



Global Girls
Innovation
Programme

Because
**I am a
Girl**



USER GUIDE

INDEX OF ACCEPTABILITY

ASIA CHILD MARRIAGE INITIATIVE



As part of the Year 1 of the ACMI Research, the CCLC has developed an index designed to 'score' communities according to the presence/absence of indicators associated with norms and attitudes about when a girl's marriage is necessary, desirable, acceptable or unacceptable.

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1. PURPOSE OF THE INDEX

The first year of ACMI research revealed that practices and attitudes concerning child marriage are heavily influenced and shaped by environmental factors: such as economic deprivation, gender inequality, dependency and violence, and lack of education and employment opportunities. Thus, programming aimed at eradicating child marriage must focus on addressing these underlying drivers (environmental factors) that shape attitudes and practices.

The index has been developed with this in mind: in order to help Plan design programme interventions that target these 'drivers' more effectively and track their impact.

The index may be used by Plan to:

1. Assess levels of 'risk' of child marriage acceptability in a community (i.e. before designing a programme intervention), according to the presence of structural drivers associated with higher levels of child marriage (acceptability)
2. Determine programming interventions and anticipate how likely a community is to be accepting of the practice of child marriage
3. Track and measure changes in both structural drivers associated with child marriage acceptability, and levels of (predicted) community acceptability over time. This expected rate of change, depending on interventions, lends itself to periodic evaluations or studies (every 3-5 years), rather than routine monitoring which would be too frequent.



2. INDICATORS

Column 1 includes SIX basic **indicators** that are associated with norms and attitudes that are accepting of child marriage.

| Indicator | Relevant Variables on which to Collect Data | Indicator Value/Scoring Guide (0 – 10) | Total Score | Quant Weighting (Scale of 0-1) | Associated Programme Target(s) |
|---|---|--|-------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health | | | | | |
| 2. Household Financial Security | | | | | |
| 3. Education | | | | | |
| 4. Legal Frameworks | | | | | |
| 5. Dowry | | | | | |
| 6. SGBV | | | | | |

These are the indicators you will need to collect data on to score communities in terms of their 'risk' or 'likelihood' (predicted) level of acceptability of child marriage.

3. VARIABLES

Column 2 provides information on the **variables** that you will need to collect data on in relation to each indicator.

The list of variables also includes information about the **population** that you should collect information from in relation to each variable. For example, if the variable says 'married women only'- you will **only** collect data from married women in relation to that variable.

See the example below for the variables for sexual and reproductive health.

| Indicator | Relevant Variables on which to Collect Data | Indicator value/scoring guide (0 – 10) | Total Score | Quant weighting (Scale of 0-1) | Associated Programme Target(s) |
|--|---|--|-------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health | 1. No. of pregnancies (married women only) | | | | |
| | 2. No. of children (married participants) | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|
| | 3. Age of first pregnancy (married women only) | | | | |
| | 4. Difference in age of first marriage and age of first pregnancy (married women only) | | | | |
| | 5. Size of household (adult men only) | | | | |
| | 6. Reported use of modern contraception (married women only) | | | | |
| | 7. Ability to identify modern contraception available in their community (women/girls only) | | | | |
| Household Financial Security | | | | | |
| Education | | | | | |
| Legal Frameworks | | | | | |
| Dowry | | | | | |
| SGBV | | | | | |

4. SCORING VARIABLES

Column **three** provides information on how to ‘**score**’ (code) the data collected in relation to each variable, and column **four** provides information on the **total possible score** in relation to that variable.

See the examples below. For the variable: “No. of pregnancies (married women only)” the total possible “Variable Score” is “5”. If a married woman has had 8 pregnancies or more (8+), she should receive the total possible score of 5. If she has had between 5 and 7 (5-7) pregnancies, she should receive a score of 4, if she has had 4 pregnancies she receives a score of 3, for 3 pregnancies she receives a score of 2, and for one or two (1-2) pregnancies she receives a score of 0.

| Indicator | Relevant Variables on which to Collect Data | Indicator Value/Scoring Guide (0 – 10) | Max Individual Variable Score | Quant Weighting (Scale of 0-1) | Associated Programme Target(s) |
|--|---|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health | 1. No. of pregnancies (married women only) | (8+)=5 (5-7)=4 (4)=3 (3)=2 (2-1)=0 | Max possible score = 5 | | |
| | 2. No of children (married participants) | (8+)=5 (5-7)=4 (4)=3 (3)=2 (1-2)=0 | Max possible score = 5 | | |
| | 3. Age of first pregnancy (married women only) | (<18 years)=5 (18-19 years)=4 (20-21 years)=3 (22-24 years)=2 (25-29 years)=1 (30+ Years)=0 | Max possible score = 5 | | |
| | | (<1 year)=2 (1-2 years)=1 (>2 years)=0 | Max possible score = 2 | | |
| | 4. Size of household (adult men only) | (10+)=5 (8-9)=4 (7)=3 (6)=2 (5)=1 (2-4)=0 | Max possible score = 5 | | |
| | 5. Reported use of modern contraception (married women only) | (doesn't use contraception)=3 (uses contraception)=0 | Max possible score = 3 | | |
| | 6. Ability to identify modern contraception available in their community (women/girls only) | (not able to identify any type)=5 (able to identify one type)=3 (able to identify multiple types)=0 | Max possible score = 5 | | |
| Household Financial Security | | | | | |
| Education | | | | | |
| Legal Frameworks | | | | | |
| Dowry | | | | | |
| SGBV | | | | | |

Remember that you are collecting data from a sample of people across a community. A form of probability sampling should be used. If the population is small, then a simple random sample should be sufficient. If the population is larger then a multi-stage sample process is recommended. Staff or external consultants with expertise in designing samples must be consulted.

Each individual will be assigned an **individual score**. To calculate the community score, you must add all the individual scores together and divide by the **sample size**.

$$\text{Community Variable Score} = \text{SUM (Individual Scores)} / \text{Sample Size}$$

The Community Variable Score is the **average** (mean) score of all the individual scores in relation to that variable.

5. WEIGHTING INDICATORS

After calculating the Indicator Score you multiply this score by its **weighting**.

$$\text{Weighted Variable Score} = \text{Variable Score} * \text{Variable Weighting}$$

Every indicator is weighted on a scale of **0 – 1**.

See the example below which includes information of the weighting scores in relation to the education variables in the index.

| Indicator | Relevant variables on which to Collect Data | Indicator Value/Scoring Guide (0 – 10) | Total Score | Variable Weighting (Scale of 0-1) | Associated Programme Target(s) |
|--|--|--|-------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Access to Sexual and Reproductive health | | | | | |
| Household Financial security | | | | | |
| Education | 1. Type of schooling (All) | | | 0.41 | |
| | 2. Years of school completed (All) | | | 0.27 | |
| | 3. Are girls in school (girls ages 6-18 years only) | | | 0.71 | |
| | 4. Are boys in school? (Boys ages 6-18 years only) | | | 0.31 | |
| | 5. Mother's Education (All) | | | 0.04 | |
| | 6. Father's Education (All) | | | 0.10 | |
| Legal Frameworks | | | | | |
| Dowry | | | | | |
| SGBV | | | | | |

Where the weighting score is closest to 1, the variable has a strong association with norms and attitudes concerning child marriage - for example the variable “are girls in school” has a high weighting of 0.71. Where the weighting score is closest to 0 this indicates that the variable has a less strong association with norms and attitudes concerning child marriage – such as the variables in relation to parents’ education.

Weighting values were calculated from analysis of data collected during Year 1 of the ACMI research.

6. CALCULATING THE INDICATOR SCORE

To calculate the **Indicator Score** you add each of the **Weighted Variable Scores** together.

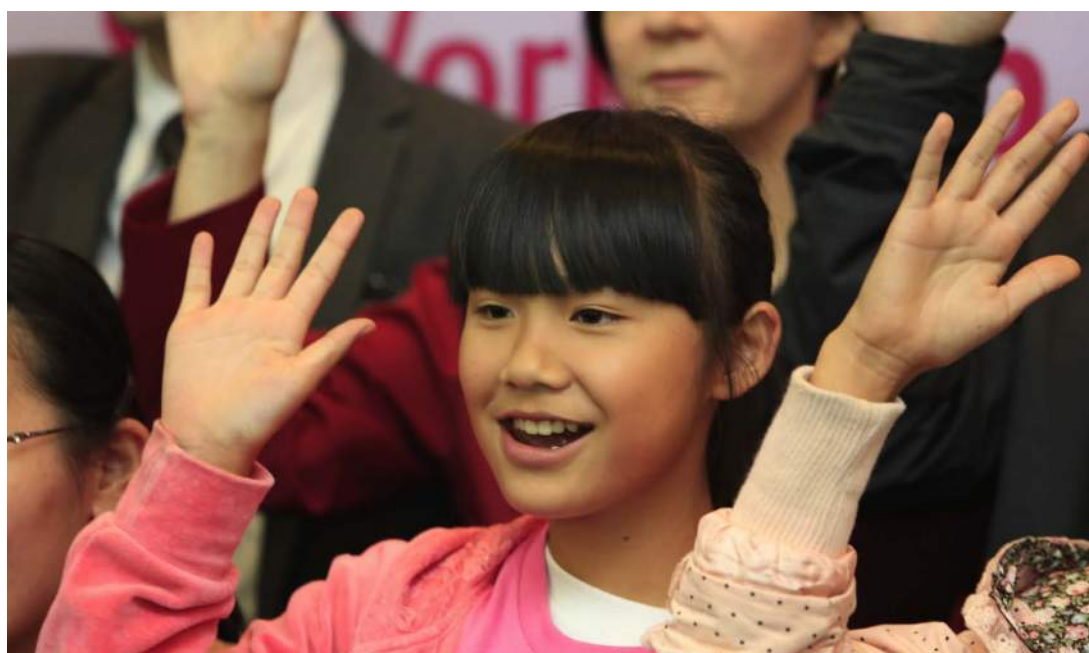
For example:

Indicator Score (SRH) = Weighted Variable Score 1 (No. of pregnancies of married women) + **Weighted Variable Score 2** (No. of children of married respondents) + **Weighted Variable Score 3** (Age of first pregnancy of married women) + **Weighted Variable Score 4** (Size of household of adult men) + **Weighted Variable Score 5** (Use of modern contraception by married women) + **Weighted Variable Score 6** (Women/ girls ability to identify available modern contraception).

7. CALCULATING THE FINAL COMMUNITY SCORE

To calculate the final **Community Score** you add each of the **Indicators Scores** together.

Final Community Score = Score for SRH (Indicator 1) + Score for Household Financial Security (Indicator 2) + Score for Education (Indicator 3) + Score for Legal Frameworks (Indicator 4) + Score for Dowry (Indicator 5) + Score for SGBV (Indicator 6).



Plan International**Regional Office in Asia**

14th floor, 253 Sukhumvit 21 Road (Asok)

Klongtoey Nua, Wattana, Bangkok

10110 Thailand

www.plan-international.org/asia

About Plan International

Plan International is an independent global child rights organisation committed to supporting vulnerable and marginalised children and their communities to be free from poverty. By actively connecting committed people with powerful ideas, we work together to make positive, deep-rooted and lasting changes in children and young people's lives. Over 70 years, we have supported girls and boys and their communities around the world to gain the skills, knowledge and confidence they need to claim their rights, free themselves from poverty and live positive fulfilling lives.