

Research: Understanding child marriage amongst Syrian Refugee Communities in Jordan and Lebanon

This large, multi-method piece of research was undertaken in partnership with the University of Bedfordshire (UK), with lead researcher Dr. Aisha Hutchinson who has worked on the project with Terre des hommes (Tdh) from 2016 -2020.

The research draws together deliverables based on different research methodologies, addressing a variety of angles to analyse the process of child marriage itself, illuminating how it is understood, explained, considered and justified by girls and their families, as well as tackling policy and programme responses and the views and processes followed by different governments, organisations and community stakeholders such as faith-based actors. It also details the challenges faced by married girls and their reflections on marriage and life in the future.

The research deliverables are the following:



1. Child marriage in Jordan: Systematic review of literature.

→ Full report and **executive summary** in English.



5. Mapping Responses to Child Marriage in Lebanon.

→ Full report in English.



2. Understanding social process underpinning child marriage. Impact of protracted displacement in Jordan.

→ Full report and **executive summary** in English.



6. Child marriage in discussion: Findings from focus groups with Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon.

→ Full report in English.



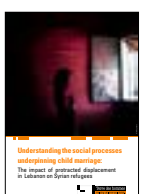
3. Mapping Responses to Child Marriage in Jordan.

→ Full report in English.



7. Exploring the capacity of faith-based actors in Jordan and Lebanon to prevent child marriage.

→ Full report in English.



4. Understanding social processes underpinning child marriage: Impact of protracted displacement in Lebanon.

→ Full report in English.

Link to download the full reports:

www.tdh.ch/child-marriage-research-jordan-lebanon

The research has accomplished the following outcomes:



Outcome 1

Understanding of the social processes underpinning the increase in child marriage and impact of displacement in Syrian communities in Jordan and Lebanon.



Outcome 2

Current policy and practice responses to child marriage across Jordan and Lebanon mapped to provide greater understanding for partnership working and coordinated responses across sectors and multiple levels.



Outcome 3

Evidenced-based recommendations to develop tailored and comprehensive programming on child marriage and tools* for assessment, implementation and evaluation.

**Concrete programme tools will be developed subsequently in 2020.*

The target groups involved range from (I) married Syrian refugee girls and their families, (II) unmarried Syrian refugee girls and their families, (III) Syrian refugees (adolescent girls, adolescent boys and caregivers of adolescent girls and boys), (IV) faith-based actors and religious justice leaders in Jordan and Lebanon to (V) policy makers and practitioners responding to child marriage across a range of organisations and sectors.

While the resulting data is not nationally representative, nor does it give an indication of prevalence of child marriage, the lived experiences and attitudes described give depth to the current quantitative data available and **help to hear the voice of the Syrian refugee community more than 9 years following displacement**. The research examines **complicated and unstandardised social processes, which are difficult to capture using quantitative techniques, to inform programming**.

Tdh tackles child marriage by recognising and analysing the context specific role and local circumstances of each country. Strategies in place for preventing, responding and advocating are holistic and multi-pronged, involving children, their families and communities, civil society and governments, traditional and religious leaders; and embrace a multisectoral approach: education, health, equality, livelihoods, justice and legal aspects, etc. In contexts of protracted crisis, considerations of intersectionality are essential, particularly the interplay between gender, displacement, exclusion and poverty.

Child marriage requires long-term, efficient and sustainable efforts. Tdh supports local change which fosters a catalysing effect at national, regional and international levels.

Marrying a child is stealing her or his childhood. Married children have the right to achieve their full potential in all aspects of their lives.

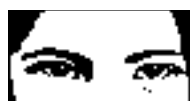


Terre des hommes (Tdh) is the leading Swiss organisation for children's aid. Each year, we provide assistance to over four million children and members of their communities in around 40 countries through our health, protection and emergency relief programmes.



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