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.

### Nepal

**BACKGROUND**

**STUDY TIMELINE**
- August – September 2019

**POPULATION**
- IDP populations in Nepal; 4.5 years post earthquake

**TYPE OF EMERGENCY**
- Earthquake (natural disaster)

**STUDY PARTICIPANTS**
- Quantitative: 1,207 female household heads; 1,431 adolescents aged 10–19.
- Qualitative: 49 in-depth interviews; 20 key informant interviews; 21 focus group discussions.

### KEY FINDINGS

**1. Child marriage prevalence was moderate among internally displaced populations. The proportion of adolescents married before age 18 was higher for girls than boys.**

**2. Gender discrimination is driving child marriage through widespread traditional gendered norms, control of girls’ reproduction and sexuality, and family honor, and as a coping strategy to secure basic needs and avoid violence.**

**3. Systemic poverty linked to caste and ethnic discrimination was a driver of child marriage.**

**4. Increased economic pressure was one of the most noted earthquake-related drivers of child marriage.**

**5. Adolescent agency was a driver of child marriage resulting in an increased proportion of self-initiated marriages.**

**6. The disruption of protective systems for children, including the closure of schools, was one of the most noted earthquake-related drivers.**

**7. The recent change in the legal age of marriage in Nepal and an accompanying education and awareness campaign had a moderating effect on child marriage.**

Click to view the regional report and country findings here.