

ENGAGE



Child, early and forced marriage is a global issue. It is fuelled by gender inequality, poverty, lack of awareness, insecurity and social norms. The harmful practice has devastating consequences all over the world with around 21% of young women married before their 18th birthday. This amounts to around 12 million girls each year. Child marriage deprives children of exercising their rights enshrined under international law, including:

EDUCATION

Child marriage often means the end of education for girls, denying their opportunity for personal development, preparation for adulthood, and their ability to contribute to the family and community.

SAFETY AND PROTECTION

Girls are subject to violence including marital rape. Girls married before 18 are more likely to report being beaten by their husbands and forced to have sex than girls who marry later.

HEALTH

Complications arise with married girls often under pressure to become pregnant immediately or soon after marriage, resulting in major risk to the mother and baby. In many cases girls are powerless to refuse sex and are also vulnerable to risk of HIV.

PSYCHO-SOCIAL HEALTH

Unwanted separation from family and friends results in social isolation. Opportunities are limited for girls to develop and realise goals.



POSITIVE
CONSEQUENCES
OF DELAYING
MARRIAGE

Delaying marriage until after the age of 18 has significant positive effects, for the girl, her family and community. This includes economic benefits, increased physical and emotional wellbeing, greater opportunity to fulfil aspirations, opportunity to develop managerial and leadership capacities and ability to contribute to the wellbeing of the family and society.

ENGAGE
OVERVIEW

Norwegian Church Aid has designed a holistic resource to prevent and respond to child marriage within existing Gender Based Violence programs, focusing on humanitarian settings. **ENGAGE** is grounded in a Theory of Change developed from a literature review of existing evidence-based interventions and consultation with stakeholders including adolescent girls. The toolkit includes:

1 An Implementation Guide

Explicit instructions for how to implement the **ENGAGE** program including assessment, planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation.

2 The Curricula

Prevention and response activities targeted at specific community members in order to change harmful social norms plus support girls experiencing or are at risk of experiencing CEFM.

3 A Training Package

Tools to support the initial training and ongoing capacity building of staff responsible for implementing the **ENGAGE** program.



ENGAGE aims to empower and provide additional support to adolescent girls, mobilise families and communities, whilst improving the capacity of frontline workers. Three evidence-based strategies designed to prevent and respond to CEFM include:

PREVENTION/
COMMUNITY
OUTREACH

The main goal of the community outreach activities included in **ENGAGE** is to prevent child marriage from happening in the future. The activities seek to achieve this goal by changing the social norms that enable child marriage to occur.

This strategy consists of a range of community outreach activities targeting **male and female caregivers, teachers, religious leaders and community members**. Social norms have been shown to be a powerful predictor of people's choices and actions. CEFM is not always a social norm itself, however it is enabled by social norms that uphold gender inequality and narrow ideas about how men and women should behave and what role they play in society. Community outreach activities that seek to change social norms must work with those who are most influential in dictating social norms, such as community and religious leaders, and include deliberate strategies to 'diffuse' norm change from participants to the broader community. The community outreach component of ENGAGE consists of sessions and workshops that will be delivered by trained community outreach facilitators according to a phased plan. There are 5 tools including:



RESPONSE/
SERVICE
DELIVERY

The main goal of the service delivery activities included in **ENGAGE** is to prevent, mitigate and respond to child marriage and minimise the harm caused to women and girls who have experienced it or are at risk of experiencing it. Service delivery activities seek to improve the information and services available to adolescent girls with the aim of supporting their empowerment and improving their psychosocial wellbeing. In order to be effective, services must be delivered in an environment that is psychologically safe for adolescent girls and tailored to the unique and specific needs of different target groups.

The first phase of the “stepped care approach” aims to provide adolescent girls who are at imminent risk, already married, widowed, and divorced life skills training in order to build assets, create awareness and promote positive coping mechanisms. Life skills for adolescent boys are also facilitated, seeking to shift attitudes and behaviour while encouraging gender equality. Following this, adolescent girls that are identified to need further psychosocial support are referred to focused care sessions. Case management services and referrals to specialised services for girls who are seeking additional support are available throughout this process. There are 3 tools including:

ADOLESCENT GIRLS
LIFE SKILLS

ADOLESCENT
BOYS LIFE SKILLS

ADOLESCENT
GIRLS FOCUSED
CARE SESSIONS

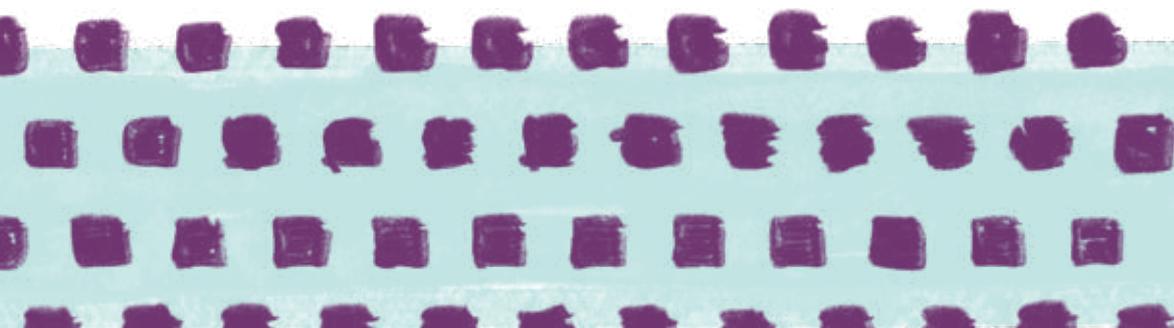
CAPACITY
BUILDING

The main goal of the capacity building component of **ENGAGE** is to increase the skills, knowledge and confidence of staff and partners to prevent and respond to child marriage in humanitarian settings. The capacity building component consists of two main activities: an initial training for facilitators and the ongoing provision of coaching, supervision and peer support. There are three tools to support the initial training for facilitators including:

FACILITATORS
GUIDE

POWERPOINT
SLIDES

PARTICIPANT'S
WORKBOOK



NCA would like to thank the Technical Advisory Group who have devoted their time and expertise to input their specialised knowledge and guidance: Anne Sprinkel (Care), Sadhvi Kalra (Care), Catherine Poulton (UNICEF), Clare Lofthouse (PLAN), Meghan O Connor (IRC), Mehreen Jaswal (IRC) and Katherine Gambir (WRC).

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CONTACT

For further information including support establishing the **ENGAGE** program, please contact Emily Seaman, Norwegian Church Aid CEFM Specialist at emily.seaman@nca.no

