Gender-Based
Violence AoR

Report Title: A summary of good practice approaches in addressing child marriage in emergency contexts, as well as an annotation of programme resources and tools.

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Overview

This report provides a summary of good practice approaches to addressing child marriage in emergencies. The majority of documented interventions and tools typically focus on one of the three following approaches:

1) Addressing child marriage through the primary driver of gender inequality, including initiatives focused on the empowerment of girls and knowledge, attitude and behaviour change amongst family and community members.
2) Addressing child marriage through secondary drivers, such as economic factors and protection concerns.
3) Delivery of services and support to survivors of child marriage, including young mothers.

It should be noted, however, that there are few evaluations of these interventions, highlighting a need for further documentation of what works in prevention and response to child marriage in humanitarian contexts.

This report also provides a summary of available resources and tools on prevention of and response to child marriage in humanitarian emergencies. These include:
i)   Training modules and curricula
ii)   Toolkits
iii)   Guidance notes and programming briefs

Good Practice Approaches in Preventing and Responding to Child Marriage in Emergency Contexts

Programmatic approaches for preventing and responding to child marriage in emergency contexts typically encompass interventions aimed at the empowerment of girls; increasing girls' and families access to resources; and initiatives that seek to change community and family attitudes and behaviours related to child marriage and the role of girls in society.

Whilst gender inequality remains, as in stable contexts, the root cause of child marriage in time of crisis, recent research conducted in various humanitarian contexts has pointed to multiple and overlapping drivers. It is therefore essential to assess and understand the varying drivers and to design approaches that address the multiplicity of risk factors and needs of survivors and those at risk of child marriage.

Recent research on child marriage in various humanitarian contexts alongside evaluations that have been conducted on response programming (e.g. Women's Refugee Commission (2016); Freccero, J. & Whiting, A. (2018); CARE (2015); Promundo (2015) highlight the hallmarks of successful programs as those that:

- **Adopt interventions aimed at the empowerment of girls:** Initiatives that seek to provide girls with knowledge of their rights, mechanisms through which to exercise these rights as well as those that provide space for girl-led initiatives.

- **Increase young girls' access to resources:** Through support for education, as well as livelihood activities and access to vocational training. Beyond this, initiatives that support girls rights to access property, to engage in decision making related to resources and provide knowledge to girls on how to access services are key to address some of the perceived and real economic drivers of child marriage.

- **Increase girls' access to safe spaces:** Initiatives that address protection concerns and community perceptions of risks for girls, as well as provide space for the confidential, ethical and safe delivery of services.

- **Provide viable alternatives to families to address economic drivers of child marriage:** Depending on the phase and nature of the crisis this could include ensuring the basic needs of the family are met, ensuring viable livelihood activities for families, particularly care-givers, as well as initiatives that seek to address drivers related to bride price and dowry.

- **Work with entire communities to shift attitudes and behaviours about the role of girls in society and to child marriage:** Programs that work with community leaders, care-givers, families, boys and young men as well as those that work directly with girls themselves to support behaviour change and to highlight the risks associated with child marriage and the importance of delaying marriage for girls and their communities.

Importantly - as the reasons for child marriage in different contexts vary greatly - it is critical to understand a particular crisis context and tailor solutions accordingly.

In addition to the types of interventions that have been shown by recent research to be examples of effective programs, there are a number of key recommendations for humanitarian response in addressing child marriage, including;

- The need to support integrated or multi-sectoral approaches that seek to address multiple drivers of child marriage
- The importance of initiatives that focus on girl led program design or girl led advocacy
- The provision of services to married girls should recognise their unique needs and not treat them as adults
- Given the multiplicity of risk factors considerations of risks for child marriage must be integrated across all aspects of the humanitarian response

Examples of programmes Illustrating components highlighted as hallmarks of good practice:

Girl-led approaches:

The Let Girls Lead model focuses on empowering girl leaders and local organizations to guarantee girls' rights through girl-centered advocacy. The model has been implemeneted in Ethiopia, Uganda and Malawi since 2009, and has a core focus on girl-led advocacy. The model provides support to girl-led organisations through leadership and organisational strengthening as well as utilising a girl-centred advocacy curriculum to build the advocacy and story-telling skills of girls.

Integrated SRHR and GBV approaches for married girls:
Young Mother's Club Syria is an integrated sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRSH) and gender-based violence (GBV) program implemented by UNFPA and Syria Relief and Development , providing information to groups of adolescents girls in Syria who are survivors of child marriage and early pregnancy. The model involves facilitating peer support groups and the provision of a tailored curriculum on SRSH and GBV.

Using entertainment-education to address community attitudes:
Radio Ondese in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, broadcasts a radio series and holds specialized training workshops in South Kivu to help raise awareness among the local population about the harms of child marriage. The radio programs discuss the specific topic of child marriage in order to spread awareness and mobilise community stakeholders: girls, boys, families, local leaders, leaders of civil sector organizations, and members of the local authorities to end child marriage. Through a variety of formats (e.g. reports, advertisements, news alerts, debates, public discussion programs), these programs seek to provide inhabitants of the South Kivu region with useful information about the causes and consequences of child marriage, and about the resources and means available to prevent

child marriage. The aim is to foster a deep, lasting change in mentalities, which will encourage the eradication of child marriage.

Complete package of services:
Women for Afghan Women supports an initiative focused on legal aid and access to justice. The inititive provides legal aid services, accessed through family guidance centres, which support girls who are at risk of child marriage and survivors. The provision of legal services is combined with safe housing and shelter, with case management and psycho-social support as well as medical care and educational opportunities available to the girls all within the accommodation.

Engaging Male Caregivers in prevention:
The Danish Refugee Council Lebanon (DRC Lebanon) and the Women's Refugee Commission (WRC) 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 caregivers. A curriculum was developed (see above) and then group sessions for male care givers were undertaken

Relevant Resources And Tools

Training Modules and Curricula:

- **My Safety, My Wellbeing: Equipping adolescent girls with key knowledge and skills to help them to mitigate, prevent, and respond to gender-based violence**
  A curriculum designed by the International Rescue Committee (2018) for adolescent girls, covering 26 sessions that address decision making, problem solving and confidence with a specific focus on gender-based violence, child and early marriage, reproductive health and hygiene.

- **Life Skills through Drama: Equipping adolescent girls with key knowledge and skills to help them to mitigate, prevent, and respond to gender-based violence**
  A Supplementary resource to 'My safety, My Wellbeing', This curriculum addresses the basic life skills that Adolescent Girls living in difficult conditions in Lebanon and similar contexts would require. The curriculum developed by the International Rescue Committee (2018) relies on active learning through experience, practice, reflection and discussion and it has as well been designed based on drama techniques. The curriculum is composed of 6 modules where each is divided into 2 sessions making a total of 12 sessions. The sessions cover topics around trust and support networks, assertive communication, self-esteem and self-confidence, coping with stress,

understanding and managing emotions, problem solving and decision making, and GBV.

- **Engaging Male Caregivers to End Early Marriage in Lebanon: Training modules to accompany programs with adolescent girls**
These training modules were developed by the Danish Refugee Council Lebanon and the Women's Refugee Commission (2018) in Lebanon. The learning activities included in the eight modules of this curriculum aim to give male participants the foundation of knowledge they need to transform their thinking on masculinity in order to promote gender equality and lower the risk of early marriage for children. The learning activities cover a range of issues and use a mix of training methods and tools to encourage participants to reflect on and explore these issues as they relate to their own experience.

Toolkits:

- **Tackling The Taboo: Sexuality And Gender-Transformative Programmes To End Child, Early And Forced Marriage (CEFM) And Unions**

  A joint report from several organisations, under the banner of the CEFM and Sexuality Programs Working Group (2019) focuses on the need to address patriarchal control of adolescent girls' sexuality in the fight against child, early and forced marriage and unions, and highlights the vital role played by gender-transformative programmes. The report presents findings from a review of 23 organizations that work at the intersection of child marriage and sexuality, and includes three case studies that feature the work of grassroots organizations working in politically and culturally conservative contexts.

- **Protecting the Girl Child: Using the law to end child, early and forced marriage and related human rights violations**

  This toolkit by Equality Now (2014) addresses the capacity of international and national law to end child, early, and forced marriage. It also provides information advocacy with governments around changing and also the implementation of existing laws.

- **Meeting the Sexual and Reproductive Health Needs of Young Married Women and First-time Parents Toolkit**

  This toolkit developed by Pathfinder International (2017) for the context of West Africa focuses on building knowledge and skills amongst health care providers and community workers on the needs and approaches to working with young newly married women.

- **What lies beneath? Tackling the roots of religious resistance to ending child marriage**

  Developed by Girls Not Brides and Stellenbosch University (2019), this resource provides resources for working with religious groups and addressing resistance to ending the practice of child marriage. Along with providing guidance on how to talk about sexuality, engage with scripture and recognize the agency of religious leaders, there are also tools for internal engagement and tip sheets.

- **Girl-Shine Approach:**

  Developed by International Rescue Committee as a result of evaluations of programming for adolescent girls in humanitarian contexts, Girl Shine has been designed to help contribute to the improved prevention of and response to violence against adolescent girls in humanitarian settings by providing them with skills and knowledge to identify types of GBV, including child marriage and seek support services. The package includes resources for the delivery of life skills curriculum and for engaging with care givers.

  International Rescue Committee has now developed a three-year programme on child marriage in refugee contexts building off the existing Girl Shine approach which has been piloted in Lebanon. The model combines a life-skills curriculum, sessions with caregivers (male and female) and training for mentors and facilitators focused on child marriage as well as specific guidance on case management for response to child marriage.

Guidance Notes And Programming Briefs

- **Ending Child Marriage in Humanitarian Settings: Ensuring accountability to girls through improved data collection, analysis, and use**

  Developed by Save the Children (2018) this brief highlights the need for enhanced processes for data collection and use to ensure a more comprehensive understanding of child marriage in humanitarian settings. Recognising the limitations of existing datasets for understanding child marriage in humanitarian contexts, the brief provides recommendations to build upon existing data collection mechanisms.

- **Storytelling to End Child Marriage in the Sahel Region: How survivors are acting as role models and holding decision-makers to account**

  This brief developed by Save the Children (2019) highlights the power of story telling, peer learning and role model programs for the prevention and response to child marriage throughout the Sahel region.

- **Practical Guidance for Supporting Child Widows**

A research report on child widows, developed by the organisation Action on Child, Early and Forced Marriage (2019), the report also includes guidance on appropriate models of support to child widows.

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