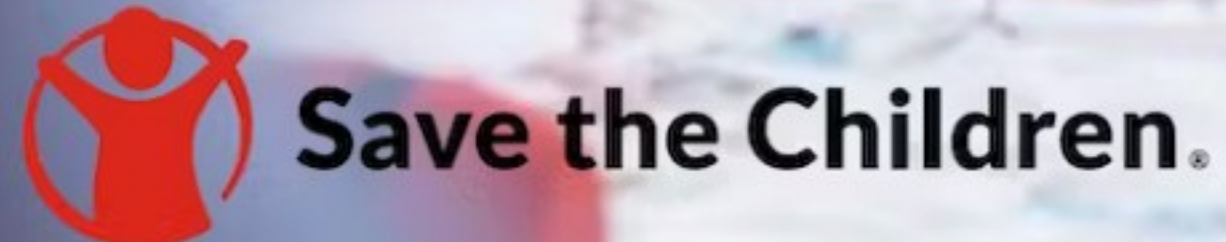


IN THE HOUR OF NEED, WHY WE SHOULD ALL BE PRIORITISING CHILD MARRIAGE & HOW TO DO IT

Hosted by Plan International & Save the Children
with Girls Not Brides, International Rescue
Committee and UNHCR



AGENDA

The evidence base for child marriage in forced displacement and crisis settings

Jean Casey – *Research and Humanitarian Manager*
Girls Not Brides

Challenges to responding to child marriage in forced displacement and crisis settings

Clare Lofthouse – *Technical Advisor on Child Marriage*
Plan International

Reflections from across the sector

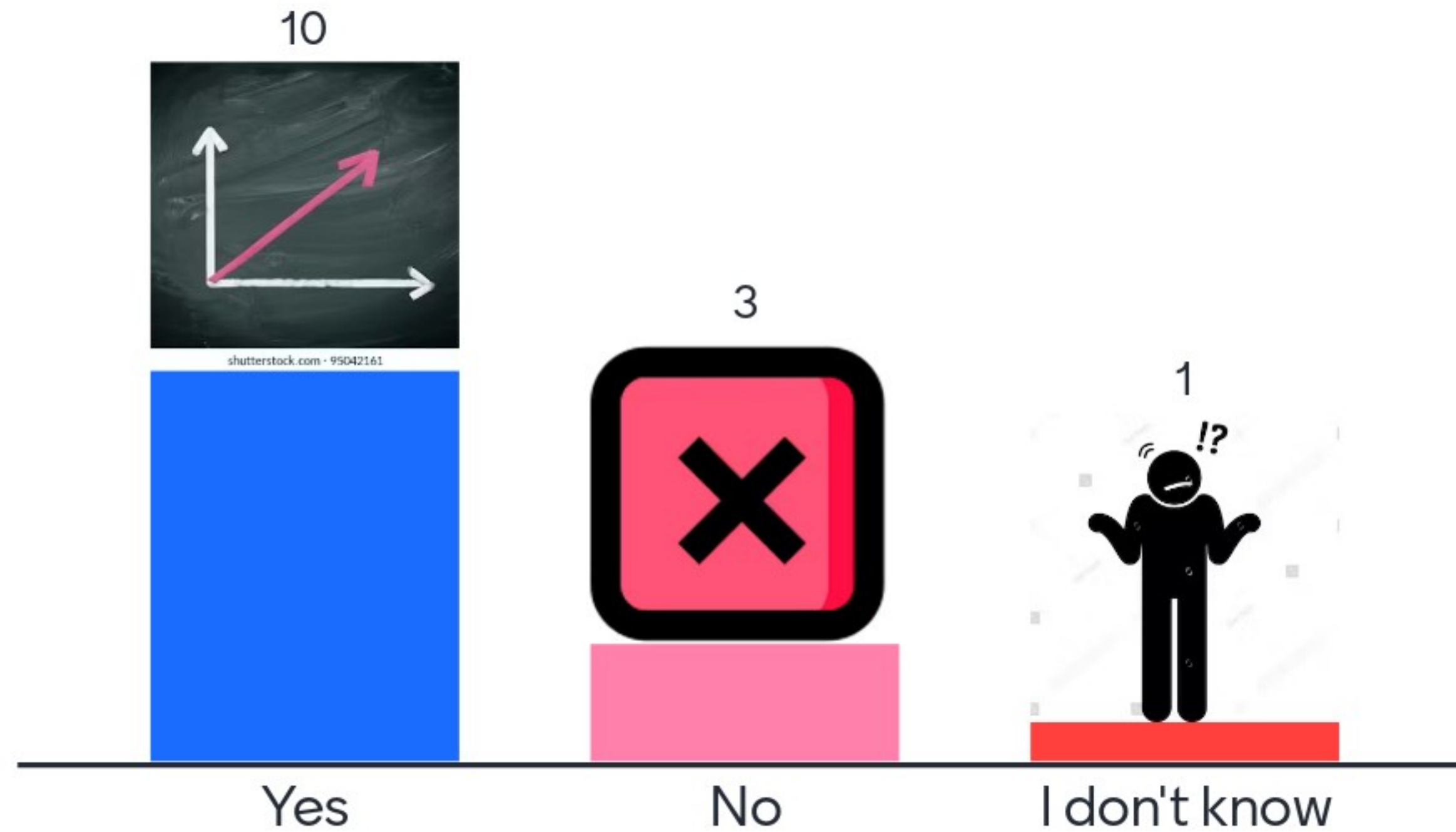
Rahina Hussaini – *Global Senior Advisor CEFMU*
Prevention and Response
Save the Children

- **Amel Amir Ali**, UNHCR, Geneva
- **Marian Rogers**, IRC, West Africa
- **Lamia Qahtan**, Save the Children, Yemen

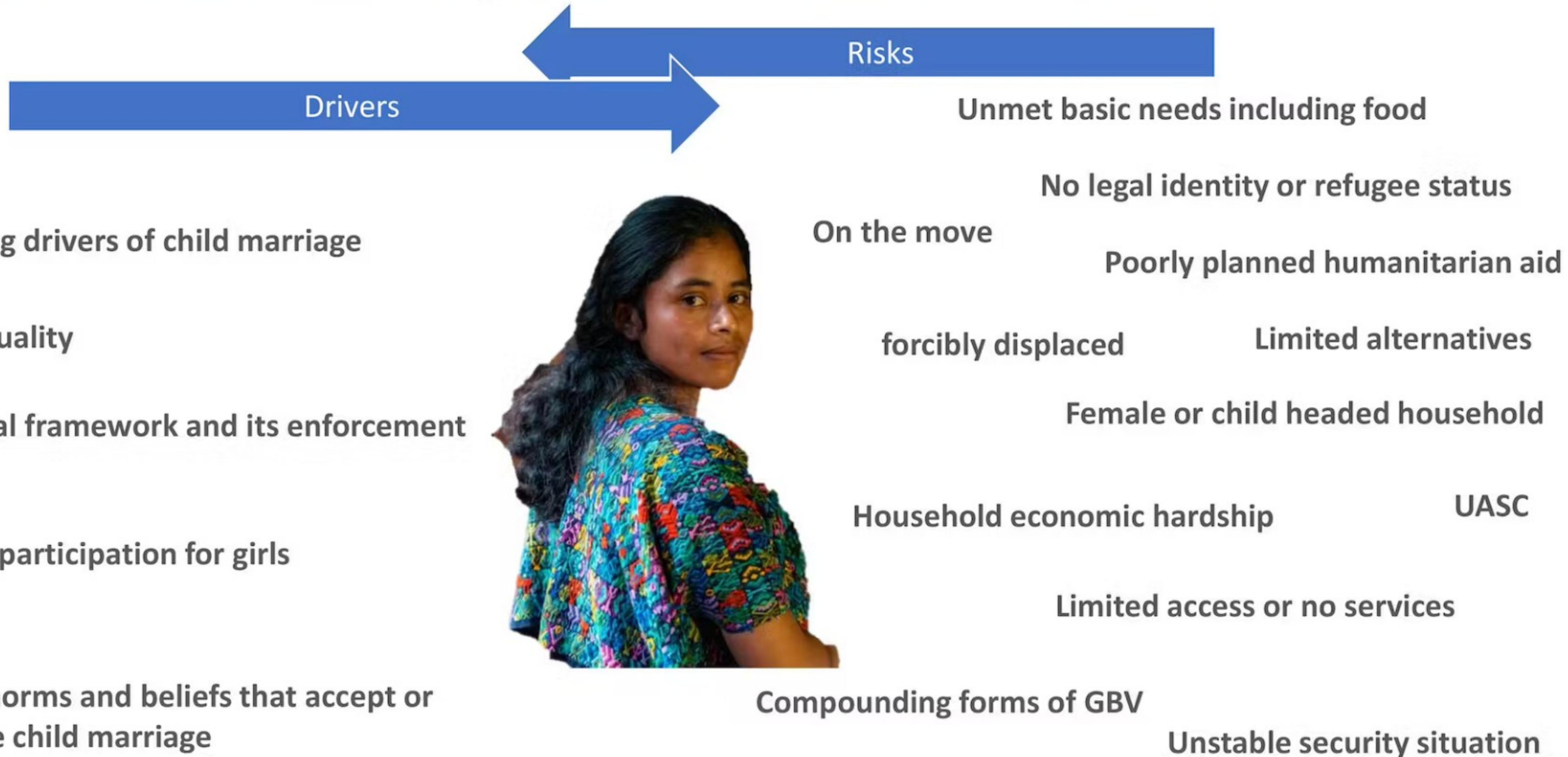
Where do you work?



Do you think that the practice of child marriage is a big issue where you work?



Child marriage in humanitarian settings





GIRLS NOT BRIDES

The Global Partnership
to End Child Marriage

WHAT IS THE EVIDENCE BASE FOR WORKING ON CHILD MARRIAGE IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS

JEAN CASEY - RESEARCH AND HUMANITARIAN MANAGER

GIRLS NOT BRIDES

Learning from the evidence - what works to prevent and respond to child marriage and support ever married girls in humanitarian settings

Safe spaces

- Play a key role in girls' protection and empowerment, and often described as the only place where girls feel safe. Provide existing entry points
- Empowerment-based approaches should be coupled with addressing structural barriers e.g. insecurity, poverty and barriers to services
- More effective when paired with interventions at the family and community level

SRHR

- Growing evidence on promising practice for delivering flexible, context-based SRH services for adolescent girls in humanitarian settings

Mental Health

- Married girls are very isolated, experiencing emotional distress and extremely stressed by the demands of marriage and motherhood
- Rates of intimate partner violence (IPV) and child sexual abuse are very high, yet access to support very limited in crisis-affected settings

Education & economic barriers

- Address barriers to education for girls is a priority for displaced girls and a likely critical protector against the heightened risk of child marriage in these settings
- Cash assistance to overcome some barriers was cited as a possible solution for promoting girls' continued education
- Provide vocational training, economic empowerment education, age-appropriate income generating opportunities via safe spaces accessible for ever married girls and unmarried girls

Families and communities

- Have the potential to serve as a support to adolescent girls, including married girls
- The community-engaged model has proven to be successful in creating supportive environment for girls

Learning from the evidence - what works to prevent and respond to child marriage and support ever married girls in humanitarian settings

Key takeaways:

- **Humanitarian actors can play a critical role in preventing and responding to child marriage** and supporting married girls - include **child marriage risk and response awareness** across all humanitarian assessments and strategies, including core Inter-Agency Standing Committee and cluster guidance documents.
- Efforts to **support girls to enrol and remain in school and access other key services** (SRHR, GBV etc.) are critical in crisis settings and important protectors against the risk of child marriage and supporting married girls.
- **Pilot and evaluate** new approaches to child marriage programming, allowing for the testing of different approaches and with room for a degree of failure

Challenges when responding to child marriage in crisis settings

Clare Lofthouse – *Technical Advisor on Child Marriage*

Plan International

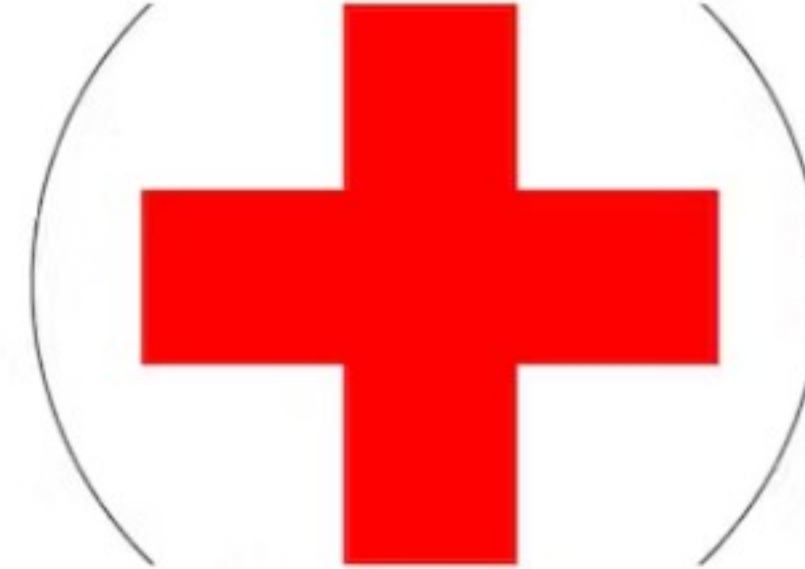
Key challenges



Heavy focus on prevention



Limited attention on ever-married girls and young mothers (response)



Perception that this issue is outside the humanitarian mandate



Knowledge, capacity and attitudes



Coordination and ownership



Understand all the dynamics in your context



Getting stuck in diagnosing the issue and not taking action



Technical resources are limited. Mainly from GBV sector

Overcoming challenges



We have a responsibility to support and protect girls and their families



Tailored services for and with, **ever married girls and young mothers**



Improve coordination on child and adolescent survivors of GBV



Involve the community, including girls, in everything you do.



Generate and disseminate **evidence** on what is happening AND what works

Reflections from across the sector

Rahina Hussaini – *Global Senior Advisor CEFMU Prevention and Response*

Save the Children

Refugee children, documentation processes and child marriage

Amel AmirAli

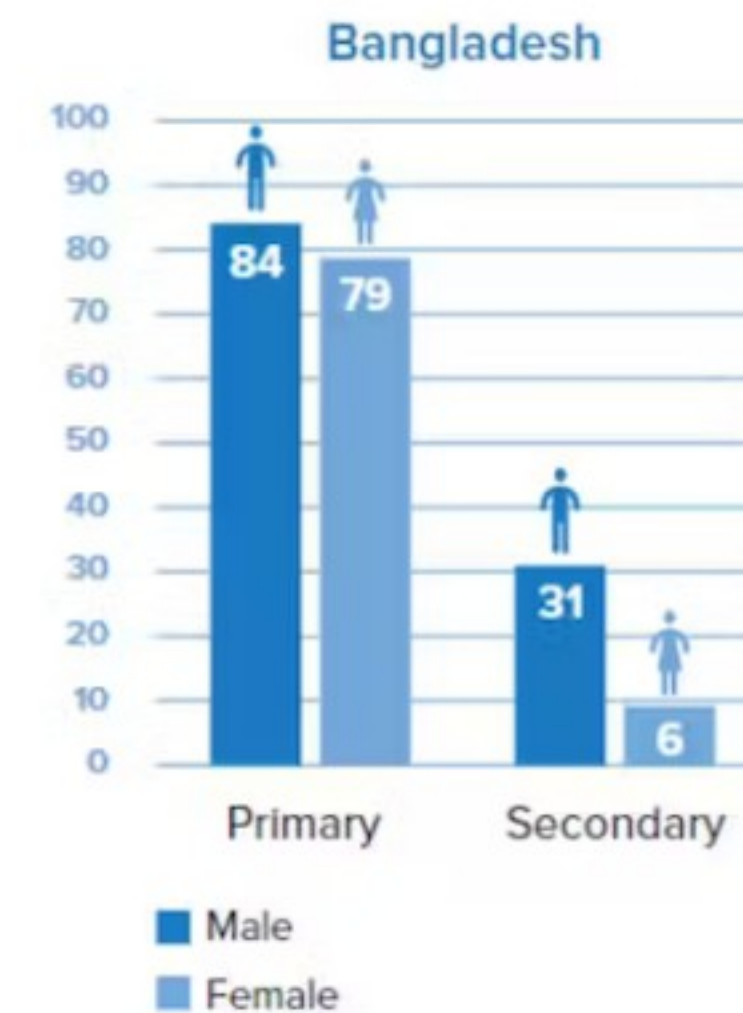
UNHCR Geneva

Being a refugee increases risk of child marriage

- 4 out of every 10 refugees globally are children
- Lack of legal status and civil documentation
- Displacement and insecurity
- Limited education opportunities
- Economic hardship
- Lack of access to national protection systems
- Additional complexities related to refugee status process and access to durable solutions



Access to education



Actions to prevent, mitigate the risk and respond to child marriage in refugee settings

- Strengthening inclusion of refugee children in national child protection systems
- Advocacy to align laws with International Standards
- Girls' engagement and empowerment
- Working with families and communities
- Services to ever married girls and those at risk of child marriage
- Collaborating with other sectors to tackle child marriage including education and livelihood



The Girl Shine Early Marriage Curriculum

Marian Rogers

International rescue Committee

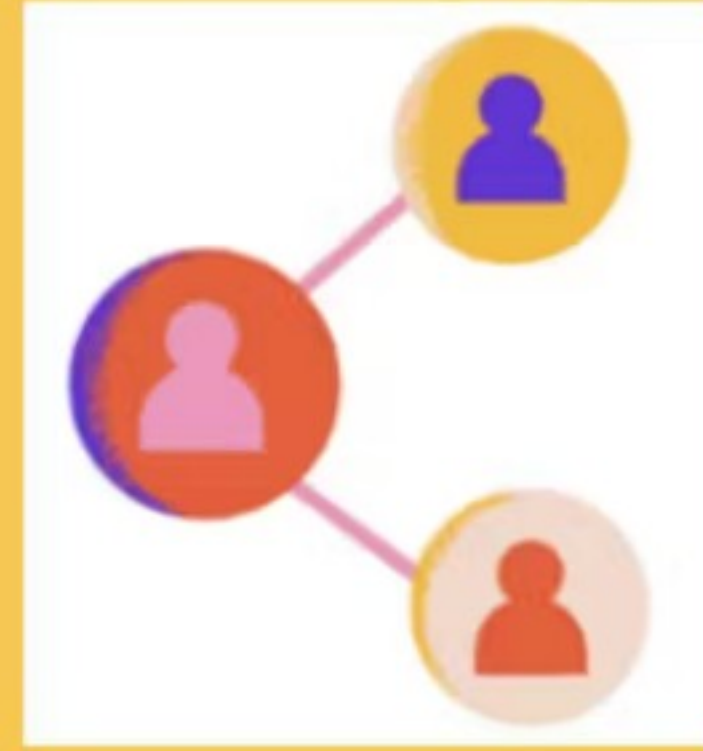
Girl Shine Framework for Early Marriage Response



Empower married girls with information, skills, and support networks



Mobilize families and the community to support married girls



Support married girls' access to services and opportunities



Leverage supportive laws and policies

Working with local partners on child marriage prevention

Lamia Qahtan

Save the Children

Q&A



Save the Children.



So, what can you do?

Understand the context and needs

Strengthen analysis gender analyses, HNOs, HRP and strategies to capture child marriage as a serious protection concern

Target ever married girls and young mothers

Don't only work on the prevention of child marriage. Make sure you adapt your programme for ever married girls and young mothers to access and benefit

Work with local actors

Link and strengthen the capacity of local actors, WLOs and girl-led groups who can continue to tackle child marriage across the triple nexus

Involve the community

Involve the community, including girls, in everything you do. They are the change makers and know how to influence their community

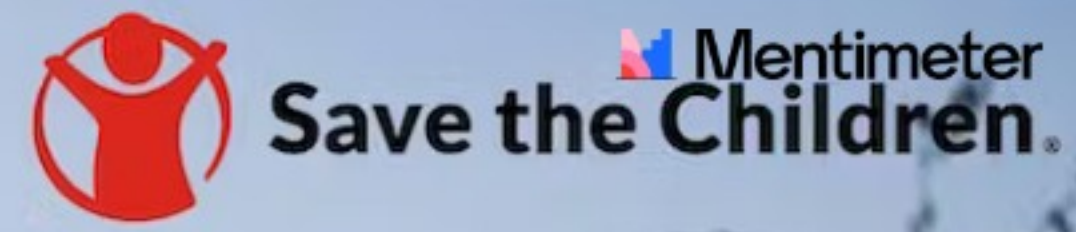
Document and share

Evaluate, document and share your work!!



Connect with us!





Contact us to learn more about our work!

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