

# The Child Marriage Research to Action Network (The CRANK)

**ENGLISH** - This session will have presentations in **English**. To access simultaneous interpretation, please click on the globe icon at the bottom bar of your screen and **select your preferred language (English, Spanish, French, Portuguese, Hindi, Bangla, Nepali or no interpretation)**.

**FRANÇAIS** - Cette session comprendra des présentations en **anglais**. Pour accéder aux services d'interprétation simultanée, veuillez cliquer sur l'icône globe que vous trouverez dans la barre inférieure de votre écran, et **sélectionnez la langue de préférence**

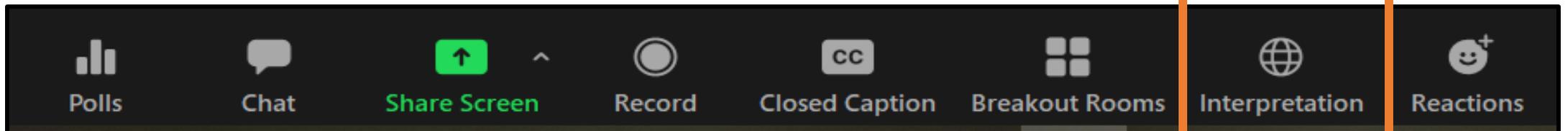
**ESPAÑOL** - Esta sesión tendrá presentaciones en **inglés**. Para acceder a los servicios de interpretación simultánea, por favor haga clic en el icono del globo que encontrará en la barra inferior de su pantalla, y **seleccione su idioma de preferencia**

**PORTUGUÊS** - Esta sessão terá apresentações em **inglês**. Para aceder à interpretação simultânea, clique no ícone do globo na barra inferior do seu ecrã e selecione a sua língua preferida

यह सत्र अंग्रेजी में प्रस्तुत किया जाएगा। अपनी सुविधा अनुसार अनुवाद सुनने के लिए, कृपया अपनी स्क्रीन के नीचे दिए गए ग्लोब आइकन पर क्लिक करें और अपनी पसंदीदा भाषा चुनें — अंग्रेजी, स्पेनिश, फ्रेंच, हिंदी, बांग्ला या विकल्प "कोई अनुवाद नहीं"।

এই সেশনটি ইংরেজিতে পরিচালিত হবে। আপনি যদি নিজের সুবিধামতো অনুবাদ শুনতে চান, তাহলে স্ক্রিনের নিচে থাকা গ্লোব আইকনে ক্লিক করুন এবং আপনার পছন্দের ভাষা নির্বাচন করুন — ইংরেজি, স্প্যানিশ, ফরাসি, হিন্দি, বাংলা অথবা “কোনও অনুবাদ নয়”।

यस सत्रमा अंग्रेजीमा प्रस्तुतिहरू हुनेछन्। एकसाथ व्याख्या पहुँच गर्न, कृपया आफ्नो स्क्रिनको तलको पट्टीमा रहेको ग्लोब आइकनमा क्लिक गर्नुहोस् र आफ्नो मनपर्ने भाषा चयन गर्नुहोस्।



# The Child Marriage Research to Action Network (The CRANK)

Join the Journey:  
Shaping a Global  
Shared Research  
Agenda to Prevent  
and Respond to Child  
Marriage

17 September 2025



# Agenda

Time (UK)	Discussion
14:00 - 14:05	<b>Welcome</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Opening welcome: <b>José-Roberto Luna Manzanero</b>, <i>UNFPA</i></li></ul>
14:05 - 14:15	<b>Setting the scene:</b> José-Roberto Luna Manzanero <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Venkatraman Chandra-Mouli</b></li><li><b>Aicha Awa Ba</b></li><li><b>Ramya Subrahmanian</b></li></ul>
14:15 – 14:35	<b>From Process to Progress: updates!</b> – José-Roberto Luna Manzanero <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Christina Pallitto:</b> <i>Presentation on the Process</i></li><li><b>Margaret Greene:</b> <i>Stocktaking Scoping Review: Progress and Gaps in Research on Child Marriage Prevention and Support for Married Girls</i></li></ul>
14:35 - 14:45	<b>Discussion</b> – José-Roberto Luna Manzanero
14:45 – 15:20	<b>Join the Global Consultation Journey: Shaping a Shared Research Agenda Together</b> – Manahil Siddiqi
15:20 - 15:25	<b>Bringing it all together</b> – Jean Casey, <i>Girls Not Brides</i>
15:25- 15:30	<b>Close</b> – Jean Casey, <i>Girls Not Brides</i>

# Why is a new research agenda needed?

- Recognizing progress achieved since 2019 (STAR, CRANK)
- Evolving global challenges increasing girls' risks
- Demand for evidence-based programming
- Greater focus on inclusion to strengthen uptake of evidence

## Objective of the new research agenda

To create a shared global research agenda using a participatory approach that includes perspectives of all relevant stakeholder groups with the aim of strengthening prevention and response efforts through evidence-based programmes and policies

## Guiding principles



### **Equity and Inclusiveness** -

Center diverse voices, especially from countries most affected by child marriage



### **Accelerated Action** –

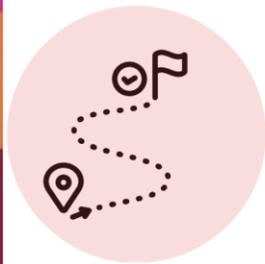
Focus on actionable priorities that support urgent progress toward SDG 5.3



### **Pragmatism** –

Leverage existing partnerships, networks, and resources efficiently

# Process Overview



**Stage 1:**  
Define the  
Process



**Stage 2:**  
Review  
Evidence  
Progress



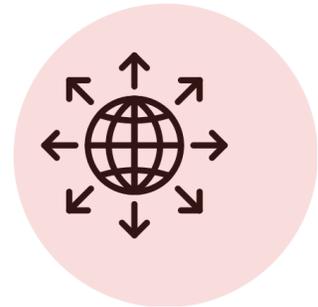
**Stage 3:**  
Identify  
Evidence  
Needs



**Stage 4:**  
Establish  
Shared  
Priorities



**Stage 5:**  
Launch  
Research  
Agenda

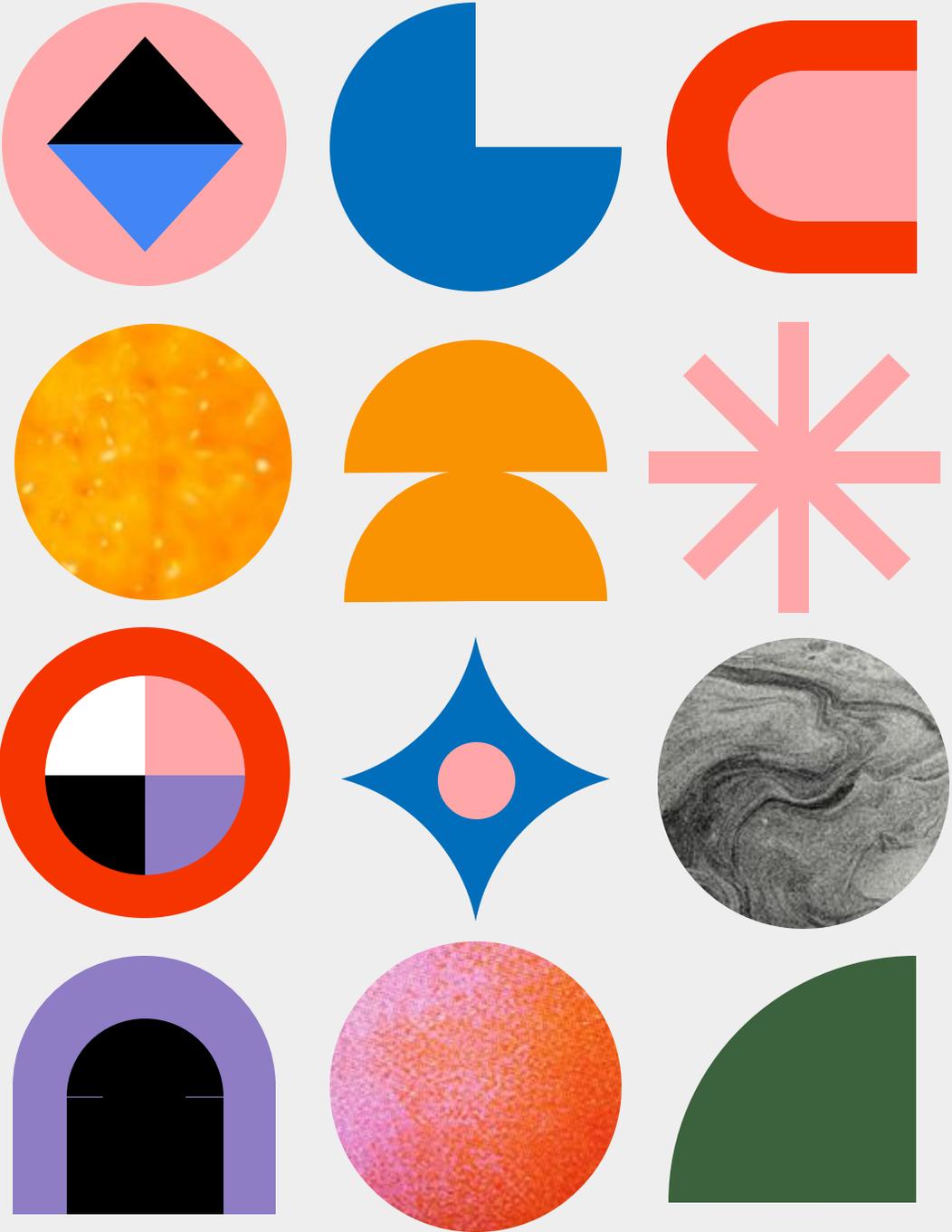


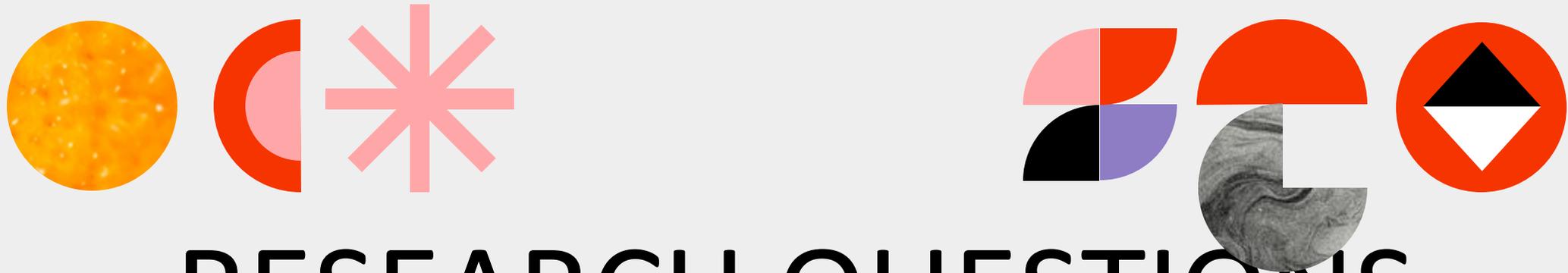
**Stage 6:**  
Dissemination  
and Uptake

# Taking Stock:

# Progress and Gaps in Child Marriage Research

MARGARET E. GREENE & STEPHANIE M.  
PERLSON





# RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1

To what extent have the research gaps identified in the 2019 priority-setting exercise been addressed?

2

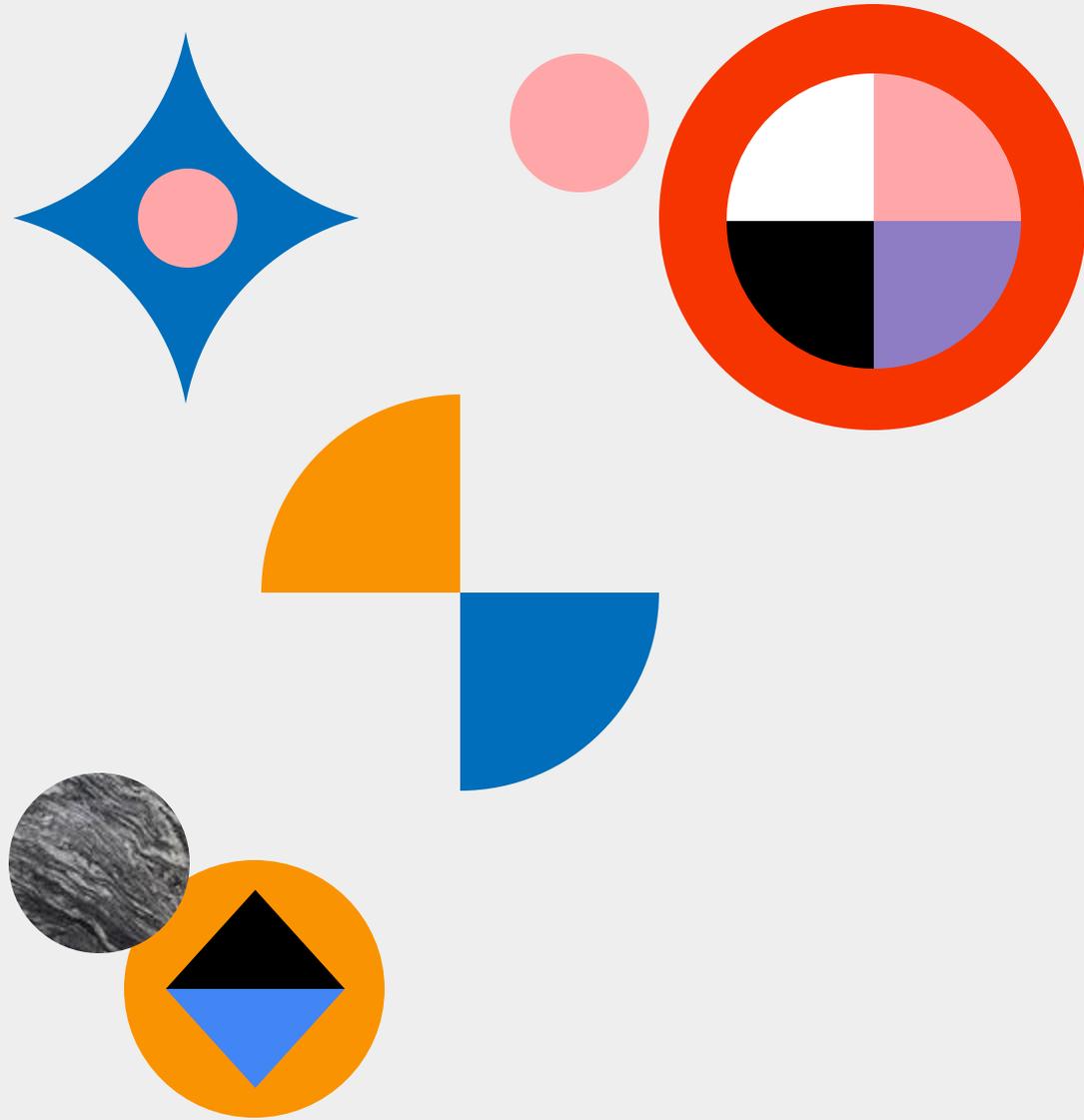
How has the literature on interventions to prevent and respond to child marriage evolved since 2019?

3

What research areas should guide future research investments?

4

What are the challenges and facilitating factors in evidence generation, coordination and uptake?



# METHODOLOGY

- Analytic framework
- Literature search and analysis
- Key informant interviews

# Analytic framework

## Building girls' assets

- Agency
- Educational
- Economic
- Health

## Transforming norms

- Community engagement
- Mass media
- Roles & relationships

## Systems & structures

- Legal & policy
- Social movements
- Systems strengthening

## Crosscutting themes

- Intervention effectiveness vs. implementation research, or both
- Scalability, single vs. multi-component, costing
- Humanitarian settings
- Gender-transformative programming
- Youth-led advocacy

# 1. To what extent have the research gaps identified in the 2019 priority-setting exercise been addressed? [Intervention effectiveness](#)

Solid progress	Mixed progress	No progress
	<i>Evaluations to assess the impact of specific intervention strategies to delay marriage, targeted at different groups and contexts</i>	
<i>Studies/ evaluations to assess the impact of single versus comprehensive interventions</i>		
	<i>Evaluations to assess impact of interventions for change at the individual or community level vs at the system level</i>	
<i>Efforts to support married girls: Their effectiveness, and cost effectiveness of a package of interventions to meet the needs of married girls, at scale and sustainably</i>		

# 1. To what extent have the research gaps identified in the 2019 priority-setting exercise been addressed? [Implementation research](#)

Solid progress	Mixed progress	No progress
Delivery platforms & approaches	xxx	xxx
		Costing
Role of civil society organizations in scale-up efforts: capacity, sustainability	xxx	
Documentation and evaluation of country policies & programs	xxx	xxx

## 2. How has the literature on interventions to prevent and respond to child marriage evolved since 2019?

### Prevention of child marriage

#### *Intervention effectiveness*

- Strong focus on girl-focused approaches and community engagement
- Educational, health, economic also emphasized
- Less attention to legal and policy changes, social movements & role of systemic change in prevention efforts.

#### *Implementation research*

- Some progress to assess scalability of interventions
- Little attention to legal or policy interventions and support for social movements, despite their potential for broader systemic impact.

### Response to married girls

#### *Intervention effectiveness*

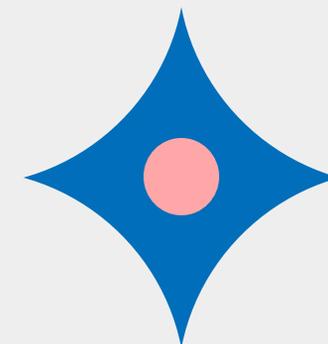
- More modest evidence on interventions that support married girls
- Sexual and reproductive health interventions predominate

#### *Implementation research*

- Health is focus, and girl-focused and community engagement receive less attention
- Legal and policy reforms, as well as movement-building, among least studied



### 3. What research themes should guide future research investments?



- Close specific geographic & population gaps, and increase focus on crisis/climate contexts
- Translate research from other languages and make more of grey literature
- Study informal unions in LAC
- Strengthen research on scale and cost-effectiveness
- Evaluate the impact of laws and policies
- Prioritize ethical, locally-led and youth-led research

#### ***Overarching***

- Measurement challenges: beyond marriage age, assess improvements in the lives of already-married girls, access to services and expanded opportunities
- Get a better grip on the intermediate outcomes that matter the most

## 4. What are the challenges and facilitating factors in evidence generation, coordination and uptake?

### Challenges

- Power imbalances between high-income and LMIC institutions shape agendas
- Research is often academic, duplicative
- Limited translation into policy and practice
- Weak capacity for evidence use among a range of actors

*The community focus of research has not been done very well, and this makes it harder to translate the research into practice.*

- Practitioner

*Less focus on the programs in a way, and a greater understanding of what is actually happening with girls [is needed]. [The] human side is not informing research as it could.*

- Practitioner

*The raw data are not that informative or do not connect with people who might use the information. Need to use a simple and friendly language.*

- Practitioner

## 4. What are the challenges and facilitating factors in evidence generation, coordination and uptake?

### Facilitating factors

- Address the structural, systemic, and practical barriers identified by those working closest to the issue
- Connect with local researchers and CSOs to design, implement, and evaluate intervention research
- Develop more accessible communication formats

*Community led approach - How to prioritize community relationships and wellbeing and trust? [Promote] equitable partnerships - youth-led research to drive advocacy..*

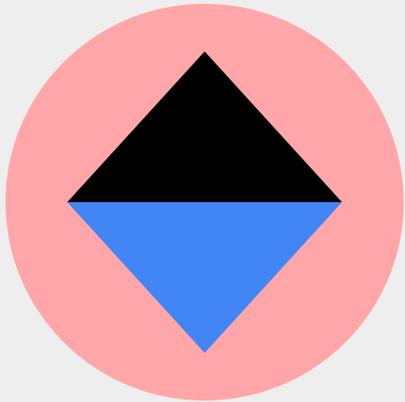
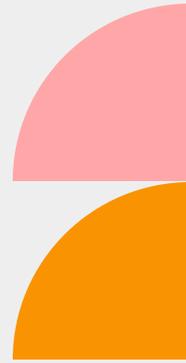
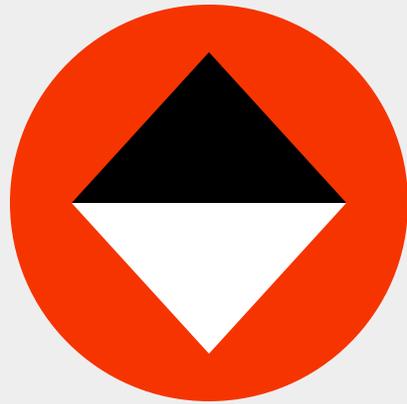
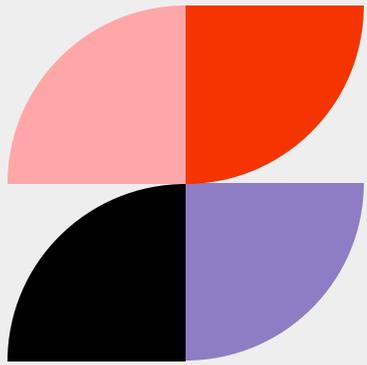
- Practitioner

*...take research findings back to community in a language that they understand... Requires dissemination of research findings at different levels in different language.*

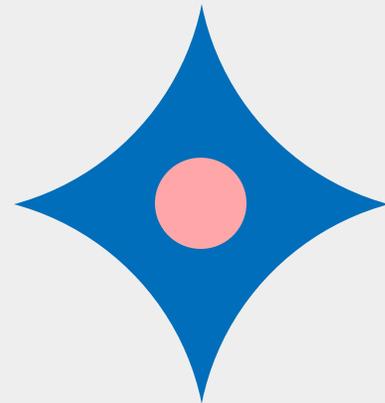
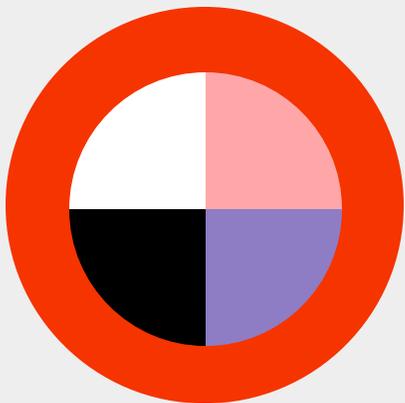
-Researcher

*The future of meaningful research uptake lies in co-created, demand-driven approaches that are embedded in the decision-making processes of local systems*

*-UNICEF's Blueprint for Smarter Research*



Hoping for your  
feedback!



From

# ***Voices to Action***

Consultations to shape a  
Shared Global Evidence  
Agenda



Manahil Siddiqi

Research Specialist, Prevention of Harmful Practices,  
UNICEF Innocenti – Global Office of Research and Foresight



**We must  
*close the gap  
between evidence  
and practice.***

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And this ***requires collective efforts***— a shared research agenda built by *each and every one of you.*



# *Your Role in This Journey....*

## *Identifying Evidence Needs by Stakeholder*

### **Policymakers & Government Representatives**

Identify policy and legislative gaps, share priorities for strengthening governance and accountability.

### **Funding Institutions**

Highlight evidence gaps that inform resource allocation, cost-effectiveness, and sustainability.

### **Multilateral & International Organizations**

Connect global commitments with national realities; identify opportunities for cross-country learning.

### **Civil Society & Community-Based Organizations**

Bring in community-level realities, service gaps, and social mobilization strategies.

### **Practitioners & Service Providers** *(teachers, health/social workers, programme implementers)*

Highlight gaps in service delivery, practice, and frontline implementation.

### **Researchers & Academics**

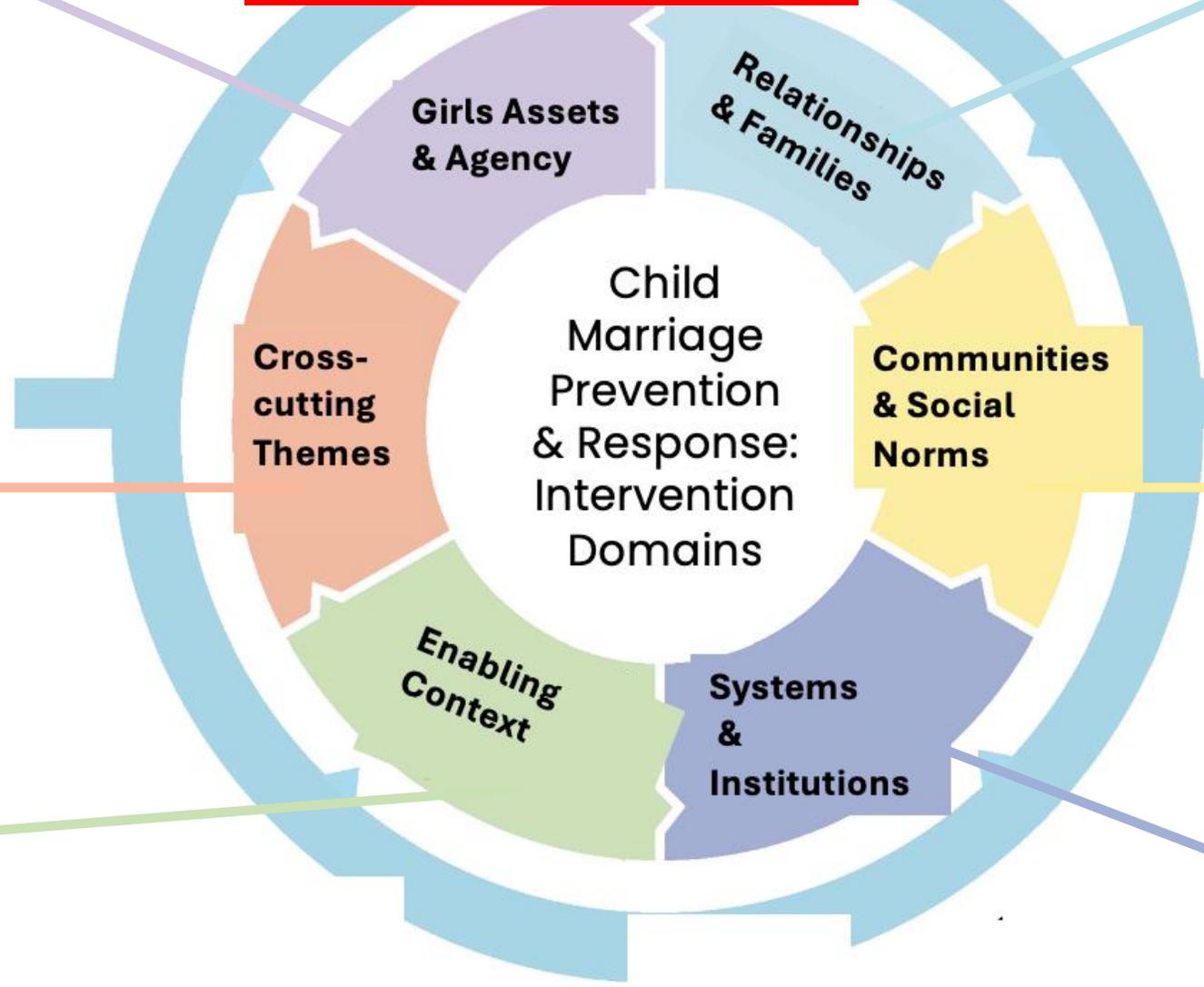
Surface methodological and technical questions; generate insights on effectiveness and measurement.

# Identifying Evidence Needs by **Thematic Areas**

- Agency, self-efficacy, decision-making power
- Access to Education and Learning Opportunities
- Economic empowerment and Livelihood opportunities
- Health and Well being

- Measurement, Methods & Evidence Use
- Scalability, Cost, & Sustainability
- Humanitarian & Fragile Contexts
- Gender Transformative Approaches
- Youth-led Advocacy & Participation

- Political will and governance
- Economic and demographic conditions
- Donor, philanthropic, and private sector engagement
- Broader social, environmental, and structural drivers



- Supportive family relationships
- Caregiver engagement and parenting support
- Interpersonal and life skills
- Prevention and response to intimate partner violence

- Community dialogues and reflection
- Engagement with religious/cultural leaders
- Shifting social and gender norms
- Mass media, edutainment, and communications
- Social mobilization and grassroots movements

- Laws and policies that uphold girls' rights
- Service delivery improvements in education, health, protection
- Social protection mechanisms
- Multi-sectoral planning, financing, accountability

# Identifying Evidence Needs by **Geographic Context**

## **National**

- Participate in **country-level consultations** in Global Programme countries: **Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mozambique, Niger, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Zambia, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Yemen**
- Include **humanitarian/fragile contexts** and other **high-burden settings** underrepresented by research

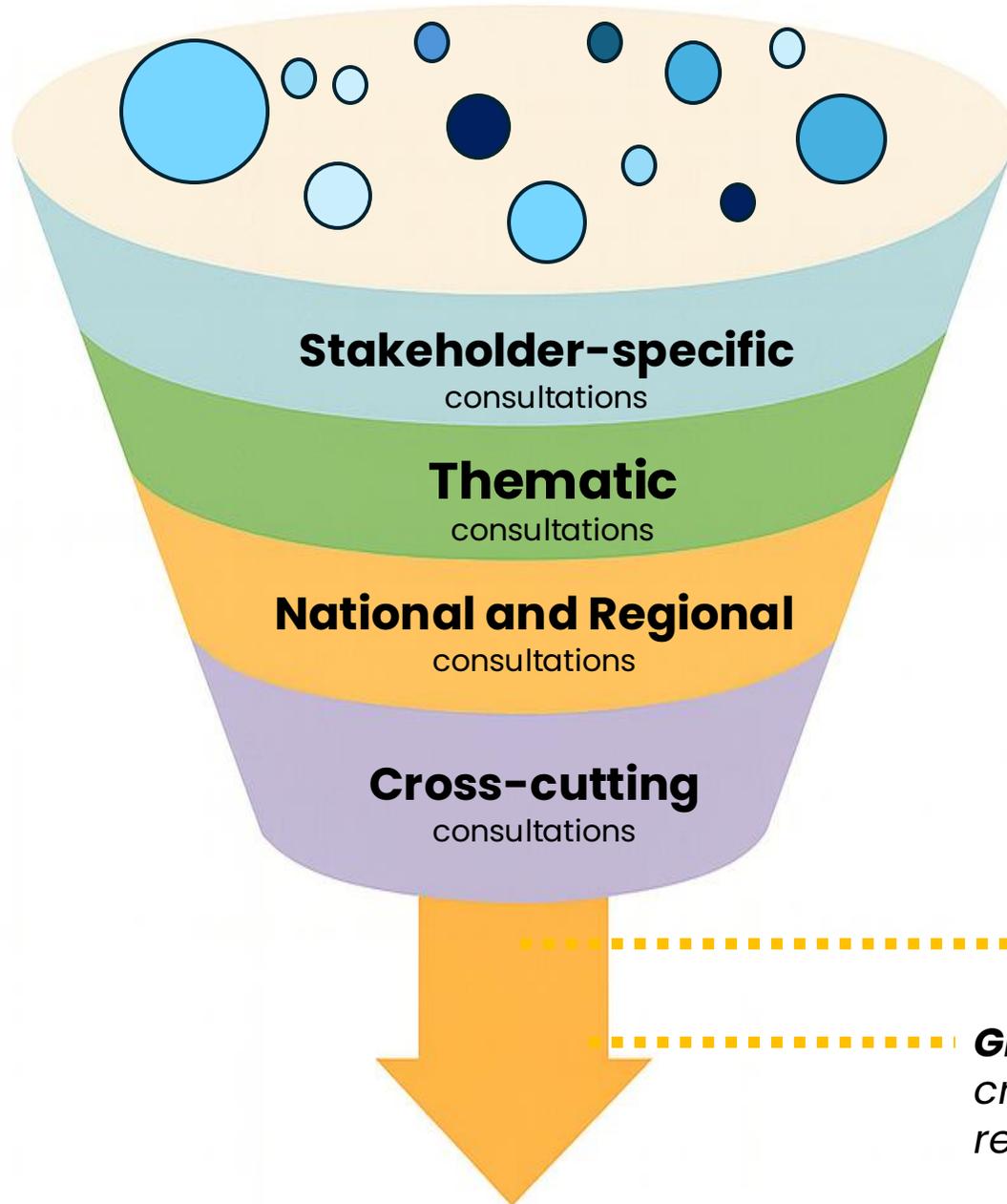
## **Regional**

- Contribute to **regional consultations** through networks & coalitions (e.g., RAF, AAGECM, Aliades, GNB partnerships)
- Consider **regional drivers, cross-country learning, and coordination needs** as well as **regional frameworks and shared advocacy agendas**

## **Global**

- Join **cross-cutting global consultations** to identify gaps relevant across countries and regions
- Engage in **synthesis and prioritization** for the Shared Global Research Agenda and link **global commitments (e.g., SDGs, CEDAW)** with regional and national realities

# A layered approach to consultations



**Facilitated consultations**  
(120 min)



**Key informant interviews**



**Online engagement Platforms** (BuzzBoard, Miro, LinkedIn Groups)



**Focus Group Discussions**

*All inputs **consolidated** across a diversity of geographies, stakeholders, and themes*

***Global priority-setting survey** to score questions against criteria to identify overall and domain-specific, and region-specific research priorities*

**Shared Global Evidence Agenda**

# A Toolkit to Support Collective Co-Creation....

## Facilitation Toolkit

*Stakeholder Consultations*

**EVIDENCE FOR ACCELERATED ACTION:**  
A SHARED GLOBAL RESEARCH AGENDA  
TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO CHILD  
MARRIAGE

## Toolkit Components

### 1 Session Slide Deck

- Icebreaker prompts
- Session Objectives
- Session Agenda
- Background and Framing Slides
- Brainstorming Activity:  
Big Picture and Pair + Share
- Visual Mapping to Analytic  
Framework
- Deep Dive – Breakout Groups  
by Theme
- Report Back
- Next Steps & Closing

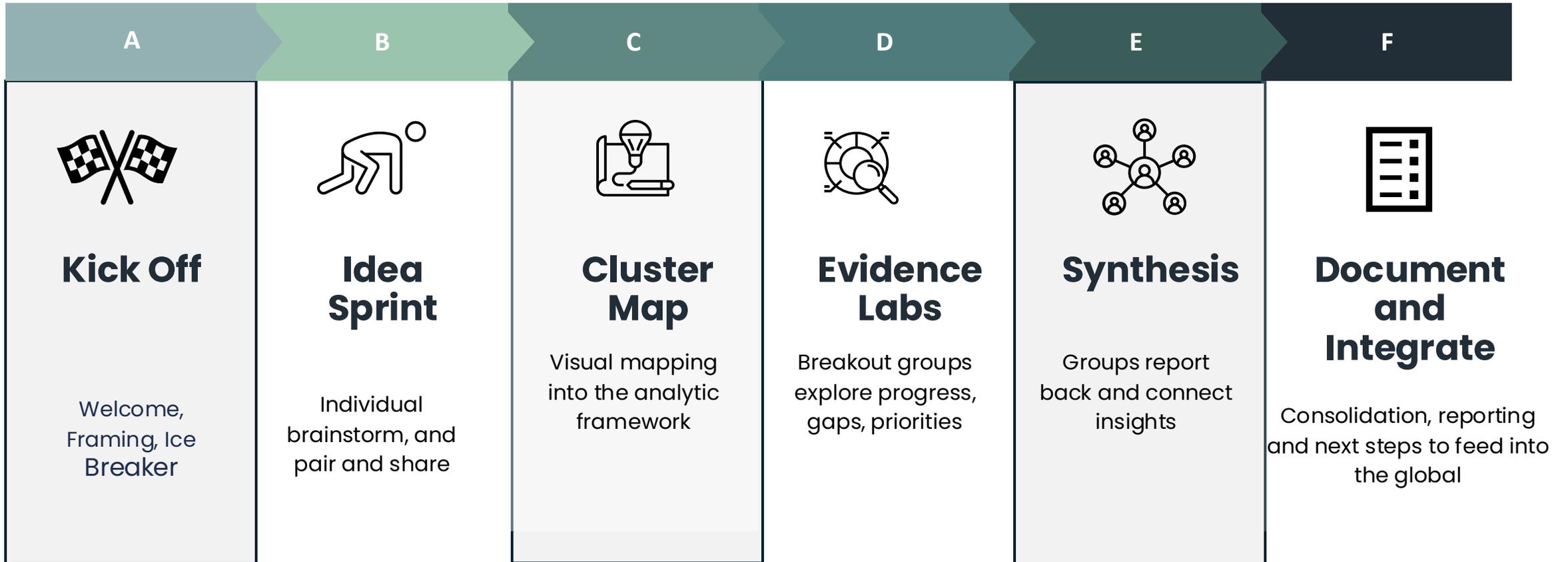
### 2 Facilitator Notes

- Sample scripts and  
facilitation tips
- Probes
- In-person and virtual  
facilitation guidance  
and instructions for  
activities
- Adaptations for  
regional consultations

### 3 Reporting and Documentation Templates

- Pre-workshop  
checklist (Facilitator  
and Notetaker)
- During workshop  
documentation  
templates for Group  
Work and Report Back
- Post-workshop  
Reporting template
- Post workshop-  
Checklist (Facilitator  
and Notetaker)

# Steps to Identifying Evidence Needs Through Consultation (120 mins)



# Consultation Snapshot

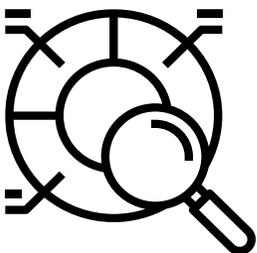
*Let's try Idea Sprinting  
and Cluster Mapping...*



**Thinking about your work on child marriage, what are critical evidence gaps, or research questions, that if answered, could really advance your work or influence change?**



**Which thematic (intervention) area(s) best fit the gap(s) you just shared?**



# ***Evidence Labs***

*Deeper dive stage of consultation meetings*

**Small-group deep dives** into specific thematic areas.

Explore **progress, gaps, and priorities** to sharpen research needs.

## **Progress**

- What do we already know in this theme?
- Where has research or practice generated useful insights?

## **Gaps**

- What remains unanswered?
- Where is evidence weak, missing, or fragmented?

## **Priorities**

- If you could design one or two studies tomorrow, what should they answer?
- Who would benefit most from this evidence — policymakers, implementers, or advocates?

***With your support:***

***Translation of Toolkits***

***Roll out of regional and national consultations***

***On the Horizon...***

***Thematic and Cross-Cutting Dialogues with stakeholders***

***Online platforms opening for engagement***

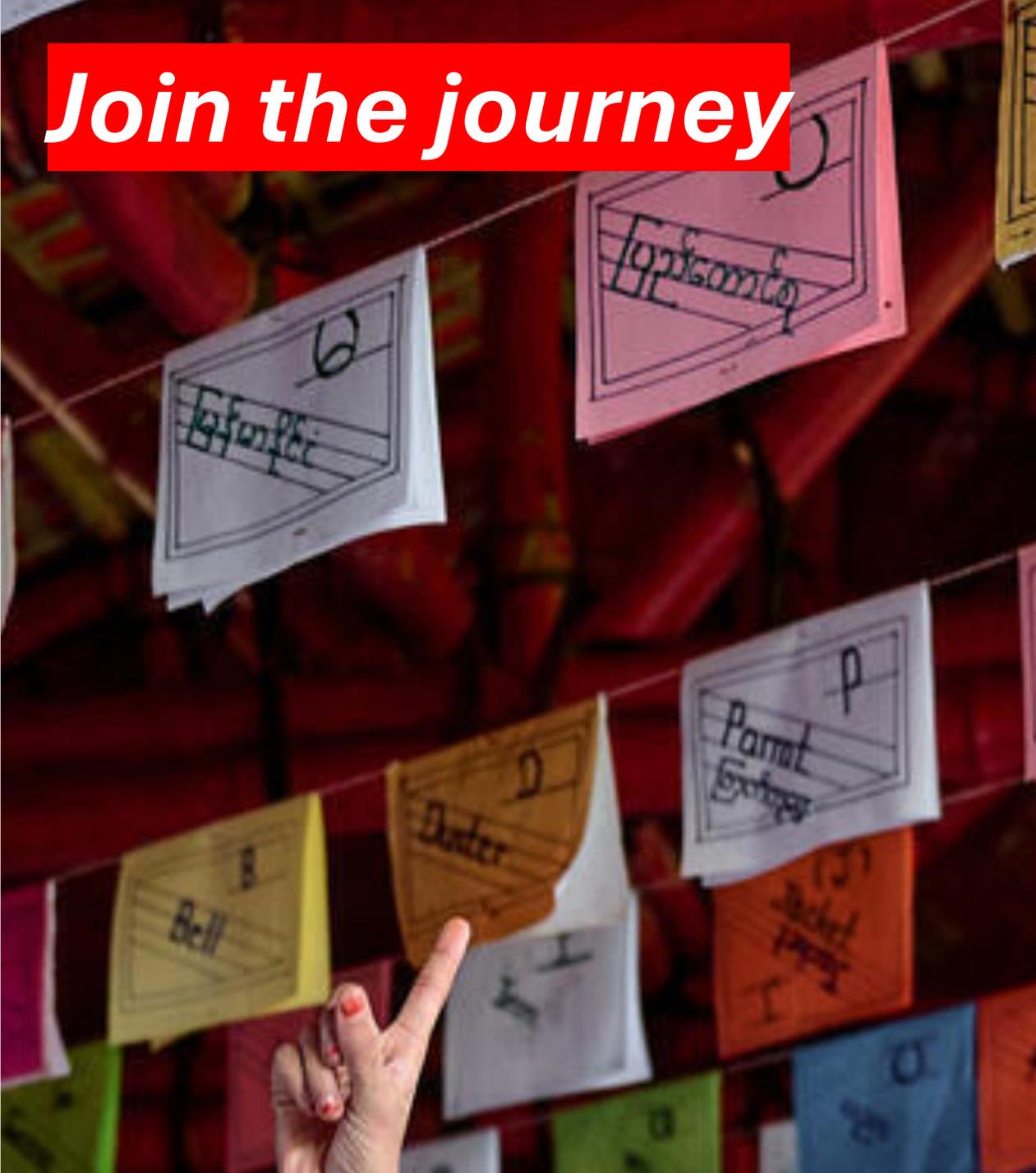
***Synthesis, Consolidation, and Global Prioritisation Survey Preparation***



***Join us on our journey  
to close the gap  
between evidence and  
practice...***

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***We count on your  
participation!***

A hand with a red-painted thumb is pointing towards a collection of colorful papers (yellow, orange, white, pink, blue, green) hanging from strings. Each paper has handwritten text and a small drawing or symbol. The background is dark and textured.

# Join the journey

## Join the Journey. Shaping a Global Shared Research Agenda to Prevent and Respond to Child Marriage

Be part of shaping the future of research on child marriage

The Child Marriage Research to Action Network (CRANK), Girls Not Brides, the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage, UNICEF Innocenti, WHO, and key partners have made important progress in building evidence. But to achieve real impact by 2030, we need a renewed, inclusive, and collaborative research agenda.

We're inviting you to join us in setting this agenda, one that reflects today's realities, centres diverse voices, and drives clear, actionable priorities for ending child marriage. Your responses will help us organise consultations that are inclusive, balanced across regions and stakeholders, and focused on key themes.

Sign up now to be part of this global effort.

Note: At this stage of the process, no funding is available for stand-alone in-person consultations. Where possible, in-person sessions will be supported by integrating them into existing meetings, conferences, or events.

**Name \***

**Email \***



Region \*

Select...



Country \*

Select...



Stakeholder group \*

Select...



If Other, please specify

Which thematic areas are you most interested in contributing to? (check all that apply) \*

- Girls' Agency and Social Norms – Strengthening girls' voice and choice, and shifting harmful community norms.
- Education & Economic Empowerment – Expanding girls' access to quality education, livelihoods, and economic opportunities.
- Health and Needs of Ever-Married Girls – Ensuring adolescents, including married, pregnant, and parenting girls, have access to health, mental health, and social support.
- Systems, Laws, and Policies – Strengthening legal frameworks, financing, and multisectoral systems (health, education, protection, justice).
- Cross-cutting issues – Addressing fragile contexts, climate change, gender equality pushback, and other intersecting challenges.
- Financing – Generating evidence on costs, funding models, and sustainable investments.
- Scale-up and Sustainability – Understanding what works at scale and how to adapt across diverse contexts.
- Methods and Measurement – Improving research tools, methodologies, and data systems to better capture evidence.



investments.

- Scale-up and Sustainability – Understanding what works at scale and how to adapt across diverse contexts.
- Methods and Measurement – Improving research tools, methodologies, and data systems to better capture evidence.

**How would you like to engage in the consultation process? (check all that apply) \***

- Stakeholder-specific consultation – Join a session with others in your stakeholder group (e.g., policymakers, researchers, practitioners, youth, advocates).
- Geography-specific consultation – Take part in or co-host a consultation organised in your country or region, reflecting local and regional priorities.
- Thematic consultation – Contribute to a consultation focused on a specific evidence theme (e.g., education, agency, health, systems).
- Cross-cutting consultation – Join a consultation that brings together multiple sectors and stakeholder types to explore interlinkages across issues.
- Contribute individually online – Share your input through online platforms (Miro, Buzzboard).

**Language for the consultation \***

**Opt in to another list**

- CRANK sign up list
- I agree to receive relevant content to the CRANK Global Research Agenda \*

[Join the Global Agenda](#)

Looking forward,  
what is one thing  
that excites you  
about the Global  
Shared Research  
Agenda To  
Prevent &  
Respond to Child  
Marriage?



Thank you for your active participation today – stay tuned & join the journey...

