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Africa"*

5 YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN ON AU CAMPAIGN TO END CHILD MARRIAGE

**Table of Contents**

<b>Preface</b>		
	List of Acronyms .....	3
	Foreword .....	3
<b>1: Introduction</b> .....		4
<b>2: Background and Rationale – Why End Child Marriage in Africa</b>		5
2.1 Problem Statement – Context .....		5
2.2 Drivers of Child Marriage in Africa .....		7
2.3 Emerging Issues .....		8
<b>3: Response to Date</b>		9
3.1 AUC's Policies and Programs.....		9
3.2 Regional Level Action .....		10
3.3 Country Level Action.....		10
<b>4: Drawing Lessons from the 4-Year Campaign</b> .....		12
<b>5: The Five Year Strategic Plan</b> .....		13
5.1	Goals and Focus .....	13
5.2	Change Strategies .....	13
5.3	Guiding Principles.....	14
<b>6: Theory of Change</b> .....		14
<b>7: Outcomes, Strategic Interventions and Target</b> .....		17
<b>8: Key Enablers</b> .....		18
8.1	Communication and Advocacy .....	18
8.2	Capacity Building and Technical Assistance .....	19
8.3	Campaign Management and Coordination .....	19
8.4	Partnerships .....	19

<b>9:</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Prioritization</b>	20
<b>10:</b>	<b>Implementation</b>	<b>Arrangements</b>	20
<b>11:</b>		<b>Resourcing</b>	21
<b>12:</b>	<b>Monitoring and</b>	<b>Evaluation</b>	21
<b>13: Accountability</b>			23
		<b>Annexes</b>	
Annex 1.	Results framework		25 29
Annex 2	Monitoring and Evaluation Matrix		
Annex3.	Indicator Reference Sheet		34 42
Annex 4:	ACTIVITY PLAN		45 46
Annex 5:	ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF STAKEHOLDERS		
Annex 6:	RISK MANAGEMENT MATRIX		

## List of Acronyms and Abbreviation

ACRWC African Children's Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child	CRC Convention on the Rights of the Child
ACHPR African Commission on Human and People's Rights	CSOs Civil Society Organizations
ACERWC African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child	CoP Community of Practice
AIDS Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome	DSA Department of Social Affairs
AU African Union	ESAR Eastern and Southern African Region
AUC African Union Commission	GPECM II Global Programme to End Child Marriage (PHASE 2)
AUGO African Union Gender Observatory	Global Partnership for Education (GPE)
CM Child Marriage	HIV Human Immunodeficiency Virus
CECM Campaign to End Child Marriage	M&E Monitoring and Evaluation
CEDAW Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women	NGOs Non-Governmental Organizations
	PSC Peace and Security Council
	RECs Regional Economic Communities

SADC  
Southern African Development  
Community

SDGEA  
Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality  
in Africa

SDGs  
Sustainable Development Goals

SGBV  
Sexual and Gender Based Violence

STCs  
Specialized Technical Committees

UNICEF  
United Nation Children Fund

UNFPA  
United Nations Population Fund

## Five- Year Strategic Plan on Ending Child Marriage (2019 – 2023)

### 1. Introduction

Child marriage continues to be prevalent in Africa with negative consequences on children, especially the girl-child, and the society. The impact of child marriage on the rights and welfare of the child has been well documented. A recent report by the World Bank has highlighted the negative impact that child marriage will have on the economy of development countries if urgent measures are not taken to accelerate an end to the practice.<sup>1</sup> The elimination of child marriage has become an international and continental priority. The African Union Commission, United Nation bodies and partners are committed to joining efforts to eradicate child marriage in Africa.

Child marriage is prohibited under the African Children's Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) and the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (Maputo Protocol). Both the ACRWC and the Maputo Protocol specify that "the minimum age of marriage shall be 18 years of age"<sup>2</sup> and stipulate "full and free consent to a marriage that cannot be supplemented or cured with the addition of parental consent given on behalf of a child."<sup>3</sup>

Article 21(2) of the ACRWC "provides that child marriage and the betrothal of girls and boys shall be prohibited and effective action, including legislation, shall be taken to specify the minimum age of marriage to be 18 years and make registration of all marriages". Article 21(1) makes no distinction as to forms of law (civil, customary or religious laws) and applies to all forms of unions including betrothals and marriages. Articles 2(1)(a) of the Maputo Protocol calls upon Member States to combat all forms of discrimination against women by adopting laws that enshrine the principle of equality between men and women. It further enjoins Member States in Article 2 (1) (a) to enact and effectively implement appropriate legislative or regulatory measures, including those prohibiting and curbing all forms of discrimination particularly those harmful practices which endanger the health and general well-being of women. In line with these provision, it also provides that the minimum age of marriage for women shall be 18 years<sup>4</sup>

The AU Joint General Comments on the Prohibition of Child Marriage developed by the African committee on the Right and Welfare of the Child and the African Commission on Human and People's Rights finalized in 2016<sup>5</sup> suggests a series of implementation measures for eliminating child marriage. These measures include legal reform, policy development, compliance and promotion, and enforcement of criminal provisions and effective awareness raising mechanisms.

Despite all the charters, protocol, legal standards, guidelines and reductions in child marriage rates in some African countries, child marriage continues to be practiced. Tackling this scourge and combating the crippling effects of child marriage requires a multi-sectoral and multi-level approach hinged on human rights charters and laws that

<sup>1</sup><http://blogs.worldbank.org/education/rippling-economic-impacts-child-marriage> {accessed on 24/12/19}

<sup>2</sup>Article 21(2), African Children's Charter

<sup>3</sup> The State of the African Woman Report

<sup>4</sup>Article 6(B), Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights Maputo Protocol

<sup>5</sup> Section VII(A)91, African Union Joint General Comments on the Prohibition of Child Marriage, 2016

protect children. It also requires synergy between human rights norms, constitutional principles of equality and anti-discrimination and domestic laws on freedom of marriage<sup>6</sup>. Focus must also be on mobilizing families and communities to shift negative social and gender norms that perpetuate child marriage.

## **2. Background and Rationale – Why End Child Marriage in Africa**

### **Problem Statement – Context**

Child marriage is prevalent in all countries in Africa ranging from 2% in Algeria to 76% in Niger. The average prevalence of child marriage on the continent is 35%, which is higher than the global average.<sup>7</sup> Child marriage prevalence is greatest in West and Central Africa where it is estimated that four out of ten women aged 20 to 24 were married before age 18.<sup>8</sup> Although child marriage disproportionately affects girls, there is evidence indicating prevalence in West and Central (4.0%) and North Africa (0.2%) for men aged 20-24 years.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>6</sup>UNICEF. *Child Marriage and the Law - Legislative Reform Initiatives Paper Series*

<sup>7</sup>United Nations Children's Fund, *Accelerating Efforts to Eliminate Child Marriage in Africa*, UNICEF, New York, 2018

<sup>8</sup> Ibid

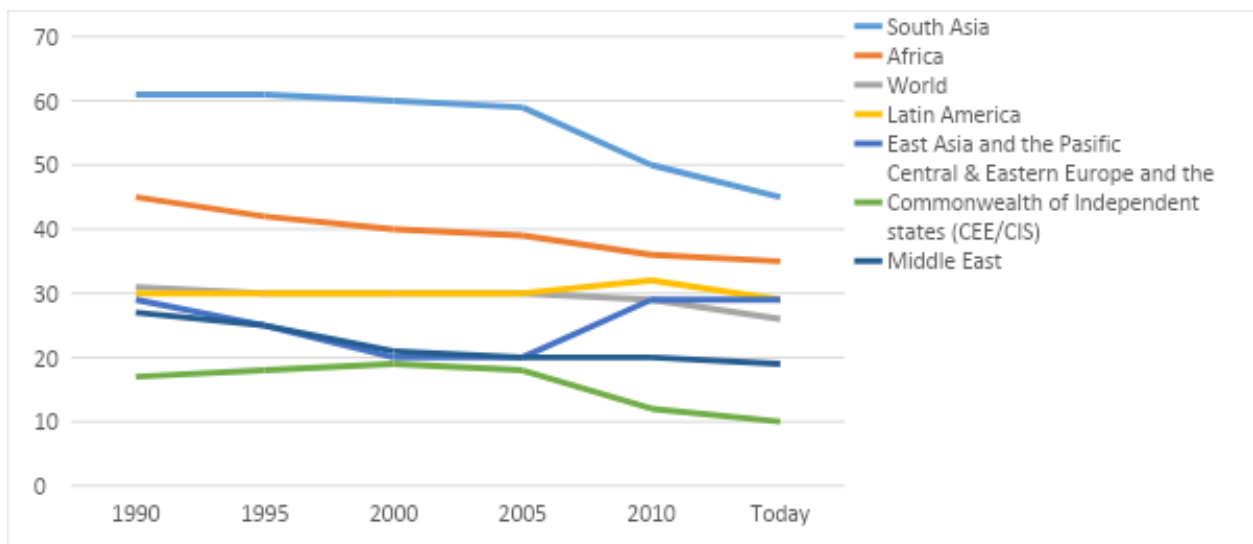
<sup>9</sup><https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/17450128.2019.1566584> { Accessed on 30/12/2019 }

### Child Marriage Prevalence <18 Years (%) in Africa



Child Marriage Prevalence rate in Africa: Source- UNICEF

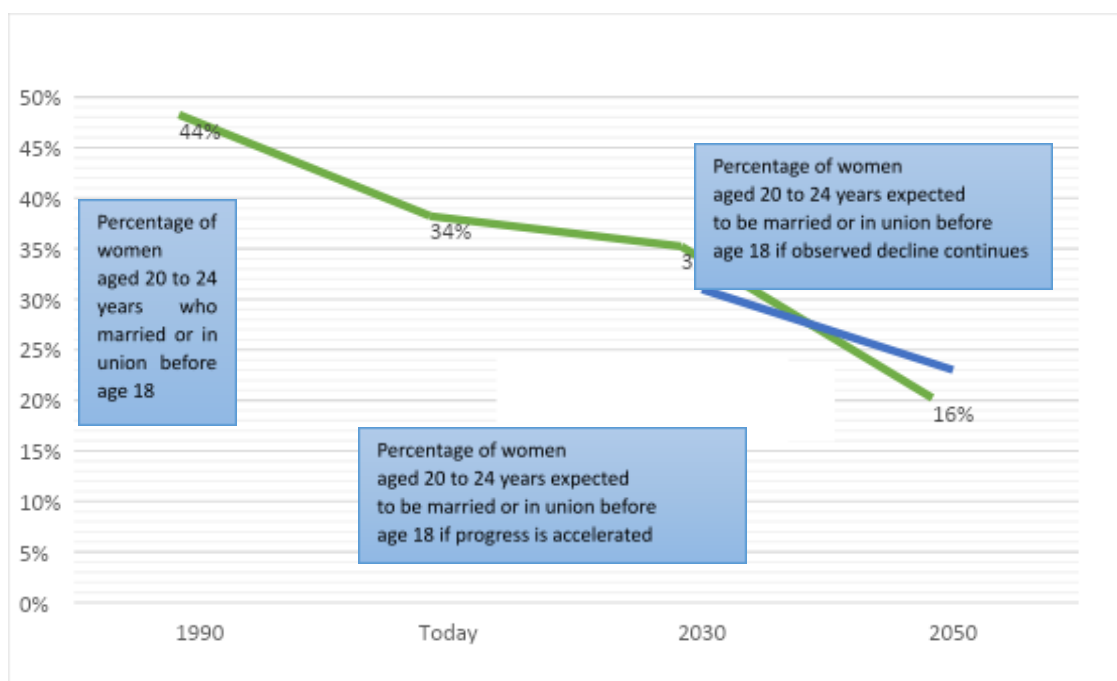
Recent trends have shown a slow and uneven decline in the prevalence of child marriage in Africa as compared to other regions. (See graph below)





*Percentage of women aged 20 to 24 years who were married or in union before age 18, by region - Source : United Nations Children's Fund, A Profile of Child Marriage in Africa, UNICEF, New York, 2015.*

With the continent's young and rapidly growing population, and without increased and accelerated efforts to end child marriage, the number of girls married by age 18 will rise,<sup>10</sup> and Africa will become the region with the largest number and global share of child marriages by 2050<sup>11</sup>. If progress is accelerated, the prevalence of child marriage in Africa could be halved by 2050. (See graph below)



*Percentage of women aged 20 to 24 years expected to be married or in union before age 18 if progress is accelerated. Source: United Nations Children's Fund, A Profile of Child Marriage in Africa, UNICEF, New York, 2015.*

Child marriage constitutes multiple layers of child abuse, exploitation and rights violations. Girls who are married as children are more likely to be out of school, suffer domestic violence and sexual violence, contract HIV/AIDS and die from complications during pregnancy and child birth. Child marriage also has lasting negative impact on families, communities and economies and perpetuates inter-generational poverty<sup>12</sup>.

## 2.2 Drivers of Child Marriage in Africa

### Harmful Social Norms

Child marriage is a complex community practice underpinned by different mental models, beliefs, values, incentives in community structures. It persists in some

<sup>10</sup> Ibid

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup><http://blogs.worldbank.org/education/rippling-economic-impacts-child-marriage> {accessed on 24/12/19}

communities because it is seen as a social norm that has survived generations. In these communities, gender inequalities are pervasive, and girls are not valued as much as boys and are considered to be a burden or a commodity.<sup>13</sup> Straying from such norms could lead to exclusion from the community and from perceived good opportunities for marriage and obtaining wealth for the family hence this provides incentives for conforming. In addition to this, there are also more and more adolescents that are willing to marry due to the perception that this would help them to escape from hard work and difficult situations at home. This is highly noticed in several research in ESAR region.

### Poverty Coping Mechanism

In many communities, marrying off a girl is a coping mechanism. Families use child marriage as a means to cope with greater economic hardship, highlighting poverty as a major contributory factor. Findings from several countries suggest that teenage girls are sometimes forced to marry older men to relieve families of their care and to ensure the economic prospects of their families. Economic difficulties can make child marriage seem like an attractive option for parents and possibly even for children themselves. This practice derives from and further reinforces existing social norms and gender inequality.

### Protection Mechanism

Child marriage is also seen in some communities as a way to protect girls and ensure their safety especially in areas where girls are at high risk of physical or sexual assault particularly in humanitarian crisis and conflict situations. The fear of unwanted pregnancies, which is associated with family honor, has also led some parents to force their girls into marriage.

It is important to acknowledge that the drivers of child marriage are interrelated and that these factors are both causes and consequence of child marriage. Family poverty places girls at risk of child marriage, but being married young also tends to limit educational and economic opportunity for girls, which in turn perpetuates poverty and gender inequality. At its core, child marriage is a form of violence against girls and women with a lifelong impact and a form of modern slavery.

## 2.3 Emerging Issues

### a) Conflict and Humanitarian Situations

There is growing evidence that crises, natural disasters and conflicts put girls at risk of child marriage and sexual abuse. Nine out of the ten countries with the highest prevalence of child marriage are considered either fragile or extremely fragile states.<sup>14</sup> The devastating effects of conflicts in Cameroon, DRC, Mali, North East Nigeria, Somalia and

<sup>13</sup> *Girls Not Brides* "Child Marriage in Africa: A Brief" available at [www.girlsnotbrides.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Child-marriage-in-Africa-A-brief-by-Girls-Not-Brides.pdf](http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Child-marriage-in-Africa-A-brief-by-Girls-Not-Brides.pdf) (Accessed July 9, 2019)

<sup>14</sup> [chrome-extension://oemmnecbldboiebfnladdacbdm/adm/https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Child-marriage-in-humanitarian-settings.pdf](https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Child-marriage-in-humanitarian-settings.pdf) Accessed on 31/07/2019 at 23:49 pm

South Sudan often places women and girls at increased risk of sexual violence. Rape, torture and forced prostitution, sometimes under the disguise of “marriage”, have been reported to be used as weapons of war weakening families and communities.<sup>15</sup> There is increasing evidence to show that climate change contributes to the extreme weather outcomes such as floods and droughts which also has serious implications on the life course of a child. A report by CARE International also found that droughts tended to increase child marriage in countries as a coping mechanism usually in situations where families lose their land, homes, income and livelihoods.<sup>16</sup> Families in displaced communities and unsafe environments also marry off their girls to protect them from sexual violence.

## b) Child Marriage and boys

An emerging trend regarding child marriage is the issue of boys getting married as children. According to a study by UNICEF, an estimated 115 million boys and men living today were married as children. Out of these, 23 million before age 15.<sup>17</sup> The study cites the Central African Republic as the highest prevalence of child marriage among males (28 per cent). Child grooms are forced to take on adult responsibilities for which they may not be ready. Early marriage brings early fatherhood, and with it added pressure to provide for a family, cutting short education and job opportunities. A study by Challenging heights found child marriage involving boys in some fishing communities in Ghana to be common.<sup>18</sup> While the prevalence, causes and impact of child marriage among girls have been extensively studied, little research exists on child marriage among boys. However, the fact remains that children most at risk of child marriage come from the poorest households, live in rural areas, and have little to no education. It is therefore important to invest in empowering adolescents to be able to respond and prevent child marriage.

Region	Prevalence Rate
Eastern and Southern Africa	5%
West and Central Africa	4%
Sub- Saharan	4%

*Child Marriage Prevalence for boys under 18 in Africa. Source: UNICEF the State of the World Report 2019<sup>19</sup>*

## c) Marriage between Adolescents

<sup>15</sup><chrome-extension://oemmndcbldboiebfnladdacbfdmadadm/https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Child-marriage-in-humanitarian-settings.pdf> Accessed on 31/07/2019 at 23:49 pm

<sup>16</sup><https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/in-the-aftermath-of-cyclone-idai-it-is-girls-who-are-most-at-risk/> Accessed on 31/07/2019 at 23:18pm

<sup>17</sup><https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/115-million-boys-and-men-around-world-married-children-unicef> accessed 1/08/ 2019 at 1: 06 am

<sup>18</sup> Child Marriage in Ghana’s Fishing Industry: Analysing the experiences of children who have witnessed or undergone child marriage in the Volta Lake communities.

<sup>19</sup><https://www.unicef.org/media/61356/file/SOWC-2019.pdf> page 135

Marriage patterns and family formation in Africa has been changing over the past decades. Adolescent girls' age at first marriage has been increasing mainly due to increased access to education and socio-economic development. However, peer marriage amongst young people below the age of 18 is also emerging. In Zambia for example, a study by Child Frontiers, found that marriages among peer adolescents (age 11 for girls and 14 for boys) usually with an age difference of about two to three years. Adolescents decide to marry each other on their own. This situation is sometimes driven by the desire for emancipation and in some cases, enabled by laws that allow persons below the age of 18 to be married and those that emancipate young people that are married and enable them access to social services.

### **3. Response to Date**

#### **3.1 AUC's Policies and Programmes**

In response to the growing phenomena of child marriage the African Union launched the Campaign on Ending Child Marriage on May 29, 2014 at the 4th Conference of Ministers of Social Development. The objective of the Campaign is to accelerate an end to child marriage programs in Member States.

Additionally, the African Union has put in place a number of normative frameworks to re-enforce the campaign. These include obligations set forth in the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) the Maputo Protocol additional to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (Maputo Protocol), the Africa Common Position on Ending Child Marriage, the Joint General Comment on Ending Child Marriage that complemented and reinforced by international instruments such as CRC, CEDAW, and Human Rights Council and General Assembly Resolutions.

The African Union Commission views child marriage as a crosscutting issue and recognizes that it is a development, cultural, health, political and religious issue. Consequently, an AUC campaign technical team has been put in place to coordinate actions across the different AUC departments and other organs of the African Union including the African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, Pan African Parliament, the African Commission on Human and People's Rights to name a few.

Building on the progress achieved during the first phase of the campaign and in line with the aspirations of the Agenda 2063 and the SDGs, during the 3rd Specialized Technical Committee on Social Development, Labour and Employment held in Addis Ababa from the 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019, one of the key recommendations adopted by the Ministers was to extend the AU Campaign to End Child Marriage for another 5 years (2019- 2023) and a request to the AU Commission to develop a comprehensive 5-year strategic plan for the direction and strengthening of the Campaign.

#### **3.2 Regional Level Action**

At the regional level, the adoption of the SADC Model law provided a benchmark to governments as an advocacy tool to communities within and outside the SADC region. Also, ECOWAS has developed a plan of action to accelerate progress within the West Africa region to address child marriage.

At the continental level, the Global UNFPA UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage (GPECM) supported the AU Campaign (phase I) to End Child Marriage, e.g. through support for their work in holding members states accountable to progress towards SDG 5.3(eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilations) by contributing to the organization of peer review, supporting capacities of national statistical offices for data collection, strengthening of accountability mechanisms, advocacy and dialogue e.g. through support for High-level events and continental Girls Summits, capacity building trainings and support to the AU Goodwill Ambassador and Special Rapporteur. This collaboration will also be extended in Phase II of the campaign

Regional initiatives by NGOs, research institutions and donors targeted support to national level efforts and to sharing of experiences. The Forums for Ministers such as the STC's and other government sector forums, especially Gender, Education and health have increasingly included the issues of ending child marriage. There are also strong initiatives in collaboration with traditional leaders such as the COTLA initiative.

### 3.3 Country Level Action

During the four-year campaign (2014-2018), 28 countries<sup>20</sup> have so far launched national campaigns as part of the AU's continental effort. The Campaign has created a space and platform for African leaders to engage on the issue of child marriage and national gains have been made, starting from the revision of legislation, to the production of cost efficient national plans to end child marriage. The campaign has resulted in tangible advancements in the pan-African policy and normative framework for ending child marriage, which includes the adoption of the African Common Position on the AU Campaign to End Child Marriage in Africa.

Across the continent, there have been remarkable progress by member states in the adoption of international and regional legislative instruments including the African Charter on the rights and welfare of the child and the Maputo Protocol. These instruments serve as a powerful normative statement on child marriage as a violation of a child's right. Unfortunately, a number of states have a range of exemptions within their laws allowing for the legalization of marriage of children under the age of 18 years old. Furthermore, some Member States have conflicting laws with different minimum age for marriage applicable in civil, customary and religious courts. There is also increasing focus on budget advocacy and analysis, and training of various stakeholders and service providers.

In addition, as part of the components of the campaign, AU Special Rapporteur on ending child marriage and the campaign team undertakes post launch country visits to Member States to assess efforts and progress being made towards eliminating this harmful practice. So far, 12<sup>21</sup> country visits have been undertaken with more countries to be included from 2020- 2021.

Outcomes from the visits indicate the commendable efforts of Member States to end child marriage and to protect the rights of girls. Several countries are setting laws and policies that criminalize child marriage and are developing strong coordination systems with other stakeholders. In compliance with the African charter, Member States have adjusted their legislation to highlight that a child is anyone below the age of 18.

<sup>20</sup>EVALUATION OF THE AU CAMPAIGN TO END CHILD MARRIAGE IN AFRICA (CECM) AND TWO (2) YEAR PROGRESS REPORT (2016 TO 2018) (Draft)

<sup>21</sup> Niger, Zambia, Tanzania, Eritrea, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Egypt, Mali, Burkina Faso, Mozambique, Mauritius and Namibia

Countries such as Egypt and Mauritius have developed national strategic frameworks to end violence against women and girls. It was observed that Member States are piloting child helpline systems and community awareness and media campaigns to prevent child abuse and gender-based violence. Huge progress is also being made in bringing discussions on child marriage to the table, as opposed to past trends of treating it as taboo. This has been emphasized by the inclusion and participation of religious and traditional leaders in these dialogues. Such is the case for Niger, Eritrea and Zambia amongst others.

In addition, some countries such as Kenya and Uganda<sup>22</sup> are implementing male engagement programmes on gender transformation and this innovation needs to be accelerated.

Despite the progress being made, it is important to highlight some of the challenges being faced in ending child marriage and other harmful practices. The lack of specific legislation prohibiting child marriage and the lack of harmonization between laws and the African Charter have proven to be a challenge in countries such as Egypt and Mali. Additionally, some countries such as Burkina Faso have set the legal minimum age for girls lower than that of boys with girls being legally eligible for marriage at 17. The gaps in some laws that allow for children as young as 16 to be married with consent from their parents or the court. Such is the case for Mauritius and Burkina Faso. Other emerging issues of concern in countries such as Namibia, Mauritius and Zambia include high rates on cohabitation among teens and teen pregnancies.

Community level engagement focused strongly on dialogues and awareness on the issues to change norms; engaging with girls for empowerment and provision of safe spaces including rescue and shelter, strong support to keep girls in school and other prevention measures as well as advocacy work with policy makers for the law and policy reform at both national and regional levels.

However, structural barriers continue to push vulnerable girls to child marriage and prevent them from accessing important services once married. These barriers cut across education, health, justice and child protection systems. Within the education systems, lack of access to secondary schools, inadequate means of managing menstruation, lack of sex segregated toilets and the costs of education are major barriers. Retention and reintegration policies of child brides are not existent or not consistently implemented.

Despite significant progress by CSOs in leveraging community resources to fight child marriage, the pressure to marry young children still persists on the continent. Hence, efforts must continue to be made to strengthen engagement of gatekeepers including traditional and religious leaders. These efforts need to be complemented with early warning and early response mechanisms.

Additionally sustained advocacy will be required to increase budget allocation by governments for child marriage, with priority to resourcing community organizations for sustained interventions.

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<sup>22</sup>Greig, Alan with Edström, Jerker (2012) Mobilising Men in Practice: Challenging sexual and gender-based violence in institutional settings, Institute of Development Studies, Brighton: IDS

#### **4. Drawing Lessons from the 4- year Campaign**<sup>23</sup>

The campaign has put child marriage on the agenda of AU organs including the Peace and Security Council (PSC) and generated commitment and enthusiasm among member states and partners. Despite these gains, a number of lessons have emerged to inform the next phase of the campaign. These include:

- The importance of framing child marriage not only as a general developmental issue linked with poverty and culture but a form of violence against children with life-long impact, a violation of multiple rights and a failure to protect children.
- Strongly anchoring the campaign in the normative instruments such as the ACERWC, Maputo Protocol and the Africa Common Position on Ending Child Marriage as well as international instruments such as CRC, CEDAW, Human Rights and General Assembly Resolutions.
- Focus the campaign on implementation of minimum core elements including core package of interventions, inter-country learning and accountability to accelerate the scale up of culturally relevant approaches and innovations which are multipronged in their impact on safe space, Comprehensive Sexuality Education, mentoring and norm changing.
- Adopt a much more nuanced support to countries, guided by different country contexts and key factors such as fragility, situation of child marriage and programme performance that impact child marriage in countries is required.
- Shifts in landscape of actors and influencers requires strong engagement of youth (including females and males), religious and traditional leaders and civil society participation. The crowded landscape also requires better coordination to ensure alignment of actions and collective impact. It is equally important to reach out to other relevant influencers such as Regional Economic Communities (RECs), religious institutions, academia, parliamentarians, etc.

The evaluation of Campaign which was done to assess progress of the AU continental campaign (2016 – 2018) further highlighted the importance of a strong campaign secretariat, a theory of change, and a Monitoring, Evaluation and Accountability Framework to support the campaign.

#### **5. The Five- Year Strategic Plan**

The 5- Year Strategic Plan (2019-2023) to End Child Marriage in Africa, aims to put in place a comprehensive, coordinated and mutually reinforcing set of activities to galvanize and accelerate actions by member states, partners and communities to end child marriage. It seeks among others to enhance continental awareness of the drivers and implications of child marriage, mobilize key stakeholders, partners and communities, and catalyze policy, programmatic and advocacy actions in addressing negative social norms, gender inequality, promotion and protection of child rights and prevention of child marriage.

##### **5.1 Goals and Focus**

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<sup>23</sup>Evaluation Of The AU Campaign To End Child Marriage In Africa (CECM) And Two (2) Year Progress Report(2016 To 2018)

The overarching goal of the strategy is to accelerate actions at member state level to end child marriage by 2040 in alignment with the AU's strategic document on Africa's Agenda for Children. This goal will be achieved through policy advocacy to promote community change practices and providing essential services to reduce the risk, prevalence and consequences of child marriage.

The AUC will continue to provide strategic direction to member states towards the achievement of these objectives at the continental level:

- Sustain awareness of child marriage and visibility of the AU Campaign to End Child Marriage in Africa for a sustained leadership and commitment of the Africa Union and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) at the highest political level.
- Increase engagement coordination, collaboration and alignment of stakeholders of AUC and all its stakeholders around a prioritized continental agenda for ending child marriage.
- Enhance capacity of member states to lead, finance, implement national roadmaps and coordinate cross-sectoral efforts and services in addressing child marriage.
- Implement a research agenda including documenting of promising or best practices and put in place platforms for knowledge exchange to improve evidence-based policy making and facilitate inter-country learning.
- Strengthen monitoring, documentation, and accountability mechanisms at all levels.

**Change Strategies** The above goals will be achieved through three interacting and mutually reinforcing change strategies:

- i. Advocacy for sustained ownership, attention and commitment to end child marriage among key stakeholders at all levels.
- ii. Capacity building and technical assistance to member states and other stakeholders for the design and implementation of comprehensive policy and programs for:
  - (a) changing negative/harmful gender and social norms, systems, structures and practices that perpetuate child marriage; and
  - (b) increasing access and use of referral pathways and essential services including sexual and reproductive health, education, social protection and economic empowerment interventions targeting vulnerable girls, child brides and teen mothers.
- iii. Strengthen mechanisms for coordination, social accountability, knowledge exchange, learning and continuous improvement of comprehensive response in addressing child marriage especially during conflict and humanitarian situations.

### 5.3 Guiding principles

The campaign will be an enabler of the AU ecosystem. It will contribute to increasing engagement and involvement of member states, AUC Departments and AU Decentralized Organs. It will also leverage contributions of development partners, United Nations, Civil Society networks at all levels and strengthen synergies with the work of the Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the Special Rapporteur on Child Marriage and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. Implementation will be guided by the following principles:



- **Rights-based.** This approach puts girls, families and communities at the centre of the campaign and recognises the capacity of rights holders and responsibility of duty bearers, including those responsible for legislation, social and gender norm changes.
- **Gender transformative.** A principle that recognises that child marriage is perpetuated by and embedded in negative gender and social norms that continue to discriminate against women and girls and young people.
- **Inclusivity.** The campaign will seek to provide agency to all young people particularly boys and girls. It will also include girls with disabilities by providing a platform for engagement in programme development and implementation.
- **Focus on accelerated implementation and accountability for results,** building on gains made, and lessons learned in the last campaign
- **Country and community ownership.** This will be expressed through costed and financed national action plans, reporting and accountability mechanisms.
- **Multi stakeholder engagement,** leveraging opportunities and accelerating impactful multi-stakeholder interventions.
- **Context specificity.** Recognizing that one size fits all approach will not work, interventions should be tailored to country needs. A minimum core package of interventions that respond to different country contexts will be implemented.
- **Synergy** Recognize and facilitate synergy with other programs, particularly youth programming( e.g. education, health, economic empowerment) and initiatives on ending child marriage

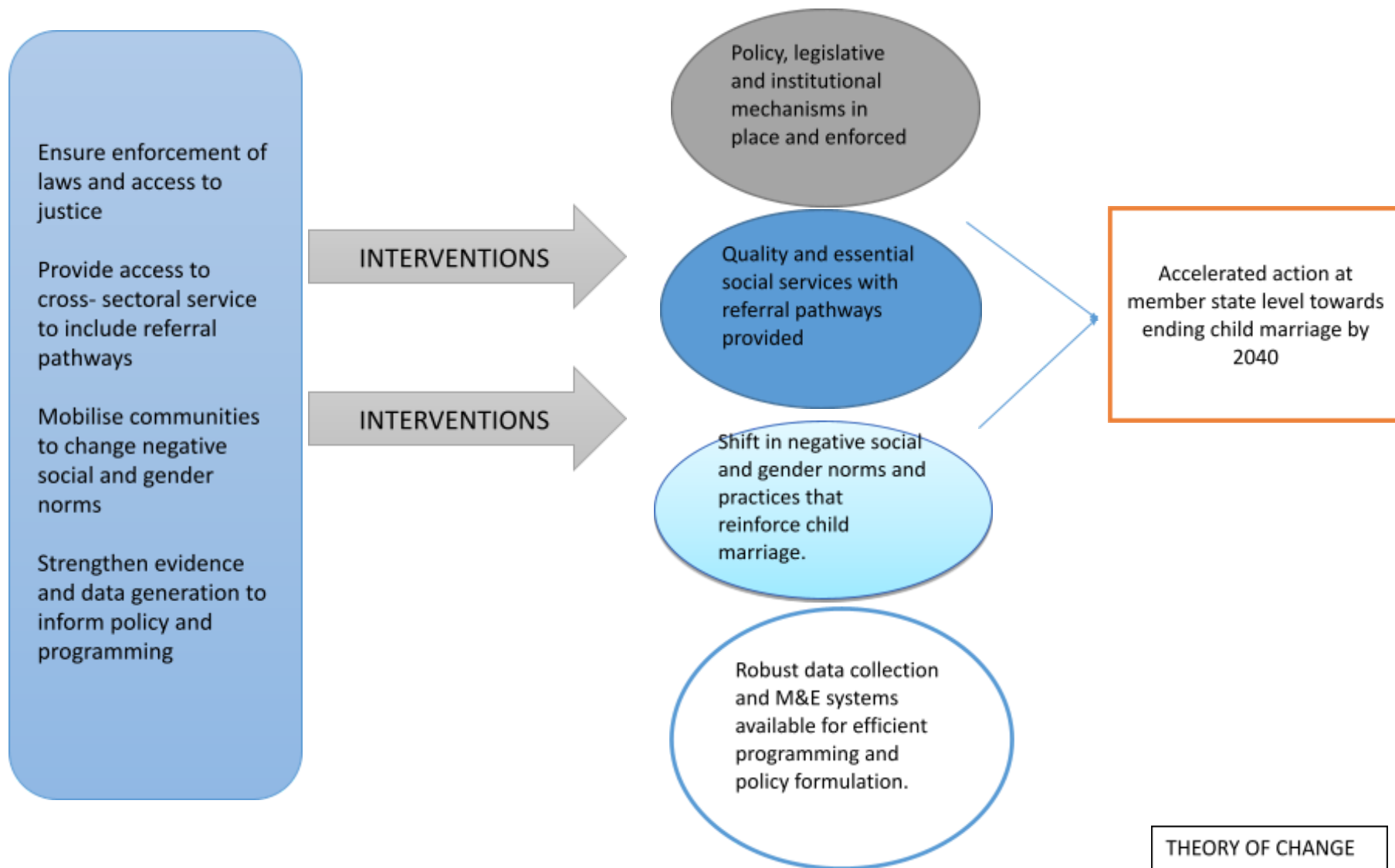
## 6 Theory of Change

The theory assumes that an acceleration of progress to end child marriage by 2040 on the continent will be achieved through efforts of AU Member States to implement deliberate, sustained, and targeted programmes, and where existing, to strengthen programme implementation towards elimination of child marriage and meeting the needs of married adolescents. Member states are expected to deliver a core package of interventions in line with the Joint General Comment on Ending Child Marriage and other normative framework such as the Maputo Protocol and the African Children's Charter, which calls on state parties to put in place measures to a) mobilize community assets to change negative gender and social norms, strengthen institutions, systems and services, b) put in place legislative and policy frameworks on child marriage including ensuring mechanisms for enforcement and access to justice, c) develop and implement roadmaps including national priorities and comprehensive package of cross-sectoral social protection services that provide alternatives for child brides.

With a multi-pronged approach, the AUC will create an environment that

- a) convenes, engages and coordinates member states, partners, and communities around a prioritized continental agenda,
- b) provides a mechanism for technical assistance to support country implementation
- c) facilitate knowledge management and cross-country learning
- d) holds member states and all stakeholders accountable to deliver commitments and actions to accelerate and end to child marriage at the continental and regional levels





## 7. OUTCOMES AND STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS

The AUC will advocate and provide guidance to the member states to contextualize and implement the following recommended minimum core package of interventions and activities for protecting, preventing and responding to child marriage under four key outcome areas and targets:

- I. **Legislation and Institutional Mechanism in place to ensure enforcement and access to justice:**
  - a. Enact laws prescribing minimum age of marriage at 18 for both boys and girls without exceptions.
  - b. Amend laws to remove exceptions based on religion or culture and sustained advocacy to ensure that culture and religious norms are subject to national laws.
  - c. Harmonize laws and policies, regulations and instruments on marriage, child rights, child protection and other laws related to health, education and child labor.
  - d. Implement verification procedures such as birth registration, age verification and marriage registration in order to identify and prevent child marriages and protect children at risk of child marriage and reduce the impacts of child marriage, including those already married.
  - e. Advocate and raise awareness particularly within communities on the importance of existing laws and policies on child marriage and other laws related to health, education and child labor.
  - f. Build capacity of personnel within the criminal justice system to enforce laws against child marriage and apply appropriate sentencing for perpetrators of crime.
  
- II. **Roadmaps developed and implemented to include national priorities and comprehensive package of cross-sectoral services including social protection with referral pathways:**
  - a. Strengthen social protection systems, thus strengthening safety nets for children at most risk, and guarantees for protection of rights for those who experience child marriage.
  - b. Establish or strengthen early warning and rapid response systems including access to justice, protection services and shelters for protection of children at highest risk of child marriage.
  - c. Provide a complete and comprehensive package of education interventions for keeping girls in schools, addressing barriers in access and retention, comprehensive sexual education in schools curriculum, re-entry policies, technical vocational education and training, guidance and counselling by teachers and non-formal economic empowerment related interventions.
  - d. Ensure access to essential health care services, especially for adolescents to have sexual and reproductive health and rights education and access to services such as family planning, reproductive health, mental health and counselling and psychosocial support service and maternal health and child development for adolescent parents.

- e. Improve access to justice to include the capacity of the justice system to provide integrated quality, accessible and free services that respond to cases of child sexual and physical abuse and child marriage in ways that are “survivor and child friendly” within the policing and judicial service and that incorporates the roles of other stakeholders including non-governmental sectors, social service providers and legal aid services. Priority should be given to legal aid services for all reported cases.
- f. Allocate funding to line and sector ministries, coordinating units that run programmes that seek to address child marriage across sectors.

**III. Community assets mobilised to take actions that shift negative social and gender norms that reinforce child marriage.**

- a. Implement community awareness and communication strategies for social change to create awareness of the harmful impact of child marriage and debunk myths and beliefs that child marriage gets families out of poverty and thereby deconstruct perceptions and socially accepted norms.
- b. Strategic and sustained advocacy and engagement of religious and cultural institutions and key influencers, gate keepers for instance school staff, parents media, traditional and religious leaders to influence change in the value of girls/women, social norms, behaviours and attitudes at community level.
- c. Mobilize traditional and religious leaders, community structures and movements as agents of change for the adoption of appropriate and transformative/chiefdoms/community by-laws that address child marriage.
- d. Resource, recognize and scale up community level interventions, innovations and learning.

**IV. Strengthened evidence, documentation and data generation mechanisms in line with international and regional standards to inform policy and efficient programming.**

- a. Build capacity of national statistical offices to regularly collect data using standardized and effective M&E tools on prevalence of child marriage and SGBV and other child protection violations.
- b. Conduct regular research to better understand drivers, trends and changing pattern of child marriage
- c. Provide platform for exchange of knowledge, dissemination of evidence and best practices in order to accelerate action to ending child marriage.

**8. KEY ENABLERS**

**8.1 Communication and advocacy.** The campaign will focus on:

- Developing and implementing a communication strategy to inform both internal external audiences and increase visibility.
- Providing financial and administrative support to the AU Champion on Child Marriage, Goodwill Ambassador and Special Rapporteur to mobilize political support for the campaign.

- Creating a solid annual work plan to link the work of the African Champion on Ending Child Marriage, The Goodwill Ambassador and The Special Rapporteur.
- Engage Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to coordinate regional level action.
- Mobilizing heads of states and partners to support the campaign.

**8.2 Capacity building and technical assistance.** The campaign will focus on:

- Putting in place a multi-agency technical assistance strategy and platform aligned with country needs.
- Develop tools and guidelines for country implementation including model laws, core indicator sets, M&E Guidelines and country implementation models.
- Organize capacity building workshops to address critical capacity gaps programming to address child marriage
- Undertake diagnostic missions to unlock critical bottlenecks in country implementation.
- Capacity building of RECs especially around children and youth issues, and support initiative around the Children and Youth.

**8.3 Campaign management and coordination:** The AUC will focus on:

- A strengthened campaign secretariat with the required human and financial resource capacities
- Define the continental agenda and priorities.
- Put in place a partnership framework for coordinating key stakeholders
- Put in place Monitoring and Evaluation and Accountability frameworks for tracking implementation and results from regional and continental decisions and actions.
- Facilitate the establishment of a community of practice and inter-country learning. A Community of Practice (CoP) on Child Marriage should be composed of representatives from member states (both government and non-government actors) who deepen their knowledge and expertise in addressing child marriage in their countries through continuous interaction on the same basis and facilitated by the AU Coordination Unit. The CoP would include the existing coordinating mechanisms (CSO Reference Group and the Technical Working Group) and meet periodically to reflect on the campaign, generate and mobilize knowledge and learning, but also to create value in multiple and complex ways for both members and the AU.
- Mobilize resources with priority to domestic resourcing of work on ending child marriage and increasing budgeting and monitoring expenditure for gender sensitive and child rights focused social services, especially education, health, social welfare and agriculture.
- Establish cross departmental platforms for engagement and coordination and collaboration at the AUC.

**8.4 Partnerships:**

The AUC will work to strengthen relations with existing partners while developing new partnerships to facilitate achievement of the results set out in this plan. It aims to strengthen relations with existing partners through improving communication and timely notification through joint meetings and events including General Assembly, Girls Summit and other events of critical importance. An important aspect in this regard is strengthening relations with its internal departments and institutions such as the Pan African Parliament and the Commission on Human and People's Rights, Peace and Security, and regional partners through the CSO reference groups and Regional Economic Commissions.

The AUC will seek to broaden its partnership based on the principles of complementarity of mandate, similarity of views on child marriage and willingness to participate in achieving the results of this Strategic Plan. In particular, it will leverage existing programs and partnerships such as on the relationship with partners such as UNFPA-UNICEF Global Program, Global Fund, Global Partnership for Education (GPE) the Spotlight Initiative, Ford Foundation etc.

In support of the implementation of the strategic plan, the AUC will establish a working-group comprised of partners within the region around four thematic areas namely;

- Legislation and services provision
- Social norms and community level actions
- Country focus, monitoring, accountability and learning
- Advocacy, partnerships and resource mobilization

The AUC will explore avenues of partnership with Private Sectors and other bodies like media and academia especially on areas of research and documentation.

In support of the above the AUC will seek to engage in partnership analysis towards development of a Partnership Strategy.

## 09. COUNTRY PRIORITIZATION

Even though the strategy will target all 55 AU member states for operationalizing and adapting the strategic plan to their local contexts, the Campaign will also have specific interventions on 8 countries with the highest prevalence rates of child marriage, including 4 best practice countries which will enhance inter country learning and allow the opportunity for these countries to share with their peers on interventions that they have implemented on ending child marriage that have worked<sup>24</sup>.

## 10. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

The implementation of the strategic plan for the next five years will involve a complex inter linkage and interdependent relationship involving the AUC and AU organs, Member states, DP's, CSO's at regional and community level. In practice, AUC will engage / target all Member States, with a particular focus on countries that are yet to launch the CECM or make progress in framing and executing national strategies and programs.

<sup>24</sup>The 8 highest prevalence countries will be determined by the latest child marriage data whereas best practice countries to be determined by country visit report and recommendations by special rapporteur and Goodwill Ambassador

- a) At the **continent** and REC level, the AUC will lead on overall design, development, monitoring, reporting and accountability of this strategy. The AUC aside leading on advocacy will convene Member States and CSO' to provide oversight, technical support and capacity development. The Commission will equally engage regional economic communities (RECs) to utilize their regional expertise, legislative frameworks, processes and convening platforms, and integrate Child Marriage into AU institutions such as the African Peace and Security Council. The Special mandates (Special Rapporteur and Goodwill Ambassador) will support the implementation of at all levels (See roles and responsibilities of Special Mandates). **The institutional figure of the Special Rapporteur is rotated every two years with guidance and support of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of a Child (ACERWC). Starting in 2022 the institutional figure of the Goodwill Ambassador will also be rotated every two years with selection criteria and clear terms of reference and work plan prepared by the AU Department of Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development.** As per the guidance of the AUC, member states will report on progress of country efforts at special sessions such as Inter-ministerial meetings and Specialized Technical Committees (STCs).
- b) At the **country level**, individual Member States will lead in implementing efforts in addressing child marriage based on their country specific context. To ensure the effectiveness of the campaign, governments/sector ministries will have to set standards and put in place coordinating mechanisms that involves a network of implementing partners to support implementation.
- c) At the **community level**, Member States will lead the response at this level with support from civil society, community groups, traditional, religious and opinion leaders.

## 11. RESOURCING

The next phase of the campaign requires sustainable and diverse resources to fund planned programmes and organisational development. Given the importance of ending child marriage and building on the political will, AU Member States should continue to prioritize and finance this strategy. In addition to the donor contributions, Member States must show further commitment by allocating budgets to child marriage related programs. In situations where allocations exists, it is important to increase allocations and resources.

The following are proposals for the consideration of member states

- Resource mapping to identify potential sources of funding.
- Development of a medium to long term resource mobilisation plan for the campaign.
- Build synergy and complementarity with the ongoing programs and initiatives on eliminating child marriage, such as the Spotlight Initiative, Global Partnership on Education, UNFPA-UNICEF Global Program II etc.



## 12. MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M&E)

Following the evaluation of the previous campaign, there is the need for a more robust M&E system. Hence the need to review the Campaign's M&E. The review and simplification of the current M&E is guided by the campaign's theory of change and has informed the appropriate selection of core CECM indicators. These indicators will allow review of the AU CECM progress and results to ensure continuous oversight and improvement in the campaigns approach to accelerate the end of Child Marriage in Africa. Measurement of performance will be at the country and continental, level. Data for these indicators will be collected from country data systems and a reporting mechanism that tracks progress, innovation, and constraints as well as provide next steps.

In monitoring the strategy, a set of indicators will be reported along **4 key results** areas and these will be reported using a reporting template or an Assessment Form to be filled out by Member States focal persons annually.

Data Submission: The AUC will provide timelines for submission of the reporting template by member states. A focal person at the AUC will be in charge of receiving via email, the reporting template or Assessment Forms from Member States.

Data Analysis: Data from the assessment forms should be analysed using standard Statistical Analysis software such as STATA or SPSS, MS Excel as well as any available Qualitative Analysis software for qualitative indicators. The AUC DSA focal person will be responsible for data analysis, aggregating data from Member States and carrying out simple descriptive and comparative analysis with charts, maps and other diagrammatic representations.

Data Quality Assurance: The key dimensions of data quality to be addressed by the plan include Validity, Precision, Reliability, Completeness and Integrity. There are several key strategies that must be put in place to assure data quality, these include:

- Pre-testing the reporting tool in selected Member States to determine understanding of indicators (especially those collected from primary sources), ease of use of the tool, timeline for collation and gathering of information on country specific data sources to be determined by Member State focal points. Following the pretest the tool may be modified to reflect the results.
- Identification of appropriately skilled personnel to serve as Member State focal point, recommendations include personnel from the National Planning Commission, Bureau of Statistics or relevant Line Ministry that oversees programs to address Child Marriage such as the Ministry of Women Affairs, Youth or Social Development.
- Comprehensive training of Member State focal points on the M&E framework with an emphasis on understanding how to use the reporting form and Indicator reference sheets, helping each focal point map out available data sources unique to their country context and strengthening capacity of focal persons for quality data collection.
- Online / remote support during the reporting period to assist Member States in completing the forms and verifying information on submitted reports.

## Review Process/Evaluation Plan

The Evaluation of the Strategic Plan will involve reporting mostly on Outcome level indicators. The aim is to determine the contribution of the interventions being carried out at the member state level towards the overall goal of the strategic plan. ***Evaluation of the strategic plan will be done using 4 key criteria: Effectiveness, Relevance, Sustainability and Impact.*** Baseline data will be collected mostly from secondary sources via a desk review and in consultation with Member State focal persons. Once baseline information has been collected the CECM team may then proceed to set targets for the framework indicators during the roll out of the strategic plan.

Evaluation Management: The final evaluation will be done by an external evaluator to eliminate bias in reporting achievements. The evaluation will be carried out in 2022. Evaluation Methods used will include desk reviews, secondary data analysis and key Informant Interviews at continental and national levels. All evaluation data sets and recorded interviews with a comprehensive list of key informants will be submitted alongside the final report to the AUC DSA. Evaluation reports will be validated by a verification exercise using telephone/online surveys to contact key informants if there are contradictory findings that need to be clarified.

### 13. ACCOUNTABILITY

A clear accountability framework is part of a journey towards tracking progress on commitments and goals set for improving the lives of those targeted and ensuring sharing of best practices, regular reporting on progress on national strategies on ending child marriage for improving national mechanisms to enhance implementation of national strategies and strengthened coordination, partnerships (community, national, regional and international) in efforts towards accelerating an end to child marriage. The AU Campaign in its 5 year strategic plan specifically aims to have a clear accountability framework which will also be based on an understanding of the Campaign's objectives, operating environment and culture.

The framework will build on and benefit from existing AU accountability frameworks – working within ongoing processes such as peer reviews to ensure Member States account on policy and programmatic action to end child marriage. This will help show the need for policy and institutional reforms, as well as resource commitments to achieve results of the Campaign on the continent.

These will include the African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) – also known as the Banjul Commission, and the Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC). Data will form a great part of this mechanism as a means for verification and measuring results at scale.

**Key Actors:** stakeholders the accountability framework will seek to target will be the AU, REC's, development partners, Member state leaders, national human rights institutions and community members, family, adolescents, religious and national leaders.

### Levels of Accountability:

#### Regional/Continental

- The mechanism will seek to engage the African Court on Human and People's Rights to build capacity of non-state actors (community leaders, civil society groups, regional and national human rights institutions) to utilise the range of tools and processes at the disposal of the court in protecting and safeguarding the rights of girls and women in efforts to end child marriage.
- Further to this, the accountability framework will rely on the African Union Gender Observatory (AUGO), which is a knowledge management platform to monitor the implementation and enforcement of regional and international instruments, including but not limited to the Maputo Protocol, the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA) and Agenda 2063. The mechanism will also rely on existing reporting frameworks such as APRM, African Charter, STC report, AU Child Marriage Champion Report, Maputo Protocol etc.
- In creating a link between the above reports and the STC, the AUC will prepare a Bi-Annual report to be presented to the STC on progress and commitments made to accelerate progress in ending child marriage.
- In holding member states accountable, the AU Champion on Ending Child Marriage – The Government of the Republic of Zambia, as part of a peer review mechanism will convene other Heads of States at High Level Side-Events at the margins of the Summit on Ending Child Marriage in partnership with other AU Champions ( Champion on Ending FGM, Gender Chmpion etc)), Member States and partners.

#### **Community Level (Social Accountability)**

- An accountability mechanism will not be complete without an integration of a social accountability approach which relies on civic engagement. i.e. ordinary citizens and civil society organisations who participate directly or indirectly in exacting accountability. In addressing child marriage, this approach will help improve state responsiveness in service delivery and program interventions that target girls at risk of child marriage, teen mothers and teen brides, in-school and out of school adolescents. Social accountability can be driven within member states by:
  - Citizen groups particularly girls who are affected by child marriage and who are direct beneficiaries of service and
  - Government, which provides the space and enabling environment for citizen participation in governance such as the monitoring public programs.
- Monitoring and evaluation is also essential part of managing the performance of the initiative, particularly in determining how well the initiative is doing and if it is meeting the outcomes at the community level. An important tool to be utilised is community reports and scorecards. The capacity of community actors will need to be built in order to facilitate the effective development of these scorecards and reports to track implementation of child marriage interventions at the community level.



## Annex 1: Results Framework

Expected results	Indicators
<b>Impact:</b> End child marriage in Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- % Child marriage prevalence</li> </ul>
<b>Objective :</b> Accelerate action at member state level towards ending child marriage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Child Marriage (%) percentage of women aged 20 to 24 years who were first married or in union before ages 15 and 18</li> <li>- Age at first marriage, female / Median age at marriage</li> </ul>
<b>Outcome 1 : Legislation and Institutional Mechanism in place to ensure enforcement and access to justice</b>	
<b>Result Area 1:</b> Increased number of member states that have legislations and institutional mechanisms in place to ensure enforcement and access to justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1 Existence of legislation on child marriage and institutional mechanisms to enforce laws and access to justice</li> <li>1.2 Number of member states who have enacted laws prescribing minimum age of marriage at 18 without exceptions.</li> </ul>

	<p>1.3 Number of member states that have harmonised and aligned religious and cultural norms with national laws</p> <p>1.4 Number of member states that have harmonised child protection related laws or policies with other national laws and policies on education, health and child labour.</p>
<p><b>Outcome 2 : Roadmaps developed and implemented to include national priorities and comprehensive package of cross-sectoral services including social protection with referral pathways</b></p>	
<p><b>Result Area 2:</b> National priorities (action plans) with comprehensive package of cross-sectoral services including social protection with referral pathways developed and implemented</p>	<p>2.1 Number of member states that have integrated cross sectoral services such as access to justice, education, health or social protection into national priorities (child marriage action plans)</p> <p>2.2 Number of member states with functional national monitoring and coordinating mechanisms for child marriage</p> <p>2.3 Number of member states that are implementing child marriage national action plans that addresses problems of access to justice for survivors of child marriage.</p> <p>2.4 Number of member states implementing supportive policy frameworks that provide educational, economic or social opportunities for girls at risk of child marriage or married girls</p> <p>2.5 % of Member States with costed and resourced national action plans to address Child Marriage or national development plans that recognize the problem of child marriage</p>

	<p>2.6 Number of member states that are implementing programmes that reach out-of-school girls or child brides with livelihood opportunities</p> <p>2.7 Number member state implementing programs that provides access to essential services such as sexual and reproductive health and rights</p> <p>2.8 Number of member state implementing programs that provides access to mental health, counselling or psychosocial support service, maternal health or child development for adolescent parents</p>
<p><b>Outcome 3: Community assets mobilised to take actions that shift negative social and gender norms that reinforce child marriage and amplify the voices of youth, women-led orgs and CBOs</b></p>	
<p><b>Result Area 3:</b> Shift in negative social and gender norms that reinforce child marriage.</p>	<p>3.1 Number of member states reporting on influential leaders or communicators (traditional, religious, cultural, or political) who have taken action to end child marriage.</p> <p>3.2 Number of member states reporting on communities with public activities on child marriage, exploitation, or violence prevention (e.g., campaigns, rallies, participatory discussions).</p> <p>3.3 Number of member states reporting on communities that have addressed issues related to child marriage or girls’ rights through inter-generational dialogue or through parents’ groups.</p> <p>3.4 Number of member states reporting on community members who report having taken action against child marriage or in support of girls’ rights.</p>

	<p>3.5 Number of member states that are implementing programs with regional and national partners that strategically engages with community assets such as traditional, religious institution.</p> <p>3.6 Number of member states who strategically engage with youth leaders/adolescent peers in interventions to prevent child marriage, exploitation, and violence.</p>
<p><b>Outcome 4: Strengthened evidence, documentation and data systems in line with international and regional standards to inform policy and efficient programming.</b></p>	
<p><b>Result Area 4:</b> - Data and evidence generated in line with international and regional standards to inform policy and programming</p>	<p>4.1 Proportion of member states that regularly collect data using standardized and effective M&amp;E tools on prevalence of child marriage.</p> <p>4.2 Proportion of member states with integrated management information systems</p> <p>4.3 Extent to which member states incorporate child marriage data for sector analysis, policy, planning, legislation strengthening on child marriage</p> <p>4.4 Number of member states that have developed and are rolling-out data generation, analysis guidelines (that integrate child marriage) as part of pre-service and in-service training of statistical personnel</p>



**Annex 2: Monitoring & Evaluation Matrix**

INDICATOR	BASELINE	TARGET	DATA SOURCE	FREQUENCY	RESPONSIBILITY
IMPACT End child marriage by 2040					
<b>% Child Marriage prevalence of in Africa</b>	TBD	TBD	MICS, DHS, National surveys	Bi-annually	AUC
OBJECTIVE Accelerate action at member state level towards ending child marriage					
<b>Child Marriage (%) Percentage of women aged 20 to 24 years who were first married or in union before ages 15 and 18</b>	TBD	TBD	MICS, DHS, National Surveys	Bi- Annually	AUC
<b>Age at first marriage, female / Median age at marriage</b>			MICS, DHS, National Surveys		
Outcome 1: Legislation and Institutional Mechanism in place to ensure enforcement and access to justice					
Result Area 1: Increased number of member states that have legislations and institutional mechanisms in place to ensure enforcement and access to justice					
<b>1.1 Existence of legislation on child marriage and institutional mechanisms to enforce laws and access to justice</b>	TBD	TBD	National Legislative Document, Other Country Specific sources.	Annually	Member state focal persons
<b>1.2 Number of member states who have</b>	TBD	TBD	National Legislative Document, Other	Annually	Member state focal persons

<p><b>enacted laws prescribing minimum age of marriage at 18 without exceptions.</b></p> <p><b>1.3 Number of member states that have harmonised and aligned religious and cultural norms with national laws</b></p> <p><b>1.4 Number of member states that have harmonised child protection related laws and policies with other national laws</b></p>	TBD	TBD	<p>Country Specific sources.</p> <p>National Legislative Document, Other Country Specific sources.</p> <p>National Legislative Document, Other Country Specific sources.</p>	Annually	<p>Member state focal persons</p> <p>Member state focal persons</p>
<p>Outcome 2 : Roadmaps developed and implemented to include national priorities and comprehensive package of cross-sectoral services including social protection with referral pathways</p>					
<p>Result Area 2 National priorities (action plans) with comprehensive package of cross-sectoral services including social protection with referral pathways developed and implemented</p>					
<p><b>2.1 Number of member states that have integrated cross sectoral services such as access to justice, education, health and social protection into national priorities (child marriage action plans)</b></p>	TBD	TBD	Country specific source, Action plan document	Annually	<p>Member state focal persons</p> <p>Member state</p>

<b>2.2 Number of member states with functional national monitoring and coordinating mechanisms for child marriage</b>	TBD	TBD	Country specific source, Action plan document.	Annually	focal persons
<b>2.3 Number of member states that are implementing child marriage national action plans that addresses problems of access to justice for survivors of child marriage.</b>	TBD	TBD	Country specific source, Action plan document	Annually	Member state focal persons
<b>2.4 Number of member states implementing supportive policy frameworks that provide educational, economic or social opportunities for girls at risk of child marriage and married girls</b>	TBD	TBD	Country specific sources, Action Plan document	Annually	Member state focal persons
<b>2.5 % of Member States with costed and resourced national action plans to address Child Marriage or national development plans that recognize the problem of child marriage</b>	TBD	TBD	Country specific source, Action plan document	Annually	Member state focal persons
<b>2.6 Number of member states that are implementing programmes that reach out- of-school</b>	TBD	TBD	Country specific source, Action plan document	Annually	Member state focal persons

<p><b>girls or child brides with livelihood opportunities</b></p> <p><b>2.7 Number of member state is implementing programs that provides access to essential services such as sexual and reproductive health and rights</b></p> <p><b>2.8 Number of member states implementing programs that provides access to mental health, counselling and psychosocial support service, maternal health and child development for adolescent parents</b></p>	<p>TBD</p> <p>TBD</p>	<p>TBD</p> <p>TBD</p>	<p>Country specific source, Action plan document</p> <p>Country specific source, Action plan document</p>	<p>Annually</p>	<p>Member state focal persons</p>
<p>Outcome 3 Community assets mobilised to take actions that shift negative social and gender norms that reinforce child marriage and amplify the voices of youth, women-led orgs and CBOs</p>					
<p>Result Area 3 Shift in negative social and gender norms that reinforce child marriage</p>					
<p><b>3.1 Number of member states reporting on influential leaders or communicators (traditional, religious, cultural, and political) who have taken action public declarations to end child marriage.</b></p> <p><b>3.2 Number of member states reporting on communities with public activities on child marriage,</b></p>	<p>TBD</p> <p>TBD</p>	<p>TBD</p> <p>TBD</p>	<p>Country specific source</p> <p>Country specific source, community scorecards.</p>	<p>Annually</p> <p>Annually</p>	<p>Member state focal persons</p> <p>Member state focal persons</p>

<p><b>exploitation, and violence prevention (e.g., campaigns, rallies, participatory discussions).</b></p>	TBD	TBD	Country specific source, Community scorecards	Annually	Member state focal persons
<p><b>3.3 Number of member states reporting on communities that have addressed issues related to child marriage and girls' rights through inter-generational dialogue and through parents' groups.</b></p>	TBD	TBD	Country specific sources, community scorecards.	Annually	Member state focal persons
<p><b>3.4 Number of member states reporting on community members who report having taken action against child marriage or in support of girls' rights.</b></p>	TBD	TBD	Country specific sources,	Annually	Member state focal persons
<p><b>3.5 Number of member states that are implementing programs with regional and national partners that strategically engages with community assets such as traditional, religious institution.</b></p>	TBD	TBD		Annually	Member State focal person
<p><b>3.6 Number of member states who strategically engage with youth leaders/adolescent peers in interventions to prevent child marriage, exploitation, and violence.</b></p>	TBD	TBD		Annually	
<p>Outcome 4: Strengthened evidence, documentation and data systems in line with international and regional standards to inform policy and efficient programming.</p>					
<p>Result Area 4 - Data and evidence generated in line with international and regional standards to inform policy and programming</p>					

4.1 Proportion of member states that regularly collect data using standardized and effective M&E tools on prevalence of child marriage.	TBD	TBD	Country specific sources	Annually	Member state focal persons
4.2 Proportion of member states with integrated management information systems	TBD	TBD	Country specific source	Annually	Member state focal persons
4.3 Extent to which member states incorporate child marriage data for sector analysis, policy, planning, legislation strengthening on child marriage	TBD	TBD	Country specific sources	Annually	Member state focal persons
4.4 Number of member states that have developed and are rolling-out data generation, analysis guidelines (that integrate child marriage) as part of pre-service and in-service training of statistical personnel.	TBD	TBD		Annually	Member state focal persons

### **Annex 3: Indicator Reference Sheet**

<b>1.1. Existence of legislation on child marriage and institutional mechanisms to enforce laws and access to justice</b>	
Definition	Existence of legislation on child marriage and institutional mechanism to enforce laws and provide access to justice.
Level of Indicator	Outcome
Numerator	N/A
Denominator	N/A

## on Ending Child Marriage (Draft)

Unit	Member States
Data Disaggregation Levels	N/A
Measurement tool	National Legislative Document, Country Specific Source
Frequency	Annual
Interpretation	N/A
Limitations	N/A
Data Quality Considerations	This must be evidenced with reference to relevant legal documents
Target	TBD

**1.2. % of member states who have enacted laws prescribing minimum age of marriage at 18 without exceptions.**

Definition	Percentage of Member States with a robust legal framework against Child Marriage in place that sets 18 as the minimum legal age for marriage and protects girls' and women's rights.
Level of Indicator	Outcome
Numerator	N/A
Denominator	Total number of member states
Unit	Member States
Data Disaggregation Levels	N/A
Measurement tool	National Legislative Document, Country Specific Source
Frequency	Annual
Interpretation	Some member States have exceptions legalizing child marriage either with parental/guardian consent, a judge's approval, court/State's approval and other exemptions allowing a child to marriage below the age of 18 legally.
Limitations	N/A
Data Quality Considerations	This must be evidenced with reference to relevant legal documents
Target	TBD

**1.3. Number of member states that have harmonised and aligned religious and cultural norms with national laws**

## on Ending Child Marriage (Draft)

Definition	Number of member states that have harmonised and aligned religious or cultural norms with national laws
Level of Indicator	Outcome
Numerator	
Denominator	Total number of member states
Unit	Member States
Data Disaggregation Levels	N/A
Measurement tool	National Legislative Document, Country Specific Source
Frequency	Annual
Interpretation	A key recommendation from the Compendium of Laws is the need to amend laws to ensure the harmonization of civil, customary and religious marriage laws to remove all conflicting or contradictory laws and ambiguity in marriage laws.
Limitations	N/A
Data Quality Considerations	This must be evidenced with reference to relevant legal documents
Target	TBD

**1.4. Number of member states that have harmonised child protection related laws or policies with other relevant national laws**

Definition	Number of member states have harmonised child protection related laws or policies with other national laws
Level of Indicator	Outcome
Numerator	N/A
Denominator	Total number of member states
Unit	Member States
Data Disaggregation Levels	N/A
Measurement tool	National Legislative Document, Country Specific Source
Frequency	Annual
Interpretation	In order to strengthen child protection systems, existing laws and policies must be aligned to conform to child protection laws and policies.



Limitations	N/A
Data Quality Considerations	This must be evidenced with reference to relevant legal documents
Target	TBD

**2.1. Number of member states that have integrated cross sectoral services such as access to justice, education, health or social protection into child marriage action plans**

Definition	Number of member states that have integrated cross sectoral services such as access to justice, education, health or social protection into child marriage action plans
Level of Indicator	Outcome
Numerator	N/A
Denominator	Total number of member states
Unit	Member States
Data Disaggregation Levels	N/A
Measurement tool	Review of policy and program documents, reports to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, and UNICEF
Frequency	Annual
Interpretation	
Limitations	N/A
Data Quality Considerations	N/A
Target	TBD

**2.2. Number of member states with functional national monitoring and coordination mechanisms for child marriage**

Definition	Number of member states with functional national monitoring and coordination mechanisms for child marriage
Level of Indicator	Outcome
Numerator	N/A
Denominator	Total number of member states
Unit	Member States
Data Disaggregation Levels	N/A

Measurement tool	Country specific document
Frequency	Annual
Interpretation	N/A
Limitations	N/A
Data Quality Considerations	N/A
Target	TBD

**2.3. Number of member states that are implementing child marriage national action plans that addresses problems of access to justice for survivors of child marriage.**

Definition	Number of member states that are implementing child marriage national action plans that addresses problems of access to justice for survivors of child marriage.
Level of Indicator	Outcome
Numerator	N/A
Denominator	Total number of member states
Unit	Member States
Data Disaggregation Levels	N/A
Measurement tool	Country Specific Source
Frequency	Annual
Interpretation	N/A
Limitations	N/A
Data Quality Considerations	N/A
Target	TBD

**2.4. Number of member states implementing supportive policy frameworks that provide educational, economic or social opportunities for girls at risk of child marriage or married girls**

Definition	Number of member states implementing supportive policy frameworks that provides educational, economic or social opportunities for girls at risk of child marriage or married girls
Level of Indicator	Outcome
Numerator	N/A

Denominator	Total number of member states
Unit	Member States
Data Disaggregation Levels	N/A
Measurement tool	Country Specific Source
Frequency	Annual
Interpretation	N/A
Limitations	N/A
Data Quality Considerations	N/A
Target	TBD

**2.5. % of Member States with costed and resourced national action plans to address Child Marriage or national development plans that recognize the problem of child marriage**

Definition	Percentage of Member States with national action plans to address Child Marriage that have been costed/budgeted for, this also includes national development plans that include Child Marriage as one of the key areas of work
Level of Indicator	Outcome
Numerator	Number of Member States with costed/resourced national action plans to address Child Marriage
Denominator	Number of member states
Unit	Member States
Data Disaggregation Levels	N/A
Measurement tool	Country Specific Source
Frequency	Annual
Interpretation	A key recommendation to member states as part of the next phase of the campaign is the development of a clear action plan to guide implementation
Limitations	N/A
Data Quality Considerations	N/A
Target	TBD

**2.6. Number of member states that are implementing programmes that reach out-of-school girls or child brides with livelihood opportunities**

Definition	Number of member states that are implementing programmes that reach out- of-school girls or child brides with livelihood opportunities
Level of Indicator	Outcome
Numerator	Member states implementing programmes that reach out of school girls or child brides with livelihood opportunities.
Denominator	Total number of member states
Unit	Member States
Data Disaggregation Levels	N/A
Measurement tool	Country Specific Source
Frequency	Annual
Interpretation	N/A
Limitations	N/A
Data Quality Considerations	N/A
Target	TBD

**2.7. Number of member states implementing programs that provides access to essential services such as sexual and reproductive health and rights**

Definition	Number of member states implementing programs that provides access to essential services such as sexual and reproductive health and rights
Level of Indicator	Outcome
Numerator	N/A
Denominator	N/A
Unit	Member States
Data Disaggregation Levels	N/A
Measurement tool	Country Specific Source
Frequency	Annual
Interpretation	N/A
Limitations	N/A
Data Quality Considerations	N/A
Target	TBD

<b>2.8. Number of member state implementing programs that provides access to mental health, counselling or psychosocial support service, maternal health or child development for adolescent parents</b>	
Definition	Number of member state implementing programs that provides access to mental health, counselling or psychosocial support service, maternal health or child development for adolescent parents
Level of Indicator	Outcome
Numerator	
Denominator	Total number of member states
Unit	Member States
Data Disaggregation Levels	N/A
Measurement tool	Country Specific Source
Frequency	Annual
Interpretation	N/A
Limitations	N/A
Data Quality Considerations	N/A
Target	TBD

<b>3.1. Number of member states reporting on influential leaders or communicators (traditional, religious, cultural, and political) who have made public declarations to end child marriage.</b>	
Definition	Number of member states reporting on influential leaders or communicators (traditional, religious, cultural, and political) who have made public declarations to end child marriage.
Level of Indicator	Outcome
Numerator	N/A
Denominator	N/A
Unit	Member States
Data Disaggregation Levels	N/A
Measurement tool	Country Specific Source
Frequency	Annual
Interpretation	N/A

Limitations	N/A
Data Quality Considerations	N/A
Target	TBD

**3.2 Number of member states reporting on communities with public activities or engagements on child marriage, exploitation, or violence prevention (e.g., campaigns, rallies, participatory discussions).**

Definition	Number of member states reporting on communities with public activities or engagements on child marriage, exploitation, or violence prevention (e.g., campaigns, rallies, participatory discussions).
Level of Indicator	Outcome
Numerator	N/A
Denominator	N/A
Unit	Member States
Data Disaggregation Levels	N/A
Measurement tool	Country Specific Source, community scorecards
Frequency	Annual
Interpretation	N/A
Limitations	N/A
Data Quality Considerations	N/A
Target	TBD

**3.3. Number of member states reporting on communities that have addressed issues related to child marriage or girls' rights through inter-generational dialogue or through parents' groups.**

Definition	Number of member states reporting on communities that have addressed issues related to child marriage or girls' rights through inter-generational dialogue or through parents' groups.
Level of Indicator	Outcome
Numerator	N/A
Denominator	N/A
Unit	Member States

Data Disaggregation Levels	N/A
Measurement tool	Country Specific Source
Frequency	Annual
Interpretation	N/A
Limitations	N/A
Data Quality Considerations	N/A
Target	TBD

**3.4. Number of member states reporting on action taken by community members against child marriage or in support of girls' rights**

Definition	Number of member states reporting on action taken by community members against child marriage or in support of girls' rights
Level of Indicator	Outcome
Numerator	N/A
Denominator	Total number of member states
Unit	Member States
Data Disaggregation Levels	N/A
Measurement tool	Country Specific Source
Frequency	Annual
Interpretation	N/A
Limitations	N/A
Data Quality Considerations	N/A
Target	TBD

**3.5. Number of member states that have developed or implementing programs with partners that strategically engages with community assets such as traditional, religious institution.**

Definition	Number of member states that have developed or implementing programs with partners that strategically engages with community assets such as traditional, religious institution.
Level of Indicator	Outcome
Numerator	N/A

## on Ending Child Marriage (Draft)

Denominator	N/A
Unit	Member States
Data Disaggregation Levels	N/A
Measurement tool	Country Specific Source
Frequency	Annual
Interpretation	Strategic engagement refers to involvement in design, development and implementation of programs
Limitations	N/A
Data Quality Considerations	N/A
Target	TBD

**3.6. Number of member states who strategically engage with youth leaders/adolescent peers in interventions to prevent child marriage, exploitation, and violence**

Definition	<b>Number of member states who strategically engage with youth leaders/adolescent peers in interventions to prevent child marriage, exploitation, and violence</b>
Level of Indicator	Outcome
Numerator	N/A
Denominator	N/A
Unit	Member States
Data Disaggregation Levels	N/A
Measurement tool	Country Specific Source
Frequency	Annual
Interpretation	Strategic engagement refers to involvement in design, development and implementation of programs
Limitations	N/A
Data Quality Considerations	N/A
Target	TBD

**4.1. % of member states that regularly collect data using standardized and effective M&E tools on prevalence of child marriage.**



Definition	Percentage of member states that regularly collect data using standardized and effective M&E tools on prevalence of child marriage
Level of Indicator	Outcome
Numerator	Member states that regularly collect data using standardized M&E tools
Denominator	Total number of member states
Unit	Member States
Data Disaggregation Levels	N/A
Measurement tool	Country Specific Source
Frequency	Annual
Interpretation	N/A
Limitations	N/A
Data Quality Considerations	N/A
Target	TBD

#### 4.2. % of member states with an integrated management information systems

Definition	Percentage of member states with an integrated management information system
Level of Indicator	Outcome
Numerator	Member states with an integrated management system
Denominator	Total number of member states
Unit	Member States
Data Disaggregation Levels	N/A
Measurement tool	Country Specific Source
Frequency	Annual
Interpretation	N/A
Limitations	N/A
Data Quality Considerations	N/A
Target	TBD

#### 4.3. Extent to which member states incorporate child marriage data for sector analysis, policy, planning, legislation strengthening on child marriage

Definition	Extent to which member states incorporate child marriage data for sector analysis, policy planning or legislation strengthening on child marriage.
Level of Indicator	Outcome
Numerator	N/A
Denominator	N/A
Unit	Member States
Data Disaggregation Levels	N/A
Measurement tool	Country Specific Source
Frequency	Annual
Interpretation	This should reference data sources used to influence policies, programmatic planning and legislation strengthening explaining how they were used
Limitations	N/A
Data Quality Considerations	N/A
Target	TBD

**4.4. Number of member states that have developed and are rolling-out data generation, analysis guidelines (that integrate child marriage) as part of pre-service and in-service training of statistical personnel**

Definition	Number of member states that have developed and are rolling-out data generation, analysis guidelines (that integrate child marriage) as part of pre-service and in-service training of statistical personnel
Level of Indicator	Outcome
Numerator	N/A
Denominator	N/A
Unit	Member States
Data Disaggregation Levels	N/A
Measurement tool	Country Specific Source
Frequency	Annual
Interpretation	N/A
Limitations	N/A

Data Quality Considerations	N/A
Target	TBD

**Annex 4: ACTIVITY PLAN**

	ACTIVITIES	TIMELINES
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1.	<p><b>AU</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Produce an annual report on progress, innovations, constraints and way forward within the framework of the campaign;</li> <li>2. Convene annual peer review consultation (Government experts, Regional Economic Communities and other stakeholders to share experiences and best practices on their End Child Marriage strategies, implementation including M&amp;E mechanisms);</li> <li>3. Facilitate coordination of the work of the African Champion on Ending Child Marriage, the Special Rapporteur and Goodwill Ambassador to ensure that their annual work plans are aligned and are supported in their roles including developing a high level peer review mechanism</li> <li>4. Develop a continental level accountability framework with key indicators of the M &amp; E framework to collect necessary data and statistics from Member States every 2 years</li> <li>5. Develop and operationalize a scorecard on Ending Child Marriage targeted at Member States</li> <li>6. Hold 3 capacity building trainings annually for different stakeholders (religious and traditional leaders, youth, justice systems, human rights commissions and RECs)</li> <li>7. Develop and implement a communication strategy to inform internal and external actors and increase campaign's visibility and outreach</li> <li>8. Strengthen mechanisms for coordination, accountability, knowledge sharing among Member States and continuous improvement of comprehensive responses in ending child marriage.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Feb 2020- Dec. 2023</b></p> <p><b>Oct 2020- Dec. 2020</b></p> <p><b>Jan. – Dec. 2020</b></p> <p><b>Nov. 2019 – Jan. 2020</b></p> <p><b>Jan. – Mar. 2020</b></p> <p><b>Nov. – Dec. 2023</b></p> <p><b>Nov. 2019-</b></p> <p><b>Jan. 2020 – Dec. 2021</b></p>
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2.	<p><b>Member States</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Put in place legislative and policy frameworks on child marriage including ensuring mechanisms for enforcement and access to justice</li> <li>2. Develop and implement roadmaps including national priorities and comprehensive package of cross sectoral social protection services (health, education, economic empowerment programmes) that prevent child marriage and provide alternatives for child brides.</li> <li><u>3.</u> Create platforms for meaningful multi-stakeholder, including adolescent girls, participation, engagement, coordination and accountability.</li> <li>4. Increase funding for programmes to end child marriage within national implementation strategies;</li> <li>5. Mobilize community assets to change social norms that reinforce child marriage, gender inequality and violence against women and children.</li> <li>6. Provide universal protection through enactment of minimum laws of marriage at 18 without exceptions.</li> <li>7. Amend laws to remove exceptions based on religion or culture and sustained advocacy to ensure that culture and religious norms are subject to national laws.</li> <li>8. Harmonize laws on marriage (harmonizing civil and customary laws), child rights, child protection and other laws related to health, education and child labor</li> <li>9. Work with the AU and partners to hold Capacity building training for criminal justice system to enforce laws against child marriage and apply appropriate sentencing for perpetrators of crime</li> <li>10. Establish or strengthen early warning and rapid response systems including access to justice, protection services and shelters for protection of children at highest risk of child marriage</li> <li>11. Provide complete and comprehensive package of education interventions for keeping girls in schools, addressing barriers in access and retention, comprehensive sexual education in schools, re-entry policies, technical vocational education and training, guidance and counselling by teachers and non-formal economic empowerment related interventions</li> <li>12. Ensure access to essential health care services, especially adolescent girls and youth sexual and reproductive health and rights education, mental health and counselling and psychosocial support service and maternal health and child development for adolescent parents.</li> </ol>	<p><b>2019 – 2020</b></p> <p><b>2020 - 2021</b></p> <p><b>2020</b></p> <p><b>2020- 2021</b></p> <p><b>2020 - 2023</b></p>
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3.	<p><b>Regional Economic Communities</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Work with the AU Campaign on promoting domesticating model laws by Member States;</li> <li>2. Engage with partners and other RECs on enhancing the regional response to Child Marriage;</li> <li>3. Work with the AU to establish guidelines for Member states and at regional level on developing and/or strengthening early warning and rapid response systems including access to justice, protection services and shelters for protection of children at highest risk of child marriage</li> <li>4. Putting in place multi-agency taskforce or strategy and platform aligned with country needs.</li> </ol>	<b>2019 – 2021</b>
4.	<p><b>Development Partners</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Connecting the campaign to community and grassroots organizations</li> <li>2. Assist with additional resourcing</li> <li>3. Work with grassroot communities and AU in developing a rapid response mechanism as part of the social responsibility to ending child marriage</li> </ol>	<b>2019 - 2021</b>
5.	<p><b>Role of Goodwill Ambassador, Special Rapporteur and African Champion</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Work with each other and stakeholders in carrying out advocacy for commitments to ending child marriage</li> <li>2. Conduct advocacy campaign to mobilise Member States and RECs to support the campaign</li> <li>3. Raise awareness on the current status of child marriage on the continent and works of the AU campaign.</li> </ol>	<b>2019- 2021</b>

### Annex 5: ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF STAKEHOLDERS

A critical aspect of this campaign is the strategic involvement of key stakeholders in building a movement for ending child marriage at all levels. These roles outline, are to serve as a guide for the next phase of the campaign.

<p><b>Children and Adolescents</b></p>	<p>A wide range of programs must be geared towards supporting young people to be champions of change on their own.</p> <p>These can include forming youth groups, encouraging dialogue between youth and community leaders, and building the capacities.</p> <p>There must be a deliberate attempt in ensuring the participation of adolescents in decision-making and policy advocacy processes.</p>
<p><b>Member states and Regional Economic Communities</b></p>	<p>Serve as platforms for cascading implementation and monitoring of campaign priorities to ensure alignment and coherence of actions.</p>
<p><b>Traditional, Religious and Cultural Institutions</b></p>	<p>Leaders within these institutions must speaking out against child marriage and lead the change in community attitudes.</p> <p>In communities where religious and traditional leaders play a prominent role in decision-making or influencing the prevailing norms, targeted interventions can support them to become positive advocates for change who fully understand the implications of child marriage for girls and their families.</p>
<p><b>Men and boys</b></p>	<p>Must lead in the re-socialization of other boys and men to see the importance of a community which values and supports women and girls to fulfil their potential. Must also work together with girls and women on norm change inclusive of change in value of girls/women and definitions of masculinity and femininity.</p>
<p><b>Parents</b></p>	<p>Parents must create a safe environment that creates trust and fulfils children's potential</p> <p>Parents must be empowered and encouraged to see the benefits of having their children educated instead of given off as brides.</p> <p>Parents must bean agent of change to alleviate the never-ending cycle of poverty.</p>

<b>Teachers</b>	<p>Create a safe environment within the schools setting that protects girls from child marriage.</p> <p>Female teachers particularly should serve as role models for girls</p> <p>Build confidence in both boys and girls.</p> <p>Support in awareness in schools on issues related to child marriage.</p> <p>Teachers can impart knowledge and information on sexuality; support girls and boys as they begin to understand these issues;</p> <p>Spread awareness on healthy relationships; make students aware that no violence should be tolerated</p>
<b>Media</b>	<p>The media can help shape how child marriage is discussed, addressed and understood through sensitive reportage.</p> <p>Media can provide visibility to interventions being carried out and increase reportage on issues of child marriage.</p> <p>Ensure accountability on commitments made by key actors for fulfilling their responsibilities to protect and support the public's welfare.</p>
<b>Communities</b>	<p>Communities must shift norms and values that drive child marriage.</p> <p>Actors within the community space must come together to ensure protection of children particularly the girl-child.</p>

**Annex 6: RISK MANAGEMENT MATRIX**

No.	Risks	Occurrence Likelihood	Consequence	Mitigation Mechanisms
1.	Bureaucratic inefficiencies	High	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ministries dealing with child welfare issues at national level should appoint a focal person to keep communications with the Campaign</li> <li>● AU to create linkages with existing campaigns addressing girls' empowerment through clear implementation plan</li> <li>● Constantly follow-up on the strategy implementation processes by the AU at national level.</li> </ul>



2.	Lack of prioritization by Member States	Moderate	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● AU should work with the AU Champion to end child marriage- President of Zambia H.E. Edgar Lungu to hold peer review high level meetings to promote countries to prioritize child marriage on the political agenda including sharing a clear evidence based report on status of CM in Africa;</li> <li>● Show case real stories of survivors of child marriage at high level advocacy events</li> <li>● Focal ministries should work at the multi-sectoral level to mainstream child marriage at national level and define annual priorities;</li> <li>● AU to provide technical assistance to Member states on developing and/or strengthening their implementation plans on ending child marriage;</li> <li>● AU to link up member states and RECs through capacity building trainings on ending child marriage;</li> </ul>
3.	Inadequate coordination strategies	High	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The AU should work with Member states to facilitate an effective coordination level at national level and among partners and other stakeholders;</li> <li>● AU to clarify within the Campaign strategy the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders in ending child marriage: AU, Member states, Regional Economic Communities, development partners, civil society organizations, youth (inclusive of girls with disabilities) religious and traditional leaders;</li> <li>● AU to facilitate timely and effective communication between stakeholders-communication strategy</li> <li>● AU to adopt a much more nuanced support to countries, guided by different country contexts and key factors such as fragility, situation of child marriage and programme</li> </ul>

				<p>performance that impact child marriage in countries is required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance human resource capacity of the Campaign to engage effectively with stakeholders</li> </ul>
4.	Lack of political will	High	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AU will work with the AU Champion to end child marriage- President of Zambia H.E. Edgar Lungu to hold peer review high level meetings to promote countries to prioritize child marriage on the political agenda including sharing a clear evidence based report on status of CM in Africa;</li> <li>AU to advocate for regional policies frameworks/protocols through existing AU organs ( ACERWC,ACHPR, Maputo Protocol)</li> <li>Engage key influential people to advocate to ECM ( CSOs, regional and traditional leaders, youth)</li> <li>AU to continue to advocate for public financing and human resources required by the member states to sustainably implement the campaign.</li> </ul>
5.	Weak institutional capacity-limited resources	High	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recruit dedicated technical staff to the campaign team</li> <li>Build capacity of stakeholders (religious &amp; Traditional leaders; parliamentarians, member state experts etc.) through training and refresher courses on ending child marriage where needed</li> <li>Work with member states increase investments on programs to end child marriage</li> <li>Leverage resources from partners through coordination and synergies</li> <li>Develop an implementation plan that defines activities and associated budget lines- tool for M&amp;E</li> </ul>
6.	Risks associated with limited engagement of youth&	Moderate	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build their capacity to engage meaningfully in meetings on ECM at national level and continentally;</li> <li>Hold high level events such as the Girls Summit around key themes of child marriage driven by Youth</li> </ul>

	girls in the Campaign			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Allocate resources for girls and youth participation in development planning</li> </ul>
7.	M&E accountability	Moderate	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Establish and strengthen institutional mechanisms at national level;</li> <li>● Extent of coverage of safeguards to end child marriage in policies and laws.</li> <li>● Strengthen human resource capacities for AU</li> <li>● AU to collaborate with focal ministries on ending child marriage and national statistics agencies for adequate data collection;</li> <li>● Strengthen data generation capacity at national level- planning, tracking progress, program adjustment</li> <li>● Use technology for reporting (hotline)</li> <li>● Increase financial resource for M&amp;E</li> <li>● Documentation of good practices and lessons learnt</li> <li>● Strengthen collaboration with research institutions</li> <li>● Have an integrated M&amp;E system and accountability framework;</li> <li>● Capacity strengthen of M&amp;E personnel for the Campaign and at Member state level</li> </ul>