Girls not Brides Bangladesh report on child early, and forced marriage

**About**

***Girls Not Brides****: The Global Partnership to End Child Marriage* (‘*Girls Not Brides’*) is a partnership of over 700 civil society organizations (CSOs) united in the belief that child marriage is a harmful practice that can and must end. The global partnership started its journey in 2011. The partnership was founded by the elders, a group of independent global leaders formed by Nielson Mandela to jointly work for peace and human rights. In 2013, Girls Not Brides became an independent organization created out of the vision that such an epidemic problem of child marriage can be eradicated if concerned people come together and work towards a better future. *Girls Not Brides* and its members believe that by working in partnership we can accelerate efforts to end child marriage. There is a general consensus that the global movement will only succeed if it is rooted in strong local and national collaboration, especially in countries where child marriage is common. In a number of countries, organizations working to address child marriage are coming together to develop specific strategies to address child marriage at a national level, and are forming national alliances, coalitions, or networks.

**Girls Not Brides Bangladesh:** The Bangladesh Alliance to End Child Marriage was launched in September 2013 and became an official Girls Not Brides National Partnership in July 2014. Girls Not Brides Bangladesh has 30 members, ranging from small grassroots organizations to country offices of larger INGOs. Girls Not Brides Bangladesh has a steering committee and a secretariat that is coordinated by CARE Bangladesh.

Child, early and forced marriage (CEFM) is a human rights violation that robs a girl of her childhood, puts her health and growth at risk, disrupts her education, limits her opportunities for empowerment and social development, and increases her risk of exposure to violence and abuse. The devastating impact CEFM has on the lives of children has been repeatedly documented. It results in both short- and long-term negative consequences for the health of the child – including physical, psychological, emotional, sexual, and reproductive health – as well as the social and economic development of the child*.* Children of young mothers are at substantially greater risk of perinatal and infant mortality and morbidity, and stillbirths and newborn deaths are 50 percent higher among mothers under 20 years than women who give birth later in life.

Girls Not Brides Bangladesh would like to address the following questions from GNB members:

1. **What measures have been taken to implement the recommendations of the last report of the Secretary-General on the issue of child, early and forced marriage (A/75/262)?**

Being a Child-Focused Organization World Vision Bangladesh (WVB) has been working in 56 Upazillas to reach out to 14.4 million most vulnerable children across the country by 2025 through comprehensive support and services by its technical program of child protection, education, health, nutrition and wash and livelihood and advocacy initiatives. WVB launched a 5 year (21-25) long campaign “It takes me” which aims to change harmful social norms that condone to end gender-based violence and promote justice for children. The campaign “It takes me to end Gender-based violence against children” is focused on focusing on preventing child marriage. Considering the high rate of child marriage in Bangladesh, especially in the alarming COVID-19 escalation context, World Vision Bangladesh renewed its concentration and efforts towards child marriage prevention. As part of that WVB has initiated a one year “Robust Plan” to prevent and rescue children from child marriage and forced marriage. Under this program, there 116748 children and community people has been aware on child marriage and uniquely 107731 families have been developed their vision board and committed that they will not give their child marriage before the age of 18. And WVB developed 10 new social and behavior change communication (SBCC) materials targeting 10 specific audience groups strongly linked to child marriage. These target groups include parents, teachers, adolescent boys and girls, men, religious leaders, police, and local government representatives. World Vision Bangladesh believes that these innovative SBCC materials will influence change in the behavior and mindset of people regarding child marriage. WVB considers the Faith/religious leaders are one of the key actors for changing harmful social norms and ending child marriage. During this time 675 faith leaders worked on community sensitization through preaching and khutba as per their taken action plan. A national-level plan and actions were prepared and the child marriage issue is addressed through all programs, especially engaging the faith/religious leaders.  WVB signed MoU with religious institutions, who are working beyond our working area, they are also influencing decision-makers for ending Gender-based violence against children especially ending child marriage.

**Shariatpur Development Society (SDS) has been working since its emerging time to eradicate child, early, and forced marriages. The code of conduct of this organization is to empower women and prevent sexual abuse of women and well-being of women. To prevent child, early, and forced marriages SDS done the following things:**

**SDS organizes awareness-raising programs to prevent child, early, and forced marriages.** SDS calls women guardians, local government, marriage register, religious leaders to make awareness to prevent child, early and force marriages. SDS organized a dialogue meeting with the Bangladesh Department of women affairs and the Department of social service to raise awareness among people and prevent child, early, and forced marriages. To inform local UNO and administrations. SDS show movies, video shoes, short film and make patha natok, Jatrapala to make awareness among the parents of the bride and raises awareness among them. SDS also conducted a public hearing with the local government to prevent child, early, and forced marriages.

Save the Children in Bangladesh through its number of program activities has taken initiatives to prevent child marriage in Bangladesh. As child-centric organization Save the Children in Bangladesh (SCiBD) is promoting and strengthening “National Children’s Task Force (NCTF) to do mass level awareness to prevent child marriage. As a part of mass awareness NCTF has conducted a social media awareness to raise and inspire campaigns in 24 districts. Awareness messages mainly focused on COVID awareness, climate change, preventing child marriage, safe use of the internet, child participation, child protection, nutritious food for children, and children’s mental health development. Through this online social media campaign, NCTF has reached 68,781 children and adults in 24 districts. NCTF members through adopting social accountability sessions 48 child marriages were prevented with support from local authorities in 11 districts. NCTF organized virtual quiz competitions on the prevention of child marriage, where near about an equal number of boys and girls participated. NCTF continued both online & offline campaigns to prevent child marriage in 24 districts where children, youths, parents, government officials, and CSO representatives participated, assuring roles and responsibilities in preventing child marriage.

VSO has undertaken multiple approaches to prevent child marriage through several different programs including International Citizen Service (ICS), National Citizen Service (NCS) in four working areas in northern and southern Bangladesh. Through this collaborative approach: Peer educators reached about 2000 community members about the negative impact of child marriage. The introduction of Child Marriage Prevention Committees has embedded changes in communities, with community leaders and youth clubs acting together in a sustained approach to stopping child marriage. The Child Marriage and Dowry Prevention Committee (CMDPC) was set up to cover two interconnected issues of child marriage and the dowry system. This committee included local leaders and active members of the Youth Club. Held a “National Campaign Workshop on Child Marriage Restraint Act (CMRA) 2017 and Youth Dialogue: Building Construction for Developing Youth Association”. Capacity Building with peer educators and youth clubs on “*Gender Awareness and Youth Empowerment in Preventing Child Marriage”* and *“The Formation of Stop Child Marriage Watch Group*”, including the Socialization of CMRA. Provided parents counseling on harmful consequences of child marriage across all four districts. Advocacy meetings on CMRA at the local and national levels. Active Engagement in the National Platform for Child Marriage Prevention. A strong relationship with local administration including police provides a solid foundation to challenge child marriage. Partnering with Theatre for a Change, our theatre for development program facilitated the development of creative tools and techniques for community mobilization with the goal of preventing child marriage and increasing SRHR awareness. Interactive theatre and drama are used with different groups including youth clubs and their community, peer educators, partner staff, service providers, and schools with an aim to explore the causes and consequences of child marriage, the need for improved SRHR services, and the promotion of gender equality.

Plan International Bangladesh as part of civil society works to stop child early and forced marriage in Bangladesh. Conducted awareness-raising training on the Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017 and Child marriage rules 2018 for the key duty bearers’, stakeholders including children and youth are the two most significant areas. Mobilized and formed youth groups and selected champion fathers at working areas are another two initiatives to stop child marriage in the working areas. Life skills training for girls and youths has been provided. Introduced monthly monitoring system to track the current CM situation at community level headed by UP chairman. Community-based child protection and prevention committees have been formed and functioning. Bangladesh police have involved village police in their program and meet regularly to follow up on the progress. Worked closely with school governing body to make them functional, formed anti-sexual harassment committee at secondary school, provided conditional cash support for poor and disadvantaged children. Ensured water facilities and sexual and reproductive health services, introduced gender-responsive pedagogy and introduced Gender Equity Movement in Schools (GEMS), and trained teachers to facilitate training sessions for other teachers. Provided counseling service for children (Girls) & parents on the negative impact of child marriage, Disseminated and motivated forums & Network members to take support from national helpline number (1098). The government in 2018 adopted the rules of procedure of CMRA 2017 and formed District and Upazila child marriage committee. The committee acts to monitor and stop child marriage. They also included children’s representation in the committees. As part of civil societies engagement Plan International Bangladesh has taken several initiatives to stop child early and forced marriage.

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To prevent child marriage the following programs taken by Bangladesh Mahila Parishad :

1. To create awareness in preventing child marriage;

2. Ensuring health and education rights of the girl child;

3. Advocate with the policymaker for taking proper steps into this matter;

4. To advocate for implementing the child marriage restraint Act and advocate for canceling the special clause of child marriage resistant Act 2017;

5. Conducting a survey on “the root cause of Child marriage and its social impact;

6. Intervene to stop early marriage cases at the place of occurrence.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad arranges several awareness meetings, seminars with students and parents in order to create awareness centrally and in the different district branches. At the same time, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad arranges several awareness programs with the civil society members as they could get involved in the matter and can play their role.

In line with the recommendations of the last report of the Secretary-General A/75/262, Population Services and Training Center (PSTC) has taken specific initiatives on the issue of child, early and forced marriage through the implementation of projects ‘Hello I Am’, ‘Creating Spaces Creating Spaces to Take Action on Violence against Women and Girls’ and ‘Empowering Girls for economic Opportunity and Safe Space: E-GLOSS’ in Dhaka, Gazipur, Chattogram, Netrokona, Mymensing, Sunamgang and Faridpur districts of Bangladesh*.*

Considering the recommendation of the Secretary-General, AVAS continues to work with the community to fight against child, early and force marriage through the different initiatives. FPAB Response: FPAB has conducted several meetings with its Districts Officers (DO) & Coordinator Program from every 21 districts. In the meeting there was a portion for discussion of youth activities; where mentioned recommendations were discussed and asked for expand their support for implementation at 21 FPAB working districts. FPAB also planned to increase members of TararMela for raising more awareness at the community level on this issue.

Since early-stage of BNWLA actively participated in the advocacy initiative at the national level and at different activity levels to prevent CEFM. In relation to that BNWLA has initiated the below activities. In BNWLA initiated different programs with the school students, guardians, school Management committee, and the local stakeholders i.e. local administration, law enforcement, and other government officials and CSO, NGO to identify the girl’s barriers and challenges. In 2017 BNWLA from a platform to reform of child marriage restrain act. BNWLA does advocate for the prevention and protection of child marriage. BNWLA also implement a project to end forced marriage.

Since 2017 ACLAB is actively participating in the advocacy initiative at the national level and at different activity levels to prevent CEFM. In relation to that ACLAB has initiated the below activities under the GNB platform and of its own initiatives. In December 2021 ACLAB has initiated 2 different weekly programs with the school students, guardians, school Management committee and the local stakeholders i.e. local administration, law enforcement and other government officials and CSO, NGO to identify the girl’s barriers and challenges in the COVID-19 situation at the village level. Both programs were arranged at the root/village level in one of the Child Marriage prone districts of Bangladesh at Sunamganj and Bogura in a Joint collaboration with UNFPA, CARE Bangladesh and Girls Not Bride Bangladesh. Total 70 adolescent girls shared their ideas and dream with their parents, teachers, school management committee and the relevant stakeholders. The objective of the program was to know the vulnerability of adolescent girls during COVID-19 and set up actions for preventing child marriage; Support girls to reduce drop-out and to create safe space at home, family, school and other space to fulfill their aspirations through addressing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic situation. On September-October 2020 ACLAB implemented a project involving 16 community Radio (CR) in Bangladesh with the support of GNB and Plan International to respond to the impact of COVID-19 on girls. The CR of Bangladesh has 7-8 million listeners. The project was involving online and electronic media campaigning and the objective of the campaign was to reduce the risk of child marriage and GBV for adolescent girls during the COVID-19 crisis. The program details are 16 CR broadcasted 2 short messages on Gender Awareness and Girls’ rights during COVID-19 crisis for 480 times; 48 radio magazine programs of 15 minutes were broadcasted to raise awareness on Child Marriage Prevention and Gender Equality during COVID-19. The project achieved the result as the girls and their family members became aware of the risk of violence and child marriage during the COVID-19 crisis; The project influenced the decision-makers and the duty bearers at the local level to address child marriage as a priority.

**2. What legislative actions have you taken to address the root causes of child, early, and forced marriage?** **Any examples of legislation enacted, beyond the minimum age of marriage, such as laws repealing or amending provisions that enable perpetrators of rape, sexual abuse or abduction to be exempted from prosecution and punishment by marrying their victims?**

World Vision Bangladesh is complementing the effort of the local government towards its commitment to protecting children; that includes legal issues as well as public awareness. Keeping aligned with the circular by LGRD of 2019, WVB is advocating for scaling up the system and services that ensure its functionality as child-friendly. In last year 91 Reporting and Response mechanisms were established in Union Parishads to monitor and prevent violence against children. A total number of 206 meetings were held with the local child protection committee to follow up on the action plan that had been undertaken to prevent violence against children especially child marriage. As part of child-led budget advocacy 195 budget petitions have been submitted in 195 LG institutes, which resulted in the amount of allocation USD $ 795,151 as per commitment which covered 462312 children. In addition to that national-level budget, the dialogue was held on fair financing with the parliamentarian CAUCAS on Child Rights that influenced the budget session 2021 in the national parliament, Bangladesh.  WVB implemented CVA (Citizen Voice in Action) at the 24 Police Stations to strengthen the Child Affairs desk as per chapter 4 of the Children Act 2013. A study was conducted on the effectiveness of Citizen Voice and Action in strengthening child protection services at local police stations during July 21 that reflected the overall service quality of the police stations towards child protection. It has been found that the services significantly improved and all 24 stations are fully functional. 3114365 (3.1 million) children are getting the benefits from the effectiveness of these police stations. The findings of this study will be shared with the DIG of Police and Police Head Quarters with the objective of better collaboration between WVB and Bangladesh Police for strengthening the Child Affairs Desk at the Police Station.   During FY 2021, due to movement and other restrictions, it was a real challenge to engage Government stakeholders both virtually and face to face for the local to national level policy advocacy initiatives. It was also found that local govt. system and structure is less functioning (union level CP committees, lack accountability on proper response to prevent child marriage and child well-being issue) in many places for the COVID 19 circumstances.

SDS conducted advocacy workshops with law enforcement agencies and lawyers’ groups to sensitize on the issue of violence against women and children as well as child early and forced marriages.

Save the Children in Bangladesh (SCiBD) through its Breaking the Silence project has taken few initiatives to influence legislative actions. Like- Dialogue sessions on "Prevention and protection from child marriage and child abuse" in COVID-19 situation in presence of Additional Secretary of MoLGRD&C and MOWCA, DG of Social Services, and LGI representatives, complain and response mechanism helped to resolve 191 complaints, to scale up a campaign on Child Marriage consultation meeting, TV Talkshow organized with Ministry of Local Government. Finally, one research conducted on the situation of child marriage in COVID 19 pandemic, research findings were shared as a part of advocacy with the Ministry of Telecommunication and Information Technology, Ministry of Local Government, and UP representatives.

Mahila Parishad Conducting a survey on “ the root cause of Child marriage and its social impact. After completion of the survey, Mahila Parishad has planned to take mobilizing and advocacy program for reducing the root cause of child marriage.

After passing the Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017 (CMRA 2017), Plan international Bangladesh along with many other civil societies advocated with the government to repeal and special clause of the CMRA 2017 but the government was strict and committed to enacting the rules of procedure shortly. The Child Marriage Rules were enacted in 2018. District and Upazila committee including children representatives was formed in accordance with the Rules. The committee acts to monitor and stop child marriage. Provision 17 of the rules speaks the procedure to marry an underage girl or boy off according to the act. Rules said an application by the parents has to be made to the court at beginning of the issue of child early marriage raised. The court shall send the application to the assessment committee. Upon the assessment, the committee considering the best interest of the minor shall send a report to the court in this regard. The rules also cleared that if the application is in connection with rape, sexual or abduction to be exempted from prosecution and punishment by marrying the victim, the assessment committee shall send its report to the court against the marriage. In light of the rules, as enacted, we now stand by the girls to protect them from such marriage. Plan International Bangladesh has conducted awareness-raising on the Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017 and Child marriage rules 2018 for the key duty bearers and stakeholders including children and youth. Coordinated with local government, different govt: departments government, community, and other stakeholders for necessary and referrals services to stop child marriage. Conducted case management to track the progress of the children and counseling services have been provided to the parents and children. It has introduced and worked to motivate children, parents, and the community to seek support via government hotline numbers for services (333, 999, 109, 1098). Making advocate in the community by the girls and parents who already got married and involved in child early marriage and provided them pieces of training on different issues on gender equality, life skills, sexual and reproductive health rights, and child protection. Training also has provided to both in school and out of school’s adolescent girls and boys. Identified mentors to support them to be linked with gender-responsive, market-relevant waged employment training programs and supported in job placement. The value of girls is discussed with parents. Messages have been developed and disseminated on gender sensitivity and value of girls, sexual and reproductive rights, gender-based violence, and disaster response resilience.

AVAS has taken many actions to find out the root causes of child, early and forced marriage, we have conducted a number of meeting with different stakeholders from community level to administration level including local leaders, religious leaders, education professionals, journalists & legal service providers, youth & women leaders, notary public, CSO &, etc. Also, we conduct advocacy meetings and awareness secession to sensitize them on child marriage and the government’s “Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017”.

FPAB introduced 8 hotline numbers for 8 divisional cities integrating its 21 branches, where FPAB counselors and Medical officers are available to talk regarding any SRH issues including GBV. Our counselor and MO were well trained to provide service including referral legislative issues, where MOI has signed locally with partners.

In 2012 BNWLA filed public interest litigation before the high court to on preventing child marriage and domestic violence filed on May 2, 2012. The court issued *Rule Nisi* on 20 June 2012 Write Petition seeking directions upon the respondents to direct all Nikah  Registers to register marriages on the basis of National ID Card as well as prayed for guidelines enhancing the power of the Arbitration Councils, set up under section 7(4) of the Muslim Family Laws Ordinance, 1961 to handle issues like dower, custody, and maintenance of children and the maintenance of wife during her Iddat period, at the time of resolving the matter by way of reconciliation as per section 7(4) of the Muslim Family laws Ordinance, 1961, in order to prevent child marriages as well as to settle the matters out of Court regarding dower, Maintenance, Custody of children, before divorce, to reduce multiplicity of suits before the Family Court. The Writ Petition obtained the Rule in this Writ Petition. before solemnizing marriages, will pursue the National ID Cards or birth certificates or Secondary School Certificates or any certificate of such standard  of the parties for determining the age of the parties before registration of marriages and thus there is no need for any direction for promulgating any law because the Rule is already in existence and thus this Rule Nisi seeking direction upon the Nikah Registers to solemnize the marriage on the basis of National ID Card is not necessary and may be discharged. He also admits that guidelines may be given for giving the Arbitration Councils power to resolve the matters prior to divorce. Considering all these aspects, we are of the view that so far as the National ID Card is concerned for considering the only method for determining the age of the parties, the time has not yet come to determine the age of the parties only on the basis of the National ID Cards. We hope that in near future it can be made more effective but emphasis must be given on it and in case of no-availability of National I.D. Cards, section 23(Ka) of the Muslim Marriage Divorce ordinance will prevail. In 2017 BNWLA again file a Writ petition before the high court division challenging section 19 of the Child marriage restrain act, 2017. A severe backlash came in the form of a ‘special provision’ under Section 19 of the Child Marriage Restraint Act (2017) as allowing child marriage with courts' permission. It was expected that the Rules adopted in 2018 would substantially restrict the scope of application of the special provision; it nevertheless failed to do so. Now the new law will make things worse. One of the major criticisms against this provision was that almost anything could come within the purview of the wide domain of ‘special circumstances. It could bring the marriage of a child who happens to be a rape survivor with the rapist within its purview as well. Advocate Salma Ali as a petitioner filed a writ petition in the matter of Inaction of the respondents to implement Section 19 along with other provisions of ‘Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2017 in all over Bangladesh for which a marriage of 14 years old child got married and died consequently after the marriage. In 2020 BNWLA again raise the issue of child marriage in high court division through Public Interest Litigation.

**3. What measures have you adopted to prevent and support girls that are already married or in informal unions, including those that have survived CEFMU or that have been left widow or abandoned? If relevant please include measures to facilitate girls access to services like accommodation, legal and psychological support.**

As a part of the agency building total of 171 girls children received self-defense training to protect themselves from any kind of abuse and exploitation. For scale-up, the girl’s empowerment 46 sports event was held where 1,387 girls participated. The area programs ensured child-led campaigns during this time while children led the events pod song, street drama, cultural events, etc. upon the theme of gender-based violence against children.

WVB emphasized highly on Just married campaign during June global moment, a significant number of events held and National Office engaged huge numbers of social, print and electronic media during this time and total of 168,079 people reached (indirect) through 73 Face book posts and 4 unique TVCs on ‘Ending Child Marriage’. Besides, 20,000 people reached (indirect) through Radio live show. There about 150,000 children and youth have been capacitated under the child and youth forum, who are playing the very crucial role in the community as protection actors to safeguarding children and particularly girls from children marriage, remarkably, 290 child marriage they have been stopped in last one year collaborating with local administrations and reporting through a hotline number.

To facilitate girls’ access to services like accommodation, legal and psychological support SDS organized life skill training and income-generating training. SDS also provided trade-based training such as garments and fashion designing, IT support training, graphic design, freelancing, and embroidered training to make a woman empowered.

Save the Children in Bangladesh (SCiBD) does not have any program activity to provide direct intervention on accommodation, legal and psychosocial support. Rather through different program intervention awareness sessions organized with community, local-level government representatives, city corporations, and concerned civil society groups to do linkages to have such services. Established linkages with those children are married/left widow/abandoned and included them to continue study/technical training with the instrument or cash support. Motivational session has been organized and counseled to the child & forced marriage survivor to delay childbirth before 21 years. Linkage with health service center and involved in Social protection support program through local government, related government departments, NOGs.

PSTC has been implementing the project Creating Spaces to take actions on violence against women and girls (VAWG) with the support of Oxfam Bangladesh and Global Affairs Canada in 12 Unions of 3 Upazilas (sub-district) under the district Faridpur. Creating Spaces project works for preventing violence by changing local norms and practices, responding to violence by providing women and girl survivors with support services, and improving understanding of violence by strengthening collective efforts and learning across the region. PSTC reaches 71,652 households across the project areas during the project cycle. We have organized our activities according to the deliberate three Strategic Pillars that work together to address violence against women and girls:

Pillar 1: Engaging key community actors to support and promote positive gender norms: The declaration by the Chairman of union parishads as ‘Child Marriage Free Union’ is a remarkable achievement in engaging key community actors with the Creating Space project. It is also observed that drop-out girl students due to child marriage impressively reduced by 22% during the implementation of the creating spaces project.

Pillar 2: Supporting women and girls who have experienced violence: Creating Spaces provides support to all the identified child marriage survival women (37) regarding their economic empowerment. In order to cope with the pandemic effect of COVID-19, women and girls were oriented on the basic aspects of COVID-19 and the health and safety guidelines as per standard.

Pillar 3: Building knowledge and capacity of institutions and alliances to influence change: We have observed through different evaluation process of CS project that the institutional participants’ knowledge has increased about root causes of violence against women and girls and how to reduced prevalence of early and forced marriage in local areas.

Overall a supportive enabling environment has been created in the coordination of local institutes that will be acted in the future as complementary in taking actions to reduce violence against women and girls, including child, early and forced marriage in the project areas. Moreover, the trained beneficiaries, capacitated local institutions, well-organized community groups, youth and child groups, and also trained service providers will be active as change agents to ensure the rights of the women and girls and thus contribute to achieving the SDG-5: Achieving gender equality and empower all women and girls by the country. PSTC has been implementing the ‘Empowering Girls for economic Opportunity and Safe Space (EGLOSS)’ project with the support of Plan Bangladesh to strengthen sustainable livelihood options, create safe space, and prevent Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) for the sponsored families especially for adolescent girls and young women (2975) in Dhaka South City Corporation (City Polli and Dhaka Match Factory, Miron Zillah, Malek Member Bosti, Robi Das Para).‘Hello I Am (HIA)’ project of PSTC has been centering young people to create a supportive social environment that enables adolescent girls to enjoy their sexual reproductive health and rights, free from all forms of child marriage. Life Skills education sessions, inter-generational dialogue, community campaigns and utilizing the positive deviant people are the major approaches to facilitate the community to stop child marriage. The project reached 49,861 young people, women, and girls through its different activities focusing on SRHR, stopping child early and forced marriage, and preventing VAWG. 56 Radio shows were developed on ASRHR issues and were broadcasted at the national level TV channel. 16931 Young people were connected through a newly incepted interactive web page (Ucon) with SRHR information. A panel of experts also had responded about quarries raised by young visitors on SRHR. 25,255 Parents, teachers, community leaders were sensitized on adolescent sexual and reproductive health needs that have contributed to creating enabling environment to address the ASRHR issues.

AVAS has provided support to victims of CEFMU in different forms like; Coordinate with local Govt and administration for the prevention of child marriage at the community level. The linkage between service providers and victims for skill development, legal support, financial support, and health services. AVAS has established a committee on child marriage prevention in all offices including head office with a designated focal person, besides that AVAS has a platform in every upzilla of Barisal district with a total of 231 members from the respective community level. AVAS also has a women brigade at the district level with the participation of 25 women leaders.

FPAB TararMela platform is the main adopter to prevent and support girls from any kind of SRH issues including gender-based discrimination. The introduction of TararMela are: TararMela (gathering of stars) is a dedicated youth-led platform situated one with each branch office of FPAB. Hear youth have fun, learn, and can grow with their full potential. TararMela has been established with a view to providing Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) sessions both at School and out of School’s youth, ensuring Youth Friendly SRH Services (YFS) and creating a supportive environment so that young people can grow with their full potential to be a future leader. TararMela’s are decorated with furniture, computers, IEC/BCC Learning materials, TV/DVD, multimedia projector, musical instrument, game materials and so on. TararMela comprises different facilities for young people includes; There is obvious provision of CSE session with school, Madrasha & out school adolescent girls & boys. Providing counseling services (physically and over the telephone) by the youth counselors- one male and one female. They are providing services with a nonjudgmental attitude and maintain the confidentiality of the information received from young clients. Have the opportunity of Library from where Young people easily get Messages included puberty related changes, HIV/AIDS, menstrual management, wet dream, masturbation, sexual & gender-based violence, safe abortion (MR), sexual diversity, etc. Young people (married) get easy access to contraceptive services and SRH medical services Young people to get facilities for computer training, Internet browsing, Singing and dancing events, newspaper reading, etc. Talent competition like drawing, essay/story/rhyme writing, a debate has been organized to evaluate the knowledge and values of young people. There is a question box where young people put their questions unanimously and youth counselors prepare answers and hang them on the board for their information. Establish 21 mini youth parliament in 21 TararMela and elected 336 representatives at branch level and National youth parliament along with 42 representatives. The objectives of the parliament are to bring Bangladeshi young people together for a discussion on topics that pertain to them. Create youth volunteers including National Youth Counselors, Youth Parliament members (YPM), FPAB Youth parliament Executive Committee members (FYPEC) & Different Youth clubs’ committees, members.

BNWLA has the capacity to provide shelter support to a child marriage victim.

ACLAB runs 8 Information and Feedback centers at Cox’s Bazar district including Rohingya camp where a female service provider provides psychological support in the GBV corner by covering case studies, psychosocial counseling, referral services, life skill training, non-formal education, and by engaging in other social activity. The community radio of ACLAB, radio NAF 99.2 FM do phone in the live program by engaging the relevant experts who provide psycho-social support in many aspects including CEFM. Radio NAF 99.2 FM has 132 adolescent listeners club including 3147 members who regularly listen and discuss the radio programs on CM, GBV, women empowerment, sexual & reproductive health, WASH etc. ACLAB also runs Child-friendly spaces at Cox’s Bazar and Bhasan Char, Noakhali to ensure the child’s mental fitness and wellbeing.

**4.In relation to the 3th question, do these measures contribute to: a. Ensure their free, active and meaningful participation in decision-making on all issues affecting them, particularly when developing and implementing coordinated responses and strategies to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage? b. Protect their economic security and that of their families, including equal access to inheritance and property, social protection, employment and financial services? c. Support them to maintain or return to education, including technical and vocational education? d. Ensure their access to health services, including services related to sexual and reproductive health? e. Ensure their food and nutrition security, and their access to safe and affordable drinking water?**

World Vision Bangladesh promotes gender equality with the goal of improving gender relationships in order to reduce gender-based violence and improve economic participation of women. World Vision believes that by creating safer spaces for women and increasing their livelihood opportunities, women of Bangladesh will be able to meet their potential and contribute towards the betterment of the country. By improving relationships between parents within the family unit, World Vision believes that children will enjoy safe and happy childhoods and build loving relationships with their families. These efforts are also in place to reduce violence against girl children in the form of child marriage, child labor and trafficking, giving them the opportunity to go to school and fulfill their potential in life.   During reporting period, 5340 Children, adolescents or youth (CAY) who meaningfully participate in actions that support ending violence against children.

When developing and implementing coordinated responses and strategies to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage suds experienced that woman has been empowered with economical solvency with the help of economy-based training of SDS and they are contributing to the family decision. SDS experienced that because of job placement women have been economically solvent and they have made them secure and skilled by the help of vocational, and technical training provided by SDS.

To ensure access to social protection, employment, and financial services Save the Children in Bangladesh (SCiBD) program organizes skill development training, access to information, provide resilient training so girls can protect themselves from social-cultural barriers including in time of movement, knowledge on vocational training and linking to job opportunities to be self-reliant.

b. Protect their economic security and that of their families, including equal access to inheritance and property, social protection, employment, and financial services?

Initiatives taken to do access to information on government social protection schemes, access to services which are under the responsibility of Union Parishad. Trained graduated boys and girls are being facilitated to access financial services to start business or to be entrepreneur as a part of self-employment.

c. Support them to maintain or return to education, including technical and vocational education?

Save the Children in Bangladesh (SCiBD) supported ROSC-II program that provided pre-primary and primary education to dropout children to enrol them in mainstream secondary schools. Save the Children in Bangladesh (SCiBD) supported GG7 program is providing soft employability skills, digital technical skills, and vocational skills, so they can employ themselves and also keep themselves in the education process.

d. Ensure their access to health services, including services related to sexual and reproductive health?

Initiatives are taken to do access to information on government health services, access to services which are available in local-level health service providing institute. Awareness session on sexual and reproductive health, menstrual health & hygiene with community-level women, girl child, boy child.

e. Ensure their food and nutrition security, and their access to safe and affordable drinking water?

Save the Children in Bangladesh (SCiBD) is supporting through R2G, SHUCHONA distributing food, food seeds, asset, fish fingerling, vegetable seeds, training on homestead gardening and technical support to improve agricultural practices. These interventions helps to increase household income of vulnerable communities which help them to spend money for their children food and nutrition, clothing, school uniform, school bag etc. The children who are married/left widow/abandoned have been included under the social protection program and involved in Income Generating Activities (IGA) to continue their livelihood. They have been continued education and also taken part in vocational training provides by govt. woman affairs department. Some of them have been involved in IGAs after completion of vocational training. They are receiving counseling and health service regarding sexual & reproductive health. Nutritious food has been provided to them. A list of at-risk children has been prepared and handed over UNOs, related departments, and NGOs to ensure necessary support. Linkage amongst them and different NGOs, local govt and administration have developed for ensuring their cash and kinds supports.

AVAS has provided support to victims of CEFMU in different forms like; Coordinate with local Govt and administration for the prevention of child marriage in the community level. The linkage between service providers and victims for skill development, legal support, financial support, and health services. AVAS has established a committee on child marriage prevention in all offices including head office with a designated focal person, besides that AVAS has a platform in every Upazila of Barisal district with a total of 231 members from the respective community level. AVAS also has a women brigade at the district level with the participation of 25 women leaders. AVAS has many initiatives for addressing those issues in the community and their details are-To ensure meaningful participation of women and girls we involve them in deferent committees of the district, Upazila, and union level also mobilized them in many networks and platforms to raise their voice, for example, AVAS’s youth members operating a social network page called “ [YOUTH POWER –AVAS](https://www.facebook.com/Youth-Power-AVAS-111526213999992/)” which is supporting to develop awareness and knowledge for prevention of Child marriage. AVAS has provided different IGA support for empowering women as well as skill development training and linkage between & government departments and other technical institution for accessing assistance. Publication of recent IGA activity:

<https://unitynewsbd.com/3177?fbclid=IwAR3rs3ygK249WOPKiQbmSf3Dv7ZbmElJRN4qJFxogqNGut2cNDrBRHv_vvI>

AVAS also work with education departments for providing easy access to education and enrolment of girls also AVAS runs a special program for working children for their enrolment in education.

AVAS has established MoU with a local medical college ([Sher-e-Bangla Medical College) for referral and providing medical assistance to victims. Also, AVAS provide knowledge and awareness on SRHR issues through a number of community-based initiative.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sher-e-Bangla_Medical_College)

FPAB is a volunteer-based organization, where adult and youth volunteers engaged in separate and combined platforms to ensure to build a community without stigma and discrimination where choices are fully respected.

ACLAB is doing courtyard sessions in the cox’s Bazar district mostly participated by vulnerable and poor women farmers. They are getting sessions on the concept of gender, women empowerment, CEFM, role in the decision making at family and in the community group, social resource mobilization etc. To ensure access to social protection, employment and financial services ACLAB provides skill development training, information and knowledge about different vocational trades, after training linkage to the employer, logistic support etc. to be socio-economically self-reliant and lead life with social dignity. ACLAB is providing a basic literacy program for adolescents and adults of 15-45 age in 300 schools at Teknaf Upazila, Cox’s Bazar district where especially females are getting knowledge in their rights, life skill education, awareness training etc. ACLAB has implemented a project in 38 secondary schools in Cox’s Bazar district and 30 adolescents’ clubs within Rohingya camp to convey the messages promoting adolescents’ physical and mental health. It also supplied protective equipment and facilitates COVID-19 preparedness and menstrual hygiene. In cox’s Bazar to improve the situation of WASH and GBV ACLAB implemented the project to ensure regular, sufficient, equitable and dignified access to safe water for drink, domestic needs; sanitation facilities & accessibility; promotion and distribution of hygiene kits for FDMN and host communities and engaged boys and men in SGBV prevention and response. ACLABs 3 youth forum consisting of 200 members and 10 Local Volunteer Mediator Forum (LVMF) consisting of 250 local actors are very active to prevent CM.

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