Child Marriage FGD Outcomes

Zaatari Camp CP-SGBV SWG - Sep 17, 2019
CM in numbers

Child marriage documentation in Zaatari (2017-2019)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Child marriages (＃)</th>
<th>Adult marriages (＃)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>357</td>
<td>626</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019 (Jan-Aug)</td>
<td>385</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 64% in 2017
- 75% in 2018
- 37% in 2019 (Jan-Aug)
CM: ongoing activities

**Prevention**
- Awareness-raising (IMC, UNHCR, UNICEF)
- Empowerment activities (IFH, UN WOMEN)
- Child marriage counselling (UNHCR)
- Life skills (UNICEF)

**Response**
- Case management (IFH, IMC, UNHCR)
- Support groups (IFH, IMC)
- Drop-out/remedial programs (RI)
- Psychosocial support (MC)
Interagency FGD structure

IFH, IMC, MC, RI, SCJ, UNHCR conducted 12 discussions on July 7-9.
## Interagency FGD questions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Adolescents</th>
<th>Adults</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What does the term “child marriage” mean to you? Do you know about the legal framework in Jordan?</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why do you think some children under 18 from ZC get married? Why do girls or boys decide to marry early?</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why do children under 18 from Zaatari get married?</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What do you think is a good age for girls to get married? Why?</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What do you think is a good age for boys to get married? Why?</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What are the advantages of girls getting married under 18? What are the disadvantages?</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What are the advantages of boys getting married under 18? What are the disadvantages?</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is there anything else you would like to add about why children marrying is common in Zaatari?</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In your opinion, is the fact that children under 18 years marry a challenge? If so, what could be the role of adolescents or the community to address this?</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are you aware of any Child Protection agencies providing activities to address child marriage? What other activities would you suggest to prevent children from marrying under age?</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is there anything else you would like to add about how child marriage can be reduced in Zaatari?</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FGD outcomes: CM basics knowledge

Definition
• All groups: children getting married under 18 years old

Jordanian legal framework
• Adolescent groups: girls can get married at 15, boys at 16 or 18
• Adult groups: only M 18-39 knew legal age for marriage to be registered at Sharia Court is 15
FGD outcomes: CM causes

Family lineage

Protection

Religion

Love

Poverty

Tradition

Ignorance

Teaches responsibility
FGD outcomes: good ages to marry, according to adolescents

**Girls**
- **Females**: At 20+ after finishing education, under 20 because no one would propose to an older girl for cultural reasons
- **Males**: After finishing high school, at 18 when she’s mature

**Boys**
- **Females**: At 20-22 after university and is responsible
- **Males**: At 25 after having some life experience
FGD outcomes: CM (dis)advantages for girls

Advantages
- Orphaned girl has a new family
- Girl receives new clothes
- Girl protected from harassment
- Girl develops good behavior and morality
- Parents are happy
- Family reduces financial burden
- Family gets respect from community

Disadvantages
- Less time to enjoy youth
- Ill-prepared for responsibilities/parenting
- Has to drop out of school
- Girl not finishing school will have a negative impact on couple’s children in future
- Health issues, high-risk pregnancies
- Increased chance of divorce
- Unaware how to cook or do housework
## FGD outcomes: CM (dis)advantages for boys

### Advantages
- Makes boys mature and take responsibility
- Establishes extended family if boy is only son
- Only son has kids to carry on family name
- Makes parents happy, especially to become grandparents
- Stops boys from harassing girls at schools
- Prevents immoral behavior (sex out of wedlock)
- Young girls are beautiful, willing to love spouse

### Disadvantages
- Younger boys can’t manage responsibilities
- Boys don’t learn to be independent (go from parents’ home to having a wife)
- Higher chance of divorce
- Can’t enjoy youth
- Having to drop out of school
- Extra pressure to financially support new wife
- Child husbands can’t protect their wives
## FGD outcomes: responding to CM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Community’s capacities</strong></th>
<th><strong>Partners’ roles</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Ensure all boys and girls under 18 are attending school</td>
<td>• Launch social media campaign</td>
</tr>
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<td>• Launch social media campaign</td>
<td>• Distribute brochures about CM risks</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Raise awareness of CM risks involving tribal and religious leaders</td>
<td>• Develop a play about CM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Parents to stop entertaining proposals for underage children</td>
<td>• Engage girls in vocational skills courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Have information-sharing about CM risks and education benefits at schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Authorities’ roles</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Change legal marriage age to 18 and fine those marrying underage</td>
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Way forward: interagency actions

CP-SGBV SWG is developing *interagency interventions with the community* to address CM in Zaatari Camp based on FGD outcomes.

**Proposals**

- Coordinate awareness raising key messages
- Work with influential community members (e.g. religious leaders)
- Engage children and youth (e.g. plays, social media campaign)
- Liaise with linked sectors (e.g. education, livelihoods)
- Launch a grassroots campaign (e.g. door to door sensitization, pledges)
Upcoming event: CM roundtable

IFH and UNFPA are coordinating a high-level roundtable discussion

• **Purpose**: to discuss current policies/regulations and to develop plans/programs to reduce CM in Zaatari Camp

• **Expected participants**: community leaders and members, SRAD, Sharia Court, other governmental actors, humanitarian agencies, CP-SGBV and Education SWG members, media

• **Date**: October 2019