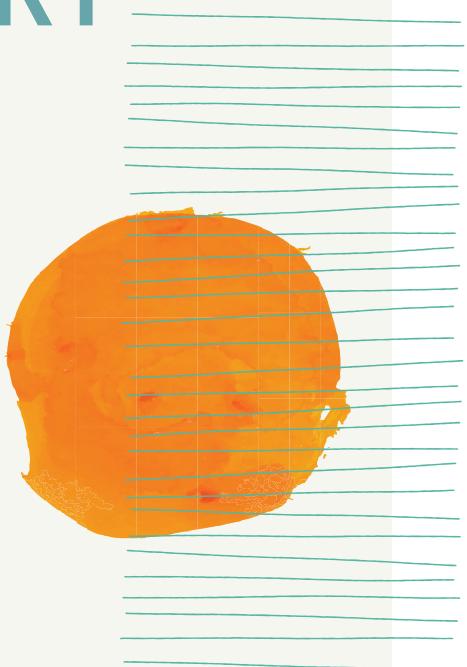
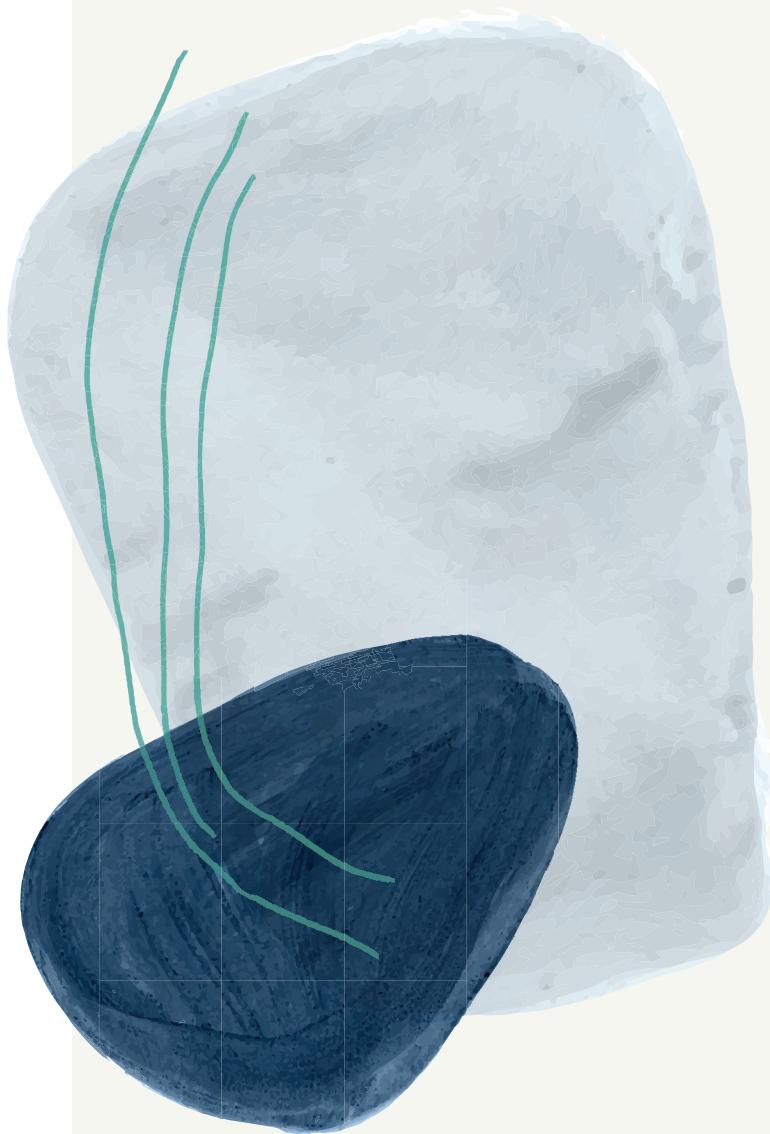


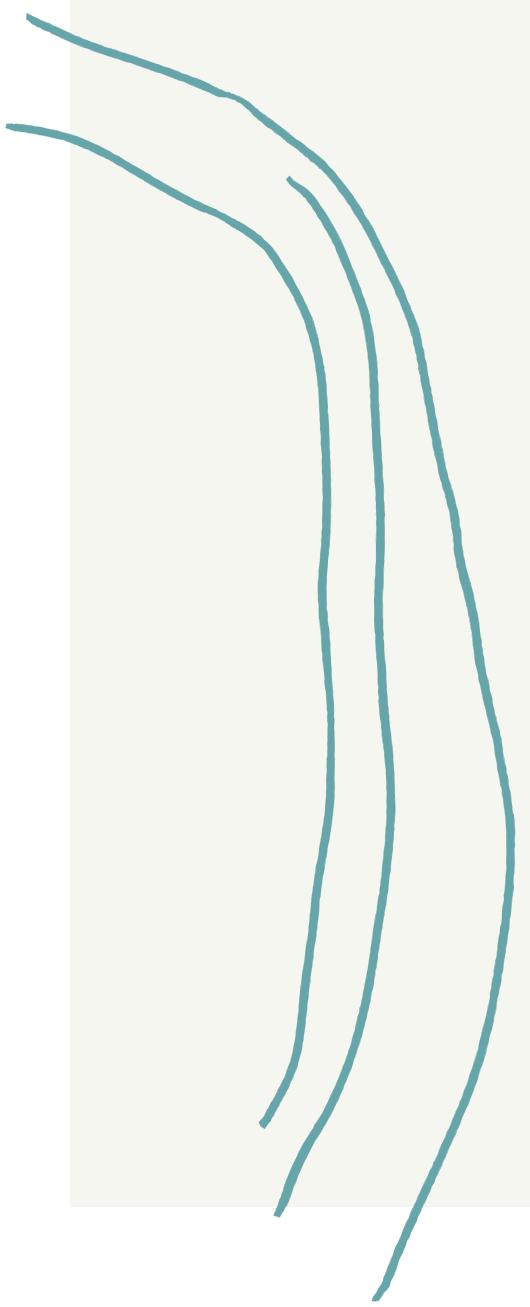
AN OVERVIEW TO THE CHILD,  
EARLY AND FORCED MARRIAGE  
STUDIES IN TURKEY

# MATERIAL OVERVIEW REPORT



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EARLY AND FORCED MARRIAGE  
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**The United Nations Joint Programme for the Prevention of Child, Early, and Forced Marriage in Turkey**, implemented by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) with the financial assistance of Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) takes a multi-sectoral and holistic approach for conducting both prevention and intervention activities to strengthen national mechanisms for protection of women and children, and to promote positive social norms aiming to prevent child, early and forced marriages. With the primary objective of supporting the development of local institutional capacity for preventing child, early and forced marriage within the scope of the program, UNFPA has been conducting activities in the fields of promoting mother and child health, improving reproductive health and rights, supporting gender equality, combating violence against women and humanitarian aid in Turkey since 1971. UNFPA works for a more equal and safer world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

<b>AÇEV</b>	Mother Child Education Foundation
<b>ASAM</b>	Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants
<b>CEDAW</b>	The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
<b>CEFM</b>	Child, Early, and Forced Marriage
<b>DGSW</b>	Directorate General on the Status of Women
<b>HRDF</b>	Human Resource Development Foundation
<b>HREP</b>	Human Rights Education Programme for Women
<b>ICC</b>	International Children's Centre
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organisation
<b>IOM</b>	International Organisation for Migration
<b>MoFLSS</b>	Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services
<b>MoFSP</b>	Ministry of Family and Social Policies
<b>MoNE</b>	Ministry of National Education
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organization
<b>TGNA</b>	Turkish Grand National Assembly
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UN Women</b>	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>YAKA-KOOP</b>	Life, Women, Environment, Culture and Business Cooperative

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This study was carried out by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in 2018, within the scope of the United Nations Joint Programme for the Prevention of Child, Early and Forced Marriages – CEFM (hereinafter referred to as the Joint Programme).

The purpose of the study is to ensure that the capacity building activities to be carried out within the scope of the Joint Programme and the materials to be produced are built on the existing knowledge in the field.

Within the study, materials related to CEFM which are produced and used in Turkey were examined. Additionally, meetings were held with UN agencies, key public institutions, non-governmental organizations and experts working in the field, and their views on the capacity building activities to be carried out within the scope of the Joint Programme and the materials to be prepared were received.

Guides, educational materials, reports, books, academic publications, research, brochures, posters, action plans, films, radio spots and other materials related to CEFM are listed and filed with a reference

number. This pool of material was expanded by the UNFPA team in the process following this study, and was made available to institutions and individuals working on the prevention of CEFM on a web portal<sup>1</sup>.

The web portal that collects materials related to CEFM which are produced and used in Turkey has a potential to support studies and works of students, academics, volunteers, NGOs, public institutions, and all others who are concerned in this field.

This report that evaluates materials related to CEFM which are produced and used in Turkey, is expected to be a guide for the work to be carried out within the framework of the Joint Programme.

The introduction section of the report includes the aim and methods of the study followed by a section in which the general findings are presented. The subsequent sections deal with action plans, training and information materials, reports, guidebooks, posters, placards, brochures, short films, academic studies, and other materials.

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<sup>1</sup> [cocukyastaevliligeson.org](http://cocukyastaevliligeson.org)

Under each heading, summary information is given about the materials available as well as good practices and, under the related heading, recommendations regarding the areas to which the Joint Programme can contribute.

The findings emerging from material investigation and face-to-face interviews are as follows:

- Child, early, and forced marriages are notions that are often used interchangeably however, each need to be considered and utilized separately in terms of the meaning, difference and significance. Among these practices, forced marriages have attracted the least attention.
- The oldest, most consistent, and most comprehensive studies concerning CEFM were conducted by women's organisations, followed by UN agencies, international organisations, and children's organisations. Other organisations have addressed this issue rather within the context of violence against children, child protection, child neglect and abuse, violence against women, sexual and reproductive health, and adolescent pregnancies.
- Roma people, people under international protection and temporary protection, people living with disability, LGBTI people, and seasonal workers in the agricultural sector are the most vulnerable groups with respect to CEFM.
- There are many common fallacies as far as CEFM is concerned (such as the idea that marriage is a "way to protect children", or that "child marriage is a cultural problem").
- Several interviewees expressed that addressing adolescence in training is just as important as providing information about childhood, especially in consideration of the common perception of adolescence as adulthood.
- CEFM, which is a multi-factor problem, should be addressed with all aspects and in a holistic manner.
- In many documents relevant to the issue (e.g. reports, action plans, and training materials), CEFM is only **briefly mentioned.**
- The people interviewed often stated that awareness-raising activities cannot be effective as long as the child protection

system is inadequate; will not be effective until the child protection system is strengthened.

- Service providers need to acquire new skills, workflow charts, directives, and guidelines rather than simply gaining awareness.
- It is observed that the most effective projects relating to CEFM are the local, community-based projects which involve all relevant parties, including men and opinion leaders, and are executed on a continuous basis by non-governmental organizations (NGOs).
- In projects targeting CEFM and related issues, the supporting activities for capacity building projects are very limited in number and scope. It is important that capacity building activities are carried out continuously during the course of the programme.
- Besides projects directly addressing the problem of CEFM, it is also essential to carry out supporting activities aiming to empower women and civil society, strengthen the child protection system, ensure the participation of women and children, and

establish a civil monitoring process. It is especially significant that action plans include interventions that go beyond awareness raising. Strategies should be developed at the provincial level not only to design action plans, but also to coordinate and monitor such plans.

- Higher rates of child marriage are seen among boys in Roma communities and communities under international protection and temporary protection. It seems important to consider this situation in the studies to be carried out in the field of CEFM.
- CEFM is not only an issue to be included in the agendas of women's and children's organisations; it is considered important that professional, youth, and human rights organisations active in the fields of medicine, social services, education, and justice also take up this issue.
- The content and methods of training materials for society and service providers should be diversified with respect to age, gender, language, vulnerable groups, the field of expertise of service providers, etc.

- The tools and methods used in monitoring, evaluation, and supervision of capacity building training should be clearly defined.
- It is seen that the mental health effects of CEFM should be considered and valued just as much as the topics of sexual and reproductive health.
- The best practices and implemented ideas should be made more visible and widely available.
- It should be ensured that municipalities take a more active role in prevention of CEFM.
- Academic studies conducted in recent years on CEFM have provided updated data and information. It is seen that activities aimed at increasing these studies and supporting the studies of related academicians will be beneficial.
- It would be useful to focus on digital platforms, especially in awareness raising activities intended for young people.

## 2. THE PURPOSE OF THE STUDY AND METHOD

This report has been prepared within the scope of **the UN Joint Programme** for the Prevention of Child, Early, and Forced Marriage. The purpose of the study is to contribute to activities to be conducted within the framework of the programme through the scanning and evaluation of materials in use in Turkey on child, early and forced marriage.

All materials prepared or in use in Turkey by United Nations (UN) agencies, civil society organisations, public institutions, and field specialists--mainly training materials, advocacy materials, communication materials, action plans, and standard operating procedures were included in the study.

**Online survey:** A comprehensive online search was conducted during the first stage of the study. In the search, key words such as child marriage, early marriage, and forced marriage, as well as concepts including child bride, child marriage, adolescent health, child protection, violence against children, child negligence and abuse, violence against women, gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health, and adolescent pregnancy

were used. With this survey information about training, publications, organisations, and specialists in the respective field are collected. Additionally, a map was created for related public institutions and organisations.

**Creation of the contact list:** A contact list was created based on the recommendations of the UNFPA Turkey Office and the results of the online survey. This list covers UN agencies, public institutions, civil society organisations, universities, municipalities, and independent experts.

### Information request via

**e-mail:** 60 non-governmental organisations, specialists, and municipalities in the contact list were asked to share information about related materials produced by their own organisations or other organisations they partnered with.

### Information request via phone:

Representatives of the related organisations were called and asked for information about available materials.

**Face-to-face interviews:** Face-to-face interviews were held with public institutions, non-governmental organisations, UN agencies and experts in İstanbul, Ankara, İzmir, and Gaziantep.

Digital materials accessed during the study were given reference numbers and recorded in the digital environment<sup>2</sup>. Non-digital materials were also given reference numbers and recorded in the digital environment with their cover photos and delivered. Materials were listed in an excel file with columns for the reference no., year, name, organisation, theme, description, and contribution to the programme. Each item was given a reference number and filed by type for easy tracking of materials accessed during the study.

Materials were coded as follows:

Material Type \_ Material Number

**The listed materials are divided into 3 groups according to their contents:**

**1:** Materials that directly relate to CEFM and CEFM-connected materials that were prepared within the UN agencies.

**2:** Materials that prepared on various topics (such as gender equality and child protection) and indirectly related to CEFM.

**3:** Materials that do not relate to CEFM but can support activities within the CEFM (i.e. monitoring and evaluation materials, women's consultation center workflow chart, etc.).

### Material Types

- Film (FLM)
- Guideline (RHB)
- Book/booklet (KTP)
- Directive (YÖN)
- Flow chart (SMA)
- Brochure (BRS)
- Poster (AFS)
- Training kit (KIT)
- Training booklet (EGT)
- Slides (SLT)
- Research (ARS)
- Academic publication (MKL)
- Statistics (IST)
- Standard operating procedure (SOP)
- Action plan (EYP)
- Report (RPR)
- Strategy paper (STR)
- Literature review (LTR)
- Memo (BLD)
- Magazine (DRG)
- Policy Document (PLT)
- Radio Spot (SPT)

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2 Material database can be accessed via [cocukyastaevliligeson.org](http://cocukyastaevliligeson.org)

### 3. FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

Although the study focuses on materials in use in Turkey on CEFM, this report has been prepared in a wider framework that covers significant information and suggestions regarding the issue. The accessed materials were evaluated in relation to the experiences of experts and officers, their recommendations, and good practices identified.

**In the material reviews, it is seen that the concepts of “child marriage”, “early marriage” and “forced marriage”, which are different from each other, are used interchangeably and can often be confused.**

Although the concept of early marriage covers child marriage, it is frequently used to refer to child marriage only. This has two important implications. First, forced marriage of those who are over 18 but are not psychologically, mentally, or

physically ready for marriage is overlooked and related interventions fall short. Second, calling child marriage early marriage renders the “child” and “child molestation” invisible, which is a vital dimension of the issue. Therefore, considering the names of the materials, although it looks like there are many studies about early marriage available, it is seen that these studies are about child marriage; there are few studies on early and forced marriage and limited related materials have been generated.

Studies on forced marriage, on the other hand, remain limited to generating/producing statistics within the work of women’s organisations fighting violence against women. The relationship between human trafficking and forced marriages is discussed in the materials prepared by IOM. In addition, forced marriage related issues are available in the reports or statements of LGBTI organisations and organisations like the Red Umbrella which are engaged in sexual health, human rights, and sex workers’ rights. Forced marriage is also on the agenda of nongovernmental organisations in European states including Germany and Austria, where migration from Turkey through marriage is common.

There are limited studies in which the main theme is child, early, and forced marriage. In the field of medicine, it is seen to be discussed in terms of reproductive and sexual health, reproductive and sexual rights, and adolescent health and pregnancy; Social sciences studies focus on child abuse, child sexual abuse, and sexual violence. In law, studies mainly examine victims' rights and child sexual abuse. CEFM is often mentioned in relation to, children's rights, child protection, gender-based violence, violence against children, migration, human trafficking, child sexual exploitation, children's access to justice, and vulnerable groups.

**In studies to be carried out on CEFM, it is seen that the issue needs to be handled multidimensionally with its causes, results and solutions.**

Although CEFM is a multidimensional issue, it is seen that materials generally focus on a single dimension, such as physical health, crime, or the child abuse. It is seen that CEFM needs to be handled multidimensionally with its individual and social consequences in relation to issues such as immigration and human trafficking within the framework of the violation of children's and women's rights. Moreover, the issue needs to be further addressed in the context of the specific problems of refugees, the Roma community and seasonal agricultural workers. One of the main contributions of the Joint Programme will be the development of multidimensional materials discussing the reasons for, results of, and solutions for the issue. The background of every UN agency has the potential to offer a holistic approach.

**There are also problems with approaching the topic from a holistic perspective on a sector basis.**

There are not a few studies in the health sector where the topic of CEFM is discussed under a separate title. The handling of CEFM within the framework of issues such as reproductive

health, sexual health, maternal deaths, adolescent pregnancy, public health has undoubtedly contributed to raising awareness regarding this problem; however, it does not seem sufficient to deal with all aspects of the issue in terms of health. It was stated in the interviews that the issue was handled independently from each other as women, mother, child and adolescent health.

It has been stated that physicians working in Family Health Centers (FHC) cannot attend the necessary training programmes due to the intensity of appointments, this issue is not included among the minimum requirements and performance monitoring criteria, and it has a decreasing effect on the support and participation of health workers in preventive activities that relates to CEFM.

Comprehensive and continuous work on CEFM is mainly carried out by non-governmental organizations operating in the field of women's and children's rights. During the interviews, it was emphasized that the struggle on this issue should be embraced by non-governmental organizations operating in other fields.

In the analyzed materials, it is seen that the subject

of CEFM is discussed by women's organizations in the context of combating violence against women, and by non-governmental organizations working in the field of children's rights and human rights, mostly in the context of violence against children or child abuse.

It was stated that both financial and institutional capacities of non-governmental organizations operating in this field should be strengthened in order to increase the effectiveness of advocacy activities. It was stated that the participation of non-governmental organizations in all relevant processes and mechanisms, especially national and local action plans, is essential for more effective and sustainable struggle. One of the important developments regarding CEFM is the increased interest in the topic from municipalities and the related increased number of best practices. UNICEF has conducted comprehensive studies in partnership with Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality, Bursa Metropolitan Municipality and Antalya Muratpaşa Municipality in cooperation with UNICEF.

It is observed that academic studies on CEFM have increased considerably in recent years.

## 4. ASSESSMENT OF MATERIALS

### ACTION PLANS

Available action plans on CEFM can be grouped in two categories:

1. Action plans directly related to CEFM
2. Action plans developed in various areas, such as prevention of violence against women, ensuring gender equality, child protection, and prevention of violence against children, all of which support the struggle against CEFM and include interventions for CEFM

The first national plan directly developed for CEFM is the "Strategy Paper and Action Plan on Combating Early and Forced Marriage" prepared by the Directorate General on the Status of Women (DGSW) in the Ministry of Family, Labour, and Social Services (MoFLSS). It was reported that the plan, which covers 2018-2023, was completed but not put into effect, as the approval process has not yet been completed.

In the 2016-2020 National Action Plan prepared by the DGSW, it is stated that studies on early marriages will be carried out at the national level. In addition, the subject of early marriages is put in the training list for service providers.

Within the scope of the "Combating Domestic Violence" project conducted by GDSW, local action plans were created in 26 cities (Adana, Afyonkarahisar, Ankara, Antalya, Bursa, Çanakkale, Denizli, Diyarbakır, Düzce, Erzurum, Eskişehir, Gaziantep, Isparta, İstanbul, İzmir, Kırşehir, Kocaeli, Konya, Manisa, Mersin, Nevşehir, Sakarya, Samsun, Şanlıurfa, Trabzon, and Van), and were approved by the respective governorates. The action plans of many cities included offering training on early marriage to public personnel as an activity. The Ministry of Family and Social Policies (MoFSP) also ensured presentations on child marriage were given in the provincial committees in all 81 provinces.

Within the scope of the “Justice for Children” Project, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Family and Social Policies, the Supreme Board of Judges and Prosecutors, the Justice Academy, and UNICEF Turkey prepared the Paper on Coordination and Strategy in Child Protection Services and Implementation Plans (2014-2019). Although CEFM is not directly subject of the plan that involves 10 strategic goals, activities for elimination and prevention of CEFM such as early risk assessment, preventive work on child protection, developing and extending child protection services are included in the plan. The Partnership Network for the Prevention of Violence against Children also issued a call for implementation of the plan.

Two important examples of local action plans are the Local Equality Action Plans created in Nevşehir and Samsun as a result of the activities of the Woman Friendly Cities Programme executed by UNFPA and UNDP. The Local Equality Strategy Plan prepared under the coordination of the Governorate of Nevşehir defined prevention of early marriage as a target and included activities to be conducted to this end. Another contribution of the Nevşehir Local Equality

Strategy Plan was the document sent to respective boards to ensure the implementation of the plan by the Governorate. The Governorate of Samsun prepared the “Prevention of Early Marriage Action Plan” in addition to the Local Equality Action Plan. This additional plan issued for early marriage included activities in accordance with the plan’s 3 strategic targets.

Another important local activity for the prevention of child marriage was conducted by Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality in partnership with UNICEF. The action plan developed in regard to early marriage by Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality included activities defined in line with 5 strategic goals.

UNICEF conducted activities to develop a more comprehensive action plan within the framework of the experience of the Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality Action Plan in 2017. The draft plan includes multiple activities defined according to the 4 targets included in the draft.

It is reported that UNHCR Istanbul Office and the Governorate of Istanbul are preparing an action plan on CEFM.

**The opinions that come out of the interviews conducted and that will direct the local action plans to be prepared by the Joint Program are as follows:**

The most important deficiency based on the information collected during the interviews was the lack of directives and workflows for service providers in various areas. It was reported that field officers needed more concrete and detailed information about what to do and which actions to take when they encountered instances of CEFM. The biggest problem in terms of referrals was reported to be with children over 15. It was stated that children under 15 were reported to police, judicial authorities, or social service institutions, yet children over 15 were not reported. It was also suggested that the normalization of the marriage of children under international protection and temporary protection as a "cultural" issue was one of the main problems with reporting.

It was stated that the activities for protection and prevention in the health sector were inadequate and these activities needed to be focused.

The action plan emphasises the need to pay particular attention to women empowerment activities. Activities for the empowerment of women include raising awareness among women about their rights, letting them know which organisations to apply to, developing their social networks, supporting their involvement in economic life, and aiding in the development of their personal potential and skill sets. In order to ensure women empowerment, it is necessary to strengthen the capacity of related mechanisms. In the same vein, the participation and empowerment of children and youth should also be addressed within the action plans.

### Example of Practice



UN Women and the ILO jointly manage SADA, a centre mostly comprised of Syrian and Afghan women which offers vocational classes specifically for women. Additionally, the centre organizes seminars for the women about gender equality with respect to the workplace and careers.

With regard to women's empowerment, activities for women under international protection and temporary protection draw particular attention. The women's committee, formed by Syrian women following a year of meetings with Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants (ASAM) psychologist, utilized the various trainings in which its members had participated to play an active role in the development of new trainings and activities designed specifically for Syrian women. It was reported that the group, which was defined as heterogeneous in terms of age, marital status, and other factors, issued a charter and designed a logo. The women's committee was preparing to publish a magazine with the first issue focusing on CEFM.

A similar activity was conducted by Human Resource Development Foundation (HRDF). Women who attended group activities under the facilitation of a psychologist published a storybook and then released a music CD. One of the most striking contributions of HRDF in this area is that they held similar group activities for men. Additionally, the solidarity groups for boys and girls created by HRDF, ASAM, and the Blue Pen Association are also important and striking examples.

It is understood that a significant portion of the comprehensive, continuous, and fruitful activities on CEFM were conducted by women's organisations such as the Flying Broom, Life, Women, Environment, Culture and Business Cooperative (YAKA-KOOP), Muş Women's Roof Association, KAMER Foundation, and Izmir Union of Women's Organisations. Albeit not directly focused CEFM, children's organisations and their networks have made important contributions in terms of the protection of children's rights and monitoring of implemented practices. Therefore, it is essential to involve civil society in the process of implementing and monitoring activities for the prevention of CEFM. However,

it is not enough to only include civil society but it is necessary to build their capacity in terms of accessing funds, monitoring, counselling, training, etc. to allow civil society to take action in this area. In the interviews, it was reported that activities on CEFM were long-term efforts which needed funding for at least 3 years.

### Example of Practice



A significant part of the activities relating to CEFM carried out by NGOs were realized with the support of the grant programme of the Sabancı Foundation.

It was understood that women, children, and civil society had limited contributions to the development process of the action plans on CEFM and related topics. It is necessary to develop methods which focus on the involvement of women, children, and NGOs in the plans to be developed. It is especially important to involve women and children under international protection and temporary protection. A needs analysis can be a tool to foster involvement.

The identification, protection, and empowerment of children at risk is considered to be another

important item on the agenda. Identification of children at risk, protection and empowerment of children, development of specialized services such as hotline for violence against children and children counselling center are listed as the fields to be focused by the action plans. It is stated that empowering child protection system is a prerequisite both for the awareness raising activities and activities targeting service providers.

It is thought that it would be helpful to extend the early warning model that enables early risk assessment and intervention, developed in cooperation between UNICEF and the Turkish Ministry of National Education (MoNE).

More progress has been made in specialized services for female survivors of violence in comparison with services for survivors of child abuse. Support activities for children are offered by women's or family-oriented centres. The development of specialized services for children, including a hotline for violence against children and children's counselling centres, can be an area of focus for the action plan. It can be considered within the framework of strengthening the current models and developing new ones. The Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality has experience in operating child centres and a hotline

for violence against children, although it has now ceased to provide these resources, however, these experiences can be recorded in written form and thus shared with others.

### Example of Practice

Child protection centres established in university hospitals conduct operations on sexual abuse of children and other criminal topics. A guidebook was issued on the establishment and operation of child protection centres. In order to further strengthen good practice, the Marmara University Child Protection Centre started a restructuring process related to the rehabilitation of children with the support of the Istanbul Development Agency. The centre representative suggested that offering training with case studies to physicians in the field would be effective and useful.



Another related suggestion was the development of a certificate programme for gender-based community work.

In the interviews, it was recommended to establish a study with the intention of discussing and improving children's access to justice. The materials list includes reports and guidebooks on this issue prepared by various organisations and networks.

### Example of Practice

UNHCR offered training to judges and prosecutors regarding the children's justice system.



Including activities for boys forced to marry in the action plans to be developed is an important issue. During an interview held with the UNHCR Istanbul Office, it was reported that, according to the data from the migration management agency, 1500 of 5500 children who were forced to marry in Istanbul are boys.

Reversing the common perception of impunity in society was stated as an important issue, and it was recommended to conduct projects to make positive examples more visible.

Universities, as key stakeholders in action plans, can contribute to activities in terms of research and discussion of CEFM in relevant university classes. In the interviews, there was a suggestion to create a multidisciplinary master's programme under a title such as Social Empowerment.

Another suggestion that was stressed is ensuring that action plans include an activity on data collection / assessment at the provincial level so that Provincial Coordination Boards and/or sub-groups operating under these

Boards are mobilized and that all action points are evidence-based.

Other recommendations included receiving support from Turkish youth and cooperating with youth organisations in activities.

### Possible Areas of Contribution for the Joint Programme

- It is important to customize local action plans for every province, and to prepare the plans in consideration of the presence and density of vulnerable groups, such as populations under international protection and temporary protection, seasonal agricultural workers, the Roma community, etc., and in accordance with any special conditions.
- Including empowerment activities for the individuals, relevant mechanisms, and non-governmental organizations in addition to trainings and awareness raising activities in the action plan seem important for an effective work.
- The implementation and monitoring of action plans are just as significant as the development process. It will be useful to conduct activities to strengthen the monitoring capacity of non-governmental organisations, especially those involved with women's and children's rights.
- Conducting an activity to disperse and mainstream good practices and lessons learned with respect to past local action plans on CEFM and related topics (especially in Nevşehir and Samsun) will be beneficial.
- CEFM is a cross-sectional problem relating to various topics, such as women, children, adolescents, health, social services, justice, migration, etc. Every prepared action plan focuses on a different dimension of the problem. It is of the utmost important to develop local action plans with a holistic approach, in terms of coordination and efficient use of time and resources.
- It will be useful to obtain information from the governorates about activities related to early marriage within the scope of the action plans developed and implemented in 26 provinces within the framework of the "Combating Domestic Violence" project executed by the GDSW.

- Coordination of action plan implementation is an important subject, and these activities are conducted by Elimination of Violence against Women Provincial Coordination, Monitoring, and Assessment Commissions. Another board involved in the topic is the Child Protection Law Provincial Coordination Board. The efficient operation, strengthening, and correlation of both commissions can be taken into account by the programme.
- Municipalities are the prominent key players in local-level activities. Municipalities can be defined as key actors in the action plans and action plans may include capacity building activities for the relevant departments of the municipalities. Mainstreaming the activities of municipalities in the field, including Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality, Bursa Metropolitan Municipality, and Muratpaşa Municipality, to other cities should be considered.
- With consideration of CEFM, it will be useful to strengthen the capacity of all organisations, mainly municipalities, on gender- and child/age-sensitive data generation as well as gender-responsive and child-friendly budgeting.
- In further stages, developing highly emphasised community-based operation models and mainstreaming good models will contribute to the efforts in this field.
- Standard workflows for service providers and relevant guidelines should be developed and trainings should be offered in this field.
- Due to the misuse of and confusion about the concepts of child marriage, early marriage, and forced marriage, it will be useful to clearly differentiate between these concepts.
- Action plans should include action points on capacity building of the non-governmental organisations working in this field and their active involvement in the struggle against CEFM.
- Community-based activities of NGOs such as ASAM and HRDF targeting women and girls can be examined to provide a source for future models and to be used on a wider scale.
- Including activities taking into account that boys are married off at a young age – especially boys under international protection and temporary protection and Roma children – would be beneficial.

## TRAINING AND INFORMATION MATERIALS

There are limited materials which are directly developed regarding CEFM. The most comprehensive training material in this respect is the "Prevention of Child Marriage Information and Training Set" developed by UNICEF in 2017. The set is comprised of 4 booklets, namely the Main Training Programme, Application Guidebook for Service Providers, Family and Child Seminars, and Community-Based Activities Book. These booklets include sessions, events, and information notes structured for service providers, children, and families. This programme also includes presentations.

Training materials focusing on CEFM can be in the form of a set or in the form of presentations used in seminars, panels, and other events to create awareness and sensitivity about the issue. For example, Gökhan Yıldırımkaya from UNFPA Turkey Office gave a presentation on the "Impacts of Child Marriage on Health and Quality of Life" in the panels organized in various cities by UNFPA in cooperation with KAMER Foundation.

### Example of Practice



In the activities managed by Harran University and the UNFPA regarding seasonal agricultural workers, widespread public participation was acknowledged as a main principle, and active participation was ensured in all kinds of material development and preparation processes. For example, the local people who supported the activities took part in radio spotlights about CEFM. The importance of receiving the support of religious officials, especially for activities in rural areas, was strongly emphasised.

It was reported that within the scope of the activities conducted with seasonal agricultural workers by Harran University, firstly, education on contagious diseases was given in mosques, and then, later on, it was possible to mention topics such as CEFM.

The UNFPA Turkey Office youth-friendly health service model and training materials, adolescent health development programme, sexual and reproductive health project, and advocacy efforts resulted in important contributions to the area.

The issue of CEFM is observed to be only briefly **mentioned** in training activities about violence against women, violence against children, child neglect and abuse, gender equality, child protection, adolescent health, adolescent pregnancy, reproductive and sexual health, empowerment of women, migration, human trafficking, health problems of agricultural workers, and public health.

Criticism regarding the single perspective outlook regarding the development and handling of CEFM was raised against UN agencies. The feedback stated that the training materials to be developed by UN agencies on this subject should include different dimensions of the issue such as women, children, migration, health, gender, and human trafficking, and should view the problem from all aspects.

**It was stated that as CEFM is a multidimensional problem, projects should be conducted not only on CEFM, but also on related topics. Topics which were identified through research/preliminary readings and related to CEFM are:**

- The concepts of child, early, and forced marriage
- Gender
- Women's human rights
- Discrimination (gender-based

discrimination, age discrimination, etc.)

- Children's rights
- Child protection
- Violence against children
- The best interests of the child
- Gender-based violence against women
- Child abuse, child sexual abuse
- The impacts of child marriage on physical and mental health
- Sexual and reproductive health
- Adolescent health, adolescent pregnancy
- Maternal mortality
- The impacts of child marriage on the individual, family, and society
- International and national legislation on children and women and child marriage (including refugee laws)
- Related organisations and institutions, information about the application process
- The relationship between CEFM and vulnerable groups (refugees, seasonal agricultural workers, Roma, the disabled, LGBTI)
- False facts about CEFM
- Women's empowerment
- Fatherhood, father-child relationships,
- Participation of men in gender activities
- Girls' continuous access to comprehensive and quality education,

- Community-based activities,
- Participation (women, children, adolescents)
- Victim's rights
- Monitoring of violence against children and women
- Roles and responsibilities of service providers in terms of CEFM
- Operation of children's and women's centres
- Operation of emergency help and support hotlines
- Principles for interviewing women and children who experienced violence
- Interviewing sexually abused children,
- Trauma
- Burnout
- Gender-based activities regarding emergencies and disasters
- Case identification (early risk identification)
- Case management (including case planning, case assessment, referral/guidance, case follow-up, case closure, and a case management checklist)
- Work flows
- Strategic litigation
- Studies on climate change, climate migration, climate change adaptation
- Poverty and development

One of the promising developments in the struggle against CEFM is the academia's increased interest in the topic in recent years. Materials created on this subject in the health and social science fields can provide significant contributions to training content that will be conducted in this field by providing up-to-date information and data. This contribution can be situated within the framework of cooperation with academics who conduct studies.

**One of the important points associated with the training content is the customization of content for the target audience.**

Many people expressed that it is important to underline in activities with men that CEFM is a crime. Some of the interviewees suggested that this alone would not suffice. The importance of the education of girls and strengthening the relationship between father and child has also been underlined in the men-targeting activities.

In terms of content, it was stated that it is as important to mention adolescence as it is childhood. It was stated that adolescents are often considered to be adults, not children, and so it is common to think there are no problems with adolescent marriages.

Therefore, it was stated that it is as important to emphasise the distinction between adolescence and adulthood as that between childhood and adulthood.

It was stated that basing training content on true stories about women who married in childhood would be effective in activities for both communities and service providers. A portion of the materials accessed within the scope of this study quote women. The “case” examples that will be used in trainings can draw from the sources with direct quotes.

### Example of Practice



CEFM issues are also discussed in case studies during the training on human trafficking delivered by IOM.

Mother Child Education Foundation (AÇEV) has an established system in terms of developing training programs. Mainstreaming a training programme is the result of a 5-6 year process. A needs analysis is conducted, two pilot implementations of the programme are carried out, monitoring and evaluation processes are completed, an impact analysis is conducted, and then the programme is disseminated.

It was emphasised that women had high interest in health training. However, the reviewed health-oriented training materials tended to focus on the effects of child and early marriage on sexual and reproductive health without sufficiently discussing the impacts on mental health.

It was stated that it was necessary that the materials to be developed for women discuss the health consequences of CEFM, the related organisations to apply to, the importance of raising children with the perspective of gender equality, and the significance of educating girls. It was also considered important to include supporting materials (brochures, stickers, etc.) prepared in various languages, which include contact information for relevant organisations for the women in the training courses.

### Example of Practice



All activities conducted by AÇEV address gender equality, child protection, and discrimination. Particular attention is paid to conducting AÇEV activities without labelling mothers and fathers as victims and perpetrators.

**In training for girls**, to the main focus is on children's rights, gender equality, basic life skills, the importance of education, violence against women, planning for the future, etc.

### Example of Practice



In the scope of Promoting Gender Equality in Education Project (ETCEP), materials to be used in education are developed.

UNICEF developed a training kit in 2018 about ensuring gender equality in schools, which can be used in training within the scope of the gender equality project. The kit describes how to address gender equality in various classes and recommends various activities.

In AÇEV and KAMER Foundation's model preschools activities focused on gender equality are offered for children and their families.

**In training for boys**, attention is paid to covering topics such as gender equality, communication (with the family, girlfriend, or sister), sexual and reproductive health, and violence against women.

### Example of Practice



UNICEF developed training programs of 6 sessions for girls aged 12-15 and 15-18 and 4 sessions for boys aged 12-15 and 15-18, and the pilot projects were implemented in several cities. Trainers who implemented the programme stated that single session information activities were not sufficiently effective; however, in the same activity, offering information about child marriage in multiple sessions among other topics for the empowerment of children proved to be highly useful. It was stated that a comprehensive evaluation regarding this study would be conducted.

It is understood that the topic is not addressed separately **in training for service providers**; for example, it is addressed within training on violence against women, violence against children, victim's rights, etc. offered to public personnel. It is observed that these training sessions are generally conducted within projects; although there are training sessions for educators, there is a problem with continuity, and public personnel who have knowledge and experience about the issue are lost due to displacement or dismissal.

### Example of Practice



UNFPA has organized training of trainers and prepared training materials on gender equality and the prevention of violence against women for the police force, healthcare personnel, judges, prosecutors, social service experts, religious officers, and Turkish Armed Forces personnel since 2004.

UNFPA training for trainers for the Turkish Armed Forces personnel offered information about sexual and reproductive health and early marriage. These training sessions were given by trainers to private soldiers and resulted in many men becoming informed about the subject.

UNICEF has been conducting activities on children's rights and the protection of children with the Ministry of National Education for many years.

It is reported that it is useful to offer training for service providers at their own locations and concurrently for all parties; it is less efficient to raise awareness in the personnel of a single organisation, and it will be more useful to simultaneously target capacity building in all related organisations. It was

stated that neighbourhood leaders, religious officials, teachers, and healthcare personnel play key roles in the CEFM issue.

### Example of Practice



A joint programme on the prevention of child marriages, implemented by UNICEF and the Metropolitan Municipality of Gaziantep, reached 2000 people.

It was also stated that it is necessary to offer not only information but also skills and motivation to service providers. It also became apparent that it is necessary to address myths surrounding child marriage (such as early marriage being appropriate for or specific to a certain culture or group).

### Example of Practice



In an activity conducted by Harran University with religious officials, it was reported that the "scout method" was used: It was discussed starting from the instance of death of a woman or girl, how the death could have been prevented, by taking which measures, and who could have taken the necessary steps.

It was stated that, due to the prevalence of negative news in the media, training for media personnel was important.

Training is being offered about how to deliver information on gender and gender-based violence, despite reports not being directly about CEFM.

### Example of Practice

Within the scope of the activities for media personnel, Harran University offered training on how to deliver news on maternal mortality.

It was observed that informative activities on CEFM were mainly conducted by non-governmental organisations, and the primary target audience of these activities was comprised of women and girls. The main reason for this phenomenon being the accessibility to and interest of women.

Trainings for women, such as seminars, panels, and other events, are generally conducted in conference halls or centres which offer services for women. One of the main remarks in this respect is the inefficiency of gathering women in a single place for short events. It was stated that it would be more effective to conduct activities for women in their own

environments, through home visits, visits to villages, farms, mosques, Quran classes, and schools.

### Example of Practice

Informative activities were conducted with seasonal agricultural workers in agricultural areas within the scope of the health mediators programme developed by the UNFPA Turkey Country Programme in cooperation with Harran University's Department of Public Health. Written texts used in literacy classes included the topic of child marriage.

Visits are paid to villages within the scope of the informative activities carried out by YAKA-KOOP. Before conducting any activities in the village, the support of the neighbourhood headman's and imam's support is sought in particular; women are not gathered in one place but rather visited in their own environments. Every village is visited at least 7 to 8 times, and then contact is established and maintained with at least 2 women from every village. Awareness about gender equality and child marriage is created through small drama activities/Awareness is also raised among children through

painting activities about CEFM organized in schools. An exhibition was held as a result of a painting contest organized by YAKA-KOOP, and it was also presented internationally. Litigations on CEFM are monitored in cooperation with the bar association.

The İzmir Union of Women's Organisations conducted activities with the support of all related organisations for close to a year in Kiraz Village, where child marriage was common. Households were visited and offered information, a day care centre was established in the village, a cooperative was established for the economic empowerment of women, scholarships were offered to support girls' completion of education, and training activities were organized for parents in schools.

Activities for girls are mainly conducted in schools. Programs for boys are limited. There are no other programmes on this topic other than the one developed by UNICEF for girls and boys aged 12-15 or 15-18. It was stated that children not enrolled in formal education could be reached through courses run by municipalities and other organisations.

### Example of Practice

Women for Women's Human Rights (WWHR)-New Ways and Muş Women's Roof Association developed a programme for the empowerment of young women titled "Young HREP". The programme was developed based on the recommendations of teens aged 15-18 in schools and according to their expectations of a programme which is "visual, interactive, conversation-oriented, fun, easy to understand, that cares about our wellbeing and in which we can express our opinions". The 10-week programme covers topics such as communication (with family, friends, and one's significant other), gender equality, women's human rights, children's rights, The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the constitution, violence, peer bullying, family health, health, economic social justice, self-protection (bodily and psychological health) and personal safety. There are plans to revise the draft programme through pilot projects and then disseminate the updated version. However, the experts who developed the programme found it unfavourable to use without the establishment of an efficient child protection mechanism.

AÇEV has organized workshops focused on developing life skills for young girls since 2012. Five modules are completed in 8 sessions, which each last about 2.5 hours.



**Example of Practice**

There are many comprehensive and sustainable studies and projects on CEFM implemented by the Flying Broom. It is seen that the subject is approached in a multi-directional way with seminars conducted in several cities, short movies, research reports, study visits, banners and brochures, meetings with TGNA and other public institutions and publications.

Reaching men to offer training and information is a significant issue; it was frequently reported that men generally failed to show up to training activities. The most efficient way to reach men was reported to be offering activities, in conjunction with relevant organisations, at workplaces, coffee houses, and courses organisation.

Activities which received support from tradesmen in terms of community-based efforts are particularly noteworthy.

**Example of Practice**

Training activities conducted by YAKA-KOOP for local tradesmen have rapidly spread across various provinces in Turkey. As a result of informative activities for bridal shops, hairdressers, florists, photo studios, and musicians, notices are posted on workplace doors that they will not offer any services for child marriage ceremonies.

One of the significant criticisms of the trainings is about the training of trainers. The criteria for participation in training for trainers for public personnel are the individual's specialty, the unit of employment, and volunteering. It is stated that it should be also necessary to have basic knowledge about violence against women and children in addition to these.

### Example of Practice



Participants were required to first complete the online module to attend the real-life training on violence against women conducted by the Humanist Bureau and Üsküdar Police Department. It was stated that they did not spend time in training to discuss technical knowledge on legal issues this way and participants had a clear view on the purposes of training. The training addressed relevant legislation, interview techniques, risk identification tactics, and reviewed example cases.

Another gap with regard to the trainings is the limited number of experienced experts capable of conducting comprehensive activities in this field. It seems necessary to develop long-term programs to support experts from vocational organisations, human rights organisations, and women's and children's organisations.

### Example of Practice



UN Women expressed that it would contribute to raise more trainers in this field by pairing new trainers with experienced experts in their training activities.

There is also an important gap with regard to the monitoring and supervision of training activities following the training of trainers. It is understood that Training of Trainers booklets offer general guidance to trainers. In practice, structured monitoring, feedback, and support programs regarding the training delivered by the experts who received training for trainers are also quite limited. It is required to establish a supervision mechanism to monitor the activities of and provide feedback about the experts who attend this training as well as to develop comprehensive guidelines on this mechanism.

### Example of Practice



AÇEV monitors the experts who have been trained as trainers for a certain period by attending their training and offers supervisory support.

### Possible Areas of Contribution for the Joint Programme

- It will be useful for the UN agencies to create materials based on a common perspective, considering priorities of the thematic field that UN agencies operate in to cover all respective fields.
- It will be as useful to support the inclusion of training materials on CEFM in the materials developed by public institutions and NGOs on health, social services, legal, child protection, and violence against women, etc. as to develop them under its own topic.
- It will be useful not only to focus training materials on CEFM but also to develop additional materials which will contribute to strengthening services for women and children to the greatest extent possible, mainstreaming community-based efforts, building the capacity of civil society to monitor CEFM, and infusing the perspective of children's rights and gender equality into activities conducted in the health field.
- It will be useful to create community-based project models which consider local conditions and dynamics in terms of CEFM and to conduct these activities with support from NGOs.
- It is important to diversify training methods and content according to age, gender, language, vulnerable groups, and the work area of service providers, etc.
- It is important to emphasise that adolescence is as important as childhood in all activities carried out under the CEFM project. It should be stressed that being an adolescent does not mean being an adult ready to marry and give birth to a child.
- It is understood that simultaneously training service providers in their local settings and supporting capacity building in all relevant organisations is more beneficial than offering awareness raising activities to the personnel of a single organisation. It seems that neighbourhood headmen, religious officers, teachers, and health workers hold significant roles in local settings.
- It is necessary to cooperate with academia and NGOs in the relevant field to generate more information about the impacts of child marriage on mental health.
- Online distance learning modules should be developed.
- Activities can be conducted to expand the trainer pool by cooperating with professional organisations which represent medicine, psychology, social services, law, and education.

## Recommendations for Training Programmes

### Baseline Training

- Baseline training should be carried out in settings where service providers and professionals from different agencies and same province will get together. It will ensure that the issue of CEFM is discussed and explored with contributions from all parties involved.
- The purpose of baseline training is to develop a common understanding of, approach to, and language for CEFM to be adopted by all service providers.
- Training content should address basic concepts, childhood, adolescence, gender, the current situation, risk factors, false facts, consequences of CEFM (physical, psychological, and social), legislative regulations, service mapping, relevant organisations, prevention, ongoing works, best practices, and models.
- The training will be developed using the available United Nations materials and by taking a United Nations joint perspective involving child protection, gender, violence against women, empowerment, sexual health, reproductive health, human trafficking, international protection and temporary protection, and disaster and emergency management.
- In addition to the content listed above, the training can also address workflows, coordination, joint work plans, local action plans, coordination boards, challenges, intervention points, and recommended solutions.

### Guideline Training

- The training program (toolkit) to be delivered to the service providers should be prepared as guideline training.
- Sector-specific guidelines on CEFM should be prepared, focusing on each of its aspects: health, social services, justice, law enforcement, education, international protection and temporary protection, municipalities, media, and civil society.
- A standard format should be created for the guidelines. All UN agencies can submit their input to the format to be developed and develop their materials within the format.

- Guideline training to be delivered in the provinces to professionals from relevant areas should be of a sector-specific nature.
- Sector-specific guidelines should address regulations (implementation directives), primary duties, workflows, mechanisms, case scenarios and practices, field-specific statistics, example of practices/models, field-specific best practices, and report writing.
- It seems significant that the subjects to be addressed in the guidelines and guideline training sessions should be discussed and finalized in light of the outcomes from the focus group discussions which professionals from each field will attend.
- In the annex of the guidelines, it will be useful to provide sample forms, work flow chart, service map and resource materials that service providers can use in their daily workflows.

### **Skills Training**

- Skills training should be delivered with the intention of equipping service providers with field-specific skills.
- The subjects to be addressed in the at skills training sessions should be discussed and finalized in light of the outcomes from the focus group discussions which professionals from each field will attend.
- Training should cover techniques for interviewing women and children, case management, monitoring violence against women/children, monitoring injunction orders, report-writing, etc.

### **Activities for Strengthening Partnership and Coordination**

- Workshops with relevant parties should be organized to develop provincial action plans and make plans for joint activities. In this way, it will be ensured that all stakeholders involved in the prevention of CEFM are brought together on a provincial basis and act in harmony with each other.
- Workshops should provide insight on community-based work and best practices.
- Guidance on how to coordinate and monitor the efforts should also be covered at the workshops.

- An activity database should be created to facilitate the work to be undertaken in the provinces.

### **Supplementary Activities**

- In addition to the training sessions, experience-sharing meetings, study visits, and supervision activities should be organized throughout the duration of the Joint Program.
- Online training modules should be developed for use before and after the training sessions. Online modules will be designed to boost pre-training efficiency. The modules to be used after the training, on the other hand, will serve to refresh participants' knowledge regarding the information conveyed at the training and to brief other service providers who were unable to attend the training.
- A module dedicated to the monitoring and supervising of training sessions should be developed.
- A series of guideline should be developed for NGOs, and training should be delivered in connection with these guidelines.
- Another guideline should be developed regarding community-based working methods and principles as well as best practices. This guideline should not only be available for service providers but for non-governmental organisations as well.

## CEFM ADVANCED CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME

### MULTI-SECTORAL TRAININGS ALL SECTORS

**CEFM Concepts:** CEFM Description, Prevalence, Consequences and Costs, Risk Factors, False Facts. Gender Equality, Childhood and Adolescence. Legal Framework, Sanctions

**Service Provision (prevention and protection):** General Service Mapping, Stakeholders and responsibilities, Referral Pathways, Coordination Mechanisms, Challenges, Best Practices.

**TARGET GROUP** | Social Workers, Health Workers, Law Enforcement Officials, Education Sector Officials, Judiciary Officials, Municipality Staff



### SPECIALIZED SECTORAL TRAININGS

SOCIAL SERVICES	HEALTH	LAW ENFORCEMENT	EDUCATION	JUDICIARY
CEFM stats, relevant legislation, service protocols, workflows, case management, good models, tools.	CEFM Health stats, relevant legislation, service protocols, workflows, case management, good models, tools.	CEFM stats, relevant legislation, service protocols, workflows, case management, good models, tools.	CEFM stats, relevant legislation, service protocols, workflows, case management, good models, tools.	CEFM stats, relevant legislation, service protocols, workflows, case management, good models, tools.



### MULTI-SECTORAL COORDINATION WORKSHOPS ALL SECTORS

Establishment and Sustaining the Coordination Mechanisms, Referral Mechanisms, Development of Action Plans, Development of Indicators, M&E Tools

**TARGET GROUP** | Social Workers, Health Workers, Law Enforcement Officials, Education Sector Officials, Judiciary Officials, Municipality Staff, NGO Staff

## REPORTS

The most comprehensive report on CEFM is the “Report on Investigation of Early Marriages” by the TGNA Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men. Opinions of public organisations and institutions, non-governmental organisations, and experts were obtained in preparation of the report. The report includes information and recommendations on the current status about CEFM in Turkey, legal regulations, and necessary measures to take.

One of the reports prepared on this subject by public organisations belongs to the MoFSP Directorate General of Family and Child Services. The report encompasses the current status of child marriage, as well as reasons, consequences, current discussions, expert opinions, and recommendations.

There are working reports on the activities of relevant NGOs, including the Flying Broom and Family Counsellors Association. KAMER Foundation’s report on women who applied to women’s solidarity centres and who were encountered during home visits includes information on the age of marriage and types of marriage. Additionally, there are reports on children, health, justice, gender equality, violence against women, social services, migration, and seasonal agricultural workers, which are not directly related to but include information

and data about CEFM. In particular, the reports on violence against children barely address CEFM.

### **Types of reports on and related to CEFM can be categorized as follows:**

- Research reports
- Monitoring reports
- Breakdown of news in the media
- Project conclusion reports
- Workshop reports
- Study visit reports
- Reports on application to counselling centres
- Shadow reports of NGOs
- Reports on situation analyses

### **Possible Areas of Contribution for the Joint Programme**

- Conducting informative activities on the importance of the subject for organisations which issue reports related to CEFM can facilitate the collection of more information in various pertinent areas in the upcoming period.
- Up-to-date information and data as well as quotations from women in current reports can serve as a resource for materials to be developed within the scope of the Joint Programme.
- A project can be conducted to increase the number of, develop, and ensure the continuity of reports prepared on CEFM.
- An online platform which includes reports on CEFM and related studies can be created in cooperation with non-governmental organisations.

## GUIDELINES

The only guidebook prepared on CEFM is the implementation guidebook for service providers in UNICEF's Prevention of Child Marriage Information and Training Set. The chapters of the guidebook are as follows: basic principles, preventive measures, case management, field specific standards and implementation guidelines, cooperation and coordination between sectors, employee safety and wellbeing, monitoring, assessment, and data collection. A control list, diagrams, and forms are included in the guidebook as appendices.

Other guidebooks included in the materials list in this respect are guidelines on child protection, working with children who are victims of sexual violence, counselling, and support activities.

The UNHCR Istanbul Office is currently preparing a case management guidebook. It is reported that after the guidebook takes its final form following the input and critiques of MoFLSS and the Ministry of Health, it will be implemented in other provinces and there will be 8 additional brochures to this guidebook. A specific form has been developed for child marriage.

## Possible Areas of Contribution of the Joint Programme

- There is a need for guidelines on CEFM for public officials, experts, and NGOs. A needs analysis can be conducted in the sector in this respect.
- Guidebooks developed on topics related to, but not directly about, CEFM can be updated and mainstreamed in a way to include specific information on CEFM.
- Guidebooks developed on CEFM and related topics can be used in capacity building activities.

## POSTERS, BROCHURES AND FILMS

In the scope of this study, communication materials that are produced to raise awareness on CEFM such as posters, brochures, and movies have been examined. Although these materials contribute to civic involvement and community information, there seem some problems in regard to the content of these materials and the visuals used. It is seen that there is a need for giving more place to the messages and information that empowers children, and informs and mobilizes the community in the content of these materials.

Doğuş University organized a poster design competition on early marriage in 2014 and numerous works were submitted. Additionally, there are posters and visuals prepared by the public, NGOs, and UN agencies.

**The following observations can be made with respect to the problems about posters prepared to create awareness on CEFM:**

- Children and symbols of marriage are portrayed together on almost all of the posters; most commonly, a wedding dress, veil, ring, bracelet, money, heels, henna, etc.
- Children are generally represented as victims in the posters: crying, sad, desperate, blindfolded, etc.
- Symbols associated with child marriage and death are commonly used, such as gallows, shroud, etc.
- Men are dehumanized in visuals which creates the perception Ordinary men would not and do not partake in child marriage. Sulky, angry, dark men are portrayed.
- Components which are associated with children and men's sexuality can be used together, as the issue is presented as a subject related to sexuality.
- Very few posters include useful information in addition to visuals.

- There are essentially no messages that empower children and remind the viewer of society's responsibility.
- The visuals mostly emphasise the age of majority. Although it is an important detail for child marriage, it carries the risk of creating the perception that the main criterion for marriage is the age of majority and that anyone over the age of 18 is eligible for marriage. It should be evaluated in terms of early and forced marriage.

**A limited number of brochures on CEFM were obtained although the number in existence is predicted to be higher. These brochures focus on child marriage rather than early and forced marriage. Information available in the brochures can be listed as follows:**

- Definition of child marriage
- Reasons for and consequences of child marriage
- Related legal regulations
- Organisations to apply to and contact information
- What to do to prevent child marriage

The brochures developed by UNHCR to be distributed in Gaziantep also include information on the marriage procedures in Turkey.



The child-mothers brochure prepared within the scope of a project conducted by Harran University, the Ministry of Health, and UNFPA also includes information on the characteristics of adolescence and the consequences of giving birth during childhood.

There are short films, documentaries, and animated

films on child marriage. These materials also include key information and data on CEFM, interviews with women who married during childhood, and expert opinions. It is observed that films can utilize visuals which recreate the negative assumptions that exist in society. As with the aforementioned brochures, children and symbols of marriage are presented together.

### Possible Areas of Contribution for the Joint Programme

- It will be useful to create materials on early marriage and forced marriage after the age of 18, which are neglected in terms of CEFM.
- It seems necessary to develop a communication strategy about CEFM which varies depending on the intended audience, be it women, men, boys, or girls.
- It will be useful to offer training on gender-focused reporting and CEFM for media personnel to prevent negative representation of the subject in the media.
- Creation of quality material on CEFM can be improved in cooperation with the communication departments of universities.
- For example, collaboration with universities can support the publication of good materials in Arabic and other languages (as required).
- Projects can be conducted to increase the visibility and accessibility of successful activities, best practices, and empowering examples about CEFM.
- Available communication materials can be analysed focusing on gender and children's rights, and new materials can be created in consideration of the results of this analysis.
- The impact of using concepts such as "child brides" can be evaluated.
- Short films can be prepared for various target groups to be published on digital social platforms.

## ACADEMIC STUDIES

There are academic studies being conducted on CEFM, especially in medicine, communications, the social and forensic sciences, and other related fields. The main contribution of these studies is collecting up-to-date data, offering information about perceptions and attitudes, and accumulating the results of focus group studies into an important source. **Topics addressed in the studies are:**

- Causes and consequences of CEFM
- Impacts on health
- Representation in the Turkish media
- Types of marriage
- Perceptions in Roma families
- Risk factors
- Relationship of the problem with gender
- Relationship of the problem with neglect and abuse of children
- CEFM dynamics
- Role of the judiciary
- CEFM and trauma
- Impact of CEFM on the lives of women
- CEFM and female empowerment
- Adolescent pregnancies
- Recommendations for prevention of CEFM
- Attitudes of physicians about CEFM
- Responsibilities of midwives and nurses about CEFM
- Psychological impacts of CEFM

## 5. CONCLUSION

The final part of the present study, which provides a review of CEFM-related materials and advice on how to handle the activities to be carried out as part of the Joint Program, can be summarized as follows:

### ACTION PLANS

- Action plans should be customized to address the specific needs and problems of each province,
  - In addition to training events, actions plans should involve activities aimed at empowering individuals, relevant mechanisms, and non-governmental organisations;
  - Action plans should address the needs of persons under international protection and temporary protection, Roma people, seasonal agricultural workers, and the LGBTI community;
  - In order to ensure effective monitoring of action plans, the Provincial Coordination, Monitoring, and Evaluation Commissions for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Provincial Coordination Committees for the Child Protection Law, and non-governmental
- organisations need to be strengthened;
- Action plans should designate municipalities as key actors and include capacity-building activities for the relevant municipal units;
  - In addition to action points that directly and specially focus on ending CEFM, action plans should involve activities associated with child-sensitive data, gender-sensitive data, child-friendly budgeting, gender-responsive budgeting, and monitoring violence against children and women;
  - Action plans should consist of activities for promoting and implementing community-based working models;
  - Awareness-raising should include highlighting that forced marriage is an issue that also affects boys, especially members of Roma communities and children under international protection and temporary protection;
  - Civil society organisations' access to small grants to support their cause in the field of ending CEFM should be ensured and facilitated;

## TRAINING ACTIVITIES

- The training materials should be developed with a holistic approach including different dimensions of the issue;
- Rather than a single central venue, trainings should be organized in each province by bringing all relevant parties together, and they should be designed to strengthen communication and cooperation among all organisations and agencies involved;
- Training materials need to be developed in the form of guidebooks that include practical knowledge that service providers would find helpful; training should be delivered in the form of ‘guidebook training’;
- Trainings should be developed and organized to equip service providers with the skills they need; focus group discussions should be held to identify these needs;
- Training materials should include and address false facts about adolescence and CEFM;
- Training content and methods should be diversified to consider a number of aspects, such as age, gender, language, and vulnerable groups as well as the specialties of service providers;
- Online versions of training materials should be available and should be used to provide preliminary information to training participants beforehand and to reach those who are unable to participate.

## COMMUNICATION MATERIALS

- Communication materials should not use the symbols associated with marriage and not include expressions such as “child brides”;
- Communication materials should incorporate messages for mobilizing society;
- The images and messages in these materials should empower children rather than victimizing them;
- The issue of CEFM should not be reduced to sexuality; but rather addressed only within the context of violence;
- Materials should be diversified in terms of language as well as messages according to the characteristics of each target group;
- Digital tools and platforms should be actively used in order raise awareness among youth about CEFM.

## INTERVIEWED INSTITUTIONS

	INSTITUTION
1	AÇEV
2	ASAM
3	Association for Struggle against Sexual Violence
4	Bilgi University
5	Care International
6	Etlik Zübeyde Hanım Women's Health, Training and Research Hospital
7	Flying Broom
8	GEN-DER/Gender Studies Collective, Flying Broom
9	HRDF
10	Humanist Bureau
11	IOM
12	İstanbul Forensic Medicine Institute
13	İzmir Union of Women's Organizations
14	Family Health Centers
15	Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services
16	Ministry of Health
17	Ministry of Justice Department of Victim Rights
18	Sabancı Foundation
19	Save The Children
20	Support to Life Foundation
21	UN Women
22	UNFPA
23	UNHCR
24	UNICEF
25	Women for Women's Human Rights – New Ways
26	Yaka-Koop Women Cooperation



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