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CHILD MARRIAGE WITHIN THE GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN SYSTEM

Based on a scoping review by Hannah Jay for *Girls Not Brides*



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INTRODUCTION

Child marriage in humanitarian contexts

Inaction on child marriage within humanitarian contexts threatens to leave some of the most vulnerable girls behind and could hold progress back on ending child marriage globally. Of the 10 countries with the highest child marriage rates, 9 are considered fragile or extremely fragile. Seventeen of the top 20 have required an international humanitarian response to crises within the last 5 years.¹

Within countries with high prevalence rates of child marriage, girls who are displaced or impacted by crisis are some of the most vulnerable. Whilst the national child marriage prevalence rate in Niger is the world's highest (76% for marriage before 18), rates in regions that have the highest number of people in need of humanitarian assistance are even starker (82% in Diffa, 87% in Zinder, 89% in Maradi).² In South Sudan's northern town Nyal, a recent Oxfam report found 70% of girls are married before the age of 18,³ which is much higher than the national rate prior to the recent outbreak of fighting.

In both stable and crisis contexts, child marriage is rooted in gender inequality and sustained by cultural and social norms, poverty and lack of opportunities. However, crises aggravate pre-existing drivers and increased sexual violence, the breakdown in the rule of law, uprooted social structures and increased isolation mean that girls are even more vulnerable to child marriage. In some humanitarian contexts child marriage may also be linked to forced recruitment, abduction and trafficking.

Humanitarian crises across the world are becoming more frequent and increasingly protracted. As of 2018 an unprecedented 68.5 million people around the world have been displaced. Among them are nearly 25.4 million refugees, over half of whom are under the age of 18. Globally, 135.3 million people are in need of humanitarian aid and almost a quarter of the world's population lives in countries and territories affected by protracted crises and conflicts. Climate change continues to further exacerbate natural disasters, change weather patterns and compound the impacts of conflict and insecurity on already vulnerable populations.

When humanitarian actors fail to address harmful gender-based coping mechanisms such as child marriage in their response to a crisis, it both places girls at greater risk during an emergency and deprives them of any chance of a bright future long after it ends.

Conversely, humanitarian situations present an opportunity for the work on child marriage. They can bring both additional resources and services to communities (e.g. displaced population accessing education and health services that were previously unavailable to them) and new funding opportunities for organisations working in these contexts. In addition, as crises disrupt everyday life, including spaces, movements, roles and potentially power dynamics, they can break down patriarchal structures and provide an entry point for challenging gender roles and addressing gender inequality.

The unprecedented humanitarian need and now stronger evidence base on the way crises further drive child marriage, in conjunction with the renewed commitment for action from the international community (stemming from the World Humanitarian Summit of 2016 and ensuring the Agenda for

¹ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), *Global Humanitarian Overview 2018*. This includes countries with Humanitarian Response Plans, Refugee Response Plans, countries that have had Flash appeals and those that have had a 'clusterised' response to an emergency.

<https://interactive.unocha.org/publication/globalhumanitarianoverview/>

² International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) and UNICEF, *Child marriage, Adolescent pregnancy and Family formation in West and Central Africa: Patterns, trends and drivers of change*, 2015, p.69.

https://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/Child_Marriage_Adolescent_Pregnancy_and_Family_Formation_in_WCA.pdf

³ Oxfam, *Born to be Married: addressing child, early and forced marriage in Nyal*, South Sudan, 2019.

<https://www.oxfam.org/en/research/born-be-married-addressing-child-early-and-forced-marriage-nyal-south-sudan>

Humanity), provide a context in which there are substantial areas of opportunity for increased action to address child marriage.

About this report

In March 2019, *Girls Not Brides* commissioned a consultant to scope out how global humanitarian systems are addressing child marriage and opportunities for the *Girls Not Brides* secretariat to encourage further action. As most recommendations are relevant to a range of actors interested in encouraging and driving greater action to address child marriage in humanitarian settings (e.g. civil society advocates, UN agencies, donors), this report synthesises the findings, which are relevant for a wider audience. It does not explore drivers and prevalence of child marriage in these settings.⁴ It focuses instead on key actors and humanitarian mechanisms and will be most useful to those who are less familiar with the humanitarian systems.

The first chapter summarises [key recommendations](#) for greater action to address child marriage in humanitarian settings. The [second](#) and [third](#) chapters explore how child marriage is being addressed within the global humanitarian system on the one hand, and how this translates at the country level on the other hand. [Chapter four](#) provides further examples of opportunities and gaps to address child marriage at the country level, looking at the refugee crisis in [Lebanon](#), multiple crises affecting [Niger](#) and the [Democratic Republic of Congo](#), and the challenges linked to climate change and natural disasters in [Bangladesh](#).

The original report was developed by Hannah Jay, a specialist consultant in gender-based violence, child protection and gender equality in emergencies. It is based on a review of humanitarian operational documents and 18 interviews with humanitarian and development actors. We thank Line Baago-Rasmussen from UNICEF Middle-East and North Africa Regional Office; Elsa Bousquet from UNHCR in Lebanon; Dean Brooks from Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE); Maria Holtsberg from International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF); Jessica Izquierdo from the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) gender-based violence (GBV) Guidelines Implementation Support Team; Victoria Korsnes Nordli from International Organization for Migration (IOM); Janna Metzler from Women's Refugee Commission; Anny Modi from Afia Mama in the Democratic Republic of Congo; Sara El Outa from Lebanese Women Democratic Gathering (RDFL) in Lebanon; Anifa Soumana from UNFPA in Niger; Education in Emergency team from Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI) in Niger for their valued contribution to this review.

⁴ For more information on child marriage in humanitarian settings, please consult *Girls Not Brides'* humanitarian brief: <https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Child-marriage-in-humanitarian-settings.pdf>, and type 'humanitarian' in the filter search bar of *Girls Not Brides'* resource centre for materials produced by various agencies: <https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/resource-centre/>.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The global humanitarian community should invest in cross-sectoral measures to prevent and respond to child marriage

At the global level, the humanitarian community has increasingly recognised the need to address the rights of impacted populations, to prevent and respond to gender-based violence (GBV), and to do so in a more localised way. However, there are still substantial gaps in implementing these commitments across all sectors, and in reinforcing both knowledge and action on how to address different forms of protection and GBV issues, such as child marriage. Even when there is clear evidence that child marriage is being exacerbated by a crisis, having a substantial impact on the lives of adolescent girls, too often there is a lack of dedicated resources and programming initiatives to address it.

As in more stable contexts, the drivers of child marriage in humanitarian settings are multiple, interrelated and complex, and therefore they cannot be addressed by a single actor or sector alone. Yet humanitarian response efforts to crises are often siloed to the thematic focus of the clusters (e.g. water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), food security and livelihood, education and protection). Whilst substantial efforts have been made to integrate risk reduction measures for GBV and incorporate protection considerations across the work of all clusters, there is less often a genuine partnership and joint delivery between clusters to ensure these issues are addressed in a comprehensive way.

Efforts at the global level should include:

- Key expert agencies highlighting the issue of child marriage and its impact on girls and their communities and repositioning action on child marriage as lifesaving and integral to preserving girls' dignity in times of crisis.
- The inclusion of child marriage targets into the clusters and Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) protections strategies, Needs Overviews, and Humanitarian/Refugee Response Plans, which significantly influence the initial mobilisation of resources and the prioritisation of areas of needs.
- The development, implementation and monitoring of a multi-sectoral response, especially involving those sectors closely related to the issue of child marriage, such as the education sector.
- The use of reporting systems for the Agenda for Humanity and the UN Human Rights Council resolution to hold actors accountable for their commitment, and additional resources to address child marriage in humanitarian contexts; these could help drive further investment for action on child marriage.
- UN agencies focused on GBV and child protection (CP) further integrating specific guidance to prevent child marriage and support married girls through various guidelines, initiatives and materials.

2. Donors should provide humanitarian funding to strengthen existing initiatives to address child marriage in humanitarian contexts and drive new ones

Some of the biggest donors and aid providers have committed to increase multi-year funding for humanitarian action that is more collective, locally led, gender-sensitive, builds links pre and post-crisis, and has no thematic priorities for funding. This represents an opportunity to leverage greater funding for child marriage within the humanitarian response, and particularly in protracted crisis and refugee contexts. Access to multi-year funding opportunities would enable humanitarian actors to engage more substantially on gender transformative work that would seek to address drivers of child marriage. In some contexts, such as complex or protracted crises, this could mean greater access to longer term, multi-year funding for humanitarian primary prevention initiatives. In other contexts, with multiple or cyclical natural disasters, donors could invest in trialling approaches that include a

component on preparedness and humanitarian assistance within longer term development initiatives. Some sources of funding for civil society organisations include humanitarian funding streams from institutional donors, particularly those that have [signed up to the Call to Action, multi partner trust funds](#), and dedicated grants; and [country-based pooled funding](#), such as Education Cannot Wait. Tracking the percentage of humanitarian funds that directly targets child marriage or related programming could be a powerful tool to monitor increased funding by key institutional donors.

3. Both governments and humanitarian leadership should take action to address child marriage at the country level

In the majority of humanitarian contexts, governments will still be the duty bearer and have a responsibility to prevent and respond to child marriage at a national scale. There are many examples of successful advocacy for national strategies and action plans on child marriage, even in complex crisis contexts, such as those developed in South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo. In contexts of climate change and natural disasters, governments are also responsible for developing preparedness and disaster management plans, where they can make sure to include risks for adolescent girls and mitigation strategies. In contexts where a government national strategy or plan to address child marriage already exists or is developing, advocacy asks could include ensuring targeted action is included in these policies to support girls in humanitarian contexts, including refugees and stateless persons. Governments should ensure action on child marriage is integrated into sector-specific policies and plans, such as those on sexual and reproductive health rights.

However, the humanitarian community will often have a major role to play too, for example in specific areas of countries where it provides key support to displaced populations living in camps. In other cases, the capacity of governments to implement policies and plans is substantially limited, and the humanitarian community is largely responsible for delivering basic services to the impacted population, sometimes on a national scale. Humanitarian and Refugee Response Plans – the key documents that drive prioritisation and the resourcing of humanitarian action – should include not only information on the risks and ways child marriage manifests in crisis but also the specific action required to address it. In addition, the HCT protection strategies are a good entry point for encouraging cross-sectoral responses to child marriage within humanitarian action. Supporting civil society advocacy efforts to both the humanitarian coordinator and country teams (cluster system), and to the refugee response coordinator (refugee contexts), at the country level to include targets on child marriage in HCT protection strategies and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) protection and solutions strategy could help. Great efforts can also be made at the global level to encourage the inclusion of child marriage in the centrality of protection and HCT protection strategies, through the GBV sub-cluster and/or the Protection Cluster. Finally, local and national practitioners should be encouraged and supported to engage with the humanitarian needs assessments and planning processes for greater inclusion of adolescent girls across the Humanitarian Response Plans/Refugee Response Plans and specific information on the manifestations and need for action on child marriage within the response.

4. Resources should be directed towards localised humanitarian action to ensure efforts to address child marriage are aligned with the local realities

The [Girls Not Brides Theory of Change](#) recognises that, supported by global, regional and national processes, communities have the power to transform local attitudes and norms that influence the practice of child marriage. Policy makers and programme designers should support community-level efforts to address child marriage. This is particularly important to ensure any global, regional and national efforts are in line with the realities of communities. Yet humanitarian coordination platforms for programming and advocacy tend to be largely dominated by international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and UN agencies, especially at the global level but also sometimes at the country level. Local and national civil society is not always at the table. The humanitarian community has committed to achieve the ‘localisation agenda’ and ensure that humanitarian action is more locally driven. More can be done to strengthen meaningful collaboration between international and

national/local organisations, and to connect national and local organisations to relevant humanitarian coordination, decision making and funding mechanisms. More efforts are needed to allow girls, community-based, youth and girl-led organisations to engage in humanitarian systems.

5. Investments in action research are needed to build the evidence base about what works to address child marriage in humanitarian settings

Whilst there is an expanding evidence base on how humanitarian crises impact child marriage and the lives of adolescent girls, there are still many areas where knowledge could be strengthened (e.g. the impact of different stages of a crisis on child marriage, detailed and contextual analysis of decision making processes, the impact of climate change and natural disasters in Africa and Asia, child marriage in humanitarian urban contexts, including in Latin America and South East Asia, migration from Central America, and how long-term displacement could help challenge discriminatory gender norms).

Most importantly, there are still substantial gaps in evidence about the impact of interventions on child marriage in humanitarian contexts, how to develop interventions tailored to these contexts, and how to ensure their sustainability and accountability to girls. Many interventions on education, health, food security, and so on, also don't explicitly seek to address child marriage or measure the impact that they might have on child marriage prevention.

A range of organisations are leading the way in developing programmatic guidance on child marriage (e.g. the International Rescue Committee [IRC], UNHCR), evaluating and piloting interventions to address child marriage in humanitarian contexts (e.g. Women's Refugee Commission, Plan International, Save the Children), and coordinating regional research to inform policy and programme (e.g. UNICEF-UNFPA Middle East). However, there are still significant gaps in the knowledge base and dissemination and implementation of the existing resources.

Greater investment in action research and evaluation to learn about what interventions work to address child marriage in humanitarian contexts is needed. Lessons learnt from one region can be shared with other parts of the world to continue building the evidence based. New partnerships and capacity building initiatives could be developed to support various national organisations based on best practices identified (e.g. upcoming UNHCR global guidelines and the IRC child marriage package for refugee settings).

ABOUT THE GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN SYSTEM

Where does action on child marriage fit within the global humanitarian system?

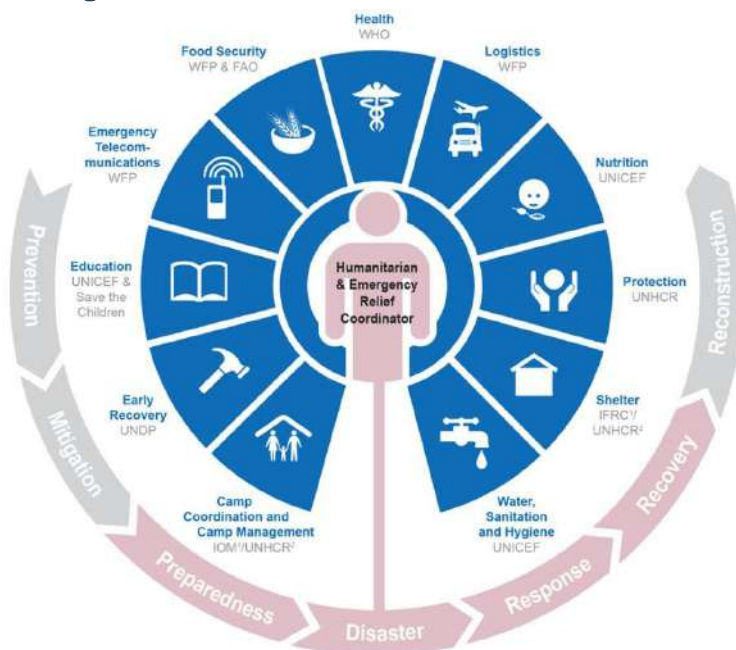
The global humanitarian system is organised by clusters (e.g. health, education, food security and livelihood, and protection) led by a specific agency in a non-refugee crisis, and by thematic working groups in a refugee crisis, which means that response efforts are often siloed.

The global humanitarian community has increasingly recognised the need to address the rights of populations impacted by crises and to prevent and respond to protection concerns. Child marriage is considered a protection issue and is the responsibility of the Global Protection Cluster, led by UNHCR. As part of this cluster, the responsibility is shared across two focus areas: (1) gender-based violence (GBV) Area of Responsibility (AoR) led by UNFPA in the cluster system, and GBV working groups and task forces in the refugee system and (2) child protection (CP) AoR led by UNICEF and The Alliance led by Plan International and UNICEF in the cluster system, and CP working groups and task forces in the refugee system.

The division of responsibilities on child marriage between the GBV AoR and the CP AoR at the global level and then the GBV sub-cluster and CP sub-cluster at the country/response level is not clearly articulated. Whilst the GBV sub-cluster would typically coordinate targeted action on prevention of child marriage, many of the services provided by the CP sub-cluster, such as case management, child friendly spaces, care for unaccompanied and separated children, would be used for the prevention and response to child marriage. In some contexts the division of labour may be outlined quite clearly in referral pathways that are developed; in others it may be site specific and dependent on the strength of partners operating. The GBV AoR and CP AoR strongly recognise the need for collaboration on child survivors with both AoRs.

The **global cluster system** was established in 2005 to enhance coordination of humanitarian responses. It is designed to be a temporary coordination solution to respond to the crisis and the aim should be to either resume or establish national, development-oriented coordination mechanisms as soon as the humanitarian emergency phase ends.

Key responsibilities of global clusters⁵



⁵ IASC, <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/about-clusters/what-is-the-cluster-approach>

The global refugee system is the system used to respond to a refugee crisis. A refugee crisis is not coordinated through the cluster system, but through the UNHCR [Refugee Coordination Model](#). In the refugee system, all sector working groups are typically led by UNHCR, with the contribution of specialised organisations, such as the cluster lead agencies. Although there are contexts where specialised agencies take on a co-lead role, UNHCR retains the ultimate responsibility for coordination.

It is worth noting that there can be situations where both a refugee response and cluster response work in parallel in one context.⁶ The cluster system retains responsibility for the broader humanitarian response, whilst UNHCR and the refugee response system responds to the needs of refugees in that context. However, coordination arrangements between the two systems are usually put in place in the specific context to avoid duplication of structures, systems and response efforts.

For a detailed actor mapping of the cluster system at the global and country level, please see **Annex 1**.

What is being done by the global humanitarian community to address child marriage?

- Child marriage remains under-recognised in humanitarian planning and financing and is generally not seen as a major concern by humanitarian actors outside of the protection sector. Even when there is clear evidence that child marriage is being exacerbated by a crisis, having a substantial impact on the lives of adolescent girls, too often there is a lack of dedicated resources and programming initiatives to address it. It is often not effectively integrated into the key mechanisms and strategies that determine the key humanitarian needs and response targets, and when it is highlighted as a concern it is usually not appropriately resourced.
- The global humanitarian community has made progress in considering child protection and GBV as key concerns for the humanitarian response. Initiatives such as the [IASC guidelines on GBV](#), the [IASC gender and age marker](#), the [Call to Action on GBV](#), the [Handbook for coordinating GBV in emergencies](#), and the [Minimum Standards on Child Protection](#) have provided guidance and support for other clusters to address GBV and child protection issues. However, these initiatives provide relatively limited content on how to address child marriage.
- The GBV AoR Global Strategy clearly emphasises the broad need for greater technical support to the field level sub-clusters, with ‘early and forced marriage’ identified as a specific area. The GBV AoR is also developing a Minimum Standards document to outline key minimum targeted actions to address GBV in humanitarian contexts, which should include actions to address child marriage and is expected to be completed by the end of 2019. The GBV AoR and its member organisations plan to develop a standby deployable capacity, or global technical experts that can be deployed to support sub-clusters and partners in country in identified areas. The GBV in Emergencies helpdesk run by GBV AoR is open to all members of the GBV AoR and members of country level sub-clusters. The helpdesk is a technical advice and learning service that provides rapid programme support across all areas of GBV response, including child marriage, as well as developing short learning products through the synthesis of existing evidence.
- In collaboration with the GBV AoR, the CP AoR is currently implementing a joint initiative at the global level on child survivors of sexual violence, and there is an appetite to expand the scope of this initiative in the future to include survivors of all forms of GBV, including child marriage. Current pilot countries for the *Comprehensive Coordination Support to Child and Adolescent Survivors of Sexual Abuse in Emergencies* that are receiving support under the initiative are Niger,

⁶ UNHCR, Refugee Coordination Model.

Myanmar, Sudan and Iraq. The Initiative aims to improve the quality of and access to services for child and adolescent survivors in emergencies. The three expected results are to (i) enhance the knowledge base of partners in responding to child survivors, (ii) strengthen coordination to ensure access to lifesaving information, services and resources; and (iii) secure the commitment of global actors in improving the quality of and access to services of child survivors.

- Despite close links between child marriage and education, there is relatively little targeted action from the education sector in the humanitarian system on child marriage. The cluster has produced some learning and guidance materials on education as a protective mechanism for children, although there is not a specific link made to child marriage. Some networks such as the [Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies](#) (INEE), which defines the Education Minimum Standards, have shown appetite for increased collaboration with specialised actors working to address child marriage.
- The Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) Cluster has worked in partnership with the Child Protection AoR in some instances to develop specific guidance on ensuring prevention and risk mitigation measures across child protection, including for child marriage, are integrated into the planning and implementation of food sector and livelihood responses.⁷ There are also a number of materials developed at the global level on ensuring gender is effectively considered in the design of food security response programming, and some short guidance materials on women's participation in food security activities.
- The Inter-agency Working Group (IAWG) on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights in Emergencies has a sub-group focused on adolescents. Whilst there is not a specific defined focus on child marriage, it is an area that is frequently discussed in the sub-group on adolescents. The group has been undertaking a revision of the Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Toolkit for Humanitarian Settings. The IAWG also have a sub-group on GBV.
- At the global and regional level, a number of organisations are leading efforts to advance knowledge and support practitioners in addressing child marriage in humanitarian contexts, which offers promising content to help equip the humanitarian community to better respond to child marriage. For example, Save the Children has been working to create a global database and look at the impact of interventions on child marriage in humanitarian contexts in several countries; Plan International has been working with them to further look at child marriage interventions in Jordan and Sudan and produced several reports on adolescent girls in crisis including risks of child marriage (e.g. South Sudan, Lake Chad Basin, Bangladesh, Beirut); International Rescue Committee (IRC) has embarked on a 3-year project to develop a programming package on child marriage in refugee settings; UNHCR has been working for several years on guidance to address child marriage in refugee settings; UNICEF and UNFPA are working to strengthen humanitarian work as part of the Global Joint Programme on child marriage; UNICEF and UNFPA in the Middle East have been convening international NGOs, UN country offices and researchers to coordinate research efforts to better understand drivers and strategies to address child marriage in the region and develop a regional framework for action (CARE, Terre des Hommes, Women's Refugee Commission and the University of Bedfordshire being among the organisations leading the research); in South Asia they have also started to look into the impact of natural and man-made disasters on child marriage.
- In 2017, the UN Human Rights Council adopted a resolution on child marriage in humanitarian contexts. The resolution has a number of key provisions that calls for responses to child marriage in humanitarian contexts to be based on strong and up-to-date evidence. It further acknowledges the need for a multi-sectoral approach to child marriage, outlining the multiple and overlapping

⁷ See 'Whole of Syria, South Turkey Child protection and Food Security and Livelihoods Tips and Recommendations, https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/fs_l_and_child_protection_integration_-_tips_and_recommendationsturkeyjune_2017.pdf

drivers of child marriage in humanitarian contexts. The resolution also clearly highlights that effective action to address child marriage in humanitarian contexts requires the expertise of and greater collaboration between humanitarian and development actors. The resolution can be a useful tool to leverage for global and national-level advocacy to key humanitarian decision makers, such as IASC bodies, key funding mechanisms, global clusters, humanitarian coordinators and country teams, for improved prioritisation and focus on child marriage in humanitarian action and increased space for gender-transformative programming. It is important to continue to engage with formal reporting processes, including future oral and written updates provided to the Human Rights Council by OHCHR.

What is being done at the regional level to address child marriage in humanitarian contexts?

At the region level in **Africa**, there are a number of regional bodies that are working on gender and child protection that warrant further exploration for the purposes of targeted advocacy and policy development. It is particularly relevant in the current context given the current regional Sahel crisis, terrorist groups such as Boko Haram operating across borders as well as the current regionalisation of humanitarian response efforts:

- **The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS):** in 2017, ECOWAS Member States adopted the Strategic Framework for Strengthening National Child Protection Systems to prevent and respond to Violence, Abuse and Exploitation against Children in West Africa as well as a Theory of Change and Road Map on the prevention and response to child marriage. The framework builds on existing policy and legal frameworks within the region to provide guidance to member states and help them strengthen National Child Protection Systems to prevent and respond to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect against children, across both humanitarian and development contexts. While the child protection framework doesn't specifically explore the links between humanitarian crises and child marriage in the region, it recognises humanitarian crises as a key driver of violence against children and includes both displacement and child marriage as priority issues that require urgent inter-sectoral action, including from the humanitarian sector. The Theory of Change and Road Map on child marriage recognise humanitarian crises as a factor often exacerbating child marriage and provide a range of solutions to addressing child marriage in the region.
- **Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD):** there is no clear information on specific activities focused on child marriage in humanitarian crises of the eight member states of IGAD. However, they do host a specialised institute on *conflict early warning and response*. This institute within IGAD collects data and monitors situations across member states as well as hosting a Rapid Response Fund.
- **The Rapid Response Fund (RRF)** was set up in 2009 as a multi-donor basket fund to provide flexibility and rapid response capacity to mitigate violent conflicts in the IGAD region. This fund is available to both member states and civil society organisations, with a focus on community-level actors. There is no explicit mention of child marriage or gender-based violence within the available early warning documents, however the focus of projects funded under the Rapid Response Fund include youth participation in peace processes and policy making as well some activities aimed at adolescent girls.

At the regional level in the **Middle East**, there are a number of initiatives with an ongoing and substantial focus on child marriage within crises contexts, primarily the Syrian refugee crisis.

- **UNICEF-UNFPA Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Regional Accountability Framework:** in the context of the UNICEF-UNFPA Global Programme and based on a regional study done by ICRW in six countries in MENA, UNICEF MENA Regional Office and UNFPA Arab States Regional Office embarked upon a joint and participatory process of consultation from

August to December 2017 to map ongoing work on child marriage, recommend key areas of action and develop a Joint Regional Accountability Framework of Action on the Reduction of Child Marriage for 2018-2021, with particular attention to humanitarian contexts. Participants included other UN agencies, international NGOs and donors. The framework affirmed commitment and partnership between key UN Agencies and international civil society organisations in working together to eliminate child marriage in the region under the auspice of the framework. The framework also plans the creation of a research coordination group to avoid any duplication on research efforts on child marriage in the region.

- **No Lost Generation Initiative:** programming under the No Lost Generation Initiative is embedded within the humanitarian plans for the Syria and Iraq crises, as well as the Refugee Hosting Countries in the region (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey). It has a focus on children and young people, providing programmes across education, child protection, and adolescents and youth. The No Lost Generation Initiative provides an overarching regional framework for key areas of the response, provides a platform for joint advocacy on the priorities for children and youth, amplifies the voices and perspectives of adolescents and youth, links efforts in different sectors to achieve results on issues that cannot be addressed by one sector alone, such as child marriage, and mobilises resources for sectors at risk of underfunding.

For the **Asia region**, the entry points for engagement seem to be the clearest around disaster risk reduction. The Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) will be hosted in 2020 by the Australian government. Gender in disaster risk reduction, and achieving gender equality aims through risk reduction and response efforts, is expected to be on the agenda given Australia's commitment to 80% of their aid spending achieving gender equality outcomes.

In **Latin America**, the Organization of American States (OAS) has a number of bodies that focus on child rights across the region, as well as a focus on youth participation and a number of subsidiaries focused on the rights of women. There is no explicit mention of work addressing child marriage in humanitarian contexts, although there is a focus within the Inter-American Children's Institute on strengthening democratic governance as well as a thematic focus on combatting sexual exploitation and the trafficking of children.

What global humanitarian initiatives and reforms provide opportunities for further efforts to address child marriage?

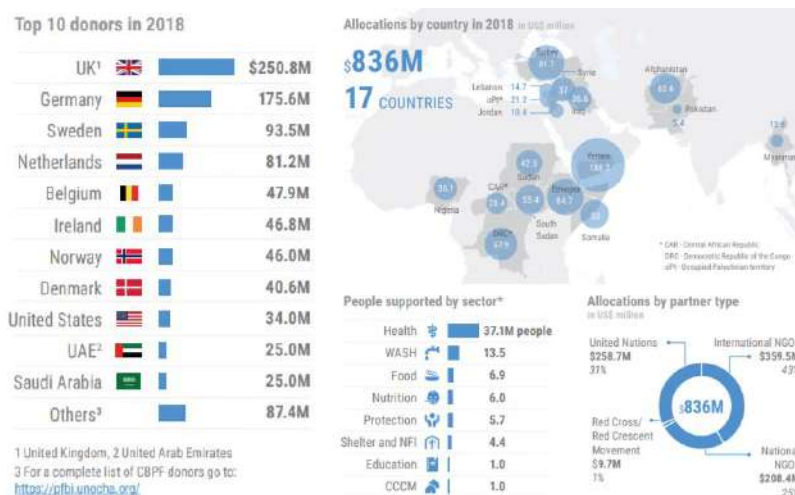
While not aimed at addressing child marriage, humanitarian actors have committed to a number of initiatives and agendas that can be strong advocacy arguments for further efforts on child marriage.

- **Centrality of Protection:** all agencies that lead humanitarian clusters must put protection at the centre of humanitarian action. They should include a strategy to address protection risks and prevent violations of human rights. The strategy should clearly articulate the complementary roles and responsibilities among humanitarian actors to contribute to protection outcomes as well as consider the role and contribution of other relevant actors, such as peacekeeping and political missions and development actors, to achieve protection goals. The Humanitarian Coordinators are then accountable for mobilising appropriate resources to realise the strategy. There is no specific mention of child marriage in the centrality of protection, rather it is included amongst the broader suite of protection risks.
- **Agenda for Humanity:** after the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016, over 300 stakeholders (government, private sector, NGOs, etc) committed to this Agenda and are required to self-report on progress on an annual basis. The Agenda calls for many reforms including leaving no one behind; empowering women and girls; ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health; building more links between humanitarian and development actors and initiatives; and making humanitarian action more locally driven and gender-responsive.

More than a dozen initiatives, partnerships, platforms and alliances were either newly developed or strengthened through the World Humanitarian Summit process and are designed to implement the Agenda for Humanity. Those most relevant to action on addressing child marriage in humanitarian contexts and that provide an opportunity for engagement or leveraging commitments for advocacy include:

- **The Grand Bargain:** an agreement between more than 30 of the biggest donors and aid providers. It commits them to provide 25% of global humanitarian funding to local and national responders by 2020, along with more un-earmarked money, and increased multi-year funding to ensure greater predictability and continuity in humanitarian responses, among other commitments. The commitment to increase multi-year funding is an opportunity for advocacy on increasing funding on child marriage, particularly in protracted crisis contexts. Access to multi-year funding opportunities would enable humanitarian actors to engage more substantially on gender transformative work that would seek to address drivers of child marriage.

Funding donors and recipients in 2018 (not restricted to Gran Bargain)⁸



- **The New Way of Working:** it aims for greater collaboration between humanitarian, development and stabilisation actors. It describes the need for action over multiple years, based on the comparative advantage of a diverse range of actors, towards collective outcomes. Under The new Ways of Working, progress updates have been issues to provide examples of where the initiative is being operationalised and to show the practical steps that have been taken in different contexts. A [recent example](#) on the context in Nigeria shows a snapshot of the current activities and the barriers and enablers that exist. The New Way of Working opens up the scope for greater longer term and collective efforts in humanitarian responses and effectively linking pre- and post-crisis efforts to address child marriage.
- **The Charter for Change:** an initiative that aims to enable southern-based national actors to play a more prominent role in humanitarian response. It encourages international NGOs to play an active part in this transformation towards a more locally driven humanitarian system by changing the way that they work and partnering in different ways with community-based and local organisations. It is important to note that other commitments under the Agenda for Humanity also aim for greater local action, including specifically empowering national and local organisations by increasing the share of financing available to them. As stated in the *Girls Not Brides* Theory of Change and Partnership Strategy 2017-2020, ending child marriage will

⁸ UN OCHA, <https://www.unocha.org/our-work/humanitarian-financing/country-based-pooled-funds-cbpf>

ultimately take place within communities, and therefore policy makers and programme designers need to support community-level efforts to address child marriage. The charter for change could be leveraged to strengthen collective action and the role of community-based partners in addressing child marriage in humanitarian contexts.

- **The Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action:** commitments to fund, research and address youth's needs in crisis settings, and to ensure they are part of designing and leading those responses. This compact presents an advocacy opportunity, particularly at the global level, for the inclusion of adolescent girls in humanitarian planning, design and response decision making as a key measure for the prevention of child marriage in humanitarian contexts.
- **Education Cannot Wait:** an initiative designed to reposition education as a priority on the humanitarian agenda, it promotes a collaborative approach between public and private partners to work together and mobilise funding to meet educational needs. Education Cannot Wait has three funding mechanisms: (i) a rapid funding for inter-agency coordinated proposals (e.g. by the Education Cluster); (ii) a multi-year funding for collaborative proposal in 25 priority countries, allocated by country-level Task Forces; and (iii) a funding stream that supports activities and research that feeds into broader collective efforts in sudden-onset and protracted crises. Given the close links between education and child marriage, this fund could provide support to initiatives that both promote education and address child marriage.

While these initiatives provide an encouraging environment for further locally driven and collaborative efforts to address issues such as child marriage, there are still substantial gaps in implementing these commitments and in reinforcing both knowledge and action on how to address different forms of protection and gender-based violence issues such as child marriage.

The Sphere Standards were part of another reform. These standards are utilised by humanitarian actors when planning and implementing humanitarian response activities. They were developed through an agreement between hundreds of humanitarian actors, international agencies, NGOs and donor institutions to improve the quality of assistance provided to people affected by disasters and the accountability of the humanitarian system in their disaster. They provide tangible standards for humanitarian response, for example they prescribe the minimum number of square metres of covered shelter per person affected or the maximum distance between water points in camp contexts. The 2018 edition of the standards includes a chapter on protection principles and guidance on gender, gender-based violence and child protection and the standards for integration of the rights, needs and appropriate risk mitigation measures across humanitarian responses. Early marriage is mentioned within Protection Principle 1: Enhance people's safety, dignity and rights and avoid exposing them to further harm; humanitarian actors take steps to reduce overall risks and vulnerability of people, including to the potentially negative effects of humanitarian programmes. 'Early marriage' is specifically listed under this principle as a 'negative coping mechanism'.⁹

The **Global Protection Cluster (GPC)**, however, also has a number of initiatives that are particularly relevant to the prevention of child marriage in humanitarian contexts:

- **Cash and Protection:** The GPC has formed a task team on cash and protection to gather further evidence and promote the use of cash as a modality in protection and provide expert advice on the use of cash. The GPC has also established a Protection Innovation Lab to gather lessons and promote innovative practices in the field.
- **Protection Help Desk:** The GPC also runs a global helpdesk that provides access to technical experts who can provide immediate advice based on situations or issues faced in the field. The helpdesk provides examples of good practice, refers to tools, guidelines and publications, and

⁹ UN OCHA, OCHA Leadership. <https://www.unocha.org/about-us/ocha-leadership>

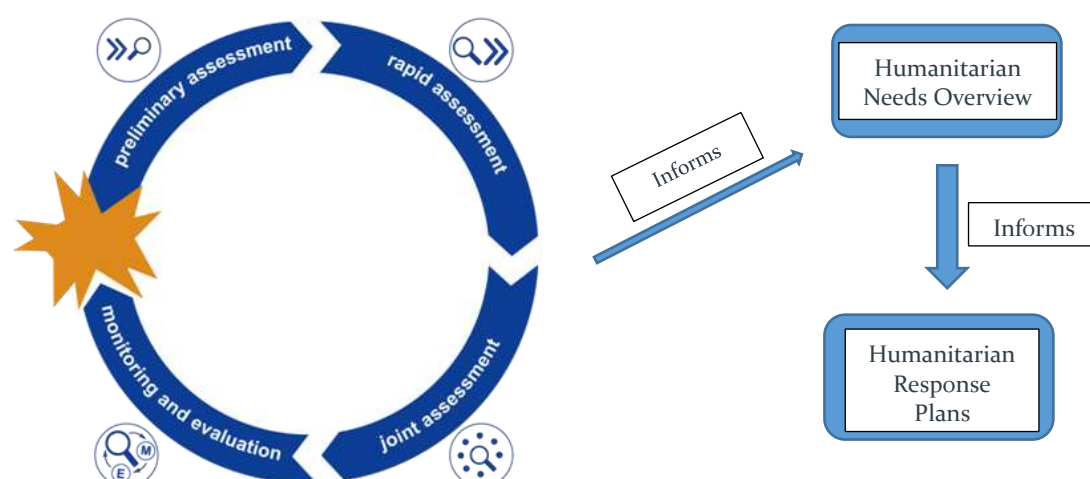
can also deploy rapid response assistance. Access to the helpdesk is not open to individuals directly and must be channelled through in-country Protection Clusters.

The **Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)** Cluster has been working for several years on a project focused on increasing opportunities for women and girls' participation in camp coordination and camp management governance and consultation structures. While the first phase focused on collecting learnings on women's and girls' perceptions around participation and safety, the following phases adopted a more operational approach. Based on findings from the pilots, the project now also offers specific tools aimed at targeting adolescent girls to enhance their participation in camp management structures, both formal and informal. The project is currently being implemented in Bangladesh, Nigeria and South Sudan.

What are some of the key mechanisms of the global humanitarian system to consider for greater action on child marriage?

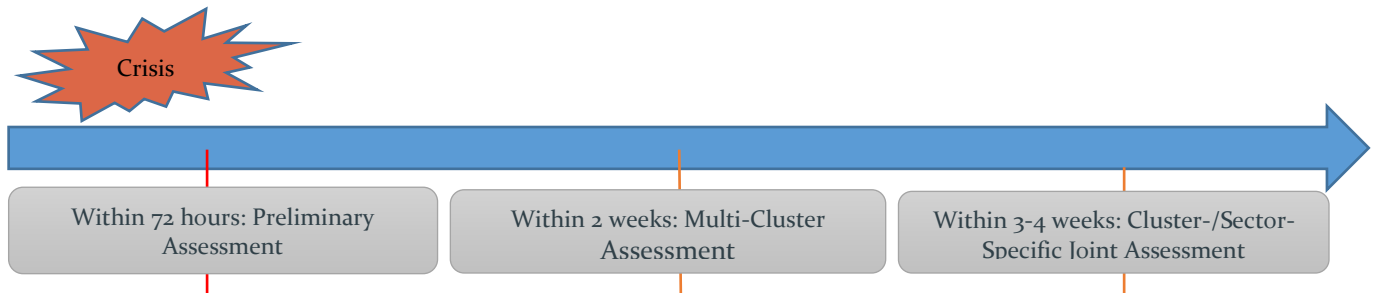
- **Humanitarian and Refugee Response Plans:** when a crisis strikes and requires international assistance, OCHA first assesses the needs of the population affected by the crisis. The agencies leading different clusters then do a deeper assessment of their respective area of expertise. As the leader on protection issues, UNHCR would typically ask the GBV AoR and CP AoR to provide input on GBV and child protection issues, where they could highlight child marriage. Assessments by each cluster are then combined into a Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), which is then fed into a Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) or [Refugee Response Plan](#) (RRP) for a refugee crisis. These plans are developed under the leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator and the Humanitarian Country Teams with contribution of each cluster, and explain how to respond to the assessed needs of the affected population. They can also be used to communicate the scope of the response to an emergency to donors and the public, and thus serve a secondary purpose for resource mobilisation. The HRP process forms the basis for many of the humanitarian joint funding mechanisms. Finally, the process around HRPs also includes selecting key partner organisations to submit projects to implement the plan. HRPs are a key entry point for ensuring that child marriage is understood and planned for within targeted action, as well as that prevention and risk mitigation efforts are incorporated within non-specialised services.

Stages of humanitarian assessment¹⁰



¹⁰ UN OCHA, amended with information from Humanitarian Needs Overviews and Humanitarian Response Plans

Timeframes for Joint Humanitarian Assessments¹¹



The preliminary assessment is typically based on a rapid secondary data review, initial meetings with key informants at national and local levels such as the government and key agencies on the ground, and observations by satellite or walk through. It would present an opportunity to include information on the pre-crisis context regarding child marriage and highlight relevant risk factors related to the crisis. This assessment, however, is typically not in-depth. The level to which broader protection concerns, including the needs of adolescent girls and child marriage specifically, are included in these preliminary assessments varies significantly depending on the leadership of the humanitarian response, the strength and engagement of specialised actors, and the level of existing information available on these areas.

A rapid assessment, typically in the form of the Multi-Cluster/Sector Initial Rapid Assessments (MIRA), is managed by OCHA under the overall guidance of the Humanitarian Coordinator. Issues related to GBV are often not included in the primary data collection for the MIRA as response services for survivors may not yet be in place and immediate data often doesn't provide a clear assessment or can provide a misleading context of GBV. Some child protection information may be collected in this process, although not specifically on child marriage. The information collected in a MIRA however often provides key information on risk factors and the presence or absence of protective factors for child marriage, including the continuity of education, the displacement of persons, food security, as well as population data that may be relevant to child marriage such as the number of adolescent girls within the affected population. A MIRA or other rapid assessment significantly influences the initial mobilisation of resources and the prioritisation of areas of need.

Joint Assessments/Sector-specific assessments are commonly carried out by clusters or sub-clusters and may also be carried out by groups of clusters. This is the assessment where more detailed information on child marriage, whether there is a reported increase, as well as the drivers and key community protective factors could be explored in more detail. The Child Protection sub-cluster has developed a child protection rapid assessment toolkit to guide its work on conducting initial assessments; although this is not designed to gather in-depth information on specific child protection concerns such as child marriage, it would provide an overview of the situation to inform further in-depth data collection. The Education Cluster and Child Protection sub-cluster have in several contexts conducted assessments jointly, and child protection and GBV assessments are also on occasion integrated.

- **Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) protection strategies:** as part of the reforms of the global humanitarian system, the humanitarian community committed to ensure that protection is central to any humanitarian action. To do so, the Protection Cluster is responsible for supporting HCTs and field clusters in countries to develop and implement protection strategies that cut across all sectors. The HCT protection strategies are a very tangible mechanism to integrate measures to reduce risks for protection concerns such as child marriage, and to encourage cross-sectoral prevention action. They can also be used for accountability of the humanitarian response to address these concerns. Note that, except in mixed situations where both a refugee crisis and another type of emergency occur, there is generally no HCT in refugee contexts. In refugee contexts, the representative, in collaboration with operational partners, develops a **protection**

¹¹ IASC, *Operational Guidance for Coordinated Assessments in Humanitarian Crises*.

https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/ops_guidance_finalversion2012_1.pdf

and solutions strategy. A **Refugee Protection Working Group** (led by UNHCR in collaboration with the host government) is responsible for the coordination of protection services and for mainstreaming protection throughout other operational sectors of the refugee response. It plays an important role in ensuring implementation of the protection and solutions strategy.

ABOUT HUMANITARIAN ACTION AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL

Where does action on child marriage fit within the humanitarian system in countries?

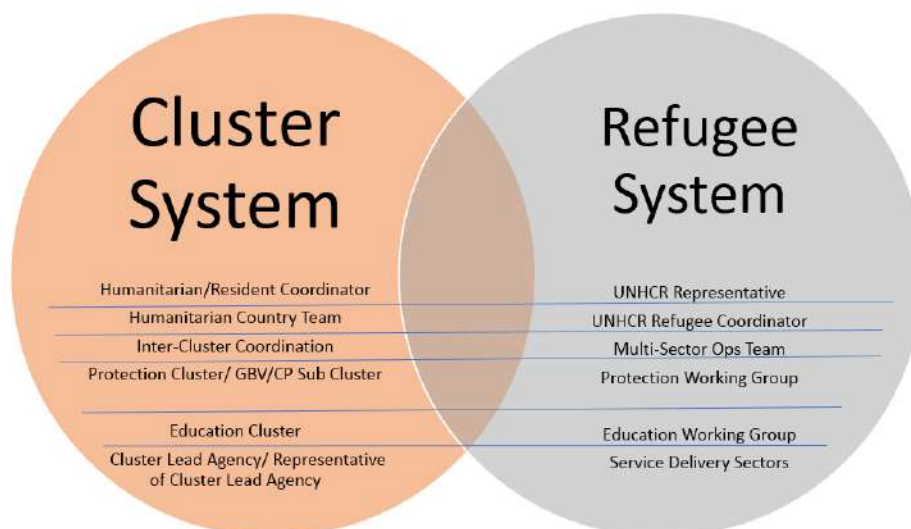
The below figures represent a standard structure for decision making within the cluster and refugee response systems at the country level.

While it may vary depending on context, the leadership of clusters (e.g. Protection Cluster) and sub-clusters (e.g. Child Protection) at the country level is generally nominated by the Humanitarian/Resident Coordinator; this takes place after discussions with agencies that lead the clusters at the global level and with other partners in country, including established humanitarian working groups, UN agencies and the government. In some settings clusters and sub-clusters will be led by a single agency, while in others they will be co-led by a UN agency and an NGO, often with the NGO co-lead operating on a rotating basis. At the field level, the coordination mechanisms are most commonly known as the gender-based violence (GBV) sub-cluster and child protection (CP) sub-cluster.

The Humanitarian Coordinators and Humanitarian Country Teams (HCTs) are key. Along with all Cluster Coordinators, they are responsible for making sure that protection is at the centre of humanitarian action (i.e. protecting communities affected by a crisis from violence, coercion and abuse). The HCT protection strategy is a very tangible mechanism not only for integrating risk reduction measures for protection concerns such as child marriage, but also for encouraging cross-sectoral prevention programming and accountability of the humanitarian response to addressing these concerns.

Both in parallel and as part of the humanitarian system, many national and local civil society organisations are delivering first-hand support to populations affected by crises and girls facing child marriage. They use a range of approaches from empowering unmarried and married girls, providing psycho-social support and case management, safe spaces, shelters, education and vocational opportunities, engaging parents and community decision makers to challenge attitudes and behaviour around sustaining child marriage and leading legal advocacy.

Country-level decision making on child marriage across cluster and refugee systems¹²



¹² Ada [model-rcm](#)

What general considerations should organisations take into account when working to address child marriage at the country level in humanitarian settings?

Humanitarian settings encompass a wide range of situations (e.g. war, forced displacement, consequences from natural disasters, in parts of a country or in a whole country). The role and influence of different actors and mechanisms to respond to the population's needs, and therefore opportunities and best entry points to address child marriage, can vary from one humanitarian context to another. Below are some key considerations based on a few different types of humanitarian settings.

Considering the right advocacy targets:

- **In some refugee contexts** where the government does not accept refugees to integrate into communities and they are confined to camps where services are entirely or largely provided by the humanitarian community, there may be more value in engaging in advocacy with humanitarian structures to influence how efforts made by the humanitarian actors in the camps can address child marriage.
- **In some refugee contexts** the government may also play a key role in regulating and restricting the delivery or type of services available within the camp context. Refugee crises often involve restrictions placed on humanitarian actors that mean they are unable to implement secondary education initiatives and livelihood initiatives, for example. These restrictions could significantly impact the capacity of humanitarian actors to address the drivers behind child marriage in these contexts. When the majority of refugees live outside camps, the government also has a key role to play to include policies that don't leave refugees behind (e.g. education and health).
- **In contexts of climate change and natural disasters**, the government remains a key advocacy target. Joint advocacy efforts could seek to include child marriage in policies and plans on preparedness and response to natural disasters. Typically, the development of these plans is led by the National Disaster Management Office/Agency, although they are most often whole-of-government policies. In contexts where national disaster risk management policies and plans already are informed by a strong gender analysis and include key indicators on gender, there may be greater scope for inclusion of specific information and identifying within key indicators action on child marriage.
- **In contexts where there are multiple and overlapping regional crises** within a single country, there may be different levels of influence and involvement of key advocacy targets. For example, in a context where there is localised conflict and displacement with a significant humanitarian presence, there may be little action or influence by the government in responding to this emergency. Therefore, the main advocacy target may be the humanitarian community. However, the same country may also be experiencing smaller scale violence or natural disasters for which the government may be significantly involved in the humanitarian response.

In most multiple crisis and complex emergency contexts there will still be some value in collective advocacy towards the government, most often in conjunction with advocacy directed at the humanitarian community. However, in complex emergency contexts where the government is hostile or is not considered legitimate, it is likely not to be appropriate to target advocacy efforts towards them. In some contexts, there may also be areas of the country that represent disputed territory or they may be functionally controlled by a non-state armed group. In these contexts, engaging in public advocacy may not always be appropriate or safe.

Considering the length and scale of the crisis and impacts on programmes

The Syrian refugee crisis is quite unique. It has accelerated more dramatically than any other refugee crisis in recent times (in 2010, Syria was not even in the top 10 source countries for refugees; since then, some 6.3 million people have escaped across the borders). It has generated a lot of investment and resources to the response, including some for child marriage. Refugee crises of a similar scale such as Afghanistan, South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo have been protracted and will involve multiple phases of displacement over decades, including refugees who have resided in either camps or host communities for generations. This may impact how child marriage manifests in communities (e.g. practices might change depending on whether you

have just been displaced, hope to return home or have been displaced for generations). So, it may be important to continue to explore the multiple drivers of child marriage in different crisis contexts. The length and scale of a crisis may also impact how child marriage is assessed and prioritised by humanitarian actors. For example, there might be more resources and efforts invested in the response to the crisis where the crisis is more recent and very large in scale, compared with a crisis that has been going on for several decades. This, in turn, will have implications for interventions and advocacy to both the government and humanitarian actors.

Considering opportunities for cross-border and regional learning

- **In refugee contexts**, where there are high levels of child marriage within the country of origin, there is an opportunity for cross-border learning. For example, the collective action and cross-sectoral approaches used to address child marriage in refugee camps hosting many South Sudanese in Uganda may also prove effective in protection of civilian sites or within communities in South Sudan. Similarly, initiatives implemented by organisations in South Sudan might have interesting learnings for intervention among South Sudanese refugees in Uganda.
- **In some contexts of multiple crises**, there may be a regional or cross-border nature to the crisis. In particular, if the response is regionalised, as occurred to a degree in the Lake Chad Basin crisis, there could be benefits in encouraging regional sharing of good practice examples and lessons learned as well as joint fundraising. There may also be value in engaging in joint advocacy to key regional bodies for greater focus on child marriage within the humanitarian response.

Considering practical challenges to collective action in emergencies

- **In active conflict zones**, the ability of humanitarian actors to implement interventions in certain areas may change rapidly as fighting and large-scale displacement limit humanitarian access. The need for flexibility and responsiveness should be considered in advocacy efforts aimed at increasing funding directed at child marriage within humanitarian response efforts in evolving and dynamic contexts of complex emergencies.
- **In emergencies, especially following a sudden-onset natural disaster**, communication may be limited and stakeholders may not have the capacity to engage in advocacy initiatives or joint action.

COUNTRY CASE STUDIES

To help understand what range of different humanitarian settings exist where efforts to end child marriage are taking place, *Girls Not Brides* asked the consultant to identify four types of settings and their main characteristics. For each context, we used one country to illustrate what a national context could look like. Based on a desk review of publicly available documentation and a few key informant interviews, the original reports looked at:

1. **Refugee crisis** (Lebanon as an example) – *illustrates a country or context where there is significant cross-border displacement, which is either protracted or unlikely to be resolved in the short term.*
2. **Multiple localised crises** (Niger as an example) – *illustrates a country or context substantially impacted by multiple inter-related humanitarian challenges varying in intensity from one region to another; both internal and cross-border displacement; armed conflict or terrorism; and either slow-onset or sudden-onset natural disasters.*
3. **Climate change and natural disasters** (Bangladesh as an example) – *illustrates a country or a highly disaster-prone country or context that is directly affected by climate change and susceptible to cyclical disasters.*
4. **Widespread conflict or complex emergency** (Democratic Republic of Congo as an example) – *illustrates a country or context experiencing a protracted, widespread armed conflict or complex emergency. There are significant levels of internal displacement within the country, with internally displaced populations (IDPs) residing in camps, informal settlements and within host communities. The economy and infrastructure have been decimated by the widespread violence and it has extremely limited capacity to cope with natural disasters or other shocks.*

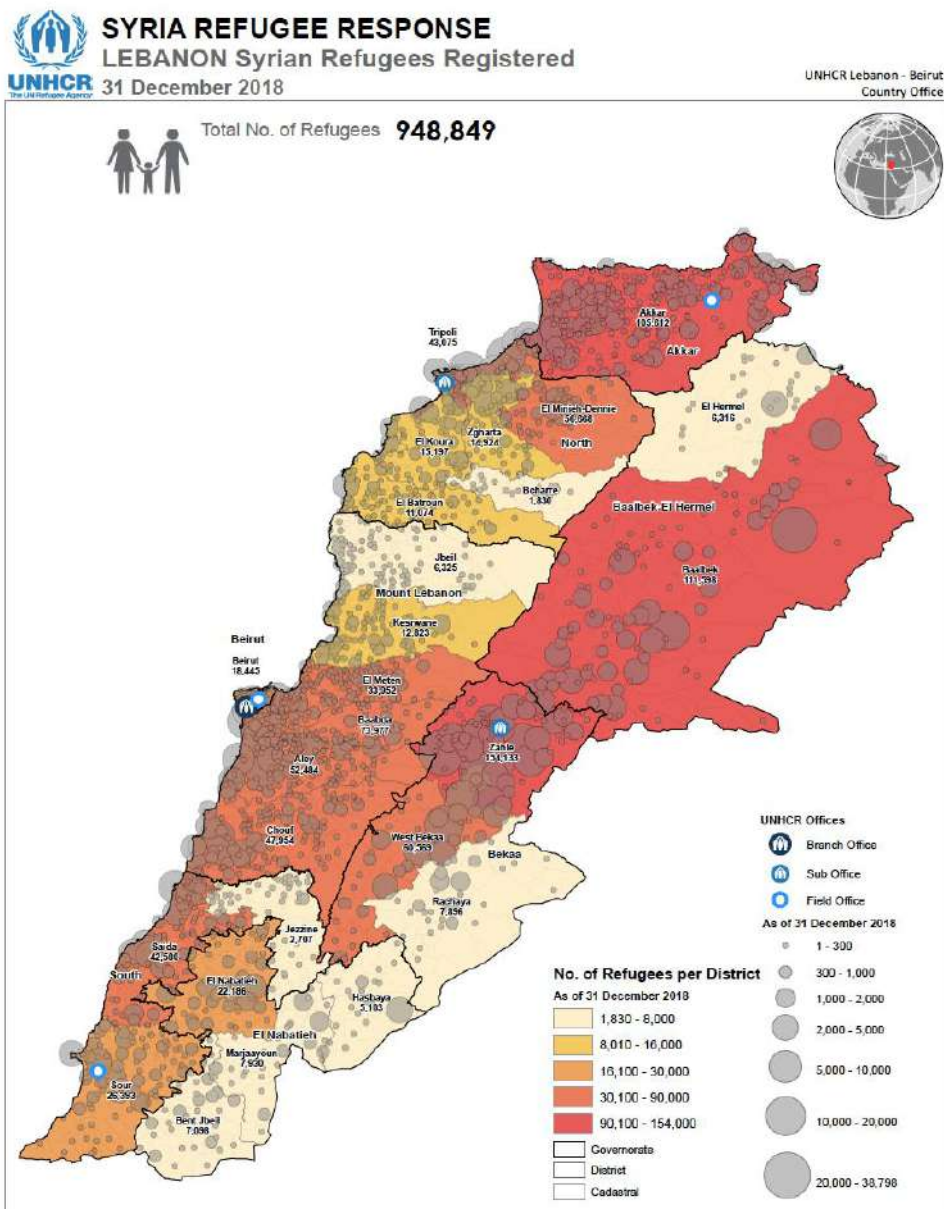
Limitations

- Using a case study approach has limitations. Types of contexts and countries used as examples in this report aim to help understand how things work at the country level. However, every crisis and every context is different and would require further documentation to fully understand decision making structures within and outside of the humanitarian systems, and how these are respectively addressing child marriage. Many contexts also include different types of crises at the same time. For example, while displacement and natural disasters are different types of crises that activate different types of humanitarian systems, some contexts involve both a natural disaster and a displacement situation (known as ‘mixed situations’ in the humanitarian sector).
- It was challenging to secure key informant interviews with many people identified and contacted, some having significant time constraints in responding to an ongoing or evolving crisis, and others feeling they did not always have the expertise to speak on child marriage in humanitarian responses. The information provided for the Bangladesh case study is particularly limited. Efforts to overcome this were made in allowing for snowballing and identification of other key informants, in expanding the scope of the document review and by informants sharing coordination and response documents.
- Information gathered on Bangladesh deliberately focused on climate change and natural disasters and didn’t include response to refugee crises for the purpose of this internal review.

Refugee context example: LEBANON

Context

UNHCR 'Map of Registered Syrian Refugees by District in Lebanon as of 30/12/2018'



- Lebanon is the world's fourth largest refugee-hosting country. The largest refugee population is those fleeing the crisis in Syria. Refugees in Lebanon reside in both camp and host communities, with a large number of refugees in urban settings.
- The crisis has led to a significant increase in child marriage rates among refugees (6% among Lebanese and about 41% among Syrian refugee girls).¹³

¹³ UNHCR, *Lebanon crisis response plan 2017-2020*. <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/68651>

- The Lebanese government is developing a national action plan to address child marriage, although further advocacy for a strengthened legal framework and access to justice is also required.
- Many humanitarian and development actors are involved in providing humanitarian assistance, with a traditional refugee response architecture. UNHCR leads the coordination of the humanitarian response under the refugee response model. There is a protection working group, as well as a sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) task force, co-led by UNHCR and the Ministry of Social Affairs, and a Child Protection working group co led-between UNHCR and UNICEF.
- Many strong international, national and local organisations are delivering focused and broader programmes to support adolescent girls, including by addressing child marriage. Whilst gaps in services for adolescent girls remain, development and humanitarian organisations are stepping up to try and address these and to advocate to the Lebanese government for action.

Government action to address child marriage in humanitarian contexts in Lebanon

The Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) 2017-2020 (developed jointly by humanitarian actors and the government) highlights child marriage throughout the Needs Overview as a key area of action. The plan includes updates and funding appeals conducted annually. There is a specific indicator on child marriage (percentage of women aged 20 to 24 who are married before age 18) under outcome 4: SGBV risks are reduced and access to quality services is improved. There is also a specific focus on adolescents and youth in the fourth pillar of the crisis response plan: *‘Reinforce Lebanon’s economic, social and environmental stability’*. The most relevant action point to child marriage under pillar four is: *address social and economic risks faced by Lebanese, displaced Syrians and Palestinian adolescents and youth with a particular focus on empowering young women and girls, including through technical and vocational education and training and decent work opportunities*. There are also indicators on improving adolescent and youth health outcomes. The [2019 update](#)¹⁴ clearly highlights child marriage as a continuing concern in the Needs Overview. However, there are no specific updates on action on child marriage.

National strategy and action plan on child marriage

- The Higher Council for Childhood within the Ministry of Social Affairs has started to develop an inter-ministerial and multi-sectoral *National Prevention and Response Strategy and Action Plan on Addressing Child Marriage* with the involvement of the ministries of health, labour and justice and technical support by UNICEF.
- The National Strategy and Action Plan will be a whole-of-government plan that will outline the Lebanese government’s commitment and planned action to address child marriage across the country including in the refugee population. It will need to go through an endorsement process.
- Consultations with stakeholders such as civil society representatives and representatives of government ministries at the field and national level have been taking place since the end of 2018 to help develop the plan.

UNICEF is also working with both the government and civil society on a campaign, using Communication for Development techniques to promote health and education of adolescent girls, with a broader focus on the wellbeing of adolescent girls among Lebanese, Syrian and Palestinian refugee populations and covering a range of child protection issues, including child marriage.

Legal framework and refugee rights

- The provision of a strong legal framework on a minimum age for marriage, the availability of legal aid and access to justice for girls who are married, and strengthening systems for marriage registration are areas identified as significant gaps and ongoing challenges in seeking engagement from the government.
- Since the outbreak of the Syrian crisis, the government of Lebanon has relied on ad hoc policies for access to livelihoods and work permits. When applying for work permits, refugees often face exorbitant fees and resistance on the part of Lebanese government due to fears of competition with nationals. As a result, 92% of economically active refugees are forced to find work in the informal sector where they do not receive

¹⁴ Government of Lebanon and the United Nations, Lebanon crisis response plan. <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/67780.pdf>

social protections and usually earn less than minimum wage.¹⁵ The precarious economic situation that these policies contribute to for refugee families feeds into vulnerability and is a factor in driving child marriage.

Education for refugees

Syrian refugees do have access to the Lebanese education system, however even though the Lebanese Ministry of Education issued a memorandum instructing all public schools to allow Syrians to enrol and opened an additional 350 second shift schools, more than half of refugee children in the age group 3-18 years remain out of school. Challenges with transport as well as safety concerns were cited by respondents as barriers to attendance.

Civil society organisations and groups working to address child marriage and related issues

While overlapping services sometimes happen, civil society organisations are generally well coordinated and have a good understanding of who provides what type of services and often organise referrals to relevant colleagues depending on girls' needs.

Mechanisms that coordinate action relevant to addressing child marriage in humanitarian action in Lebanon include:

- The Sexual and Gender Based Violence Task Force co-chaired by UNHCR and the Ministry of Social Affairs
- The Protection Working Group chaired by UNHCR
- The Child Protection Working Group co-chaired by UNHCR and UNICEF
- The National Technical Task Force to End GBV against Women and Children co-chaired by ABAAD and H.E the Minister of Social Affairs¹⁶

The Lebanese Women Democratic Gathering (RDFL) set up a coalition of civil society organisations – *National coalition for protecting children from early marriage* – which includes over 50 members and largely focuses on legal advocacy to the government.

Many civil society organisations are using a range of approaches to address child marriage in Lebanon among both Lebanese and refugee populations (e.g. an advocacy campaign to urge the government to endorse and enact a civil law on the minimum age of marriage, a social media campaign to highlight the risks of child marriage, emergency safe shelters and female safe spaces, and a marathon against child marriage).

This review did not include a comprehensive mapping of all programming related to child marriage in the humanitarian crisis. However, some examples include the work done by:

- International Rescue Committee (IRC) with a three-year programme on child marriage in refugee contexts. IRC will develop a package of practical guidance and tools dedicated to early marriage prevention and response in crisis for adolescent girls. The proposed package will build on [Girl Shine](#), bringing early marriage into focus. Lebanon was both critical in providing some lessons learnt from child marriage programming to help develop Girl Shine, and is a pilot country for testing the materials. The package will include dedicated, tailored tools and guidance currently not included or addressed comprehensively in Girl Shine. It will also build on and expand the current guidance in the Interagency GBV Case Management Guidelines, on case management responses to early marriage specifically and to adolescent girls experiencing GBV in general. In Lebanon, IRC uses various curriculum (e.g. Early Marriage Tailored Package, My Safety My Wellbeing and Drama) to empower and support both unmarried and married girls among Lebanese and refugee communities.
- The Danish Refugee Council Lebanon and the Women's Refugee Commission identified a gap in programmes aimed at adolescent girls. Tailored safe space programming for different groups of adolescent girls (younger, older, in-school, out-of-school, married) were engaging with mothers, however there were regular requests by staff and girls themselves for more engagement with fathers and male care givers. A curriculum ([Engaging Male Care Givers to End Early Marriage in Lebanon: Training](#)

¹⁵ Legal Status of Refugees: Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq: IV. Lebanon. The Law Library of Congress. <https://www.loc.gov/law/help/refugees/legal-status-refugees.php#lebanon>

¹⁶ The national task force is a forum that operates across contexts and does not have a specific focus on humanitarian response.

Modules to Accompany Programs with Adolescent Girls) has been developed for group sessions with male care givers, and whilst the primary application is for Danish Refugee Council programming in Lebanon, it is applicable to any humanitarian actor implementing non-formal educational programming and safe space initiatives with adolescent refugee girls in Lebanon.

- Naba'a works on women's empowerment, youth empowerment and education, mainly supporting adolescent girls among Lebanese, Syrian and Palestinian refugees in the north and south of Lebanon.
- RDFL provides free and confidential psycho-social support as well as legal support for child and forced marriage survivors. With a team of 15 lawyers who volunteer to provide these services, RDFL also covers all financial expenses of all legal files. They also run regular awareness session on child marriage.
- ABAAD provides shelter for girls who got protection orders for leaving a forced marriage where they can stay until they can find a safe environment. They use puppetry and animation as ways to engage girls and also work with families on prevention of child marriage.

Action by and/or across different sectors on child marriage

- **Multi-sectoral toolkit:** IRC and UNICEF have invested in promoting cross-sectoral work on child marriage at the national level to ensure that efforts are not only made by the child protection and GBV sectors and that services provided by all sectors reach all adolescent girls, including married girls. They are developing a toolkit on prevention and response to child marriage targeting adolescent girls, caregivers and community leaders to be delivered by service providers from the GBV, child protection, education and health sectors. An inception report has been developed and an initial training has been conducted with front-line workers, those who work directly with adolescent girls.
- **Coordinated action amongst protection actors:** There is seemingly good coordination amongst protection actors and between the specialised humanitarian working groups (protection, SGBV, CP), especially as it relates to case management of children at risk or already married. The separate working groups/task forces have agreed on four collective priorities for joint action, one of which is child marriage. These priorities were accompanied by a concrete set of actions for all protection actors and included, for example, age appropriate and adolescent friendly counselling, registration as a protection tool for adolescent girls, and legal counselling for those impacted by child marriage.
- **Teachers training (gap):** whilst there are examples of initiatives, there seems to be opportunities for further targeted action by and collaboration with education actors on addressing child marriage. The only concrete action identified by respondents on child marriage led by the education sector in Lebanon was training delivered to teachers on identifying risks for child marriage and promoting inclusive education for married girls; however, there has reportedly been little practical application of this training. Expansion of this training to more teachers and ongoing support for implementation are two areas where further action could be taken by education-focused actors. The SGBV task force is engaging with the Education Working Group on expanding work in this area, although strong commitments have yet to be developed.
- **Cash programming and livelihood initiatives:** cash programming in Lebanon is conducted through the Lebanon Cash Consortium (LCC). This consortium initiated in 2014 by six international NGOs (ACTED, Save the Children, CARE, IRC, World Vision and Solidarites International) delivers multi-purpose cash assistance to refugees, with protection outcomes one of the core aims of the programme. Cash and voucher programming, along with livelihood initiatives in the Lebanon response, typically look at addressing child marriage as one of a number of protection concerns. The strength of cash and voucher programming in Lebanon is encouraging, with an evaluation in 2017 highlighting the following outcomes:
 - "Those receiving cash more often enrol their children in school and their children attend school more consistently"¹⁷
 - "Cash assistance can indirectly contribute to improved gender relations and reduced risk of GBV by alleviating household pressures and tensions"¹⁸

¹⁷ Lebanon Cash Consortium (2015), Syrian Refugee Child Protection Outcomes & Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance Research.

¹⁸ Lebanon Cash Consortium (2016), Gender Dynamics and Multipurpose Cash Assistance.

- There are high-profile initiatives such as the **No Lost Generation Initiative** promoting cross-sectoral work, by child protection, education and adolescent and youth-focused actors throughout the Syrian refugee response across Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt and Turkey. This collaboration between actors with a focus on the three technical areas, as well as policy makers and donors, aims to provide a space to link efforts in different sectors to achieve results on issues that cannot be addressed by one sector alone, such as child marriage. Whilst the initiative is most active at the regional level, there is a platform for collaboration and coordinating efforts toward joint outcomes at the country level in Lebanon. Aside from a forum for collaboration, the initiative also supports fundraising efforts, although there was no clear information on the extent of support for raising funds to address child marriage in Lebanon.

Research to inform programmes and policies on child marriage in Lebanon

- Research about child marriage in Lebanon is relatively robust, with both academic and NGO research conducted in the past few years. These mainly focused on trends and key drivers of child marriage amongst the Syrian refugee population, while more recent and limited research has focused on some response models (e.g. IRC life skills programming). The UNICEF-UNFPA Regional Accountability Framework on child marriage plays a key role in coordinating and sharing updates on ongoing and planned research on child marriage across the region to minimise overlap.
- It is difficult to ascertain the full extent of the implementation of this learning for the moment, although there are a number of toolkits and guidance notes that have been developed to guide the delivery of services.

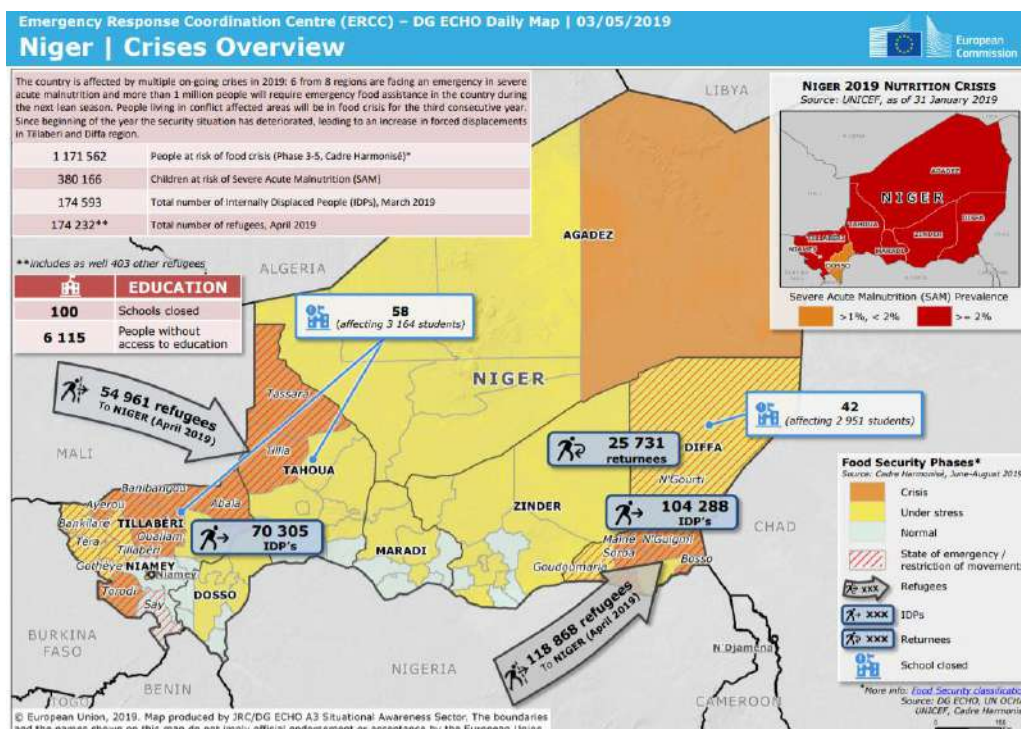
Multiple crises example: NIGER

Context

There is strong support for work on child marriage at the national level in Niger, with collective action through the national partnership and the implementation of several global initiatives. There is some government support for action, as evidenced through work at the national level on the development of a national action plan and the implementation of some government-led initiatives. However, there are only a few examples of action extended to the contexts that are the most affected by crises, and limited examples of engagement with humanitarian systems and processes.

There is substantial work on the broader aspects of child protection and preventing and responding to GBV in the most crisis affected contexts of Niger, in particular the Diffa and Tillabéri regions. These initiatives often include activities such as psycho-social support, family tracing, women and girl-friendly spaces that whilst may not be targeting the prevention of child marriage support the protective environment for adolescent girls.

ECHO 'Niger Crisis Overview 2019'



- Niger is grappling with multiple crises. The Diffa region is impacted by the ongoing Lake Chad Basin crisis characterised by slow-onset, climate-driven food insecurity as well as armed conflict and mass displacement. In addition, the regions of Niger bordering Mali, in particular Tillabéri and Tahoua, are hosting close to 55,000 Malian refugees.¹⁹ All eight regions of Niger were impacted by flooding in late 2018, with more than 65,000 people displaced as a result of this event. A cholera outbreak continues, mostly notable in areas bordering Nigeria.
- There is an active cluster system in Niger, with overall responsibility for international humanitarian response efforts led by the Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator. Each cluster is co-led by a UN agency, government representative and NGO representative. The GBV sub-cluster is co-led by UNFPA, The Ministry of Population, Promotion of Women and Child Protection (MPFE) and Plan International. The Child Protection sub-cluster is co led by UNICEF, The MPFE and Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI).
- There is no evidence of a significant increase in child marriage among a specific population due to various crises in Niger. However, the national child marriage rate is extremely high, and there are multiple humanitarian challenges taking place across the country.
- The national government has capacity and is able to provide basic services, even if these remain quite limited in humanitarian settings. The government has taken steps at the national level to address child marriage, including increasing political will to raise visibility through the first lady. But this commitment in the regions that are most affected by humanitarian challenges has yet to be implemented.
- There is a significant presence of both development and humanitarian actors in areas affected by crisis. This provides a good example to explore how to bridge the humanitarian and development sectors ('nexus').

Action by the humanitarian community: the 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP)

- The Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) is the key planning document prepared for a protracted or sudden-onset emergency that requires international humanitarian assistance. It is designed to articulate the shared vision of the humanitarian community on how to respond to the assessed and expressed needs of the affected population. The development of a strategic response plan is a key step in the humanitarian program cycle and is carried out only when the needs have been understood and analysed through the Humanitarian Needs Overview or Assessments.
- The [Niger 2019 HRP](#) references child marriage, where it explicitly states that if the protection for vulnerable populations is not ensured, girls will become even more vulnerable to child marriage in families affected by the crisis. Child marriage is mentioned along with other specific risks for adolescents, including joining armed groups and survival sex. Key actions in the CP and GBV sub-clusters focus mainly on improving quality and access of prevention and response services, reinforcing collaboration between sectors and improving case management systems. However, detailed information on targeting risks is not included and there is no specific mention of initiatives to address child marriage.

Government action to address child marriage in humanitarian contexts in Niger

¹⁹ UNHCR Operational Portal Refugee Situations, Mali Situation, <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/malisituation>

- The Nigerien authorities have made progress and taken steps towards addressing child marriage at the national level, including through steps towards the development of a nation-wide action plan on addressing child marriage. Several national policies include some actions for addressing child marriage. However, these initiatives do not necessarily have a specific focus on or reference to crisis-affected contexts.
- Regarding the government's involvement in responding to the multiple humanitarian crises in Niger, the government is active in coordination mechanisms and humanitarian decision making. However, due to limited capacity to deliver basic services and infrastructure, the international humanitarian community plays a significant role in providing basic education, health and supporting protection of the population affected by the crises.

Civil society organisations and groups working to address child marriage and related issues

The UNICEF-UNFPA Global Programme is implemented by UNFPA in Diffa and Tillabéri regions, and by UNFPA and UNICEF in Tahoua region. These regions are experiencing insecurity and hosting significant Malian refugee populations.

About 15 national organisations established a multi-stakeholder collaboration platform called '*Towards the End of Child Marriage in Niger*' (co-chaired by UNFPA and Save the Children). It is a sub-committee of the Child Marriage Coordination National Committee that was established by the Ministry of Women and Child Protection to support development of the National Action Plan to address child marriage in 2016. While the group includes organisations that work on child marriage in humanitarian contexts, there are not yet clear examples of collective action specifically aimed at areas affected by the crisis.

The More than Brides Alliance is a programme implemented by Save the Children International, Oxfam Novib and Simavi aimed at improving outcomes for adolescent girls. It is implemented in Maradi, currently experiencing a cholera outbreak, and Tillabéri, which hosts a significant refugee population with cooperation by local NGOs: FASSALI, MUNGANE, SONGES, SOS and ANBEF. The multi-country initiative focuses on delivering programmes to empower at-risk or already married girls and adolescents with life skills education, comprehensive sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) information, and provide alternatives to child marriage and mitigate its impact on married girls, increase access to SRHR for young people, change social norms, and influence legal and policy frameworks

Plan International also came out as one of the organisations having two programmes aimed at ending child marriage in areas impacted by humanitarian crises in Tillabéri. These include educating communities, creation of groups for young people and social workers, engaging husbands and other men to talk to them about girls' rights and sexual health. Plan International Niger has a five-year programme named *Weyborey Ma Farhan* (When Girls Flourish), which proposes complementary solutions to the needs of young girls and women. One of its areas of focus is to protect girls from forced marriage. The programme is based on the lessons learnt from a previous project (2015-2018) named "For a better protection of girls in Niger". Programme partners include:

- Alternative Espace Citoyen (AEC), Association
- Nigérienne pour le Traitement de la Délinquance (ANTD)
- Coalition Nigérienne des Droits de l'Enfant (CONIDE)
- Coalition nigérienne des Associations, Syndicats
- ONG de la campagne Education PourTous (ASO-EPT)
- Organisation pour la Promotion et l'Epanouissement de la Femme Nigérienne (DIMOL)

These programme examples should not be viewed as a comprehensive mapping of all programming related to child marriage in the humanitarian crisis. There are also broader child protection and GBV response programmes that include actions that, although not targeted at addressing child marriage, may contribute to prevention, such as child and adolescent friendly spaces, family tracing and reunification, clinical management of rape and targeted livelihood initiatives for adolescent girls and young women.

Action by and/or across different sectors on child marriage

The Child Survivor Initiative driven at the global level by the child protection (CP) and GBV AoRs has been implemented in Niger as part of the pilot phase. The initiative aims to reinforce the CP-GBV coordination and improve health services for effective and appropriate response to children and adolescents surviving sexual violence. While the initiative focuses on sexual violence in this initial phase, there are plans to expand all forms of GBV including child marriage. Under the pilot phase, 21 experts including psychologists, social workers, and health and justice agents were trained on supporting child survivors.

Sexual and reproductive health and education – some of the multi-sectoral longer term programming responses on child marriage that include crisis-affected contexts in their implementation sites are cross-sectoral and include aspects on sexual and reproductive health and on girls' access to quality education. However, there are limited examples of targeted initiatives by humanitarian actors from these and other sectors and little information on efforts for risk mitigation.

Education – there has been some evidence of violence by armed groups aimed specifically at schools and at the education of girls in the conflict-affected Diffa region. There have been some efforts by education-in-emergencies actors to address this through the creation of emergency schools and education facilities within camps, however there are few examples or initiatives targeting girls' access to education in particular.

Centrality of protection – Niger does have a Humanitarian Country Team that has developed a [protection strategy](#) covering the response efforts in Diffa. As with all HCT protection strategies, it is a tangible mechanism for integrating risk reduction measures for protection concerns and for encouraging cross-sectoral prevention programming and accountability of the humanitarian response to addressing these concerns. The strategy mentions the need to pay attention to the risk of child marriage: *“concerning child protection, there are a series of structural issues that the crisis is likely to exacerbate. In particular, child marriage, especially for girls, but also for boys”*.

Research to inform programmes and policies on child marriage in Niger

There are limited examples of research specifically focused on child marriage within the humanitarian response in Niger. Due to the regionalisation of the Lake Chad Basin crisis response, the cross-border conflict and slow-onset natural disasters, the displacement of people across the region, set up of coordination mechanisms, humanitarian planning and some humanitarian funding mechanisms at the regional level, much of the research focuses on the broader Lake Chad Crisis with an examination of specific sites within Niger, while even regional research focused on child marriage remains limited.

There are also examples of broader research conducted on child marriage across Niger, which includes some sites affected by the crisis. The majority of learning does not seem to be linked to toolkits or programming guidance, and it is difficult to ascertain the application of this learning in the limited focused humanitarian programming.

In humanitarian information management, including monitoring and evaluation of interventions and displacement tracking, there is not always a distinction made between respondents experiencing 'forced' and 'early marriage' or 'child marriage'. There is some evidence of gendered analysis of monitoring tools, including through the use of the Displacement Tracking Matrix.

Supporting efforts to address child marriage in humanitarian contexts in Niger

Collective advocacy could aim towards the inclusion and implementation of systematic concrete measures for action on child marriage in the Humanitarian Response Plans.

The humanitarian response in Niger brings with it substantial resources that could be accessed to do multi-sectoral, multi-year programming on child marriage in the context of the crisis in the Lake Chad Basin. The regional nature of the Lake Chad Basin crisis (Nigeria, Niger, Cameroon and Chad) represents an opportunity for engagement with a regional cluster system operating from Dakar, and for developing strong regional networks to share best practices in the region working across the humanitarian-development nexus.

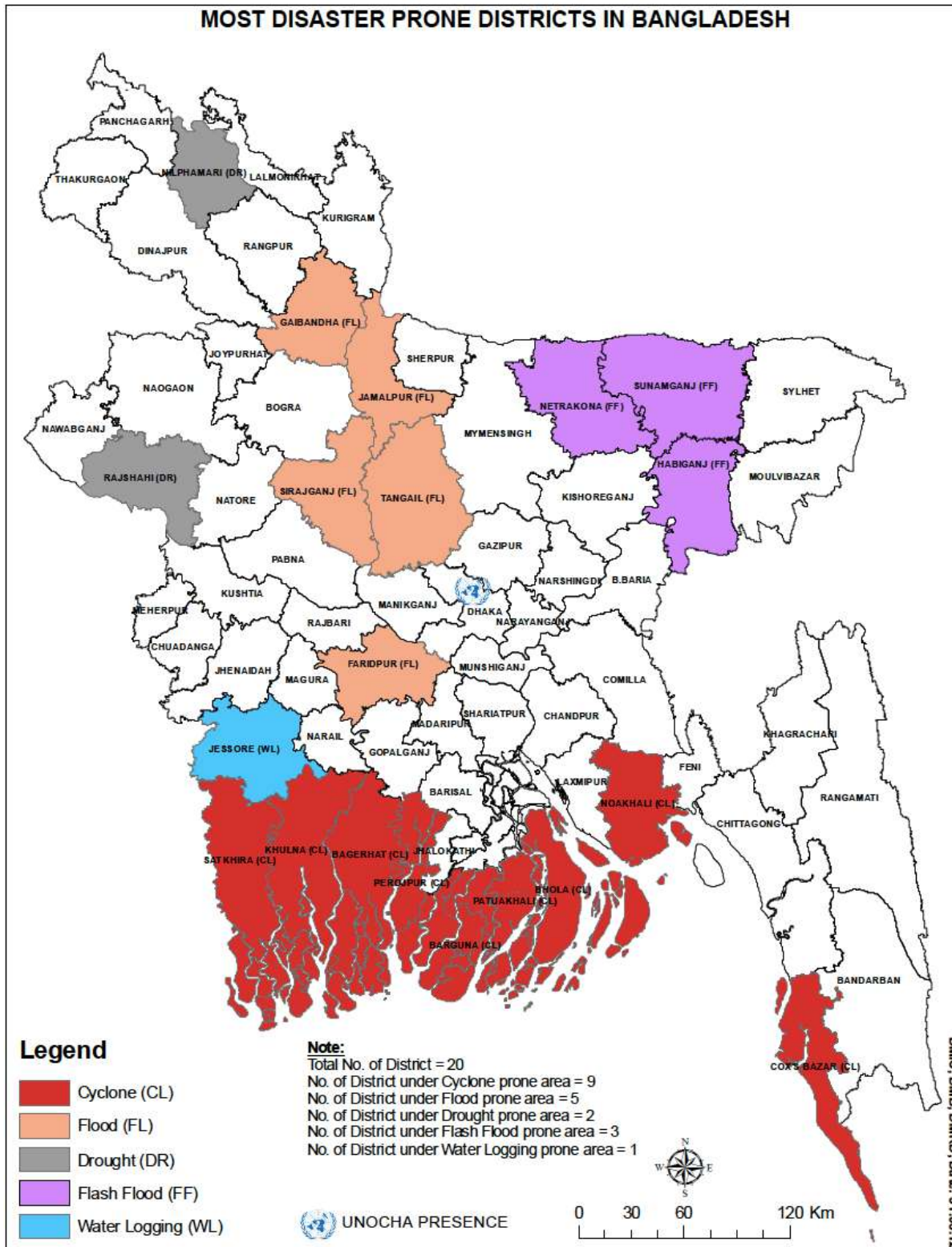
Whilst there are some examples of initiatives aimed at addressing child marriage being implemented in regions of Niger that are impacted by humanitarian crises, whether these programmes target girls and communities who were displaced or otherwise impacted by the crisis, is difficult to ascertain. Major organisations working to address child marriage in Niger in crisis-affected areas could seek to adjust activities and programme indicators to be more inclusive of specific challenges faced in crisis settings.

Cross-sectoral approaches to addressing child marriage are well established in longer term development initiatives and programmes that target non-crisis-affected contexts within Niger. The documentation of good practices of multi-year, multi-sectoral programming could help feed into the development of effective programming in humanitarian settings. Funding should be allocated to adapt and test such initiatives.

Climate change and natural disasters example: BANGLADESH

Context

Government of Bangladesh: *Most Disaster-Prone Districts*



- Bangladesh has a very high child marriage prevalence and is highly vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters (in the top 15, Bangladesh receives a rating of 17.38 on the World Risk Index 2018).²⁰ There is a strong civil society movement working at the national level in ‘development’ contexts to address child marriage, including a *Girls Not Brides* National Partnership of about 75 members.
- The UNICEF-UNFPA Global Programme on child marriage is being implemented in Jamalpur by UNFPA in Bora and by UNICEF in Bhola, Chapainawabganj, Khulna, Kushtia, Netrakona, Nilphamari and Sherpur. It was found that there could be a greater focus on disaster preparedness or response as a risk factor reinforcing the drivers of child marriage. Ongoing research by the two agencies should help inform further developments in this area.
- The government has been working on a national strategy to address child marriage but there doesn’t seem to be any clear plan of action to address the potential impact of climate change/disasters on child marriage.
- Due to broad collective advocacy, disaster risk management (DRM) planning and response in Bangladesh is now more gender sensitive, with a specific focus on ensuring the needs, roles and capacities of women and girls are incorporated into risk reduction and response mechanisms. The Bangladesh National Disaster Management Plan (2016-2020) ([draft](#) available only) acknowledges the lack of gender inclusion in previous plans and includes specific indicators on gender in disaster response planning and management. The government of Bangladesh also developed in 2015 a [National Strategy on the Management of Disaster and Climate Induced Internal Displacement](#), which includes a mention of the risk of child marriage with a focus only on education as a solution.
- According to the key informant interview, there is ongoing work from organisations on gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction and preparedness, which focuses broadly on applying a gender lens to planning processes and promoting the perspectives of women and girls in community planning processes but does not include specific actions on child marriage.
- Looking at such context provides an opportunity to look not only at the response but also at prevention of child marriage. It provides an example to examine child marriage in the context of national disaster risk reduction and preparedness planning, which might present opportunities for child marriage prevention mechanisms.

Limitations

This case study includes a number of limitations due to the difficulty to secure interviews at the time of the consultancy and relatively difficult access to government documentation. In addition, while the case study focused on the climate and disaster aspects, at the time of the consultancy, most programmes implemented by international NGO and NGO actors in Bangladesh was focused on responding to the Rohingya refugee crisis in Cox’s Bazar. Limited perspectives were shared on involvement in disaster preparedness plans. As disaster prevention usually sits with the national government, it was more difficult to find online documentation compared with humanitarian responses led by the international humanitarian community.

Government action on child marriage in a context of climate change and natural disasters

- The government of Bangladesh has launched a National Action Plan to End Child Marriage (FY 18/19-29/30), led by the Ministry of Women and Children’s Affairs. However, the national policy does not have a specific focus on disaster risk management or humanitarian action.
- The government has integrated gender throughout disaster response plans. There are key targets and indicators for gender embedded in the plan as well as mechanisms for ensuring monitoring. Whilst gender is clearly outlined within the Bangladesh National Disaster Management Plan (2016-2020), and there are concrete targets listed, there are no specific provisions to address child marriage or support adolescent girls.
- The government of Bangladesh plays a strong role in disaster preparedness and response. They co-lead many of the national-level coordination groups and in times of natural disaster play a strong role in coordination and prioritisation. Overall disaster management is led by the National Disaster Management Council, with line ministries engaging on key sectoral issues such as the Ministry of Women and Children’s Affairs

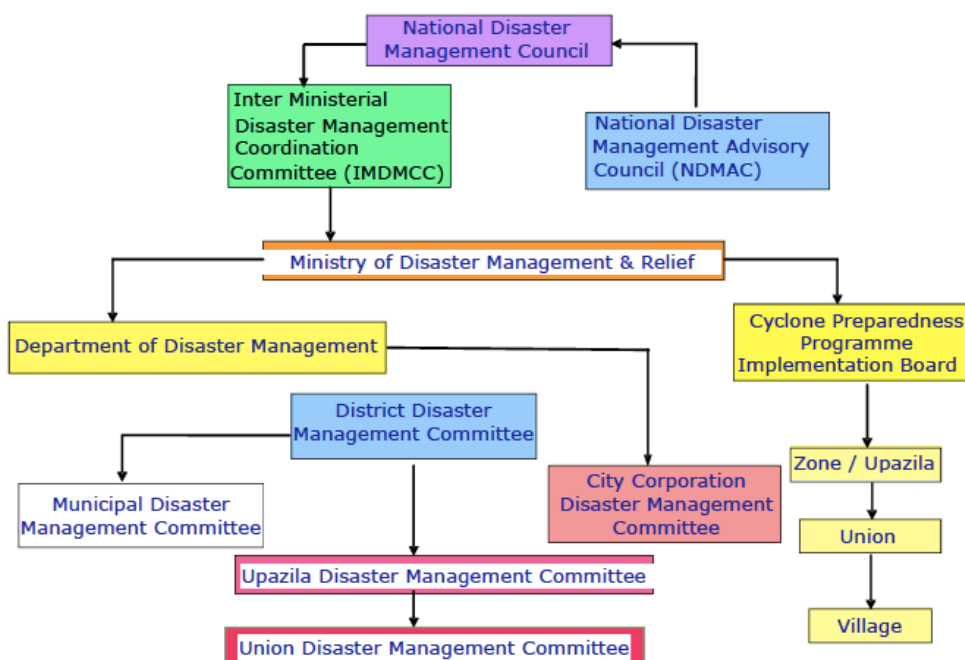
²⁰ Please note that there is also some planned/ongoing research being conducted by the Women’s Refugee Commission on child marriage following the Nepal Earthquake.

²⁰ This does not include a mapping of any relevant action in the Rohingya refugee response as this is outside the scope of the case study.

collaborating with the GBV and CP sub-clusters. Below is a graphic of disaster management institutions in Bangladesh.

Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh Disaster Management Institutions in Bangladesh. Presentation to ADRC

Disaster Management Institutions in Bangladesh



Action by and/or across different sectors on child marriage in humanitarian response

Sexual and reproductive health: as part of a government-led initiative on supporting adolescent-friendly health services, adolescents have been trained as sexual and reproductive health rights volunteers in some rural contexts to engage with community-level disaster management committees.

Education: UNICEF and Plan International are implementing some programmes focused on education in emergencies and education as a protective mechanism following disasters, however these initiatives are not targeted at addressing child marriage specifically. No information was found on efforts of the Ministry of Education or education humanitarian actors in relation to vulnerability to child marriage in a context of climate change and natural disaster. In the context of the Rohingya refugee crisis, the Bangladesh government has placed strict limits on the provision of formal education inside the camps. Rohingya students are not allowed in local schools nor are they permitted to study using the Bangladeshi curriculum. Informal classrooms have been set up inside the camps, however they are only allowed to cater for children 14 years and younger and, even then, only half of children in this age bracket are accessing education. There are few opportunities for adolescents aged 15 years or older with livelihood opportunities also restricted by the government.

Humanitarian response efforts to address risks of natural disasters for Cox’s Bazar host communities

In addition to providing humanitarian assistance to Rohingya refugees in both camps and host communities throughout Cox’s Bazar, the humanitarian community also provides support for host communities in the area. The Refugee Response Plan highlights the risk of natural disasters, in particular cyclones, on both populations. As part of the humanitarian cluster system, the protection working group is targeting 335,930 people in need within the host community, including provision of GBV prevention and response services, case management and services for unaccompanied children. The protective environment for children, including adolescents, will

seek to be enhanced through community-based child protection committees, which monitor child protection risks and develop community-led response plans, including working to address social norms affecting levels of violence, abuse and exploitation, preventing trafficking and referring children in need to key services.

Research to inform programmes and policies on child marriage in humanitarian contexts in Bangladesh

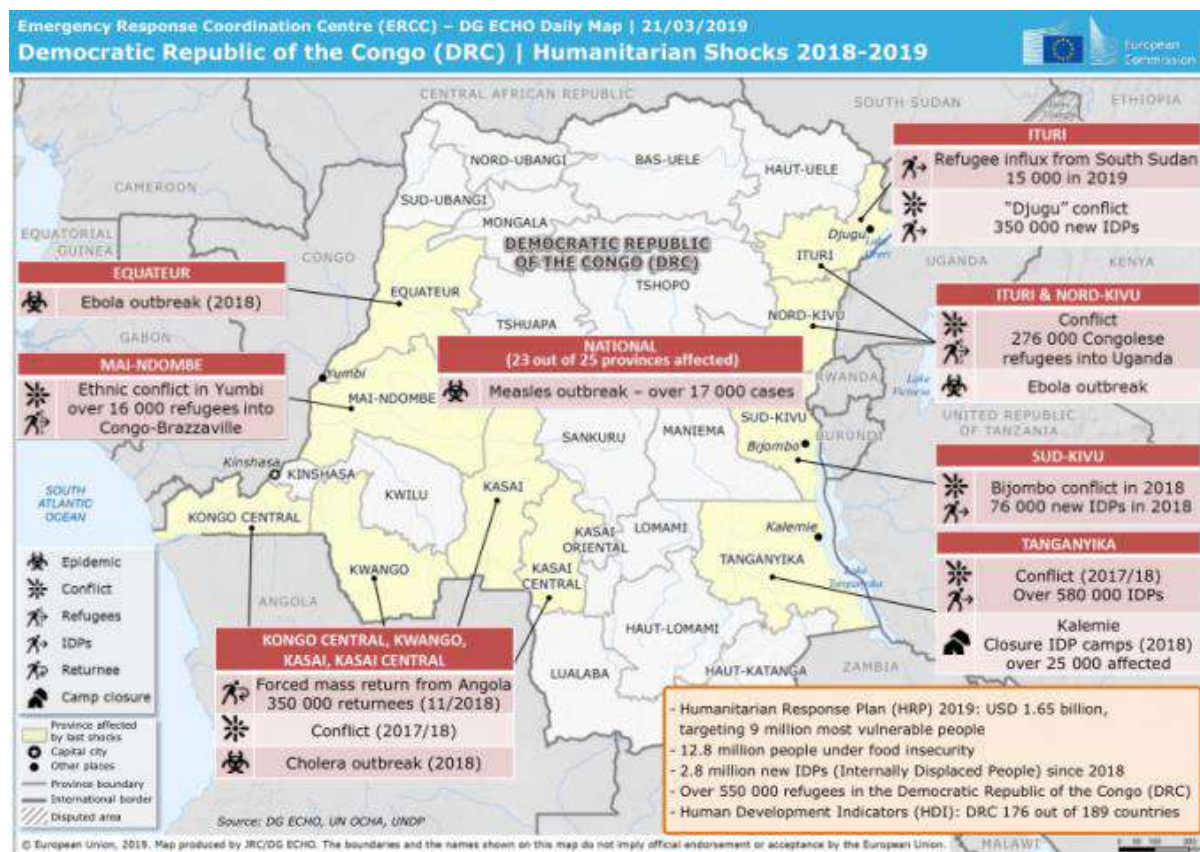
- There has been some research on child marriage linked to natural disasters and climate change in Bangladesh, including the 2015 report by the Human Rights Watch ‘Marry Before Your House is Swept Away’ and the 2014 research paper by Monash University and Oxfam ‘Are climate challenges reinforcing child and forced marriage and dowry as adaptation strategies in the context of Bangladesh?’²¹ However, there is still a gap in the evidence base on understanding the key drivers, how child marriage manifests, any rural or urban differences in impact, as well as effective methods for action on child marriage in these contexts.
- Whilst research on the Rohingya crisis is now expanding, there is still a limited understanding on the manifestation of child marriage within this context.
- There is still the need for further evidence on the manifestation of child marriage following natural disasters and slow-onset climate-change-related impacts, particularly the localised/regional natural disasters, as well as the development of models, guidelines and toolkits for international and national organisations implementing response programmes on child marriage within these contexts.

²¹ <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2016/photo-essay-child-marriage-bangladesh>
<https://research.monash.edu/en/publications/are-climate-challenges-reinforcing-child-and-forced-marriage-and->

Complex emergency example: Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Context

European Commission Director General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations 'Democratic Republic of the Congo Humanitarian Shocks 2018-2019'



- DRC experiences a protracted complex emergency with significant levels of displacement and substantial humanitarian need; 7.5 million people are currently displaced due to the crisis, 13.1 million identified as in need of humanitarian assistance, with 10.5 million targeted by the 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan. Due to an outbreak of fighting in 2017, the humanitarian community activated a level 3 emergency. The UN estimates that 200,000 girls and women have experienced sexual violence in the DRC since 1998. Military conflict in eastern DRC has increased the vulnerability of young girls being forced into marriage by armed combatants. Some girls who are raped are then forced to marry perpetrators in the hope that it might bring stability to children born out of wedlock.
- DRC has a nation-wide Humanitarian Response Plan (2017-2019) led by UN OCHA, as well as a Government-led Strategic response plan (February-July 2019) for the Ebola outbreak, which is affecting North Kivu and Iture province.²² The cluster system is activated in DRC, with the Child Protection sub-cluster led by UNICEF and the GBV sub-cluster led by UNFPA. The DRC Humanitarian Response Plan 2018 update received approximately US\$797 million in funding from all donors to address the highlighted needs. However, key informants and documents reviewed highlighted that child marriage is not prioritised by humanitarian decision makers and there is an ongoing challenge in ensuring child marriage initiatives receive appropriate funding.
- According to UNICEF, DRC has the ninth highest absolute number of child brides and the 19th highest prevalence rate of child marriage in the world – 1.3 million. Over a third (37%) of girls in the DRC

²² DRC Humanitarian Response Plan (2017-2019),

https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/MAJ_DRC_HRP_2017_En.pdf ; Strategic Response Plan (February-July 2019) for the Ebola outbreak, <https://www.who.int/emergencies/crises/cod/drc-ebola-srp-v20190219-en.pdf?ua=1>

are married before their 18th birthday and 10% are married before the age of 15. A 2017 study shows that ending child marriage in the DRC could generate US\$169 million in earnings and productivity.

- There are a number of initiatives implemented by development actors and the government of DRC at the national level focused on child marriage. However, there are only a handful of programmes targeting child marriage implemented in areas affected by conflict or the Ebola outbreak. Many interventions implemented by the humanitarian community are targeted more broadly at child protection or GBV, with some of these initiatives including activities that support the prevention of child marriage or specifically target the inclusion of married girls. Therefore, there is an opportunity to encourage development and government actors to do more in areas affected by humanitarian crises, and humanitarian actors to do more to address the multiple drivers of child marriage in these contexts.

Government action on child marriage in humanitarian contexts

- The government of DRC engages with the humanitarian response and is active in coordination mechanisms for both conflict-affected areas and the response to the Ebola outbreak; it plays a leading role in the latter.
- The government of DRC co-sponsored the 2013 Human Rights Council resolution on child, early and forced marriage and signed a joint statement at the 2014 Human Rights Council calling for a resolution on child marriage. The DRC is also one of 20 countries committed to ending child marriage by the end of 2020 under the Ministerial Commitment on comprehensive sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health services for adolescents and young people in Eastern and Southern Africa.
- The new second-generation national gender policy and its action plan for implementation (2017–2021) guides much of the work on child marriage across the DRC. DRC also has a National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2019–2021); although there is no specific actions on child marriage highlighted within the plan, there are provisions for greater action on addressing GBV in humanitarian contexts.

Civil society organisations and groups working to address child marriage and related issues

There are several civil society collectives aimed at addressing child marriage in DRC, and further conversations with actors in DRC would allow them to better understand the national civil society landscape. One of these groups is seeking to better coordinate action on various issues and bridge the divide between development and humanitarian programming/contexts. Several organisations that have initiatives on child protection and GBV are involved in this forum, including those who work on child marriage.

Some community-based organisations are now engaging with humanitarian coordination structures, such as the Protection Cluster and GBV sub-cluster and are advocating for greater attention and resourcing for child marriage prevention and response, including through access to responsive and flexible funding streams.

The majority of the few initiatives on child marriage in humanitarian contexts focus on child marriage in conflict and Ebola-affected regions in DRC and are led by national or community-based organisations. These include (not an exhaustive list):

- ADH NGO, a national NGO implementing a two-year programme specifically aimed at addressing the consequences of child marriage in Lubumbashi, Kipushi, Sakania, and Kilwa in Haut Katanga province.
- ANES Congo, a national NGO implementing a programme in the Kabola within Tanganyika province on community awareness and promotion of child rights, including the prevention of child marriage, as part of a broader programme that also targets unaccompanied minors and family separation as well as the recruitment of children in to armed groups.
- ASSODIP, a national NGO working at the community level to empower girls and ensure they can safely express their newly acquired skills.
- ARVC, a national NGO supporting displaced and refugee children in Fizi, Walungu and Uvira territories; their work involves organising awareness campaigns, providing legal, psychological and medical support, and organising debates on child marriage.
- Norwegian Refugee Council, an international NGO working with community leaders on supporting community information and behaviour change campaigns focused on children's right to education and preventing and addressing child marriage.
- Debout Fille, a national NGO implementing a programme in conflict-affected South Kivu aimed at providing adolescent girls with skills and tools to influence community decision making, including through

‘digital learning clubs and spaces’ and ‘life schools’, to educate adolescent girls on SRHR rights. The programme also sets up ‘girls parliaments’ to facilitate the girls’ advocacy efforts to address child marriage. The programme also works on attitude and behaviour change for parents to prevent child marriage.

- Safeka, a national NGO, has set up and runs youth clubs for primary and younger adolescents for the prevention of GBV, including the prevention of child marriage and information and awareness of sexual and reproductive health.
- Solidarité des Personnes Marginalisées dans la communauté, a national NGO, is implementing a child protection programme with a specific focus on adolescent girl survivors of GBV, including survivors of and those at risk of child marriage. This is part of a broader programme, also encompassing activities aimed at rehabilitation and reintegration of children associated with armed groups and vulnerable children, such as unaccompanied and separated children. The programme focuses on the provision of psycho-social support and training of security services on child protection and GBV.

Action by and/or across different sectors on child marriage

- **Education:** there are some examples of education initiatives focused on education as a protective mechanism and including a specific focus on adolescent girls. The education section of the [Humanitarian Response Plan](#) specifically lists survivors of GBV as a target group for inclusion in education initiatives: “ensure access to quality education for non-accompanied, separated, survivors of GBV, and children associated with armed forced”. However, the review of documentation and the key informant interview did not highlight any initiatives, aside from the rights-based approach by the Norwegian Refugee Council highlighted above, from education-in-emergencies actors focused on addressing child marriage.
- **Protection:** The [Humanitarian Country Team Protection Strategy](#), developed in April 2018, does not mention child, early and forced marriage as a protection risk within the humanitarian response and does not highlight any actions to specifically address it. However, there are considerations for broader action on creating a protective environment for vulnerable children and for risk mitigation efforts on GBV.
- **GBV:** The [Call to Action](#) initiative is developing a national roadmap for implementation in DRC, and is due to be completed in 2019. This roadmap would provide key multi-sectoral indicators for a whole-of-humanitarian response on addressing GBV in the crisis. The roadmap would include actions for the government, donors, humanitarian leadership, as well as specialised protection actors and other humanitarian sectors. There could be opportunities to advocate for action to address child marriage to be included and implemented.

Research to inform programmes and policies on child marriage in DRC

- There is a significant body of research focused on GBV within the DRC conflict, however much of this research is focused primarily on the impacts of conflict-related sexual violence on the community as well as programmes in place to address it.
- The desk review conducted could find limited examples of research and learning specifically focused on child marriage within DRC, and much of this was not focused on crisis-affected contexts or humanitarian action to address child marriage.
- In humanitarian information management, including monitoring and evaluation of interventions and displacement tracking, there is not always a distinction made between respondents experiencing ‘forced’ and ‘early marriage’ or ‘child marriage’.

Annexes

Annex 1: actor mapping: humanitarian cluster system at the global level

Global level			
Actor	Role or membership	Potential areas of action on child marriage based on organisation/body mandate	Current or ongoing initiatives related to child marriage
Cluster-based response			
Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC)	The Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) is the Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs in the UN system, and leads the Inter-agency standing committee (IASC). In a country affected by a disaster or conflict, the ERC will appoint a Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) to lead the response. The ERC is the central focal point for governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental relief activities and ensures IASC endorsement of the HC proposal for cluster activation and cluster lead appointments. ²³	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall global strategic oversight of emergency response • Appointment of Humanitarian Coordinators to lead in-country humanitarian response • Leadership of the IASC and its associated bodies, including special initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of IASC reference group on gender and humanitarian action
Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)	<p>The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) is an inter-agency forum for coordination, policy development and decision making involving key UN, international NGOs and Red Cross-Red Crescent movement humanitarian partners.</p> <p>Under the leadership of the Emergency Relief Coordinator, the IASC develops humanitarian policies, agrees on a clear division of responsibility for the various aspects of humanitarian assistance, identifies and addresses gaps in response, and advocates for effective application of humanitarian principles.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritisation of efforts to prevent and address child marriage in global-level humanitarian initiatives • Identifying gaps in humanitarian response efforts around the world, including related to the prevention of response to child marriage • Global standard setting and guidance on humanitarian response 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IASC guidelines on GBV in emergencies • The centrality of protection in humanitarian action

²³ UN OCHA, *OCHA Leadership*. <https://www.unocha.org/about-us/ocha-leadership>

<p>IASC Emergency Directors' Group (EDG)</p>	<p>The membership of the IASC emergency directors' group is comprised of the emergency directors of IASC members (UN, NGOs and International Organization for Migration, IOM), plus one resource person.</p> <p>The emergency directors of the ICRC and IFRC participate as observers and the NGO consortia observers can nominate two operational members for ongoing participation in the EDG.</p> <p>Responsibilities of the Emergency Directors are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Advising the IASC on operational issues of strategic concern 2) Preparing options and recommendations for the IASC on operational issues 3) Mobilizing agency and global cluster resources to address operational challenges and gaps, in support of Humanitarian Coordinators (HCs) and Humanitarian Country Teams (HCTs) 4) Considering future high-risk scenarios and determining appropriate early actions in support of HCs and HCTs 5) Supporting the principals in the activation and initial implementation of a system-wide scale-up 6) Ensuring appropriate information sharing with the IASC Working Group so as to address policy gaps and inform policy formulation 7) Monitoring and providing support, including through capacity building and guidance, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The accountability of Humanitarian Coordinators for their performance, including on ensuring the centrality of protection in humanitarian response • Assessing early warning signs and fragile contexts • Overall performance of humanitarian architecture and the effectiveness and appropriateness of response efforts • Mobilisation of IASC agency resources for response efforts on child marriage 	
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	to the implementation of the Transformative Agenda. ²⁴		
IASC Working Group	The IASC Working Group is composed of the directors of policy or equivalent of the IASC member organisations. The IASC Working Group's focus is on humanitarian policy, meeting in ad hoc meetings as necessary.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integration of child marriage into high level policy development 	
Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility (GBV AoR)	<p>GBV AoR is the global-level forum for coordination and collaboration under the cluster approach on GBV prevention and response in humanitarian settings. The GBV AoR constitutes a focus area within the Global Protection Cluster (GPC).</p> <p>The GBV AoR brings together NGOs, UN agencies, academics and others under the shared objective of ensuring lifesaving, predictable, accountable and effective GBV prevention, risk mitigation and response in emergencies, in both natural disaster and conflict-related humanitarian contexts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integration of child marriage across GBV standard setting and specific standard setting targeted at child marriage (early and forced marriage) • Sharing of best practice and connecting organisations working on child marriage between countries and regions • Cross-cluster/cross-sectoral collaboration on child marriage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Localisation of coordination and inclusion of national organisations in international and national coordination mechanisms • Global guidelines and documenting best practice on child marriage • The inclusion of child marriage in to training programmes for GBV specialists and coordinators • Joint initiative with CP AoR on child survivors (currently limited to survivors of sexual violence) • Community of practice for GBV actors in emergencies • Helpdesk for GBV in emergencies, open to cluster members
Child Protection Area of Responsibility (CP AoR)	The CP AoR is specifically focused on enhancing child protection coordination and response in humanitarian contexts (as defined as Humanitarian Coordinator and Early Warning contexts).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child protection systems and the role in prevention and response to child marriage • Coordination between CP and GBV 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Localisation of CP initiatives and integration of national partners in international coordination mechanisms

²⁴IASC, *IASC Emergency Directors Group Terms of Reference*.

https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/emergency_directors_group_tor_final_endorsed_on_march_27_2013.pdf

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-sectoral collaboration on child marriage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapid response mechanism available to support CP sub-cluster actors – including on child protection response for child marriage
The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action	<p>Membership-based body that is responsible for technical guidance and standard setting on child protection. Working closely with the CP AoR.</p> <p>The Alliance’s work falls into five categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard setting and guidance development: The Alliance develops standards for child protection in humanitarian action and generates technical guidelines and associated materials for use by humanitarian actors • Capacity building, learning and development on child protection in emergencies • Evidence and knowledge generation • Advocacy • Convening child protection actors at the global level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The integration of child marriage into global standards • Global-level advocacy on child marriage in emergencies • Standard setting for child protection systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are currently leading the process for revising the ‘Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action’, which is due to be launched in 2019 • Integration of child marriage in to training and capacity building measures for child protection actors
Global Protection Cluster	<p>The Global Protection Cluster coordinates and provides global-level inter-agency policy advice and guidance on the implementation of the cluster approach to Protection Clusters in the field, supports protection responses in non-refugee situation humanitarian action, as well as leads standard and policy setting relating to protection in complex and natural disaster humanitarian emergencies, in particular with regard to the protection of internally displaced persons.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operationalisation of centrality of protection and prevention of child marriage within protection mainstreaming • The inclusion of married girls in protection programming • Supporting community-based protection mechanisms for prevention of child marriage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leading learning on cash within protection programming, including in prevention and response to child marriage • Protection helpdesk, available only through Protection Cluster Coordinators
Inter-agency Network for Education in	<p>INEE is a network of individuals and organisations globally, convened by a secretariat that works to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of child marriage in technical guidance and standards on education in emergencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender working group (sub-group of INEE)

Emergencies (INEE)	further technical guidance, knowledge and collaboration on education in emergencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning and research on education and child marriage in emergencies 	
Education Cluster	<p>The Global Education Cluster's (GEC) work is focused on strengthening the capacity of Education Clusters/Education in Emergency Working Groups at the country level in achieving its core functions so that they can support the development and delivery of predictable, timely, effective and appropriate responses. The GEC provides support to coordination teams before, during and after a humanitarian crisis to strengthen cluster readiness, reinforce coordination of activated clusters, support the deactivation of cluster, and transition to education development platforms. It is done through a three-tiered approach:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Direct and remote field support to country clusters 2) Providing guidance and capacity through training, development of tools and procedures, and knowledge management 3) Global engagement and advocacy with partners in the wider humanitarian and education sectors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuity of education and access to education for adolescent girls in crises as a key protective mechanism • Advocacy for educational options for adolescent girls in crisis, including strengthening pathways from non-formal to formal schooling, educational alternatives linked to livelihoods 	
Other global clusters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Security • Health • Shelter • Water and Sanitation • Nutrition • Emergency Telecommunications • Early Recover • Logistics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint programming on the prevention of child marriage in humanitarian settings • Inclusion of adolescent girls in the design and delivery of humanitarian response • Integration of risk mitigation measures on child marriage across the response • Effective and appropriate referral to specialised services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the IASC guidelines for integrating GBV into humanitarian action

<p>Global Cluster Lead Agencies</p>	<p>The Global Cluster Lead Agencies for education and protection are:</p> <p>Education: UNICEF and Save the Children (co-lead)</p> <p>Protection: UNHCR (CP: UNICEF; GBV: UNFPA)</p> <p>Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL): World Food Programme</p> <p>Camp Coordination and Camp Management: IOM/UNHCR</p> <p>The Global Cluster Lead Agencies provide the following types of support to strengthen field response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical surge capacity • Trained experts to lead cluster coordination at the field level • Increased stockpiles, some pre-positioned within regions • Standardised technical tools, including for information management • Agreement on common methods and formats for needs assessments, monitoring and benchmarking • Best practices and lessons learned from field tests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct resourcing as ‘provider of last resort’ • Prioritisation of child marriage in technical support and guidance • Resource mobilisation from institutional donors and joint funding mechanisms for cluster response • Policy and advocacy efforts at the global level on child marriage • Representation at the IASC on child marriage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resourcing for the implementation of the IASC GBV guidelines • UNHCR, UNICEF and UNFPA, resourcing for interagency cluster coordination for GBV, CP, protection and education. • Provider of last resort • Resourcing of global clusters and AoRs
<p>United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead mandated agency to respond to refugee crises • Lead of Protection Cluster 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination of specialised prevention and response efforts on child marriage in refugee crisis • Integration of prevention and risk mitigation across refugee response • Standard setting on addressing child marriage in refugee crises • High-level advocacy on child marriage in refugee contexts and contexts of internal displacement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of guidance on child marriage in humanitarian settings • Resourcing of Protection Cluster – including key field support functions helpdesk and cop that encompass the prevention and response to child marriage as a protection activity

International Organization for Migration (IOM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-lead of the Global CCCM Cluster • Key partner of UNHCR in refugee response 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GBV risk mitigation efforts in camp management • Guidelines and standard setting on camp coordination and camp management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integration of GBV and CP considerations into the Displacement Tracking Matrix • Internal implementation of IASC GBV guidelines to shelter, CCCM and other sectors
Inter-agency Working Group on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (IAWG)	<p>IAWG is a coalition of 20 Steering Committee member agencies – representing UN, government, non-governmental, research, and donor organisations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documents gaps, accomplishments and lessons learned • Evaluates the state of sexual and reproductive health in the field • Establishes technical standards for the delivery of reproductive health services • Builds and disseminates evidence to policy makers, managers and practitioners • Advocates for the inclusion of crisis-affected persons in global development and humanitarian agendas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard setting on SRHR in emergencies • Global-level collaboration and coordination on SRHR • Research and learning on SRHR and child marriage in humanitarian contexts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-working group on GBV • Sub-working group on adolescent sexual and reproductive health rights (ASRHR) • Revision of ASRHR Toolkit • E-learning course on ASRHR
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)	<p>OHCHR field presences provide human rights expert support to humanitarian leadership, including Resident/Humanitarian Coordinators and Humanitarian Country Teams.</p> <p>They support national and local authorities with guidance and training on human rights in areas such as the rule of law, access to justice and remedies, sexual and GBV, or housing, land and property rights.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting on the UN Security Council Resolution on Child Marriage in Emergencies • Human rights monitoring in emergency contexts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting on the UN Security Council Resolution on Child Marriage in Emergencies
UN Special Representative for	Designated UN advocate for the protection and wellbeing of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The inclusion of child marriage, where relevant in special 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The inclusion of child marriage, where relevant

Children in Armed Conflict	children affected by armed conflict.	<p>reports on children in armed conflict.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High-level advocacy on child marriage in conflict contexts 	<p>in special reports on children in armed conflict</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High-level advocacy on child marriage in conflict contexts
<p>Collaborative Cash Delivery (CDD) Platform</p> <p>(Note: There is no IASC mandated coordination body for cash; the CCD platform and the Catch Learning Partnership (CaLP) are the two prominent partnerships at the global level on cash. At the country level Cash Working Groups are typically formed.)</p>	The CCD is a network of 15 ngos with the overall objective of working together in preparedness and response on cash and voucher assistance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development for standards on Cash programming in emergencies, including in social protection and preventing and ending child marriage 	
The Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP)	CaLP is a global partnership of humanitarian actors engaged in policy, practice and research within cash and voucher assistance (CVA). Members include UN agencies, donors, international NGOs, local NGOs and private sector organisations. CaLP does not deliver cash and voucher assistance directly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning and research on cash programming and child marriage in emergencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compiling resources on cash programming and gender equality/women's empowerment • E-learning on cash and social protection

Annex 2: main actors in the humanitarian system at the country level (any country with an operational humanitarian community)

Country level		
Actor	Role or membership	Potential area of influence on child marriage
Humanitarian Coordinator (HC)/Resident Coordinator (RC)	While the primary responsibility for coordinating humanitarian assistance rests with national authorities, if international humanitarian assistance is required the HC or RC is responsible for leading and coordinating the efforts of humanitarian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The implementation of the centrality of protection agenda, including effective integration of child marriage

	organisations (both UN and non-UN) with a view to ensuring that they are principled, timely, effective and efficient, and contribute to longer term recovery.	
Humanitarian country team (HCT)	<p>At the strategic level, inter-cluster coordination takes place within the HCT under the leadership of the HC/RC. The HCT comprises the Cluster Lead Agencies (at Country Representative/Director level) and selected operational partners involved in the response, and it is within the framework of this strategic decision-making forum that the overall humanitarian response operation is guided and led.</p> <p>Typically includes UN, international NGO, ICRC movement and, depending on the context, could also include national NGOs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The implementation of the centrality of protection agenda, including effective integration of child marriage • Prioritisation of GBV and CP, including child marriage within humanitarian planning
Inter-Cluster Coordination Group	At the operational level, inter-cluster coordination generally takes place within the framework of an Inter-Cluster Coordination Forum/Group (at Cluster Coordinator level).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-cluster coordination • Building coalitions on addressing child marriage • Integration of prevention and risk reduction measures in non-specialised/non-targeted programmes
National Disaster Management Office (NDMO)	In many countries that experience natural disasters, the relevant government agency will take strong leadership of the response. This may occur in situations where there is significant external assistance or where external support is minimal. In many contexts the lead agency is the National Disaster Management Office or a similar body.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May limit locations and services to be provided by humanitarian community • May dictate the agencies or organisations to be involved in the response, including those delivering programmes on areas related to child marriage • Approval of lead agencies of coordination mechanisms
Ministry of Social Welfare/Ministries responsible for children, youth, gender and adolescents Ministry of Education	In some instances, the line ministry will lead the relevant cluster or sub-clusters; in other contexts the ministry will engage with clusters as a key partner.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to government services • Government approval for humanitarian interventions aimed at preventing and addressing child marriage
Cluster Coordinators/ Sub-cluster coordinators	The Cluster Coordinator for each individual cluster provides leadership and works on behalf of the cluster as a whole, facilitating all cluster activities and developing and maintaining a strategic vision and operational response plan. They ensure coordination with other clusters in relation to inter-cluster activities and cross-cutting issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritisation of child marriage within the response • Coordination of activities aimed at the prevention of child marriage • Inclusion of child marriage within Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO)/Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) documents • Inclusion of activities aimed at preventing child marriage in

	Cluster Coordinators are responsible for ensuring that cluster-specific concerns and challenges that cannot be solved within the cluster are raised and properly discussed at the HCT.	<p>proposals for humanitarian financing/joint funds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical resource on integration of risk mitigation measures focused on child marriage into the work of other clusters • Inclusion of child marriage in joint needs assessments • Access to global-level resources on child marriage for cluster/sub-cluster partners • Training and technical guidance for partners on child marriage • Inclusion of partners in coordination
UNICEF Representative/Head of Mission	Cluster Lead Agency and provider of last resort – Child Protection and Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resourcing of Education Cluster and CP sub-cluster • Key partner for NGO implementing partners • Prioritisation of child marriage in high-level advocacy
UNFPA Representative/Head of Mission	Cluster Lead Agency and provider of last resort – GBV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resourcing of GBV sub-cluster • Key partner for NGO implementing partners in the area of child marriage • Prioritisation of child marriage in high-level advocacy
Save the Children	Cluster Lead Agency – Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritisation of gender within education response • Collaboration with other relevant actors on child marriage, including protection
Other Cluster Lead Agencies	<p>Food Security and Livelihoods – <i>WFP and FAO</i></p> <p>Health – <i>WHO</i></p> <p>WASH – <i>UNICEF</i></p> <p>Early Recovery – <i>UNDP</i></p> <p>Shelter – <i>IFRC/UNHCR</i></p> <p>Logistics- <i>World Food Programme</i></p> <p>Nutrition – <i>UNICEF</i></p> <p>Emergency telecommunications – <i>World Food Programme</i></p> <p>Camp Coordination and Camp Management – <i>UNHCR and IOM</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integration of prevention and risk mitigation measures into response efforts