

Critically explore one International
Humanitarian Care organisation that
supports people within 'Gender
Equality'

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Unicef

- United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF).
- Established in 1946, it is a Worldwide humanitarian organisation, working in over 190 countries.
- In 2017 Unicef's total income was \$6,577 million.
- States 89% of all income is spent on helping the rights of children.
- Employs 13,000.
- Last year they responded to 344 Humanitarian emergencies

(unicef.org, 2019)



Image: www.unicef.org



Unicef

- The 'Convention on the Rights of the Child', are fundamental to their cause. They continue to provide relief and support, to include:
 - Violence against children
 - Disease
 - Hunger
 - War
 - Disaster and emergency
 - Education
 - Gender Equality

(unicef.org, 2019)



Image: www.unicef.org



Image: www.newz.ug



Image: www.humanium.org



Image: www.newnetone.com



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Unicef Strategic Plan and Agenda 2030

Works in partnership to achieve progress towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) 2030 Agenda **“That every child has a fair chance in life”** (Unicef, 2017, pg.2)

Unicef (2017, pg 9) 5 goal areas are:

1. Every child survives and thrives
2. Every child learns.
3. Every child is protected from violence and exploitation.
4. Every child lives in a safe and clean environment.
5. Every child has an equitable chance in life.



Unicef Action Plan 2018-21 for Gender Equality 'Reduce Child Marriage'



Unicef Action Plan 2018-21 for Gender Equality



Image: www.unicef.org

Gender Equality is 5th on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Unicef aim to:

- Empower girls and women through education.
- **Reduce child marriages.**
- Equal rights to education.
- Reduce gender based violence.
- Health and well being (nutrition, HIV/AIDS, pregnancy care, contraception, menstruation).

(unicef, 2017)



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Reduce Child Marriage

- Child marriage, is the marriage or union of a female or male under the age of 18 (exceptions under the law).
- Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006 (adopted in most countries).
- Affects females more than males - ratio of 5:1.
- A violation of Human Rights of the child.

(Unicef, 2019)



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Child Marriage top 5 nations...



Image: www.unicef.org



According to UNICEF, the top five nations in the world with highest observed child marriage rates are Niger (75%), Chad (72%), Mali (71%), Bangladesh (64%), and Guinea (63%).

Image: www.girlsnotbride.org



Image: www.newz.ug



Image: www.humanium.org



Image: www.newnetone.com



Image: Express Photo by Prashant Nadkar



Image: www.unicef.org

Unicef Child Marriage Data (Unicef, 2017)

Living today 650 million girls and women were married as children

21% of young women Globally were married before age 18

25 million child marriages have been prevented in the last decade

Each year 12 million girls under 18 are married

38% of young women in sub-Saharan Africa married before age 18

South Asia had the largest decline of child marriage during this time, from 49% to 30%

Unicef believe if this is not stopped by 2030, more than 150 million additional girls will marry before their 18th birthday.



Image: Express Photo by Prashant Nadkar

Child Marriage: Why does it happen?

- Economic and social factors.
- Low value placed on girls.
- Protection for the daughter.
- Preventing pregnancy outside marriage.
- Cultural norm, tradition and attitudes.
- Dowry.



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Image: www.unicef.org

Child Marriage: Consequences

- Increased risk of abuse and violence by a partner.
- 1 in 5 have a child before age 18.
- Higher risk of sexual transmitted disease and HIV/AIDS.
- Fail to complete secondary education.
- Death during child birth.
- Poor health and well being.
- Infant mortality

(unicef, 2019)



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Image: www.humanium.org



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Image: Express Photo by Prashant Nadkar

How do Unicef help prevent child marriage?

- Working in partnership with Governments, community leaders, voluntary organisations.
- Campaigns 'Report Beat Campaign, 2017'
- Improve legislation to strengthen punishment.
- Financial initiatives to enable girls to complete education.
- Promoting gender equality to help change attitudes.
- Track, collect and utilise data.
- Educating children on their rights.

(unicef, 2018)



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Image: www.newstetone.com



Image: Express Photo by Prashant Nadkar

What are the challenges?

- Laws not being enforced.
- Poverty still remains.
- Data capture needs to be improved.
- Changing mental attitudes, traditions hard barriers to conquer and take time.

(tooyoungtowed.com, 2019)



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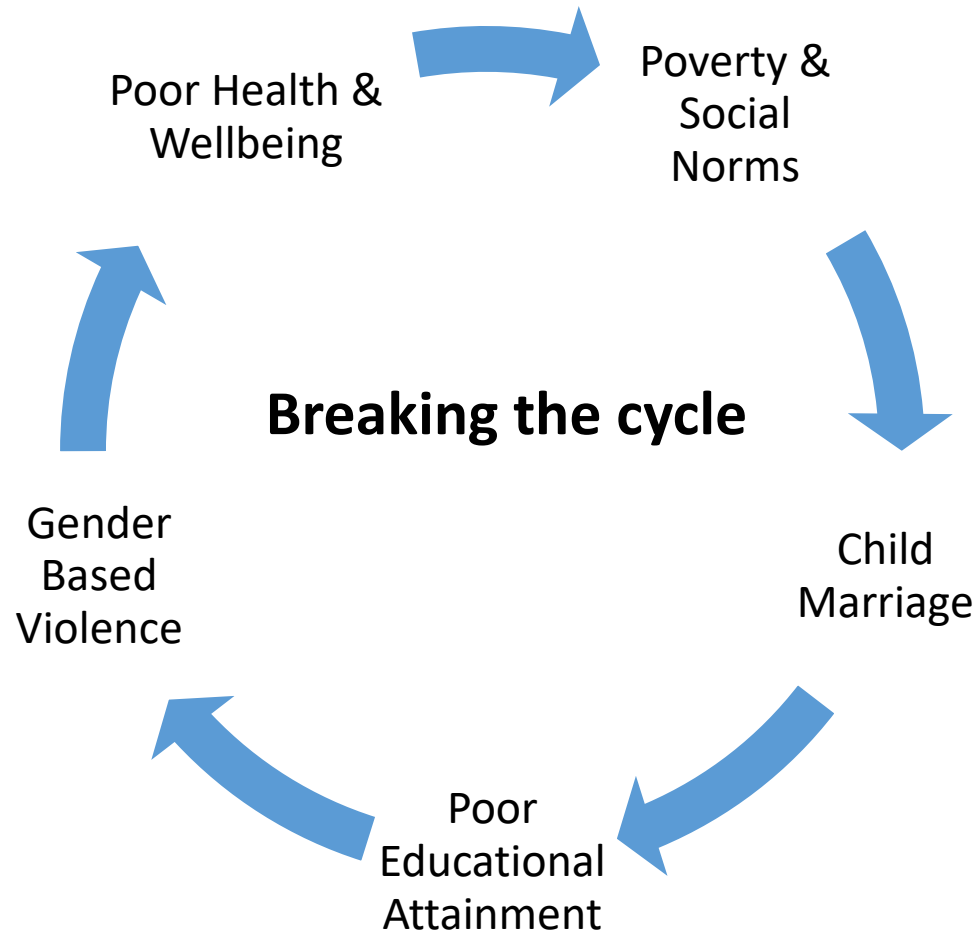
Child Marriage and Mental Health

- Gage (2013) found an increased risk to suicide and depression for females married as children.
- Ahmed, Khan, Alia & Noushad (2013), found a link with depression and child marriage.
- Unicef's data collection and work can evidence and support the negative impact of on girls and women who married as children. There is a gap in support for these women's psychological well being.



Image: Express Photo by Prashant Nadkar

Unicef SDG 2030 - Complex interplay



unicef

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Thank you for listening.

Are there any questions?



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References

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