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20 Years of the Evidence Base on What Works to Prevent Child Marriage

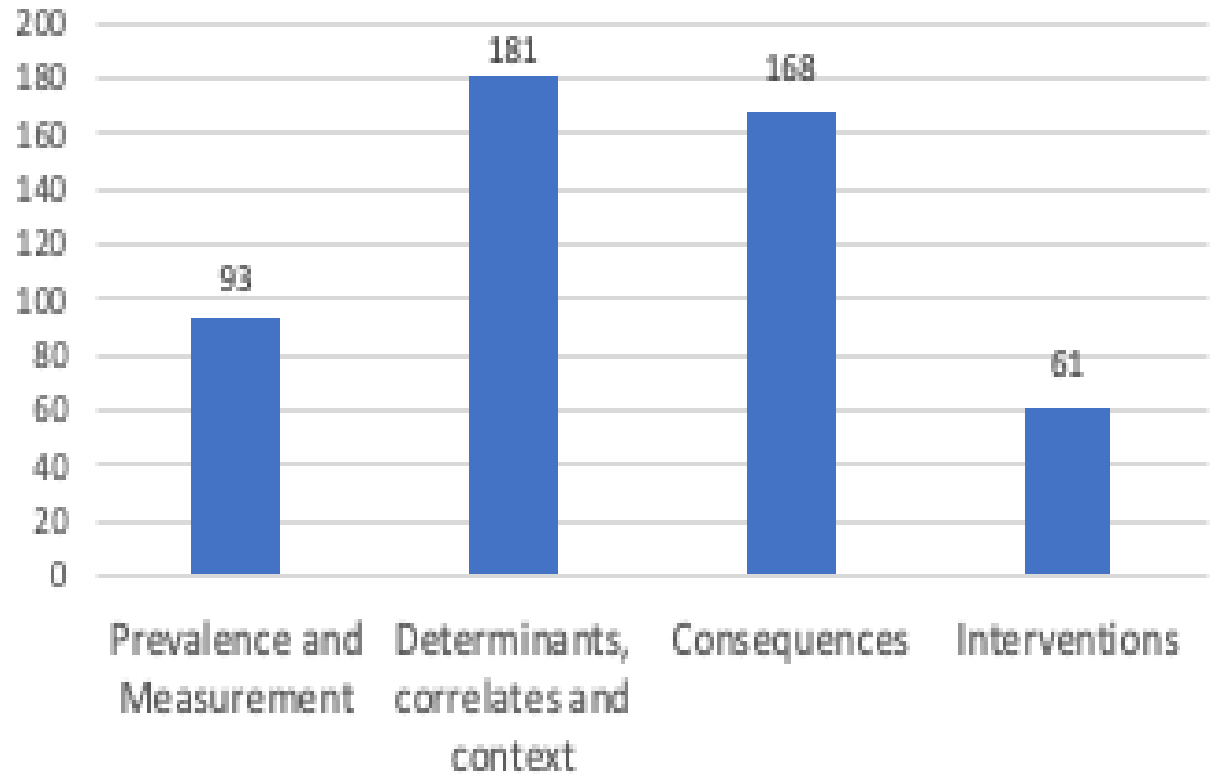
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Child Marriage Research to Action Network – March 11, 2021

Originated from Scoping Review 2000-2019

- We have more robust measures, better tracking of rates & burden
- There has been an explosion of research on drivers & consequences
- Evidence still mostly aimed at advocacy, less at programs at scale—and SDGs timeline
- Two systematic reviews on what works on CM prevention: **Not conclusive**; Scale and sustainability poorly understood

Major topics covered by studies on child marriage, 2000-2019



Systematic Review of Interventions to Prevent CM 2000-2010

What interventions are effective in delaying age at marriage or reducing child marriage incidence among girls aged 10-24 years? How are scale and sustainability addressed?

Search

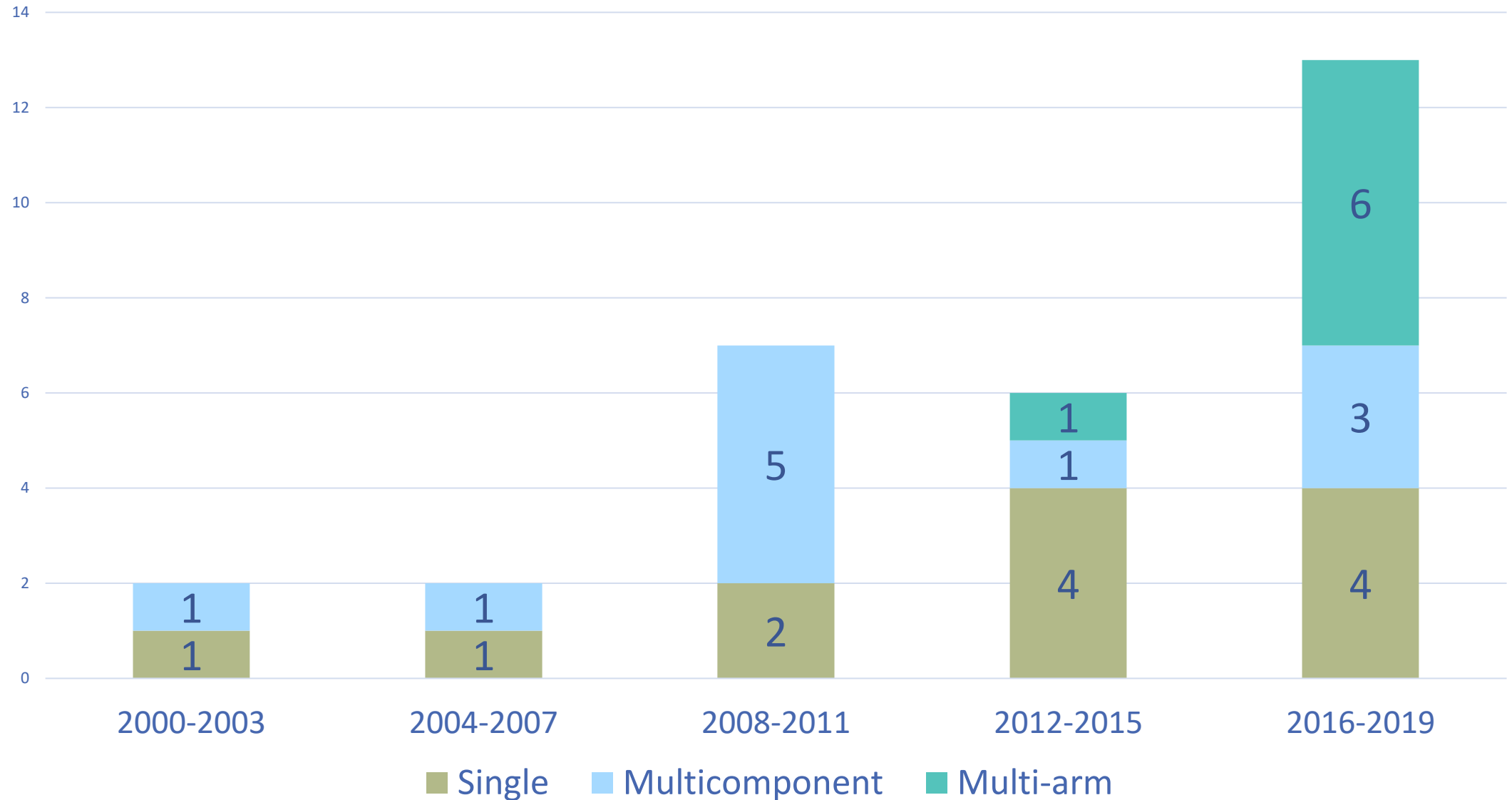
- a) Studies published in English between 2000-2019
- b) Evaluating impact of intervention(s) to delay or prevent marriage
- b) With quasi-experimental or experimental evaluation design and quantitative behavioral measure(s) on CM

3,556 articles identified

34 articles included covering 30 evaluations

- Quality assessment & risk of bias evaluated for each article
- Studies classified into low, medium and high quality
- Consolidated findings: number of studies with Positive, Mixed, Null, or Negative findings on the effectiveness of intervention in preventing child marriage

Trends in Evaluation Studies on Child Marriage Prevention



Intervention Types Covered by Systematic Review

AT SCALE

2 of 11
multicomponent
evaluations
(both BRAC)

9 of 12
single component
evaluations

1 of 7
multi arm
evaluations

Multicomponent (16)	Multiprong approach to girls' empowerment (11)
	Other bundled approaches (5)
Single Component Cash or Asset Transfer (19)	Conditional cash or kind transfer for schooling support (11)
	Asset transfer conditional on delayed marriage (5)
	Unconditional cash transfer for Poverty Alleviation (3)
Single Component Economic Opportunity or Skills (6)	Female job opportunities or livelihood skills training (3)
	Gender rights/life skills training (3)
Single Component Other (5)	Community mobilization (3)
	School fee elimination (1)
	Abstinence only education (1)

Consolidated Success Rate of Evaluations to Prevent Child Marriage

Grouped Intervention Categories	Specific Intervention Type	Share of positive findings in all Studies in Category	Share of positive findings in Med-High Quality Studies
Multi-component	1. Multiprong approach to girls' empowerment	<i>3 of 11</i>	<i>1 of 6</i>
	2. Other bundled approaches	<i>1 of 5</i>	<i>0 of 2</i>
Single Component Cash or Asset Transfer	3. Conditional cash or kind transfer for schooling support	<i>8 of 11</i>	<i>8 of 10</i>
	4. Asset transfer conditional on delayed marriage	<i>2 of 5</i>	<i>2 of 4</i>
	5. Unconditional cash transfer for Poverty Alleviation	<i>0 of 3</i>	<i>0 of 3</i>
Single Component Economic opportunity or skills	6. Female job opportunities or livelihood skills training	<i>3 of 3</i>	<i>3 of 3</i>
	7. Gender rights/life skills training	<i>2 of 3</i>	<i>2 of 3</i>
Single Component Other Interventions	8. Community mobilization	<i>1 of 3</i>	<i>1 of 2</i>
	9. School fee elimination	<i>0 of 1</i>	<i>0 of 1</i>
	10. Abstinence only education	<i>0 of 1</i>	<i>0 of 1</i>

Insights from Findings—What is Transformative?

A More Strategic Intervention Agenda

Gender Transformative in Results, not Intentions

- Reducing the prevalence of child marriage is itself gender transformative
- Schooling, skills, jobs, not getting pregnant are transformative
- Norm change accompanies or follows behavioral change—at tipping point

Education, Job Options Multipath rather than Multicomponent

- Enhancement of girls' human capital and skills—options; empowerment
- Normative effect of how girls as children, and potential earners
- Potential positive effects of more structural supply-side interventions

Can it be Transformative if it is not Scale?

- Reaching 25% girls at risk—in Zambia 125K; in Bangladesh 2.25M
- Avg multicomponent reach is 5K—how does that create transformation?

Why don't Multicomponent Interventions Succeed & Scale Up?

- Logistical, capacity, and resource constraints
- No sectoral home, ownership, systems, infrastructure
- Uptake—do girls & communities really want all that, and have time for it?



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THANK YOU!