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.

Child Marriage in Humanitarian Settings

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**Lebanon**

- **Girls who were orphaned were very likely to marry early.**
- **About one third of refugee girls marry by age 17.**
- **Being in school or employed reduces the likelihood of child marriage.**
- **Girls belonging to families with a large number of household members under the age of 18 were less likely to enter into marriage.**
- **Girls’ attitudes toward marriage are strongly associated with their own likelihood of entering into marriage.**

**BACKGROUND**

- **STUDY TIMELINE**
  - May – November 2018
- **POPULATION**
  - Syrian refugees in South Lebanon
- **TYPE OF EMERGENCY**
  - Conflict
- **STUDY PARTICIPANTS**
  - Quantitative: 893 households; 1,593 adolescent girls aged 10–19 years.
  - Qualitative: 51 adolescent girls; 28 husbands, 3 fathers, and 27 mother-in-laws of married adolescent girls; 15 program staff.

**KEY FINDINGS**

1. About one third of refugee girls marry by age 17.
2. Being in school or employed reduces the likelihood of child marriage.
3. Girls’ attitudes toward marriage are strongly associated with their own likelihood of entering into marriage.
4. Girls who were orphaned were very likely to marry early.
5. Girls belonging to families with a large number of household members under the age of 18 were less likely to enter into marriage.
**EVALUATION FINDINGS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTICE**

**1.** Programming needs to focus on prevention and the contextual impacts of child marriage, including early childbearing.

**2.** Life skills programming can be an effective way to develop personal resources and adaptive capacities of adolescent girls.

**3.** Program staff should engage key influencers who can facilitate girls’ participation and be open-minded and flexible when reaching out to vulnerable girls.

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**Lebanon (continued)**

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