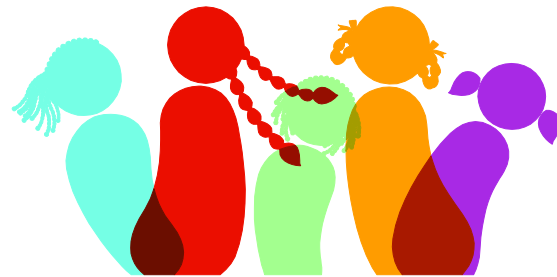


# Exploring *Girls Not Brides* Theory of Change to End Child Marriage

Leila Billing & Kate Whittington



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The Global Partnership to End Child Marriage

# Webinar objectives

1. Provide an overview of the *Girls Not Brides* Theory of Change to End Child Marriage & how it can inform your work.
2. Build an understanding of why ToC development is helpful to the work members do collectively within a National Partnership.
3. To provide you with practical steps to get you started.



# Why did GNB develop a common Theory of Change?

- To build a holistic understanding of all that is necessary to end child marriage.
- To facilitate greater partnership + collaboration between diverse actors.
- To provide a basis for common indicators to measure and monitor progress.



# Guiding principles reflected in the TOC

- Girls are the focus – they are disproportionately affected by child marriage.
- We seek to end child marriage *and* support married girls.
- Child marriage can include formal and non-formal unions.
- Our vision is ambitious – we're seeking to address gender inequality



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# VISION:

A world without child marriage where girls and women enjoy equal status with boys and men and are able to achieve their full potential in all aspects of their lives.

## IMPACT

Girls can decide if, when, and whom to marry

Married girls lead healthy, empowered lives

## RESULTS

Girls at risk of child marriage participate more in decisions that affect them, including regarding marriage

Girls at risk of child marriage benefit from improved educational and economic opportunities as alternatives to child marriage

Girls are better able to avoid early pregnancy and to refuse unwanted sex

Married girls are better protected from violence, exploitation or abuse

Married girls increasingly access and use services and supports of all kinds

Married girls increasingly access divorce, annulment and child custody

Community, traditional and religious leaders take greater action to end child marriage and realise the rights of girls

Community, traditional and religious leaders increasingly support alternative roles for girls beyond marriage

Men and boys increasingly take action to end child marriage

Families engage less in exchange of dowry and bride price

Service providers take greater action to prevent child marriage and support the needs of married girls

Law enforcement officials increase implementation and enforcement of legal frameworks to prevent child marriage and protect married girls

Law enforcement officials increase use of civil registration systems for birth and marriage

## OUTCOMES

### GIRLS

- Girls are increasingly aware of their rights
- Girls have the opportunity to develop solidarity with one another through peer groups and collective action
- Alternative economic, social roles for girls and women exist and are valued
- Increased access of married and unmarried girls to health, education, economic, and legal support

### FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Families, communities and young people are increasingly aware of the harmful impact of child marriage and alternatives available
- Families, communities and young people value alternative options to child marriage
- Families and communities prefer not to marry girls as children
- Men prefer not to marry girls who are still children
- Increased use of media to inform and support norm change to end child marriage

### SERVICES

- Increased access to safe, quality formal and non-formal education for girls
- Increased access to health services for adolescent girls, married and unmarried
- Health and education services establish protocols on identifying the warning signs and addressing the risks of child marriage
- Improved economic security for girls
- Increased commitment of programmes to prevent and mitigate risk of child marriage

### LAWS AND POLICIES

- National laws reflect international and regional human rights standards
- 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
- Governments develop supportive policy frameworks with adequate resourcing across Ministries to increase educational, economic and social opportunities for girls at risk of child marriage and married girls
- Strengthened civil registration systems for birth and marriage
- Increased accountability and monitoring of national / regional / community institutions

## STRATEGIES

### EMPOWER GIRLS

A wide range of programmes invest in girls, their participation and their well-being

### MOBILISE FAMILIES & COMMUNITIES

Families, communities and young people are engaged to change attitudes and behaviours related to child marriage

### PROVIDE SERVICES

Services across sectors reinforce one another and are tailored to the specific needs of girls at risk of child marriage and married girls

### ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT LAWS & POLICIES

A robust legal and policy framework for preventing child marriage and supporting married girls is in place and effectively enforced

## CATALYSING STRATEGY

Ending child marriage will require long-term, sustainable efforts. Change will ultimately take place within communities, but has to be supported and catalysed by collective efforts at national, regional and international levels. Adequate resources must be made available to support effective implementation of strategies. All those working to address child marriage should evaluate programmes, share promising practices, and coordinate their efforts to achieve maximum scale and impact. Recognising that child marriage does not take place in a vacuum, efforts to end child marriage should not be isolated from broader development efforts and should play an integral part in achieving development goals around the world.

# PROBLEM:

Every year approximately 14 million girls are married as children across countries, cultures, religions and ethnicities. Child marriage is rooted in gender inequality and in the low value accorded to girls, and is exacerbated by poverty, insecurity and conflict. It denies girls their rights, choice and participation, and undermines numerous development priorities, hindering progress towards a more equal, healthy and prosperous world.

# How is the ToC being used?

- Advocacy & awareness raising
- Informing strategic planning
- Informing national strategies
- Demonstrating impact

*“Without Girls Not Brides’ Theory of Change, we wouldn’t have known where to start when we were drafting the strategy to end child marriage” Dr Kiran Joint Secretary, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Nepal*



# Why should our National Partnership develop a common Theory of Change?



# Why should our National Partnership develop a common Theory of Change?

- Builds a shared understanding of desired change
- The process helps to identify hidden assumptions/different views
- Supports partnership working
- Can be a digestible way to communicate externally the work that you collectively



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# 3-Step Guide for Theory of Change Development

- Simple and intuitive process
- Can be adapted and built upon
- More detail in the offline guide
- Who should we involve?



# Step 1 – Revisit your situation analysis

- Ensure the gender analysis in your situation assessment is strong. Some questions you might want to explore include:
  - *Key drivers of child marriage – context specific*
  - *What levels of participation in decision making do women and girls enjoy?*
  - *What are the norms relating to children – how does the community feel about child participation? And the participation of girls in particular?*



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# Step 2 – Identify your goal and desired outcomes

## OUTCOMES

What are the 4-5 changes we want to achieve as a direct result of our collective work? How are these directly linked to the problems identified in your situation analysis?

**GIRLS**

**FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES**

**SERVICES**

**LAWS AND POLICIES**

**GOAL**



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# Step 2 – Identify your goal and desired outcomes

Prioritisation will be necessary. Consider:

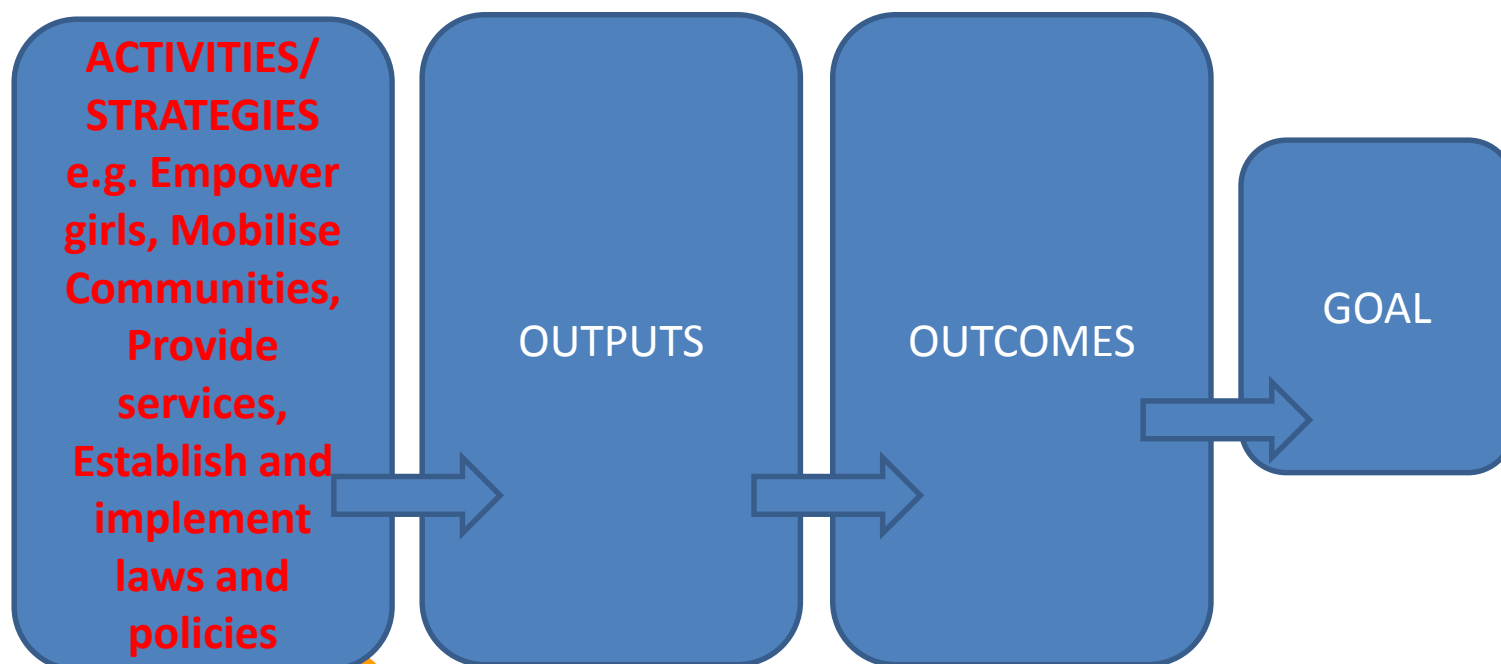
- *Which areas can we have the most impact upon?*
- *Which areas does the group have appetite to work on?*
- *Are we focusing our efforts on tackling gender inequalities?*

***Process can help you identify gaps in membership base of the National Partnership***



# Step 3 – What is needed to bring about change?

- *What are the key strategies and activities that can help us to bring about these longer-term changes?*



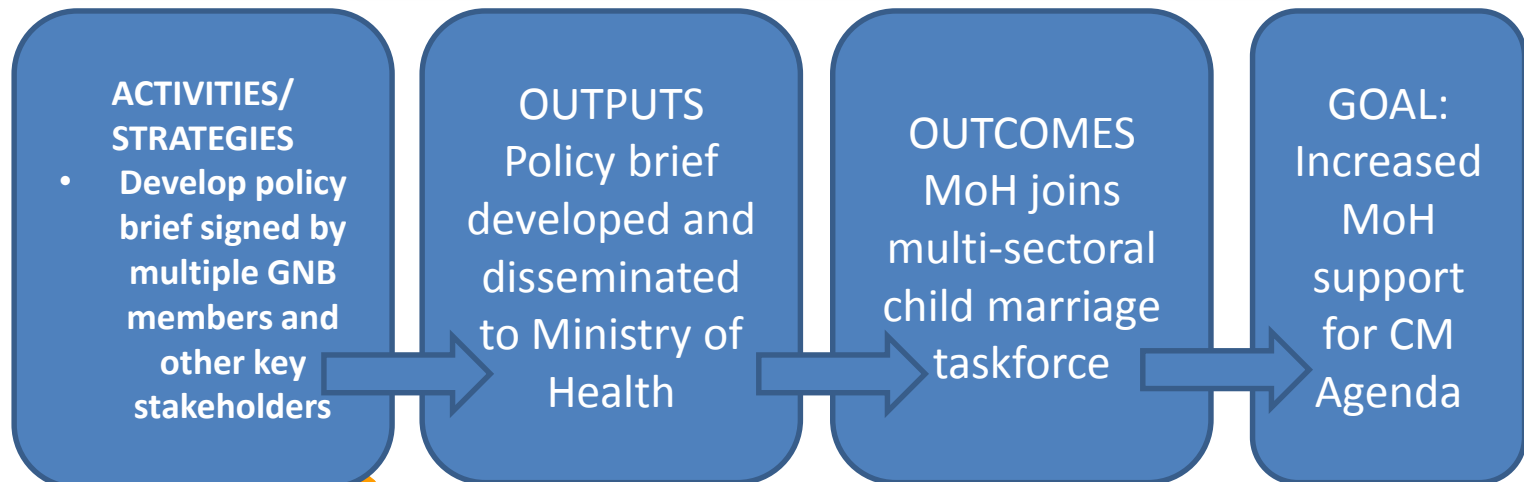
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# Step 3 – Example

**PROBLEM:** MINISTRY OF HEALTH (MoH) IN UGANDA NOT SUPPORTIVE OF NATIONAL CHILD MARRIAGE RESPONSE

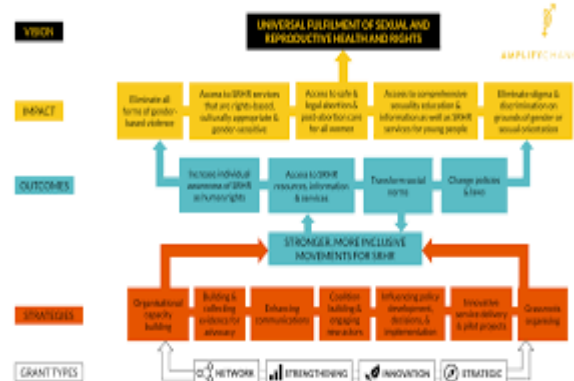
## ASSUMPTIONS

Support for policy brief is forthcoming  
The MoH finds the arguments in the brief compelling enough  
MoH presence on the multi-sectoral taskforce translates into substantive support



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# Presentation



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# Top Tips

- Know when to stop!
- Refer to our offline guide for more tips on how to facilitate the process in your national group
- It can be developed at different stages throughout the programme cycle and adapted





# Next steps

1. A recording of the **webinar** & the **step by step guide** will be available next week – please share these resources!
2. *Girls Not Brides* National Partnerships – discuss this webinar with the chairs/co-ordinators of your group and allocate time in your next meeting to reflect further.
3. If you are a *Girls Not Brides* NP and need technical support contact Lara or Kate on [Lara.vanKouterik@girlsnotbrides.org](mailto:Lara.vanKouterik@girlsnotbrides.org) / [Kate.Whittington@girlsnotbrides.org](mailto:Kate.Whittington@girlsnotbrides.org)
4. Please fill in our evaluation at the of the webinar by clicking [here](#).



# Further resources...

- For more information on the **Theory of Change** and to **use our interactive version** see our dedicated ToC page on the *Girls Not Brides* website:  
<http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/child-marriage-theory-of-change/>
- Visit the section on **‘Measuring Progress’** to download our [Recommended Indicators and User Guide resources](#).
- Our **Step by Step process guide** will be circulated and also available on our Resource Centre – coming soon!



**THANK YOU!**

