The Women's Refugee Commission, in partnership with the Johns Hopkins Center for Humanitarian Health, has joined forces with a broad consortium of UN agencies, international NGOs, and academic institutions to examine the prevalence and drivers of child marriage in humanitarian contexts and inform prevention and risk mitigation programming.

**ETHIOPIA**

**BACKGROUND**

**STUDY TIMELINE**

May 2019

**POPULATION**

Somali refugees in Kobe Refugee Camp

**TYPE OF EMERGENCY**

Conflict

**STUDY PARTICIPANTS**

Quantitative: 603 households with 650 adolescent girls aged 10–19.

Qualitative: 36 married or divorced adolescent girls 14–19 years old; 36 unmarried adolescent girls 14–19 years old; 76 mothers of married and unmarried adolescent girls; 41 community leaders.

**Child Marriage in Humanitarian Settings**

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1. More than one in seven adolescent girls were currently married.

2. Girls who attended school were less likely to experience child marriage.

3. Having a female adult in the household who was married as a child or was the head of the household was associated with child marriage.

4. Sexual and reproductive health knowledge and use of contraception were low among married girls.

5. Households with multiple girls under age 18 were less likely to marry early.

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**Ethiopia (continued)**

**KEY FINDINGS**

**1.** Life skills programming can be an effective way to enhance the personal resources and adaptive capacities of adolescent girls.

**2.** Child marriage was driven by gender norms, religious beliefs, traditional community practices, and household economic insecurity.

**3.** Life skills programming with caregiver and community engagement can reduce some risks associated with child marriage, such as FGM, and support girls’ education.

**4.** Programming needs to better meet the priorities of diverse adolescent girls who are married or divorced, including those with children.

**5.** Programmers need to use effective girl-engaged risk assessment and monitoring so that programming does not increase some forms of violence against girls.

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