



Tanzania Ending Child Marriage Network (TECMN)

Sharing Our Journey, Insights and Learning

Acknowledgement

Tanzania Ending Child Marriage Network (TECMN) sincerely appreciates its member organizations who have been instrumental in pushing forward the ending child marriage agenda in Tanzania. The Network recognises the significant role played by the joint advocacy towards a Tanzania free from child marriage. The achievements of this study were made possible because of the members' dedication, and support – Thank You.

In its journey so far, TECMN has benefitted from its member's dedication as well as the technical and financial support from its various stakeholders. This enables the Network to move forward its agenda against child marriage. TECMN therefore extends its heartfelt Thank You to all its stakeholders.

TECMN also extends its appreciation, especially, to Foundation for Women's Health Research and Development (FORWARD), Girls Not Brides, Amplify Change, UNFPA, Plan International, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), the French Embassy in Tanzania, the Canada High Commission in Tanzania, and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

The Network also acknowledges, with much appreciation, the crucial role played by TECMN's former coordinator Mr. Michael Jackson and the current one, Ms. Euphonia Edward, in writing this report. And, to Mr Koshuma Mtengeti, Executive Director of Children's Dignity Forum (CDF) - TECMN's secretariat, Ms. Dorothea Ernest, Program Manager, CDF, Ms. Naana Otoo-Oyortey, Executive Director-FORWARD), and Dr. Zubeida Tumbo-Masabo (Technical Consultant) whose technical support and inputs made possible the planning and implementation of the Network's activities around Tanzania.

Finally, on a personal note, it is an honour and a privilege to be part of TECMN and its journey. I acknowledge and appreciate the commitment and contributions of members, partners and stakeholders towards making Tanzania a child marriage free zone - *Kwa Pamoja na kwa Sauti Moja, Tutaweza.*

This publication is part of TECMN's thematic focus on ending child marriage in Tanzania. I hope TECMN's journey will input *your* efforts in the fight.

Valerie N. Msoka

TECMN Chairperson



Foreword

Over the last decade, child marriage has gained more attention on the global development agenda, as one of the most neglected violations of basic human rights. Ending child marriage is a win-win situation for countries – and it will help the world to achieve a number of the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Child marriage obstructs girls' and women's equality with men, hinders their health and empowerment, and adversely affects their own children, their families, communities and national economies. Girls who marry early are also more likely to experience domestic violence, sexual violence, and complications or death during childbirth.

Child marriage is a widespread problem: it affects over 12 million girls around the world each year, according to UNICEF (2020). In Tanzania, where the law allows girls to be married at 15 (and in some cases 14) years of age, one in three girls marries before her 18th birthday. Child marriage in Tanzania is fuelled by poverty, socio-cultural norms and traditions, as well as by the overtly discriminatory legal and policy framework.

The Tanzania Ending Child Marriage Network (TECMN) was created in 2010, and formally launched in 2012, by Children's Dignity Forum (CDF) with technical and financial support from FORWARD UK, an African-women-led organisation. TECMN was set up to respond to the absence of action on child marriage in Tanzania, and to provide a strategic platform through which to scale up interventions on child marriage.

Today, the network brings together 69 members, all of them civil society organisations (a.k.a. "CSOs") working around the country in the various fields impacted by child marriage. TECMN's membership has grown from its original 12 pioneer members to become a strong, nationwide force advocating for change. It is particularly active in relation to the needed reform of the 1971 Law of Marriage Act, through the "Sauti Moja" campaign on ending child marriage. TECMN is now itself a part of the global Girls Not Brides partnership, and is seen as a critical voice in shaping policy in its sub-region.

It is a huge privilege to be a part of TECMN's ongoing growth and achievements – one of the first national partnerships in Africa seeking to end child marriage. This publication showcases the journey, insights and learning of TECMN and its members over the past 10 years. In so doing, the report seeks to inform and shape policy and practice on child marriage in Tanzania and the wider sub-region. TECMN's vision of a "Tanzania free from child marriage" will soon become a reality, thanks to the latest legal victories. The growing engagement and involvement of international development partners and of the Tanzanian government is a great testament to TECMN's potential and value to play a key part in the fight to end child marriage in the country.

I am positive that, in laying out the lessons learned from TECMN's efforts – to build a strong coalition and to advocate for an enabling policy and social environment, in order to end child marriage and other harmful practices in Tanzania – this document will help other networks that are just starting out on their own journey to tackle the issues inherent in child marriage. Collaboration with actors at all levels is needed in order to succeed in transforming the lives of child brides and of those still at risk of child marriage.

I invite you to be a part of this change – and I hope that TECMN's insights and learning will help to shape your journey too.

Naana Otoo-Oyortey

Executive Director – FORWARD

The logo for FORWARD, featuring the word "FORWARD" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The letter "O" is stylized with a white arrow pointing to the right, integrated into its center. The logo is set against a red rectangular background that is slightly tilted.

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Acronyms

ACRWC	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
DFID	Department for International Development
FBOs	Faith-Based Organisations
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FORWARD UK	Foundation for Women's Health Research and Development
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GMT	Graça Machel Trust
GNB	Girls Not Brides
HTPs	Harmful Traditional Practices
LMA	Law of Marriage Act (of 1971; Tanzania)
MoHCDGEC	Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, the Elderly and Children
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MoCLA	Ministry of Constitution and Legal Affairs
MoEVT	Ministry of Education and Vocational Training
MPs	Members of Parliament
NPA-VAWC	National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children
NGOs	Non-Government Organisations
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
Sida	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
TDHS	Tanzania Demographic Health Survey
TECMN	Tanzania Ending Child Marriage Network
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
VAC	Violence Against Children

Introduction

Background

Global attention on ending child marriage and its socioeconomic consequences is gaining momentum. Ending child marriage is a timely objective: it is particularly relevant in 2021, as the continued high incidence of child marriage is resulting in critical barriers to development, with wide-ranging economic impacts.

Globally, around 21% of young women alive today were married before their 18th birthday. One in three girls in developing countries is married before age 18, while one in five girls is married before age 15.¹ If current trends on child marriage continue, 150 million more girls will be married during their childhood before 2030, with devastating consequences for the whole world².

Specifically in Tanzania, according to the 2015/2016 Tanzania Demographic Health Survey, 36% of women were married before reaching their 18th birthday. The regions with the highest prevalence of child marriage in the country include Shinyanga (59%), followed by Tabora (58%), Mara (55%), Dodoma (51%) and Lindi (48%).

While the Tanzanian legislature has passed several laws and policies relating to the protection of women and children, some of these laws contradict each other. Most importantly, the 1971 Law of Marriage Act sets the minimum marriage age with parental consent at 15 for girls and 18 for boys. Discriminatory laws and policies such as this, with differential treatment based on gender, seriously undermine girls' fundamental rights to equality, dignity and access to education.

TECMN understands well the reality that child marriage is influenced by multiple, interdependent factors; preventing it requires multi-sectorial support and cooperation. Joining forces among the country's CSOs, the government and local communities is crucial to ending child marriage in Tanzania. It will allow the network to reach out to as many people as possible without duplicating its efforts.

This report documents TECMN's work towards ending child marriage in Tanzania. It in particular sets out its achievements, challenges, lessons learned and best practices developed between 2016 and 2019, as per the network's Strategic Plan.

About the Network

The Tanzania Ending Child Marriage Network (TECMN) was formally established on 11th October 2012, with Children's Dignity Forum (CDF) acting as the network's secretariat and FORWARD UK playing a critical role, both technically and financially. FORWARD UK is a prominent, African-women-led organisation, working to end violence against women and girls. It envisions the day when African girls and women will live in dignity, be healthy, have choices and enjoy equal rights, free from the fear of violence.

TECMN's establishment came after a number of CSOs in Tanzania realised the need for multi-sectorial interventions in order to end child marriage in the country. Through TECMN, the network's members leverage one another's knowledge, expertise, reach, and resources, benefitting from their combined and varied strengths as they work toward the shared goal of ending child marriage.

¹ https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/sowp/downloads/The_State_of_World_Population_2016_-_English.pdf

² <https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/about-child-marriage/>

TECMN's membership recognises that a holistic approach is needed in order to address children's needs in Tanzania. The network brings together 69 NGOs, all of which are committed to ending child marriage and other harmful traditional practices affecting girls. The membership of TECMN has expanded steadily, from 12 organisations in 2012 to 69 in 2019. Moreover, the nationwide breadth and coverage has grown progressively in terms of both the variety of focus and the levels of intervention (from the national level to grassroots organisations).

By joining their forces, TECMN's members aim to create a synergy that will accelerate efforts to prevent child marriage, to support girls who are married already, to amplify their voices about the risks of child marriage, and to defend the rights and the wellbeing of all girls, in order to ensure that they can truly fulfil their potential.

Notably, there are six taskforces within the network, whose parallel action has proven to be an effective strategy to push forwards the different commitments shared by TECMN's members. The taskforces include: Advocacy, Communication and Media; Resource Mobilization; Legal; Community Mobilisation and Public Awareness; and Results and Learning. The taskforces give TECMN's diverse members the opportunity to each share their specific, technical expertise in the network's most appropriate interventions. They allow all members to play an active role in strengthening the network and pushing for the end of child marriage.

Since its establishment, TECMN has proven to be a unique platform for sharing information and raising awareness on the costs and consequences of child marriage in the country.

The National Ending Child Marriage Campaign illustrates this well. TECMN members launched the campaign to support the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania in ending child marriage, through the then Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, the Elderly and Children, and in collaboration with FORWARD UK, UNFPA Tanzania and the Graça Machel Trust (GMT). The campaign – branded the “Child Marriage-Free Zone” – aimed to strengthen the existing national dynamics in favour of ending child marriage and turning girls' and women's rights into reality. This was achieved through interventions aimed both at the holders of these rights (i.e., the girls themselves) and at the duty bearers.

According to its 2016/2019 Strategic Plan, TECMN works to create change for girls and children by ending child marriage and by empowering girls and young women. It seeks to be a voice for all young girls who are in danger of being forced into child marriage. TECMN is committed to working in partnership with different stakeholders, including the government, to prevent and eradicate child marriage in Tanzania. To create this change, TECMN employs an evidence-based advocacy approach that protects women and girls while supporting them in their enjoyment of their human rights and of their fundamental political, economic, social and cultural freedoms.

TECMN Vision and Mission

The **vision** of TECMN is to see Tanzania free from child marriage. Its **mission** is to accelerate efforts to prevent and respond to child marriage, by collaborating with the Government, NGOs, CBOs, Development Partners, the media, FBOs and the private sector – and to support girls who are, or have been, married.

Goal and Objectives of TECMN

The **overall goal** of TECMN is to end child marriage, with **specific objectives** to:

- Raise awareness of the harmful impacts of child marriage, by encouraging open, inclusive and informed discussions at the community, national and international levels;
- Emphasise learning and coordination among the members and stakeholders working to end child marriage;
- Monitor trends and take stock of child marriages, and undertake joint surveys, evaluations and baseline studies on the situation regarding early marriage in Tanzania;
- Raise funds from internal and external partners to assist the implementation of strategic planning; and
- Defend the rights of all girls to health, education, and the opportunity to fulfil their potential.

Situational Analysis of Child Marriage in Tanzania

Child marriage is defined as “any marriage carried out below the age of 18 years, before the girl is physically, physiologically, and psychologically ready to shoulder the responsibilities of marriage and childbearing.”³

Child marriage is a violation of children’s human rights. Despite its prohibition by international law, conventions and treaties⁴, it continues to rob millions of children under the age of 18, mostly girls, of their dignity. Child marriage denies girls their right to make vital decisions about their sexual health and wellbeing. It forces them out of education and into a life of poor prospects, with an increased risk of violence, abuse, and early death. Child marriage perpetuates poverty, inequality and insecurity and is an obstacle to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)⁵.

Child Marriage Prevalence in Tanzania

Global statistics show that more than 720 million women and girls alive today were married before their 18th birthday. According to Human Rights Watch (2017), in sub-Saharan Africa, a staggering 40 percent of girls marry before the age of 18. African countries also account for 15 of the 20 countries with the highest rates of child marriage. For example, 77 percent of girls in Niger, and over 60 percent of girls in the Central African Republic and in Chad, marry before they turn 18.⁶

The situation in Tanzania is similar to that in many other countries around the world. Despite the efforts undertaken by multinational organisations, the national government and non-governmental organisations, Tanzania still ranks as one of the countries with a very high rate of child marriage.

According to the Tanzania Demographic Health Survey – TDHS 2015/2016 – 36% of women in Tanzania were married before reaching their 18th birthday. This equates to one in three Tanzanian women marrying before the age of 18. Worryingly, the same survey shows a 5 percent increase in the marriage of adolescent girls in the 15-19 age bracket since the previous survey in 2010 (31%), partly erasing the progress made since 2004 (41%).

That being said, there is a large variation in child marriage rates within the country, as evidenced by a 2017 study on the **Drivers and Consequences of Child Marriage**, conducted by the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, the Elderly and Children (MoHCDGEC) with support from Children’s Dignity Forum (CDF) and other development stakeholders (see Figure 1 for detailed statistics by region).

³The Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children 2003

⁴[Universal Declaration of Human rights 1948 \(UDHR\)](#), [the Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women 1979 \(CEDAW\)](#), [the Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989 \(CRC\)](#), [the Africa Convention on the Rights and Welfare of the Child 1989 \(ACRWC\)](#) and [the Maputo Protocol 2003](#)

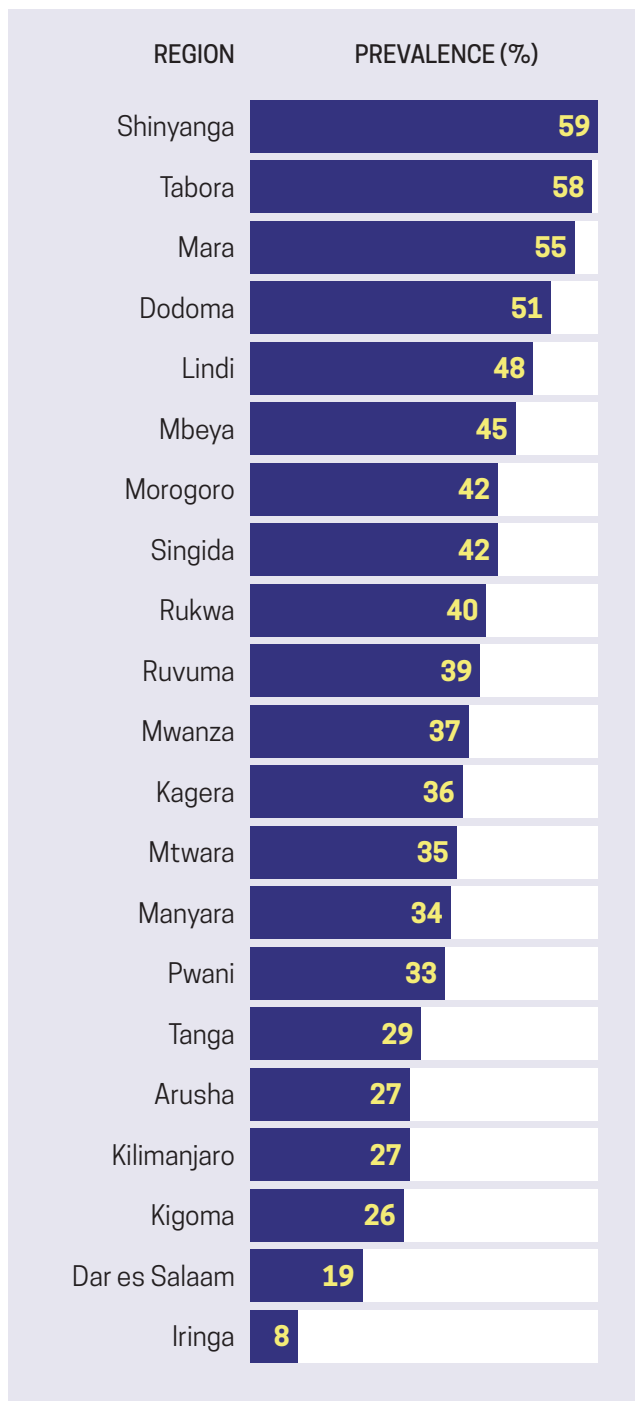
⁵UNFPA; Child Marriage Fact Sheet 2019

⁶<https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/01/31/scourge-child-marriage-africa>

Figure 1

Statistics by Region

(Source: *Child Marriage in Tanzania at a glance, 2017*)



Legal and Policy Context

Tanzania has signed a range of regional and international treaties that seek to protect women and girls. These treaties include the Maputo Protocol, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the East Africa Bill on Gender Equality and Development, and the African Union’s campaign to end child marriage.

Article 5 of the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa – also known as the Maputo Protocol, a protocol of the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights – prohibits and condemns all forms of harmful practices that negatively affect women’s human rights. The African Charter on the Welfare of the Child mandates the protection of the girl child from harmful cultural practices, such as child marriage.

Child marriage is a violation of Article 16 (2) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that “Marriage shall only be entered into with the free and full consent of the intending spouses”. Article 16 of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), meanwhile, states that women should have the same right as men to “freely choose a spouse, and to enter into marriage only with free and full consent”, and that the “betrothal and marriage of a child shall have no legal effect.”

Similarly, by signing the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Tanzania has committed to take all effective and appropriate measures needed to abolish traditional practices prejudicial to children’s health. These include, among other practices, child marriage. In the same vein, the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals place Gender Equality (Goal 5) on the same level as other global priorities of our generation, with Target 5.3 specifically calling for the elimination of all harmful practices, including child marriage, early marriage and forced marriage, by 2030.

Already in 1994, as part of the Programme of Action adopted by the International Conference on Population and Development (the ICPD), countries including Tanzania agreed on measures to eliminate child marriage, as well as to “strictly enforce laws to ensure that marriage is entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.”

Likewise, the Concluding Observations on the 2012 Tanzania report to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights urged the State party to take the necessary measures to give the Covenant⁷ full effect in its domestic law, in order to address the continuing prevalence of child marriage and female genital mutilation in the country. Recommended measures included encouraging girls' clubs that would address these topics; influencing laws, policies and the legal order throughout its territory; and addressing the concerns through a constitutional review that was planned prior to 2015.

Furthermore, from the treaties to which Tanzania has agreed, one can conclude that child marriage is also a violation of children's other human rights.

The international treaties are important because they render countries accountable for children's rights violations. The implication of these international norms is that Tanzania's laws, especially the provisions on who is considered to be a child, need to be harmonised in order to effectively guide the recognition and enforcement of child rights.

Key Drivers of Child Marriage

The drivers of child marriage in Tanzania are multifaceted. They vary across regions and ethnic groups, as was clearly evidenced by the abovementioned 2017 study, the **Drivers and Consequences of Child Marriage**.

Conflicting Legal and Customary Laws

Legal frameworks play a powerful role in transforming society's norms and sanctioning the protection – or sometimes the infringement – of girls' rights. Thus, the Law of Marriage Act 1971, in allowing boys to marry from the age of 18 and girls to marry from 15 (with parental consent) and even 14 (with a court's permission), sanctions the infringement of girls' equal rights.

Furthermore, the Local Customary Law (Declaration) Order, GN 279 of 1963, still in force in 2021, allows each ethnic group to follow its own customs and traditions, and to make certain legal decisions based on them. This law is particularly relevant with regard to child marriage; it permits communities to apply their own traditions regarding the minimum marriage age, without breaking Statutory Law.

These laws are contradictory, failing to define conclusively between them who is a child (or an adult) for the purposes of marriage. In addition, the constitution, which should enshrine the minimum age of marriage, does not do so.

Socio-Cultural Norms and Practices Driving Child Marriage

There is much literature describing the mechanisms that render culture difficult to change. By understanding the cultural norms associated with marriage rites, intervention mechanisms can be designed to successfully address child marriage.

Societal perception of girls and women, and cultural practices like FGM, gender-based initiation ceremonies and traditional dances, have all been found to be drivers of child marriage. Moreover, the social norms related to agency and choice, such as bride prices, the position traditionally held by women in society, and religion, can also be seen as cultural norms that sometimes drive child marriage. FGM, for example, is used as a rite of passage into adulthood: a signal that a girl is ready to marry. A girl from a community practising FGM is customarily not considered ready for marriage until she has undergone FGM.

The potential for these various cultural norms to act as drivers of child marriage must be understood with due consideration of the relevant gender perspectives, the differences between rural and urban settings, and the variation between regions. Moreover, the specific socio-cultural norms that can drive child marriage in Tanzania differ by region and by ethnic group (National Survey on the Drivers and Consequences of Child Marriage in Tanzania, 2017).

⁷ [The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the Committee's role is to monitor its implementation by states](#)

Poverty

Poverty is a significant factor that both drives and is reinforced by child marriage. Some children are married off precisely due to poverty or deprivation. The prevalence of child marriage correlates closely with statistics on household wealth – as wealth increases, child marriage decreases. Poverty as a key driver of child marriage cuts across all regions of the country. Economically disadvantaged families often struggle to provide food and clothing for their families. As a result, many families resort to marrying off their daughters – as a means of ‘protecting’ them economically. These married children are, however, more likely to remain poor in the long run and therefore to become trapped in the vicious, intergenerational cycle of poverty that drives child marriage.

This is a well-known factor that is reiterated even by policy makers. In one of TECMN’s 2018 advocacy meetings with parliamentarians, Hon. MP Boniface Mwita Gitere stated:

► *“Many people in Tanzania are poor. While there are many drivers of child marriage in Tanzania, poverty is by far the biggest factor. Poor families who are unable to pay school fees or take care of their children often resort to marriage, seeing it as a form of economic and social protection. The bride price that parents receive upon marriage, often paid in cattle and cash, is also seen as a strategy to reduce poverty. Having a law in place that sets 18 as the minimum age will help to reduce the rate of child marriage in Tanzania.”*

Gender Inequality

Gender inequality lowers a girl’s and a woman’s ability to make decisions related to her own education and health, but also the decision of when and whom to marry. Furthermore, in Tanzania, once they are married, women still have less control over their lives than married men do. Two out of five married women do not participate in decision-making regarding their own health care, for instance (UNFPA: 2014).

Women and girls are subject to deep-rooted customs, norms and values that assign them a lower status in society. Gender inequality means that girls do not enjoy the same rights, resources, opportunities or protection as boys. To make matters worse, a lack of schools in rural communities, and the distances that girls must travel to and from school, often leaves them vulnerable to sexual exploitation and assault.

Role of Parents and Guardians

Furthermore, among the various drivers of child marriage at the family level, the role of parents and guardians carries a lot of weight.

Some parents worry that, if they delay their daughters’ marriage, they might get pregnant and bring shame to the family. As related by Hon. MP Juma Nkamia, *“in most parts of Tanzania, marriage is considered a fundamental social institution, and marrying one’s children is a strong obligation upon parents. In fact, in order to protect the image of young girls’ chastity, some girls are promised in marriage or are actually married off before their 18th birthdays.”*

This is also consistent with what scholars such as Malhotra (2011, of ICWR), Nour (2009) and Plan International (2013) have found in other countries.

In addition, as previously mentioned, other parents see marrying their children off to be a way of protecting themselves and their daughters from poverty.

Teenage Pregnancy

Teenage pregnancy, or the fear of teenage pregnancy, plays an important role in driving child marriage in Tanzania. In addition, parents feel forced to marry off their daughters as soon as they become pregnant, to avoid shame. Unmarried, pregnant adolescents can face stigma or rejection by their peers and communities. Child marriage is thus also an indicator of the regular exposure of young women to the risk of teenage pregnancy.

Teenage pregnancy has increased by 4% since 2010, from 23% to 27% (TDHS 2015/16). In other words, one in four adolescent girls aged 15-19 has begun childbearing. The increase in teenage pregnancy is expected to have a direct knock-on effect on child marriage rates.

The Consequences of Child Marriage

Child marriage affects women's and girls' opportunities in numerous ways: it hampers their economic prospects; it exposes them to increased risks of HIV/AIDS, domestic and sexual violence; it can lock them into poverty, with little agency over their lives; it increases their general health risks, and those of their children (i.e., maternal and infant mortality); and it denies them a childhood.

What is more, due to these mutually reinforcing impacts, it is now well-documented that child marriage also affects economic progress in a much broader sense: not only for the girls themselves, but for their families and the country (Lemmon and ElHarake, 2014; Blomqvist and Backlund, 2014; Brown, 2012; ICRW, 2007; Herz and Spelling, 2004).

Indeed, according to the International Monetary Fund, eliminating child marriage would significantly boost economic growth. If child marriage ended today, it is estimated that long-term, annual, real per capita GDP growth in emerging and developing countries where child marriage is prevalent would on average increase by 1.05 percentage points.

At the same time, child marriage leads to school dropout and exacerbates low literacy rates. Married children consequently miss out on crucial skills that could help to lift them out of poverty. Many girls from Shinyanga, Mara, Tabora, Dodoma and Pwani drop out of school; some schools in Dodoma have no female students beyond the fourth grade, as they have all dropped out of school in order to be married.

The knock-on effects of these drop-out rates are likely to be severe: as elaborated by Brown (2012), education is the most powerful tool for economic empowerment and poverty reduction. As married young girls are usually unable to complete their education, marriage limits their own economic potential. Without an education, girls and women cannot enter the labour force or contribute to their households' income, meaning in the long run that they cannot help to grow their local economies (see also UNICEF, 2001; Psacharopoulos and Patrinos, 2004).

Perhaps the most insidious consequences of child marriage affect the girls' and women's health and wellbeing. Experience shows that girls married at a young age are often at increased risk of domestic violence, abuse and forced sexual relations. Living in fear of these threats in turn poses undeniable risks for the psychological, as well as physical, health and wellbeing of young girls.

Even in the absence of violence, early marriage can be a threat to the children's wellbeing. Deprived of their adolescence, burdened with roles and responsibilities for which they are psychologically and emotionally unprepared, and removed from their families, many children entering into early marriages are left isolated and vulnerable. This can lead to depression and other mental health issues, while any existing issues can also be worsened by the isolation and upheaval.



The Work of TECMN

All TECMN members are committed to ending child marriage in Tanzania. In order for all members to have a common understanding of the matter, however, and to make sure that its members are equipped with all the appropriate information and skills on different issues pertaining to child marriage, TECMN's secretariat has taken various initiatives, including the organisation of advocacy training programmes. TECMN's training sessions and dialogue forums are funded by various development partners who share the same concerns. The programmes aim to enhance our CSOs' advocacy skills for different interventions on child marriage.

In 2017, for example, Amplify Change funded the network (through the secretariat) to organise an advocacy training programme that was attended by TECMN members from all regions of Tanzania. The sessions were facilitated by instructors from the Girls Not Brides Partnership, bringing together national organisations to learn from an international player sharing best practices. The participants gained a deeper understanding of the basics of policy advocacy and learned how to design and implement successful advocacy plans on ending child marriage. The sessions also covered the key practical skills of advocacy set out in the TECMN Strategic Plan, in particular advocacy work with the media to achieve policy change.

Aside from this important capacity-building work – and in line with TECMN's 2016-2019 Strategic Plan – the secretariat has focussed on national- and community-level advocacy work pushing for a reform of the discriminatory 1971 Law of Marriage Act (LMA). This campaign seeks to raise the statutory minimum age of marriage for girls from 14 years to 18 years, and thus to make it equal to the current minimum age for boys.

At the community level, TECMN works towards increasing awareness among many members of society, focussing on religious and traditional leaders, parliamentarians, girls, and boys. To reach such a broad audience effectively, a combination of approaches is used, including media campaigns, training sessions, workshops and community dialogues.

This effort ultimately seeks to pave the way for an enabling legislative and policy environment, and then to see it translated into action. The goal is to bring the country in line with international standards on ending child marriage and the other forms of discrimination that hinder girls' and women's development.

However, progress in this area continues to face challenges, partly because, as explained above, the LMA, 1971 runs parallel to Tanzanian customary laws. These allow the country's multiple ethnic groups to determine the age of marriage autonomously, based on their own traditional customs. In addition to the customary laws, it must also be said that religious practices pertaining to marriage, inheritance and child-rearing have rarely been questioned until now; the novelty of this discussion can be a further hurdle. This pluralism of laws and practices – customary, religious and statutory – stifles national and international efforts to end child marriage.

This has also been true for a number of efforts in the wider region, such as the African Union's Campaign to end Child Marriage (2014-2017), and the Southern African Development Community's (SADC) attempts to address child marriage through the SADC Model Law on Eradicating Child Marriage and Protecting Children Already in Marriage (a.k.a. the "SADC Model Law").

The SADC Model Law is intended to provide policymakers and legislative drafters with a helpful tool for accelerating legislative reforms, without usurping the authority of each country's legislature in determining the precise content, scope, style and form of its laws. The SADC's template provides best practice language that avoids any potential ambiguities in the text; it is easy to adopt and adapt, while still making member states accountable regarding their commitments around ending child marriage.

TECMN Strategic Plan (2016 - 2019)

In order to guide its interventions and to clearly define the desired long-term objectives of the Network, TECMN developed a three-year Strategic Plan for the years 2016-2019. The Strategic Plan was conceived in conjunction with several other guiding documents, namely the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (M&E Framework) and TECMN's Fundraising Plan.

The Strategic Plan set out four key objectives:

- To advocate for the end of child marriage at national, district and community levels;
- To emphasise learning and coordination between the organisations working to end child marriage (i.e., between all stakeholders);
- To monitor trends and take stock of child marriage, including by undertaking joint surveys, evaluations and baselines on the occurrence of early marriage in Tanzania; and
- To raise funds from internal and external partners that will assist the implementation of planned activities.

Between 2016 and 2019, TECMN successfully met all four of these objectives, despite the challenges faced by all such social and behavioural change programmes.

CDF, as the secretariat of TECMN, has played a critical role in ensuring that the Strategic Plan was implemented and that the Network achieved its desired goals. Crucially, the Network's leadership has made sure that all of the activities were well covered in the media. This increased visibility capitalised on all TECMN's members' and partners' efforts on the ground in order to garner further support from like-minded organisations and institutions.

In this regard, TECMN's work these past years has in particular drawn the attention of strategic partners among the Government ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs). These notably included the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, the Elderly and Children (MoHCDGEC), the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training (MoEVT), the Ministry of Regional Administration and Local Government (MoRALG) and the Ministry of Constitution and Legal Affairs (MoCLA).



Finally, one of the major achievements resulting from the adoption and rigorous implementation of TECMN's Strategic Plan has been the successful planning and execution of the advocacy interventions outlined in the following sections of this report.

Advocacy with Parliamentarians

In pursuit of the Plan's first objective, TECMN worked closely with parliamentarians and in particular with the four key Parliamentary Committees relevant to the amendment of the Law of Marriage Act. These in particular include the Tanzania Women Parliamentary Group (TWPG) and the Parliamentary Committee on Constitution and Legal Affairs, Social Service and Community Development. In order to ensure high-level commitment, TECMN also conducted consultation meetings with Hon. Speaker of the parliament, the Deputy Speaker and the Attorney General.

Through constant consultation meetings with Members of Parliament (MPs) of the United Republic of Tanzania, TECMN has meanwhile established a critical mass of MPs who are ready to stand up on behalf of the Network and to push the agenda of ending child marriage. For instance, 74 MPs have signed TECMN's petition for the legal age of marriage to be increased to 18 years.

In their meeting with MPs in 2018, Honourable MP Kiteto Koshuma had this to say about her own actions against child marriage:

► *“I identify myself as a champion for fighting child marriage. I have played a role in helping the victims and talking about it in the Parliament, urging the government to amend the LMA 1971. I have paid hospital bills for a child who got maternal complications and almost died in labour, just for failing to pay for caesarean services. I witnessed and helped another woman of my age delivering her 12th child, in danger of losing her life, because her 80-year-old husband was against the use of contraception when the doctors advised her to. This problem is very serious and puts the lives of girls in danger. So, fellow MPs, we need to stand up for change by amplifying our voice for amendment of the LMA.”*

Nonetheless, some MPs have expressed the concern that despite their shared willingness to join in the fight against child marriage, they do not have a united voice. In one of the feedback meetings held by TECMN in 2018, Hon. MP Susan Lyimo stated:

► *“We as committee members, we are in a good position to influence the Government to take action on amendment of [the] LMA. Several times I have noted that MPs have not had a single voice in speaking on the amendment of LMA in the Parliament. It is our duty as parliamentarians to ensure that ending child marriage – through amending [the] LMA – underpins the policy-making and implementation processes across all concerned ministries. But, unfortunately, as MPs we fail to unite and hold the Government accountable on this matter when they debate it in the Parliament.*

“We talk very nicely outside the Parliament, by laying down strategies, but when some of us raise the motion in the Parliament, we oppose each other instead of supporting the agenda. I have seen this in last year’s parliamentary session, where some of the MPs who attended a similar advocacy meeting organised by CDF were against MP Kiteto Koshuma when she brought this motion in the Parliament and held a coin. Since we have a SADC model law and we know the effects of getting married at a young age, let us all come together and push for the amendment of [the] LMA in the parliament.”

In the consultation meetings with parliamentarians, TECMN was also reminded of the sensitivity of the issue and of the need to work closely with religious leaders, because they command respect in local communities. Speaking in one of the consultation meetings with a Parliamentary Committee, Hon. MP Azzan Mussa Zungu explained it as follows: *“...my faith (Islam) allows a man to marry a girl after [her] reaching puberty. This issue is very contradictory as it has implications in peoples’ faith and tribes. Amending the law itself is not enough to end child marriage: more consultation should be done with all religious group to harmonise this.”*

TECMN’s engagement with parliamentarians has led to the formation of an informal MPs’ Task Force, advocating for the amendment of the LMA. The task force has since played a significant role in the parliamentary debates on this issue, by initiating open discussion on child marriage during BUNGE budget sessions. This in turn triggered a broader public discussion on child marriage.

Following these discussions in Parliament and in the public, the Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Prof. Palamagamba Kabudi, made a public declaration stating that child marriage was deep-rooted in customs and traditions, as well as economic and religious factors; that fixing the problem would therefore require not only a change in legal frameworks alone, but that other solutions should also be considered, including the use of legal anthropology.

Working with Religious Leaders

In ensuring that the right religious leaders were identified and lobbied to join the ranks in the fight against child marriage, TECMN worked closely with the Inter-Religious Council for Peace Tanzania (IRCPT), a coalition of religions and denominations in Tanzania. IRCPT assisted the network in the mapping of religious leaders who were likely to be the most effective allies in promoting children’s rights and conducting outreach activities about ending child marriage.

Once this preliminary step had been achieved, TECMN organised a meeting with 40 religious leaders from all over the country, in order to create awareness on the magnitude of the problem and the many negative consequences of child marriage. The event was widely covered by the media, and the results were very positive, as related by Rev. Conan T. Godda.

► *“We religious leaders are the best allies in advocating for the amendment of the LMA of 1971 and in raising awareness about child marriage, because we already have platforms and many followers. So, we have the obligation to use those platforms to speak about the consequences of child marriage.*

“Marrying a young girl before she is ready, and forcing her into sexual relations is the opposite of kindness; it is doing harm to an innocent person, which is a grave sin. Also, a marriage between an adult man and an under-age girl is often a non-consensual match between two people who are at very different places physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually, and financially, which is an arrangement that breeds resentment and fear, not love and respect.”

At the conclusion of the meeting, the religious leaders agreed upon the following resolutions:

- Called upon the Government to harmonise the legal framework to better protect the rights of children, especially those of the girl child.
- Pledged to collaborate with TECMN, CSOs, FBOs, Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs) and other stakeholders, to ensure that girls in their communities enjoyed their human rights, and in particular their right to education.
- Pledged to work with the media to stimulate discussions highlighting the dangers, consequences and impacts of child marriages, and the need to protect and safeguard the development of the girl child.
- Promised to foster dialogues within their churches and mosques, and during community meetings, to advocate for the abolishment of negative cultural, traditional and customary practices that promoted child marriage in their communities.
- Agreed to promote the behavioural and attitudinal changes in their regions that would support a social transformation, ensuring better education for girls.
- Promised to advocate for the adoption of positive cultural values that promote community ownership of children, and that protect and promote the life and dignity of girls, in their respective communities.





National Litigation on LMA – Msichana Initiative

In 2016, Ms. Rebecca Gyumi, the director of the Msichana initiative, a TECMN member organisation working to promote girls' rights, brought an action before the High Court of Tanzania challenging the constitutionality of Sections 13 and 17 of the Law of Marriage Act of Tanzania (Cap. 29 R.E. 2002). This Act allows girls to marry when they are 15 years old – with parental consent – or 14 years old – with the permission of a court. The petition sought recognition that these provisions violated girls' rights to equality and non-discrimination, and that they undermined their access to education.

It is often true that when there are concerted and collective efforts towards achieving a common goal, results are more likely to happen. It is unlikely that one person, working alone to achieve the same goal, will have the same success. This was seen first-hand by TECMN's members when they came together under the **SAUTI MOJA** [One Voice] campaign to support the Msichana Initiative's legal action.

The TECMN campaign contributed to the eventual success of this case, as it bolstered the **Msichana Initiative** with much support and publicity, both from fellow TECMN members and from the international Girls Not Brides Partnership. This type of united campaign has proved to be a highly effective strategy for any advocacy agenda, when all members have a common goal, interest and speak as a consortium.

Learning, Coordination and Strategic Partnerships

TECMN's core philosophy is about working with other organisations to create the kind of synergy that will allow us to reach our desired goal of ending child marriage. By working together over the past years, TECMN member organisations have learned a lot from one another and shared best practices in order to “scale these up”.

To this end, in 2013, the Network, in collaboration with FORWARD UK, convened the East Africa Regional Conference on Child Marriage. Taking place in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania on 12th and 13th June, 2013, the conference provided an important opportunity for all attendees to share information and learning, and to network with like-minded stakeholders from across Africa and the United Kingdom. As a further outcome of the 2-day event, the conference prepared a communiqué of policy recommendations, which was submitted to the African Union.

Through this conference, participants were able to learn about current contexts in relation to child marriage; regional and global policy developments; new response strategies and mechanisms; and future programming. The Conference's networking spaces also provided an opportunity to strengthen collaborations between the attending stakeholders. A total of 85 participants attended the Conference from 12 countries – namely Ethiopia, Ghana, Ireland, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, United Kingdom and Zambia.

The conference's participants notably included girls and young women affected by child marriage, Zambia's Minister of Chiefs and Traditional Affairs, officials from the government of Tanzania, traditional chiefs/leaders, development partners, academics and representatives from civil society organisations. The meeting resulted in the development and implementation of several transformative social policies, which positioned communities themselves – and traditional and religious leaders – as central stakeholders.

The event also recognised the key role played by men-led initiatives in mitigating child marriage. The participants heard from the Zambian experience about the ways in which traditional leaders and chiefs could be key players in regulating social norms and ending harmful traditional practices. After the 2013 Conference, many of TECMN's members stepped up their engagement of traditional leaders, both in their own programmes and in the work of the network as a whole.

In the same year (October 2013), TECMN convened a high-level meeting on the Day of the Girl Child, in collaboration with the Graça Machel Trust (GMT) and the UNFPA. The meeting's discussants addressed the audience via a video link. This high-level meeting involved prominent representatives from the government, religious and civil society leaders, as well as the media. The aim of the meeting was to contribute to the ongoing discussion at that time regarding the development of a new constitution for the United Republic of Tanzania. The meeting sought to stress the importance of including a constitutional provision on the minimum age of marriage. The meeting resulted in commitments to advocate for the inclusion of a minimum age, set at 18 years for both genders, in the new constitution.

In June 2014, later in the constitutional debate, TECMN prepared a joint letter with GMT, Human Rights Watch and FORWARD UK, addressed to the Members of the Tanzania Constituent Assembly. The joint letter recommended the inclusion of specific provisions related to the Marriage Act in the New Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania. Suggestions included provisions enshrining a clear definition of the child; a minimum marriage age; the principle of free and full consent to marry; and the compulsory registration of births and marriages.

Separately, on 19th of October 2017, following the Government's appeal after losing in the case of *Rebeca Z. Gyumi v. Attorney General* (Tanzania Civil Cause No 5 of 2016, Decided July 8, 2016), TECMN convened a strategic meeting between its members. The meeting brought together 30 heads of civil society organisations to explore and formulate a unified way forward to tackle teenage pregnancy and child marriages in Tanzania.

The meeting made it possible to build greater consensus and understanding of the context of, the causes of and the best solutions to both these deep-rooted issues. The members attending the meeting agreed on a number of interventions, including their collaborative engagement in the court case on the minimum age of marriage (as per the Law of Marriage Act), in light of the Government's appeal in the case. More generally, CDF was tasked with suggesting a way forward to inform and shape the ongoing campaign on teenage pregnancy, including the subsequent meeting, scheduled in Dodoma with the Minister of Health, Community Development, Gender, the Elderly and Children.

In line with its mission to build strategic partnerships beyond Tanzania, meanwhile, TECMN collaborates with Girls Not Brides (GNB), a global partnership committed to ending child marriage.

TECMN's engagement with GNB has many positive impacts on its national work, including the possibility to provide capacity-building training sessions on advocacy to TECMN's members, as well as sponsorships allowing members to take part in strategic conferences and meetings outside Tanzania, both at regional and at international levels. Moreover, in conjunction with GNB, representatives of TECMN took part in various processes related to the development of the SADC Model Law. As a result, some TECMN members and government officials were also able to participate in learning visits to other SADC countries, including Malawi and Zambia.

Finally, since its creation in 2013, TECMN has had several opportunities to contribute to important meetings in the UK. In July 2014, TECMN, together with the Tanzania British High Commission, organised an event as part of the UK Department for International Development's (DFID's) global campaign to condemn sexual violence and to call on all stakeholders to step up their actions to address child marriage. In 2019, the Network was well-represented at the Girls' Summit in London, where TECMN had the opportunity to speak about the state of affairs on child marriage in Tanzania, and about the country's ongoing initiatives to end child marriage.

Media Advocacy

The use of media – both mainstream and social media – has proven to be a highly effective way to reach more people with information on the effects of child marriage, and to mobilise communities. In line with its Strategic Plan 2016/2019, TECMN developed a Communication Strategy, aiming to raise awareness and to advocate for the end of child marriage through various media platforms.

Since its inception, TECMN has regularly published and circulated articles – nine in total – on the amendment of the LMA to national stakeholders. These articles have been an important way to generate attention and interest among donors, development partners, media and the public, and to stimulate support for TECMN's work. The network has also hosted five press conferences over the same period, focussing on girls' rights, particularly in relation to the re-entry to school policy for teenage mothers and the AG appeal⁸ on, promoting the national debate on girls' rights to education.

With the increase of internet users in Tanzania and, hence, of social media subscriptions, TECMN has engaged with a number media blogs and websites in parallel to its conventional media work. As well as ensuring that TECMN's interventions had as wide a reach as possible within Tanzania, these efforts have also allowed us to reach more people based outside Tanzania. TECMN's increased online presence also enabled it to launch a petition, seeking the general public's support for the amendment of the LMA 1971. The online petition has so far received more than 1,400 signatures, including the signatures of 74 MPs.



Realising that the network's website and active social media platforms were the best ways to achieve a wider reach, CDF has continued to intensify TECMN's social media presence. The network now has active Facebook and twitter handles with 1,061 and 3,874 followers respectively. Its social media activities include publicising TECMN's interventions, advocating for the amendment of the LMA 1971, raising community awareness on the impact of child marriage and calling for community actions to end child marriage.

Last but not least, TECMN collaborated with SOS Villages Tanzania to produce an important documentary on the impact of child marriage. The film amplified the voices of child brides in the national debate, as well as drawing attention to the work done by TECMN to address the harmful effects of child marriage.

This proactive and constant engagement with the media has amplified the network's visibility and, consequently, has strengthened its brand as the leading platform addressing child marriage in Tanzania.

⁸ [The Attorney General appealed against the decision of the High Court that declared sections 13 and 17 of LMA, 1971 unconstitutional through Attorney General v. Rebeca Z. Gyumi \(Civil Appeal No. 204 of 2017\)](#)

Research and Monitoring

In 2017, TECMN conducted a baseline survey to map out the types of activities and principal strategies that were used to push for the end of child marriage.

The survey showed that more than half of TECMN's members (54%) had conducted advocacy programmes/projects pushing for a change in the minimum age of marriage and around 45% had plans to carry out further advocacy in this area. Another 30% of the organisations were partially involved in the advocacy to amend the minimum age of marriage.

At the same time, 15% of the members had taken part in dialogues with policy makers; 35% were active in community mobilisation; 15% used media engagement as an advocacy strategy; 11.8% provided counselling to child brides; and 5.9% had been involved in training religious leaders.

From the findings, it is clear that TECMN's membership is on familiar ground when conducting advocacy work on the amendment of LMA; indeed, campaigning for the minimum age of marriage to be set to 18 years has been the main strategy of TECMN as a whole, while other strategies have been followed to a lesser degree.

That being said, the network's media engagement has also been progressively stepped up, as it makes it possible to reach many people in a short space of time. The same has been true of TECMN's social media work in recent years, as the overall use of social media in Tanzania has continued to grow.

In addition, TECMN sometimes conducts advocacy work in other fields related to child marriage, especially when Tanzania is reporting on its implementation of major international agreements.

To take stock of the country's progress against the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), TECMN went one step further. In the assessment of the MDGs' implementation, particularly under Goal 2 (Achieve Universal Primary Education) and Goal 3 (Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women), TECMN conducted a post-MDG consultation with girls and young women from around the country. The findings were then shared through Tanzania's reporting process.

Several key recommendations emerged from the participants' responses. These included making schools safe for girls, addressing teenage pregnancy and allowing teenage mothers to go back to school after childbirth.

Fundraising

In 2016, to go hand-in-hand with the Strategic Plan, TECMN formulated a Fundraising Plan. The three-year fundraising strategy was seen as an integral step towards the Strategic Plan's successful implementation, seeking to ensure the involvement of all members in efforts to find the resources needed to carry out the network's activities. Overall, the Plan consolidated the network's financial sustainability and ensured its capacity to deliver quality advocacy programmes.

The Fundraising Plan generated a noticeable increase in donor attention and lead to more funding opportunities. TECMN's international funders include the Foundation for Women's Health Research and Development (FORWARD UK), Amplify Change, the UNFPA, Plan International (through a NORAD-funded project), Girls Not Brides, France Embassy Tanzania, and the High Commission of Canada in Dar es Salaam.



Conclusion and Recommendations

Conclusion

Overall, TECMN has done well in the decade since its establishment. It has made important breakthroughs in garnering the support of key stakeholders for the amendment of the LMA of 1971.

Not only has the network formed strategic partnerships with like-minded organisations and people: it has also secured a collective commitment from government policymakers, especially parliamentarians. At the same time, it has drummed up significant support for the reform among local government authorities and local communities, religious and traditional leaders, and young people, as well as among international and regional organisations. Without a doubt, TECMN has made notable strides towards the strategic objectives and planned outcomes outlined in the 2016-2019 Strategic Plan.

Child marriage calls for an inclusive, holistic, multi-sector (legal, health, education, employment, economic, etc.) and multi-level approach; TECMN's strategy reflects this well. As has been observed by Girls Not Brides in an international context, ending child marriage will require work across all sectors and at all levels. An understanding of the key drivers (or root causes) within different contexts is also necessary, so as to develop appropriate interventions at each level and for every local setting.

Child marriage harms all aspects of a girl's life, and its impacts continue throughout her lifetime. It undermines her social and economic development, and that of her family, as well as that of the community and the nation at large. Ending child marriage would in turn lead to big achievements in personal (i.e. "human") development, as well as in local and national development.

Above all, ending child marriage requires a genuine and high-level commitment and adequate resources. It calls for a long-term investment of time, resources and effort, with consistent and long-term engagement with girls and boys, women and men, whole families and communities, religious and traditional leaders, public institutions and the private sector.

Moreover, ending child marriage represents a strategic opportunity to promote gender equality and to advance girls' and women's rights, and their empowerment in economic, social and cultural development, especially in relation to their health, education and employment. It is also a pro-poor strategy, which cannot be overlooked if sustainable development is the aspired goal of public policies, or of non-governmental programmes and initiatives.

Recommendations

In order for TECMN to push its agenda forward and to fulfil the objectives envisaged in its Strategic Plan and beyond, the following steps would be recommended as priorities:

- a) Enhance the inclusive, holistic, multi-sector and multi-level approach** in TECMN's advocacy campaigns calling for the amendment of the LMA of 1971 – to raise the age of marriage to 18 years, using the SADC Model Law – in order to align this outdated, discriminatory legislation with the Law of the Child Act 2009, other domestic laws, and several international and regional treaties; in particular, focus on the lobbying of MPs to actively support the LMA's amendment.

- b) Strengthen coordination among TECMN members**, especially in the form of assistance to members developing their advocacy plans, their programmes, and their strategies to mobilise communities, religious and traditional leaders, and other stakeholders; the work done by all TECMN's members on the ground is the key to generating widespread popular support for ending child marriage and for the amendment of the LMA of 1971.
- c) Promote further strategic alliances with the major stakeholders** with whom TECMN already works through routine meetings and consultations, including the MoHCDGEC, the Ministry of Constitutional Affairs (MoCLA), the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training (MoEVT) and the Police Gender and Children's Desks of the MoHA; continue to build on partnerships with civil society organisations, regional and international organisations; simultaneously strengthen TECMN's engagement with local stakeholders (government authorities, parents and guardians, local communities, youth – both girls **and** boys, traditional and religious leaders), as well as other influential individuals, such as the 'ngaribas', teachers, lawyers, police officers and health care providers.
- d) Launch new advocacy campaigns and support programmes addressing the factors that keep girls out of school**, such as promoting the provision of sanitary pads and WASH facilities in schools, and other necessary support. Improving education opportunities for girls is both an important tool to avoid child marriages today and a powerful strategy to end child marriage in the future. The longer a girl stays in school, the less likely she is to be married before the age of 18.
- e) Promote the use of social media outlets to raise awareness** – such as YouTube, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, etc. – as they make it possible to reach many people in a short space of time; still continue to enhance campaigns through conventional mass media (i.e., TV, Newspapers, and radio), with a particular focus on intensifying the use of the radio, as it is the most practical, cheapest and friendliest means of communication, and reaches the remotest rural areas that other media outlets cannot reach.
- f) Continue to provide youth empowerment, awareness and capacity-building resources to young people, especially girls**, to help them to understand and stand up for their rights to education, good health, and employment, and to inform them of the root causes, costs and consequences of harmful traditional practices, including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), which usually leads to child marriage.
- g) Lobby the government to include education on children's rights and gender studies in school curricula**, and more generally to strengthen girls' education, so that each and every girl stays in school up to 18 years of age; provide vocational training to any girls under 18 who no longer attend school, allowing them to attain skills that will make them employable – or, alternatively, that can enable them to be self-employed.
- h) Strengthen coordination mechanisms and networking platforms at street-, ward-, village- and district-levels, as well as regional and national levels** that monitor the movements of girls below the age of 18, especially those of vulnerable girls who are not in school, and girls from poor households, since poverty is one of the major factors driving child marriage.
- i) Conduct more research on child marriage in Tanzania**, to collect evidence and more context-specific data on its prevalence and its consequences, in order to feed these insights into evidence-based advocacy and to persuade policymakers and legislators of the urgent need to end child marriage.
- j) Foster internal development within the network**, in particular regarding learning from others, both nationally and abroad, and replicating their best practices in order to accelerate the progress towards ending child marriage.

Annex 1: Case Studies

Case Study 01: Government Officials Taking Actions Against Child Marriage

Since its establishment, TECMN has been spearheading advocacy to policy makers in order to win their support on ending child marriage. Through this effort, TECMN was able to get Government officials to give strong statements against child marriage.

For example, when commemorating the Day of the Girl Child in 2018, the Minister for MoHCDGEC, Ms. Ummu Mwalimu, vowed to end child marriage, FGM, and other HTPs. In her speech quoted in the Nipashe Newspaper of 01 November, 2018, the Minister promised to establish and strengthen Children and Women Protection Committees at all levels in the country; to provide education to the media so that they can report appropriately on child marriage and condemn HTPs against women and children; to provide education on reproductive health to adolescent girls; and to strengthen the capacity of local communities to use social media to report to local authorities.

At the same ceremony, three Regional Commissioners (RCs) of Tabora, Shinyanga and Mara regions condemned child marriage and also committed themselves to combatting child marriage and other forms of violence against women and girls. The Tabora RC Mr. Aggrey Mwanri, informed the Minister and the public that he has been raising awareness on ending child marriage, and promised to ensure child marriage and other HTPs are eradicated in his region. He called upon the Tabora communities and media to condemn child marriage. He promised to take action against those who plan, organize, officiate, prepare, and participate in child marriage ceremonies, including food caterers and dancers.

The RC of Shinyanga Ms. Zainab Tellack also committed herself to continue the fight against child marriage and informed the Minister and the public that by November 2018 she would have succeeded in reducing child marriages in Shinyanga from 257 to 90 through education and awareness raising (Nipashe Newspaper, 01 November 2018, p.17).

The Mara region RC Mr. Kigoma Malima also vowed to end child marriage and mentioned his strategy of working with the Police Gender and Children's Desks (PGCDs) to end child marriage, FGM and wife battering in Mara Region.



Case Study 02: The Case of Rebecca Gyumi vs Attorney General

Msichana Initiative is an active member of TECMN. On 2016 the Executive Director of Msichana Initiative, Rebeca Gyumi filed an application with the High Court of Tanzania challenging the constitutionality of sections 13 and 17 of the Law of Marriage Act, 1971. In its Judgement, the court found in favour of the application and ordered the Government, through the office of the Attorney General, to amend the Law of Marriage Act within a year period from the date of the judgment.

The landmark ruling of the Court of Appeal of Tanzania on the case that upheld the decision made by the High Court of Tanzania declaring Section 13 and 17 of the Law of Marriage Act of 1971 (LMA), unconstitutional was a momentous success for TECMN. The Court of Appeal ruled that the provisions in question were unconstitutional and go against the best interest of the girl child. Hence, the Network received positive publicity for the advocacy work that it does with key Parliamentarians and Parliamentary Committees of the Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania, religious and traditional leaders as cornerstones of

communities and communities through outreach sessions. In addition to that, TECMN organized a workshop for religious leaders after the ruling to have their commitment and work plan to engage their congregations in ending child marriage.

Additionally, on November 19th 2019, TECMN conducted a press conference and gave a joint statement to applaud the Tanzania Court of Appeal for upholding the landmark 2016 ruling by the High Court against child marriage. The press conference was highly featured in social and mainstream media in order to increase community awareness and push government to amend LMA 1971.

During the case there was regular engagement and support from TECMN members to amplify the case and call for law reform. Continual advocacy efforts from community to national level contributed to the victory of Rebecca Gyumi, Msichana Initiative and TECMN. Through this experience it is clear that with continuous joint forces through TECMN Child Marriage will remain a history in Tanzania.



Annex 2: List Of TECMN Members

S/N	Name of Organisation	Short Profile
1	Art in Tanzania	Art is a multiple task organization focusing on community based development. Art works to promote the development of the most vulnerable communities in Africa through developing partnerships with international NGOs, Universities and Corporate sector. The organization runs multiple programs including children under school age, environmental and Corporate Social Responsibility programs.
2	Action Girls Foundation (AGF)	AGF is an organization that works to promote Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) of girls. AGF envision a society where a girl child attain her full potential in life.
3	Agape AIDS Control Programme	Agape AIDS Control Program is an organization based in Shinyanga, Tanzania which focuses on empowering the community to challenge the human rights violations, reduce poverty, reduce HIV/AIDS transmission, GBV prevalence and develop effective measures for human development.
4	Alpha and Omega Reconciliation and Peace Building (AREPEB)	AREPEB is a committed one stop Centre for peace building, conflict transformation, promotion of human rights and good governance, humanitarian activities and love for humanity as ways which contribute to the economic growth at individual, group and national levels.
5	Arusha Women Legal Aid and Human Rights Association (AWLAHURIO)	AWLAHURIO is a community based organization which was formed by Women Legal Aid Centre (WLAC). AWLAHURIO aims to promote access to justice and good governance as well as lobbying and advocate for gender responsive policies for women and children.
6	Baba Watoto Organization	Baba Watoto Organization works to promote child protection and empower vulnerable children and youth to realize their full potential. The organization also empower youth to overcome the challenges of violence, poverty, ignorance, crime, disaster and health concerns.
7	Building Inclusive Society Tanzania (BISTO)	BISTO is an organization working to promote children's rights particularly children with disability. BISTO also utilizes different platforms to end child marriage.
8	Bright Jamii Initiative (BJI)	BJI is an organization working with grass root communities with keen focus on Comprehensive Child Protection System. BJI envisions a society where the welfare of a child is a priority hence employing in a mission to promote comprehensive Child Protection System for sustainable and welfare of the child.

9	Bridge for Change	<p>Bridge for change is an organisation that works with children and young people at the age of 7_35 years old to empower them to become positive change makers by shaping, inspiring and mentoring them to take ownership of their future.</p> <p>Also Bridge for change has been involved in providing information on child protection against any sort of violence including early child marriage through U-Report online advocacy platform.</p>
10	Centre For Widows and Children Assistance (CWCA)	<p>The Centre for Widows and Children Assistance is an organization that aims at supporting widows and children in a short and long term physical and emotion well-being and advancement. It intends to restore the dignity of widows and children who have undergone torture, humiliation, harassment and eviction so as to enable them to realize their personal rights.</p>
11	Chama cha Uzazi na Malezi Bora Tanzania (UMATI)	<p>UMATI is a renowned organization in Tanzania working to promote Sexual Reproductive Health Rights and provide information and services targeting the young people including the most vulnerable.</p>
12	Child Watch Tanzania	<p>Child Watch is an NGO based on Tanzania mainland with focus on safeguarding children's rights through ending child trafficking and its associated impacts like child labour, child sex exploitation, early marriage, GBV and all other forms of violence against children.</p>
13	Children Education Society (CHESO)	<p>An NGO based in Tanzania that focuses on empowering the community to be able to protect children to enjoy their right to education.</p>
14	Children's Dignity Forum (CDF)	<p>Children's Dignity Forum (CDF) is a voluntary and non-profit organization that works to promote and reinforce rights of vulnerable children by placing children's legal and human rights on the public agenda. CDF's Vision is about creating a Tanzania landscape where children dwell in a context permeated with dignity and where social justice is upheld. CDF is the TECMN secretariat.</p>
15	Crisis Resolving Centre (CRC)	<p>CRC is an organization which advocates for a peaceful Tanzanian society which respects human rights from a gender perspective. The organization focuses on advocating for women and children's rights by conducting awareness raising activities for cultural, policy and legal changes/transformation in the society. CRC also undertakes legal aid and counselling services for GBV survivors.</p>

16	C-SEMA	C-SEMA is and NGO in Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar with focus on child protection mainly through promoting positive parenting, Adolescent Girls Empowerment and Livelihood (AGEL) and child rights governance. C-SEMA also runs a child helpline which is available 24 hrs and provide services to survivors of violence.
17	Community Volunteer Services (CVS)	CVS is an organization with wide range of programs including children rights and empowerment. CVS intends to support child brides and children who have undergone other forms of torture, humiliation, harassment and eviction so as to enable them to realize their rights.
18	Dogodogo Centre	Dogodogo Center is an NGO based in Tanzania which aims at caring for street children especially boys aged between seven and 17 years. Dogodogo works with street children by providing to them shelter, medical treatment, proper hygiene, clothing, counselling, school education, skills training, recreational facilities and family reunification.
19	Elimu Mwangaza Tanzania (EMT)	EMT focuses on addressing child abuse and violence in Tanzania particularly on issues relating to Adolescent Girls Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (ASRHR), FGM and early and forced marriage interventions. EMT also promotes children's rights to quality education, child participation and skillful parenting.
20	Foundation for Human Health and Social Development (HUHESO Foundation)	An NGO based in Tanzania mainland contribute to the national development through advocating for effective and efficient provision of support to the vulnerable groups. HUHESO foundation also runs a community radio which mainly focuses on educating the community on socio-economic development issues.
21	Gender and Adolescence Initiative (GAI)	GAI is an NGO based in Tanzania mainland which focuses on promoting teenage and single mothers' welfare. This is through advocating for adolescents girls rights, gender equality, SRHR and economic empowerment.
22	Global Religions for Children Foundation Tanzania (GRCF)	GRCF is a foundation in Tanzania whose objective is to support, promote and defend the fundamental human rights of all children. Its main focus is on ending violence against children, peace building, eradiating child poverty and promoting ethics education for children.
23	Globalized and Enlightened Society (GAESO)	GAESO is a multiple task organization on community development. GAESO works to promote the development of the community focusing in VAWC prevention and response.

24	Green Community Initiatives (GCI)	GCI is an organization that focuses on supporting adolescent girls including those affected by child marriages and other forms of VAWC.
25	HEKIMA Organization	Hekima organization focuses on engaging and inspiring adolescents' boys and girls to safeguard their rights, SRHR as well as hygiene management and nutrition.
26	Hope 4 Young Girls Tanzania (H4YG)	H4YG is a young women led organization which focuses on ensuring quality education for girls in line with the implementation of the National Plan of Action to End Violence against Women and Children in Tanzania (NPA-VAWC).
27	Hope Centre for Children, Girls and Women in Tanzania (Hope Centre Tanzania)	Hope Centre Tanzania is an NGO that enhances SRHR choices and amplifies the voice of adolescents, young women and adult women of reproductive age. Hope Centre also works to enhance community awareness and ownership of their right to decide about their health particularly SRH and wellbeing.
28	4H Organization	4H Tanzania is a non-governmental youth development organization dedicated to creating self-reliant youth and active citizens through education, entrepreneurship activities, and club work. The philosophy of "Learning by Doing" enables members to learn, grow, and train their Head, Heart, Hands, and Health.
29	Integrating capacity and community advancement organization (ICCAO)	ICCAO is a youth led organization that work with youths including adolescent girls, and young women on development, gender and health through advocacy and development projects.
30	Karagwe Education Quality Improvement (KEQI)	KEQI works to facilitate Karagwe schools in providing high-quality education to lift families out of poverty, reduce inequality and deprivation. KEQI vision is to have a society where quality education is maintained as the basic human right and a key to poverty alleviation and sustainable human development.
31	Legal and Child Rights Consult (LECRI)	LECRI Consult is a consulting agency registered under the Tanzania Companies Act, 2002. It is committed and specialized in providing legal and consulting services on various aspects of child rights.
32	Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC)	LHRC is the Tanzania's human rights advocacy organization. Its main purpose is to strive to empower the public, promote, reinforce and safeguard human rights and good governance in Tanzania.

33	Makangarawe Youth Information and Development Centre	Makangarawe is an organization that focuses on gathering community information, promoting socio-economic development and knowledge facilitation to youth groups for their self-support.
34	Morogoro Saving the Poor Organization (MOSAPORG)	MOSAPORG works to promote national development through Effective and Efficient provision of support to the vulnerable groups' with focus on child protection, girls' right to education, system strengthening, food and nutrition programmes, education programmes, Early Childhood Development (ECD), Human Rights, SRH and Ending Child Marriage.
35	Msichana Initiative Organization	Msichana Initiative is a young women led organization based in Tanzania mainland which acts on ensuring the right to education of a girl child is equally guaranteed without discrimination. As a TECMN member, Msichana Initiative championed the amendment of LMA, 1971 to raise the age of marriage to 18 years for both boys and girls.
36	My Legacy	My Legacy is an organization which is committed to strengthening the capacity of communities to enjoy human rights and also discharge their roles and functions, through advocacy for appropriate laws and policies and provisions of support services and assistance. Its priority areas are women and children's rights, economic empowerment, governance and capacity development with consideration on Gender and Peace as cross-cutting issues.
37	Network Against Female Genital Mutilation (NAFGEM)	NAFGEM focuses on advocating for human rights through ending FGM, child marriage and all forms of GBV. The network also promotes women's socio-economic empowerment, child care and protection.
38	New Light Children Centre (NELICO)	NELICO is an organization that seeks to promote human rights by providing free legal services to the marginalised group and direct support to Most Vulnerable Children (MVC). NELICO also promote youth engagement, health awareness, and quality education and provides psychosocial support to marginalized groups.
39	New Wash Burn Foundation (NWBF)	NWBF is an organization based in Tanzania mainland that raise community awareness of their rights and promote socio-economic development while protecting the environment. NWBF also advocates for availability of social support, access to basic healthcare and education as well as ending poverty.
40	Networking for Society Development Organization (NESODO)	NESODO envisions a society that access quality health, education, good morals, peer rights, better environment and sustainable agriculture.

41	Oasis For Orphans Group	Oasis for Orphans is a Christian organization that rescue orphaned and vulnerable children. The organizations works to develop these children physically, spiritually, economically, and socially thus enabling them to become responsible community members and leaders.
42	Plan International Tanzania	Plan International is an international organization that mainly focus on advancing children’s rights particularly girls. Plan International mainly focus on child protection, humanitarian response, water health and sanitation (WASH), youth economic empowerment, education and ASRHR.
43	Priority for Entrepreneurship and Development Network (PEN)	PEN Tanzania focuses on empowering women, youths & children with little or no access to development & entrepreneurial opportunities that hinder them from realizing their full potential.
44	Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative (REPSSI)	REPSSI is an organization that promotes an enabling environment for communities and families in East and Southern Africa to preserve, nurture and restore the psychosocial wellbeing of children and youth. The organization trains teachers on provision of psychosocial support to children.
45	Right To Play (RTP)	RTP is an international organization which focuses on protecting, educating and empowering children using the power of play. RTP also promotes quality education, child protection and gender equality.
46	Safety Kwanza Tanzania	Safety Kwanza is an organization committed to protect, promotion and support children and youth access to education, health care and safety.
47	Save the Children	Save the Children is an International organization which seeks to inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children. The organization promotes changes in children’s lives by ensuring child protection, child rights governance, education and health.
48	SOS Children’s Villages	SOS Village is an international organization based in Africa, America, Europe, Asia and Oceania which works to provide quality care, safeguarding children, advocacy, teaching and training children as well as saving/rescuing children during emergencies.
49	TAI	Tai Tanzania is an innovative youth-led organisation that combines data and technology, whilst using the power of storytelling to aspire behavioural change among young people. We aspire for change and growth, meaning we aim for change and growth within our communities through contributing to projects that have a positive impact.

50	TAMASHA	TAMASHA is an organization based in Tanzania which aims at providing a critical youth perspective on all aspects of development and lobby for the inclusion of adolescents and young people as a whole and the most marginalized groups of young people in development.
51	Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA)	TAMWA is an organization which focuses on advocating for women and children's rights by conducting awareness raising activities for cultural, policy and legal changes/transformations in the society. The organization leverages the use of media to address GBV and advocate for women empowerment.
52	Tanzania Youth Vision Association (TYVA)	Tanzania Youth Vision Association [TYVA] is a renowned youth-led organization focusing on youth awareness raising and empowerment. TYVA has a number of programs focusing youth empowerment such as girls rights, SRHR, civic awareness and good governance as well as economic empowerment, education and innovation.
53	Tanzania Women Lawyers Association (TAWLA)	TAWLA is an organization committed to the professional advancement of its members (women lawyers). TAWLA promotes women children rights with focus on gender equality, women land rights, good governance and empowering women to leadership.
54	Tanzania Youth Coalition (TYC)	TYC is an organization which focuses on building capacity and sensitizing youth on sustainable development, and ensure that the voice of a young person between the ages of 15 to 35 years old is heard across decision-making platforms.
55	Transformative and Integrative build Out For All (TIBA)	TIBA is an organization which focuses on empowering women, children and youth socially and economically. The organization also promotes gender equality as well as provision of SRHR to young people with focus on girls and young women. TIBA also has programs on addressing climate change.
56	Tanzania Gender Networking Program (TGNP Mtandao)	TGNP is the leading women's rights in Tanzania advocating for gender equality. The organization advocates for gender equality at all levels, including empowering girls to take up leadership roles as well as ending child marriage.
57	Tanzania Peace and Youth Development Centre (TPYDC)	TPYDC is a youth, children and women' organization seeking to do peace reconciliation, strengthen human rights practices, community economic development, capacity building, gender issues including GBV and youth development.

58	Vijana Pambana Pata Maendeleo Rukwa (VIPAMARU)	VIPAMARU is an organization that envisions a society where youth stand front line in national development programs, with efficiency, creativity, awareness, being accepted in their community and who will notice the changes in the current situation
59	Wadada solutions on Gender Based Violence Organization (WASOGEBAVO)	WASOGEBAVO is an organization which aims at empowering young girls aged 7 to 25 years in and out of school through establishing safe spaces such as in and out of school clubs and empowering young girls to advocate for their rights to live free from sexual abuse and exploitation.
60	Women in Society Tanzania (WOINSO)	WOINSO is an organization which focuses on creating awareness on the civil rights, economy, health and environment. WOINSO promotes women and children's rights particularly economic rights.
61	Women Fund Tanzania	Women Fund Tanzania is an organization based whose aim is to contribute to the building of a strong women's movement in Tanzania through making grants, strengthening women's capacity, building strategic alliances and mobilizing resources.
62	Women Wake Up (WOWAP)	WOWAP is an organization that works to promote and advocate for women and children's right. WOWAP focuses on eradicating FGM, promoting women in democracy, ending GBV and HIV/AIDS among girls and young women.
63	Women's Legal Aid Centre (WLAC)	WLAC is an organization that mainly works to empower women to attain their rights and to improve vulnerable population's access to justice across Tanzania.
64	World Vision Tanzania (WVT)	WVT is an international partnership of Christians whose mission is to work with the poor and oppressed to promote human transformation, seek justice and bear witness to the good news of the Kingdom of God.
65	Wote Sawa	WoteSawa is an organization that works to reduce all forms of abuse and exploitation against domestic workers in Tanzania through providing legal support, social and economic empowerment as well as provision of temporary safe housing, counseling and psychosocial services for the survivors of abuse and exploitation including those of human trafficking.
66	Young Women Christian Association (YWCA)	YWCA is a global women's right movement in over 100 countries, which work with women, young women, and girls across faith, culture, and region. YWCA supports young women as they connect, inspire, mobilize and act for transformational change, for a sustainable world.

67	Youth Counselling and Rehabilitation Centre (YCRC)	YCRC is an organization that works to promote rights of vulnerable youth particularly street children, teenage mothers, children in conflict with the law and with disabilities. The organizations offers psychosocial support and economic empowerment to these vulnerable youth.
68	Youth Achievement Village in Tanzania(YAVT)	YAVT is an organization which focuses on empowering and promoting youth in development through self-reliance education. YAVT also conducts advocacy on the legal rights of children, women and youth as well as reduce risks of society towards HIV/AIDS, malaria, drug abuse, child marriage and Sexual Transmitted Diseases (STDs).
69	Youth of United Nations (YUNA)	YUNA is the youth led organization that works to promote the work of United Nations and its further objectives in the country. YUNA's mission is to carry out capacity building, education, advocacy, lobbying and activism activities to increase stakeholder's influence and participation in implementing United Nations agenda in Tanzania.

Tanzania Ending Child Marriage Network

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This report was designed by Door 22 Creative
and funded by Comic Relief.

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June 2022



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