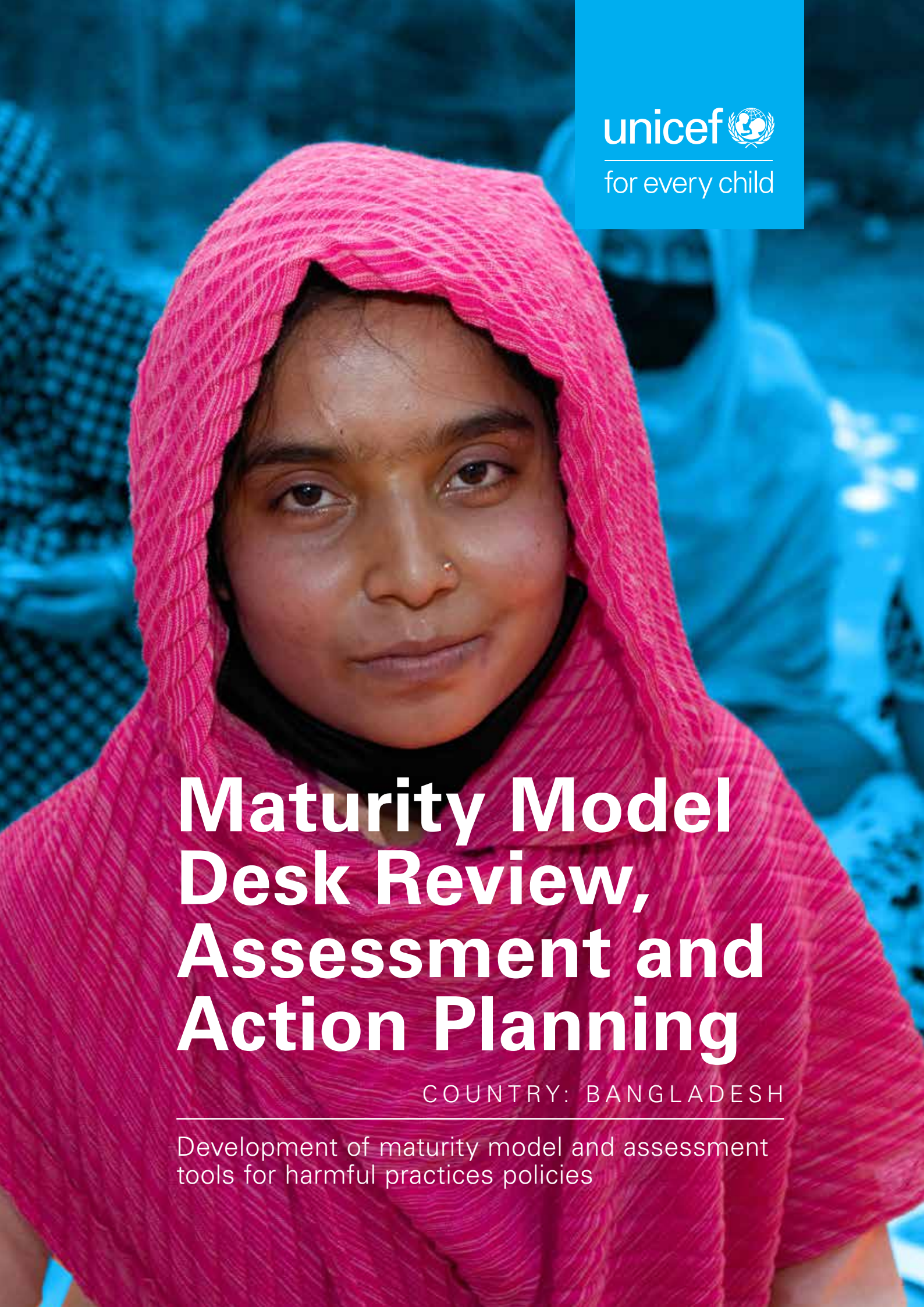

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# Maturity Model Desk Review, Assessment and Action Planning

COUNTRY: BANGLADESH

Development of maturity model and assessment tools for harmful practices policies

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# Acknowledgment

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For more information about the tool, please contact Joseph Mabirizi(jmabirizi@unicef.org)

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# List of acronyms

| | |
|---|---|
| CMRA | Child Marriage Restraint Act |
| CSO | Civil Society Organization |
| ECM | Ending Child Marriage |
| FGM | Female Genital Mutilation |
| GPECM | Global Programme to End Child Marriage |
| JPFGM | Joint Programme on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation |
| MICS | Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey |
| MOCA | Ministry of Cultural Affairs |
| NPA | National Plan of Action |
| SDG | Sustainable Development Goal |
| SOP | Standard Operating Procedure |
| UNFPA | United Nations Population Fund |
| UNICEF | United Nations Children's Fund |



# Contents

**List of acronyms** 2

**I. Background** 5

**II. Methodology** 7

**III. Key findings** 7

- Governance and coordination structures (Overall rating 2) 8
- Policy and legislative framework (Rating 1) 9
- Engagement and participation (Rating 2.3) 10
- Financing and human resources (Rating 1.7) 11
- Access to services (Rating 2.3) 12
- Data collection, monitoring and evaluation (Rating:1.7) 13

**IV. Prioritization of actions for Bangladesh** 14

**Appendix A: Desk review** 20

**Appendix B: Country data visualization Bangladesh** 30

# I. Background

Bangladesh is home to 38 million child brides, including currently married girls along with women who were first married in childhood. Of these, 13 million were married before the age of 15 years. Fifty-one per cent of young women aged 20– 24 years were first married before 18 years of age, and 15 per cent were married before 15 years of age. A girl's risk of child marriage is influenced by certain background characteristics including rural/urban geographical location, with 44 per cent of young women married before 18 years of age in urban areas compared to 54 per cent in urban areas. Child brides are more likely to live in poorer households and are less likely to have more than a secondary education.[1] The 2019 Bangladesh Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS)[2] indicates higher rates of child marriage for women aged 20–49 years, with 60 per cent married before 18 years of age, and 22.6 per cent married before 15 years of age.

Drivers of child marriage are rooted in gender-based violence and inequality, intergenerational cycles of poverty, lack of access to education, poor income-generating capacities, vulnerability due to climate change and natural disasters and limited access to resources for girls and women, especially a lack of their own income and financial planning skills. Distinctions also exist for factors such as differences in the rates of employment among young women, economic conditions of those who facilitate child marriage and economic pressures related to dowry payments. A further area of concern is the link between an ageing population and the occurrence of child marriage. Moreover, the influence of religion in the context of Bangladeshi society has also been highlighted as a key driver of child marriage in the country.[3]

## Purpose

This document aims to accelerate change to achieve the 2030 elimination of harmful practices Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A draft maturity model or framework for harmful practices policies with articulated benchmarks has been developed and populated for review and feedback from country-level stakeholders. The model aims to provide an integrated strategy on measuring processes, systems and services and information based on a Public Policy Management approach.[4] This framework is intended to complement and augment the Global Programme to End Child Marriage (GPECM) framework and the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation (JPFGM).

Based on the draft maturity model and assessment tools, rapid assessments were conducted in 12 countries[5] to measure the level of maturity of their processes, systems and services to eliminate harmful practices. Draft Action Plans were developed based on identified actions (short, medium and long term), to inform existing national action plans and advocacy strategies.

It is against this background that a desk review was conducted, the draft maturity model was completed and prototyped and the draft findings of this country-level report are shared. This reflects the inception stage of sensitizing country-level stakeholders on the potential utility of a comparable maturity model to accelerate action for change across 12 countries.

# II. Methodology

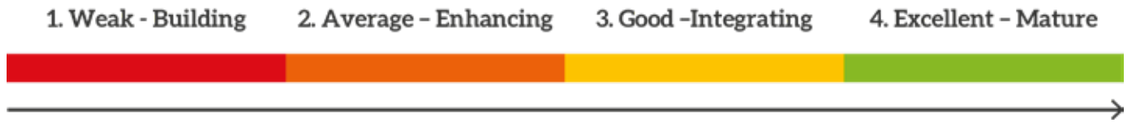
The desk review comprises core documents shared by the country including various documents such as laws, policies, strategies, guidance and standards, monitoring and evaluation reports which touch on the topic of harmful practices. Furthermore, competency frameworks from other countries are included to provide insight into the format, methodology and content of harmful practices frameworks that have been developed in other contexts. The findings of the review will be included in an Appendix to complement the findings of this desk review and will help to inform the strengths and gaps in harmful practices programming.

The desk review was completed by using several key questions or 'lenses' defined by the six operational/ functions areas and sub-domains of the draft maturity model on harmful practices. The questions posed to answer these goals include the following:

- 1. What is the effectiveness of government structures, including coordination across government departments, between centralization levels, and between formal and informal actors?
- 2. What is the effectiveness of the legal and regulatory framework, as well as specific policies related to prevention and elimination of harmful practices?
- 3. What is the extent to which key stakeholders, including children and women, are involved in planning interventions for the prevention and response to harmful practices?
- 4. What are the sources, adequacy and availability of funds and human resources to support elimination of harmful practices?
- 5. What is the availability and access to prevention and response services for women and children most-at-risk of harmful practices?
- 6. What is the effectiveness of data collection and monitoring and evaluation systems, whether it is being done nationally into the situation for children and women at risk of harmful practices, and into programmes addressing their needs?

# III. Key findings

The key findings of the desk review and draft completed maturity model are organized in terms of the questions we aimed to answer. Where information was limited, or gaps were identified, this is included under each question. Each Operational/functional areas (Intermediate outcome) comprises benchmarks or 'Sub-domains', so for example for the Intermediate outcome on 'Governance and coordination structures' there are three sub-domains – namely Political commitment, Coordination structures and National Action Plans. Each is rated in the maturity model between 1–4.



## Governance and coordination structures

**Measurement standard for mature rating:**

**The country has strong political commitment to eliminate harmful practices with high level declaration spelling out its commitments; there is a national multi-sectoral coordination structure in place with an institutionally mandated lead, which meets routinely, and there is a Plan of Action (NPA) with clearly defined targets aligned to national statistics frameworks.**

A1 Political commitment: There is government commitment in place for the elimination of harmful practices: a declaration was made and there is government commitment and an instrument of Government is in place (i.e. NPA) which brings together 24 ministries. However, implementation is not as speedy as wanted. There has been some reversal of gains with schooling closed for periods. The NPA is not costed with the result it is difficult to ascertain what is allocated for ending child marriage.

Youth, education, health ministries and the Ministry of Cultural Affairs (MOCA) have budget for girls' empowerment. The health budget is significant but not directly linked to ending child marriage.

A2 Coordination structures: There is a lead ministry in charge of harmful practices programmes, the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, but it is weak due to limited authority, human capacity and financial resources. There are Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in place for coordination at sub-national level, but these are not functional. There is a coordination meeting at district level, but the body is not fully capturing harmful practices issues.

A3 National Plan of Action: The National Action Plan to End Child Marriage 2018–2030 was formulated to consolidate the commitments and actions of the Government. The NPA aims to end the marriage of girls below the age of 15 years and to reduce by one third the rate of marriage for girls aged 15–18 years by 2021 and to eliminate child marriage by 2041. This action plan is implemented by the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs in collaboration with different Government and non-government organizations, development partners, citizen's groups and adolescents. There is a district-level child marriage action plan in place.

| Name of Country | Overall Score | Sub-Domains | Specific Score |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Governance & Coordination** | **2** | A1: Political commitment | **1,7** |
| | | A2: Coordination structures | **2** |
| | | A3: National Action Plans | **2,4** |



## Policy and legislative framework

**Measurement standard for mature rating:**

**There are enacted laws and policies which specifically protect women and girls, including the most-at-risk from harmful practices. These are operationalized through implementing mechanisms and enforcement measures at national and sub-national levels, and routine monitoring and review mechanisms are in place to ensure these laws are in line with international human rights standards.**

B1 Legislation, policies and implementation mechanisms for harmful practices: There are robust laws in place for the prevention of child marriage with penalties: The Child Marriage Restraint Act (CMRA) was enacted in 2017 and legislates for formation of Child Marriage Prevention Committees comprising of government officials, local people's representatives, non-government officials and respected people at local level and determine the functions of the committees. The Act highlights the general powers of certain Government officials to prevent child marriage, and importantly includes in section five an Injunction against child marriage and punishment for contravention of this injunction of a prison term or fine. Bangladesh adopted Rules to CMRA to operationalize the Act, and additionally has a National Plan of Action to End Child Marriage, and Women Development Policy.

The law sets the minimum marriage age at 18 years although there are special provisions for minor marriage. The Rules of the Child Marriage Restraint Act legislate for formation of a committee to end child marriage at the national and sub-national levels. There is a provision to support girls who protest child marriage.

According to the Constitution of Bangladesh 1972, the State will not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, class, caste, or place of birth. Women have equal rights with men in all areas of State and public life. On 5 April 2022 an Anti-Discrimination Bill 2022 was put before the Parliament of Bangladesh and was sent to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the respective ministry for further examination. The country also has the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act of 2000, which aims to address violence against women and children with more effective prosecution of perpetrators.

There is a hotline number, 109, led by the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs through which adolescent girls, children and women can submit complaints. However, this hotline number is not enough to address social and harmful norms. Bangladesh has acceded to the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of. Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) but with some reservations for the rights of women related to family affairs. Some Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have safeguarding policies in place to protect children during the reporting and handling of allegations, and the Children's Act of 2013 includes some safeguarding measures.

| Name of Country | Overall Score | Sub-Domains | Specific Score |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Policy and Legislation** | **1** | B1: Legislation, policies and implementation mechanisms for harmful practices | **1** |

## Engagement and participation

### Measurement standard for mature rating:

**There is an independent complaints mechanism that accepts complaints by or on behalf of women refused or receiving harmful practices services which replies within a stipulated timeframe; civil society are extensively engaged in strengthening political commitment, planning and budgeting processes, and monitoring and reporting around harmful practices; there are engagement forums for women, youth and children with Government support, and there are community-based protection mechanisms in place also engaging with women and children. The effectiveness of these mechanisms is monitored through fully functional accountability mechanisms.**

C1 Independent complaint mechanism: There is a dedicated hotline (1098) to report incidences of violence against children VAC and access services. There are some gaps in terms of linking local-level complaints to these two hotlines.

C2 Civil society engagement, including women and children: There are various forums which allow for the engagement of civil society organizations (CSOs), including women and children: UNICEF organized a national-level Symposium in October 2022 where engagement and participation was discussed. The National Committee to End Child Marriage also met in 2021. Women's rights groups were involved to support the enactment of the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act in 2010. These groups have raised concerns that there should be legislation to prevent sexual harassment but this has not yet been acted on. CSOs have also advocated for gender-responsive budgeting but this does not directly link with harmful practices planning and budgeting.

Overall, there is space for women's rights movement and CSOs, including such women's rights groups, and adolescent clubs, to raise their voices to ensure the realization of human rights. However, despite these there is the perception that the space for CSO engagement is shrinking.

C3 Community-based mechanisms for harmful practices prevention: Bangladesh has journalist guidelines in place to show respect for children and women when reporting and capturing news. There are community-based protection mechanisms available to support victims of harmful practices, including prevention and response but these are mostly led by CSOs. There are also women and children standing committees and community-based child protection committees, but these are not functional.

| Name of Country | Overall Score | Sub-Domains | Specific Score |
|---|---|---|---|
| Engagement and participation | 2,3 | C1: Independent complaint mechanism exists for children and women | 2 |
| | | C2: Civil society engagement, including women and children | 2,3 |
| | | C3: Community-based mechanisms for harmful practices prevention | 2 |





## Financing and human resources

### Measurement standard for mature rating:

**Adequate financial resources have been allocated by government and partners, with government meeting the majority of the costs; the funding is realized on time and is accessible to the relevant sectoral Ministry(s), with regular reviews of allocation taking place. Routine capacity-building is provided to key stakeholders with supportive supervision services on harmful practices and with significant sustained coverage.**

D1 Financing of harmful practices services: There are limited budgetary commitments for implementation of relevant programmes to address harmful practices: the focus to address harmful practices is mainly around keeping girls in schools and quality education. Ministries have budgets to facilitate this empowerment process. With the NPA not costed, it is difficult to know the allocation for ending child marriage. Various ministries such as youth, education, health, and Women and Children Affairs have budget for female empowerment. The health budget is significant but it is not directly linked to ending child marriage. Currently it is not possible to track annual costs or needs for this. There are a significant number of donor-funded projects focused on ending child marriage, keeping girls in school and ensuring sexual reproductive health rights, including issues related to harmful practices. UNICEF with development partners, for instance, is supporting the Child Hotline and some development partners are supporting crisis centres. Resources are allocated by development partners and implemented in partnership with the Government of Bangladesh, but there is no monitoring or tracking of results in the National Action Plan to End Child Marriage.

D2 National budget establishment: There are standard procedures in place for national budget allocation but, as harmful practices is a separate agenda item, it may not be prioritized. The budget for harmful practices contributes to national policy but this is not systematically developed or monitored in line with the policy outcome.

D3 National budget execution: Allocated budgets are sometimes delayed or cut.

D4 National budget amount: There are limited allocated funds – estimated to be around 30–40 per cent – for the elimination of harmful practices.

D5 National budget monitoring and review: Annual reviews take place for broader sectoral areas such as education and health but not specifically for issues related to harmful practices.

D6 Human resources: here are efforts to strengthen workforce training and education on harmful practices, with social workers strengthened in the provision of door-to-door services. The Government-led Multi-Sectoral Programme on Violence Against Women provides both preventive and response services. The scale of scope of these services is unclear in terms of meeting needs.

| Name of Country | Overall Score | Sub-Domains | Specific Score |
|---|---|---|---|
| Financing & HR | 1,7 | D1: Financing of harmful practices services | 1,8 |
| | | D2: National budget establishment | 1,8 |
| | | D3: National budget execution | 1,5 |
| | | D4: National budget amount | 2 |
| | | D5: National budget monitoring and review | 1,5 |
| | | D6: Human resources | 2,3 |

## Access to services

### Measurement standard for mature rating:

**There are clearly-defined and gender-responsive SOPs or protocols for the elimination of harmful practices, which are regularly reviewed and revised to adapt to emerging situations. There is an excellent awareness of harmful practices among policymakers, with Government-led and funded national-level scale-up prevention and response-related services including integrated case management and referral services, which are accessible at national and sub-national levels. These are user friendly and gender responsive.**

E1 Availability of Standard Operating Procedures and/or protocols for harmful practices services: There are SOPs/ protocols in place for implementing various interventions at national and sub-national levels. Recently a SOP was introduced on DNA testing under the Mobile Court Act to identify rape perpetrators and abolish the two-finger test and to ensure there are services to address harmful practices.

E2 Understanding and articulation of harmful practices system: There are formal awareness raising and education programmes to address harmful practices led by different ministries, such as the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, Police Department, Ministry of Education, and by CSOs and development partners. Coordination within sectoral ministries to ensure quality services is lacking.

E3 Modelling testing and scaling of harmful practices services: There are scale-up programmes provided by the Government, CSOs and development partners but their reach is not sufficient to meet needs. Government-led services are limited, with inadequate reach to support victims of violence. Shelter homes and legal assistance work well but are dependent on funding.

E4 Availability of harmful practices services, case management and referral systems: There are dedicated harmful practices services provided by the Government and CSOs but coverage is limited and largely funded by development partners and CSOs. The Government provides prevention and responsive services although the responsive services have limited coverage and face quality challenges. Case management SOPs have been established but implementation of these is weak or ad-hoc owing to (a) absence of commonly agreed referral protocols between social welfare and other sectors (education, health, law enforcement, justice etc.) and (b) absence of a formal and nationally/ sub-nationally adopted training and supervision system for case workers and supervisors. There are case management systems in place but they lack sensitive and skilled officers.
There are Community-based Child Protection Committees at the Union and Ward levels legislated by the Children's Act. Victim Support Centres run by the Police Department offer a combination of medical, legal and psychosocial counselling for violence survivors. One Stop Crisis Centre (OCC) run by the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs offers legal aid support and counselling for violence survivors. There are specialist courts (Juvenile Court/Family Court/Children's Court) for children in contact with the law but child-friendly and gender-responsive procedures are not operational.

| Name of Country | Overall Score | Sub-Domains | Specific Score |
|---|---|---|---|
| Access to Services | 2,3 | E1: Availability of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)and/or protocols for harmful practices services | 2 |
| | | E2: Understanding and articulation of harmful practices system | 2,5 |
| | | E3: Modelling testing and scaling of harmful practices services | 2 |
| | | E4: Availability of harmful practices services, case management and referral systems | 2,5 |



## Data collection, monitoring and evaluation

### Measurement standard for mature rating:

**There are administrative data systems as part of a broader national statistics system, which at regular intervals generates gender and age disaggregated data on harmful practices and includes information on hard-to-reach populations; data is regularly used for policy, planning and monitoring of programmes and there are data security and governance mechanisms, such as legislation, in place which ensure confidentiality. Harmful practices issues are routinely captured through population, longitudinal and/or cross-sectional surveys and inform design of prevention and response service interventions. There is also centralized coordination of the data by the national statistics offices with relevant ministries and agencies.**

F1 Administrative data systems and monitoring to routinely generate data on harmful practices: There are core administrative data systems for harmful practice at the national level, with national coverage but administrative data gathered by different sources are not based on a standard format/data collection tool. Training, resources, and capacity for those responsible for gathering data are limited and there is a lack of institutionalized quality assurance processes and procedures. Data on child protection are not consistently disaggregated by sex, age and other domains most relevant to the issue (e.g. types of care; types of violence). Additionally, data collection on gender-based violence and child marriage is irregular by Government department.

F2 Data security and governance: There is no legislation on data collection, transfer or sharing of data, usage of data, nor is there accountability in terms of the roles and responsibilities of relevant actors around the generation of data.

F3: Research and surveys: Harmful practice data are gathered through population-based surveys. The most recent is the 2019 MICS which includes information on child marriage.

| Name of Country | Overall Score | Sub-Domains | Specific Score |
|---|---|---|---|
| Data collection, monitoring and evaluation | 1,7 | F1: Administrative data systems and monitoring to routinely generate data on harmful practices | 2 |
| | | F2: Data security and governance | 1 |
| | | F3: Research and surveys | 2 |

## IV. Prioritization of actions for Bangladesh

### Governance & Coordination

#### A1 Political commitment.

Rating: 1.7

**Short Term (1-2 yrs)**

- Scale up implementation of the NPA, and to renew momentum and commitment generated by declaration of the instrument developed. Framework and costed plan to be developed as well as a shared understanding on accountability of various sectoral ministries.

**Medium Term (2-5 yrs)**

- Advocate around budget allocation for HP services. There is a monitoring plan and this needs to be implemented.

**Long Term (5+ yrs)**

- Ensure linked to SDG 2030 goals.

#### A2 Coordination structures.

Rating: 2

**Short Term (1-2 yrs)**

- Advocate for establishment of intra- and inter-sectoral coordination mechanism.
- Advocate for coordination mechanism to be established which addresses or is dedicated to addressing harmful practices.

#### A3 National Action Plans.

Rating: 2.4

**Short Term (1-2 yrs)**

- Advocate for Government to make it mandatory to formulate a District-level Action Plan to End Child Marriage and monitor on a regular basis.

**Medium Term (2-5 yrs)**

- Advocate for shared understanding among 24 ministries to allocate budget and track progress on the indicator to end child marriage.
- Review the report of short term goal of NAPECM that ended in 2021.
- To develop an operational plan for the Anti-Discrimination Bill.
- Amendment of CMRA withdrawing special provision (19)which allows marriage under 18 years.
- Ensure resources allocation and measure impact.
- Orient relevant stakeholders on harmful practices.

**Long Term (5+ yrs)**

- Allocate budget for 24 ministries with implications at the sub-national level.
- Link the progress with SDG 2030 for ending child marriage. Develop Action Plan for National Development Plan for Women.
- Analyse the data and take appropriate preventive and protective measure to tackle social norms and harmful practices.
- Voiding marriage under 18 years.
- Strengthen implementation and monitoring capacities.

### Policy and Legislation

#### B1 Legislation, policies and implementation mechanisms for harmful practices.

Rating: 1

**Short Term (1-2 yrs)**

- It is important to have costed plan and M&E framework for NPAECM. This will ensure allocated budgetary and human resource both at national and sub-national levels.
- During the review of the Anti-Discrimination Bill 2022 expert opinion is needed to consider making it more inclusive to align it with the SDG universal principle of 'Leave No One Behind'.
- There should be a mechanism to record and document and address harmful practice cases.
- More clarity required for Rule of CMRA about the special provision to allow marriage under 18 years, such as when to apply and by which authority.
- There is a need for greater engagement and involvement with the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Ministry of Social Welfare and Ministry of Home Affairs to act on child marriage within their own sectors.
- There should be a review of existing laws to identify the amendments needed.
- Advocate with development partners, CSOs and Government to formulate a national Safeguarding policy.

### Engagement and participation

#### C1 Independent complaint mechanism exists for children and women.

Rating: 2

-

#### C2 Civil society engagement, including women and children.

Rating: 2.3

**Short Term (1-2 yrs)**

- Support the Child Marriage Committee at the national and sub-national levels to be functional.
- CSOs and Women's Rights Groups can share an evidence-based report on the cost of harmful practices on girls' and women's lives and how it hampers them enjoying live in the country.
- Development partners and CSOs reach consensus on the importance of having gender-responsive budgeting.
- Government supported to establish multi-sectoral and inter-ministerial coordination among 24 ministries on the specific role of each ministry to end child marriage.
- Strengthen links between women's groups and Government.
- Support Government to develop a CSO stakeholders' engagement plan.

**Medium Term (2-5 yrs)**

- GOB should have a long-term plan on how to make those sustainable.

### C3 Community-based mechanisms for harmful practices prevention.

**Rating: 2**

**Short Term (1-2 yrs)**

- Capacity development for media houses to follow guidelines for gender-responsive reporting.
- Support Government to have long-term planning to activate coordination committees and provide capacity to have shared understanding on harmful practices and how to address these.

## Financing & HR

### D1 Financing of harmful practices services.

**Rating: 1.8**

**Short Term (1-2 yrs)**

- Cost the NPA to specify ECM costs.
- Advocacy for Government budgetary review and analysis and allocation of budget for ECM.
- Advocate for Government to allocate budget and develop a project that tackles harmful practices at both national and sub-national levels.
- Support mapping of key ministries in line with strategic pillars for NPA (social norms, laws and policies, strengthening systems) to ensure programmes across the strategic pillars.
- Facilitate joint partnerships with Government and development partners to allocate resources dedicated to implementation of the NPA.
- Develop a sustainability plan for the NPA focusing on programmatic and resource mobilization.
- Support a clear costing exercise to implement the NPA and show the funding gaps.

### D2 National budget establishment.

**Rating: 1.8**

**Short Term (1-2 yrs)**

- Prioritize the issue of harmful practices for the national budget to implement the NPA.
- Map relevant projects within ministries that contribute to addressing harmful practices in the existing budget. This task can be coordinated by the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs with the relevant 23 ministries mentioned by the NPA.
- Engage service providers for lessons learned and gaps.
- Allocate budget for capacity-building of service providers to ensure gender-responsive services.
- Advocate for a specific budget line on harmful practices linked to policy commitments.

**Medium Term (2-5 yrs)**

- Mid-Term Actions: GoB should come out from project-based approach mindset to tackle harmful practices.

### D3 National budget execution.

**Rating: 1.5**

**Short Term (1-2 yrs)**

- Ensure programme and budget monitoring takes place on a regular basis.
- Advocate for budget allocation.
- Review and simplify the budget allocation process.

### D4 National budget amount.

**Rating: 2**

**Short Term (1-2 yrs)**

- Advocate for increased funding from Government.

### D5 National budget monitoring and review.

**Rating: 1.5**

**Medium Term (2-5 yrs)**

- Cost the NAPECM and strengthen monitoring and evaluation systems.

### D6 Human resources.

**Rating: 2.3**

**Short Term (1-2 yrs)**

- Routinize capacity development for marriage registrar and social workers.
- Develop a systematic approach to provide capacity-building support.
- Introduce gender-based violence and survivor support mechanisms at all levels.
- Implement the High Court verdict on anti-sexual harassment at school and workplace.
- Activate and monitor the referral system.
- Training on specific modules on harmful practices should be provided linking the real-life cases experienced by officials of judiciaries.

## Access to Services

### E1 Availability of Standard Operating Procedures and/or protocols for harmful practices services.

**Rating: 2**

**Short Term (1-2 yrs)**

- SOPs need to be fully functioning in all sub-national districts.
- Service providers should receive the capacity to provide service in a more sensitive way.
- Strengthen regular monitoring to ensure quality of services.

### E2 Understanding and articulation of harmful practices system.

Rating: 2.5

**Short Term (1-2 yrs)**

- Increase reach across the country.
- There should be a harmonization of the message and materials for education programmes.
- Evaluate the impact of awareness programmes. Should use both online and offline media to reach maximum target audience.
- Social workers, teachers, and health workers should be skilled to deal with and refer cases of harmful practices.
- Advocate for a budget at national level to implement the existing system."

### E3 Modelling testing and scaling of harmful practices services.

Rating: 2

**Short Term (1-2 yrs)**

- Need to increase the scale and coverage of services with a long-term plan with the contribution of Government and donors.

### E4 Availability of harmful practices services, case management and referral systems.

Rating: 2.5

**Short Term (1-2 yrs)**

- Reach multi-sectoral consensus on a referral pathway.
- Provide capacity development on case management.
- Implementation of the Children's Act with a concrete National Plan of Action.
- Set up Juvenile Courts across the country's judicial system.
- Strengthen functionality of Legal Aid Services provisions for the most marginalized across the country.
- Strengthen support for out-of-school girls with skill development and education stipends for in-school girls who are at risk of child marriage.
- Ensure fully functional adolescent-friendly health services across the country with gender-responsive services.
- Ensure establishment of a service centre; and training and monitoring for gender-responsive services. Invest and ensure funding.

## Data collection, M&E

### F1 Administrative data systems and monitoring to routinely generate data on harmful practices.

Rating: 2

**Short Term (1-2 yrs)**

- Take the initiative to ensure administrative data is part of the national statistical system.

### F2 Data security and governance.

Rating: 1

**Short Term (1-2 yrs)**

- Develop data governance and security to ensure secure oversight and management.

### F3 Research and surveys.

Rating: 2

**Short Term (1-2 yrs)**

- Survey conducted at a specific point in time. However, it is important to do the research for the same people over time through repeated cross-sectional surveys (analyses from a new sample population).

# Appendix A: Desk review

## No. 1 Research Report

### Name of document:

Gender, Equity and Rights, Health Systems and Population Studies Division. 'Knowledge, attitudes, practices and norms (KAPN) related to violence against children and other harmful practices affected children and adolescents: Baseline Study findings',2022.

### Key findings, quotes or important information to note:

Aim: To conduct a mixed-method study to explore: (1) current knowledge, attitudes, practices and norms (KAPN) regarding child protection practices including violence against children and adolescents and other harmful practices; (2) underlying factors and drivers of VACA and other harmful practices, understand the changes in attitudes towards positive norms shift and identify the relevant factors and challenges to address SBCC issues, and to determine the effectiveness of an SBCC intervention in adopting positive practices and creating positive norms over the period. This report is presenting the baseline findings from this study.

### Summary of results/information relating to child marriage:

**Knowledge regarding key child protection practices**

- Overall, knowledge regarding the well-being and protection of children was quite low across the boy, girl and community samples. Thus, only 8 per cent of the girls, 4 per cent of the boys and 16 per cent of the community members could mention at least three essential family practices for adolescent well-being and protection. Only about 3 in 10 boys and girls and only half of the community sample could mention at least three benefits of abandoning harmful child disciplining practices.

- Only about one in each five girls and boys and two in each five community members reported knowledge of at least three adverse consequences of emotional violence against children. More girls (47 per cent) than boys (39 per cent) could report at least three adverse consequences of physical violence against children. Around 7 in every 10 community members had this knowledge.

- Overall, knowledge regarding legal age of marriage of girls in Bangladesh was high across samples – 83 per cent of girls, 75 per cent of boys and 88 per cent of community members had the correct knowledge. In contrast, only 21–35 per cent of them had correct knowledge regarding the legal age of marriage for boys. More girls than boys correctly knew both. Nine out of ten community members were familiar with the law regarding child marriage while only two-thirds of the girls and boys knew that there was a law to prevent child marriage.

## No. 2 Law

### Name of document:

Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, Republic of Banglade-sh. The Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017.

- There is a robust law in place to prevent child marriage.

- This Act repeals the previous Act of 1927.

- It legislates for formation of Child Marriage Prevention Committees comprising Government officials, local people's representatives, non-government officials and respectable persons at local level and determines the functions of the committees.

- The Act highlights the general powers of certain Government officials to prevent child marriage.

- Importantly, the Act includes in Section 5an injunction against a child marriage and punishment for contravention of this injunction of a prison term or fine.

- Section 7: Punishment for contracting a child marriage: If any adult, male or female, contracts a child marriage, it shall be an offence, and for this, he/she shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to two years, or with a fine.

- Section 8: Punishment for parent or others involved in a child marriage.

- Section 9: Punishment for solemnizing or conducting a child marriage.

- Section 11: Punishment of Marriage Registrar for registering a child marriage, cancellation of licence

## No. 3 PowerPoint

### Name of document:

Ministry of Finance, Government of India, 'Ending child marriage scoping analysis of budget allocations', PowerPoint presentation, 2016.

Reducing child marriage is one of the key National Priorities for Gender and Inequality outlined in the 7th Five Year Plan, with the target to reduce to 30 per cent the number of women married before 18 years of age, by the year 2020. Reform of the 1929 Child Marriage Restraint Act recently approved by Parliament introduces important changes. The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs has led the elaboration of Bangladesh's first National Action Plan to End Child Marriage.

**Aim:**
The scoping study aims to complete the first step towards a full baseline assessment of Government expenditures related to ending child marriage.

**Findings:**

- 1.15 per cent as proportion of total Government budget, period average (FY2010/11–2015/16).

- 1.01 per cent as proportion of total Government budget (FY2015/16).

## No. 4 Brochure

### Name of document:

United Nations Children's Fund, Ending Child Marriage: A profile of progress in Bangladesh, UNICEF, 2020, <https://data.unicef.org/resources/ending-child-marriage-a-profile-of-progress-in-bangladesh/>.

**Key facts:**

- Bangladesh is home to 38 million child brides, including currently married girls along with women who were first married in childhood. Of these, 13 million married before 15 years of age.

- Fifty-one per cent of young women in Bangladesh were married before their 18th birthday.

- A girl's risk of child marriage is influenced by certain background characteristics. Child brides are somewhat more likely to reside in rural areas and to live in poorer households and are less likely to have more than a secondary education.

- Married girls are more than four times more likely to be out of school than unmarried girls.

- Nearly 5 in 10 child brides gave birth before the age of 18 years, and 8 in 10 gave birth before the age of 20 years.

- Meeting the SDG target to end child marriage by 2030, or the national target to end child marriage by 2041, will require a major push. Progress must be at least eight times faster than the rate observed over the past decade to meet the national target, or 17 times faster to meet the SDG target

## No. 5 National Action Plan

### Name of document:

Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Government of Bangladesh, National Action Plan to End Child Marriage 2018–2030, Government of Bangladesh, 2018.

The National Action Plan to End Child Marriage 2018–2030 was formulated to consolidate the commitments and actions of the Government.

**Goal:**
To end the marriage of girls below the age of 15 years; to reduce by one third the rate of marriage for girls aged between 15 and 18 years by 2021 and to eliminate child marriage by 2041.

**Background:**
Development of girls was given the highest priority in the Girl Summit held in London on 22 July 2014. Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is committed to the above goals. The Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017 was enacted and the Child Marriage Restraint Act 1929 repealed as a result.

To ensure the development of women and children in Bangladesh, the National Women Development Policy 2011, National Children Policy 2011, Children Act 2013, and Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017 were formulated.

This action plan is implemented by the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs in collaboration with different Government and non-government organizations, development partners, citizen's groups, and adolescents.

**Content of the strategy:**

- Implementation strategy,.

- The causes and consequences of child marriage,

- Legal framework and international commitments,

- Initiatives to prevent child marriage,

- The main principles and goals and objectives of the NPA.

- It also includes a monitoring and evaluation action plan, as well as a funding action plan, and an explanation of coordination mechanisms.





## No. 6 Evaluation Research

### Name of document:

United Nations Children's Fund, 'Evaluation of UNICEF's work for accelerating actions towards ending child marriage in Bangladesh', UNICEF, 2021.

**Background:**
The practice of child marriage has been a critical area of focus for Bangladesh. Currently, it is ranked at 134 out of 175 countries on the End of Childhood Index 2020 and has the fourth highest rate of child marriage in the world after African countries of the Niger, the Central African Republic, and Chad. Statistics from the MICS 2019 show that 19.8 per cent of women aged 15–49 years were married before turning 15 years of age, and 60 per cent of those aged 20–49 years were married before the age of 18 years.

Drivers of child marriage are complex, diverse, interlinked and, at times, context specific. Gender and social norms interact with several socioeconomic factors to place a girl child at risk of marriage.

The key drivers of this practice are rooted in gender-based violence and inequality; intergenerational cycles of poverty; lack of access to education; poor income-generating capacity;, vulnerability caused by climate change and natural disasters and limited access to resources for girls and women, especially a lack of their own income and financial planning skills. Additional factors include differences in the rates of employment among young women; the economic conditions of those who facilitate child marriage and economic pressures related to dowry payments. A further area of concern is the link between an ageing population and the occurrence of child marriage. Moreover, the influence of religion in Bangladesh has also been highlighted as a key driver of child marriage in the country.

**Purpose:**
The overall objective of the evaluation was to assess the progress made by the Bangladesh Country Office (BCO) towards achieving the results of its programmes to end child marriage.

**Summary findings:**

- Ending child marriage is a priority for both the Government of Bangladesh and its development partners.

- The BCO has made an adequate impact on reduction in number of child marriages. The evaluation finds that the predominant focus of interventions was on adolescent empowerment through Adolescent Clubs, and community mobilization.

- With regards to cost-effectiveness, it was seen that most of the available funds were allocated to education and child protection interventions aimed at reducing child marriages.

- BCO's interventions promoted sustainability through various good practices and strategies, including advocacy, institutionalization, strengthening systems, developing capacities and mobilizing complementary funding. However, there is scope for enhanced advocacy and engagement to sustain gains in social norm change and redress harmful behaviours.

**Summary recommedations:**

- UNICEF should work towards providing social protection to vulnerable children and their families for overall poverty reduction.

- Vulnerability mapping needs to be more nuanced and evidence based where factors other than incidence of child marriage should also be considered.

- UNICEF should limit the number of interventions it carries out to address the issue of ECM.

- There is a need for greater engagement and involvement with the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Ministry of Social Welfare and Ministry of Home Affairs to act on child marriage within their own sectors.

- There is a need for a more robust and user-friendly surveillance system and research to analyse the impact of interventions and to collate information related to an area effectively.

- UNICEF should limit its intervention in skill development programmes to extending technical support to identify vulnerable adolescents and develop soft skills.

- Capacity development of officials at the district and upazilla levels would be a key factor to the success of the ECM programme.

## No. 7 Assessment report

### Name of document:

Global Programme to End Child Marriage, 'Joint Assessment of Adaptations to the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage in light of COVID-19', GPECM, 2021, <www.unicef.org/media/111236/file/Child-marriage-COVID-19-assessment.pdf>.

The assessment was conducted from April 2021 to July 2021 and included all 12 programme countries and all implementation levels (global, regional, national and community). The assessment identified and analysed the Global Programme response, mitigation and protection measures adopted during the COVID-19 pandemic and considered the extent to which interventions were continued as planned, adjusted, or postponed. Opportunities and challenges related to programme adjustments to the COVID-19 situation were taken into consideration in the analysis and recommendations. The assessment questions were organized around three criteria: relevance, effectiveness and coherence.

**Executive Summary findings include:**

- Relevance: COVID-19 has reconfirmed the validity of the Phase II Theory of Change (ToC); there were no newly identified needs that were outside the scope of the global ToC, the drivers of child marriage were still relevant, although some of them had gained relevance.

- Effectiveness: Most country offices endeavoured to maintain contact with the adolescent girls targeted under the Global Programme through digital platforms or mass media and through community-based partners, committees, volunteers and networks. However, the adoption of virtual technologies raised concerns regarding the quality of these approaches and their ability to influence adolescent girls' agency or gender and social norms. Several learnings from the adjustments to the pandemic have the potential to shape future programming. This includes: i) the use of virtual methods with beneficiaries, allowing larger reach (with some caveats); ii) the need for multi-pronged approaches in programmes aimed at changing in-gender norms or developing skills; and iii) flexibility in adjusting programming and in reallocating budgets.

- Coherence: Overall, the process of adjusting the Global Programme to COVID-19 restrictions was coherent both internally within agencies, and externally between agencies.

**Key recommendations include:**

- The Global Programme should advocate with governments to continue developing aligned multi-sectoral policies, legal instruments and budgeted strategies contributing to ending child marriage, with a focus on addressing the various drivers of child marriage at national, sub-national and local levels, and to seek improved harmonization between sectors.

- The Global Programme should reinforce its efforts to reach the most vulnerable and marginalized adolescent girls, boys and their families through policy advocacy and programming targeting them specifically.

- The Global Programme should continue to develop complementary multi-channel approaches to reach target populations based on country specificities and context.

- The Global Programme should continue advocacy and systems-strengthening with governments with a view to maintaining access to essential services for adolescent girls and boys in contexts of heightened vulnerability, including in humanitarian crises.

- The Global Programme should articulate further its strategy to leverage social cash transfer programmes and other forms of income-generation opportunities for adolescent girls and their families, since these are a key tool to prevent child marriage.

- While the Theory of Change remains valid, the Global Programme should adjust its results framework and indicators, as well as further support country offices for monitoring, data generation and analysis, in order to reinforce evidence-based programming.

## No. 8 Evaluation

### Name of document:

United Nations Population Fund-United Nations Children's Fund, 'Joint Evaluation of the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation: Accelerating change Phase III', UNFPA-UNICEF, 2021. <www.unfpa.org/joint-evaluation-unfpa-unicef-joint-programme-abandonment-female-genital-mutilation-accelerating>.

The Joint Evaluation assesses the Programme contributions to outputs and outcomes during Phase III of the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation 2018–2021 (the Joint Programme). It supports evidence-based decision-making and informs programming beyond 2021, including the strategic direction, gaps and opportunities for the Joint Programme in addressing gender and social norm change.

**Key conclusions include:**

- The Joint Programme continues to be a strategic and relevant response by UNFPA and UNICEF to the global issue of FGM implementing across 17 countries.

- Phase III design appropriately recognized the importance of positioning FGM on the political agenda of regional entities and supporting accountability systems as it does engaging with the African Union.

- There has been progress in the development of both costed national action plans and monitoring functions, although lower than planned. The Joint Programme has appropriately recognized the need for dedicated budgets and has advocated as such.

**Key recommendations include:**

- Continue to strengthen global policy and advocacy strategies.

- Strategically strengthen and support implementation of accountability systems. The Joint Programme should also advocate for fully funded national legal and policy frameworks.

- In countries where national governments are tackling complex situations around FGM, the Joint Programme should continue to build on its achievements to date.

- Strengthen links with other streams of work towards enhanced access to quality services for FGM prevention, protection and care.

- Accelerate use of the ACT Framework to generate data on social norm change.

- Build the post-Phase III Joint Programme to be gender transformative.

- Continue considered use of public declarations of abandonment as an indicator.

- Incorporate a humanitarian approach within the post-Phase III Joint Programme design.

## No. 9 Evaluation Report

### Name of document:

United Nations Population Fund-United Nations Children's Fund, 'UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage: Joint evaluation', UNFPA-UNICEF, New York, May 2019, <www.unicef.org/sites/default/files/2019-06/GP-2019-Evaluation.pdf>.

The report presents the findings of the evaluation of the first phase of the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage (GPECM). The programme is jointly managed by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The programme is implemented in 12 countries in 4 regions with multiple partners and stakeholders at the national, regional and global levels.

**Key findings and conclusions include:**

- The programme is well aligned to global and regional frameworks and commitments to end child marriage.
- The application of the GPECM has been responsive to local contexts and has been adapted in each country, although only a few countries have formally adopted the Theory of Change.
- The widespread acknowledgment that child marriage impinges on children's rights and welfare provides a strong foundation and rationale for the ending child marriage agenda.
- Despite efforts to target high prevalence areas and reach the most vulnerable, in many instances interventions have not yet reached the most remote areas, including many of those that are furthest behind.
- Outcome 1 – The GPECM is increasingly able to reach adolescent girls with activities under Output 1.1, having reached nearly 5.5 million girls by mid-2018, far exceeding the programme's objective to reach 2.5 million girls by the end of 2019.
- Outcome 2 – Country offices have significantly expanded community outreach (Output 2.1) and the GPECM shows signs of scaling up, reaching approximately 11.5 million individuals with information related to ending child marriage in the first half of 2018, significantly more than in 2016 and 2017 combined.
- Outcome 3 – Country offices have increased targets for girls' access to health and protection services every year of the GPECM and have collectively exceeded targets each year.
- Outcome 4 – UNFPA and UNICEF have worked collaboratively at the highest levels to support governments to develop and implement national/state action plans to end child marriage.
- Outcome 5 – GPECM investments in research and data have contributed to building a stronger evidence base on child marriage, although tracking has not offered an indication of data quality and usability to date.

**Key recommendations include:**

- Prioritize normative leadership.
- Expand framework for country contextualization (Theory of Change).
- Consolidate and strengthen the evidence-based knowledge management.
- Define and monitor jointness, convergence and complementarity.
- Strengthen and contextualize monitoring and reporting systems.
- Invest in human resources.
- Strengthen the programme.
- Find funds.

## No. 10 Annual report

### Name of document:

United Nations Population Fund-United Nations Children's United Nations Population Fund-United Nations Children's Fund, Global Programme to End Child Marriage (annual report 2021), UNFPA-UNICEF, 2021.

Includes an update on the programme status reflecting on the country context; three significant achievements in 2021; any changes to the country's programme strategy and components, and includes a section on innovative approaches. Also identifies partnerships and Joint UNFPA-UNICEF work and a reflection on how key principles are being applied – such as a human rights approach, 'Leave No one Behind' and gender transformative approaches. The document also highlights key programme challenges and support needed before going into detail by Outcome and Output level on specific achievement of results.

Programme performance is measured around the Global Partnership Output and Outcome performance metrics based on the immediate outcome categories in the results framework.

**Immediate outcomes include:**

- Empowerment of adolescent girls: Enhanced knowledge, education and life skills, and attitudes of marginalized adolescent girls on matters such as their rights, relationships, sexual and reproductive health and financial literacy, including in humanitarian contexts.
- Community engagement and transformation: Adolescent boys, families, traditional and religious leaders, community groups and other influencers demonstrate more gender-equitable attitudes and support for girls' rights.
- Strengthening systems: Increased capacity of education, health, child protection and gender-based violence systems to deliver coordinated, quality programmes and services that meet the needs of adolescent girls and their families, including in humanitarian contexts.
- Social protection and partnerships: Increased capacity of national and sub-national social protection, poverty reduction and economic empowerment programmes and services to respond to the needs of the poorest adolescent girls and their families, including in humanitarian contexts.
- Policies and legislation: Enhanced capacity of governments to fund, coordinate and implement national and sub-national action plans and systems to end child marriage
- Data and evidence generation and use: Increased capacity of governments and non-government organizations to generate, disseminate and use quality and timely evidence to inform policy and programme design, track progress and document lessons.
- Programme effectiveness and efficiency.

## No. 11 Benchmarking Child Protection Systems Strengthening Assessment Tool

### Name of document:

United Nations Children's Fund, 'Child Protection Systems Strengthening: Approaches, benchmarks and interventions', UNICEF, 2021, <www.unicef.org/documents/child-protection-systems-strengthening>.

The Child Protection Systems Strengthening Maturity Model developed by UNICEF elaborates priorities, processes and results to be achieved in each phase of child protection systems strengthening and provides comprehensive benchmarks to effectively manage investments and results in systems strengthening.[6] The benchmarks are defined by the Intermediate Outcomes, and defined by benchmarks or sub-domains. This tool was developed and later completed by 155 UNICEF country offices, including Bangladesh, in December 2021. This serves to measure the level of maturity, or benchmark the status of child protection systems strengthening. UNICEF has developed detailed and summary guides on the benchmarking tool, which will be adapted for the Bangladeshi context.

This tool will be used as the primary framework to benchmark the level of maturity of the Bangladeshi Child Protection System, with an addition added to identify priority actions needed to improve the ratings or level of maturity.

**The intermediate outcomes identified in the tool include:**

- Legal and policy framework.
- Governance and coordination structures.
- A continuum of services.
- Minimum standards and oversight mechanisms.
- Human, financial and infrastructure resources.
- Mechanisms for child participation and community engagement.
- Data collection and monitoring systems.

## No. 12 Global Policy Document

### Name of document:

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, 'Building Blocks for Policy Coherence for Development', OECD, 2009, www.oecd.org/gov/pcsd/44704030.pdf.

To meet the challenge of building strong child protection systems while building a global partnership for development, governments need to ensure that their policies are supportive or, at a minimum, do not undermine their development policies. In other words, there needs to be policy coherence for development (PCD). This aims to exploit positive synergies and spillovers across public policies to foster development – "it entails the systematic application of mutually reinforcing policies and integration of development concerns across government departments to achieve development goals along with national policy objectives".[7]

Progress towards policy coherence is understood as a three-phase cycle, with each phase of the cycle supported by one of three building blocks. The PCD approach requires that all three building blocks are in place with sufficient weight given to each phase of the policy coherence cycle. These include three Phases: i) Setting and prioritizing objectives; ii) Coordinating policy and its implementation, and iii) Monitoring, analysis and reporting.

These three phases are also known as critical building blocks and there are nine lessons derived across the three phases of the cycle above to promote PCD.

## No. 13 Survey

### Name of document:

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics-United Nations Children's Fund, 'Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2019', Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh-UNICEF, December 2019, www.unicef.org/bangladesh/media/3281/file/Bangladesh%202019%20MICS%20Report_English.pdf.

Marriage before the age of 18 is violation of human rights, yet remains a reality for many children. The right to 'free and full' consent to a marriage is recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights – with the recognition that consent cannot be 'free and full' when one of the parties involved is not sufficiently mature to make an informed decision about a life partner. In the SDGs, child marriage has been identified as a harmful practice which the world should aim to eliminate by 2030.

**Key statistics:**

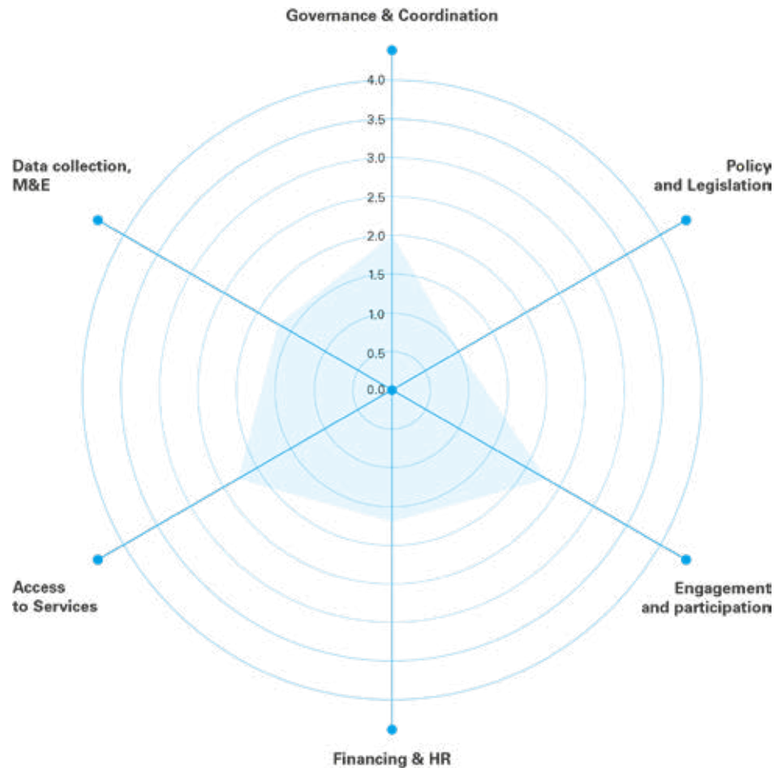
- Women aged 20–49 years married before the age of 18 years: 60 per cent.
- Women aged 20–49 years married before the age of 15 years: 22.6 per cent.

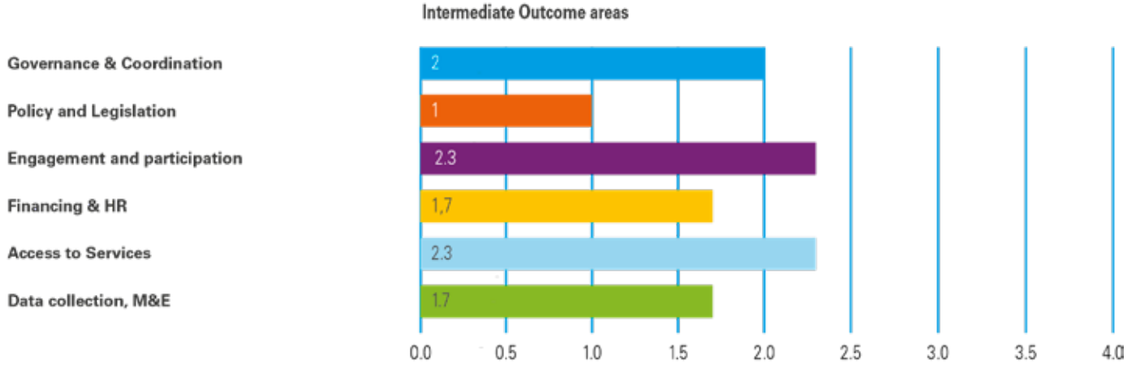
The document also includes child marriage by wealth index, ethnicity, functional difficulties and education.

## Appendix B: Country data visualization Bangladesh

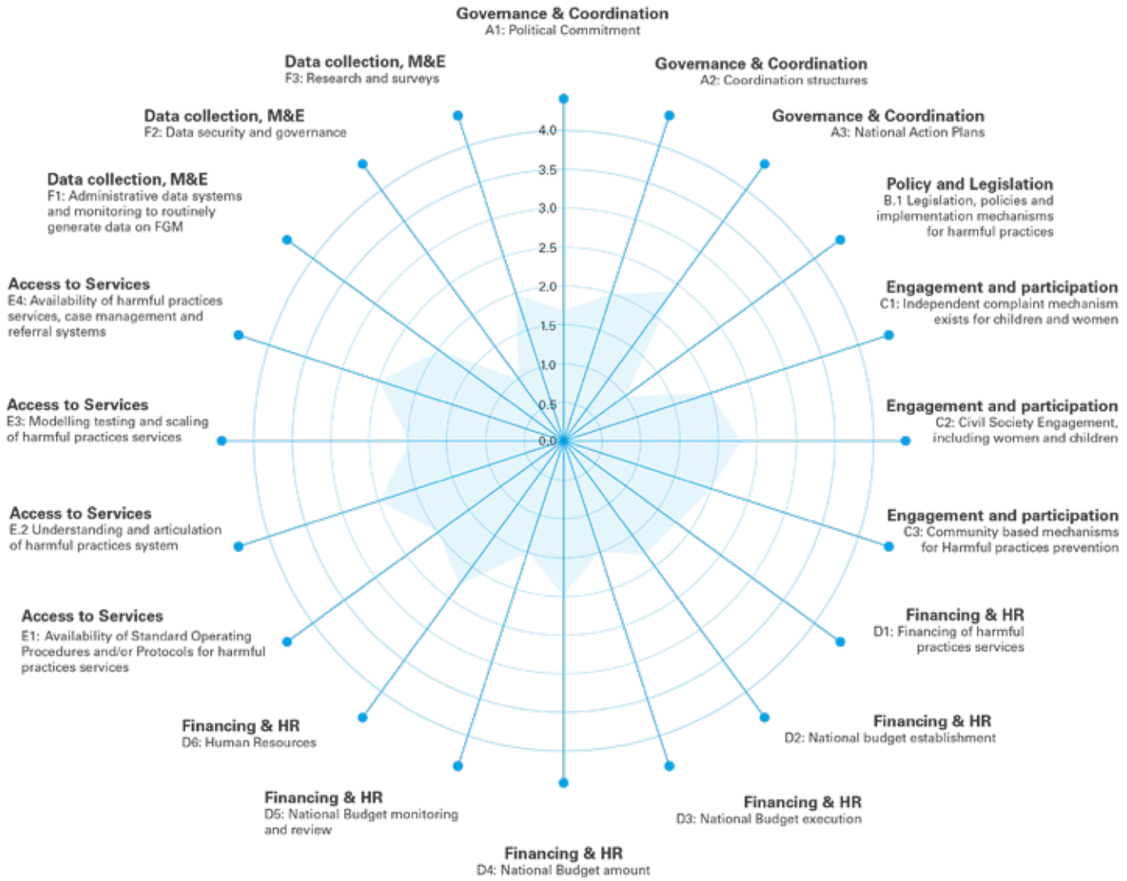
| Name of Country | Overall Score | Sub-Domains | Specific Score |
|---|---|---|---|
| Governance & Coordination | 2 | A1: Political commitment | 1,7 |
| | | A2: Coordination structures | 2 |
| | | A3: National Action Plans | 2,4 |
| Policy and Legislation | 1 | B1: Legislation, policies and implementation mechanisms for harmful practices | 1 |
| Engagement and participation | 2,3 | C1: Independent complaint mechanism exists for children and women | 2 |
| | | C2: Civil society engagement, including women and children | 2,3 |
| | | C3: Community-based mechanisms for harmful practices prevention | 2 |
| Financing & HR | 1,7 | D1: Financing of harmful practices services | 1,8 |
| | | D2: National budget establishment | 1,8 |
| | | D3: National budget execution | 1,5 |
| | | D4: National budget amount | 2 |
| | | D5: National budget monitoring and review | 1,5 |
| | | D6: Human resources | 2,3 |
| Access to Services | 2,3 | E1: Availability of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)and/or protocols for harmful practices services | 2 |
| | | E2: Understanding and articulation of harmful practices system | 2,5 |
| | | E3: Modelling testing and scaling of harmful practices services | 2 |
| | | E4: Availability of harmful practices services, case management and referral systems | 2,5 |
| Data collection, monitoring and evaluation | 1,7 | F1: Administrative data systems and monitoring to routinely generate data on harmful practices | 2 |
| | | F2: Data security and governance | 1 |
| | | F3: Research and surveys | 2 |

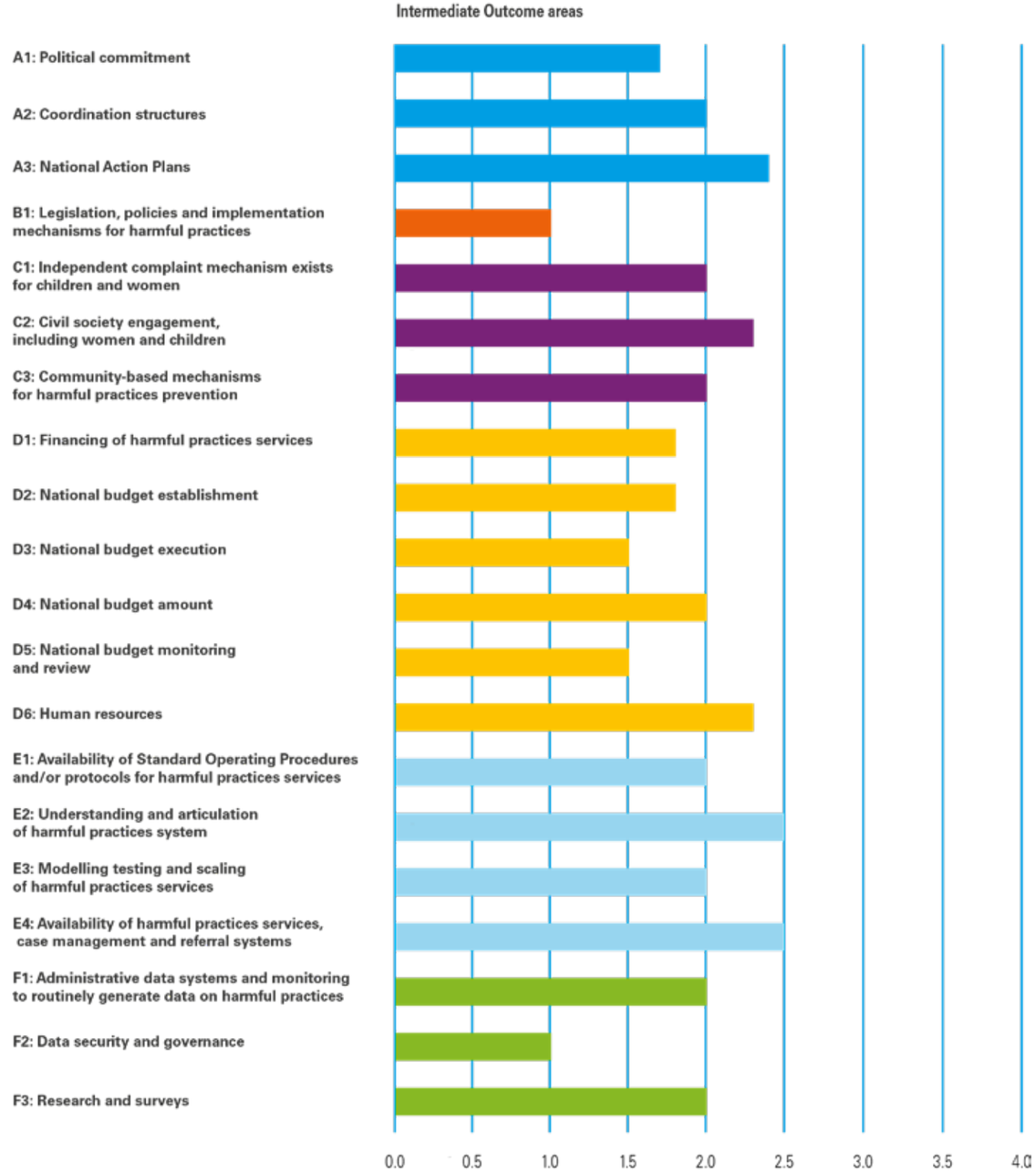
## Intermediate Outcomes Summary



## Sub-Domains Summary



# Endnotes

1 United Nations Children's Fund, Ending Child Marriage: A profile of progress in Bangladesh, <https://data.unicef.org/resources/ending-child-marriage-a-profile-of-progress-in-bangladesh/>.

2 Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics-UNICEF, 'Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2019', 2019, www.unicef.org/bangladesh/media/3281/file/Bangladesh%202019%20MICS%20Report_English.pdf.

3 United Nations Children's Fund, 'Evaluation of UNICEF's work for accelerating actions towards ending child marriage in Bangladesh', 2021

4 The PPM approach formulates and influences public policy through a public policy process or 'the policy cycle' consisting of five major stages – namely agenda setting; formulating and legitimation of goals and programmes; programme implementation, evaluation and implementation, decision about the future of the policy and programme. Source: RIPLEY, Randall B., (1985), 'Stages of the policy process'. In: McCool, Daniel, C., Public Policy Theories, Models, and Concepts: an anthology, Prentice Hall 1995, <https://perguntasaopo.files.wordpress.com/2012/02/rypley_19851995_stages-of-the-policy-process.pdf>

5 These include Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Lebanon, Mozambique, Nepal, the Niger, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zambia.

6 United Nations Children's Fund, 'Child Protection Systems Strengthening: Approaches, benchmarks and interventions', 2021. Retrieved from: www.unicef.org/documents/child-protection-systems-strengthening.

7 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, 'Policy Framework for Policy Coherence for Development', OECD, 2012. Working paper 1.

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# Maturity Model Desk Review, Assessment and Action Planning

COUNTRY: BANGLADESH

Development of maturity model and assessment tools for harmful practices policies

Belgium partner in development · Canada · Norad · UKaid · Co-funded by the European Union · ZONTA INTERNATIONAL · UNFPA · unicef for every child