK's reputation to coordinate stakeholder endorsement of key research insights and investment priorities identified through the convening and evidence reviews.
    - Incorporating consensus-building discussions into CRANK convenings to align members behind evidence-based positions and influencing goals.
    - Exploring development of a CRANK community of practice as a mechanism to foster stakeholder consensus on advocacy priorities.
- Address systemic inequities constraining evidence diversity through initiatives like:
    - Advocating for increased funding for Global South-led child marriage research and interventions.

- Facilitating partnerships between Global North researchers and Global South-led organisations to increase context-specific evidence generation.
- Involving young people in the CRANK research agenda and content development.

- Conduct periodic global evidence reviews and research landscape analyses, such as every five years, through an inclusive process that:
  - Systematically assesses progress on addressing evidence gaps.
  - Continues aligning priorities to evolving needs.
  - Informs the global research agenda.
  - Actively engages Global South-based researchers and young scholars by providing funding support for their participation.

6 Conclusion

This evaluation provides strong evidence that *Girls Not Brides* has effectively established itself as a knowledge leader that successfully leverages diverse learning opportunities to ensure member organisations and stakeholders have the relevant evidence, insights and skills to undertake impactful programming and advocacy efforts to end child marriage.

The findings validate the high quality, relevance and usefulness of *Girls Not Brides*' knowledge products like briefs, reports and toolkits in aligning with member organisations' needs and informing their work. Learning initiatives have tangibly expanded organisational capacities, forged connections and influenced policy change. *Girls Not Brides*' vital role as a thought leader and convenor uniting diverse voices is also affirmed.Research and coordination mechanisms such at CRANK are effective and critical in consolidating and amplifying evidence to support ending child marriage through a concerted effort.

However, the evaluation reveals opportunities to amplify impact by contextualising evidence generation and learning approaches. This includes:

- Adopting targeted outreach beyond membership to engage critical stakeholders who are not current members.
- Strengthening expertise sharing and leadership at regional/national levels.
- Providing more practical guidance to apply research insights to implementation.
- Strengthening practices towards a more equitable knowledge system that addressing systemic inequities which currently limit a diversity in the evidence(particularly evidence from grassroots organisations, souther-based research institutes etc)
- Establishing thematic CRANK chapters for context-specific coordination.
- Increasing multimedia content tailored to members' emerging needs.

By refining strategies based on feedback from its extensive membership and partners, *Girls Not Brides* can continue nurturing a dynamic evidence-based ecosystem adapted to evolving needs. This will empower the movement with the timely, relevant insights required to inform context-specific solutions and accelerate progress against child marriage worldwide.

In conclusion, while affirming *Girls Not Brides*' immense contributions, the evaluation provides a constructive pathways to guide its next phase of impact by adopting more inclusive, locally-attuned learning approaches that encourage girls' and adolescents' participation . As *Girls Not Brides* continues adapting as a learning organisation, it will sustain its legacy as a trusted knowledge leader at the heart of the global effort to end child marriage and ensure girls in all their diversity can reach their full potential.

7 Annexes

Annex A: Evaluation questions under 4 domains

Evaluation questions to guide inquiry under each domain

Outcome 3.1	Outcome 3.1	Outcome 3.1	Outcome 3.2
Domain 1: Broad offer Resource Production and Dissemination	Domain 2: Learning for Influencing and Programming (at country and regional level)	Domain 3: Leadership and Influence on the child, early and forced marriage and unions (CEFMU) Agenda	Domain 4: Dissemination and Coordination of Research and Evidence
Evaluation Q1. To what extent are the broad offer learning products developed by *Girls Not Brides* (e.g., briefs, learning series, toolkits, reports, webinars) relevant, high-quality, and useful for its users? 1.1 To what extent have members' experiences and needs been reflected and incorporated into the national/regional/global evidence base presented in the learning products? 1.2 How have the learning products both diversified representation (e.g.,	Evaluation Q3: How effectively has *Girls Not Brides* supported members, NPs/SPs and coalitions at country and regional level with learning to support their influencing and programming on ending child marriage? 3.1 How have the learning spaces contributed to building new relationships or strengthening the movement against CEFMU (expansion, formation of new groups etc.)? 3.2 What has been the level of participation of women- and youth-	Evaluation Q4. As the representative voice of an extensive global partnership, to what extent does *Girls Not Brides* leverage its accumulated knowledge, learning, and evidence to assert its role as a leading advocate and influencer in the child, early, and forced marriage (CEFMU) landscape? How effectively does it shape the discourse, bring new perspectives (particularly from civil society), and prioritise the issue at global, regional, and national levels? How often do other organizations seek its advice or form partnerships based	Evaluation Q5. To what extent has the CRANK initiative: 1) supported the dissemination of evidence on child marriage priority learning topics to inform and strengthen child marriage interventions and policies; 2) fostered increased coordination among key stakeholders (including researchers, practitioners, policymakers, advocates, and donors) in their research and programmatic response, promoting more unified, evidence-based action to end child marriage? 5.1 How has CRANK contributed to enhancing stakeholders' understanding of child

group, country, regional) of the global evidence base and notably strengthened high-priority or member-requested topics? (Gender equality & challenging gender norms; Engagement with other sectors (e.g. education, sexual and reproductive health and rights); Budget advocacy and analysis; Ethical communications; Fundraising; Safeguarding; COVID-19; Female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C); Conflict- and crisis-affected settings; Married girls, adolescent mothers and girls who are pregnant; Youth engagement) Evaluation Q2. To what extent have the dissemination channels utilised by *Girls Not Brides* (e.g., newsletters, webinars, Learning and Resource web pages, Resource Centre) been relevant and effective in reaching and engaging the intended users?	led organisations in the learning spaces? 3.3 To what extent have the learning spaces facilitated country-specific context analysis and evidence reviews, such as undertaking gender-transformative reviews? 3.4 To what extent have the learning spaces contributed to building common visions/perspectives and/or building consensus and priority-setting collectively, such as developing Theories of Change? 3.5 What has been the level and quality of engagement of self-organised and peer learning spaces with or between member organisations? 3.6 To what extent have the learning spaces contributed to better evidence-based design of collective action for programming and advocacy?	on its expertise in the fight to end child marriage? 4.1 How effectively has *Girls Not Brides* synthesised, generated on occasion, and utilised data and evidence, including promising practices from programming, to shape policy positions and advocacy messaging, thereby influencing decision-making processes among key stakeholders in the fight against CEFMU? 4.2 To what extent does Girls Not Brides bring new perspectives, particularly from civil society (grassroots) to the global child marriage sector? 4.3 To what extent does Girls Not Brides provide expertise on the issue of child marriage that is relevant for those working in the (women and girls) sector?	marriage inclusive of supporting married girls and its solutions? 5.2 To what extent have the spaces convened by the CRANK (quarterly meetings, global convening) contributed to a more coordinated / holistic understanding of efforts to end child marriage informed by diverse key stakeholders (child marriage advocates, practitioners and policymakers) and supported a more harmonised child marriage agenda 5.3 In what ways have the programming, policies, or advocacy initiatives related to CEFMU been influenced or informed by the evidence disseminated by CRANK? 5.4 How have the resources produced and shared by CRANK (meeting resource round ups, research spotlights, key takeaway notes from convenings) supported members to identify research priorities and gaps to inform new research or pilot interventions? To what extent have CRANK members been able to

2.3 How accessible are the dissemination channels with regards to language diversity (e.g. French, Hindi, Spanish, Arabic), varied formats and platforms, and considerations for people with disabilities (e.g. alt text for images)? 2.4 How do platforms like Basecamp and Whatsapp facilitate interaction amongst members with shared priorities or areas of interest, and how do such platforms impact information sharing and collaboration efforts?	3.7 How effectively has the 'deep accompaniment' approach adopted by *Girls Not Brides* (in Uganda) enhanced the capacity of National/State Partnerships and Coalitions to integrate learning into effective project design, policy, and advocacy work?		fill identified research gaps and priorities influencing new initiatives. 5.5 In what ways has CRANK increased the uptake of research, evidence, knowledge products, experiences and programs to new or emerging child marriage research topics / areas or geographies that are more under researched priority groups/countries/regions?

Annex B: Member Survey Additional Findings[10]

Domain 1: Broad offer resource production and dissemination & online learning spaces

Learning products and dissemination

Table 1: Learning Products

[10] The number of survey responses differs for each question depending on whether a respondent skipped the question. In any survey findings described throughout this report, "respondents" refers to the specific respondents who responded to each question.

Open-ended Survey Question: How can *Girls Not Brides*' learning products be improved?	
Summary of respondent recommendations by category (Based on data analysis of open-ended responses)	Selected Responses
Local language (18 comments) Specific languages requested: ● Hindi (3) ● Portuguese (2) ● Kiswahili (Swahili), Lingala, African dialects ● French ● Sindhi ● Spanish ● Tamil ● Native languages in Mexico	"By considering Portuguese materials in the toolkits. "To improve the situation, it would also be necessary to diversify the languages of distribution, such as Kiswahili and Lingala in the DRC, and to authorise translation into African dialects."
Sharing/training for learning and understanding (17 comments) ● In-person or online ● Discussion/meeting/workshop/conference ● Regional/international ● Whatsapp platform	"It could be good if the Girls Not Brides can organise a workshop or discussion meeting through online platform or physically regarding learning products. Girls Not Brides [could take] initiatives based on different opinions from member organisations."
Inclusivity (16 comments) ● Local/country context - examples/experiences/case studies (9) ● Grassroots, CBOS ● Member organisations - materials published ● Partners - regional/national partners/coalitions: engagement, collaboration	"Making the learning products more contextualised in reference to socio-cultural and geographical diversity of our state (Rajasthan) or country or the members of the state partnership could also be asked to provide some inputs in the draft learning products for their finalisation."
Format (9 comments) ● Audiovisual/Video/Animation (5) ● Infographics (4)	
Participation/feedback (8 comments) ● Partners/members (4)	"There is a need to enhance communication and engagement with the

	partners in designing learning products and feedback from the partners for on-course improvement based on learning gained by them."
Language - more simple, brief, clear, and make accessible for youth (7 comments)	"Could make some with more friendly and understandable language for all people, as well as focus on creating some whose target population are young people, particularly teenagers."
Communication/Dissemination (6 comments) ● More frequent (3) ● Local offices ● Send direct links to new members	
Channel (6 comments) ● More webinars (4) ● Email, LinkedIn	
Content (6 comments) ● Case studies (2) ● Best practices (2) ● Real stories ● Regional	

Online learning spaces

Table 2: Online learning spaces Open-ended Survey Question: How can *Girls Not Brides*' online global learning spaces be improved?	
Summary of respondent recommendations by category (Based on data analysis of open-ended responses)	Selected Responses
Access to internet/mobile/link/documents (12 comments) ● Address barriers to internet access ● Reduce bandwidth on the platform ● Subsidise internet costs	"Bear in mind that some remote areas are not covered by the Internet. That's why it's important to share the learning link immediately after completing the e-learning course."

● Share links through country networks ● Share links immediately after course ● Share notes and documents in email and the group ● Make mobile-friendly	"Reduce the rate of Internet connection consumption on the platform to make it easier for members living in areas with low Internet connection coverage (e.g. DRC)." "If the platform can help or subsidise low-income partners with Internet connections" "Ensure that the online learning spaces are mobile-friendly or have a dedicated mobile app. Many users in different parts of the world access the internet primarily through mobile devices."
Share members' experiences/best practice/case studies (10 comments) ● Encourage members/partners to present/share their experiences more ● Share member experiences at global level ● Share through video	"Plan ahead. Expand to other girls' and adolescents' organisations. Take advantage of members' experiences and knowledge to facilitate the processes." "Partners should be encouraged to present and share their community practices to address child marriage in their working areas." "Always give those who want to share their experiences the opportunity to bring people together online at every opportunity." "Girls Not Brides may invite case study and experience from the member organisations. Member organisation's research experience could be shared in the online global learning." "An opportunity should be provided to the members of NP / SP to share their research and advocacy campaign findings at global level which will inspire the members to develop new insights for their programs."
Meeting reminders (5 comments) ● Send more frequent reminders including through email ● Contact every member	"That the learning meeting be announced at least one month before it is due to take place, to enable us to prepare the internet system and other systems properly."
Local context/engagement (5 comments) ● Engage local leaders ● Share data with grassroots	"The topics are good but the issue of data to grassroots organisations are the major concern."

● More in-country learning events ● Include local issues for more members	
Scheduling/timing (4 comments) ● Schedule in advance as much as possible ● More flexible times	"Sometimes schedules are difficult to match, I know that it is problematic to coordinate different areas in several countries, but I make the effort to reconcile the different areas."
Language accessibility (3 comments) ● Translate to local languages	"Make content available in multiple languages to cater to a diverse global audience. This is particularly important for a global organisation like Girls Not Brides." "As far as videos are concerned, we are unable to capture everything when a video is given in English or videoconferences are almost held in English."
Additional suggestions for improvement	
● Member leadership	"Build members' capacity to use these spaces and have them managed by members."
● User-centred design	"Prioritise user experience and feedback. Conduct surveys and gather input from members to understand their needs, preferences, and pain points within the online platform."
● Self-paced learning	
● Online App	

Domain 2: Learning for influencing and programming

4.2.1 Findings for Learning Spaces

Table 3: Participation in learning spaces offered or supported by Girls Not Brides since 2020

Q49: Has your organisation participated in any of these learning spaces offered or supported by Girls Not Brides? (Select all that apply)		A high majority of respondents participated in at least one learning space (72 respondents; 84%)
Learning workshops/events/sessions during National Partnership/State Partnership or coalition meetings	56%	Around half of respondents have participated in: ● Learning workshops ● Trainings and/or capacity building sessions
Trainings and/or capacity building sessions (online or in-person)	52%	
Country or regional-specific webinars	41%	Around one-third of respondents have participated in: ● Webinars ● Leadership Programmes
Leadership Programmes (e.g., Gender Leadership Programme or Movement Building and Advocacy Leadership Programme)	33%	
Peer learning sessions (e.g., exchange visits, online peer-to-peer learning spaces)	21%	Less than a quarter of respondents have participated in: ● Peer learning sessions ● Regional learning convenings
Regional learning convenings	16%	

Table 4: Participation in learning spaces and increased organisational technical capacity
Q50: How much has participation in learning spaces offered or supported by Girls Not Brides increased your organisation's technical capacity?
● Rating: 4.07 out of 5 ● 75% of respondents rated 4 or 5 ● 5 was the most frequently selected rating (41% of respondents)

Table 5: Participation in learning spaces and increased organisational technical capacity		
Q51: Has participation in learning spaces offered or supported by Girls Not Brides increased your organisation's technical capacity in any of these ways? Select all that apply.		
Understanding what works to end child marriage	67%	Two-thirds of respondents said their organisation's capacity increased on: ● Understanding what works to end child marriage and how change happens to end child marriage
Understanding how change happens to end child marriage	65%	
Undertaking gender analysis to inform your programming and advocacy work	48%	Almost half of respondents said their organisation's capacity increased on: ● Undertaking gender analysis ● Connecting more with other organisations/stakeholders
Helped your organisation connect more with other organisations or stakeholders	47%	
Undertaking a context analysis specific to your country	42%	One-third of respondents said their organisation's capacity increased on: ● Undertaking a context analysis or power/stakeholder analysis ● Reinforcement of their advocacy leadership ● Documentation of programming/advocacy work ● Integration of learning and research into project design or advocacy work
Undertaking power and stakeholder analysis to inform your programming and advocacy work	41%	
Reinforced the leadership in your advocacy work	36%	
Documentation of your programmatic or advocacy work	35%	
Integration of learning and research into project design (e.g., ensuring your programme/project is evidence-based)	32%	
Integration of learning and research into advocacy work (e.g., ensuring your advocacy is evidence-based)	33%	
Helped your organisation be more impactful	30%	

Reinforced your organisational visibility and positioning	29%	Less than one-third of respondents said their organisation's capacity increased on: ● Organisational impact ● Visibility/positioning

Table 6: Collaboration and peer-to-peer learning		
Q52: Have the learning spaces offered or supported by Girls Not Brides contributed to collaboration and peer-to-peer learning among members in any of these ways? Select all that apply.		
Building new relationships, forming new groups, or expanding groups in the movement against child marriage	68%	Two-thirds said: ● Building new relationships, forming new groups, or expanding groups ● Knowledge sharing and learning from others
Knowledge sharing and learning from others	68%	
Building common visions among members	62%	Over half said: ● Building common visions
Building a sense of collective power and motivation	52%	Half said: ● Building a sense of collective power and motivation
Building consensus and priority-setting collectively among members (e.g., developing collective vision, priorities, strategy, Theories of Change, etc.)	44%	Almost half said: ● Building consensus and priority-setting collectively

Table 7: Suggestions for improvement of learning spaces
Q54: How could learning spaces offered or supported by *Girls Not Brides* be improved?

Summary of respondent recommendations by category (Based on data analysis of open-ended responses)	Selected responses
Opportunities for learning and sharing ● Format ○ Observation tour, field visits ○ Webinar, workshop and documents to all stakeholders ○ More engagements with the regional convening ○ More countrywide events/learning spaces within the country ○ Cross-country learning and sharing event to all member organisations ○ More opportunities for peer learning and sharing ○ Regular training session and collect feedback ● Content ○ Share what member organisations are doing ○ Giving continuous functional learning opportunity among member organisations and monitor them to lead sections ○ Create more opportunities for members to interact	"Girls Not Brides will organise the cross country learning sharing event to all member organisations. It will be cover the story, change story in learning product from all country and organisation."
Inclusivity ● Content ○ Marginalised and vulnerable groups ○ LGBTQ+ ○ Humanitarian settings ○ Local language ● Engagement ○ Grassroots ○ All members	"Ensure that the content is inclusive and addresses the needs of marginalised and vulnerable groups, including LGBTQ+ individuals and those in humanitarian settings." "Girls Not Brides has to try to engage all its members in regular sessions." "More involvement of organisations that are not in Girls Not Brides Uganda leadership in sharing their experiences too"

○ Organisations that are not in *Girls Not Brides* Uganda leadership	
Organisational support ● Target organisations on a case by case basis ● Personalised follow up mechanism ● Have an organisational capacity development segment	"Should target case by case organisation since not all organisations are at the same level" "The learning spaces should integrate a more personalised follow up mechanism to generate the highest impact as learning is a process."
Feedback channels ● Establish clear channels for feedback ● Trainings - collect feedback ● Review feedback and make improvements	"Feedback Mechanisms: Establish clear channels for learners to provide feedback on the learning spaces, content, and user experience." "Regularly review feedback and make improvements accordingly."

Domain 3: Leadership and influence on the child, early and forced marriage and unions (CEFMU) Agenda

4.3.1. Findings for leadership and influence

Table 8: Leadership and influence Respondents' recommendations on how Girls Not Brides' leadership on the child marriage agenda can be improved Summary of respondent recommendations by category (Based on data analysis of open-ended responses) Top 10 categories of recommendations	
1. Organise learning spaces ➔ In-person ➔ Online ➔ Country focus - advocates, membership participation, host the space in membership countries ➔ Regional focus	6. Training

2. Financial support for organisations ➔ Funding and grant opportunities ➔ Fundraising	7. Membership ➔ Engagement ➔ Recruitment ➔ Expansion
3. Stakeholder engagement ➔ Local ➔ CBO/CSO ➔ Grassroots ➔ Communities	8. Country / local focus
4. Advocacy ➔ Engage leaders, communities, youth ➔ Policy ➔ National/Regional/International level	9. Communication/consultation/feedback
5. Inclusivity / Participation ➔ Children ➔ Grassroots ➔ Rural organisations ➔ *Girls Not Brides* national leadership ➔ Gambia data ➔ Poor countries ➔ Regional	10. Visibility
Positive Comments "As far as I know, you're already a leader." "The current leadership strategy is well planned and managed." "So far, their work has served as a guide to do a good job." LAC "In Latin America, I believe this is being routed quite well." I believe that LAC is doing very well and that there is a great diversity of opinions."	

Table 9: Leadership and influence *Girls Not Brides* effectiveness in using learning, data and evidence to shape policy positions and advocacy messaging - Regional Level
Examples of Girls Not Brides effectively using learning, data and evidence to shape policy positions and advocacy messaging at regional level Key quotes:
The representation in Mexico participated with us in a meeting on ILM's where she referred to official statistics in the country, with a focus on rights and their relationship in the public and social sphere.
Meetings and networking with Civil Society organisations started in northern states. We also got an opportunity to facilitate such networking meetings in the state of Uttar Pradesh in India. However, the continuity of such initiatives is a concern.
In my area almost all the organization fighting to end child marriage and teenage pregnancy are members and they we are using the knowledge we acquire from Girls Not Bride's toolkit, products, learning experience create change through working with the policy and law makers to formulate policy and law that shape policy position
Ex Model of budget advocacy notes to be sent to the authorities on the issue of child marriages made an impression on us.
through sharing success narratives and training in gender transformative approaches
Policy makers are accepted the data of Girls Not Brides. They have positive attitude regarding Girls Not Brides works.
Yes, in Pakistan, the NGOs have forced the country to develop and reframe the policies made on the human rights
This is done through the summits and engagements with ministry of gender in uganda.
Yes, during convening meetings and coalition meetings and sharing the data is shared and used for advocacy and influencing work. This helps in shaping policies and schemes in the longer run , with participation of civil society organisations.
This is evident in the various training and capacity building for national partners and coalition on gender transformative approaches and collective action on ending child marriage
I'm in a coalition of 15 organisations working with children and through Girls Not Brides data has shaped our policies and advocacy. We always consult your materials
I notice that in most of the activities that are done by the ministry and other stakeholders use advocacy messaging from networks like girls not brides.

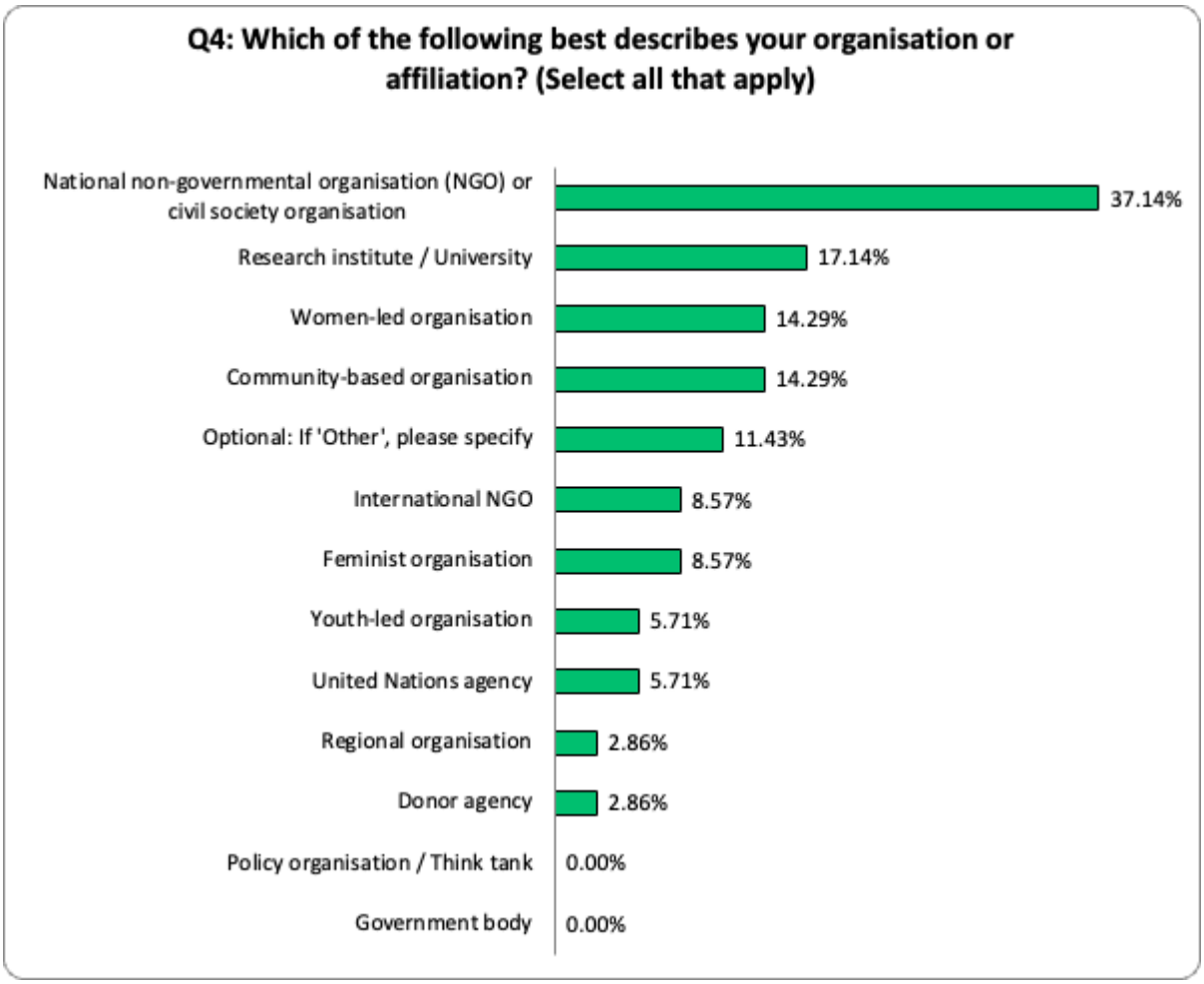
lessons learnt and information received from various sessions have implication for policy and praxis and this is very important to influence policy and effect behavioural change regarding child marriage
They're always accurate and detailed in information technology from each country which helps in shaping those policy
yes, in Mozambique for example, we managed to approve the law to combat and prevent premature marriages thanks to the support of Girls Not Brides

Table 10: Leadership and influence *Girls Not Brides* effectiveness in using learning, data and evidence to shape policy positions and advocacy messaging - Regional Level
Comments on why Girls Not Brides does not effectively use learning, data and evidence to shape policy positions and advocacy messaging at regional level Key quotes:
The NGO members are not set up as a working group.
I cant find any data of Nepal and Asia, so I cant use those information.
The majority of Malian society is reticent about early marriage, with the exception of one ethnic group, which I won't mention out of respect for others, who don't have access to information because organisations don't cover the area due to financial constraints.
National policies to combat child marriage do not take into account the data of Girls Not Brides
Girls Not Brides is a valuable network and must cover our region more. Child marriage is a though [tough] issue in Turkey and around as well as far [for] Asia and Africa.
the information does not reach the decision-makers in my country, so we need more concrete action on the ground, either by advocating or by funding member organisations.

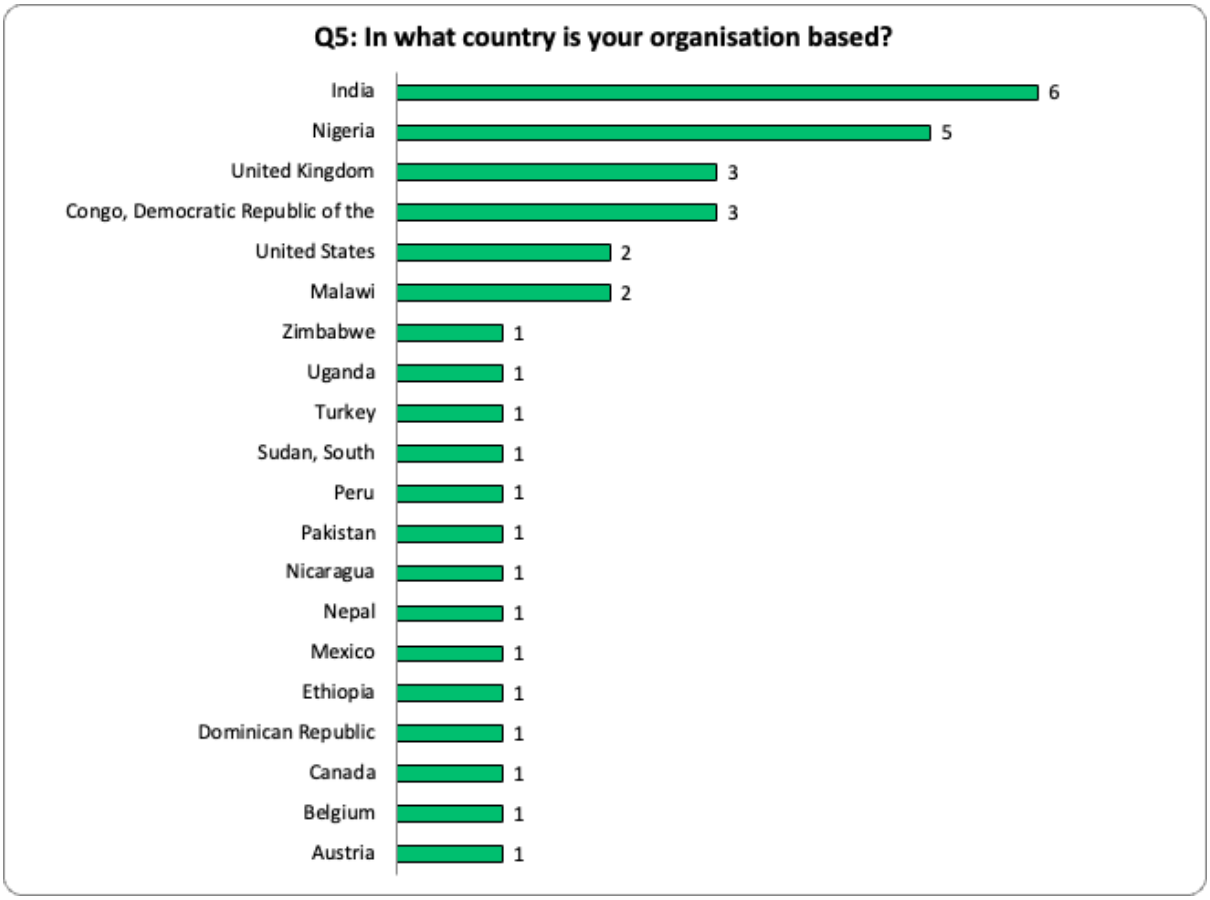
Table 11: Leadership and influence *Girls Not Brides* effectiveness in using learning, data and evidence to shape policy positions and advocacy messaging - Global Level
Examples of how Girls Not Brides effectively uses learning, data and evidence to shape policy positions and advocacy messaging at global level

Key quotes:
Position papers with clear demands on stakeholders
Inviting people and civil societies organisations from different countries to joining the global advocacy campaigns
We use global level information when we were develop [developed] our fact sheet,and other work.
Major stakeholders have adopted and implemented policies due to the influence from Girls Not Brides leadership and influence
The recent Human Rights Council Resolution on Forced Marriage exemplified Girls Not Brides' leadership in the global space
The Girls Not Brides Global team succeeded to present the learning, data and evidences before the UN Bodies to influence the global policy by organising parallel sessions in several global conventions (UN General Assembly, UN Women, Women Deliver, etc))
Bringing the child marriage on the UN agenda is a great success
The Girls Not Brides always participants [participates] in global fora to present and influence donors and UNG on the impact of child marriages on girls.
The CRANK resources are global documents that many stakeholders around the world depend on
Through informing legal advocacy organisations with data and analysis ensuring their interventions are evidence informed.

Annex C: CRANK survey findings

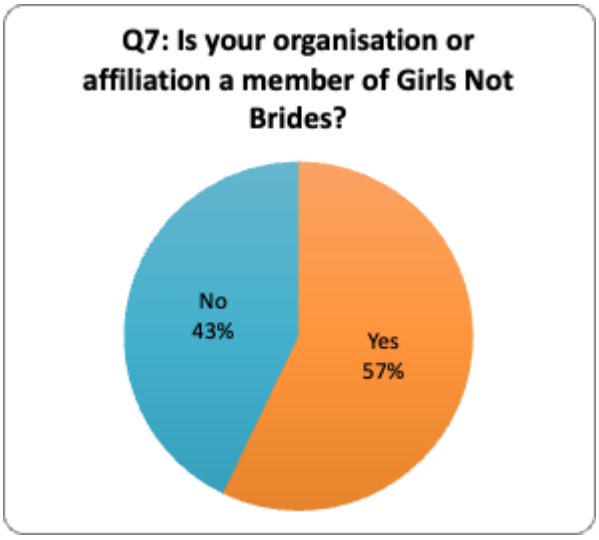


Answered: 35

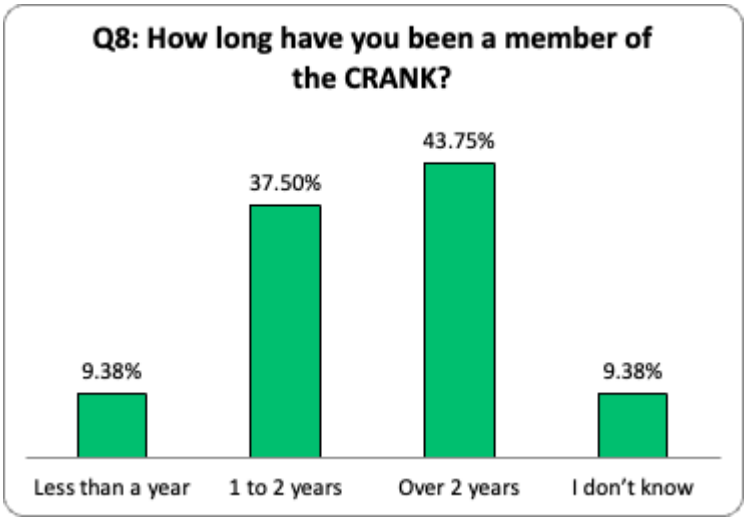


Answered: 35

Answered: 35

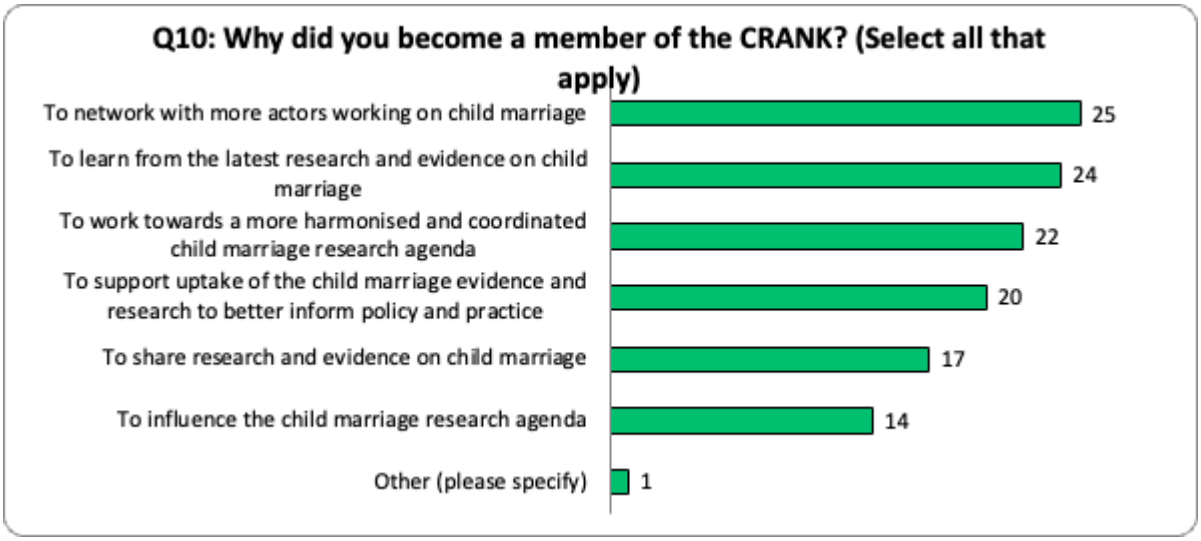


Answered: 35



Answered: 32

Answered: 32



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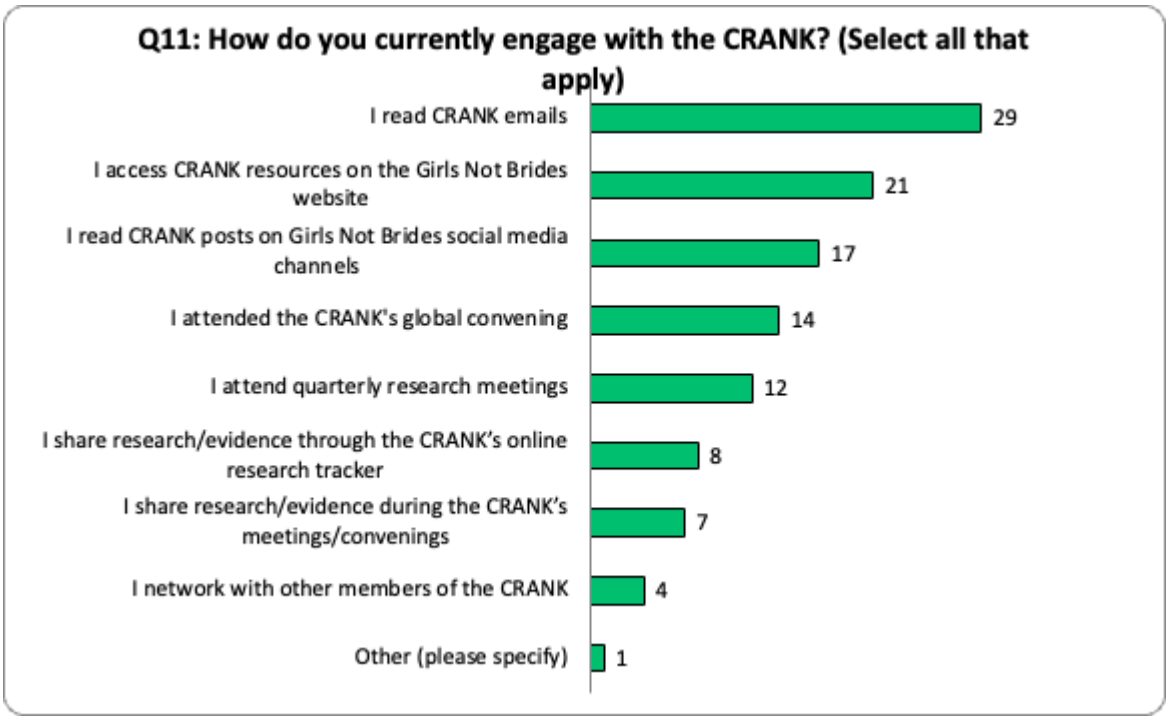
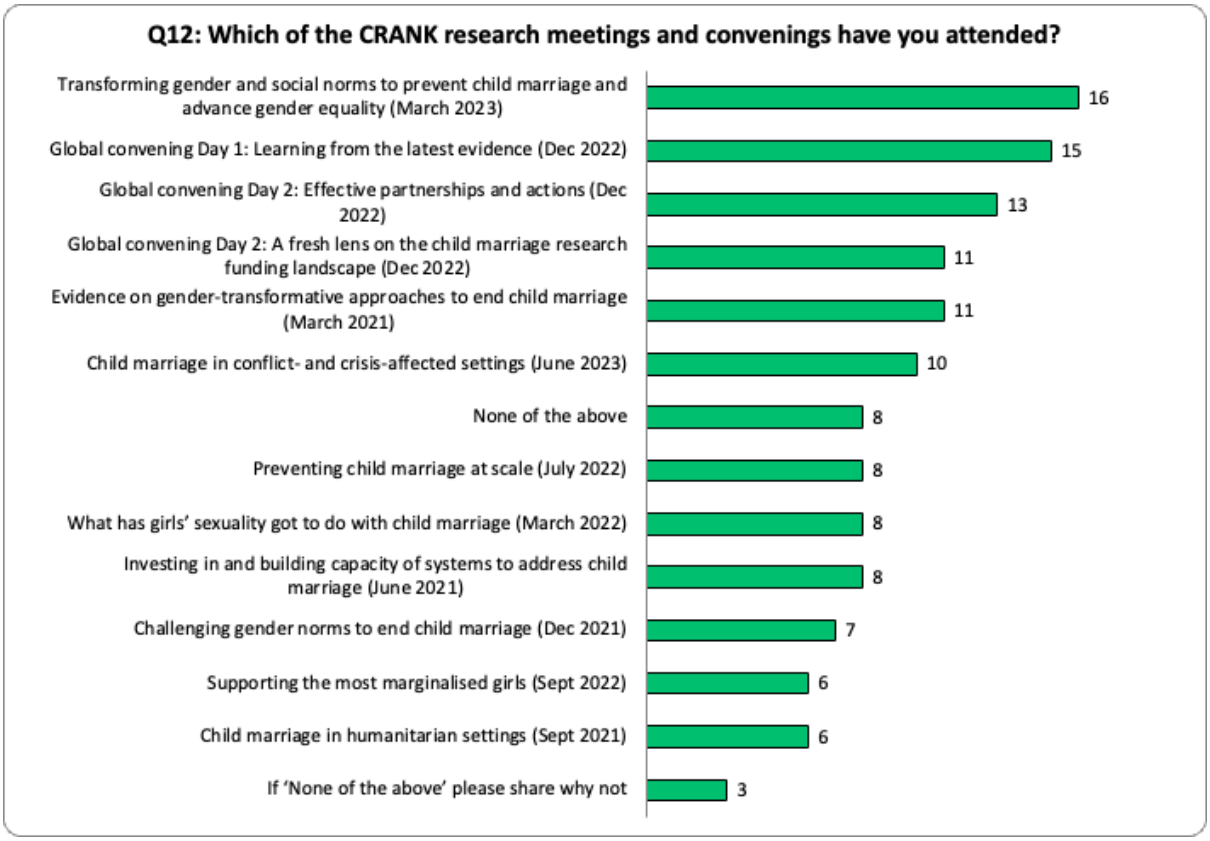
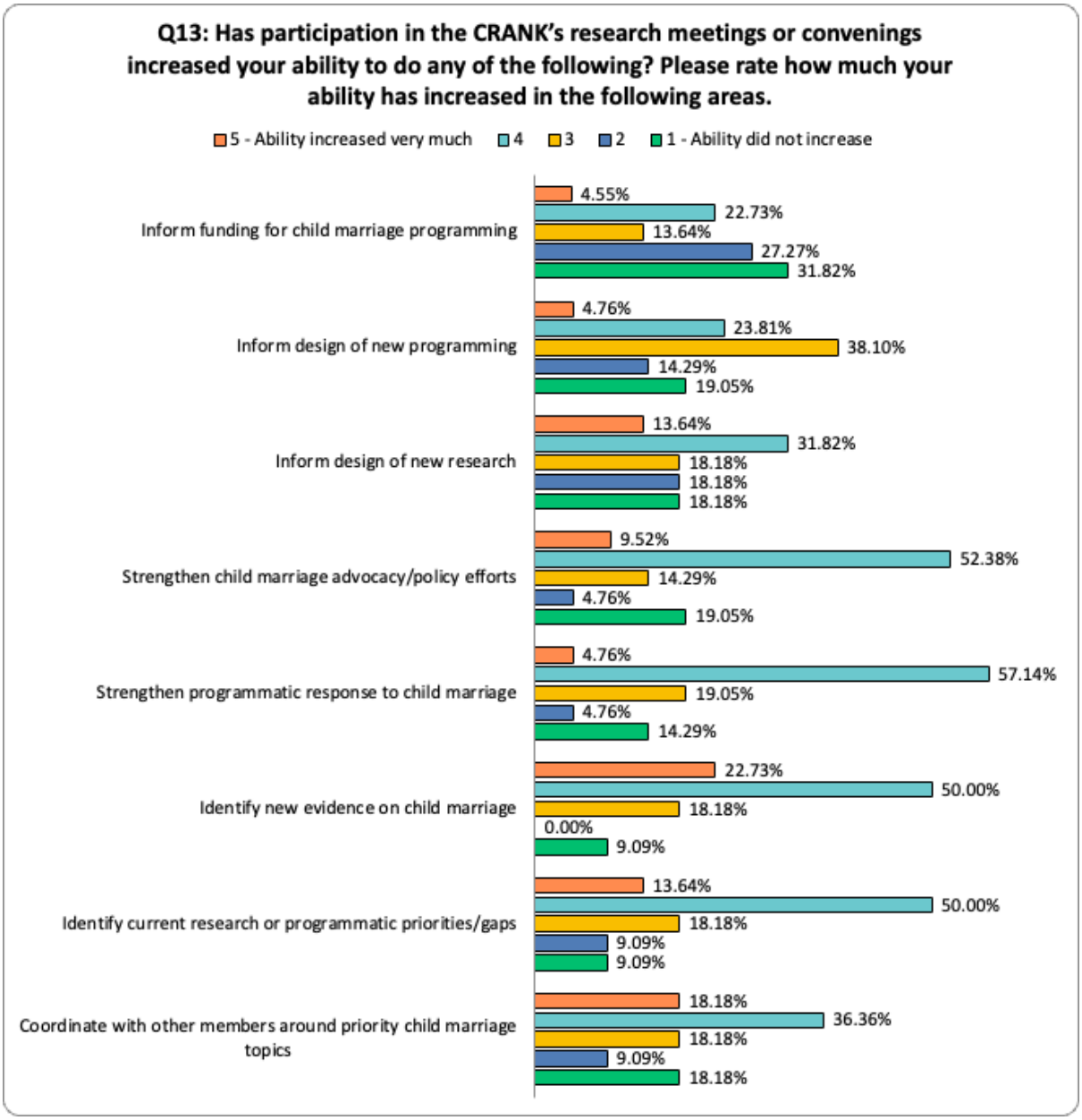


Answered: 32



Answered: 32

Other reasons were (three responses): Time conflicts with other commitments, je ne sais plus vraiment (I don't really know anymore), recently joined



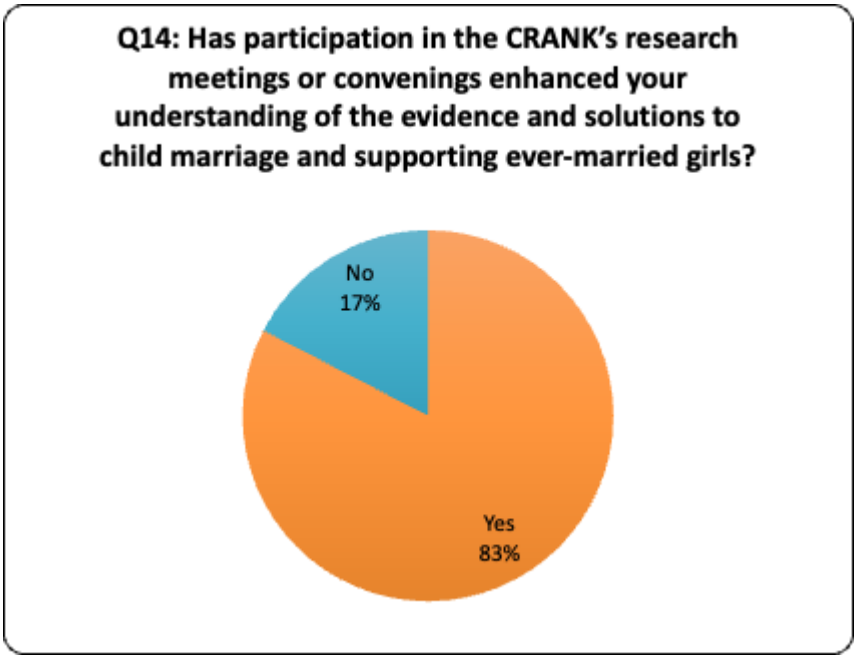
Answered: 23

Participation in CRANK's research meetings and convenings has strengthened diverse abilities among attendees, as evidenced by specific examples shared by nine respondents. Specific examples highlight how CRANK meetings and convenings have enhanced abilities in research, advocacy, leadership, and organisational effectiveness.

Key benefits highlighted include:

- Enhancing research skills by gaining knowledge on new methods and analytical techniques that have been applied in respondents' own work. CRANK meetings provide exposure to diverse research approaches.

- Expanding professional networks and collaboration opportunities through connections built with other researchers/practitioners for sharing findings and integrating studies. CRANK convenings broaden opportunities.
- Building advocacy capacity by increasing confidence and skills in areas like co-facilitating meetings, utilising CRANK findings to identify key issues, and engaging stakeholders. CRANK provides resources to strengthen advocacy abilities.
- Informing organisational strategy and partnerships by acquiring knowledge to support coalition programming and engagement with government partners. CRANK materials and discussions guide organisational priorities.
- Encouraging emerging leadership by inspiring new indigenous research, participatory designs, and greater roles. CRANK meetings motivate emerging scholars/leaders.
- Identifying future research areas and approaches by gaining awareness of evidence gaps through CRANK reviews of the latest evidence.



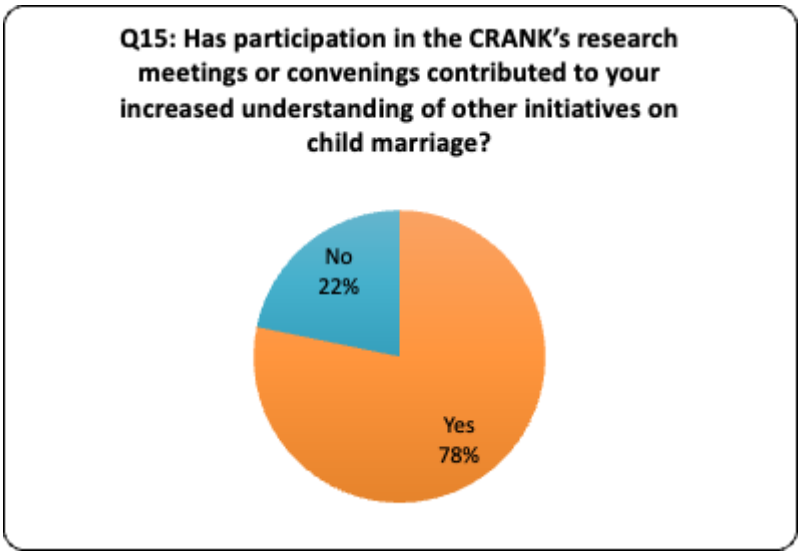
Answered: 23

Participation in CRANK's research meetings and convenings has strengthened attendees' understanding of evidence and solutions pertaining to child marriage and support for ever-married girls, as exemplified by specific impacts shared by 5 respondants. By sharing evidence, solutions, and experiences, CRANK meetings and convenings have enriched attendee understanding of how to address child marriage and effectively support girls, as shown through specific impacts.

Key benefits include:

- Gaining knowledge through case studies and work experiences that inform program implementation and service delivery approaches.
- Enhancing research by deciding to develop interventions, like psychosocial support for married girls, informed by insights from CRANK.

- Learning about the importance of research uptake and stakeholder involvement throughout the research process.
- Building capacity for advocacy by leveraging evidence from CRANK to make the case for prioritising funding.
- Acquiring new norms, tools, and skills to improve support services for girls affected by child marriage.
- Exchanging experiences providing services to gain fresh perspectives on empowering ever-married girls.

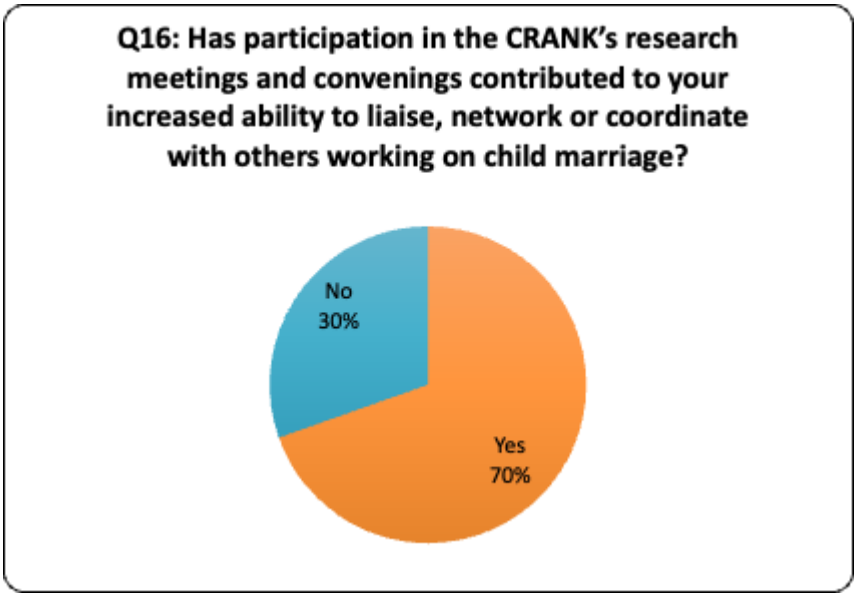


Answered: 23

CRANK's research meetings and convenings have expanded attendees' awareness of other child marriage initiatives, as evidenced by specific impacts shared by seven respondants. By facilitating learning about the range of efforts underway and emerging evidence, CRANK has increased attendee understanding of other child marriage initiatives and supported improved programming.

Key benefits include:

- Learning about new approaches, networks, and resources through presentations given at CRANK events. This exposure builds knowledge.
- Gaining insights that help identify gaps and focus efforts based on understanding the wider child marriage field.
- Joining collaborative initiatives after being introduced to them at CRANK convenings.
- Improving program strategies by exchanging experiences and adopting approaches from peers.
- Redesigning organisational initiatives to align with insights gained from CRANK on the latest programs.
- Building capacity among staff through the knowledge acquired at CRANK meetings.



Answered: 23

CRANK's meetings and convenings have enhanced attendees' capacity to connect and collaborate with other child marriage stakeholders, as demonstrated by specific examples of impact shared by eight respondants. CRANK convenings provide valuable opportunities to liaise, network and coordinate with diverse stakeholders in the child marriage field, though some share more work is needed to deepen these relationships.

Key benefits include:

- Being approached more often to share research and opinions after presenting at CRANK, expanding influence.
- Making connections and sharing experiences with other organisations participating in CRANK events.
- Attempting outreach to fellow participants, though more work may be needed to strengthen these relationships.
- Building links with practitioners, evaluators and researchers met through CRANK.
- Developing partnerships and exchanging insights with institutions from other countries.
- Improving engagement with specific networks/coalitions as a result of CRANK participation.

Q17: How effective are the CRANK's meetings and convenings as spaces to share evidence on child marriage research priority topics? Please rate.							
	1 - Not effective	2	3	4	5 - Very effective	Total	Weighted Average

1	4.35%	1	8.70%	2	26.09 %	6	34.78 %	8	26.09 %	6	23	3.7

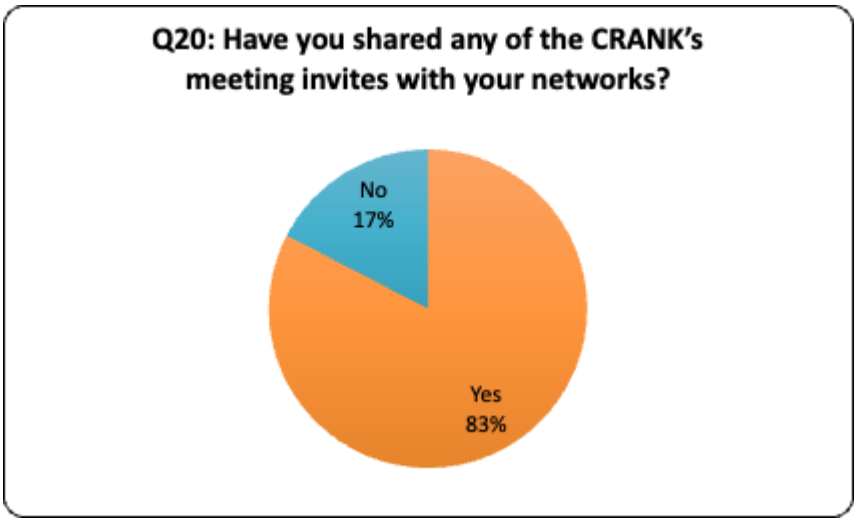
Answered: 23

Q:18 How effective are the CRANK's meetings and convenings as spaces to share evidence on how to strengthen child marriage interventions and policies? Please rate.												
	1 - Not effective		2		3		4		5 - Very effective		Total	Weighted Average
1	8.70%	2	21.74 %	5	21.74 %	5	17.39 %	4	30.43 %	7	23	3.39

Answered: 23

Q:19 How effective are the CRANK's meetings and convenings at diversifying the evidence base? Please rate. (Think about underrepresented geographical regions and/or types of knowledge)												
	1 - Not effective		2		3		4		5 - Very effective		Total	Weighted Average
1	4.35%	1	17.39 %	4	30.43 %	7	30.43 %	7	17.39 %	4	23	3.39

Answered: 23



Answered: 23

Q21: Optional: How can the CRANK improve its meetings and convenings as spaces to share evidence?

Answered: 13

Key areas suggested for improvement include

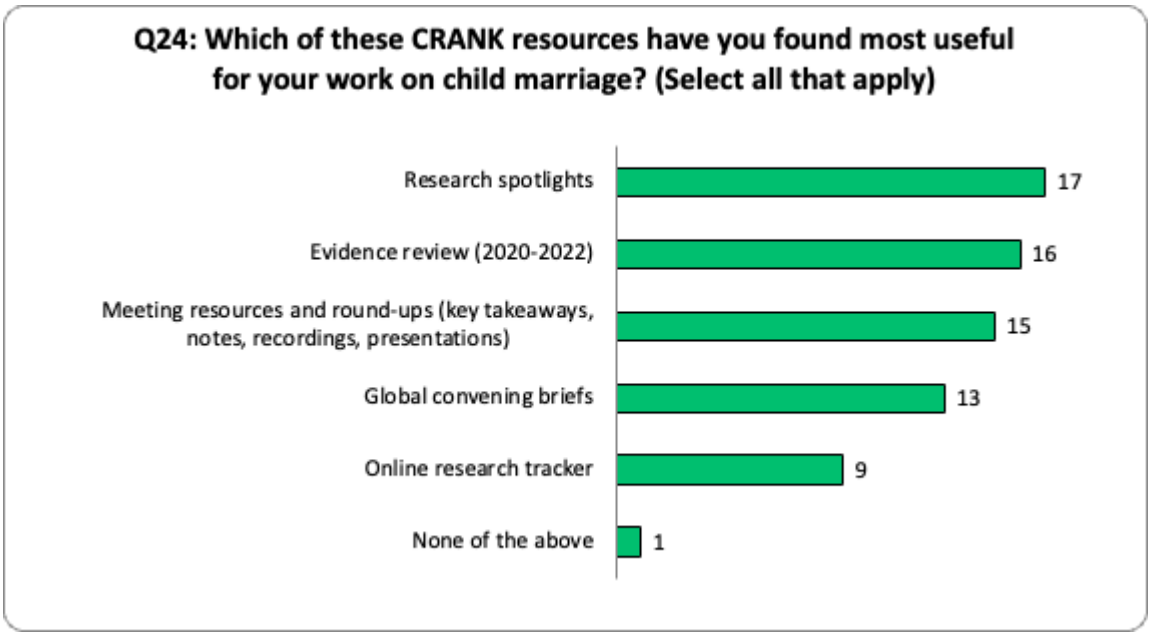
- Incorporate more critical analysis and assessment of research quality when framing and presenting findings.
- Be more inclusive of ongoing and regional research, as well as grassroots perspectives and lived experiences.
- Make meetings more participatory, with space for collaborative analysis and networking. Move from didactic to discussion-based formats.
- Track research utilisation and influence of findings more robustly after convenings.
- Hold regional convenings first to enable context-specific priority setting before global meetings. Strengthen regional coordination.
- Find balance between theory and practice, focusing more on applied learning.
- Diversify voices in the convenings beyond academics to broaden perspectives.
- Provide opportunities for attendees to share interests and contribute to agenda setting.
- Increase member engagement through more regular touchpoints and outreach.
- Disseminate and publish findings more widely after meetings.

Q22: How accessible are the resources produced and shared by the CRANK? Please rate.(Think about whether they are clearly laid out, concise and easy to understand)												
	1 - Not accessible		2		3		4		5 - Very accessible		Total	Weighted Average
1	0.00%	0	8.00%	2	16.00%	4	24.00%	6	52.00%	13	25	4.2

Answered: 25

Q23: How useful are the resources produced and shared by the CRANK for your work on child marriage? Please rate.												
	1 - Not useful		2		3		4		5 - Very useful		Total	Weighted Average
1	0.00%	0	3.85%	1	23.08%	6	30.77%	8	42.31%	11	26	4.12

Answered: 26



Answered: 27

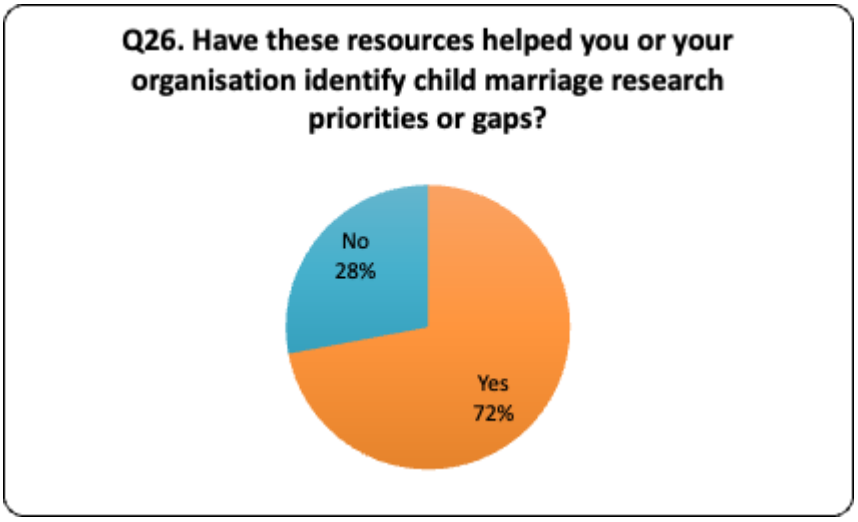
Q25: Optional: Please share an example of when you have used a CRANK resource to inform your work.

Answered: 8

CRANK resources are actively utilised by respondents to inform various aspects of their child marriage-related work, as shown by the examples provided:

- Referencing CRANK research in journal articles, project reports and organizational country profiles to support analysis on child marriage.
- Having new and relevant studies brought to their attention through CRANK convenings that they subsequently incorporated.
- Using CRANK data, analysis reports and other materials to inform program implementation and advocacy efforts with communities and government bodies.
- Informing academic publications and making compelling cases for advocacy priorities leveraging CRANK's evidence reviews and briefs.
- Drawing on CRANK research to develop advocacy briefs and materials.
- Applying CRANK findings on the ground through field work.

In summary, examples demonstrate CRANK resources directly strengthen stakeholders' ability to integrate robust evidence on child marriage into research, programming, advocacy and policy engagement.



Answered: 25

Q27: How effective are the CRANK's Research Spotlights and evidence review as tools to synthesise and share emerging evidence on child marriage research priority topics? Please rate.												
	1 - Not effective		2		3		4		5 - Very Effective		Total	Weighted Average
1	4.00%	1	0.00%	0	40.00%	10	32.00%	8	24.00%	6	25	3.72

Q28: How effective are the CRANK's resources at sharing evidence and examples to strengthen child marriage interventions and policies? Please rate.												
	1 - Not effective		2		3		4		5 - Very effective		Total	Weighted Average
1	3.85%	1	3.85%	1	34.62%	9	38.46%	10	19.23%	5	26	3.65

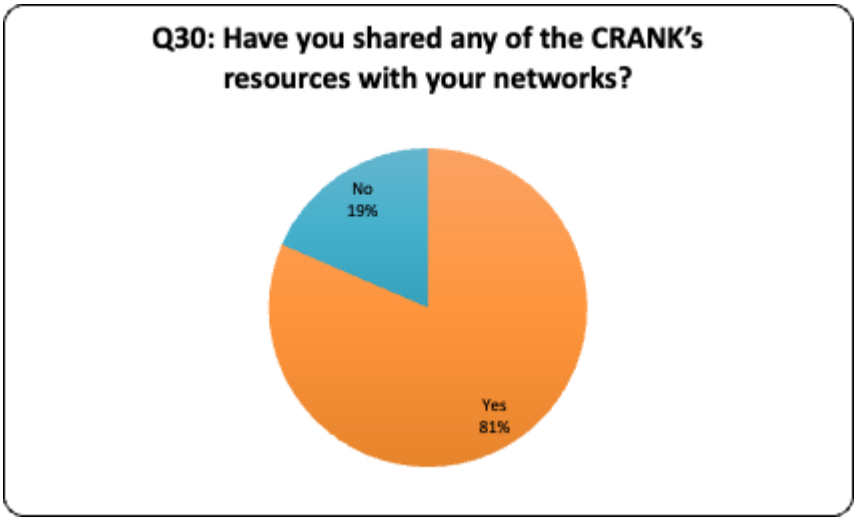
Q28: How effective are the CRANK's resources at diversifying the evidence base? Please rate. (Think about underrepresented geographical regions and/or types of knowledge)

	1 - Not effective		2		3		4		5 - Very effective		Total	Weighted Average
1	4.00%	1	12.00%	3	40.00%	10	28.00%	7	16.00%	4	25	3.4

CRANK resources have aided four of the respondents and their organisations in determining child marriage research priorities and gaps, as demonstrated through the examples provided:

- CRANK materials were utilized in a recent child marriage research workshop to inform agenda setting and analysis.
- Identified need to strengthen connections between child marriage and FGM/C research and programming, highlighting intersections.
- CRANK evidence assists with making compelling advocacy cases, revealing priority issues.
- Helps reveal organizational weaknesses to address and strengths to enhance in child marriage work.
- Focuses attention on the importance of generating evidence to support advocacy positions.

In summary, by compiling and sharing the latest child marriage research, CRANK enables stakeholders to effectively evaluate the evidence landscape, revealing critical gaps and priorities to guide future research efforts and strengthen programming and advocacy.



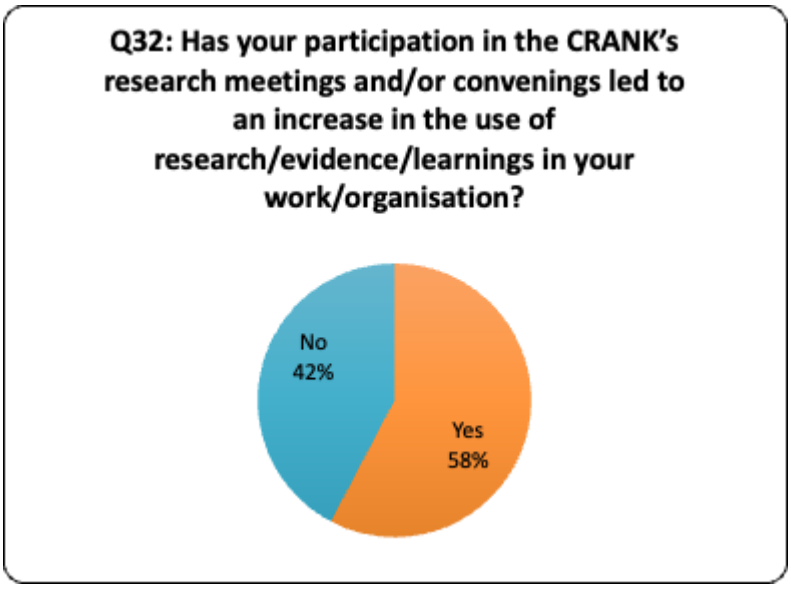
Q31: Optional: How could the CRANK improve its resources as materials to share evidence?

Key themes for enhancing CRANK's evidence sharing resources include (5 responses):

- Providing more localised data and analysis at the state/regional level to enable context-specific learning.
- Developing condensed, accessible materials like summaries or flyers to more easily share relevant findings with community groups.

- Tailoring resources to better meet the needs of grassroots organisations.
- Involving more organisations in resource development to integrate diverse perspectives.
- Including child and youth-friendly resources to directly engage young audiences beyond practitioners and policymakers.
- Maintaining current structure while enhancing localization, accessibility, inclusivity and perspectives represented.

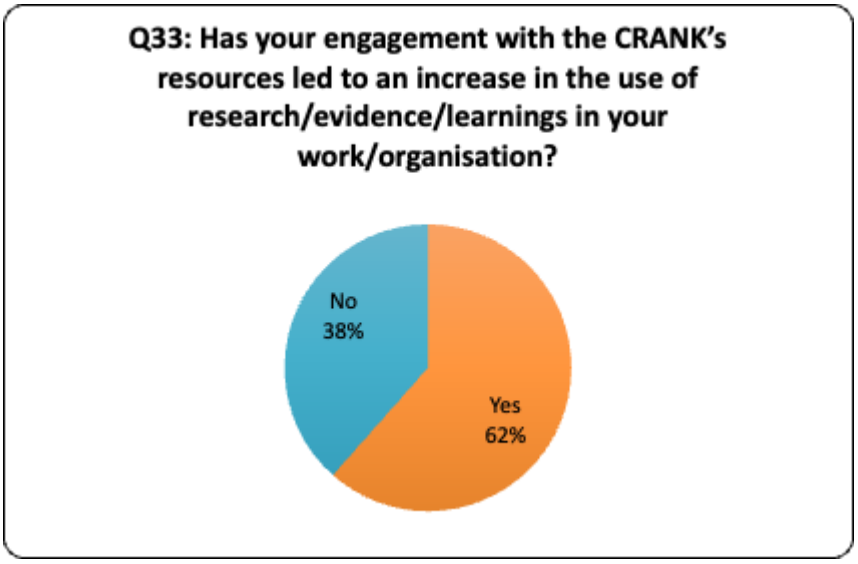
In summary, key opportunities suggested for improvement are tailoring evidence formats and content to be more inclusive of regional contexts, grassroots groups, young people, and diverse organisations' input and needs.

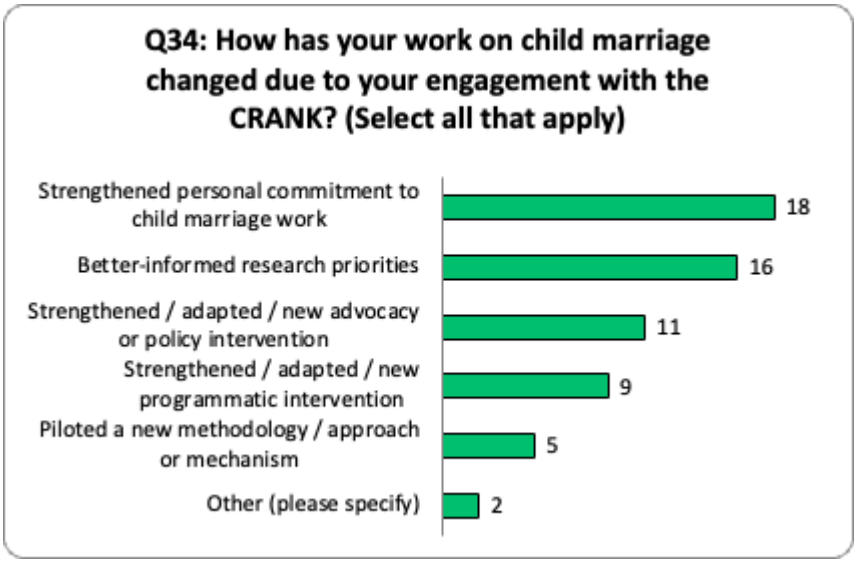


Participation in CRANK's meetings and convenings has led to greater uptake of research, evidence, and learnings in respondents' work, as shown through the examples provided by 6 respondents:

- Increased use of CRANK resources in teaching, grant applications, and related academic endeavours.
- Plan to integrate insights from future CRANK convenings into work.
- Built staff capacity through exposure to evidence and findings.
- Informed understanding of key issues like social norms and shaped related scholarly projects.
- Reinforced the value of evidence-based approaches; findings are very helpful.

Though a few are earlier in the process, most examples demonstrate how CRANK participation has directly strengthened the use of robust research and evidence in teaching, programs, advocacy and other initiatives. By fostering connections and sharing the latest findings, CRANK promotes research uptake.





Key themes for improving CRANK's support for research uptake include (6 respondents)

- Providing more guidance on adapting implications of findings to different contexts rather than direct implementation.
- Highlighting evidence gaps in under-researched countries and advocating for more studies in those settings.
- Enhancing accessibility through clear, inclusive communications content and formats.
- Creating more dialogical, participatory spaces for analysis and application of findings.
- Taking a region-based approach with localised convenings to improve sharing and context-specific action planning.
- Broadening participation to involve more NGOs working on child marriage to expand reach.

In summary, key opportunities include improving guidance on context-specific application, addressing research gaps, diversifying accessible formats, fostering collaborative spaces, regionalizing efforts, and expanding engagement with implementing organisations.

Q35: To what extent has the CRANK supported the uptake of research/evidence from countries or regions that are underrepresented in child marriage research? Please rate.												
	1 - Never supports uptake		2		3		4		5 - Very often supports uptake		Total	Weighted Average
1	0.00%	0	32.00%	8	36.00%	9	16.00%	4	16.00%	4	25	3.16

Q36: Optional: How could the CRANK further encourage research uptake? (Think about the CRANK's communications content, format and platforms)

Recommendations on how CRANK could improve support for a better-coordinated child marriage research agenda (8 responses):

- Key themes include:
- Diversifying engagement beyond known entities to include new voices, perspectives and research approaches (e.g. smaller studies).
- Convening diverse stakeholders to align on shared priorities and coordination strategies, beyond quarterly presentations.
- Maintaining regular local workshops and enhancing accessibility through localised publications.
- Establishing regional CRANK sub-programs to enable context-specific coordination and data utilisation.
- Focusing coordination on regional and national evidence to inform localised action.
- Expanding scope beyond current agenda to additional relevant topics.
- Increasing support for research in developing countries.
- Conducting regular polls among stakeholders to inform priorities.

In summary, key opportunities centre on diversifying participation, aligning on priorities, strengthening regional focus, expanding scope inclusively, boosting developing country research, and engaging stakeholders regularly to enhance coordination.

Q37. How satisfied are you with the CRANK as a platform to share and connect with others working on child marriage around the world? Please rate.							
	1 - Not satisfied	2	3	4	5 - Very satisfied	Total	Weighted Average

1	3.85%	1	11.54 %	3	15.38 %	4	38.46 %	10	30.77 %	8	26	3.81

Q38. How satisfied are you with the CRANK as a global platform to support a better-coordinated research agenda on child marriage? Please rate.												
	1 - Not satisfied		2		3		4		5 - Very satisfied		Total	Weighted Average
1	7.69%	2	3.85%	1	15.38 %	4	46.15 %	12	26.92 %	7	26	3.81

Q39. How much has the CRANK contributed to increased coordination amongst stakeholders working on child marriage at different levels and/or across different sectors? Please rate.												
	1 - Has not contributed		2		3		4		5 - Has contributed very much		Total	Weighted Average
1	3.85%	1	19.23 %	5	23.08 %	6	34.62 %	9	19.23%	5	26	3.46

Q40. Optional: We'd really value your input on how the CRANK could improve its support for a better-coordinated research agenda on child marriage. Please share any recommendations.

Recommendations on improving CRANK's support for a better-coordinated child marriage research agenda:

- Diversifying participation beyond the usual voices, to include different sectors, perspectives, and smaller research efforts.
- Convening diverse stakeholders to align on shared priorities and coordinate efforts, beyond quarterly presentations.
- Maintaining regular local workshops and enhancing accessibility through localised publications.
- Establishing regional CRANK sub-programs for context-specific coordination and data use.
- Focusing coordination on regional and national evidence to inform localised action.
- Expanding scope beyond current agenda to additional relevant topics.
- Increasing support for developing country research.
- Conducting regular polls among stakeholders to inform priorities.

In summary, the main recommendations centred on diversifying engagement, aligning on priorities, strengthening regional relevance, being more inclusive of different research, and engaging stakeholders regularly to enhance coordination.

Annex D: Raw data

Links to Google Drive folders to the raw data:

Surveys

FGD

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