

# YOUTH-LED RESEARCH - CHILD MARRIAGE AND SEXUALITY

## RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE MORE THAN BRIDES ALLIANCE LEARNING PROJECT



The More Than Brides Alliance – Learning Project aims to combine research evidence with implementation experience on the linkages between female adolescent sexuality and child marriage. To capture the perspectives of young people on this topic, youth-led research trajectories were carried out in five countries. This booklet summarises the methodology used, the applicability lessons drawn from the research trajectories, and findings on the linkages between sexuality and child marriage. We hope this document will be useful for practitioners, researchers, and others interested in implementing such a research approach or who wish to understand these linkages from the point of view of young people.

### More Brides Alliance (MTBA) Learning Project

The **More than Brides Alliance (MTBA)** builds on the collective skills and experience of over 25 partner national organisations in collaboration with international organisations, such as Save the Children Netherlands, Oxfam Novib, Population Council and Simavi. Together, we share knowledge on how to address gender inequality and the sexuality-related root causes of child marriage. This knowledge contributes to improving policy and practice aimed at tackling the negative impacts of child marriage on the health and socio-economic wellbeing of girls, their communities, and broader society; and **expanding girls' life choices to assure their Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)**. Within MTBA, the Learning Project 'Making Most of What We Know (MMWWK)' aims to go beyond commonly discussed drivers of child marriage, such as poverty, insecurity, and lack of education, and, instead, highlight the significant links between child marriage and the norms and values around the sexuality of girls.

To ensure young people's voices and perspectives are represented in the research focus of the learning project, youth-led research trajectories were carried out in five countries: Ethiopia, India, Mali, Nepal, and Pakistan. In these trajectories, young researchers were themselves in charge of choosing the research focus, data collection tools, data analysis, and drawing conclusions and relevant lessons learned. To develop their research knowledge and capacities, support was provided to the young researchers, building on their individual strengths and adding to a more comprehensive skill set.