



TIPPING POINT - BANGLADESH

PHASE 1 EVALUATION FINDINGS



POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

These recommendations emerged from the findings of an external evaluation of Tipping Point's programming. The report describing the evaluation and findings can be found [here](#).

CLARIFY 'SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES' FOR MARRIAGE UNDER 18 TO ENSURE GIRLS' CHOICES ARE RESPECTED

The provision of the Child Marriage Restraint Act (2017) allowing a girl or boy to get married before 18 under "special circumstances" has the potential to be abused and to undermine ongoing efforts to address child marriage. The government should put in place administrative rules or measures that clarify the circumstances under which the exemption applies, as well as develop clear procedural/legal measures to uphold girls' choice and consent in marriage decisions.

ENSURE GIRLS' RIGHTS ARE PROTECTED IN COMMUNITY ARBITRATION PROCESSES

The evaluation found that families often turn to legal or quasi-legal arbitration processes to address potentially shameful situations involving girls, including rape, domestic violence, consensual extramarital relationships, and marriage dissolution. To ensure good outcomes for girls, the government should mandate safeguards within arbitration processes aimed at protecting girls' rights and autonomy within these processes.

INVEST IN FORMAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS TRAINING FOR GIRLS AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES TO EXPAND CHOICES AND CREATE ALTERNATIVES TO CHILD MARRIAGE

The government should expand and promote girls' access to both formal and non-formal education, training and livelihood opportunities. Girls who earn income and contribute to their families may be more successful at delaying marriage. Skills training strategies should include diverse ways to connect young people from remote and marginalized communities to vocational, livelihoods, and employment opportunities and markets and supporting infrastructure and access to services and programs that can transform the geographic isolation of communities.

IMPROVE SERVICES FOR MARRIED GIRLS

The government should target already married adolescent girls with increased access and opportunities for education, health services, livelihood opportunities, and financial resources. Married adolescent girls are among the most vulnerable members of society, and dedicated efforts to reach them are necessary to guarantee their rights are fulfilled.

IMPROVE ACCESS TO SERVICES THROUGH INFRASTRUCTURE SOLUTIONS

The government should invest in infrastructure that improves mobility and access for adolescents, especially girls, in isolated communities. Communities in the haor region are subject to cyclical flooding that exacerbates their geographical isolation and disrupts girls' educations. Government-supported solutions to infrastructure limitations will enable greater access of girls and their families to essential services.

INTEGRATE AND SCALE UP STRATEGIES TO CHANGE DISCRIMINATORY NORMS AS PART OF GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

The findings of the evaluation show the promise of approaches aimed at shifting discriminatory norms and expanding community perceptions of the potential roles and contributions of girls to their communities beyond household duties. Civil society organizations need support to scale up community-based efforts to shift norms through the promising approaches and strategies highlighted by the evaluation. This includes engagement of religious leaders and other influential stakeholders.

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