ANNEX 2


**Action Document for "Contribution to the "Global Programme to accelerate action to end child marriage"**

| 1. Title/basic act/CRIS number | Contribution to the Global Programme to accelerate action to end child marriage
|                                | CRIS number: DCI-HUM/2015/038-680
|                                | Financed under Development Cooperation Instrument |
| 2. Zone benefiting from the action/location | Multiple: Eastern and Southern Africa, West and Central Africa, Middle East and Asia
|                                | The action will be carried out in 12 countries where the practice of child marriage prevails: Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Nepal, Niger, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Yemen and Zambia. |
| 4. Sector of concentration/thematic area | Human Development / Strategic Area 2: "Democracy, Good governance and Human Rights" |
| 5. Amounts concerned | Total estimated cost: EUR 100 000 000
|                                | Indicative Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 6 000 000
|                                | This action will be co-financed in joint co-financing by:
|                                | Canada with EUR 15 500 000
|                                | Netherlands with EUR 20 000 000
|                                | DFID with EUR 21 000 000
|                                | UNICEF with EUR 1 800 000
|                                | Other funds: EUR 35 700 000 |
| 6. Aid modality(ies) and implementation modality(ies) | Project Modality
|                                | Indirect management with UNICEF (and/or UNFPA - the decision will be taken once agreement between the two UN agencies is finalised) |
### 7 a) DAC code(s)

| 15170 Women's equality organisations and institutions |
| 15160 Human Rights |

### b) Main Delivery Channel

41122 UNICEF United Nations Children’s Fund

### 8. Markers (from CRIS DAC form)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General policy objective</th>
<th>Not targeted</th>
<th>Significant objective</th>
<th>Main objective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation development/good governance</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aid to environment</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender equality (including Women In Development)</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☒</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade Development</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### RIO Convention markers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Not targeted</th>
<th>Significant objective</th>
<th>Main objective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biological diversity</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combat desertification</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate change mitigation</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate change adaptation</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 9. Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) thematic flagships

N/A

### SUMMARY

Some 700 million girls and women alive today were married as children, and a further 280 million girls alive today will be married by age 18 if progress is not accelerated.

UNFPA and UNICEF, together with UN Women and a large number of partners, successfully advocated for the inclusion in the new Sustainable Development Goals of Target 5.3 on harmful traditional practices, including child marriage (under goal 5 on gender equality). The proposal was confirmed in advance of the SDG Summit in September 2015, thus providing a programmatic platform and firm global target for the next generation of programmes on child marriage.¹

The Action is in line with SDG 5 on gender equality and women empowerment and its target 5.3 "Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilations".

At EU level, Child marriage is included in the recently adopted Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy (objective 14 action b) and is expected to be a key intervention priority in the

For these reasons, the EU will contribute to the Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage that aims to end child marriage in one generation by encouraging a change in social norms and educational opportunities, whilst also addressing the needs of girls and women who suffer the consequences of the practice.

The overall objective is to contribute to a decrease of at least 10% in the percentage of women 20-24 who are married or in union by age 18 in the targeted areas of the 12 initial countries by the end of 2020.

The initial group of 12 countries (listed above) have been selected according to the following criteria: middle to high absolute prevalence (25% or higher among women 20-24) and current and future burden of child marriage (prevalence in relation to the population size); regional distribution; readiness (national commitment and connection to global commitments); existence and capacity of the movement to end child marriage and empower girls within the country and regional dynamics.

The proposed Action will build on the findings of the inception phase of the Global Programme (currently coming to an end / report due in Sept 2015. Initial activities at country, regional and global level have already begun thanks to NL, CA and UNICEF funding). Specific areas for support will include:

- Empowering girls with skills, information and support networks,
- Educating and mobilising parents and community members (including boys and men),
- Enhancing accessibility and quality of formal schooling for girls,
- Offering economic support and incentives for girls and their families,
- Fostering an enabling legal and policy framework (both national and regional levels)

The Global Programme will include innovative and cross-sectorial initiatives to promote and scale up successful initiatives, and link them up with continental policy frameworks.

The Action will be implemented through a Delegation Agreement with UNICEF and / or UNFPA, considered the most appropriate actors as they have significant and long term established experience, country presence, existing networks and partnerships and the ability to scale up interventions where feasible / beneficial in the future. The global programme offers the opportunity to act at country level and regionally, and to improve coordination at all levels between stakeholders, therefore enhancing potential impact and improving efficiency.

1 CONTEXT

1.1 Sector/Country/Regional context/Thematic area

Child marriage is defined as a formal marriage or informal union entered into by an individual before reaching the age of 18 (UNICEF, 2011).
There is significant variation in the prevalence of child marriage between regions, countries and within countries. Child marriage among girls is most common in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, and the 10 countries with the highest rates are found in these two regions. Niger has the highest overall prevalence of child marriage in the world. However, Bangladesh has the highest rate of marriage involving girls under age 15. South Asia is home to almost half (42 per cent) of all child brides worldwide; India alone (due to its population size and high prevalence) accounts for one third of the global total number of married girls.

The practice of child marriage is declining but the pace is slow and uneven. Globally, 1 in 4 young women alive today were married in childhood versus 1 in 3 in the early 1980s. Moreover, the proportion of young women who entered into marriage before the age of 15 declined from 12 percent to 8 percent over the same period. In Indonesia and Morocco, the risk of marrying before the age of 18 is less than half of what it was three decades ago. However, in some countries, including Burkina Faso and Niger, the average age of first marriage has not changed significantly.

The Programme will work at continental/regional level and target communities from within an initial group of 12 countries in Eastern and Southern Africa, West and Central Africa, Middle East, Asia. It is anticipated that there might be additional countries joining the programme during the first phase, pending country situation and donor contributions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West and Central Africa</th>
<th>Ghana, Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso, Niger (4)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eastern and Southern Africa</td>
<td>Mozambique, Zambia, Ethiopia, Uganda (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>Bangladesh, Nepal, India (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East</td>
<td>Yemen* (1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* As of the writing of the proposal, Yemen has been declared a level 3 emergency and the situation is being monitored daily. Yemen was identified and included in the Global Programme prior to the increased conflict conditions. Yemen’s participation in the programme is under regular review. UNICEF funding initially allocated to Yemen in 2014 remains with the Country Office. The Child Friendly Centres (CFSs) are the main platforms through which UNICEF is providing post-emergency interventions and addressing child marriage in the current context of the country.

**Criteria for Country Selection**

The 12 countries currently in the Global Programme have been selected according to four criteria that are deemed important conditions for additional United Nations investment and would be favourable conditions for accelerated action to eliminate child marriage.

- Prevalence of child marriage
- Countries with mid to high prevalence, 25% or higher of women 20-24 who were married before age 18
- Current and future projected burden of child marriage
• Prevalence and population size i.e. scale of the problem including at least three highest burden countries
• Evidence of government engagement in ending child marriage
• Public commitment made in international forums, UN Resolutions, Government plans etc. but also by the documented tenor of public debate in the country—including the contribution of political leaders—in support of addressing child marriage
• Distribution across regions
• To favour regional and global dynamics and south-south exchange and cooperation

1.1.1 Public Policy Assessment and EU Policy Framework

Child marriage is a human rights violation and is not in line with several international and regional agreements, including:

• Universal Declaration of Human Rights
• Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
• Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage, and Registration of Marriage
• Convention on the Rights of the Child
• Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities
• Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights (Also known as ‘The Maputo Protocol’)
• African Charter on the Rights and the Welfare of the Child
• Inter-American Convention on Human Rights

Over recent years there has been growing political commitment internationally to the issue of preventing and ending child marriage, illustrated by the 2014 Girl Summit, the AU Campaign on Child, Early and Forced Marriage, the South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children (SAIEVAC) declaration, and numerous national processes (e.g. strong leadership from Nepal, Zambia and Mozambique). In November 2014, the UN 3rd Committee of UNGA adopted a resolution to end Child Early and Forced Marriage.

Commitments to ending child marriage galvanised by the 2014 Girl Summit secured commitments from 480 signatories for the Girl Summit Charter, which pledged to eliminate child, early and forced marriage. Over 170 commitments were made by a range of government and civil society actors. 27 governments made commitments including the governments of Ghana, Ethiopia that have taken significant leadership and coordination of efforts to end harmful practices. 16 governments in Africa, the Middle East and South Asia where child marriage is prevalent made commitments to end the practice. Since the Summit, Burkina Faso, Niger, Mozambique, and Uganda have completed National Action Plans and Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Yemen and Zambia have started legal reforms to end child marriage.

The African Union campaign to End Child Marriage has continued its leadership by raising awareness of the issue, extending the campaign until 2018 and supporting national campaigns in AU Member States. National launches have taken place in Ethiopia, Niger, Burkina Faso, and Uganda. The Day of the African Child in June 2015 had a thematic focus on ending child marriage. The AU is planning to host an African Girl Summit later in 2015.
UN agencies, particularly UNICEF, Member States and a number of other stakeholders have successfully advocated for the inclusion of a target and related indicator on harmful traditional practices, including child marriage, in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) proposal (under goal 5 on gender equality). The target and indicators are expected to provide an additional driving force to strengthen national platforms to end child marriage, with increased engagement and accountability at the national level.

In UNICEF, child marriage is identified as a key outcome of its Strategic Plan and Gender Action Plan. UNICEF and UNFPA have also benefited from the infusion of two years of additional resources towards ending child marriage from Canada.

The EU is fully committed to promoting and supporting the realisation of women’s and children’s rights in all countries around the world in line with the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and their Optional Protocols.

The EU’s more specific commitment to preventing and eliminating child marriage is longstanding. The 2008 Guidelines on Violence and Discrimination against Women and Girls and the adoption of EU Guidelines for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Child in 2007 marked the EU’s clear political will to treat the issue of violence against children as a priority. At its intervention at the 26th Session of the UN Human Rights Council, in June 2014, the European Union confirmed that child marriage “remains at the top of our agenda”, clearly identifying it as a human rights violation that reinforces an intergenerational cycle of poverty. At the Girl Summit held in July 2014 in London, the EU once again confirmed its commitment to fight child marriage as a harmful practice and an expression of violence, announcing political and programmatic support to gender equality and children’s wellbeing.

Child marriage is included in the recently adopted Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy (objective 14 action b) and is expected to be a key intervention priority in the upcoming EC / EEAS Staff Working Document on gender equality, and in its accompanying measures.

1.1.2 Stakeholder analysis

The target groups of the Global Programme are the Governments at both national and sub-national level, regional initiatives (African Union and the South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children), academic institutions, international and national NGOs, community-based organizations, religious communities and faith-based organizations, and the media.

For the Global Programme’s efforts to sustainably influence social norms, boys and men- i.e. brothers, fathers, and future husbands and fathers-in-law- must be engaged as well in discussions and collective decisions that promote the respect for the human rights of girls and women. The Action activities undertaken at sub-national level will therefore seek to engage entire communities including the boys and men. As holders of power, influence and decision-making, men in particular will be engaged to play a positive role toward the end of child marriage that is often carried out in the belief that men are entitled to, and even expected to marry young girls.
The inception phase’ findings will confirm potential country level partnerships and stakeholders.

The **ultimate beneficiaries** of the proposed Action are the children at risk of child marriage or already married, in particular adolescent girls in the 12 countries.

**Partnerships:** The design of the Global Programme and its strategies based on the Theory of Change involve partnerships with girls, and with communities. Local activists, especially young people, are better aware of the contexts in which this programme will work, and engaged to effectively interact with the programme beneficiaries and participants. The interventions that will contribute to increase girl’s agency, change social norms and increase social action are indeed implemented in collaboration with community based NGOs and CSOs using participatory development tools where success is in part determined by long standing interactions with communities. The programme will implement in partnership with local authorities, civil society and young people, focused interventions at the level of girls, families and communities, in focus districts as determined by the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and the respective Country Programme Documents.

The global programme presents immense potential for collaboration with civil society on the establishment or strengthening of community-based adolescent groups as a platform for delivery of information, skills and in some cases resources. Programming in child protection and health will engage communities and young people in the benefits of delaying marriage and pregnancy in collaboration with local CSOs. A mapping of the local partnerships, including youth groups and women’s associations is ongoing and will be available as one of the deliverables for the inception phase (ready by mid-September).

At **country level**, UNICEF and UNFPA work with sectoral Ministries and their systems to promote better policy and programming for girls at risk of and affected by child marriage. They will also ensure that existing mechanisms maximize coordination among actors already engaged in ending child marriage as well as to expand to include other stakeholders. Government coordination bodies will usually fall under the auspices of the national strategy/plan of action and will include key stakeholders across government and across civil society such as Girls Not Brides Members. One of the key and ongoing objectives of the programme at country level will be partnerships across sectors, including sectors not traditionally involved - such as education, health sector, and economic/financial sectors.

At **regional level**, UNICEF has actively supported the African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage and the South Asian Initiative to End Violence Against Children Regional Plan of Action to End Child Marriage. The Global Programme will continue to provide support in the implementation and strengthening of these regional initiatives.

1.1.3 **Priority areas for support/problem analysis**

If there is no reduction in the practice of child marriage, up to 280 million girls alive today are at risk of becoming brides before they turn 18. Due to population growth, this number will approach 320 million by 2050.iii
UNICEF data (July 2014) highlights the cost of inaction in relation to child marriage. If rates of incidence of child marriage remain as they are today there will be a significant increase in the number of girls affected from 720 million to 1.2 billion due to the dynamics of population growth. Maintaining present levels of efforts will mean maintaining the absolute numbers whilst a reduction in child marriage requires accelerated and sustained efforts between now and 2050.

Currently, more than 700 million women alive today were married before their 18th birthday. More than one in three of these (about 250 million) entered into union before age 15\textsuperscript{v}. Boys are also married as children but not as frequently. Girls are disproportionately affected. Almost half (45 percent) of girls in South Asia marry before their 18th birthday\textsuperscript{v}. Child marriage among girls is most common in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, and the 10 countries with the highest rates are found in these two regions.

Child marriage is rooted in wider gender inequalities and harmful social norms and is exacerbated by poverty and insecurity. It denies girls their rights and ability to make choices that affect their lives. It impedes access to education and economic opportunities, increases risk of unsafe and early pregnancies and hinders progress towards a more equal and prosperous world (see section 3.1 for further detail)

In many contexts where child marriage exists and persists, it is an entrenched social practice. In some of these contexts, it is also a social norm. It is not only perceived as legitimate, but most girls, families and communities believe that it is appropriate and even necessary that girls marry before reaching adulthood, and may suffer negative social consequences if they do not. In addition, men, girls, families and communities believe that men are entitled to, and even expected to marry girls. Their beliefs are kept in place by the fact that they see others around them also engaging in child marriage, and the practice therefore tends to be self-sustaining.

Research indicates that child marriage is associated with a combination of structural and socio-cultural factors. The socio-cultural factors include social expectations of behaviour, discrimination against particular groups, discrimination against girls and women, gender roles that restrict girls and women to family and household roles, masculinities, dowry and bride price practices, family honour and beliefs about protection of girls and importance of arranged marriages, low awareness of alternatives to child marriage, etc. It is believed that when these structural and socio-cultural underlying causes are changed—i.e. the drivers of child marriage are eliminated—child marriage will decline. In considering the theory of change for ending child marriage in the mid-high prevalence and high burden countries, it is important to consider how development programming can help to accelerate the positive shifts created by the macro level drivers of change.

Ending child marriage requires social change at scale. Thus, programming options for accelerating or catalysing change need to be considered in the range of sectors that have the possibility of affecting change at scale. These programming options will lead to the desired end result if they reach and influence the behaviour and thinking of very large numbers of girls, boys and men, families, and communities in a given country.

Child marriage is also strongly linked to poverty and lack of other coping mechanisms. Girls living in poor households\textsuperscript{vi} in settings where child marriage is common are roughly twice as
likely to marry before the age of 18 as girls living in better-off households. Recent analysis shows females in the poorest quintile are 2.5 times more likely to marry in childhood than those in the wealthiest quintile. Poverty is an important driver of child marriage and poverty alleviation will reduce pressures on families to marry girls. Improving girls’ economic opportunities can provide practical and socially acceptable alternatives to child marriage and result in a more sustainable set of resources to enhance their abilities to make life choices that can delay marriage. Economic opportunities also increase self-confidence, bolster girls’ sense of independence and self-sufficiency, and finally, improve a girl’s basis for negotiating the conditions of her marriage. This will partially be addressed by Output 1.3 and by strengthening social protection systems. UNICEF will partner with organizations providing life skills and access to financial services that may include microfinance initiatives, job training, financial services, etc.

2 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risks</th>
<th>Risk level (H/M/L)</th>
<th>Mitigating measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Political will of Members States in the form of financial and human resources is lacking, thereby hampering positive changes.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Strong working relationships with the authorities and national Ministries will be maintained to build a sense of common purpose and enhance national ownership of the process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political shifts (new governments, changes in personnel) affect effectiveness and sustainability of ongoing positive change processes.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>The international organisations support institutionalization of action also at decentralized and local levels.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political unrest and security situation introduce uncertainty at central level.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Programme managers will continue to monitor the situation closely so that decisions may be taken swiftly in view of any changes and funds can be reallocated to potential other countries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk of cultural sensitivity of the topic, risk of conservative backlash from within the communities</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>It is crucial that the programme is not perceived as imparting a particular agenda or ideological framework, which is not in the best interests of the community. Hence, careful consideration will be given to how issues are conceptualized and framed. The programme will reach and influence the behaviour and thinking of very large numbers of girls, boys and men, families, and communities, including religious and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk Description</td>
<td>Likelihood</td>
<td>Mitigation Strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One of the risks is that poor coordination between development partners working on child marriage will results in duplication of effort.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>The option of working jointly with other donors through the Global Programme will go a long way to mitigate this risk. In addition, the planned inception phase, will ensure programmatic resources are complementary and reach areas of greatest need. At country level, UNICEF is reaching and coordinating with governments to ensure that their child marriage strategy is aligned and to avoid duplication of efforts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inadequate capacity of government partners, civil society lowers effectiveness, efficiency, relevance etc.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>One of the key assumptions underlying the Global Programme is the existence of the need for capacity building at country level of a variety of stakeholders. Capacity tends to vary across countries and financial support dedicated to boosting capacity will be adjusted accordingly. Technical support across the programme (from HQ, from ROs, between countries, from external technical partners) will also be allocated as per capacity needs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Global Programme does not attract sufficient funding.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>The option of working jointly with other donors through the Global Programme will go a long way to mitigate this risk. In addition, the planned inception phase, will ensure programmatic resources are complementary and reach areas of greatest need.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Emergencies or conflict in countries disrupt programme implementation          | High       | Over the past two years, Burkina Faso and Yemen have experienced political unrest. Lessons learned have provided guidance on mitigating the risks: 1. Continuous monitoring of the situation with UN Security Reports. 2. Ensuring close contact with country offices to review options for programme continuation. In L3 Emergencies there is a formal process for reviewing Country Programmes. 3. Prevailing conditions permitting, leave funding allocations in place in order to
facilitate continuous implementation and rapid reestablishment of programmatic activities. This protocol is currently being followed in the case of Yemen.

Progress may be slow and difficult to measure.  

The Global Programme is developing a strong monitoring and evaluation framework in close cooperation with the independent Office of Evaluation. A Mid-Term Review and a Final Evaluation will be carried out. These evaluative activities will provide a basis for generating evidence that can be used for both learning, accountability, programme re-design and adaptation.

The programme will not reach the most at risk/vulnerable girls.  

The global programme applies a MoRES approach (Monitoring Results for Equity System) which is an approach to equity-focused planning, programming and monitoring. This tool supports monitoring programs and policies to ensure that an equity approach of reaching the most marginalized children is evidence-based and in support of expected impact. At its core is: identifying and targeting the most vulnerable, holding service providers accountable and creating better access to information for the most disadvantaged communities including children.

Assumptions

- The countries involved in the Action (initial group being: Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Nepal, Niger, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zambia), continue to be committed to the implementation of their legislation, policy and action plans on ending child marriage.
- Yemen: see above
- The international community, and in particular donors, continue to support the Global Programme to accelerate action to end child marriage.

3 LESSONS LEARNT, COMPLEMENTARITY AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

3.1 Lessons learnt

Overall, there is good evidence on how child marriage impacts on development outcomes:
• **Health:** Marrying early is associated with earlier pregnancies and a higher number of pregnancies both of which pose health risks for girls and young women. In African contexts, it is also linked to Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting.

• **Education:** Lack of quality education opportunities at primary and secondary level contribute to girls dropping out of school and marrying early. Girls with secondary schooling are up to six times less likely to marry as children when compared to girls who have little or no schooling.x

• **Equal opportunities:** Child marriage also creates isolation and greatly limits girls’ ability to make critical decisions that affect their lives. Many child brides are married to much older men. Younger age at marriage and a greater age gap between spouses are associated with women’s lower bargaining power, depression and an increased likelihood of domestic violence, HIV and unwanted pregnancies.x

• **Economic development:** A child bride’s lack of skills, mobility and connections constrains her voice and choices and therefore her ability to participate fully in broader economic activities and to overcome poverty for herself, her children or her family. This not only impacts their wellbeing and potential, but means that the additional benefits girls could generate for development and economic growth are lost.

There is also knowledge and evidence on drivers of child marriage, including **social norms (perceived value of girls), poverty, social norms regarding dowry and bride wealth.**

Overall there is less evidence on **what works** to end child marriage and how to take programmes to scale is limited. The existing evidence points to the importance of girls access to quality education, financial incentives, tackling harmful social norms, as well as girls’ and women’s economic empowerment and social support (see appraisal case for more detail).

Some recurring learning from previous UNICEF programmes includes:

**Legal and Policy Framework:** Countries with a high prevalence of child marriage often have provisions indicating it is illegal to marry children, but these provisions are sometimes weak and are difficult to enforce. While the commitment and progress has been positive, a common theme across countries has been reticence and push-back from conservative forces in some countries once reform processes advance. In the face of such forces, the UNICEF offices continue to discretely advocate and push for progress. The technical assistance provided to government and partners by UNICEF in terms of framing the issue of child marriage in the broader context of strengthening families and communities has been important for ensuring constructive dialogue and the generation of broad support around goals that will lead to strengthening the value of girls.

**Budgeted National Plans:** All of the six countries that benefited from the Canada support are in the process of developing costed national plans that address child marriage while one, Ghana, has conducted a budget analysis. The process of developing national plans offers opportunities to build consensus among the key stakeholders and cultivate a common sense of purpose to end child marriage.
The global programme will help to build the evidence of what works at scale and what combination of interventions can work in different contexts. The programme is carrying a mapping of the existing, on-going and planned research and studies in the initial 12 countries that are covered by the Action. This mapping will compile information on the situation analysis, a mapping exercise of “who is doing what and where”, and a list of evaluations of interventions. This exercise will help identify potential additional areas of research work and will also inform the knowledge sharing piece of the programme. The specific interventions and research questions will be established during year one of the programme in line with other research efforts led by UNICEF (including the Innocenti Office of Research), UNFPA and other partners. At this time, several formative research efforts and baseline exercises are being conducted both regionally and at country level (under Outcome 5) with the objective of better understanding some of the drivers and programme strategies needed to validate steps in the theory of change.

UNICEF collaborates with global research programme on issues related to child marriage such as STRIVE (London School of tropical hygiene and health), GGRI (Global Girls Research Initiative) and FGM/C research consortium led by the Population Council. UNICEF Child Protection is leading the End Violence against Children Global Initiative which will directly benefit the Global Programme in terms of knowledge sharing, access to grassroots movements and children at risk outreach.

The Knowledge Management piece of the Global Programme will supports a systematic approach to readily sharing tacit knowledge based on UNICEF and UNFPA experiences around the world.

### 3.2 Complementarity, synergy and donor coordination

The Global Programme brings together several donors, including EU Member States and non-EU countries. These are pooling resources at country and global level in order to facilitate synergies and avoid dispersions of human and financial resources.

The proposed Action will build on the work done by UNICEF, UNFPA and partners during the inception phase of the Global Programme. It benefits directly from the UNFPA-UNICEF FGM/C work to fight traditional harmful and discriminatory practices and shift social norms. Through the ongoing Joint Programme on female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C), UNFPA and UNICEF have explicitly linked activities on eliminating FGM/C and care for its consequences to ending child marriage in the countries where both are prevalent. The experience of joint programming on FGM/C has offered a number of lessons for the establishment of the global programme to end child marriage. For example, interventions supporting mass communication and social mobilization, strengthening local child protection systems (for instance through community committees), investing in decentralized health, or developing indicators to track progress in changes in public attitudes that address threats of FGM/C are leveraged for child marriage programming at country level.

The Action will also complement actions in support of birth registration that include legal and policy reform; civil registry strategic planning, capacity building, advocacy and awareness-raising and demand creation; community-based registration and social mobilization campaign. Mandatory birth registration and marriage registration can help establish and track the ages of potential girl brides. This practice has been recognized to discourage the practice of child marriage.
As interoperability with the education, health, gender and other sectors represents key strategies to decrease child marriage rates, the Action will pay special attention to creating synergies in countries where EU grants aim at improving women and girls’ agency and access to and control over resources. Efforts will be made to align and link with civil society partners within the 12 countries, particularly community-led, grassroots and self-led groups of women and girls working to end child marriage. The inception phase of the programme has assessed how best to do so at country level (report due in September 2015).

The Global Programme will associate UN agencies into specific areas of the results framework where their programming and competencies align. Additional linkages with the World Bank will be developed as they contribute to the research on economic consequences of child marriage, mainstream their lessons learned from the Adolescent Girls Initiative, and take forward their work on the behavioural and social foundations of economic development featured in the 2015 World Development Report. Beyond the UN, Girls Not Brides: the Global Partnership to End Child Marriage will remain a key global partner in a variety of areas. In addition, UNICEF is part of the advisory group of Girls Not Brides. UNICEF is working and coordinating with governments to ensure that their child marriage strategy is aligned and to avoid duplication of efforts.

3.3 Cross-cutting issues

Focusing on the promotion and protection of human rights and gender equality, the Action includes these cross-cutting issues amongst its key priorities. The Action will also contribute to fight other traditional harmful and discriminatory practices and gender based violence. It is anticipated to positively influence health and education indicators for adolescent girls. It is expected that further detail on how men and boys are involved, and how the most vulnerable and at risk girls are reached, will be provided after the inception period.

4 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

4.1 Objectives/results

The overall objective of the Action is to contribute to accelerate action to end child marriage, with a decrease of at least 10% in the percentage of women 20-24 who are married or in union by age 18 in the targeted areas of the 12 initial countries by the end of 2020.

Despite the fact that it is unlikely that significant decreases will be registered in the national prevalence rates of child marriage over the period of implementation of the Global Programme, specific country target setting is still ongoing. About 2.1 million girls across the initial 12 countries in the Global Programme can be reached in ways that are supportive of girls’ empowerment, education, health/reproductive health, human rights and skills acquisition, and thus conducive to preventing child marriage.

The results framework developed for the Global Programme provides the entry points and envisions activities in a set of interlinked areas. These are translated into five outcomes supported by 2-3 outputs per outcome.
Outcome 1: Adolescent girls at risk of and affected by child marriage have the agency and resources to make choices regarding their lives

Outputs:
- Supporting partners and government systems to provide girls access to health services and health information. To maintain good health, including sexual and reproductive health, individuals need access to accurate, age-appropriate information and quality services. They must be informed and empowered to protect themselves from sexually transmitted infections, avoid early/unwanted/repeat pregnancies, and be able to experience safe. Country strategies have focused on the establishment or strengthening of community-based adolescent groups as a platform for delivery of information about child marriage and teenage pregnancy with adolescents and help connect them to health services. This output will align with existing health programmes in the targeted countries.2
- Supporting enrolment and retention of girls in school through secondary level. Educational participation is seen as an important preventive strategy for child marriage. Interventions designed to increase enrolment and retention of girls in school (both primary and secondary) also represent one of the means by which the programme can reach girls at scale. For example, some countries are implementing targeted stipend programme to vulnerable adolescent girls through local NGOs to get and keep girls in school and bring back to school girls that are not currently enrolled. That output will align with existing education programmes in the targeted countries.3
- Supporting partners to provide girls access to livelihood skills and financial services. The intervention primarily takes the form of adolescent girls clubs but may be provided through other settings where feasible. Life skills increasingly include a component on financial literacy, which can be complemented with access to age-appropriate services including micro savings. Countries are working through community-based groups to support school-based clubs to deliver a package of social and financial skills to adolescents.

Outcome 2: Families and communities demonstrate positive attitudes and behaviours toward investing in and supporting adolescent girls.

Outputs:
- Increasing discovery and social awareness of the benefits of investing in adolescents through educational community dialogues, social mobilization, etc.
- Leaders at community and higher levels make public statements in support of ending child marriage.
- Examples of communities that have taken positive steps to end child marriage are disseminated through local and national media.

Outcome 3: Relevant sectoral systems are able to scale up quality and cost effective services to meet the needs of adolescent girls

2 Including with the EU supported programmes in Sierra Leone, Ethiopia and Zambia.
3 Including the EU funded programmes on-going (Bangladesh) or being negotiated.
Outputs:
- Develop operational guidelines and protocols for service providers to provide adolescent-appropriate services, including sexual and reproductive rights (SRH)
- Train service providers across relevant sectors and geographical areas on adolescent appropriate service protocols
- Clarify and strengthen inter-sectoral coordination and referral pathways

Outcome 4: National legal and policy frameworks protect the rights of adolescents [in line with international standards]

Outputs:
- Revisions to legal frameworks to align with international standards and eliminate loopholes
- Costed national plans address child marriage through sectoral interventions and where appropriate/required child marriage specific plans
- Countries develop sectoral policies sensitive to elimination of child marriage

Outcome 5: Government(s) and partners within and across countries support and promote the generation and use of robust data and evidence to inform programme design, track progress and document lessons

Outputs:
- Surveys and secondary analysis to generate additional insights into child marriage drivers, dynamics of change and consequences;
- Routine administrative data generates high quality data on child marriage practices, consequences and related factors;
- Countries disseminate evidence and analysis and apply the evidence to programmes.

4.2 Main Activities
The proposed programme builds on a methodology that UNICEF and UNFPA already implements in many countries, including analysis, policy and legislative work, capacity building and learning, social norms change and experience sharing.

The programme will include actions that support / facilitate / promote:

- legal and policy reforms;
- community-based education and dialogue;
- links to sexual and reproductive health services and child protection systems;
- national-scale communication efforts to change the societal expectations around child marriage;
- targeted interventions with girls and their families to reach girls at risk of child marriage;
- technical exchanges with governments and NGOs working in the field, as well as with services providers (health, education, etc.), local leaders and communities at all levels.
• regional political initiatives to end child marriage through the African Union and the South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children.

A focus on the following elements will also be introduced to enhance impact:

i. design and scaling up of existing and new service delivery models;
ii. monitoring and evaluation of interventions;
iii. strengthening partnerships with key stakeholders,
iv. strengthened cross-sectoral collaboration;
v. coordination at continental and regional levels.

4.3 Intervention logic

(see diagram on the next page)
10 – 30 Year Population Level Shifts in Norms and Behaviours

5-10 year change aspirations, social expectations and behaviours for a critical mass of girls, boys, men, women and families in communities or countries with high prevalence of child marriage

Outcomes

- Adolescent girls at risk of and affected by child marriage have the agency and resources to make choices regarding their lives
- Adolescents girls are better informed and able to access quality health services including SRH services
- Adolescent girls have increased enrollment and attainment in formal and non-formal education
- Adolescent girls have access to appropriate financial literacy training and services, and livelihood skills and opportunities

Strategies

- Empowering girls with information, skills, and support networks
- Enabling improved options by parents and community members
- Improving the accessibility & quality of educational and other social services for girls

Offering economic support and incentives for girls and their families

Drivers and Causes

- Discrimination against girls and women
- Gender roles that restrict girls and women to family and household roles
- Inaccessible and/or low quality services (e.g. schools, health, and social welfare)
- Legal and policy frameworks that do not protect adolescents

- Masculinities
- Economic opportunities / structure of the economy
- Discrimination against particular groups
- Poor infrastructure and communications isolates certain groups from wider social networks

Problem

Marrying girls as children exists and persists as a common practice in many societies and is associated with a combination of structural and socio-cultural factors. Currently, around 730m women and 160m men were married before the age of 18
5 IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Financing agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not foreseen to conclude a financing agreement with the partner country, referred to in Article 184(2)(b) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

5.2 Indicative implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 4.1 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 60 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Action Document.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission’s authorising officer responsible by amending this decision and the relevant contracts and agreements; such amendments to this decision constitute technical amendments in the sense of point (i) of Article 2(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014.

5.3 Implementation modalities

Indirect management with an international organisation

This action may be implemented in indirect management with UNICEF (and/or UNFPA - the decision will be taken once the agreement between the two agencies will be finalised) in accordance with Article 58(1)(c) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012. This implementation entails the contribution to the Global Programme to accelerate action to end child marriage.

Implementation by UNICEF (and/or UNFPA) is justified because of:

- the programme's comprehensive approach to challenge social norms and induce behavioural change is based on UNICEF's and UNFPA's expertise, experience, analysis and an inception phase that informs the global programme;

- the established experience of these UN organisations of working to end child marriage, notably in terms of community-based and social norms change programmes, dates back over a decade;

- the in-country presence in countries highly affected by child marriage; They are already supporting relevant interventions such as child protection, health, education which can be built on to address child marriage more explicitly. UNICEF and UNFPA can work directly with governments; the UN is well placed to support sectoral coordination and is able to work in partnership with CSOs;

- the programme is innovative and could generate valuable learning which the UN is well placed to disseminate further to those seeking to end child marriage. The inception phase is now coming to an end and will deliver robust monitoring and evaluation plans, along with a results framework and theory of change, country level plans are also being developed based on the findings;

- there is clear political momentum and Member State commitment to the Global Programme (with some already supporting the inception phase such as NL and UK);
- A **scale up** is needed to generate the necessary acceleration to end child marriage, by expanding the global programme the mechanisms to take the results further can be put in place;

- The global programme offers the opportunity to also act **regionally** and improve **coordination** at all levels between stakeholders, therefore enhancing potential impact and improving efficiency;

- A **cooperation framework** between UNICEF and UNFPA is established; Lessons from the joint FGM phase 1 programme can also be built on;

- The EU will have a **strong voice** as a donor on the Steering Committee;

- **Greater efficiencies** will be achieved on reporting and coordination.

The entrusted entity would carry out the following budget-implementation tasks:

- Annual work planning and budgeting, including the management of procurement procedures for hiring staff, purchasing goods, hiring consulting services, and any other relevant transaction;

- Financial management and monitoring, including the management of grant award procedures (if any); acting as contracting authority concluding, monitoring and managing contracts, carrying out payments, and recovering money due;

- Annual progress and utilization reporting.

In addition, UNICEF and UNFPA have successfully undergone the ex-ante assessment in accordance with Article 61(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

*Method of implementation:*

The ongoing inception phase of the Global Programme has been dedicated to data collection and baseline design among other key activities and will inform the Action’s implementation. One output of the inception phase will be detailed implementation plans and budgets for UNICEF and UNFPA country offices, regional and HQ work including outline for a joint programme monitoring, reporting and evaluation plan.

UNICEF and UNFPA will be working toward a common goal and common results framework that is clearly defined, while each organization is accountable for its results on the Global Programme. UNICEF is currently in the process of establishing a formal joint programme with UNFPA, which will follow the same programmatic framework contained in this Action Fiche. The joint programme is designed to enhance clarity on the roles and responsibilities of each partner, help identify complementarities and minimize duplication of efforts, and ensure mutual accountability on the delivery of the results. Each agency will mobilize its own resources and will be responsible for the management of its own funds. The final details of the modality will be finalized end December 2015.

The Global Programme coordination team will be responsible for overall management and liaising with/convening the global governance mechanism for the programme, composed of a Steering Committee established in line with UNDG Guidelines. Specific terms of reference will be based on UNDG guidelines.
The Action will be implemented in close partnership with governments, other UN agencies, NGOs and local communities. Private sector partnerships will be explored, particularly for innovations.

5.4 Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply.

The Commission’s authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility in accordance with Article 9(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of products and services in the markets of the countries concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

5.5 Indicative budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Budget of the Global Programme to accelerate action to end child marriage</td>
<td>EUR 100 000 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicative EU contribution</td>
<td>EUR 6 000 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada contribution</td>
<td>EUR 15 500 000⁴</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands contribution</td>
<td>EUR 20 000 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DFID contribution</td>
<td>EUR 21 000 000⁵</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>EUR 1 800 000⁶</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other funds</td>
<td>EUR 35 700 000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.6 Organisational set-up and responsibilities

The organisational set-up and responsibilities presented below are subject to change and will be confirmed at the end of the inception phase.

At Global level, a **Steering Committee** composed of UNICEF, UNFPA and donors (including EU) contributing to the programme will meet at least once a year.

The role of the Steering Committee is to:

- Facilitate the effective and efficient collaboration between participating UN Agencies and donors for the implementation of the Global Programme;

---

⁴ 20M CAD
⁵ £ 15M
⁶ 15M USD
• Review and approve the Global Programme document, including Theory of Change, M&E framework & implementation plan, and any subsequent revisions;
• Approve the work plans and consolidated budget on an annual basis;
• Review the implementation of the Global Programme;
• Review and approve agreed joint reports;
• Review evaluation findings related to impact and effectiveness of the Global Programme

A Global Programme Partnership Advisory Group composed of UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women and other relevant UN agencies, contributing and interested donors, Girls not Brides and other relevant NGOs, academic institutions, etc. will meet semi-annually. The role of the Partnership Advisory Group is to:
• Provide strategic guidance and advice to the steering committee
• Promote coherence and coordination among the actors
• Create a space for sharing experiences and learning

A UNICEF CM Team composed of a senior programme manager, M&E specialist, KM and evidence building officer and additional technical staff as needed will manage the operationalization of the programme undertaking the following key tasks: annual work-plans and budgets, monitoring and reporting, advocacy and communication, resource mobilization, Steering Committee Secretariat function, technical programme guidance to regional and country offices, partnership management, etc.

5.7 Performance monitoring and reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process and part of the implementing partner’s responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (outputs and direct outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix. The report shall be laid out in such a way as to allow monitoring of the means envisaged and employed and of the budget details for the action. The final report, narrative and financial, will cover the entire period of the action implementation.

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

The Global Programme will submit an annual narrative and financial report to all the donors, including the European Union. The European Union will also receive the final consolidated report of the Global Programme, independently on when the EU funded Action ends.

After the inception phase is carried out, and as part of the implementation strategy, a monitoring and evaluation plan will be adopted for the Global Programme. The Monitoring and evaluation
framework adopted by the programme is aligned with UNICEF MoRES’ approach to equity-focused planning, programming and monitoring. The MoRES’s approach includes periodic decentralized/disaggregated monitoring of reduction in bottlenecks/barriers where various constituents (CSOs, parents, community leaders, target groups) are engaged in data analysis and identification of corrective actions/solutions. The sources of data for this level of monitoring include: routine data, rapid surveys sentinel site surveillance, community based monitoring, citizen based monitoring.

Programme monitoring at country level is a process of collecting information on the implementation and results of the programme at regular intervals in order to inform management decisions at all levels - on the ground with implementing partners, at country level, and globally - and document progress towards desired results.

The programme monitoring function is a shared responsibility. While some UNICEF and UNFPA offices have planning and monitoring specialists, these staff often have responsibility for the entire country programme. Consequently, technical focal points charged with programme implementation will be responsible for aligning specific interventions within the approved country strategies to global indicators at output level (but also higher levels), ensuring that appropriate data collection systems are in place, and reporting data on an annual basis.

The Global Programme core team in HQ and RO will provide tools and technical assistance to country office focal points to ensure adequate planning for monitoring and high quality implementation of programme monitoring such as:

1. Work plan templates that allow COs to align specific activities to specific indicators, baselines and targets.
2. Indicator definitions, numerators and denominators, recommended frequency, sample data sources, and sample questions for monitoring forms.
3. Data management systems using existing corporate reporting software, and innovative monitoring technologies (that permit more dynamic learning and improvement cycles).

At the end of 2017, Management will also conduct a Global Midterm Review of the Programme. This is part of the overall evaluation of the programme, and is a recommendation of the Independent Evaluation Offices of both agencies.

5.8 Evaluation

The ongoing inception phase of the Global Programme has been dedicated to data collection and baseline design among other key activities and will inform the Action’s implementation. Baseline surveys will also include action research on knowledge, attitudes and practices.

A global theory of change and a global results framework with corresponding indicators will provide the structure to guide countries in their formulation of their country strategies. In order to aggregate global results and ensure global accountability for the achievement of those results, UNFPA and UNICEF have defined some core indicators of success.
Programme monitoring conducted throughout the regular process of implementation by UNICEF and UNFPA will be complemented by an evaluation plan implemented independently by the Evaluation Offices of UNFPA and UNICEF Headquarters. The management and governance of the evaluation mechanism will be separate from the Global Programme core teams situated within the technical/programme divisions of the agencies. While the evaluation plan will draw from the data generated by the Global Programme, it will generate independent information to both ensure high-quality delivery of the Global Programme framework and also to bring an additional layer of external accountability.

The Evaluation Offices will undertake and manage an Evaluability Assessment and an endline Evaluation of the programme. The evaluation plan (to be finalised at the end of the inception period) will set out the overall objectives, timeline, indicative budget and management arrangements of these evaluative exercises to ensure quality of the process and its outputs.

The global programme will implement a Mid-Term Review and a Final Evaluation in close cooperation with the independent Office of Evaluation which has been consulted on the design of the Evaluation Plan that will be rolled out at the start of 2016.

Having regard to the importance and nature of the action, a mid-term and final evaluation may be carried out for this action independently of the global programme. This is likely to be undertaken jointly with other donors to the programme, and carried out by independent evaluators. The exact evaluation approach will be decided based upon the findings of the inception phase and approach to be suggested in its report (September 2015).

The evaluation reports will be shared with partner countries and key stakeholders. The implementing partner and the Commission will analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, in agreement with the partners and stakeholders, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project.

5.9 Audit

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audits or expenditure verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

The financing of the audit shall be covered by another measure constituting a financing decision.

5.10 Communication and visibility

Communication and visibility of the EU is a legal obligation for all external actions funded by the EU.

This action shall contain communication and visibility measures which shall be based on a specific Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action, to be elaborated at the start of implementation and supported with the budget indicated in section 5.5 above.

In terms of legal obligations on communication and visibility, the measures shall be implemented by the Commission, the partner country, contractors, grant beneficiaries and/or
entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, the financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

The Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Action shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.

The Global Programme will approve the implementation strategy of the programme, including the visibility strategy for the programme and within the donors. The EU, as a donor, will be part of the Steering Committee approving the strategy.
APPENDIX - INDICATIVE RESULTS FRAMEWORK FOR THE GLOBAL PROGRAMME TO ACCELERATE ACTION TO END CHILD MARRIAGE

The impact level indicators defined for the Global Programme, are in line with the expected SDGs indicators under target 5.3. Further adjustments will be made once the full list of the SDGs indicators is finalized after the GA in September 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Frame: 5 years (2015-20)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Country Focus</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>East and Southern Africa:</strong> Ethiopia, Mozambique, Uganda, Zambia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>West and Central Africa:</strong> Burkina Faso, Ghana, Niger, Sierra Leone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>South Asia:</strong> Bangladesh, India, Nepal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arab States:</strong> Yemen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Primary regional focus:</strong> Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Global focus:</strong> UN fora including General Assembly, Human Rights Council, Commission on the Status of Women, Commission on Population and Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goal/Vision:</strong> Girls fully enjoy their childhood free from the risk of marriage; they experience healthier, safer and more empowered life transitions in control of their own destiny, including making choices and decisions about their sexuality, relationship formation/marriage, and childbearing. This shift is reflected by a decrease of at least 10% in the percentage of women 20-24 who are married or in union by age 18 (to be confirmed based on SDG targets and feedback from countries)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Strategic Objective:</strong> To accelerate action to address child marriage by enhancing investments in and support for married and unmarried girls and making visible the corresponding benefits; engaging key actors – including young people as agents of change – in catalysing shifts towards positive gender norms; increasing political support, resources, positive policies and frameworks; and improving the data and evidence base.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Impact indicators: |
| Percentage of women 20-24 married/in-union before age 18 |
| Percentage of women 20-24 married/in-union before age 15 |
| Among all women 20-24 married/in-union before age 18, percentage who gave birth before age 20 |
| Among all women 20-24 married/in-union before age 15, percentage who gave birth before age 18 |
| Percentage of births to girls 15-19 attended by skilled health personnel |
| Percentage of adolescent girls of lower secondary school age that are out of school |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome 1</th>
<th>Outcome 2</th>
<th>Outcome 3</th>
<th>Outcome 4</th>
<th>Outcome 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adolescent girls at risk of and affected by child marriage have the agency and resources to make</td>
<td>Families and communities demonstrate positive attitudes and behaviours toward investing in and supporting adolescent girls</td>
<td>Relevant sectoral systems are able to scale up quality and cost effective services to meet the needs of adolescent</td>
<td>National legal and policy frameworks protect the rights of adolescents [in line with international</td>
<td>Government(s) and partners within and across countries support and promote the generation and use of robust data and evidence to inform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicator 1</td>
<td>Indicator 2</td>
<td>Indicator 3</td>
<td>Indicator 4</td>
<td>Indicator 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Increases in agency as measured by girls’ (15-19) control over own earnings, participation in household decisions, attitudes toward wife-beating by husbands, on whether a woman can refuse sex to her husband, and hurdles faced by women in accessing health care for themselves - all available in DHS | Number of communities that have declared collective commitment to abandonment of child marriage (showing a shift in social norms around adolescent girls and child marriage) | Number / proportion of adolescent girls who are able to access (health, social welfare) services | Number of countries with legal frameworks relating to child marriage aligned with international standards: Criteria:  
• Establish clearly and consistently the minimum age at marriage as 18  
• Set legal parity in marriage age between males and females  
• Require birth and marriage registration  
• Allow adolescents access to SRH services, without restrictive age or marital status-based consent provisions | Number of countries that include data on child marriage (rates) in official [statistical] publications Number of programmes that include evidence-based strategies for addressing child marriage (criteria for evidence to be defined) |

**Outcome 1: Adolescent girls at risk of and affected by child marriage have the agency and resources to make choices regarding their lives**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Output 1.1</th>
<th>Output 1.2</th>
<th>Output 1.3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adolescent girls are better informed about and able to access quality health services, including sexual and reproductive health services</strong></td>
<td><strong>Adolescent girls have increased enrolment and attainment in formal and non-formal education</strong></td>
<td><strong>Adolescent girls have access to life-skills [programmes] and age appropriate financial literacy training and services</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Indicators**

| 1.1.a Number and proportion of girls (ages 10-19) in targeted communities that have health information | 1.2.a. Number and proportion of girls 10-19 in targeted communities that are enrolled in formal education | 1.3.a. Number and proportion of adolescent girls aged 10-19 years in targeted communities who complete Life Skills course |
| 1.1b Number and proportion of girls (age 10-19) in | 1.2.b. Number and proportion of girls 10-19 in | 1.3.b. Number and proportion of girls (10-19) in |

[27]
targeted communities that have accessed quality health services [in the past 12 months] | targeted communities that are enrolled in non-formal/second chance education | targeted communities that have received financial literacy training and/or services
---|---|---

### Outcome 2: Families and communities demonstrate positive attitudes and behaviours toward investing in and supporting adolescent girls

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Output 2.1</th>
<th>Output 2.2</th>
<th>Output 2.3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Families and communities are increasingly aware of the benefits of investing in adolescents girls [and ending child marriage]</td>
<td>Local and national leaders make public expressions in support of ending child marriage and investing in girls</td>
<td>Communities that have taken positive steps to end child marriage receive increased visibility [across a range of platforms including media]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2.1.a. Number/proportion of population (girls/boys and women/men) in targeted areas who participate regularly in educational dialogues promoting the establishment of gender equitable social norms, including delayed marriage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1.b. Number of community dialogues, or other relevant fora such as adolescent radio listeners clubs etc. that explicitly profile and support girls, boys, men and families who have succeeded in delaying marriage and pregnancy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 2.2.a. Number of statements of public support for ending child marriage made by community/political/religious leaders, and other public figures and civil society actors |

#### Indicators

| 2.3.a. Number of times public commitments to ending child marriage disseminated through influential outlets |
| 2.3.b. Number of times girls are featured in stories of individual/ family/community success disseminated through influential outlets |

### Outcome 3: Relevant sectoral systems are able to scale up quality and cost effective services to meet the needs of adolescent girls

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Output 3.1</th>
<th>Output 3.2</th>
<th>Output 3.3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Line ministries develop guidelines, protocols and standards for service providers to deliver age appropriate services for adolescent girls, in particular SRH services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Service providers across relevant sectors have the skills and knowledge to meet the needs of [adolescent] girls at the local level |

| Referral and service platforms are operating in a harmonized fashion to prevent and respond to identified risks and violations |

---

[28]
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.1.a. Number of facilities implementing the [new] guidelines / policies [to deliver age appropriate services for adolescent girls, in particular SRH services]</td>
<td>3.2.a. Number of personnel delivering quality services to adolescent girls</td>
<td>3.3.a. Availability of referral and information exchange system between two or more providers [to ensure children receive appropriate services]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.b. Number and proportion of service delivery facilities with at least one trained personnel on the above mentioned protocols</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Outcome 4: Legal and policy frameworks protect the rights of adolescents girls [in line with international standards]

**Output 4.1.** Laws including secondary legislation across all relevant sectors are increasingly brought into line with laws that protect the rights of adolescent girls

**Indicators**
- 4.1.a. Number of laws and directives amended to bring them into line with laws that protect the right of adolescent girls.

**Output 4.2** Countries have costed, national action plans on child marriage or include child marriage interventions / programmes in national development plans

**Indicators**
- 4.2.a. Number of costed and resourced national action plans or other development plans that recognize the problem of child marriage and propose to address it

### Outcome 5: Government(s) and partners within and across countries support and promote the generation and use of robust data and evidence to inform programme design, track progress and document lessons

**Output 5.1** Quality disaggregated data, on child marriage and (gender) related factors available through routine administrative systems and surveys

**Indicators**
- 5.1.a. Does the country collect information on child marriage in national level HH surveys (Year and Number)
- 5.1.b. Does the country collect information on child marriage through routine administrative data sources

**Output 5.2** Countries are able to use data and evidence in the design of programmes, and rigorously evaluate scalable programmes and policies to address CM

**Indicators**
- 5.2.a. Number of programs or policies that used/incorporated data and evidence-based strategies in the design phase
- 5.2.b. Availability of national level evidence on child marriage programmes

**Output 5.3** Data and evidence on child marriage is widely disseminated and increasingly cited in the public domain

**Indicators**
- 5.3.a. Number of data and evidence-based communication products developed on child marriage and adolescent girls
- 5.3.b. Number of times data and evidence products on child marriage and adolescent girls are disseminated through influential outlets by various stakeholders
Target 5.3: Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation. Proposed indicator: Percentage of women aged 20-24 who were first married or in union by age 18. This is considered an ‘excellent indicator’ because it is easily measurable and data exist in many countries (110).


UNICEF, 2014


Ibid.

High Stakes for Young Lives: Examining Strategies to Stop Child Marriage, Gayle Tzemach Lemmon and Lynn S. ElHarake, April 2014

To be confirmed based on SDG targets and feedback from countries.

Estimates have been derived from a UN desk exercise and will be refined after the initial inception phase.