

Terms of Reference: End of Term Evaluation of ‘Marriage: No Child’s Play’

1. Request for End of Term Evaluation of ‘Marriage: No Child’s Play’ Programme of The More than Brides Alliance

On behalf of the More than Brides Alliance (MTBA), Save the Children Netherlands is commissioning an End of Term Evaluation seeking to evaluate its programme ‘Marriage: No Child’s Play’ (MNCP), which is being implemented in India, Malawi, Mali, Niger and Pakistan. These Terms of Reference (ToR) outline the scope of work and working arrangements for an external evaluator/ evaluation team to conduct this evaluation.

2. Background of More than Brides Alliance and Marriage: No Child’s Play

The More than Brides Alliance (MTBA) is a consortium funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands to reduce child marriage and address adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in selected countries. The MTBA brings together Save the Children Netherlands, Simavi, and Oxfam Novib (as programme implementation partners) and Population Council (as research partner¹) to compose an alliance with the capability of implementing and evaluating the impact of a holistic intervention to delay marriage for girls in India, Malawi, Mali, Niger, and Pakistan. The MTBA’s 5-year intervention—‘Marriage: No Child’s Play’ (MNCP)—aims to empower young people to determine if and when to get married by making **informed choices** about their SRHR and by pursuing **alternative life paths** in an **enabling environment**.

The MNCP Theory of Change (ToC) (Annex 1) is based on five pathways:

1. Young people are better informed about SRHR, including adverse effects of child marriage and are empowered to voice their needs and rights
2. Increased access to formal education, economic opportunities and child protection systems for girls at risk of and affected by child marriage, and their families
3. Increased utilization of SRHR services that are responsive to the needs of young people, particularly girls at risk of, and affected by child marriage
4. Increased engagement and social collective action against child marriage and in support of adolescent SRHR
5. Supportive rights-based legal and policy environment against child marriage

In each country, the MNCP intervention focuses on addressing the key outcome areas through varied approaches, recognizing each context’s specific needs and the strengths of each local implementing partner in the alliance.

3. Background of the Evaluation

The MTBA has a contractual obligation to the donor, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), to ensure the realization of an external End of Term Evaluation of the MNCP programme (2016-2020). The proposed **programme evaluation** will aim to answer the research question: *How have the MNCP programme strategies towards adolescent work contributed towards empowering adolescent girls to make informed life choices including choices related to their SRHR?* The evaluation will be conducted by an external party and will stand complimentary to all evaluations and research conducted by MTBA partners.

¹ Population Council is research partner for India, Malawi, Mali and Niger. Oxfam Novib is research partner is Pakistan

This End of Term study is intended as a **programme and process evaluation** of work done with adolescents: we will assess the MNCP programme’s key strategies and implementation methodologies related to work with adolescents and document programme learnings related to this work. In MNCP, adolescent-level engagement is primarily conducted through the formation and strengthening of different **adolescent groups**. These include discussion groups, savings groups, gender action learning (GALS) groups, peer educator groups, and school-based SRHR/learning support education groups. The participants of these groups are primarily girls² at risk of, and affected by child marriage. This End of Term Evaluation will examine whether MNCP’s **peer support networks and adolescent group work** related programme strategies and methodologies as well as its corresponding ToC assumptions held true during the course of the project. Thus, the main focus of this programme evaluation will be to assess programme strategies that are focused on youth engagement and which fall under pathways 1,2 and 4 of the MNCP ToC. (See section 3C. Rationale of the Evaluation for further detail.)

a. Objective of the evaluation:

The evaluation will fulfil the following objectives:

Objective 1: Assess how the MNCP programme strategies and implementation methodologies in adolescent work have been **relevant, effective and (likely) sustainable** in empowering adolescent girls to make informed life choices, including choices related to their SRHR. What factors aided or hindered achievement of results?

Objective 2: Assess the key lessons learned and establish recommendations for future child marriage and SRHR programmes.

By fulfilling these objectives, the evaluation will be able to address the main research question: ‘How have the MNCP programme strategies towards adolescent work contributed towards empowering adolescent girls to make informed life choices including choices related to their SRHR?’

b. Scope of the Evaluation

This external evaluation will cover the period January 2016 – December 2020. All five MNCP countries—India, Malawi, Mali, Niger and Pakistan—will be included in the evaluation. The evaluation will involve country and alliance level analysis.

The study will explore 3 DAC/OECD evaluation criteria, namely **relevance, effectiveness and sustainability**³ in the sphere of the work done with adolescents in the framework of MNCP program. These criteria will be examined from the perspective of programme designers, implementers and primary beneficiaries (adolescent girls).

- **Relevance** measures the extent to which the intervention objectives and design respond to beneficiaries’, global, country, and partner/institution needs, policies, and priorities, and continue to do so if circumstances change.
- **Effectiveness** measures the extent to which the intervention achieved, or is expected to achieve, its objectives, and its results, including any differential results across groups.
- **Sustainability** measures the extent to which the net benefits of the intervention continue, or are likely to continue.

² Only members of discussion groups are boys as well.

³ These will be in accordance with international standards (OECD/DAC). See

<https://www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/dacriteriaforevaluatingdevelopmentassistance.htm>

These criteria are central to this program evaluation, which seeks to explore whether the programme's key strategies and methodologies were relevant to the stakeholders, whether they were effective in fulfilling their desired objectives, and what the likelihood is that the benefits of these strategies will continue into the future.

The DAC/OECD criteria of impact, efficiency and coherence are not included in the evaluation. This is because MTBA research partners have previously conducted an impact evaluation and costing analysis which have addressed these criteria. It is expected that this End of Term Evaluation will make use of and complement research previously conducted by MTBA's partners.

c. Rationale of the Evaluation

a. Work done with adolescent girls is one of the most crucial elements of the programme: According to the MNCP Programme Proposal Document, the two crucial components of the ToC that we will apply in each country include girls' empowerment (pathway 1) and changing harmful customs, traditions, norms and practices (pathway 4). MTBA believes that sustained work at the girl-level enables girls to become educated about their SRHR and empowered to advocate for their rights and is essential for norms and behaviours at the community level to change in favour of girls' rights. This study proposes to evaluate both these components from the lens of adolescent group work, especially work done with girls⁴. Additionally, the End of Term Evaluation will consider activities related to girl-level engagement that were conceptualized under pathway 2.

b. There is a need for a programme evaluation examining work done with adolescents under MNCP to shed light into *how* the program's impact⁵ on empowering adolescent girls to make informed life choices including choices related to their SRHR was achieved. In the MTBA, Population Council and Oxfam Novib have been responsible for all research and evaluation-related work, including conducting an evaluation to assess program-attributable impact in intervention communities. These studies report impact on key indicators related to marriage, health, education, livelihoods and gender-equitable attitudes in each country⁶. However, a programme evaluation examining work done with adolescents has not been carried out by MNCP teams so far. So to complement MNCP's impact evaluations, the proposed End of Term Evaluation will focus on process and programme evaluation, to better understand the evolution of programme strategies and to generate insights into **how** the impact on empowering girls was achieved for girls who participated in the program. In this regard, the findings of the midline impact evaluation may inform lines of inquiry for further exploration in this End of Term programme evaluation.

c. The learnings and insights produced through this programme evaluation will especially be useful in the design of the next phase of the programme: with the close of MNCP in 2020 and transition towards the next phase of the programme titled 'My Voice, My Choice', the focus will still be on working closely with adolescent girls. In this regard, it will be very beneficial to know how MNCP strategies led to girls' empowerment and where there is a need for improvement.

⁴ Pathway 4 will also only be evaluated on adolescent group work, especially work done with girls

⁵ As shown in impact evaluation study, carried out by MTBA research partners, was achieved

⁶ Data collection for the endline study was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic in March of 2020, however, a revised endline study (with modified sampling strategy and data collection) is scheduled to take place in the final quarter of 2020 and is expected to provide some impact indicators. Also, Endline survey data will not be fully comparable to baseline and midline data due to COVID-19 induced changes in sampling methodology and questionnaires.

d. Limitations

Due to COVID-19, there will be no face-to-face data collection for this study. Thus, the evaluation will heavily rely on existing programme documentation, data, and research reports produced by alliance partners. In addition, new qualitative research with programme staff and – to the extent possible – with girls and other community members may also be conducted.

e. End users of the Evaluation:

The evaluation will be used by various audiences in the following ways:

Primary users:

- MTBA programme staff: accountability, learning, communication and fundraising;
- Save the Children, Oxfam Novib, Simavi and Population Council: accountability, learning communication and fundraising;
- MTBA partner organizations in 5 MTBA countries: accountability, learning, communication and fundraising;
- MNCP participants (girls, other community members, target key duty bearers, other key stakeholders) : accountability, learning, communication;
- Advocacy platforms involving MTBA: learning and taking action;
- Current donor (The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs): accountability, learning, communication;
- Existing and future SRHR strategic partnerships, such as the upcoming ‘My Voice, My Choice’ programme: learning and program design.

Secondary users:

- National governments in existing MTBA countries and potential new countries: learning and taking action;
- Large scale SRHR organisations: learning and taking action.

4. Research Questions

The research questions are closely linked to the MNCP programme’s ToC. Some questions relate to the MNCP programme in its entirety and others focus specifically on work done with adolescents⁷, especially girls.

Main Research Question: <i>How have the MNCP programme strategies towards adolescent work contributed towards empowering adolescent girls to make informed life choices including choices related to their SRHR?</i>	
Primary questions	Sub questions
Assess how the MNCP programme strategies and implementation	Relevance: - How did the programme strategies and implementation methodologies regarding work done with adolescents contribute towards MoFA’s SRHR policy objectives (result areas 1 & 4)?

⁷ Type of adolescent work may differ per country and ages of target group may also differ. MNCP programme mainly works with 10-19 years of age

<p>methodologies in adolescent work have been relevant, effective and (likely) sustainable in empowering adolescent girls to make informed life choices, including choices related to their SRHR. What factors aided or hindered achievement of results?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How relevant were the themes covered (SRHR information and rights, life skills etc.) and strategies used in work done with adolescents in relation to different contexts and the needs of girls and communities? - How were gender relations, norms and values addressed in work with adolescents under the MNCP programme? <p>Effectiveness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How did programme strategies and implementation methodologies contribute to creating safe spaces⁸ for girls where they were able to discuss their SRHR? - How did the programme enable girls to collectivize and take joint initiatives to better their SRHR? <p>Sustainability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Which mechanisms have been put into place by MNCP programme that will enable girls' access to SRHR information and life skills to continue after the project ends?
<p>What key lessons were learned related to adolescent group work over the course of MNCP implementation? What recommendations can we draw from these lessons for future child marriage and SRHR programmes?</p>	<p>The evaluation should include lessons learned and recommendations for each of the sub-questions listed under relevance, effectiveness, and sustainability above at country and alliance level.</p> <p>These lessons learned and recommendations are to be guided by the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What are the key lessons learned under the abovementioned evaluation themes, particularly for adolescent girls' empowerment related to SRHR and gender norms enabling girls to make informed life choices including choices related to their SRHR? - What were the challenges faced and how did the country teams overcome them (including reaching the most vulnerable girls, COVID19 related challenges at the end of the programme)? - Which good practices and/or innovations (if any) have been identified under the abovementioned evaluation themes? - What were the unintended outcomes (positive and negative) of work done by the programme with adolescent youth, especially girls?

The analysis will be conducted at country and alliance level. These research questions will be explored from the perspective of programme designers, implementors, and adolescent girl participants. This analysis will consider the impact of COVID-19 on adolescent group work related activities. And lastly, lessons for future child marriage and SRHR programmes should speak to the Dutch SRHR policy focus for 2021-2025.

5. Evaluation Methodology

The End of Term Evaluation methodology, including all relevant tools, will be fully developed by the consultant and presented in the inception report. The assessment should involve analysis of both qualitative and quantitative data. The data for this analysis will mainly come from the programme's existing research and documentation, including formative research, programme reports, annual

⁸ Safe places are where youth can come together to have conversations or receive support in a setting free from judgement or discrimination

reports, the midterm review, midline evaluation reports, baseline, midline and endline survey data related to adolescent groups, qualitative research manuscripts and M&E data. Primary data collection will only be conducted through remote surveys and interviews. These will a) help fill the gaps in data and information already available through other sources and b) where feasible, triangulate and validate previously collected information.

The evaluator is encouraged to collect some primary (qualitative and where possible quantitative) data from programme staff and adolescent girls. Information may be collected through the following approaches as well as additional remote data gathering activities as needed:

- **Desk review:** The consultant will review key project documents⁹, with the aim of analysing the relevance, effectiveness and (likely) sustainability of the programme strategies towards work done with adolescents. The consultant will be provided with all key documents on programme design, implementation, evaluations and research. There will also be an emphasis upon (where relevant) integration of results from impact evaluation and costing analysis. The evaluator may also conduct analysis of survey data (if necessary).
- **Remote surveys:** The tool will be designed and implemented by the consultant. Surveys may be done with the programme teams, including implementing partner teams.
- **Key Informant Interviews:** The consultant should determine a feasible number of KIIs. These should include interviews with programme teams (NL and country office based), and where possible, with community members, especially adolescent group girls participants.
- **Focus Group Discussions:** The consultant should determine feasible/realistic groups to consult through FGDs. The participants can be programme staff and (if possible) programme beneficiaries from different MNCP countries.
- **Roundtable Discussions (if needed):** Towards the end of the consultant's research, if needed, the consultant will conduct roundtable discussions with key programme actors. These sense-making discussions will be informed by information gathered throughout the research process.

The evaluator is required to follow:

Code of Conduct, Child Safeguarding Policy and Confidentiality

MTBA is committed to ensuring a safe environment and culture for all children with whom we come in contact during the course of our work. All external consultants involved in this exercise will be required to comply with Save the Children's Child Safeguarding Policy and sign the Code of Conduct. Further, strict confidentiality and anonymity of data should be ensured throughout the process of this evaluation. Statistical data cannot be used in any way that could be construed as harmful to any individual respondent. All data collected during this exercise will become the property of MTBA and will not be shared with third parties without the express permission of the MTBA/Save the Children.

Gender sensitive approach

MTBA values a gender sensitive approach for the End of Term Evaluation to ensure that the proposed methodology takes gender aspects into account and that collected data and analysis are gender sensitive.

⁹ Primary source for a process evaluation will rely on documentation, which will include programme documents, programme descriptions, detailed implementation plans, training materials, policy documents and information on personnel hours of engagement (where available).

Inclusive approach

MTBA values an inclusive approach for the End of Term Evaluation to ensure that different perspectives are taken into account at various stages of the evaluation process. This programme evaluation calls for involvement of programme designers, implementers and beneficiaries (especially girls). This approach will also be of importance during the reflection on results and sense making phase, where the evaluator can bring together these stakeholders to collectively reflect upon the findings. This will ensure relevance for and increased ownership of the evaluation findings by the different stakeholders.

6. Set up of the Evaluation

The evaluator / evaluation team will be supported by MTBA Alliance and Monitoring Evaluation Accountability Learning (MEAL) Team, a Reference Group (RG), and MTBA program teams based in MNCP countries.

MTBA Alliance and MEAL team: This team will be the main coordination and supervisory party.

Reference Group (RG): The RG's roles are to ensure independence of the End of Term Evaluation's set up, to conduct quality assurance checks at different stages of the evaluation, and to participate in reviewing the products during the evaluation process. The RG consists of five members, representing a diversity of roles and countries. It is composed of two external members and three internal MTBA members. MTBA team will set up meetings between evaluator and RG as needed.

MNCP country teams: Country teams will be involved to provide documentation and assist in data collection.

a. Roles and Responsibilities

The consultant is contracted by SAVE THE CHILDREN NETHERLANDS and reports to the MTBA MEAL Team Coordinator.

Save the Children Netherlands, in coordination with MTB Alliance partners will:

- Provide access to internal documents and data, in compliance with GDPR regulations
- Provide contact list, including availability, to the consultant
- Supervise the work of the consultant(s) and provide day-to-day supervision and guidance throughout the entire exercise
- Coordinate access to girl beneficiaries in each geographical area
- Host support meetings with reference group and country team members
- Coordinate feedback loops on draft outputs from all Reference Group members and ensure comments are addressed by consultant
- Approve final outputs
- Disseminate and follow up on evaluation findings and recommendations

Reference Group will:

- Facilitate joint discussion and finalisation of ToR
- Conduct review and provides comments on inception report and evaluation report
- Conduct quality assurance of analysis and evaluation report
- Provide approval for reports inception and evaluation report

Country teams will:

- Share all relevant documents
- Provide input during inception phase
- Country Alliance Coordinators will help set up interviews with key programme staff

- Participate in programme staff interviews to discuss their experience with the MNCP program
- Provide feedback on drafts (inception report, evaluation report)
- Assist the consultant with any additional data collection activities with beneficiaries
- Disseminate report with MNCP participants: Girls, community members, target key duty bearers, other key stakeholders

Evaluator/ Evaluation team will:

- Develop an inception report, detailing the methodology including stakeholders to be interviewed, tools to be developed, time frame for the evaluation, and budget
- Hold the overall management responsibility of the evaluation, including designing and carrying out the evaluation, drafting the final report, and debriefing the project team and key stakeholders
- Liaise with MTBA MEAL coordinator throughout the process, providing weekly updates and seeking input and advice where necessary.
- Request approval in case of deviation from budget, and for miscellaneous costs
- Sign the SCI Code of Conduct and Child Safeguarding Policy and abide by the terms and conditions thereof
- Carry out data collection, including bearing translator/facilitator costs
- Produce draft report, final report, presentation and summary leaflet
- Deliver webinars to country colleagues

7. Deliverables

The consultant is expected to lead, accomplish and submit the following deliverables within the agreed timeframe and budget:

- **An inception report**, which will serve as a mutual agreement on the part of all parties on how the evaluation will be conducted. Items to address:
 - Understanding of the issues and questions raised in the ToR including:
 - Mapping of work done with adolescents (may differ per country/area)
 - List of key concepts and definitions based on a common understanding of these concepts (may differ per country/areas)
 - Refinement of research questions
 - Data sources; how to assess the questions in the ToR
 - Evaluation methodology, including suggested number of remote surveys, KIIs and FGDs
 - Schedule of activities (timeline), and who will be involved/consulted when.
 - Detailed budget
 - Draft data collection tools (e.g. methodological guidelines, interview questions)
 - Structure of the report including country and alliance level analysis
- **Preliminary results report, second draft report and final report** (in MS Office and PDF for final) in English and French. This should be maximum 50 pages excluding the annexes. The report should contain separate chapters for each country level analysis and also one for alliance level analysis.
- **Data sets:** Data set for qualitative and quantitative (if any) data will be submitted separately from the final report
- **PowerPoint presentation** on key findings and recommendations (in English and French) delivered to RG and MTBA Alliance team
- **Webinars:** 5 webinars with country alliances to share the results of the study
- **A leaflet of the assessment findings** (dissemination leaflets) (in English and French)

8. Indicative timescales

The evaluation will be conducted in two phases. Desk reviews and interviews with programme staff will be conducted during October – December 2020. Integration of results from MNCP impact evaluations and any additional analysis involving endline data (if necessary) will be done from January 2021 onwards. The date of completion of evaluation is still under consideration with the donor, with indication to submit either on 31st March 2021 or 31st July 2021. The following table will be elaborated in more detail during the inception phase.

Phase	Deliverables	Working days indication	Indicative Timeline
Inception phase	Consultation with key stakeholders (including reference group) Draft inception report submitted for review	5	October 2020
Tools development phase	Final inception report including budget, methodology and research tools, approved by MTBA MEAL team coordinator and reference group	5	October, November 2020
Desk Review and primary data collection	Detailed desk review and primary data collection Weekly check in with MTBA MEAL advisor	30	October-December 2020
Preliminary results	Analysis of findings Preliminary results report of desk review and interviews	10	December 2020
Integration of endline results	Integration of results of endline report	3	As received (tentatively 1 st quarter of 2021)
Evaluation report phase and review	Draft Evaluation Report review, for comment by reference group, MTBA MEAL group and key stakeholders (multiple review rounds may be required) Incorporation of review/ feedback/ advice	5	45 days before submission (submission 31 st March 2021/ 31 st July 2021)
	Final Evaluation Report in English and French	5	Submit 15 days before 31 st March 2021/ 31 st July 2021
Learning phase	PowerPoint presentation, webinars and leaflet	2	By 31 st March 2021/ 31 st July 2021
Total		65-80 days	

9. Confidentiality

All data collected during this exercise will become the property of MTBA and will not be shared with third parties without the express permission of MTBA.

10. Evaluation Team Requirements

The MNCP End of Term Evaluation requires the following competencies of the evaluator/ evaluation team:

- Master's degree in social sciences, international development or other relevant field;
- Work experience of at least 10 years, with at least 5 years focused on SRHR
- Experience with SRHR programs and projects in different countries with a focus on child marriage. Experience in MNCP countries will be appreciated
- Demonstrated experience of leading and conducting evaluations of multi-country development programs
- Proven expertise/experience in evaluating gender approaches, youth work approaches
- Demonstrated experience with quantitative and qualitative research, data analysis and qualitative analysis
- Experience in inclusive methodologies and conducting research with adolescents
- Proven experience in evaluation of multi-country and multi-stakeholders projects
- Excellent interpersonal communication skills, demonstrated ability to work cooperatively with clients, and ability to liaise tactfully as a member of a multicultural team
- The evaluator should be available from 7th October 2020
- If applying as a team, please identify a team coordinator
- Required Language skills: French and English

11. Application Process

Application Deadline

- Any questions, remarks or requests for clarification can be sent to zunaira.mughal@savethechildren.nl, before 15/09/2020.
- The questions will be answered to all applicants no later than 17/09/2020.
- Applications should be submitted no later than 22/09/2020, 23:59 hours CET.

Content of applications

The following should be included in the application:

- Motivation letter including your/your team's availability, explaining why you think you are a good candidate, an understanding of the ToR and a note on the proposed methodology (maximum 15 pages)
- CV(s) of the proposed evaluator/ evaluation team, proving relevant experience and/or diplomas
- Evidence of written work (e.g. consultancy or evaluation report)—please include only 2 examples
- Total cost (in euro). Accompanied with a cost breakdown of days spent and the related costs.

Selection and assessment

Applications will first be reviewed against the below mentioned administrative criteria ("knock-out criteria"). If your application does not meet all of these criteria, it will be eliminated and the award criteria of this quotation will not be assessed.

Applications that meet the administrative criteria will be assessed against the award criteria. The award criteria are assessed according to the following distribution of points.

Criteria		Knock out (KO) / Max. Point
Administrative criteria		
Application received within deadline		KO
Application complete		KO
Availability during the requested period		KO
Award criteria		
Technical criteria	Motivation to perform the assignment & proposal	40 out of 100
	CV's & written work	40 out of 100
Budget		20 out of 100
Interview		

Award Criteria Assessment

The evaluation of the quotations will be based on the best value for money criterion covering technical quality and proposed budget. Interviews will only be done with high scoring applicants.

Assessment of the motivation letter

The assessment of the motivation letter will be based on the following criteria.

- 1) Available during the requested period
- 2) Level of motivation, experience and skills to perform the assignment
- 3) Understanding of ToR and proposed methodology

The most interesting motivation letter will be given the most points.

Assessment of the CV's and Evidence of Written Work

The assessment of the CV's will be based on appropriateness of the proposed consultants based on the criteria mentioned in chapter 10 and on written evidence provided. The best fitting CV for the assignment will be given the most points.

Assessment of the Budget

The evaluator/ evaluation team will have to make provisions for covering all costs associated with the assignment. Remuneration is based on submission of final deliverables as mentioned in chapter 8.

12. Evaluation budget

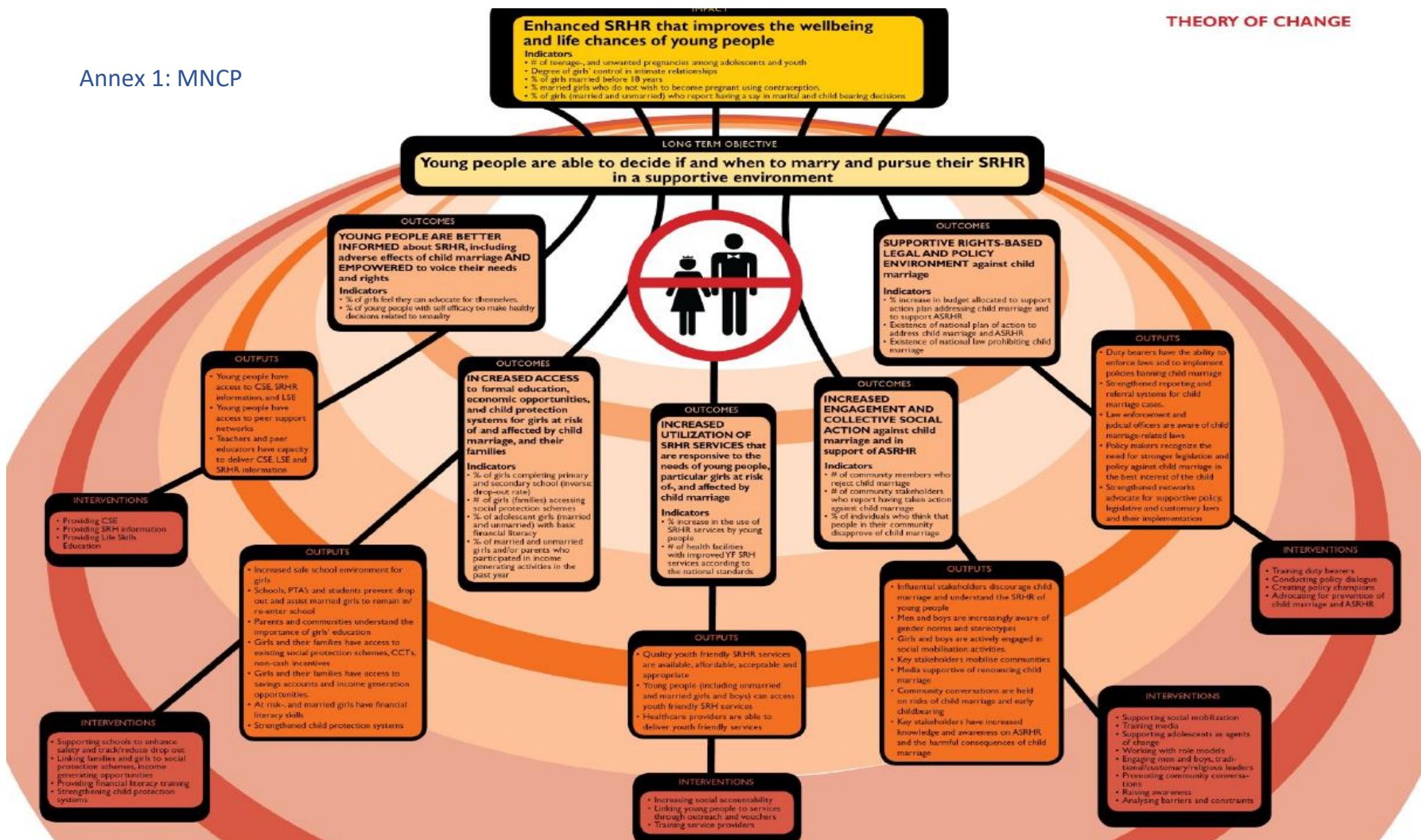
An indicative total budget for the evaluation (including all consultant fees and VAT) should be within the range of 60,000 euros.

13. Submission of Proposals

Interested applicants are requested to provide technical and financial proposals to Zunaira Mughal, MTBA Programme Monitoring Evaluator, no later than 22/09/2020. Proposals should be submitted by e-mail with the subject line "Call for Proposal: End of Term Evaluation MNCP" to: zunaira.mughal@savethechildren.nl

Annex 1: MNCP

THEORY OF CHANGE



Annex 2: Documents/websites to be consulted

More than Brides Alliance: <https://morethanbrides.org/resources-research/>