



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA



THE NATIONAL STRATEGY TO END CHILD MARRIAGE 2014/2015 – 2019/2020

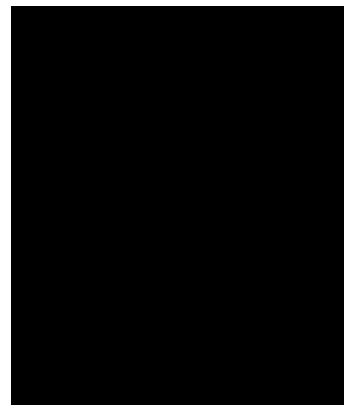
A society free from child marriage

May, 2015



FOREWORD

Addressing all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls and particularly child marriage is a global call to all states as articulated in various global and regional conventions and declarations. The global call is reflected in the recent efforts to end child marriage including of two procedural resolutions on ending child marriage by the Human Rights Council (HRC) and General Assembly; the joint general recommendation/general comment no. 31 of the Committee on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women, and no. 18 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on harmful practices (November 5 2014) which focus on ending child marriage and Female Genital Mutilation and cutting (FGM/C), and the London Girls Summit (co-hosted by the UK government and UNICEF) in July 2014 where commitments and pledges of support from various stakeholders to end child, early and forced marriage (CEFM) and FGM/C were secured. Other efforts at regional level include the Commission of African Union campaign to end child marriage in Africa that was launched on May 29, 2014.



Uganda has been committed to the global call as reflected in the ratification of international instruments and participation in the recent Girls Summit in London. In addition, there are several interventions in the country committed towards ending child marriage and promoting girls empowerment. The National Strategy on Ending Child Marriage (NSCM) is a holistic, comprehensive framework that reflects the commitment of the Uganda Government to end the practice of child marriage and other forms of violence against girls including teenage pregnancy as a consequence of child marriage. The goal of the strategy is to end child marriage in Uganda for ensuring prosperity and social economic transformation, anchored within the overall vision of the National Development Plan (NDP). The strategy has been developed based on the fact that for the last 30 years, there has been very little or no change in median age at first marriage which has been fairly stable at an average of 17.9 years, in spite of the multiple interventions in place.

With the vision of “**A society free from child marriage**” the national strategy articulates the principles, strategic objectives, actions, coordination mechanisms, and resources that will ensure effective implementation of the actions/interventions to end child marriage. The key strategic focus areas include: improved policy and legal environment to protect children and promotion of the girl child’s rights; improved access to quality sexual and reproductive health services, education, child protection services and other opportunities; changing dominant thinking and social norms related to child marriage in the communities; empowerment of both girls and boys with correct information to enable them recognize child marriage and early pregnancy as a gross violation of their rights and take mitigating action; and coordination, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for the implementation effective of the strategy.

The strategy provides a framework within which critical challenges to girls and women’s empowerment will be addressed. The strategy was developed through a participatory process that included government ministries, local and foreign nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), UN agencies, and other development partners. The implementation of the strategy demands coordinated efforts of all stakeholders to ensure effective implementation interventions to end child marriage.

Minister of Gender Labour and Social Development



MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE, UNICEF UGANDA

Child marriage curtails the effective development of girls capabilities in all areas including , education , economy , psychosocial and physical development. Addressing Child Marriage, provides an opportunity for tackling the root causes of gender inequality responsible for generational poverty and underdevelopment.

The UN is committed to ensuring a violence free world for all children – boys and girls. In this regard, UNICEF has strongly committed itself to addressing child marriage as part of the wider context of the targeted gender initiative that is spelt out in the new Gender Action Plan (2014-17). , where child protection is among the key expected outcomes. UNICEF support to end child marriage in Uganda aims to strengthen and accelerate existing multi-sector interventions deemed most strategic for UNICEF to invest in to obtain informed, evidence based results on child marriage that are in line with Uganda specific context.

The UNICEF has been working closely with governments to: raise national awareness on violence against children and child marriage in particular through public dialogues and campaigns; nurture schools' technical capacity to develop girl-friendly school environments, and help communities to sustain girls' education.

The UN family welcomes the publication of the National Strategy for Ending Child marriage as a framework to harmonize strategies for promotion of girls' empowerment and development of their capabilities in Uganda.

We therefore reaffirm our commitment to support the Government of Uganda in implementing the Strategy. We firmly believe that empowerment of girls and promotion of gender justice promotes sustainable development.

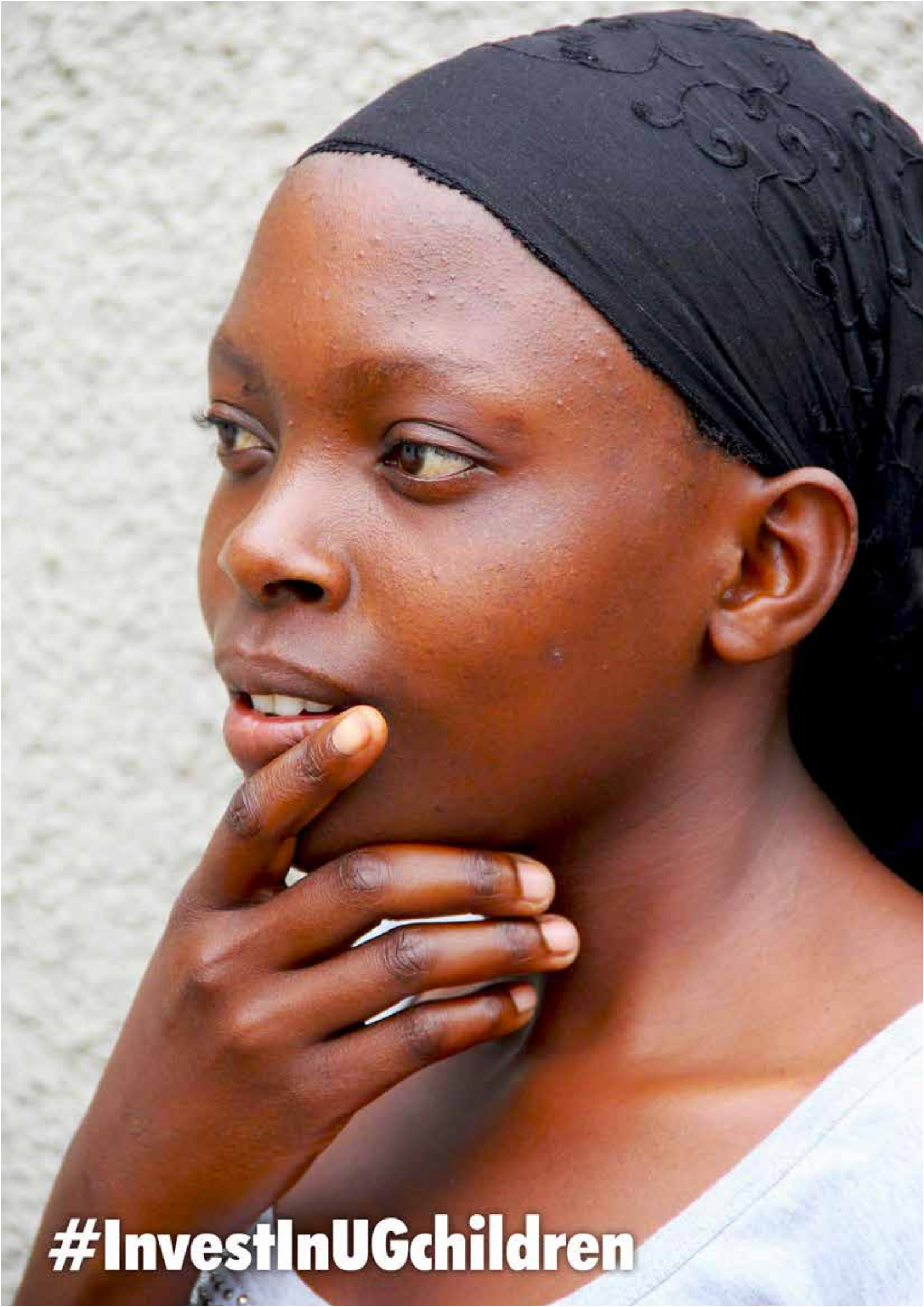
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development greatly applauds the indispensable technical and financial support from our partners that made development of this strategy possible. Development of the strategy has been a long and participatory process, involving extensive review of government policy and legal documents on child protection, program documents of government ministries, civil society organizations (CSOs), UN agencies, and other stakeholders implementing interventions on women's and girl's empowerment as well as published and grey literature on child marriage. Further, a rapid assessment of ongoing programs implemented by Government, Civil society, and Development partners to address child marriage, internal consultations with UNICEF program staff especially those in charge of ALIVE, SAFE and Learning/Education components/pillars, national and regional stakeholders' consultative meetings were undertaken.

The process was spearheaded by the National Technical Committee providing overall advisory role. The members included: representatives of UNICEF, Reproductive Health Department of Ministry of Health; Ministry of Education and Sports. MGLSD warmly appreciates your respective commitment and indispensable input.

Further recognition is the technical support given by Prof. Grace Bantebya Kyomuhendo supported by Dr. Florence Kyoheirwe Muhanguzi who tirelessly worked to execute core activities of developing the strategy. Research to inform the strategy was a core activity in the development of the strategy. In this regard, the MGLSD would like to acknowledge the invaluable input of the research assistants (Dr. Boonabaana Brenda Birungi and Dr. Peace Musiimenta) who supported the research process, the key Informants and the participants who provided useful information.

Lastly, we are highly indebted to UNICEF Uganda Country Office that provided the enormous financial and technical support.



#InvestInUGchildren



CONTENTS

FOREWORD	3
MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE, UNICEF UGANDA.....	5
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	6
ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS	9
01 INTRODUCTION	11
1.1 The Problem	12
1.2 Methods	13
1.3 Conceptual framework.....	13
02 SITUATION ANALYSIS	15
2.1 Child marriage in Uganda	16
2.2 Teenage pregnancy and child motherhood.....	16
2.3 Negative consequences of child marriage	16
2.4. Impact on boys' capabilities.....	17
2.5 Drivers of child marriage and teenage pregnancy	18
2.5.1 Individual and interpersonal drivers.....	18
2.5.2 Community-level drivers	19
2.5.3 Society-level drivers	19
03 NATIONAL RESPONSE	20
3.1 Ongoing policy and programs and interventions	21
3.1.2 National development plans/ policies	22
3.2 Civil society and faith based organizations.....	27
3.3 Gaps in programming National strategy to End child Marriage	36
04 STRATEGIC DIRECTION	37
4.1 Vision	37
4.2 Guiding principles	37
4.3 Goal	38
4.4 Objectives	38
4.5 Strategic areas of focus	38
4.6 Key target groups	38
05 PROPOSED STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS.....	39
5.1 Focus areas and proposed strategic interventions.....	40
5.2 Key stakeholders and actors	42
5.3 Information flow and feedback mechanisms.....	42
06 IMPLEMENTATION AND COORDINATION FRAMEWORK.....	43
6.1 Coordination and collaboration mechanism at national and sub national levels	44
6.1.1 Responsibilities of the child marriage coordination unit.....	44
07 MONITORING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK	45
08 COSTING AND FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK	55
8.1 Background to the costing and financial framework	56
8.2 Sources of funding	56
8.3 Cost of Interventions.....	56
8.4 Transparency and Accountability.....	61
8.5 Key assumptions	61
8.6 Possible risks associated with the NSCM	61
REFERENCES	62



ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ABEK	Alternative Basic Education for Karamoja
ACFODE	Action for Development
ACRWC	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
ANPPCAN	African Network for Prevention and Protection against Child abuse and Neglect
BEUPA	Basic Education for Urban Poverty Areas
C4D	Communication for Development
CEDAW	Convention on Elimination of all forms against Women
CHANCE	Child-Centered Alternative, Non-Formal Community-based Education
CM	Child marriage
CMS	Child marriage strategy
COPE	Complementary Opportunity for Primary Education
CRC	Convention on the rights of the child
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DELTA	Development Alternatives
FFLS	Farmer Field and Life School
FGM/C	Female Genital Mutilation /Cutting
FHRI	Foundation for Human Rights Initiative
FIDH	International Federation for Human Rights
FOWODE	Forum for Women in Democracy
GBV	Gender Based Violence
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency
ICCPR	International Convention on Civil and Political Rights
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
ICRW	International Centre for Research on Women
IEC	Information Education Communication
JFFLS	Junior Farmer Field Schools
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MoES	Ministry of Education and Sports
MoGLSD	Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoIA	Ministry of Internal affairs
MTC	Multi-sectoral Approach
NCC	National Council for Children
NCG	Nordic Consulting Group
NDP	National Development Plan



NGO	Non Governmental Organizations
NSCM	National Strategy on Child Marriage
PLE	Primary Leaving Examination
RMNCH	Plan for Reproductive Maternal New born and child health in Uganda
SRHR	Sexual reproductive Health rights
UBOS	Uganda Bureau of Statistics
UDHS	Uganda Demographic Health Survey
UN	United Nations
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children Fund
UPE	Universal Primary Education
USE	Universal Secondary Education
WHO	World Health Organization
WV	World Vision]

01

INTRODUCTION





The Government of Uganda has made considerable progress in improving the status of the girl child over the last decade. The latter is reflected most notably by the strides government has taken to create greater opportunities for girls' education and in creation and/or promotion of a conducive legal and policy environment for protection and promotion of women and children's rights. Government programs such as the respective Universal Primary Education (UPE) and Universal Secondary Education (USE) together with initiatives such as the additional "1.5 Points Scheme" for girls entering university to bridge the gender gap in higher education, have led to an increase in girls' enrollment and completion of school. In addition, numerous pieces of legislation that have been passed including the Penal Code Act, the Children's Act, the Domestic Violence Act and the Female Genital Mutilation Act have all worked in synergy to create a sense of increased protection of the girl child in Uganda. However there is increasing evidence that all Government's efforts to end discrimination against women and girls notwithstanding, harmful traditional practices such as child marriage have persisted, and with adverse consequences for the girls, their communities and national development. It is the latter context that has paved way for the drafting of a national strategy to prevent child marriage in Uganda.

The National Strategy on Child Marriage (NSCM) is a holistic, comprehensive framework that reflects the commitment of the Uganda Government to end the practice of child marriage and other forms of violence against girls including teenage pregnancy as a consequence of child marriage. The goal of the strategy is to end child marriage in Uganda for enduring prosperity and social economic transformation. It articulates the principles, strategic objectives, actions, coordination mechanisms, and resources that will ensure effective implementation of the actions/interventions to end child marriage.

The key strategic focus areas are; improved policy and legal environment to protect children and promotion of the girl child's rights; improved access to quality sexual and reproductive health services, education, child protection services and other opportunities; changing dominant thinking and social norms related to child marriage in the communities; empowerment of both girls and boys with correct information to enable them recognize child marriage and early pregnancy as a gross violation of their rights and take mitigating action; and coordination, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for the implementation effective of the strategy.

The NSCM that is spearheaded by the Ministry of Gender, Labor, and Social Development (MoGLSD) has been developed through a participatory process that included government ministries, local and foreign nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), UN agencies, and other development partners provides broad framework to provide informed guidance to all child marriage stake holders on how to work in a coordinated manner to develop and implement effective interventions to end child marriage.

1.1 THE PROBLEM

The right to family and marriage is provided for in the Uganda 1995 Constitution with the age of consent (minimum legal age for marriage) set at 18 years for both males and females (Republic of Uganda, 1995). In spite of the legal provision, the traditional practice of child marriage¹ persists among many ethnic groups in Uganda. The latter is justified largely by parents as protection of their daughters against premarital sex and pregnancy thus keeping the family's dignity/honour as well as offering the young girls lifelong security (Rubin, Green and Mukurla 2009). A study by Jain and Kurz (2007: 14) ranked Uganda 9th among the top 20 'hotspot' countries for child marriage. In 2013 Uganda was ranked 16th among 25 countries with the highest rates of early marriages; with 46% of girls marrying before 18 years, and 12% before they are 15 years (World Vision 2013). A recent Population Council and UNICEF supported study (Amin et al. 2013) posits Uganda in the middle of the range with over 20% of girls aged 15 -19 years categorized as ever married. Warner et al. (2013) noted that 10% of 20-24 year old females married before the age of 15 years, and 40% of 20-24 year old females married before the age of 18 years.

The above situation is supported by statistical evidence (UDHS 2011, UBOS 2011) which indicate that over 15% of ever-married women aged 20-49 were married by the age of 15, and 49% were married by age 18, with a decline from 56% (1996) for women aged 20 - 49 married below the age of 18, and 19.6% for women married below the age of 15. The UDHS data further shows that men tend to marry at much older ages (four years older) than women with a median age at first marriage of 22.3 years old than women in the same age range (25-49); only 9% of the men were married by age 18, and 25% by age 20 (ibid). While the trend is gradually shifting toward fewer women marrying at very young ages with a decline

¹ Marriage is a formal (traditionally/customary recognised, conducted by religious leader or government officials) and informal union (couple live together as husband and wife) between couples. Child marriage is defined as a marital union between a girl and a boy before the age of 18 years; refers to both formal and informal unions (UNICEF 2005).



in women who were married by age 15 among women currently aged 45-49 from 19% (2006) to 3% of women currently aged 15-19 in 2011 (UBOS 2011), the situation is worrying, because for the last 30 years, there has been very little or no change in median age at first marriage which has been fairly stable at an average of 17.9 years.

The challenge of child marriages and teenage pregnancies, and high levels of girl school dropouts are closely interlinked. Many adolescent girls continue to be subjected to marriage at an early age; in marriages arranged by parents, leaving them little choice in either timing of pregnancy or getting a marriage partner (Rutaremwa 2013; Jensen and Thornton 2003; FIDH and FHRI 2012). Further the practice of child marriage perpetuates the intergenerational cycle of poverty and acts as a break on development (ICRW 2010). It has been an obstacle to achieving most of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and will equally negatively impact on realizing the post 2015 agenda. A girl who is protected from child marriage is more likely to stay in school, work and reinvest income into her family, and help lead her family and eventually her community out of poverty. Crucially, a girl who marries later (after 19 years) or even after completing tertiary education is more empowered to control her fertility. While there have been a number of interventions by government, civil society, development partners and other stakeholders to address the problem of child marriage in the country, it has remained a major issue undermining girls development and attainment of their full potential in all capability domains (ODI 2012, 2013).

Whereas Uganda has committed to addressing all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls and ratified various global and regional conventions and declarations that prohibit such discrimination and violence (CEDAW; the Beijing Platform Declaration and Platform of Action; the 1994 Cairo ICPD Declaration; the Declaration on Violence Against Women; the Convention on the Rights of the Child; the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights – Women's Rights Protocol; and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child ACRWC) among others, not much has been done in regard to putting in place practical initiatives that explicitly protect children from early marriage. This gap has persisted in spite of child protection being a core government responsibility as articulated in the National Development Plans (NDP 2010; 2014); the National Vision 2014 2020; the National Gender Policy (2007); and other sector policies and strategic plans. The drafting of this NSCM is an essential and key initiative seeking to address this gap.

1.2 METHODS

Data collection for preparation of the NSCM entailed rigorous participatory processes namely;

- Extensive review of government policy and legal documents on child protection
- Extensive review of program documents of government ministries, civil society organizations (CSOs), UN agencies, and other stakeholders implementing interventions on women's and girl's empowerment.
- Extensive review of both published and grey literature on child marriage.
- Rapid assessment of ongoing programs implemented by Government, Civil society, and Development partners to address child marriage. A total of 30 organizations were identified, and out of these 7 that are implementing programs/ interventions explicitly targeting prevention of child marriage were assessed.
- Internal consultations with UNICEF program staffs especially those in charge of ALIVE, SAFE and Learning/Education components/pillars.
- Participating in national technical meetings chaired by the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development.
- Conducting national and regional stakeholders' consultative meetings to solicit and discuss their input in the preparation of the NSCM.

1.3 CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

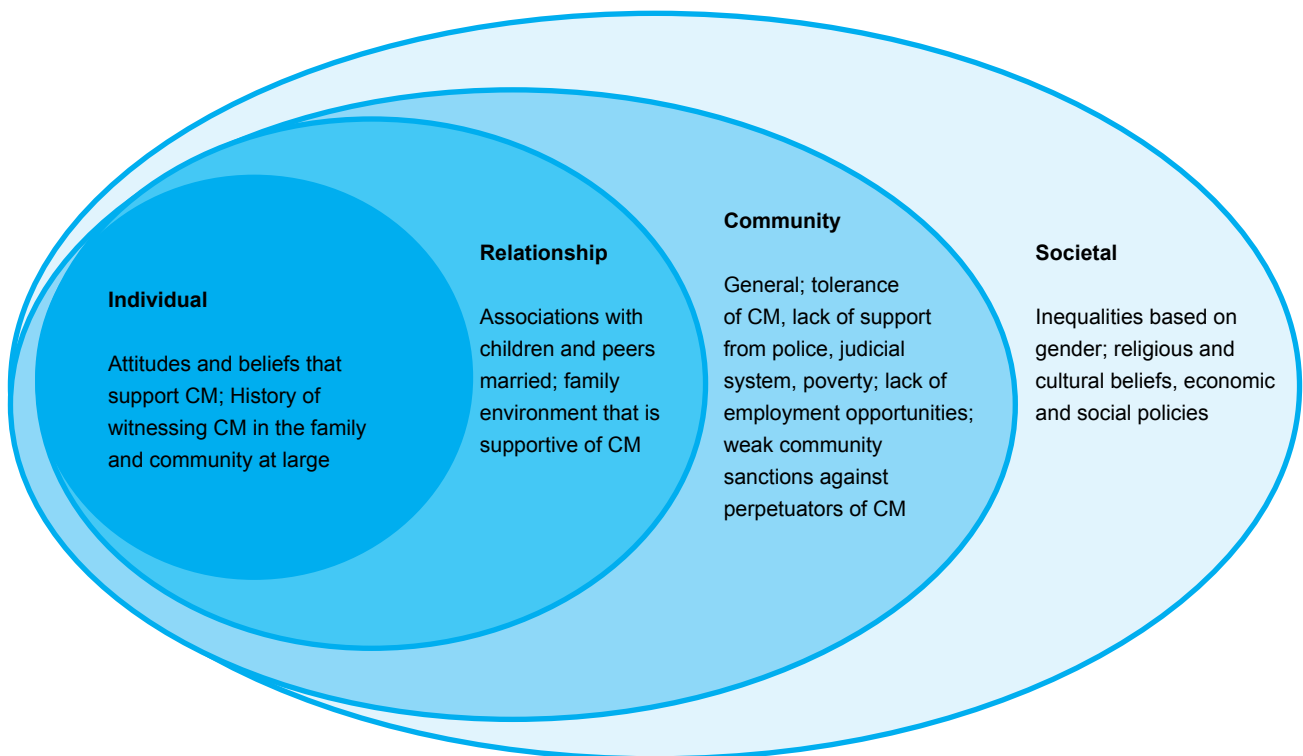
The strategy is informed by the four-level ecological model of development (Dahlberg and Krug 2002) that promotes a holistic approach which recognizes not only the risk factors, but also the norms, beliefs, and social and economic systems that create and sustain the conditions where child marriage thrives. The framework also recognizes the respective roles the different stakeholders play to create a protective environment for children. The model stipulates that all stakeholders have different responsibilities at different levels of operation to shape and influence the life course of a child. It allows for inclusion of risk and protective factors from multiple domains, and provides grounding not only for understanding the complex interplay of individual, socio-cultural, political, and environmental factors that drive child marriage, but also



identification of key entry points for prevention and intervention (Powell, Mercy, Crosby, et al. 1999).

The individual-level influences are micro level factors that include personal history issues that predispose a girl to early marriage. The **interpersonal level influences** are factors that increase risk of a girl getting married early as a result of how she relates with family members, peers and teachers. The presumption is that a girl's closest social circle of family members, peers and school partners shape her behavior and experience. **Community-level influences** are factors that increase risk based on community and social environments, especially schools and neighborhoods. **Societal-level influences** are larger, macro-level factors that influence child marriage and include gender inequality, religious or cultural belief systems, societal norms, and economic or social policies that create or sustain gaps between groups of people. The ecological model that was adapted to inform the preparation of the NSCM is illustrated in figure 1.

Figure 1 The Ecological model



Adapted from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2004) Sexual violence prevention: beginning the dialogue. Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

02 SITUATION ANALYSIS





2.1 CHILD MARRIAGE IN UGANDA

The Uganda Constitution (1995) sets the age of marriage at 18 years. However, getting married formally or informally before the legal age known as child marriage² is a common practice across the country. Arranged marriages for adolescent girls without their consent are also common in Uganda especially in the rural areas (FIDH and FHRI 2012; Benschop 2002; Bantebya, Muhanguzi, and Watson 2013, 2014; MOGLSD 2011). Age at first marriage varies by residence, educational level, wealth quintile and across the different regions of the country. Women aged 25-49 living in urban areas marry about two years later than rural women (20 years compared with 17.6 years) and the median age at first marriage is higher among the better educated and the wealthier. Median ages at first marriage for women aged 25-49 range from a high of 20.7 in Kampala to as low as 16.7 in the northern region. The prevalence of child marriages is highest in northern Uganda estimated at 59%, followed by Western region (58%), Eastern region (52%), East central (52%), West Nile (50%), Central (41%), South west (37%), and lowest in Kampala (21%) (UNFPA, 2013).

Regional differentials in trends by age at first marriage between 2006 and 2011 indicate that while some regions (Kampala, Northern and Western) showed a decline in very early marriages (below age 15), others showed either no change or an actual rise in the percentages of women who marry below age 15. In East central region for instance the percentage of women who married below age 15 rose slightly from 25% in 2006 to 26% in 2011. There was slightly more consistent downward regional trend in percentages of women marrying between age 15 -17 with the exception of northern region where there was an increase from 40% to 45% women marrying between age 15 -17. Child marriages were reportedly more prevalent in war and conflict situations (internally displaced and refugee camps) (Schlecht, Rowley and Babirye 2013). Forced marriages were reportedly common in Northern Uganda – where young girls and women were abducted and forced into marriage with the rebels (Rubimbwa and Komurembe 2012). Child marriage is noted to be a significant contributor to the high levels of teenage pregnancy, high fertility levels and overall population growth in Uganda (Rutaremwa 2013, UBOS 2011).

2.2 TEENAGE PREGNANCY AND CHILD MOTHERHOOD

Teenage pregnancy has been persistently high over time with a slight decline from 43% in 1995 to 31% 2001, to 25% in 2006 and to 24 % in 2011 (UBOS 1995; 2001; 2006, 2011). The 2011 UDHS statistics indicate that more than a third (39%) of women aged 20-49 years give birth by age 18, and more than half (63%) have had their first birth by age 20; 30.7% were currently pregnant. The median age at first birth for women age 20 – 49 years has been stable over the years ranging between 18.7 in 2006 and 18.9 years in 2011, varying by region and by urban/rural locality. Evidence shows that girls from the rural areas (24%) give birth earlier than girls from urban areas (21%). Teenage pregnancies are high in the East Central, Eastern, and Karamoja regions (30%) compared to other regions, with the Southwest region having the lowest (15%) and Central 1 has the second lowest at 19%. Statistics show a positive relationship between poverty, women's education and teenage pregnancy with girls from the poorest households and no education having higher rates of pregnancy (34% and 45% respectively) compared to those from the wealthiest households and with secondary education (16% and 16% respectively).

2.3 NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES OF CHILD MARRIAGE

The negative consequences of teenage motherhood are well documented. Evidence shows that adolescent mothers are twice as likely to die from pregnancy and delivery complications compared to those who are older, have high fertility rates and their babies or children have higher chances of dying (UWONET 2010; FIDH and FHRI 2012; Sekiwungu and Whyte 2009). In addition, teenage motherhood has negative effects on the socioeconomic status of the mother, and hence the child because it inhibits girls participation in education and hence limits her economic opportunities (FIDH and FHRI 2012). Unmarried adolescent mothers often experience stigma, shame, rejection and exclusion in their community in the process of reintegration, and can become destitute (Murungi 2011).

Teenage pregnancy is an indicator of unprotected sex, and hence exposure to risk of HIV infection (Sekiwungu and Whyte

² **Child Marriage** is defined as a marriage of a girl or boy before the age of 18 in respect to both formal and informal unions in which children under the age of 18 live with a partner as if married (UN 2003).



2009). According to the UDHS 2011, about 44.4% of girls and 34.9% of boys aged 15-19 years in Uganda have already had sexual relations. Adolescents with no education (56%) are more likely to have had sex and to engage in high-risk sex (16.6%) than those with education. Among adolescents aged 15-19 years who have ever had sex, half of the boys (50.4%) reported using a condom at last sex episode compared with just 27.5% of the girls (Amin et al. 2013).

Child marriage affects all aspects of a child's life and is a violation of children's rights, as recognized globally and nationally. It exposes children especially girls to multiple vulnerabilities and significantly impacts on development of their capabilities. Child marriage and adolescent pregnancies are interlinked with significant negative consequences on girl's physical and psychological wellbeing; and general development of girls including their education opportunities and outcomes. Evidence shows that in spite of Government's support and implementation of Universal Primary Education (UPE) and Universal Secondary Education (USE) which has expanded access to education for Ugandans, many girls are increasingly dropping out of school. The completion rates both at primary and secondary level remain behind those of the boys estimated at 66% and 24% compared to the boys – 68% and 52% respectively. Progression to secondary school education is more limited for girls (46.6%) than the boys (53.4%) (MoES 2012). Child marriage and teenage pregnancies are among the major causes of school dropout (Bantebya, Muhanguzi and Watson 2013; Tumushabe et al. 2000; Grogan 2008; FIDH and FHRI 2012; Muhanguzi et al. 2011; Warner et al 2013; Schlecht et al. 2013; Ochan et al. 2013). Low primary level completion rates and the very low progression to post-primary education imply that a large number of girls leave school with limited ability to be productive in the labor market (UNICEF 2014) thus their economic capabilities and employment opportunities and/or options are limited (Rubin et al. 2009).

Uganda's adolescent fertility/birth rate is among the highest in the Eastern Africa region – estimated at 134 per 1000 women aged 15-19 years (2010)³ (UBOS 2011). Marrying at young ages causes lifelong poverty (Rubin et al. 2009; Schlecht et al. 2013) and retards a country's economic and human resource progress. In fact, child marriage is both a cause and a consequence of poverty and gender inequality (Warner et al, 2013).

Other negative consequences of child marriage include limited decision making. Using UDHS data, Rubin et al (2009) reveals that women who married before the age of 14 years were less likely to make decisions in their households compared to those who married at the age of 15 or older. Women who marry young are more vulnerable to gender based violence. The UDHS (2006 and 2011) indicate a slightly higher proportion of ever-married women who married before the age of 18 years who had ever experienced physical violence since age 15 years compared to those who married at age 18 or older (UBOS 2006; 2011). Girls who marry young enter into informal unions which deny them basic protection and social status and leads to isolation with limited support structures (Bantebya et al. 2014; Schlecht et al. 2013).

Evidence shows that poor health outcomes are associated with child marriage. The poor health outcomes include low nutrition status, high maternal mortality and increased risk for HIV infection (Rubin et al 2009). Married women aged 15-24 are five times more likely to have HIV/AIDS than those who are not married (Ministry of Health [MOH] and ORC Macro 2006)⁴. Child marriage is closely linked to teenage pregnancies since the young brides are expected to get pregnant soon after they are married (MOGLSD 2011). Women who marry early are likely to experience pregnancy complications that lead to death or disability – obstructed labor and obstetric fistula (Bantebya et al. 2013; Schlecht et al. 2013). All these negatively affect economic progress of adolescent girls in terms of unhealthy and less productive human resources as well as necessity for increased health expenditure. Child marriage has implications for fertility and population growth, and the latter in turn have negative implications on economic growth (UDHS 2006; 2011).

2.4. IMPACT ON BOYS' CAPABILITIES

There is limited literature and studies on how child marriage affects young boys. However, anecdotal evidence reveals that child marriage has significant negative effects on boys' achievement in different capability domains. In a study conducted in Mayuge district, it was revealed that boys are negatively affected by premature nuptials – forced to drop out of school and take up menial jobs to support their young families (Bantebya et al. 2014). According to Lubaale (2013) child marriage also prevents boys from obtaining an education, enjoying optimal health, bonding with others of their own age. This perpetuates the cycle of poverty from one generation to another. Diana Santillan (2013) argues that boys are equally impacted on by the practice of child marriage and have an important role in ending child marriage.

3 Kenya – 103, Burundi – 65, Rwanda – 41, Tanzania – 116 (UNICEF, 2014)

4 MOH and ORC Macro (2005). Uganda HIV sero – behavioral survey 2004-2005 Calverton MD: MOH and ORC Macro.



2.5 DRIVERS OF CHILD MARRIAGE AND TEENAGE PREGNANCY

Child marriage in Uganda is driven by multiple factors which include cultural norms and expectations of the girl child, women's disadvantaged status, acute poverty and ill being, and weaknesses in legal and policy actions among others. These drivers manifest at individual, interpersonal, community and societal levels.

2.5.1 Individual and interpersonal drivers

The drivers or influences at individual and household level include personal beliefs and practices that promote and perpetuate the practice of child marriage. The individual influences are often shaped by the environment where the girls live and the personal situations they predisposed to. Conflict situations and refugee environments have for instance been found to drive the practice of child marriage (Schlecht et al. 2013; Rubimbwa and Komurembe 2012). Children who grow up in such high risk settings internalize and develop attitudes that support child marriage. Rural communities with families where child marriage is a norm lead the children to believe and aspire to get married early (Amin et al. 2013).

For many families in traditional ethnic communities child marriage is associated with parental need for protection of their daughters against early sexual encounters and pregnancy so as to keep the family's dignity. Child marriage is seen as offering lifelong security for the young girls (Rubin et al. 2009). This is linked to the low value attached to girls' education – where parents feel that educating a girl is a waste of time and resources when she is expected to get married (Sekiwunga and Whyte 2009; Rubin et al 2009).

Poverty has been reported to fuel the prevalence of child marriage in many communities in Uganda where the girl may be conserved as an economic asset from which families can gain wealth (Rubin et al 2009, Lubaale 2013). On the other hand some studies (Walker 2012; Rubin et al 2009; MoGLSD 2011; Bantebya et al 2014; Scheldt et al 2013) have found



that while on one hand parents may see their daughters as a source of wealth through bride price and encourage or force them to get married early sometimes to old men who are capable to pay the bride wealth; on the other hand especially in poor households, girls may be seen as an intolerable economic burden due to inability of their parents to meet their basic and other needs. Similar findings have been reported by Bell and Aggleton (2014) in their study in Eastern Central and Central 1 (Uganda) where it emerged that child marriage is seen as the best option for girls especially in households characterized by insufficient provision of basic necessities from parents.

The situation is even worse for girls in conflict situations – where informal marriages are common because the boys are not able to pay bride wealth and therefore sanctioned marriages are rare (Schlecht et al 2013). In their study on child marriage in conflict and post conflict settings, (Schlecht et al. (2013) found that conflict and insecurity motivated girls to marry early due to breakdown in family networks (parent and youth communication), loss and trauma which motivated youth to acquire marriage partners at an early age, as well as dropping out of school due to lack of safety and access to school.

Sekiwungu and Whyte's (2009) study in Eastern Uganda reveals that adolescents attributed teenage pregnancy and child marriage to lack of parental care and concern, especially inadequate provision of basic necessities, lack of control over girls mobility and inadequate parental guidance and mistreatment of girls at home. In the same study it was noted that girls' parents attributed child marriages to moral decay and indiscipline, greed for material things, and peer pressure (Sekiwungu and Whyte 2009). In another study (Rubin et al 2009) parents noted that girls had few options in life other than marriage. The other causes of child marriage were identified as peer pressure and early exposure to pornography that provoke 'experimentation' at adult relationships (Bantebya et al. 2014).

2.5.2 Community-level drivers

Community level factors are factors that increase risk based on community and social environments and include an individual's experiences and relationships with schools, and neighborhoods. For instance, many teenage girls who get pregnant find marriage the only practical survival solution (Ochan et al. 2013). Studies have also noted that pre-marital pregnancy precipitates child marriage (MOGLSD 2011, Bantebya et al. 2014). These studies reveal that in many cultures in Uganda, pre-marital pregnancy remains shameful and stigmatized - associated with disrespect, bad omens, embarrassment, disgrace to the family, and curses; and the teenage mother is seen as a bad influence in the community. However, in some communities social norms around virginity appear to be bending (except among Muslims, who continue to uphold premarital virginity as a strong social/religious norm to be guarded at all costs, including through child marriages) implying tacit acceptance since premarital pregnancy/sexual relations have become so common (Bantebya et al. 2014).

2.5.3 Society-level drivers

These are larger macro-level factors that operate at societal level such as gender inequality, religious or cultural belief systems, and economic or social policies and programs/services that create or sustain gaps between groups of people. A study conducted in Mayuge district in Eastern Uganda associates child marriage to continuing perceptions within the local communities that sexual maturation equals readiness for marriage such that 'once a girl has developed breasts she is eligible for marriage!' (Bantebya et al, 2014). This was coupled with prevalent cultural prescriptions against girls starting their menses in their parents' home; which was reportedly strong among Muslims (ibid). Evidence also reveals that FGM as an initiation ritual for girls in some societies is a major driver of child marriage (Warner et al. 2013).

Lack of implementation of policies and laws that seek to protect children has been noted to fuel child marriage. In the Mayuge study (Bantebya et al 2014) the study participants observed that while the Uganda constitution specifies the legal age of sexual consent and marriage as 18 years and strived to enforce the law on 'defilement' prohibiting relations between under-age children, evidence suggests these measures have merely driven early marriage underground, contributing to the rise of early informal 'cohabitation' arrangements, where the rights of married girls and their children find no legal or material protection (Bantebya et al. 2014).

Although there is no single comprehensive study that has ranked the causes of child marriage in Uganda, interpersonal relationships and community level factors including discriminatory social cultural norms coupled with poverty have been noted to be key motivators for child marriage (Bantebya et al. 2013; 2014, Rubin et al 2009). In a nutshell evidence from the literature shows that the drivers of child marriage are multiple and interlinked - a factor that has rendered ranking them problematic.

03

NATIONAL RESPONSE





3.1 ONGOING POLICY AND PROGRAMS AND INTERVENTIONS

Most programming by government, development partners, civil society, and other stakeholders that aim to address child marriage in Uganda have focused on the drivers of the practice that range from acute household poverty and ill being, negative social cultural and religious beliefs, weak mediating institutions, to girls' lack of voice and agency. A recent rapid assessment (UNICEF (2014) documented a number of ongoing interventions that seek to address VAC issues including child marriage.

Child rights abuses especially SGBV have attracted most interventions⁵ with a focus on community mobilization, sensitization and awareness raising about women and children rights. The program interventions have taken form of mass media campaigns (print and electronic media), music dance and drama, provision of SRH information, support of girl's education, equipping girls with vocational training skills, increased access to micro finance, and capacity building in financial literacy. Another programming area has been the strengthening weak mediating institutions such as JLOS especially the Police Child Protection Unit; education and health through a range of interventions including capacity building for local leaders, teachers, religious and cultural institutions and local governments to promote and protect children and women's rights. Increasing girl's voice and agency has not attracted intervention; with the few ongoing interventions focused on building girls' capacity through mentorship and provision of information and skills building in areas of sexual and reproductive health, confidence building and self-esteem. Discriminatory socio-cultural norms and practices despite being identified as major drivers of child marriage have attracted least intervention. Overall there is no programming explicitly designed and implemented to prevent child marriage per se.

While there is increasing interest by both government and NGOs to address gendered vulnerabilities which impact negatively on adolescent girls and are associated with child marriage there are observable gaps in ongoing interventions. The UNICEF supported assessment revealed that there are multiple programs in place but with limited coverage of issues. Most program interventions have focused on single issues such as education, reproductive health, economic empowerment, and leadership skills among others thus limiting their effectiveness in holistically addressing child marriage in the country. Further, there is lack of coordination among the key stakeholders implementing the programs. The ongoing programs also lack national geographical coverage with the majority focusing on the eastern and northern regions respectively (UBOS, 2011). While these regions exhibit the highest rates of child marriage, the practice is wide spread throughout the country.

Government programming has largely focused on instituting a conducive national legal and policy framework to end child marriage. In this context government has made significant progress in setting the national policy framework for addressing child marriage. Evidence of the latter is the Uganda Constitution (1995) and other laws (Republic of Uganda 1995; and the Penal Code (amendment) Act (CAP 120) 2007), set the legal age of marriage or engagement in sexual acts at 18 years. Chapter 4 of the Constitution provides for the protection and promotion of fundamental and other human rights and freedoms for all Ugandan citizens with specific provisions for the protection of women and girls 'in Articles 20, 21, 24, 33, 34 and 50 of chapter 4'. While article 31 provides for the right to marriage and family formation, it criminalizes child marriage and spells out 18 years as the minimum age at which men and women should marry. The article further prohibits forced marriage and provides for free consent of the man and woman to enter into marriage (3). Article 33(6) of the Constitution prohibits laws, cultures, customs or traditions which are against the dignity, welfare or interest of women or which undermine their status.

The Penal Code (amendment) Act (CAP 120) 2007, section 129 stipulates that any person who performs a sexual act with another person below the age of 18 years commits an offence (defilement) and is liable to life imprisonment; or a death sentence if the offence is committed with a child below 14 years, is infected with HIV/AIDS, or the perpetrator is a parent or guardian, is a person in authority, a serial offender and where the victim is a person with disability (aggravated defilement). Other Ugandan laws that are potentially useful in the prevention of child marriage include the anti-trafficking act (2010), the domestic violence act (2010), and the anti- female genital mutilation act (2009). The laws protect girls from early sex and penalise coerced sexual intercourse and forced marriages.

However, while these laws provide for protection of adolescent girls from child marriage, they operate alongside other Ugandan laws which are lax in regard to the age of marriage. For example while the **Marriage Act of 1904** CAP 251 sets 21 years as the age of consent it allows written consent of fathers/mother/guardian/registrar for marriage of minors – those

5 20 out of 30 organizations visited



below the age of 21 years. The **Marriage of Africans Act of 1904** also permits marriage for minors upon consent of their parents or guardian or registrar in case the parents are dead and no guardian is capable of consenting; but is silent about the age of consent. The **Marriage and Divorce of Mohammedans Act of 1906** is silent on the age of consent. Both the **Hindu Marriage and Divorce Act of 1961** (2 (3) and 2 (4) and The **Customary Marriages (Registration) Act 1973** (Art.11a) and (11b) set the age of consent at 16 years for girls and 18 years for boys and allow marriage of minors upon consent of parents or guardian. While these provisions have been outlawed by the Constitution – which stipulates that any other law or any custom inconsistent with any of the provisions in the Constitution, the Constitution shall prevail – art 2(2), the laws are nevertheless still in operation. Such contradictions in the laws hinder their effective enforcement and in the long term serve to perpetuate child and forced marriage in Uganda.

Since 1987, efforts to amend the old marriage laws have been met with stiff resistance. The Domestic relations Bill which has been split into 3 laws, one of which is the Marriage and Divorce Bill calls for establishment of a national statute that consolidates the old laws and sets 18 years as the official minimum age at marriage and prohibits marriage without the consent of both parties, among other marital and sexual rights. The Marriage and Divorce Bill (2009) that was tabled in Parliament in 2012 met stiff resistance from male legislators who saw it as a threat to their gender identities and male power because it challenged the status quo of existing power relations in the family that highlights male dominance. The bill was withdrawn and indefinitely put on hold.

Current widespread resistance to reforms in marriage laws proposed by the Marriage and Divorce Bill tabled in the 9th parliament underscores the deeply entrenched social norms and expectations of marriage, as well as male bias: the proposed reforms more explicitly recognize women's rights within marriage - to property, freedom from domestic violence and the like – and, in one of the most contentious clauses, proposes making bride wealth non mandatory, rendering it more in the nature of a gift.

3.1.2 National development plans/ policies

The National Development Plan (NDP) 2010-2014/15 acknowledges child marriage as a negative social cultural practice that increases the rate of early pregnancy; which is partly responsible for the country's persistently poor health outcomes for women and children especially high maternal and infant mortality ratios; and high fertility rates. The NDP commits to delay marriages through expanding access to basic education and secondary education through Universal Primary Education (UPE) and Universal Secondary Education (USE) respectively. This is expected to be achieved by addressing the social cultural barriers to school attendance and promoting positive cultural values, norms and practices through strengthening the family unit by sensitizing communities about family values, developing school curricula on marriage and parenting, and ensuring respect and promotion of human rights. The plan indicates government commitment to promote the rule of law and due process through fostering enactment and availability of laws and their continuous revision by supporting comprehensive and demand driven law reforms to enhance access to justice and equality before the law, among others.

The Gender in Education Policy by the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) (2009), pledges government commitment to facilitating re-entry of girls who drop out as a result of teenage pregnancy and early marriage, among other strategies to ensure equity in access, achievement, delivery and management of secondary education. This commitment has been amplified in the Education sector issues paper to NDP II that puts emphasis on addressing social-cultural barriers to girls' attendance, deploying women teachers to rural schools and continuation to address violence against children. It also supports implementation of guidelines for addressing teenage pregnancy and early marriage, continuous community sensitization drive on menstruation, and engaging communities to promote gender equality and education for girls (MoESa 2014). Further commitment to end child marriage and teenage pregnancies is articulated in the revised National Strategy for Girls Education in Uganda (MoESb 2014).

The National Population Policy 2008 acknowledges the persistent cultural practices, customs and norms regarding child marriages that have negative implications on the status and welfare of women and children; and the need to address them. It further identifies teenage motherhood as a major contributor the persistent high fertility and maternal mortality ratio in the country. Other policies that acknowledge early marriage as a negative practice include the 2001 National Youth Policy which expressly acknowledges the right of youth to marry at the legal age of consent and pledges to promote the enjoyment of this right.

The National Adolescent Reproductive Health policy (2004) pledges commitment to advocate for the review of existing legal, medical and social barriers to adolescents' access to information and health services; protection of the rights of adolescents to health information and services, provision of legal and social protection for adolescents against all forms of abuse and harmful traditional practices and promotion of gender equality and provision of quality care for adolescent



sexual and reproductive health issues. The plan for Reproductive Maternal New born and child health in Uganda (RMNCH) pledges to reduce the number of girls getting pregnant to less than 10%, as well as reduce teenage motherhood to less than 15% by 2017 (MoH 2013).

One of the priority areas for the Uganda Gender Policy (2007) is gender and rights, where government commits to enact and reform laws to address gender discriminatory practices, cultural norms and values, develop and implement interventions to address gender-based violence (GBV) of all forms and at all levels; promote sexual and reproductive health rights, and sensitize communities about children's rights. These commitments however remain very broad and mask the importance of addressing child marriage as an obstacle to girls' advancement (Bantebya, Muhanguzi and Watson 2014). For example while the NDP makes strong pronouncements on child marriage, there is no specific explicit strategic intervention for addressing child marriage. In addition, enactment of domestic relations law which consolidates the age of consent/marriage has been a major challenge. Enforcement of the existing laws on defilement is reported to be weak (Development Alternatives [DELTA], 2011; NCG 2008). The Uganda Gender policy identifies challenges in access to justice created by gender biased laws relating to defilement and delays in delivery of justice (The Republic of Uganda 2007). Consequently, child marriage and teenage pregnancies remain high in Uganda. Evidence from recent studies indicates weak enforcement of the policies and laws and inadequate programming to end child marriage (Bantebya et al 2014).

A summary of ongoing programs to address child marriage by government, UN agencies, CSOs and FBOs is presented in tables 1, 2 and 3 respectively.

Table 1 Ongoing Government Interventions that address Child Marriage

Organization	Issues being addressed, policy/program interventions, target group and geographical coverage
Government institutions	
Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development	<p>Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non recognition of children's rights and child abuse • SGBV including FGM and child marriage • Negative social cultural practices that condone teenage pregnancy and non-enrolment/poor persistence of girls in school • Inability to access psychosocial support, health care and justice for SGBV survivors and lack of coordination between anti child marriage stakeholders and duty bearers for effective prevention and response. • Discriminatory/negative social norms leading to escalation of child marriages and early pregnancy <p>Interventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community mobilization and awareness raising about SGB, FGM and child marriage • National campaigns on children's rights through the media, posters and stickers • Provision of psychosocial support, health care and legal redress for victims of early marriage and teenage pregnancy; and coordination between stakeholders and duty bearers for effective prevention and response • Facilitation/empowerment of traditional cultural institutions to develop local ordinances/pronouncements on child marriage and teenage pregnancies • Research/generation of evidence <p>Target group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community members, survivors of SGBV, duty bearers (LCs, Police, health workers, CDOs, FBOs, cultural leaders) <p>Geographical coverage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Busoga Region, Buganda, Lango, WEST Nile, Teso, Karamoja, Rwenzururu, Toro, Inzu/Bugisu, Tororo, Acholi



Ministry of Education and Sports: Gender and Equity Program	<p>Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non retention of pregnant girls and re-entry of child mothers in schools • Teenage pregnancies and child/early and forced marriages <p>Interventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal and policy development and advocacy • Community dialogues, meetings, school clubs • Talks or mentorship for young girls using champions and mentors • Training of senior male and female teachers in giving life skills to the boys and girls • Provision of information through magazines and reports <p>Target Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District leaders (political, technical staff), Religious and cultural leaders Girls and boys (learners in schools), communities (parents, LC leaders, police) <p>Geographical coverage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National and 10 project districts in Busoga region
Ministry of Health	<p>Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teenage pregnancies; lack of or poor quality adolescent sexual reproductive health services; lack of or poor quality preventive, curative and rehabilitative adolescent SRH services. <p>Interventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy development e.g. Adolescent Health Policy • Community mobilization and sensitization especially identifying causes and solutions of teenage pregnancies • Mobilize, sensitize and empower adolescents (girls and boys) • Build capacity for local leaders, religious leaders, parents, health workers to respond to the problems of teenage pregnancies • Organize TV, Local radios, drama, Churches and other places of worship, school clubs such as health clubs, domestic violence clubs, debate clubs and patriotism clubs <p>Target group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adolescents, Schools, Community leadership (political, cultural, religious), parents and health institutions. <p>Geographical coverage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National
National Council for Children	<p>Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violation of children rights – child abuse including child marriage <p>Interventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring the violations of children rights • Organize National Partner's Forum meetings • Child rights advocacy project • Radio talk shows, TV spot messages, print media messages • IEC materials on elimination of child marriage and prosecution of culprits; • District meetings; National meetings; Partner meetings; Feedback meetings during monitoring. <p>Target group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents, District officials, Police, LC leaders, Teachers and community <p>Geographical coverage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National



The results in table 1 show that three government ministries- MoGLSD, MoH and MoES and the National Council for Children (NCC) are currently implementing interventions implicitly or explicitly aiming to address child marriage. The interventions target diverse groups of individuals ranging from adolescent girls, parents, teachers, district officials to Police and community civic leaders; and are or expected to spread out country wide. The government institutions work in partnership with UN agencies especially UNICEF and UNFPA, and CSOs to strengthen government, civil society and community structures to effectively respond to incidences of child rights abuses including FGM and child marriage. The UN agencies working in partnership with GoU to address child marriage are shown in table 2.

Table 2 Ongoing UN programs to address child marriage

UN agency/development partner	
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	Issues
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non recognition of children's rights; all forms of child rights violations including child marriage, and sexual and gender based violence against children among others.
	Interventions
	SAFE pillar
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community dialogues and debates around VAC issues, including FGM/C and child marriage Access to information for adolescents and youth in hard-to-reach rural communities through youth centers , U-report, peer networks Research and evidence generation - adolescent girl's vulnerability index Legal enforcement – fast tracking children cases and follow up perpetrators are brought to book Life skills education
	Alive pillar
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RMNCH development – in collaboration with MOH Nutrition – teenage mothers – in collaboration with MOH Social protection of children and support to school feeding HIV/AIDS (treatment and testing) in collaboration with Baylor A promised renewed movement (APR) on Reproductive Health – in collaboration with World Vision
	Learning pillar
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support to government institutions (financial and technical) to develop policy documents and guidelines to address education challenges including; review and development of the National Strategy for Girls Education 2014; Draft National Strategy on Violence Against Children Basic Requirements and Minimum Standards (BRIMS) programs Support to Girls Education Movement activities – re-entry of girls back to school Support United Nations Girls Education Initiative (UNGEI) district chapters Gender and peace building program in Karamoja in partnership with FAWE and DRT – currently developing training manuals for teachers – in preparation to training teachers on how they can change the gender norms, values and attitudes within the school setting. Violence against Children (VAC) in school – with major focus on making sure children stay in school and re-entry for those who drop out. Community activities include community barazas that involve parish level community mobilization/ dialogues on VAC issues and identification of community response mechanisms on the issues raised. Partnership with Faith based organizations - Catholic secretariat, the protestant and the Uganda Moslem Supreme council.
	Target group
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children – girls and boys, community members
	Geographical coverage
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Western Uganda and Karamoja region - Amudat, Nakapiriipirit and Moroto

UN agency/development partner

United Nations
Fund for
Population
Activities (UNFPA)

Issues

- Teenage pregnancy, FGM/C, and non recognition of children's sexual and reproductive health rights leading to abuses

Interventions

- Research and evidence generation on teenage pregnancy
- Provision of SRH information thru school health clubs, multi media campaigns
- Community mobilization and sensitization – early marriage, FGM/C
- Service delivery – thru family planning and Fistula camps
- Parliamentary outreaches – issues to end teenage pregnancy
- Advocacy: by engaging leaders and key decision makers; working with the mass media; partnerships, networking and coalition building;
- Information Education and Communication and Behavior Change Communication with young people (10-19 years); parents; teachers; Village Health Teams and community leaders

Target group

- Young people 10-19 years, community members

Geographical coverage

- Kaabong, Kanungu, Katakwi, Kotido, Moroto, Mubende, Oyam, Yumbe, Abim, Amuria, Amuru, Amudat, Arua, Bundibugyo, Gulu, Kween, Bukwo, Kapchorwa Kitgum, Nakapiripirit, Pader, Lira, Masaka, Mbarara

UNICEF and UNFPA are the two UN agencies that are actively working in partnership with GoU ministries and institutions to address child marriage issues. UNFPA focus has been on addressing teenage pregnancy, FGM/C and non recognition of children's SRH rights leading to violations. UNICEF work is implemented under its ALIVE, SAFE and LEARNING pillars to implement a broad range of interventions targeting mainly adolescent children and community members. Both UNICEF and UNFPA interventions lack national spatial coverage.





3.2 CIVIL SOCIETY AND FAITH BASED ORGANIZATIONS

CSOs and FBOs are also implementing of programs and interventions to address women and girls rights. Ongoing programs/interventions are shown in table 3

Table 3 Ongoing CSO and FBO programs to address child marriage

Civil society organizations	
Action for Development (ACFODE)	<p>Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sexual and gender based violence especially early and forced marriage, defilement, rape <p>Interventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community led advocacy and sensitization campaigns and training of community facilitators/ male role models (champions), teachers and school management, duty bearers and service providers School based campaigns and initiatives Networking and capacity building - Workshops, dialogues and partner meetings for duty bearers Policy advocacy Media campaigns – talk shows School competitions in essay writing and debates on SGBV issues and dissemination of behavioral change material SGBV - Secondary school clubs in order to access and respond to GBV and Reproductive Health Rights <p>Target group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women and girls; social actors; duty bearers and service providers <p>Geographical coverage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kisoro Apac, Moroto, Kaabong, Yumbe, Kotido, Mubende, Oyam, Kanungu and Katakwi
World Vision	<p>Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's increased vulnerability to rights violations including child marriage Negative societal attitudes that condone domestic violence and other forms of child abuses <p>Interventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child marriage campaigns – integral across World Vision programs – Child health, education and food security and community resilience, child protection Community awareness and mobilization on child marriage – ADAPT, Citizen voice Action Approach Monitoring and supporting communities to follow up child marriage cases especially among the poor families <p>Supports the process of birth registration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal and policy advocacy - domesticated bylaws and ordinances <p>Target group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community members, local governments, cultural leaders, religious leaders, the Police <p>Geographical coverage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 23 districts of Uganda (Northern, Karamoja, Eastern and Central – the Western is grouped under Central)



Civil society organizations	
African Network for Protection – ANPPCAN	<p>Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SGBV – child abuse, teenage pregnancy/child motherhood <p>Interventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vocational training for child mothers to acquire apprenticeship skills • Advocacy for better service provision for child mothers • Research and evidence generation on the causes and effects of child mothers • Media campaigns (radio, news papers and TV) • IEC materials <p>Target group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child mothers <p>Geographical coverage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kampala, Jinja, Iganga, Mukono, Rakai, Napak, Moroto, Kitgum, Gulu, Apac, Arua and Kasese.
BRAC	<p>Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor adolescent sexual and reproductive health; • Early pregnancy; • Menstruation disorders and inability to access family planning <p>Interventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Micro finance; Music, Dance and Drama; sports; vocational life skills, livelihood training • peer education – adolescent mentors <p>Target group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young girls and women aged 12-22 years <p>Geographical coverage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National
CEDOVIP/Raising Voices	<p>Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violence against women and children and non recognition of children's rights; Lack of voice/ agency among women and children • Girl's low enrolment, attendance, and stay in school <p>Interventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multimedia campaign • Community based dialogue and awareness creation on the importance and necessity of educating children, especially girls • Established 8 activism centers to manage cases of violence against girls <p>Target group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents, guardians of marginalized girls; teachers; community members; stakeholders who have interest in the education of girls <p>Geographical coverage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National
Concern for the Girl Child Uganda	<p>Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection and promotion of the rights of vulnerable children and young people especially the needy girls • Girls education and skills development, • Sexual and reproductive health • Economic empowerment and psychosocial support



Civil society organizations

	<p>Interventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School sponsorship and provision of scholastic materials for secondary school girls and improving school facilities such as school toilets, water tanks, a school kitchen, library shelves, chairs, dining shades and library books; give annual career guidance sessions • Provision of sanitary towels to girls • Child Protection through sensitization on child rights and prevention of early marriage • organize talks on sexual and reproductive health information, sanitation and personal hygiene • Economic Strengthening through engaging girls in university and other tertiary institutions in small businesses where they draw pocket money. • Families have been provided trained to start Income Generating Activities like piggery projects, farming, soap making and other related skills in order for them to provide basic needs to their children • Home visits, counseling and guidance, provision of food and clothes for needy families • Social media; radio talk shows; dialogues(to communicate acts that violate children's rights); IEC materials - posters to give messages <p>Feedback and stakeholder meetings</p> <p>Target group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young girls and women, community leaders, child protection and monitoring committees, Parents, guardians and teachers <p>Geographical coverage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kampala (Nakawa Division only), Luwero, Nakaseke, Nakasongola, Wakiso
FAWE Uganda	<p>Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inability of girls to access quality education, girls' low retention in school <p>Interventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Influencing policies and nurturing positive practices and attitudes towards girls' education • SRH project – Training and provision of SRH information, established ASRH clubs; uses school assemblies and outreach activities such as Music Dance and Drama (MDD) • Scholarship for girls • Policy advocacy meetings with key education stakeholders at both the community and the district education office on how to integrate SRHR in the learning systems. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building meeting for selected teachers on how best to empower and support the girl child at school as well as integration of gender responsive teaching methodologies for better academic excellence • Develop and print a TUSEME magazine with students' views, testimonies, achievements and challenges <p>Target group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers, pupils/peer educators, community leaders, parents <p>Geographical coverage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Western and Central regions



Civil society organizations	
Joy for Children Uganda (Girls Not Brides)	<p>Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violence against children – child marriage • Constrained girls' access to education – low persistence of girls in school <p>Interventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy for increased provision of sanitary towels to girls in schools, vocational training for who have been married young. • Mobilize communities formulate by-laws for child marriage, facilitate formation of school clubs for girls and boys to various issues including child marriage • Training for local leaders, religious leaders, traditional leaders on child marriage advocacy • Provide economic Incentives such as goats to the vulnerable families so as they can keep girls • Child sponsorship - 70% of the sponsored children are girls. • Work with the media to do proper reporting on child marriage • Sensitization and awareness on children's rights and girls education through the media; community events, such as Music Dance and Drama (MDD) • Production and dissemination of information, education and communication materials (T-shirts, brochures, posters, flyers, Banners, and leaflets); newsletters <p>Target group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Girls and boys under the age of 18, the community, schools, married girls, local leaders <p>Geographical coverage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Western (Kabarole, Kyenjojo, Bundibugyo, Kasese), Central (Kampala, Wakiso, Kayunga and Mukono) and Eastern (Butaleja, Iganga, Palisa, Mbale)
Wakisa Ministries	<p>Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inability of girl victims of unwanted pregnancies to access information and counseling <p>Interventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crisis pregnancy center an information and counseling facility for girls and their families facing unwanted pregnancies • Christian counseling is offered to girls who have been abandoned, rejected or abused • Temporary shelter: Offers temporary home for the pregnant girls who have decided to go ahead with the pregnancy and have been rejected by their parents /families • Vocational training: infant care, urban agriculture, cookery classes, paper bead making , candle making , singing tailoring bible study lessons knitting and hand crafts. <p>Target group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teenage mothers who have been abandoned <p>Geographical coverage</p> <p>National</p>
MIFUMI	<p>Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender based violence – child marriage • Lack of life skills - leadership, self-confidence, and agency among girls <p>Interventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sure start project – on building life skills through sport (karate), training in schools and study camps • Parents and teachers meetings <p>Target group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adolescent girls in schools <p>Geographical coverage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tororo, Kampala, Bukedea, Moroto, Masaka, Mbarara



Civil society organizations	
TPO Uganda	<p>Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FGM, early marriage; girls illiteracy/low education <p>Interventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with Girls Education Movement and child rights clubs, corrective surgery for formerly circumcised girls. Community dialogues with parents and other community members. Training of formal and informal structures on children's rights, psychosocial support, dangers of FGM and early marriage <p>Target group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls below the age of 18 years, parents and community leaders¹ <p>Geographical coverage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Karamoja region - Amudat District
Pathfinder (GREAT)	<p>Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harmful gender norms Sexual and gender based violence Poor sexual and reproductive health among girls <p>Interventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research and evidence generation A serial radio drama An adolescent toolkit to foster reflection, dialogue and discussions on gender, SRH, and GBV among adolescent groups Community mobilization through the Community Action Cycle approach, Linkages to key SRH and GBV services, Facilitate reflection and dialogue using toolkit Traditional & cultural activities like fireside chats Celebrating GREAT Champions, Engaging key stakeholders at District, Regional and Ministry level (Ministry of Gender, Health and Education) <p>Target group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adolescents aged 10-19 years, unmarried and married <p>Geographical coverage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northern region - Lira, Oyam districts



Civil society organizations	
Stromme Foundation	<p>Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of basic literacy, numeracy, life skills, and basic problem solving capacity among girls • Lack of social protection for children and adolescents living in violent environments <p>Interventions</p> <p>BONGA/Dialogue program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness and sensitization • Skills training and literacy through the BONGA centers - provide basic education skills (reading, writing and math); life skills (health & hygiene, problem solving, communication). • Provide girls with occupational training in an income-generating activity of their choice (tailoring, embroidery, raising animals, raising crops, Salon, catering) • Adult literacy program and learn basic business skills for income generation <p>Target group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Out of school adolescent girls (13-18 years) <p>Geographical coverage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Uganda – Amuru, Karamoja region- Abim, Kago, West Nile – Yumbe, Moyo, Nebbi, Eastern Uganda- Namayingo
Straight Talk Foundation	<p>Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inability of girls to access sexual reproductive health information and services <p>Interventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexuality education – curriculum based/health talks • Youth Enterprise model • Let girls be girls- teenage pregnancy campaign – Girls seminars • Mass media – print; radio programs, • Peer education training • Youth engagement through clubs • Provision of youth friendly sexual and reproductive health services • Production and distribution of IEC materials • Community dialogues <p>Target group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adolescent girls and young women, boys and men, teachers, parents <p>Geographical coverage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kampala, Wakiso, Kabale, Mubende, Gulu, Kitgum, Adjumani, Nwoya, Agago, Karamoja region, Bugiri, Busia, Iganga, Kamuli, Lira, Koboko,
Reproductive Health Uganda (RHU)	<p>Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inability of girls to access SRH information, counseling and SRH services <p>Interventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building/training • Training for SGBV community mobilizers • Establishing and equipping 2 SGBV Community Centre (SCC)-Re-designing /Upgrading SGVB Community Centre • Training of drama group covering costs upkeep and local facilitator • IEC/BCC and advocacy Materials production and dissemination



Civil society organizations	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy for increasing SRH information • Community dialogue on male involvement in on SGBVs and SRH rights • Establish and institutionalize 4 Girls only Clubs and young men's clubs with LPS skills integrated with IGAs <p>Target group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women and girls, men and boys, cultural and religious leaders, community leaders including political and non political leaders, local government staff <p>Geographical coverage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apac, Kapchorwa
Restless Uganda	<p>Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inability of girls to access to friendly ASRH information and services • Lack of life skills building capacity among girls <p>Interventions</p> <p>Keep it real project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interactions with young people • Dialogues with decision makers • Articles and blogs on youth experiences <p>Target group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young adolescents (10-14) and youth (15-19, 20-24) <p>Geographical coverage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kampala, Nwoya, Agago, Jinja, Iganga
Marie Stopes Uganda	<p>Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Girls' poor or non access to quality and affordable SRH services; girls' limited reproductive health choices • Girls' inability to access to SRH information <p>Interventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of peer educators • Communication campaigns – radio talk shows, radio jingles, hotline for free information, sms, social media, U-report • In and out of school outreach • In-school activities • Sponsorship for youth activities • Service delivery <p>Target group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people – 10 -25 years in and out of school <p>Geographical coverage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National
Uganda Women's Network (UWONET)	<p>Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual and gender based violence – including child marriage <p>Interventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building for actors working at the grassroots level • Community outreaches and dialogues • Mentorship forums • IEC materials/BCC materials • Provision of Legal aid/psychosocial



Civil society organizations	
	<p>Target group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community members and leaders – men and women <p>Geographical coverage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mayuge district
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faith Based Organizations 	
Church of Uganda – Provincial Secretariat	<p>Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non recognition of children's rights – child abuse, early marriage Poor parenting/irresponsible parenthood Pre-marital sexual engagement Poor persistence of children in school Inability of girls to access SRH information <p>Interventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mother Union: Education on children's rights, parenting Youth ministry/youth corner – access to SRH information Children's ministry - Family education on children's rights – early marriage/sex, keeping children in schools Health Department – ASRH information Girl child sponsorship - keep girls in school Vocational training - skills training for victims of early marriages and teenage pregnancy to attain skills and income to support themselves and their children Adolescent sexual education program in schools Community mobilization on SGBV, protection of children against early marriage <p>Target group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children - 12 years below, youth – 12 – 35 years <p>Geographical coverage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National – 34 dioceses
Uganda Catholic Secretariat - Uganda Episcopal Conference (UEC)	<p>Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inability of girls to access quality formal education Lack of life skills among girls Lack of SRH information among girls Lack of economic empowerment capabilities among girls <p>Interventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Behavioral change program – education for life – life skills training on ASRH, IEC materials Providing incentives for education – school fees and scholastic materials Offering training and economic support to families - IGAs, psychosocial support Community mobilization/meetings – parents, teachers, church leaders, community leaders on child protection and health care <p>Target group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children and youth, Ecclesial movements – YCS, YCW, catholic scouts, catechists and other pastoral agents <p>Geographical coverage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National – 19 Arch dioceses

The results of table 3 show that diverse CSOs and FBOs are implementing interventions to address child marriage, and that the interventions seek to address diverse issues that limit girls' achievement in all capability domains. All the SCO and FBO interventions apparently target specific age cohorts and apart from UEC and Wakisa Ministries, limited in geographical coverage to specific localities.



3.3 GAPS IN PROGRAMMING

It is evident from the assessment (tables 1,2, and 3) that most child marriage stakeholders, including GoU, UN agencies, CSOs and FBOs lack comprehensive and well-coordinated program interventions specifically aimed at preventing early/child marriages in Uganda. UNICEF, MoGLSD, WV, ANPPCAN, and JOY for Children however have programs targeting child mothers such as providing them with health care and psychosocial support. However, even the organizations and agencies that explicitly recognize child marriage as a specific and serious child rights violation issue (MoES, MoH, NCC, BRAC, MIFUMI) do not have direct program interventions seeking either to prevent or mitigate the negative effects of child marriage that are routinely experienced by the girl victims. It is rational to argue that the absence of explicit programming to prevent child marriage is partly due to both stakeholders' and the wider community's non recognition of child marriage per se as a grave child rights abuse issue of immediate concern. As a result of the latter programming to prevent or mitigate the effects of child marriage has been done in a headlong, haphazard fashion, not based on informed analysis of relevant baseline or other data; and definitely devoid of strategic direction.

The assessment also illuminated other gaps in programming to address child marriage. These included funding constraints, poor or nonfunctional partnerships or collaborations between stakeholders leading to unnecessary replication of interventions, poor or nonexistent M&E mechanisms, over dependence on donors for both financial and logistical support, lack of viable exit strategies putting into question the sustainability of the programs on expiry of donor funding, and unmotivated - especially government public service staffs. Other gaps included inability of the programs to influence changes in respect of negative cultural norms, practices, and negative attitudes that are deeply entrenched in society and promote or perpetuate early pregnancy and child marriage in the communities; religious beliefs especially among Muslims where early marriage is seen as a normal expectation of female children and a girl's onset of menstruation while still at her natal home as a religious taboo; and nonexistent or dysfunctional structures where girl victims of early marriage or pregnancy can access legal redress or other community based arbitration. It is these gaps among others that the NSCM seeks to address.



04

NATIONAL STRATEGY TO END CHILD MARRIAGE





4.1 STRATEGIC DIRECTION

The NSCM seeks to provide a guided vision and direction to the Government of Uganda, development partners, and all stakeholders concerned and committed to ending child marriage. It is premised on the understanding that a child interacts with different contexts and the nature and level of interaction influences his/her development as stipulated in the ecological model that provides conceptual grounding of the strategy. The ecological model further highlights the different roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders at different levels of operation. The strategy also draws on the principle of co-responsibility of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Guided by the latter the strategy document envisions a comprehensive multi-sector approach to end child marriage in Uganda.

4.1 VISION

A society free from child marriage

4.2 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The NSCM draws guidance from a broad framework of the key principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The (CRC) defines child as “*every human being below the age of eighteen years unless, under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier*”. Further, other principles of community and child engagement, confidentiality and privacy are considered. For the purpose of this document, a child means a boy or girl below 18 years, as per the Uganda 1995 Constitution. In this context the following principles guide the preparation of the NSCM;

- **Non-discrimination:** Every child shall have the same rights independent of sex, religion, gender, age, ethnicity and culture. In line with this principle, the NSCM aims to create equal opportunities for girl children in Uganda. In this regard children who have been married shall not be discriminated in accessing resources and benefits provided by the programs.
- **Best interests of the child:** In all matters concerning children, the best interests of the child shall be the paramount consideration. In programming to end child marriage all stakeholders should ensure that all programs and interventions are designed and implemented in a manner that promotes the best interests of the child.
- **Survival and development:** Every child shall be entitled to the highest standards of living and shall be able to thrive in an enabling environment. Stake holders should design and implement programs premised on the approach where child marriage is seen as a threat to the young ‘bride and her child’s health given her premature physical condition for pregnancy and child birth. Programming should also recognize that access to education for married girls is limited and isolation and confinement are common; and constrain the married girls’ capability development.
- **Protection:** Children should be protected from all forms of abuse, violence and exploitation, including harmful practices. In design of programs and interventions to address child marriage all stakeholders should be aware that child marriage is often associated with violence, abuse and confinement; and integrate mitigating components.
- **Building on positive peer approach and participation:** Children shall be given the opportunity to voice and opinions in all matters that concern them depending on their age and maturity. Empowering adolescents - especially girls with increased voice contributes to enhancing their positive image in society and to creating an enabling environment for consulting with other children or adolescents.
- **Building strong partnerships and linkages;** ending child marriage is the responsibility of all stakeholders. The government has to build strong partnerships and linkages with development partners, civil society, and communities, religious and traditional leaders to address the drivers and consequences of child marriage and reduce their impact on girls, families, communities and nation at large.
- **Community participation and leadership:** The design and implementation of programs to end child marriage should involve the communities and ensure that they (communities) play a key leading role.
- **Building on the positive social cultural norms:** All programs aiming to prevent child marriage need to recognize the role of the negative and discriminatory socio-cultural beliefs, norms, and practices in causing and perpetuating child



marriages; and integrate context specific positive social cultural norms in interventions to prevent end child marriage.

- **Confidentiality and privacy:** In all programming to end child marriage issues of confidentiality and privacy should be highlighted and/or promoted to ensure free and effective participation of the children in program activities.

4.3 GOAL

Ending child marriage for prosperity and social economic transformation

4.4 OBJECTIVES

- To promote an enabling environment to end child marriage by strengthening child protection mechanism and enforcement of relevant legislation.
- To influence changes in dominant thinking in regard to social and cultural norms that cause, drive and perpetuate the practice of child marriage in society.

4.5 STRATEGIC AREAS OF FOCUS

1. Improve legal and policy environment (with focus on child rights) to protect children
2. Generation of relevant data and evidence for programming and monitoring progress towards ending child marriage
3. Changing communities' mindsets, knowledge, aspirations, behaviors and social norms that drive child marriage
4. Increased access to quality protection, education, reproductive health services and other opportunities
5. Empowerment of girls and boys with comprehensive and appropriate information on life skills
6. Establish and strengthen structures and systems for implementing the NSCM strategy
7. Coordination, monitoring and evaluation mechanism in place for effective management of the NSCM strategy

4.6 KEY TARGET GROUPS

The NSCM targets the following;

- **Primary targets:** these are stakeholders who are major decision makers in regard to the practice of child marriage. They include parents, clan elders and members, in and out of school young girls living in difficult situations such as conflict and disaster prone areas (refugees), and men and boys who perpetrate the practice of child marriage.
- **Secondary targets:** these include influential community members like community civic leaders, school teachers and officials, health workers, religious, traditional and cultural leaders, and peers.

05 PROPOSED STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS





These interventions are described under the respective key thematic areas of focus to end child marriage namely; strengthening legal and policy frameworks for prevention and protection of children and adolescent girls; promotion of an enabling environment to protect young girls, strengthening protection mechanisms and institutions; generating data and evidence; promoting a shift or change in knowledge, aspirations, behaviors, norms that perpetuate child marriage; and increasing access to services that aim to prevent child marriage. The interventions are designed and implemented to address individual, interpersonal, community and societal factors that influence child marriage as highlighted in the conceptual model above.

5.1 FOCUS AREAS AND PROPOSED STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS

Strategic Focus Area 1:

Improve legal and policy environment (with focus on child rights) to protect children

- 1.1 Review government policies and laws; and stipulate the roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders at national, sub national and community levels in policy and law enforcement
- 1.2 Promote and implement government policies and laws; and stipulate the roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders at national, sub national and community levels in policy and law enforcement
- 1.3 Sensitize communities about the relevant legislation and policies on girls' education, SRH rights, and gender equality

Strategic focus Area 2:

Generation of relevant data and evidence for programming and monitoring progress towards ending child marriage

- 2.1 Generate evidence using both primary and secondary data (publications) to demonstrate the benefits of delaying marriage and of keeping girls in school during adolescence at national and sub-national levels.
- 2.2 Disseminate evidence through existing structures (such as community forums (barazas), community dialogues, seven parliamentary forums that advocate for children, and annual national music, dance and drama festivals.
- 2.3 Develop and operationalize an information management system (IMS) that is capable of capturing child marriage, birth registration and other child protections data of all children.

Strategic Focus Area 3:

Changing communities' mindsets, knowledge, aspirations, behaviors and social norms that drive child marriage

- 3.1 Develop IEC and edutainment materials on child marriage and teenage pregnancy
- 3.2 Launch country wide end child marriage campaigns through media and dissemination of IEC materials.
- 3.3 Establish and Promote partnership with elected representatives at national and sub national levels as strong advocates against child marriage through community engagements
- 3.4 Promote and highlight positive deviance among parents, girls, boys, law enforcement officers, and leaders.
- 3.5 Build capacity of community, religious and cultural institutions to provide a platform for open discussion and public declarations in communities to end child marriage and teenage pregnancy.
- 3.6 Build the capacity of families to address and change the expectations, attitudes and practices in regard to child marriage

Strategic focus Area 4: Increased access to quality protection, education, reproductive health services and other opportunities

- 4.1. Facilitate access of girls and married adolescents to friendly adolescent health services.
- 4.2. Facilitate access to, retention and persistence of girls in primary and secondary education through awareness campaigns, refurbishment of facilities (e.g. wash rooms for girls separate toilets for boys and girls)



- 4.3 Capacity building of school administrators (PTA, SMCs, SMH) teachers and other staffs to create protective and safe environments for girls.
- 4.4 Integrate gender and rights education (with a focus on child marriage) in the primary and secondary school curriculum.
- 4.5 Facilitate access adolescents at risk of child marriage and girls (especially the out of school young mothers) to vocational training institutions.
- 4.6. Strengthen civil registration systems in Uganda as a means to protect boys and girls from sexual and physical violence that lead to or arises from child marriage
- 4.7. Equip health workers with adolescent counselling skills to promote adolescent health friendly services and rights in health facilities.
- 4.8 Facilitate response to cases of violence and particularly sexual violence by police and other law enforcement agencies at the community level.

Strategic Focus Area 5:

Empowerment of girls and boys with comprehensive and appropriate information on life skills.

- 5.1 Build girls and boys capacities in life skills and agency including self esteem, self defense and confidence.
- 5.2 Provide both in and out of school girls and boys with sexual and reproductive health information to enable them manage their growing bodies.
- 5.3 Facilitate and support the establishment of adolescents' groups which offer safe spaces for girls and boys to talk about sensitive issues.
- 5.4 Build capacities of senior women and male teachers in schools

Strategic Focus Area 6:

Establish and strengthen structures and systems for implementing the NSCM strategy

- 6.1 Strengthen existing child protection institutions and mechanisms for promotion of awareness on child marriage and for referral of victims of child marriage.
- 6.2 Promote and support the establishment of community child protection structures to prevent child marriage through awareness raising and counseling.

Strategic Focus Area 7:

Coordination, monitoring and evaluation mechanism in place for effective management of the NSCM strategy

- 7.1 Support a coordination unit within the MGLSD under the social protection directorate to coordinate and monitor the implementation of the NSCM.
- 7.2 Support a high level technical working committee and build capacity of members to offer strategic guidance and support the implementation of the NSCM.
- 7.3 Mobilize sufficient resources for implementing the NSCM
- 7.4 Promote public private partnership



5.2 KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND ACTORS

Effective implementation of the NSCM requires multiple actors to address the various drivers of child marriage. This requires effective, efficient and well coordinated institutional mechanisms that run from national to lower local government level with active engagement of all stakeholders including line ministries – MoES, MoH, MIA, MoLG with MoGLSD taking the lead role. The strategy targets local government administration sector officials, technical teams and committees, development partners, civil society organizations and the local communities’ men and women, girls and boys, including people with disabilities. The different roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders engaged in the implementation of the NSCM are shown in table 4.

Table 4 Key stakeholders and their roles and responsibilities in the implementation of the NSCM

Key stakeholder and Actors	Roles and Responsibilities
MoGLSD	This is the main coordinating agency for implementation of the NSCM. It will provide overall leadership, coordination, monitoring and evaluation.
MoES, MoIA, MoH, Ministry of Justice, Law and Constitutional Affairs	The role of these ministries is to work in partnership with MoGLSD to implement sector specific interventions
MoFPED	To ensure child marriage and teenage pregnancy issues receive sufficient resources in the national budget - especially the key sectors of education, health and gender.
Decentralized Local Government Administration	The delivery of policies and action plans will take place in local governments with the gender focal point persons and other technical people taking the lead role. Local government will offer the primary structures for the implementation of the strategy.
Development partners for example UNICEF, UNFPA, DFID, EU	These will largely provide financial, material and technical resources for the implementation of the strategy. In addition, they will play a key monitoring role.
CSOs	These shall be operational partners to implement strategy.
Community members: men, women, cultural and religious leaders	The community consists of key gatekeepers of social norms and practices. They will be the major implementers, advocates and monitors of the progress in respect of changing of norms and practices to end child marriage.
Children: Girls and boys	These are key actors and beneficiaries of the strategy. They will be engaged at all levels in all activities to end child marriage.

5.3 INFORMATION FLOW AND FEEDBACK MECHANISMS

MoGLSD will produce quarterly and annual reports to establish the extent to which the set targets of the NSCM are being achieved. The reports highlighting progress on key performance indicators as pointers for measurement of progress in achieving strategic objectives shall be circulated to all stakeholders. Proper information flow and feedback is key to implementation of the strategy will help to resolve uncertainty; reassure stakeholders that their interests are met; and assure quality. Written reports will be the medium for information flow and feedback. MoGLSD shall put in place arrangements for communication with other stakeholders so as to meet information needs in the inter-linkages that will be established. The ministry will define, document and control the quality of the reports produced. Review meetings will be conducted to assess progress, quality of programs, roles of different actors and reporting relationships. This information flow and feedback is instrumental for detecting deficiencies and identifies action points to correct them.

06

IMPLEMENTATION AND COORDINATION FRAMEWORK





Overall implementation of the strategy will involve multiple stakeholders involving government, development partners and civil society organizations. The NSCM is broad and comprehensive national framework designed to end child marriage. The strategy proposes establishment of a coordination mechanism for monitoring and evaluating progress.

6.1 COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION MECHANISM AT NATIONAL AND SUB NATIONAL LEVELS

The implementation the child marriage strategy is premised a holistic approach involving multiple partners and key actors at all levels. It is a shared responsibility of all government agencies and institutions, CSOs, the private sector, religious and cultural institutions; and development partners. The MoGLSD is the overall coordinator for implementation of NSCM activities. A coordination unit under the directorate of gender will be established and supported to spear head the implementation and monitoring of the CM strategy. The coordination unit will be headed by a senior officer with wide experience on child rights and protection. The unit should be financed within the MoGLSD financial framework and provided for in the medium and long term government financial budgetary framework.

6.1.1 Responsibilities of the child marriage coordination unit

The unit will;

1. Popularize the CM strategy at all levels
2. Mobilize key stakeholders /actors to participate in the implementation of the CM strategy.
3. Establish and coordinate a national Child Marriage network involving all key partners and actors namely government departments, civil society, international NGOs, religious institutions and development partners.
4. Develop annual work plans and budgets for the implementation of the CM strategy.
5. Coordinate program activities for implementation of the CM strategy
6. Prepare CM strategy performance reports in line with the reporting requirements of MOGLSD and the respective implementing partners.
7. Carry out monitoring and evaluation on all CM strategy programs.
8. Maintain a collaboration network with regional and international organizations working towards ending child marriage.
9. Coordinate the development, production and dissemination of information and publications on child marriage; and organize expert group meetings to share research findings and jointly identify subsequent research themes.

07

MONITORING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK





Prior to the commencement of the proposed interventions, a baseline survey or formative research will be conducted by an external consultant in selected regions, targeting communities both targeted and not directly targeted by the interventions. The baseline survey results will be used to inform programme interventions and to track progress throughout the project implementation period.

Continuous monitoring of the implementation of the strategy will be done, and supplemented with a mid-term and final evaluation so as to cover wider audience. The lessons learnt will be replicated elsewhere for wider coverage. The mid-term review which will take place mid-way through the implementation of the strategy to check whether the overall implementation is on track and whether the activities are likely to meet the purpose for which they were planned. The final evaluation will be conducted at the end of the 5 years implementation period to assess what happened and why, and seek answers for specific questions related to the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability of the strategy.

The monitoring and evaluation system will be integrated in the formulation of the strategy. MOGLSD will design and set up the system, and in collaboration with implementing partners develop a monitoring and evaluation framework to monitor and track both intervention level process indicators and results level indicators. The M&E framework for the implementation of CM interventions is presented in matrix 1.

Table 5 Matrix for Monitoring and evaluation framework for the NSCM

Strategic interventions	Target for 2020	Performance indicators	Means of verification
Strategic Focus Area 1: Improve legal and policy environment (with focus on child rights) to protect children			
1.1 Review government policies and stipulate the roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders at national, sub national and community levels in policy and law enforcement	Adolescent Health policy and the strategy for Girls education include child marriage issues	Existence of child marriage issues in the Adolescent Health Policy, The Strategy for Girls Education (NSGE) and the strategy for Violence against Children in Schools (VACiS)	Review of adolescent health policy, VACiS and NSGE
	All stakeholders (government official at national, district and sub district, civil society organizations, religious and cultural leaders understand their roles and responsibilities in policy and law enforcement.	Operational sector guidelines on are in line with policies	Review of operational guidelines
1.2 Promote and implement the revised Adolescent Health policy and VACiS, NSGE.	Revised policies (VACiS, NSGE,) disseminated and popularized.	No. of districts where the policies and strategies have been disseminated and popularized.	Dissemination reports, lists of participants, distribution lists, monitoring reports
	100% (112) of districts using the policy and strategy in the appropriate language. At least 80% of schools in targeted districts using the policy and strategies in the appropriate language	No of districts using the revised Adolescent Health policy and VACiS , NSGE in the appropriate language No of schools using the policy and strategy in the appropriate language.	Monitoring visits to districts/ District reports
	Government sectors, civil society organizations and local government Different stakeholders at all levels understand their roles and responsibilities in policy and law enforcement	No of government sectors implementing the revised Adolescent Health policy and VACiS, NSGE; % of senior women & men teachers trained on mentoring adolescent girls & boys in schools.	Workshop reports, list of participants, follow up visit/ monitoring reports, action plans and strategies of key stakeholders



Strategic interventions	Target for 2020	Performance indicators	Means of verification
1.3 Sensitize communities about the relevant legislation and policies on girls education , SRH rights, and gender equality	90% of the targeted communities are aware and appreciate the relevant legislation and policies on girls education , SRH rights, and gender equality	Number of women, men, boys and girls who are aware and appreciate the relevant legislation and policies on girls education , SRH rights, and gender equality	monitoring and evaluation reports
	90% of the targeted communities have their children marrying at later age of 20+ years marriage	Number of women, men, boys and girls with changed attitudes to end child marriage	
Strategic focus Area 2: Generation of relevant data and evidence for programming and monitoring progress towards ending child marriage			
2.1 Generate evidence using both primary and secondary data (publications) to demonstrate the benefits of delaying marriage and of keeping girls in school during adolescence at national and sub-national levels.	Formative research commissioned and conducted on child marriage that unpacks social norms and other drivers of child marriage	A report on people's views on child marriage and the social norms produced and used in programming for addressing child marriage issues	Research report, lists of study respondents and participants
	A desk review study commissioned and undertaken	A report of evidence on the benefits of delaying marriage and of keeping girls in school during adolescence	Research report
2.2 Disseminate evidence through existing structures (such as community forums (barazas), community dialogues, seven parliamentary forums that advocate for children, and annual national music, dance and drama festivals.	90% of the targeted communities reached through community forums (barazas), community dialogues, seven parliamentary forums that advocate for children, and annual national music, dance and drama festivals.	Number of people reached and are aware of the drivers of child marriage and demonstrate the benefits of delaying marriage and of keeping girls in school during adolescence.	monitoring and evaluation reports
2.3 Develop and operationalize an information management system (IMS) that is capable of capturing child marriage, birth registration and other child protection data of all children.	An information management system established and operational at MGLSD	Functional Management Information Management system that captures information on child marriage, teen pregnancies, protection, and health indicators; Number of districts with functional child help line services linked to functional referral and case management systems and other technology for development systems such as U Report.	an information management system, monitoring and evaluation reports
	over 90% of the targeted communities have been oriented and sensitized about the MIS for ending child marriage	Number of people (women, men, boys and girls who are aware and using the MIS to track, report and refer child marriage & other Child Protection issues	monitoring and evaluation reports



Strategic interventions	Target for 2020	Performance indicators	Means of verification
Strategic Focus Area 3: Changing communities' mindsets, knowledge, aspirations, behaviors and social norms that drive child marriage			
3.1 Develop IEC and edutainment materials on child marriage and teenage pregnancy	90 % of the communities reporting a reduction in the prevalence of child marriage and teenage pregnancy	% of adolescent girls and boys 10-19 years with the correct knowledge delaying marriage and sexual debut; % of girls 15-19 who have started child-bearing; Guidelines on teenage pregnancy developed and rolled out in schools;	UNDHS Monitoring and evaluation reports
3.2 Launch country wide end child marriage campaigns through media and dissemination of IEC materials.	Over 1million boys and girls in schools and out of school reached	Number of Boys and girls demonstrate a positive change in their agency and aspirations that impacts on their behavior (delayed sexual relations and marriage); Completion rate at Primary 7 for boys and girls; Completion rate at Senior 4 for boys and girls;	monitoring and evaluation reports EMIS
	Over 2 million families in the targeted districts with a positive attitude	Number of families that have returned their girl children to school;	monitoring and evaluation reports
	Over 5000 male figures and other male action groups are established within communities to promote the abandonment of child marriage	Number of male figures and other male action groups are established within communities to promote the abandonment of child marriage	monitoring and evaluation reports
	70 districts and 500 sub-counties that have made public declarations and have abandoned the child marriage practice	Number of communities that have made public declarations and have abandoned the child marriage practice	monitoring and evaluation reports

Strategic interventions	Target for 2020	Performance indicators	Means of verification
3.3 Establish and Promote partnership with elected representatives at national and sub national levels as strong advocates against child marriage through community engagements	100% of the targeted parliamentarians, sector committee members of key ministries, religious and traditional cultural leaders and other opinion leaders promote and advocate against child marriage	Number of parliamentarians, sector committee members of key ministries support and advocate the end of child marriage.	Monitoring and evaluation reports
	5 partnerships established at national and 200 at sub national level involving elected, religious and traditional cultural leaders and other opinion leaders in the communities for ending child marriage	Number of established partnerships at national and sub national level involving elected, religious and traditional cultural leaders and other opinion leaders in the communities for ending child marriage	monitoring and evaluation reports with participants list in the partnerships
3.4 Promote and highlight positive deviance among parents, girls, boys, law enforcement officers, and leaders.	Over 500 community dialogues conducted	Number of communities promoting and practicing positive deviance as part of a strategy to end child marriage	monitoring and evaluation reports
	100% school visited by role model in the targeted communities	Number of girls and boys aspiring to marry at a later age and avoiding teenage pregnancy	monitoring and evaluation reports
3.5 Build capacity of community, religious and cultural institutions to provide a platform for open discussion and public declarations in communities to end child marriage and teenage pregnancy	95% of the targeted communities participate in open discussions and public declarations to end child marriage and teenage pregnancies	Number of women, men, boys and girls with increased knowledge, changed aspirations and behaviors towards child marriage and teenage pregnancy	monitoring and evaluation reports
3.6 Build the capacity of families to address and change the expectations, attitudes and practices in regard to child marriage	Over 10,000 vulnerable families with adolescent girls identified country wide and attending school	Number of vulnerable families with adolescent girls attending school	List of vulnerable reports, list of adolescents
	A bursary scheme established and over 10,000 girls supported to access secondary education	Number of girls from poor families benefiting from a bursary scheme	monitoring and evaluation reports
Strategic focus Area 4: Increased access to quality protection, education, reproductive health services and other opportunities			
4.1 Facilitate access of girls and married adolescents to friendly adolescent health services	90.5 of the targeted communities have youth/adolescent health corners established and equipped	Number of boys and girls accessing youth/adolescent corners in health facilities;	monitoring and evaluation reports



Strategic interventions	Target for 2020	Performance indicators	Means of verification
	100% of the facilities in targeted communities have trained health workers in providing youth friendly adolescent services	Number of health workers providing youth friendly sexual and reproductive health services; Priority actions for adolescents integrated within the national HTC guidelines; Priority actions for adolescents integrated within the national HTC guidelines;	monitoring and evaluation reports
4.2 Facilitate access to, retention and persistence of girls in primary and secondary education through refurbishment of facilities (e.g. wash rooms for girls separate toilets for boys and girls).	100% of the schools in the targeted communities have facilities refurbished to provide separate washrooms for girls and boys	Number of girls completing primary and secondary education due to improved facilities	Monitoring and evaluation reports
4.3 Capacity building of school administrators (PTA, SMCs, SMH) teachers and other staffs to create protective and safe environments for girls	100% of school administrators, teachers and school staff provide protective and safe environments for girls	Number of school administrators (PTA, SMCs, SMH) teachers and other staffs with knowledge and create protective and safe environments for girls	monitoring and evaluation reports
4.4 Integrate gender and rights education (with a focus on child marriage) in the primary and secondary school curriculum.	primary and secondary curriculum reviewed	reviewed primary and secondary curriculum with gender and rights issues integrated	review primary and secondary curriculum
4.5 Facilitate access of adolescents at risk of child marriage and girls (especially the out of school young mothers) to vocational training institutions.	At least 1 million girls enrolled in vocational institutes in 5 years At least 700,000 girls with vocational skills and are engaged in productive income generation activities and delaying marriage in 5 years	Number of girls enrolled in the institutes and completing their courses Number of girls with vocational skills and are engaged in productive income generation activities and delaying marriage; %/# adolescent girls and boys who have experienced sexual and physical violence at school	monitoring and evaluation reports monitoring and evaluation reports
4.6 Strengthen civil registration systems in Uganda as a means to protect boys and girls from sexual and physical violence that lead to or arises from child marriage	All 112 district local governments have functional birth and death registration system	Proportion of districts with functionality of Mobile Vital Records Systems	MVRS reports, monitoring and evaluation reports



Strategic interventions	Target for 2020	Performance indicators	Means of verification
Strategic Focus Area 5: Empowerment of girls and boys with comprehensive and appropriate information on life skills			
5.1 Build girls and boys capacities in life skills and agency including self-esteem, self-defense and confidence.	life skills education integrated in primary and secondary school curriculum	School curriculum (primary and secondary) include life skills education and are being implemented in all districts.	Reviewed school curriculum (primary and secondary)
	100% of the girls and boys with life skills and delaying marriage	Number of girls and boys with life skills and delaying marriage in the targeted communities; Proportion of girls and boys marrying before the ages of 15; and 18; The teenage pregnancy rate.	Monitoring and evaluation reports UDHS
5.2 Provide both in and out of school girls and boys with sexual and reproductive health information to enable them manage their growing bodies.	100% girls and boys accessing Sexual and reproductive health information	Number of girls and boys accessing Sexual and reproductive health information. The teenage pregnancy rate.	Monitoring and evaluation reports
5.3 Facilitate and support the establishment of adolescents' groups which offer safe spaces for girls and boys to talk about sensitive issues.	90% of the boys and girls in targeted locations are members of at least one club/group	Number of in school and out of school adolescents who are members of adolescent clubs/groups	Monitoring ad evaluation reports
	95 % of boys and girls delaying marriage and sexual relations	Number of boys and girls demonstrate a positive change in their agency and aspirations that impacts on their behavior (delayed sexual relations and marriage)	UDHS reports, monitoring ad evaluation reports
5.4 Build capacities of senior women and male teachers in schools	100% of the school with senior women and men teachers with knowledge and skills to support girls and boys, monitor and prevent child marriage and teenage pregnancies	Number of senior women and male teachers with knowledge and skills to support girls and boys, monitor and prevent child marriage and teenage pregnancies	monitoring ad evaluation reports



Strategic interventions	Target for 2020	Performance indicators	Means of verification
Strategic Focus Area 6: Establish and strengthen structures and systems for implementing the NSCM strategy			
6.1 Strengthen existing child protection institutions and mechanisms for promotion of awareness on child marriage and for referral of victims of child marriage.	100% district child protection officials with knowledge and skills to for promote delay of marriage, support, track and refer victims of child marriage.	<p>Number of child protection officials with knowledge and skills to promote delay of marriage, support, track and refer of victims of child marriage;</p> <p>Proportion of districts with functional referral mechanisms for provision of social, health and protection services for boys and girls;</p> <p>Proportion of districts accurately applying national guidelines on OVC, case management, alternative care framework</p> <p>Proportion of districts reporting through management information systems such as HMIS, OVC MIS, EMIS, EDUTRAC</p>	<p>monitoring and evaluation reports;</p> <p>EMIS</p> <p>OVC MIS</p> <p>EDUTRAC</p> <p>HMIS</p>
6.2 Promote and support the establishment of community child protection structures to prevent child marriage through awareness raising and counseling	100% of the targeted districts with child protection structures and are functional	Number of child protection structures established and operational	Monitoring and evaluation reports
Strategic Focus Area 7: Coordination, monitoring and evaluation mechanism in place for effective management of the NSCM strategy			
7.1 Support a coordination unit within the MGLSD under the social protection directorate to coordinate and monitor the implementation of the NSCM.	A strong and effective coordination unit established	A fully functional coordination unit established/strengthened	monitoring and evaluation reports
	Senior staff assigned to the unit and equipment procured	Senior staff with wide experience on child rights and protection recruited and office equipment (computers, furniture) for the Unit procured	monitoring and evaluation reports
	Orientation of Staff undertaken	Number of staff oriented	monitoring and evaluation reports, workshop reports
	18 Quarterly review meetings held	Number of quarterly review meetings on CM for all stakeholders in the implementation of the strategy help	Minutes of the meetings, monitoring and evaluation reports
	5 Annual performance reviews held	Number of annual performance reviews on the implementation of the strategy held	Performance review reports, monitoring and evaluation reports

Strategic interventions	Target for 2020	Performance indicators	Means of verification
	1 Mid-term review on the implementation of the strategy undertaken.	Number of Mid-term reviews conducted	Mid-term review reports, monitoring and evaluation reports
	Monitoring activities conducted	Number of monitoring activities conducted	monitoring and evaluation reports
7.2 Support a high level technical working committee and build capacity of members to offer strategic guidance and support the implementation of the NSCM.	A high level technical working committee constituted	A high level technical working committee established and their capacity built	monitoring and evaluation reports
	19 high level meetings held	Number of quarterly meetings for the high level committee	monitoring and evaluation reports, minutes of the meetings
7.3 Mobilize sufficient resources for implementing the NSCM	Fundraising dinner(s) organized	MGLSD has a budget line allocated for the implementation of NSCM, clearly demarcating funding from government and private sector.	monitoring and evaluation reports
	At least 3 proposals submitted per year	At least 3 Development partners commit financial and technical resources annually towards realization of results of the strategy.	monitoring and evaluation reports
	A website established and functional	a website/page established and functional for crowd sourcing	monitoring and evaluation reports
7.4 Promote public private partnership	Lobbying and advocacy meetings conducted	Number of lobbying and advocacy meetings for resource allocation to child protection institutions	monitoring and evaluation reports
	Public private partnerships established	Number of joint planning, implementation and monitoring of interventions on child marriage with private and public institutions/agencies undertaken and progress documented	monitoring and evaluation reports

08

COSTING AND FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK





8.1 BACKGROUND TO THE COSTING AND FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK

The CM strategy implementation plan is embedded within Social Sector Development Investment Plan, SSDIP 2, which articulates social development concerns in NDP 2. The budget covers 7 strategic focus areas namely improve legal and policy environment (with focus on child rights) to protect children; generation of relevant data and evidence for programming and monitoring progress towards ending child marriage; changing communities' mindsets, knowledge, aspirations, behaviors and social norms that drive child marriage; increased access to quality protection, education, reproductive health services and other opportunities; empowerment of girls and boys with comprehensive and appropriate information on life skills; establish and strengthen structures and systems for implementing the NSCM strategy; and coordination, monitoring and evaluation mechanism in place for effective management of the NSCM strategy. However, the focus areas are linked to take care of the multi-dimensional nature of child marriage.

8.2 SOURCES OF FUNDING

Financing of the implementation of the NSCM is expected from the GOU national budget allocations, and development partners.

8.3 COST OF INTERVENTIONS

Table 6 Indicative budget for the implementation of the national strategy to end child marriage (2015-2020)

2.3 Develop and operationalize an information management system (IMS) that is capable of capturing child marriage, birth registration and other child protections data of all children.	an information management system established	MGLSD	Uganda Registration Services Bureau	50	350	320	200	190	1110
SUB TOTAL				250	800	700	530	450	2730
Strategic Focus Area 3: Changing communities' mindsets, knowledge, aspirations, behaviors and social norms that drive child marriage									
3.1 Develop IEC and edutainment materials on child marriage and teenage pregnancy	100,000 posters, 100,000 fliers, 1000,000 t-shirts printed and distributed through different channels	MGLSD	MOES, MOH, CSOs	0	70	70	60	50	250
3.2 Launch country wide end child marriage campaigns through media and dissemination of IEC materials.	Press conferences, radio and TV talk shows, sensitizations meetings, home visits and regional workshops conducted	MGLSD	MoES, MOH, Media Center; Media Houses	27	315	315	245	215	1117
3.3 Establish and Promote partnership with elected representatives at national and sub national levels as strong advocates against child marriage through community engagements	2 round table discussions held per year at the national level and 1 held per sub county per quarter	MGLSD	MOES, CSOs, MOLG, MGLSD	10	130	130	130	130	530
3.4 Promote and highlight positive deviance among parents, girls, boys, law enforcement officers, and leaders.	Over 500 community dialogues conducted	MGLSD	MOES, CSOs, MOLG, MGLSD	0	110	120	120	100	450
3.5 Build capacity of community, religious and cultural institutions to provide a platform for open discussion and public declarations in communities to end child marriage and teenage pregnancy.	10 capacity and partnership building workshops	MGLSD	Cultural institutions, CSOs, Local government	0	110	120	130	100	460
3.6 Build the capacity of families to address and change the expectations, attitudes and practices in regard to child marriage	vulnerable families with adolescent girls identified country wide	MGLSD		0	150	100	100	100	450
SUB TOTAL				37	885	855	785	695	3257
Strategic focus Area 4: Increased access to quality protection , education , reproductive health services and other opportunities									



4.1 Facilitate access of girls and married adolescents to friendly adolescent health services.	1000 youth/adolescent health corners established and equipped in all health centers country wide	MoH	MoES	0	100	50	30	30	210
4.2 Facilitate access to, retention and persistence of girls in primary and secondary education through awareness campaigns, refurbishment of facilities (e.g. wash rooms for girls separate toilets for boys and girls)	country wide survey of the status of school facilities conducted	MoES	local government , district officials	0	460	490	370	330	1650
4.3 Capacity building of school administrators (PTA, SMCs, SMH) teachers and other staffs to create protective and safe environments for girls.	112 district workshops for school administrators, teachers and school staff conducted	MOES	MGLSD	0	100	120	60	50	330
4.4 Integrate gender and rights education (with a focus on child marriage) in the primary and secondary school curriculum.	primary and secondary curriculum reviewed	MoES		0	20	0	0	0	20
4.5 Facilitate access adolescents at risk of child marriage and girls (especially the out of school young mothers) to vocational training institutions.	vocational training facilities established	MGLSD	MOES, local government, CSOs	0	300	300	300	190	1090
SUB TOTAL				0	980	960	760	600	3300
Strategic Focus Area 5: Empowerment of girls and boys with comprehensive and appropriate information on life skills.									
5.1 Build girls and boys capacities in life skills and agency including self-esteem, self-defense and confidence.	life skills education integrated in primary and secondary school curriculum	MGLSD	MoES	0	100	60	30	30	220
5.2 Provide both in and out of school girls and boys with sexual and reproductive health information to enable them manage their growing bodies.	training for the guidance and counselling teachers and SWT/ SMT conducted	MGLSD	MoES, MoH	0	110	100	60	40	310
5.3 Facilitate and support the establishment of adolescents' groups which offer safe spaces for girls and boys to talk about sensitive issues.	over 10,000 school clubs established and strengthened	MGLSD	MoES, MoH, MoLG	0	40	40	40	40	160
5.4 Build capacities of senior women and male teachers in schools	10 regional workshops conducted	MGLSD	MoES, MoH	0	70	70	70	50	260
SUB TOTAL				0	320	270	200	160	950



Strategic Focus Area 6: Establish and strengthen structures and systems for implementing the NSCM strategy										
6.1 Strengthen existing child protection institutions and mechanisms for promotion of awareness on child marriage and for referral of victims of child marriage.	Capacity building workshops conducted	MGLSD	MoLG	15	120	120	90	80	425	
6.2 Promote and support the establishment of community child protection structures to prevent child marriage through awareness raising and counseling.	a mapping of child protection structures	MGLSD	MoLG, CSOs	0	175	135	35	20	365	
TOTAL				15	295	255	125	100	790	
Strategic Focus Area 7: Coordination, monitoring and evaluation mechanism in place for effective management of the NSCM strategy										
7.1 Support a coordination unit within the MoGLSD under the social protection directorate to coordinate and monitor the implementation of the NSCM.	Decision to establish a CM Unit is made	MGLSD		90	90	190	90	200	660	
7.2 Support a high level technical working committee and build capacity of members to offer strategic guidance and support the implementation of the NSCM.	A high level technical working committee constituted	MGSLD	MoES, MoH, MoLG, CSOs	13	10	10	10	10	53	
7.3 Mobilize sufficient resources for implementing the NSCM	one fundraising dinner organized	MGSLD	MoES, MoH, MoLG, CSOs	5	70	60	10	5	150	
7.4 Promote public private partnership	Public private partnerships established	MGLSD	private institutions and CSOs	5	10	10	5	5	35	
TOTAL				113	180	270	115	220	898	



8.4 TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The coordination unit led by a senior staff of the MoGLSD will prepare and institute wide accountability systems and mechanisms in the NSCM. The unit will assess on a regular basis the progress on the deliverables of the strategy. It will further monitor and track how effectively NSCM interventions and activities are being implemented.

8.5 KEY ASSUMPTIONS

The following are assumed as prerequisites for the successful implementation of the NSCM;

1. Transparent leadership and high level political and technical support at both national and sub national levels
2. Buy IN by the cultural/traditional leaders and religious leaders at all levels given their local knowledge, power and influence in transforming public attitudes and perceptions towards child marriage.
3. Strengthened and effectively coordinated institutions mandated to address the drivers of child marriage and needs of children.
4. Well-coordinated information management, sharing and dissemination mechanisms.
5. Strengthened planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation of NSCM interventions.
6. Developed communication and advocacy program to popularize the benefits of children marrying later than 18 years of age.
7. An existing legal framework which is enforced impartially.

8.6 POSSIBLE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE NSCM

- Lack of political will and support
- Unchanging cultural beliefs, norms, and traditional practices related to the girl child



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