

A group of children are playing in a room with a plain wall. In the foreground, two girls are running and laughing; one is wearing a yellow shirt and blue skirt, the other a yellow patterned shirt and orange pants. Other children are standing or sitting in the background, some in school uniforms.

# Evidence of What Works to End Child Marriage

Anju Malhotra, Principal Advisor, Gender and Rights, UNICEF

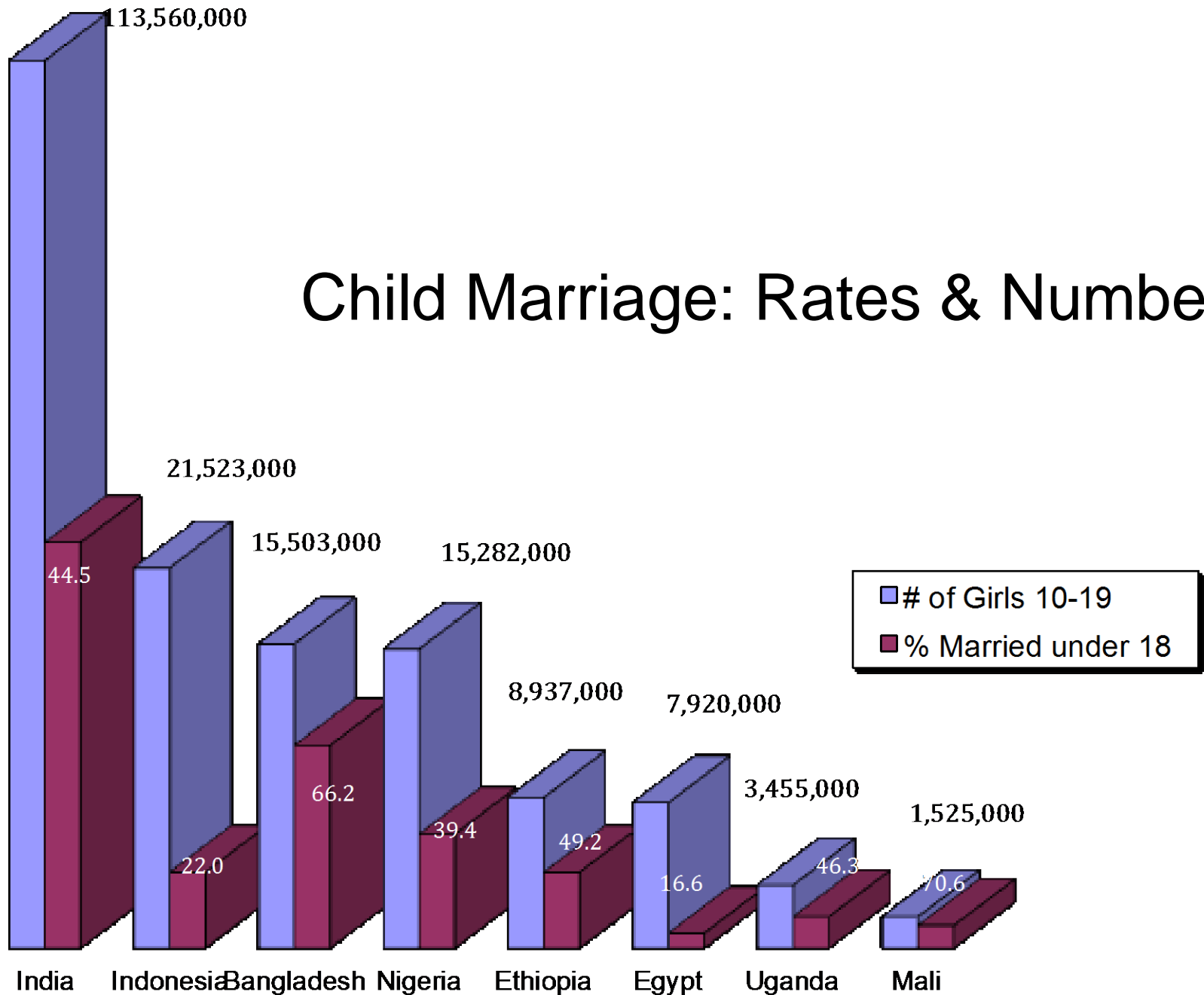
IGWG Event: Vision, Innovation, and Action to Address Child Marriage, June 17, 2013

# Overview

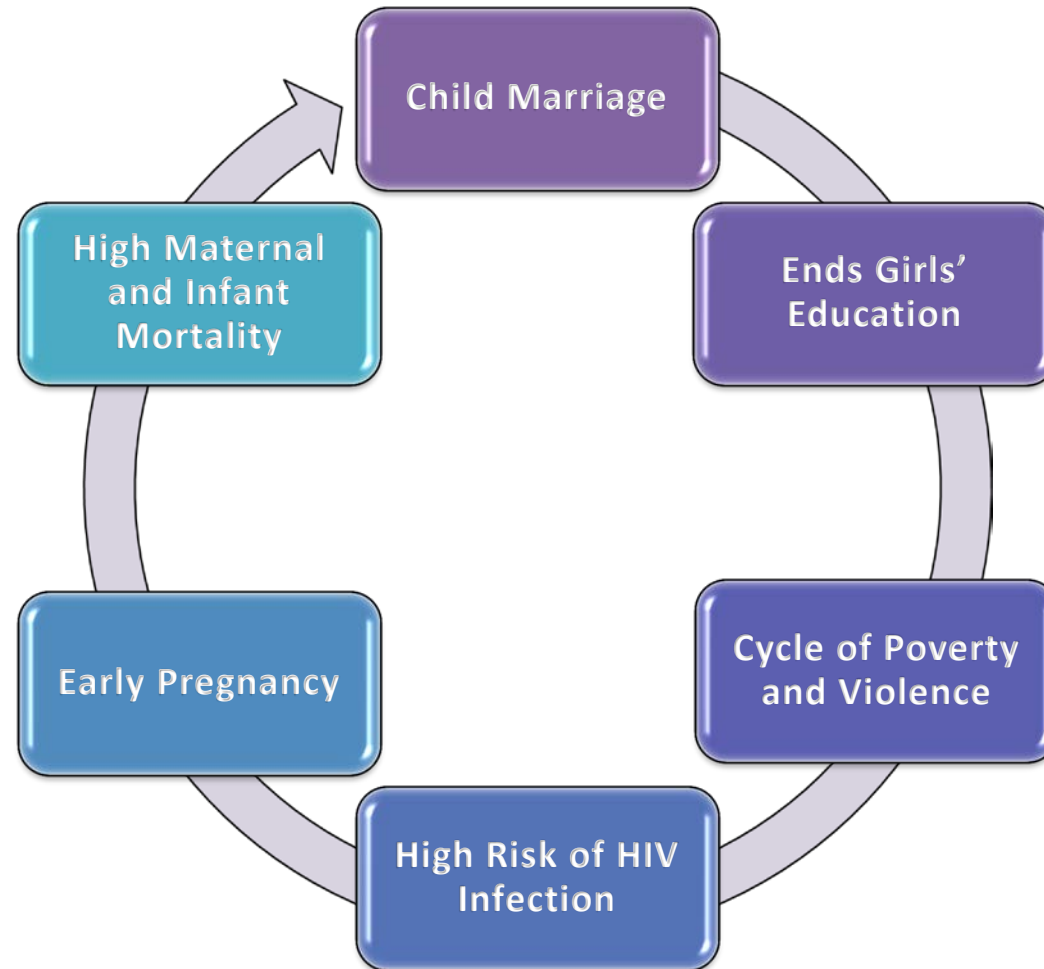
- Prevalence, Consequences
- Evolution of Responses
- Systematic Review for WHO
- Findings and Highlights
- Concluding Insights



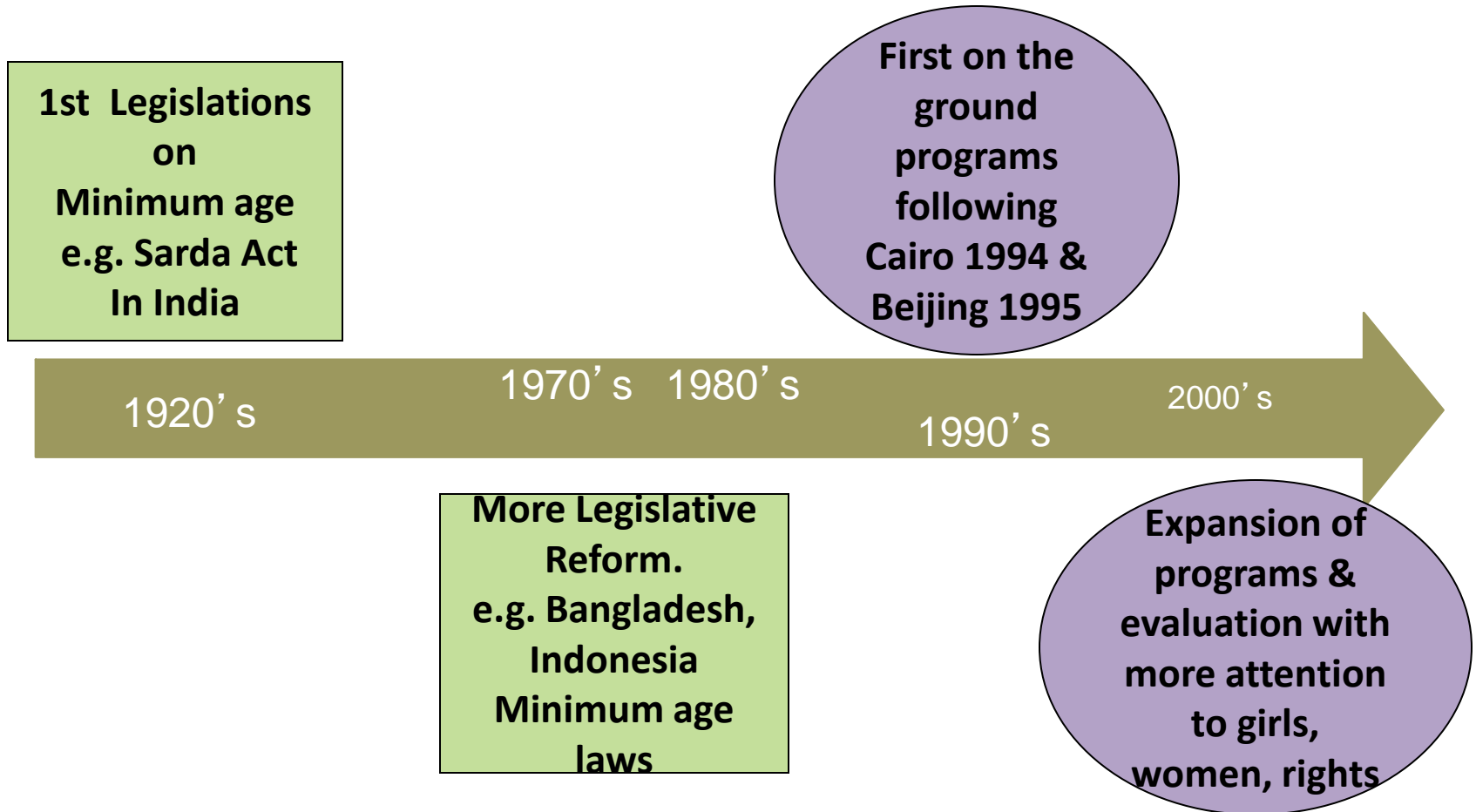
# Child Marriage: Rates & Numbers



# Child Marriage and Cycle of Inequities



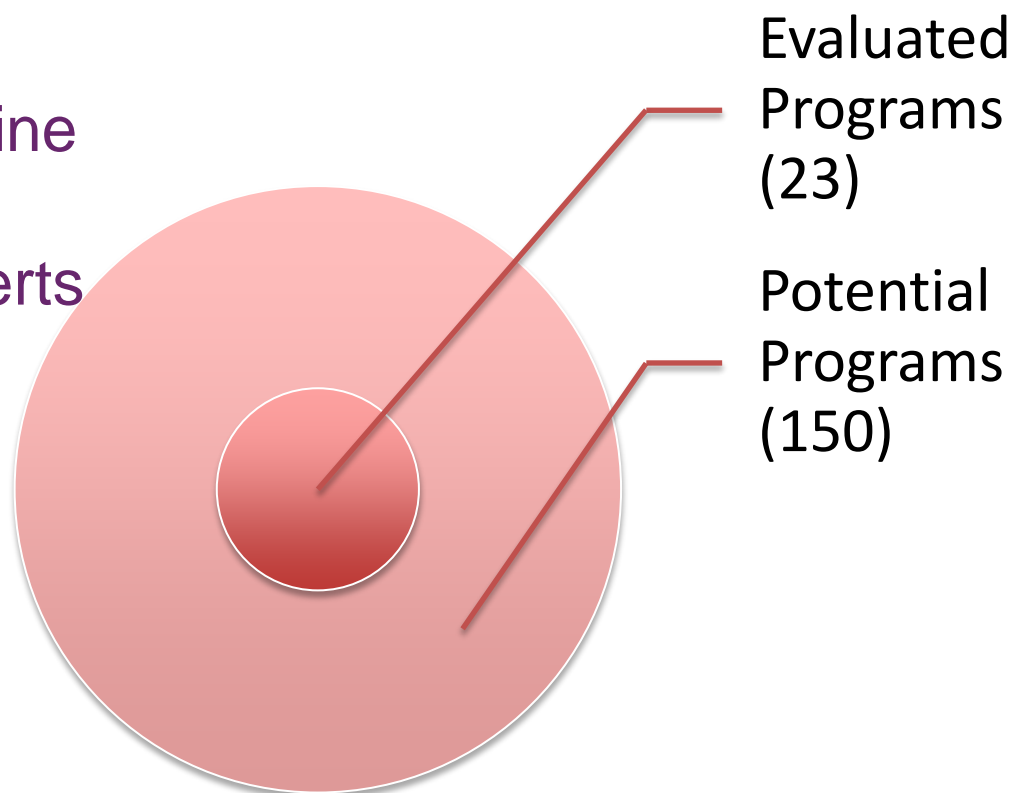
# Historical Response to Child Marriage



# Systematic Review for WHO

## Evaluated Programs to Prevent Child Marriage

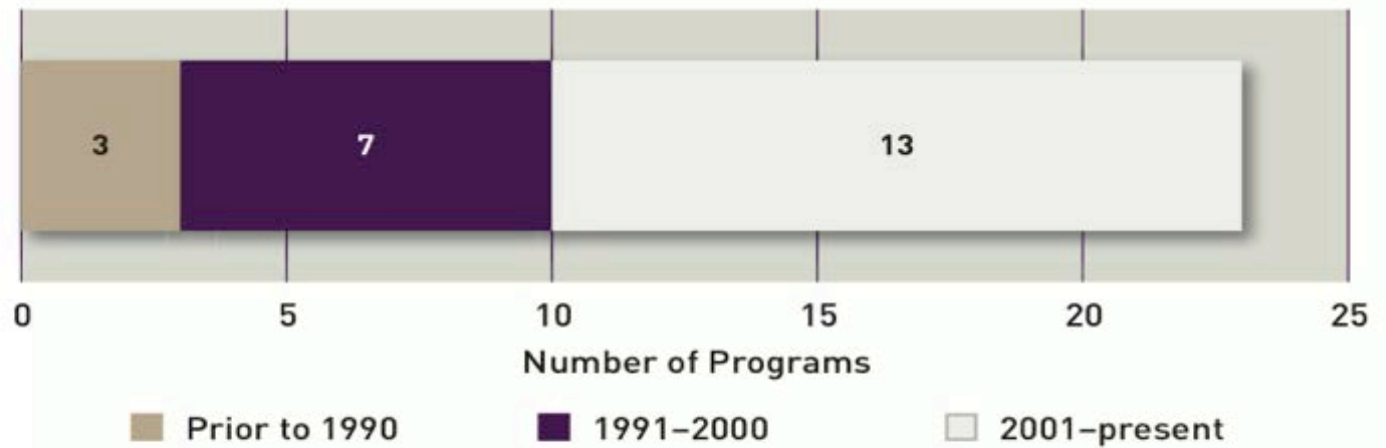
- Wide search: databases, online
- Interview: stakeholders, experts
- Programs and policies
  - Documented evaluation
  - Measure change in child marriage-related behaviors and/or attitudes



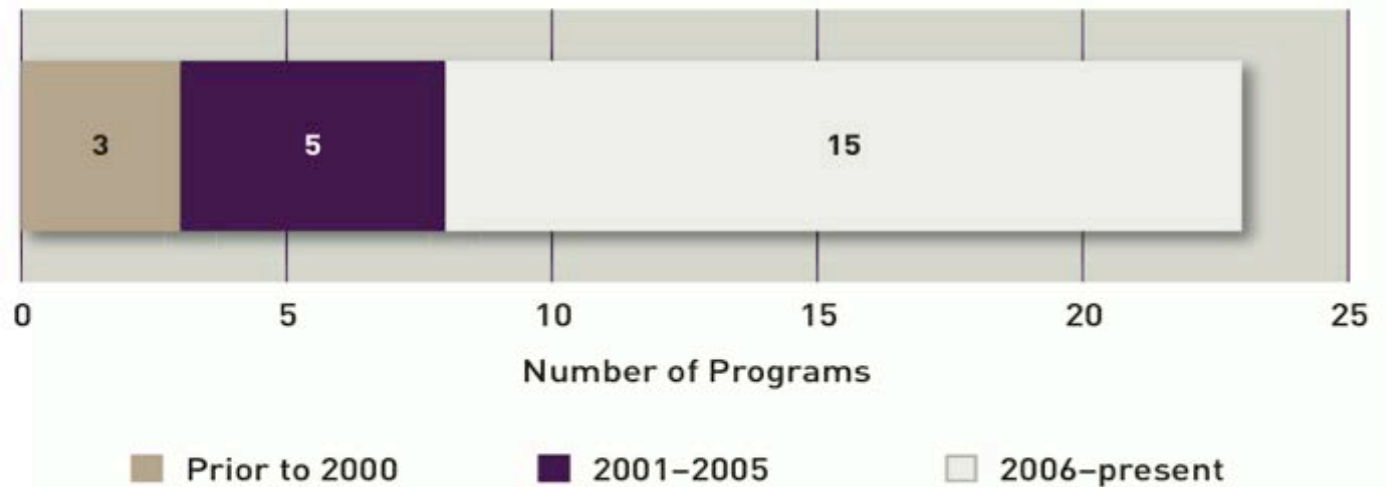


# When?

**FIGURE 1: Program Initiation Year**

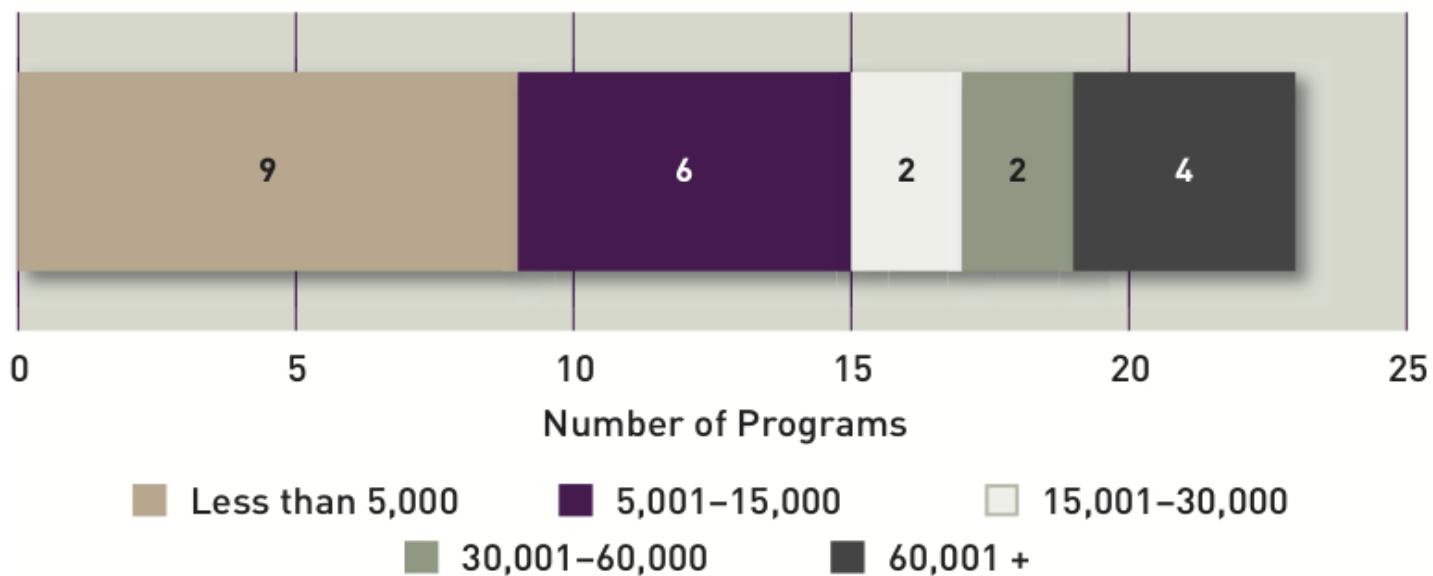


**Evaluation Publication Year**



# Scale?

**FIGURE 2: Scale of Program Outreach**

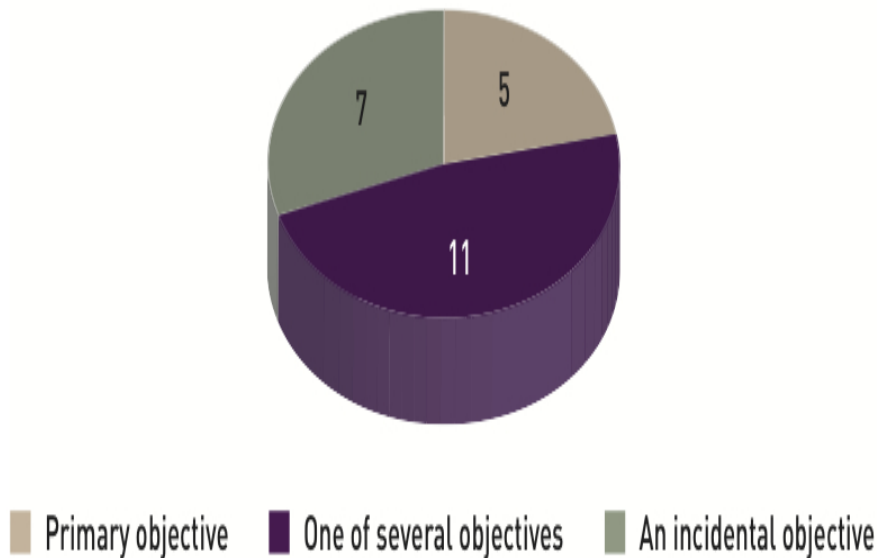




# Focus?

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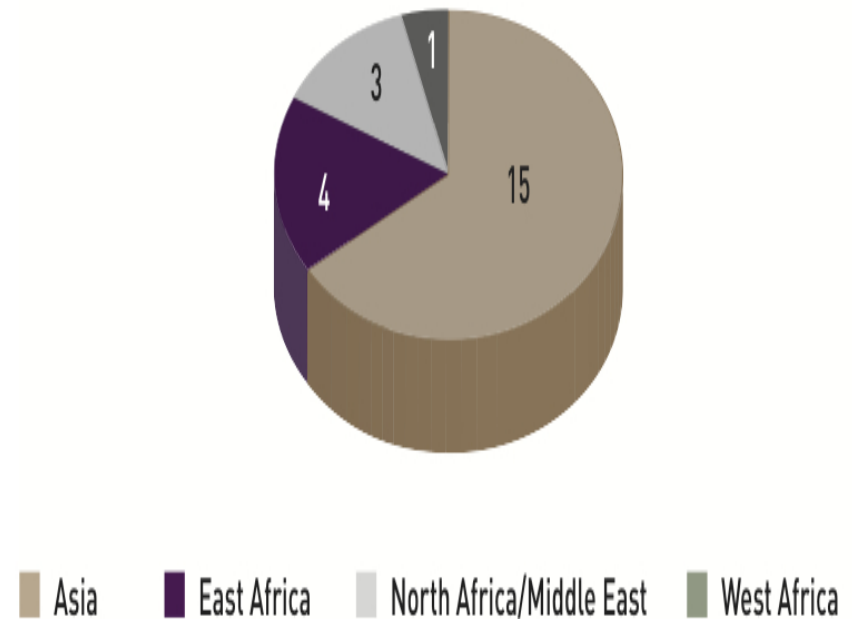
**FIGURE 3:** Child Marriage Prevention as a Deliberate Objective in Programs



# Where?

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**FIGURE 4:** Geographic Distribution of Programs



# Program Strategies

**TABLE 2: Program Strategies**

PROGRAM STRATEGY	NUMBER OF PROGRAMS
1. Empowering girls with information, skills, and support networks	18
2. Educating and mobilizing parents and community members	13
3. Enhancing the accessibility and quality of formal schooling for girls	9
4. Offering economic support and incentives for girls and their families	8
5. Fostering an enabling legal and policy framework	4

# Strategy 1: Empowering girls with information, skills & support networks

- Life skills
- Vocational & livelihoods skills
- Sexual & reproductive health
- Information, education, communication (IEC)
- Mentoring & peer group training
- Safe spaces



## Strategy 2: Educating & Mobilizing Parents & Community Members

- Meetings with parents, leaders
- Community education sessions
- Parental committees & forums
- Information, Education, Communication
- Public pledges, support by influential leaders, family heads etc.



# Strategy 3: Enhancing quality & accessibility of formal schooling



- Prepare, train, support girls to (re) enroll in school
- Improve school curriculum & teacher training
- Build schools, improve facilities hire female teachers
- Incentives of cash, scholarships, fee subsidies, uniforms supplies



## Strategy 4: Offering economic support & incentives for girls and families

- Microfinance, work, financial training to support income generation
- Cash, non-cash incentives, to stay in school or not marry



## Strategy 5: Fostering an enabling legal & policy framework

- Establish or reform of legal minimum age of marriage
- Advocate to raise support, awareness among community & government leaders



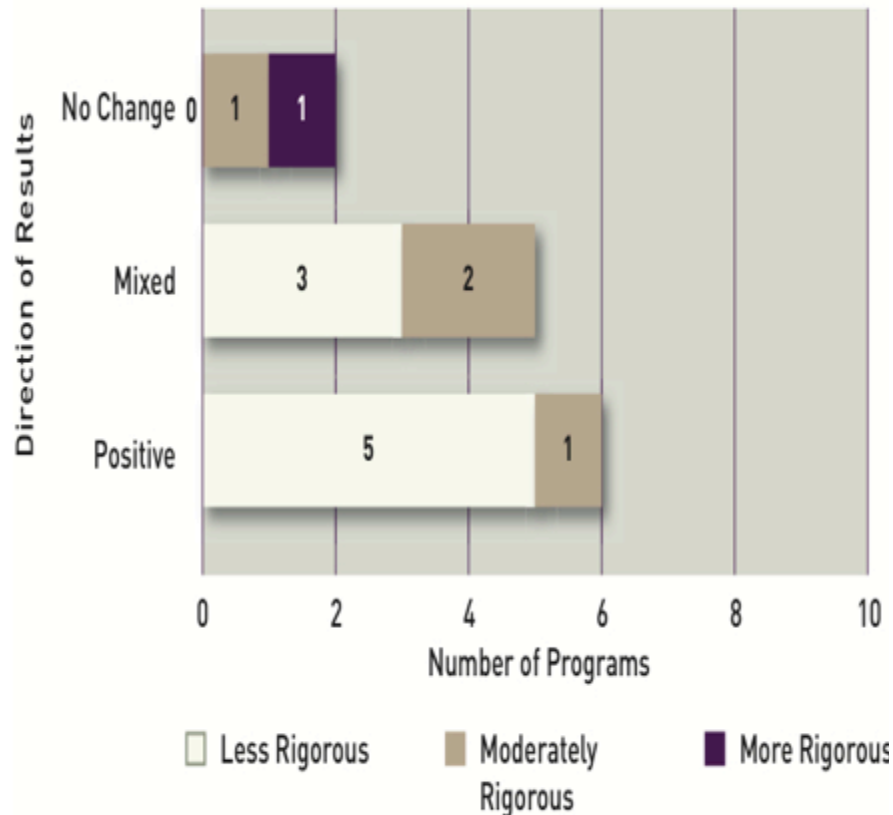


# Metrics of Success

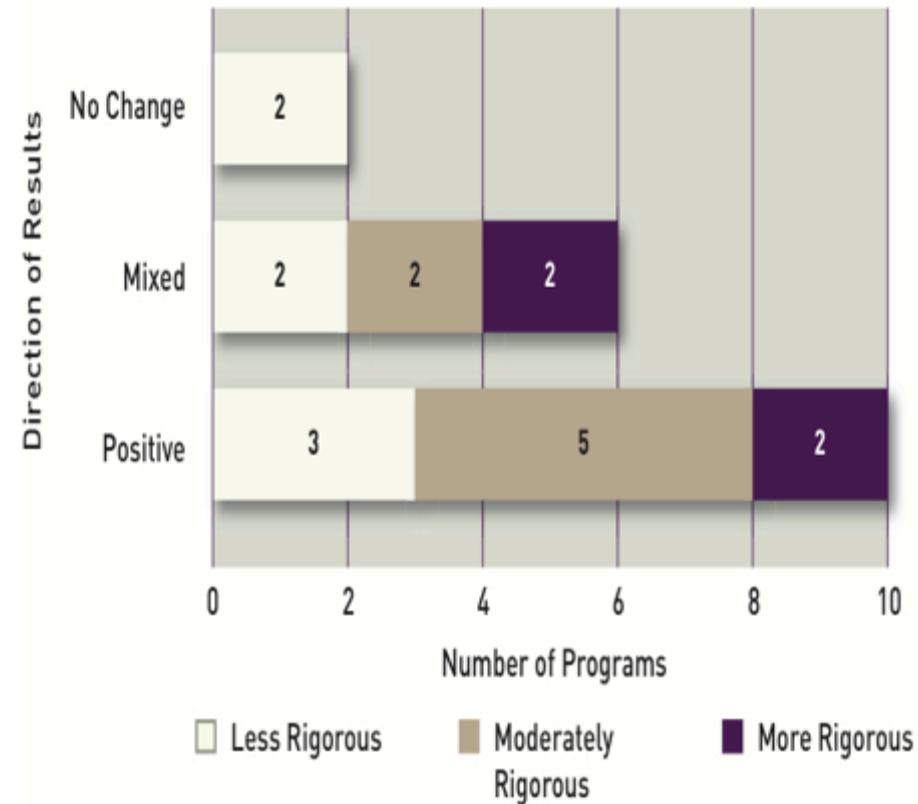
- Better knowledge of negative consequences
- Higher ideal age of marriage for girls
- More support for girls making marriage decisions
- Later age at marriage for girls (and boys)
- Fewer girls marrying before age 18

# Evaluation Results

**FIGURE 5: Results: Change in Knowledge/Attitudes and Evaluation Rigor**



**FIGURE 6: Results: Change in Behavior and Evaluation Rigor**



# Most Promising Strategies

- Empowering girls with information, skills & social networks
- Providing incentives for education



# Concluding Insights: Agenda Forward

- Balance depth with scale & sustainability
- Seek new evaluation approaches
- Innovate faster change with 21<sup>st</sup> century communication, technology, networking
- Consider alternatives to replication:  
creating a tipping point through pioneers

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Month Year

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