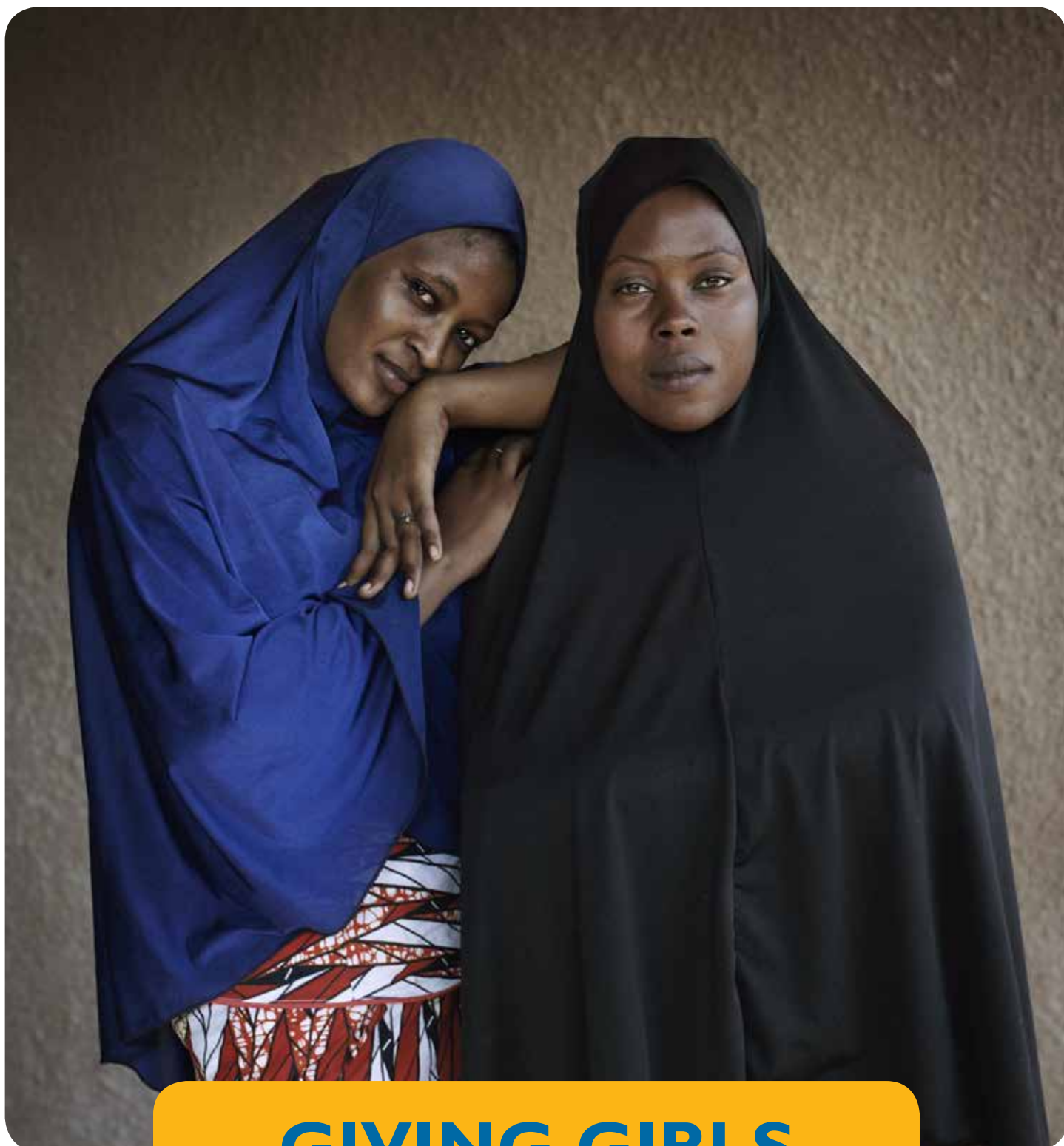




MORE THAN  
**BRIDES**  
ALLIANCE



**GIVING GIRLS**  
A VOICE AND A CHOICE

# THEORY OF CHANGE

## LONG TERM OBJECTIVE

THE MORE THAN BRIDES ALLIANCE (MTBA) EMPOWERS YOUNG PEOPLE TO DETERMINE IF AND WHEN TO GET MARRIED BY MAKING INFORMED CHOICES ABOUT THEIR SEXUAL, REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS AND PURSUING ALTERNATIVE LIFE PATHS IN AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

The Programme is implemented in



## STRATEGIES



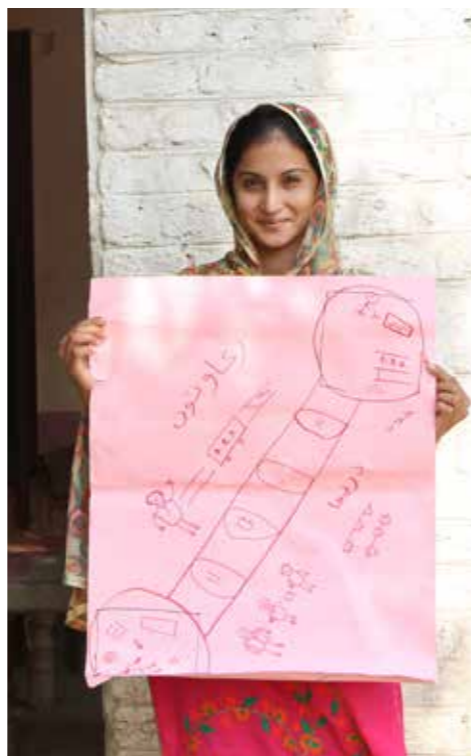
### INFORMED DECISIONS

1 Empowering at-risk and already-married adolescents, girls in particular, with Life Skills Education, Comprehensive Sexuality Education, and/or Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights information. We strengthen adolescents' protective assets and equip them with knowledge and skills to navigate the challenges and opportunities in the transition from puberty to adulthood.

2 Increasing access to SRHR services for young people.

#### Informed decisions

- In India (Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, and Rajasthan MTBA supports 2379 girls groups, providing a safe space for girls to meet with their peers. Group sessions focus on life skills and sexual reproductive health and rights topics, facilitating reflection and providing information.
- In Sindh, Pakistan, the District Education Department has adopted a Life Skills Basic Education curriculum with MTBA partners Indus Resource Center (IRC) and Oxfam in Pakistan. 120 teachers have been trained reaching 6804 girls and 4536 boys in 48 schools in 2018. Sessions include gender and sex, consequences of child marriage, biological development and puberty and communication and decision-making skills.



### ALTERNATIVE LIFE PATHS

3 Providing alternatives to child marriage and mitigating the impact on married girls through enhancing access to education, economic opportunities, and child protection systems for girls and their families.

#### Alternative life paths

- In Maradi, Niger MTBA partner ASEC Mungane has established "bridging schools" in 10 villages providing an intensive "catch-up" curriculum for 9 to 13 old children who were not enrolled in the formal school system. In 2017-2018 92% of the 256 children (more than half girls) completed it. All of the students who completed the course passed the test at the end and were admitted to formal school.
- In Mali, girls take part in 12 community savings and loan groups in Sikasso and 30 Savings for Change groups in Ségou. Savings groups help girls to build up their capital so that at the end of a cycle, they have the funds to expand an existing activity or to start something new.



### ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

4 Changing social norms by engaging a variety of stakeholders to raise awareness, promote community dialogue, facilitate social mobilisation and support collective action.

5 Influencing legal and policy frameworks by conducting policy dialogue and advocating towards policy makers for the development, adaptation and implementation of laws and policies that reduce child marriage.

#### Enabling environment

- In Niger a platform called, "Toward an End to Child Marriage" was established in June 2017 by MTBA partners together with UN agencies (UNFPA), INGOs and national NGOs. The platform successfully influenced government and increased attention to the issue of child marriage nationally. A decree was issued concerning the protection and support of young girls enrolled in school (2017). And a draft national strategy to end child marriage was produced (2018).
- In India and Malawi, youth monitor the quality and provision of youth-friendly health services through scorecard assessments. The results are shared with service providers to identify follow-up actions that can in turn be monitored. A particular focus in Malawi is ensuring a regular supply of SRH commodities.
- In Malawi, MTBA supports the Government of Malawi's scheme of Youth Community-Based Development Agents. YCBDAs are youth trained to distribute condoms and pills and to provide basic counseling and referrals. These outreach activities are designed to reach youth who live far from service providers or who are uncomfortable to go to the health center themselves.

# GIVING GIRLS A VOICE AND A CHOICE



The More than Brides Alliance (MTBA) was initiated in 2015 by Save the Children Netherlands (lead), Oxfam Novib, Simavi and Population Council. In partnership with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs this alliance is implementing the programme 'Marriage: No Child's Play' (2016-2020). The aim of the five-year programme is to reduce child marriage and its adverse effects on young women and girls in India, Pakistan, Malawi, Niger, and Mali.



The collective strength and experience of the four organisations enables us to develop a unique, comprehensive, holistic approach to address child marriage.



**Save the Children** Netherlands is key player in the field of children's rights and girls' empowerment and brings an extensive network of Save the Children organisations in 120 countries.



**Oxfam Novib** brings a wealth of experience in the field of women's rights and gender equality as well as an extensive network of Oxfam organisations and partners in over 90 countries.



**Population Council** brings decades of experience on research with adolescents including on what works to delay marriage, as well as related population and development issues.



**Simavi** is a health organisation specialised in WASH and SRHR with over 90 years of experience working with communities, providing them services and bringing their stories to the attention of the public and authorities.

