

Final technical report for the Young Marriage and Parenthood Study (YMAPS)

I.Cover Page

Project Title	Young Marriage and Parenthood Study (YMAPS) <i>A Comparative Study of Child Marriage and Parenthood in Ethiopia, India, Peru and Zambia</i>
IDRC Project Number	108565-003
Research organizations involved in the study	<i>International Principal Investigators:</i> Dr Gina Crivello (Young Lives) and Dr Gillian Mann (Child Frontiers) <i>Country-level Principal Investigators:</i> Dr Yisak Tafere (ETHIOPIA - Policy Studies Institute (PSI, formerly EDRI); Vanessa Rojas Arangoitia (PERU - Grupo de Analisis para el Desarrollo (GRADE); Dr Oliver Mweemba (ZAMBIA – Child Frontiers)
Location of study	Ethiopia, India, Peru and Zambia
By: full name of author(s), name of organisation	Report authors: Dr Gina Crivello (Young Lives, University of Oxford) Dr Gillian Mann (Child Frontiers) Dr Yisak Tafere (PSI) Dr Nardos Chuta (PSI) Dr Oliver Mweemba (Child Frontiers) Ms. Vanessa Rojas Arangoitia (GRADE)
Report type	Final technical report
Date of report submission	30 September 2020
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II. Executive Summary

Provide an informative summary of the key advances, significant research findings, important outcomes and innovative outputs of the project. The focus should be on project achievements in terms of outputs and outcomes.

Since the last annual narrative report was submitted (September 2019), the YMAPS project has delivered a wealth of research outputs (as listed under Project Outputs below) to comprehensively meet the Project Objectives, within the originally agreed project budget (see Final Financial Report). This final Technical Report details these achievements, which in summary include: all country teams have launched their final research reports, drafted country-specific policy briefs and developed additional materials such as digital stories, case studies, webinars and podcasts. Book chapters have also been published. A comparative report on the findings from all 4 studies was also launched, along with a global policy brief and an animation that explores the overall findings across all country settings.

The dissemination of project results at the national, regional and international level has been hindered by the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, YMAPS findings were to have been shared at the Commission on the Status of Women in New York City in March 2020, but this event was cancelled. Workshops to disseminate findings in Lusaka and Addis Ababa were postponed indefinitely. Despite these challenges, the team has been able to disseminate project outputs through a number of virtual methods, including through webinars and workshops that focused on global and country-specific findings and corresponding policy and programmatic implications.

We are very grateful to IDRC for their support and flexibility throughout this project, including no-cost extensions to project partners that has enabled the most effective use of resources under challenging working environments. For example, the no-cost extension of the Oxford YMAPS contract enabled the successful delivery of an innovative animation and a series of digital stories to communicate project findings in an engaging relatable format; this has been particularly valuable in supporting dissemination in the context of Covid-19 where face-to-face events are significantly curtailed.

III. The Research Problem

What was the basic rationale of the project and the research problem or problems being addressed? Often, the researchers' understanding of the problems will have evolved since the project was approved. The report should describe this evolution and the reasons behind it. Did the research process lead to a revised view of the research problem? Provide a synthesized reflection on the overall progress of the global project (please include the general objective of the project). Describe the contribution to knowledge that this project represents from a scientific, developmental and/or policy perspective.

Adolescence is increasingly recognized as a critical moment of development in the life course, involving the negotiation of multiple social transitions, unique sensitivity to social influences, and challenges in the regulation of emotions and building of identity. Ending child marriage and reducing adolescent pregnancy have been recognized as critical to both protecting the wellbeing of girls and their offspring, and to disrupting cycles of intergenerational poverty. However, approaches tend to be individualistic and to address adolescent marriage and fertility as issues that pertain only to girls and

women, neglecting crucial consideration of gender and of changing social and structural contexts that shape short and long term choices, opportunities, experiences and relationships. Boys, young men and fatherhood receive very little attention. Nor has much attention been paid to what happens after marriage/cohabitation and how these experiences alter girls' and boys' trajectories. This research sought to situate marriage, cohabitation and parenthood in this broader frame.

Research was guided by three overarching questions: 1. *Who marries, cohabitates or has children in childhood, why, and with what consequences for their wellbeing, identity and relationships?*; 2. *How do children who marry, cohabit or have children navigate their new roles and relationships, including experiences of parenting, separation and divorce, and what support and services do they access?*; and 3. *How are the choices, opportunities, experiences and relationships of those children and young people who marry, cohabit or have children shaped by age, gender, and the changing social, cultural and structural contexts in which they and their families are living?*

A conceptual framework was developed to explore the above questions and to inform three broad objectives over a 30-month period (and a series of corresponding activities, some of which contribute to multiple objectives).

Objective One: To generate new research evidence of international relevance on child marriage, cohabitation and parenthood that can improve programs and policies addressing life course poverty and gender inequality.

Objective Two: To use children and young people's knowledge and perspectives to inform research and influence policy decision making.

Objective Three: To build the capacity of research partners and institutions, policymakers and other stakeholders to use research messages and adopt evidence-based approaches.

These objectives did not change over the course of the project; indeed, their continued relevance has been reinforced at the national and global level, where emerging research and anecdotal evidence has continued to highlight the importance of acquiring a deeper qualitative understanding of the experience of married girls and boys and young people, and of taking a gendered, life course and socio-ecological perspective on child marriage and parenthood. Throughout the course of the project, research activities were interwoven in a wider process of policy engagement and communications, and the country-level research culminated in national reports, policy discussions and dissemination workshops as well as cross-cutting comparative analysis and policy and programmatic messaging aimed at a global audience.

From a scientific, developmental and policy perspective, YMAPS has contributed to knowledge and learning in a number of areas. The findings provide a glimpse into the lives of adolescent girls and boys and young people who are (or were) married or cohabiting and parenting. In Ethiopia, India, Peru and Zambia, as globally, their needs and wishes, challenges and frustrations, and hopes and dreams have often been either unknown or ignored by service providers and policy makers. This research revealed their experiences and those of their partners, peers, families and community members. It explored why young marriage happens and whether and when it can be considered a choice; what it is like to be a married young person or adolescent; and how these relationships compare across the generations. In the process, it exposed and explored the diversity of young marriages and unions, the economic constraints that affect schooling, parenting and other activities, and the role of intended and unintended pregnancies in marriage pathways. It highlighted the joys of marriage and parenthood, as well the many challenges young couples and single parents face, such as managing households and juggling the needs of different members; negotiating relationships with little prior experience or knowledge; working within the constraints and frustrations imposed upon them by

power imbalances within relationships due to traditional gender norms. Domestic violence, divorce and separation were common experiences.

Moreover, across all settings, YMAPS found a widespread lack of access among adolescents and young people to the support, services or information that they needed, particularly in terms of contraception. It illuminated the circumstances and situations many confronted as young married individuals and couples, and their views of what they needed to improve their lives and those of their families. Despite the belief, both on the part of young people themselves and their parents, that theirs is a more gender equal generation, the study revealed how similar their ways of living and interacting with each other were to those of their parents and grandparents. Many had not envisaged marriage as part of their childhood experience. They were aware that their once-imagined futures had been frustrated by the social constraints they faced as young people living in poverty, and they were concerned that the hope they had invested in education or employment as a means to a better life might no longer be achievable. Despite this, it was clear that being mothers and fathers to young children gave young people great joy, and a focus for their hope that things would be better for the next generation.

IV. Progress towards milestones

Briefly describe achievement of project milestones (as specified in the Grant Agreement) for the entire reporting period. Have a brief section for each milestone (e.g. Milestone 1.1, 1.2, etc.). Provide evidence that milestones were achieved, and refer to the hard evidence in previous reports and/or attached annexes (as needed). If applicable, explain why any milestones were not achieved.

Milestone (as per Part 3 of grant agreements)	Due date	Notes
Workplan	November 2019	Completed. Workplans submitted included those for individual country studies and for the cross-country comparative work.
First financial report	N/A	Completed. The duration of contracts and the frequency of required financial reporting varied across partner institutions. Submission dates are therefore not included in this table.
First joint technical report (covering first 12 months of work)	September 2018	Submitted and approved in full.
Second financial report	N/A	See above notes re financial reporting.
Third financial report	N/A	See above notes re financial reporting.
Second joint technical report (covering months 13-24 of work)	October 2019	Submitted and approved in full.
Fourth financial report	N/A	See above notes re financial reporting.
Final joint technical report	September 2020	This report constitutes the final joint technical report.

Final financial report	N/A	See above notes re financial reporting. Final Oxford financial report submitted following this report.
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V. Synthesis of research results and development outcomes

The analysis of outcomes should take into account social, gender, and environmental dimensions wherever appropriate and possible. It can be done in two ways, but should be consistent the approach used in your past interim technical reports (confer with the program officer to determine the preferred approach): By each project research objective:

- *Synthesize the main research results during the project, highlighting the progress made by the project. This should be done by listing each specific objective as it is written in the Grant Agreement, highlighting the progress for each one.*
- *If applicable, include any summarized quantitative analysis to back up the results as an annex to this report.*
- *Highlight any unexpected, surprising or interesting innovative results that you can draw out of the research.*
- *Explain how the research results are being used, and what their impact has been on specific communities or populations in the targeted country(ies) at the end of the project.*
- *How were research ethics issues, if any, assessed and managed?*
- *Describe any potential uptake of project results within 3 years of the end of the project.*

The research for YMAPS was undertaken in Ethiopia, Peru and Zambia and cross-country comparative analysis was undertaken to explore shared and contrasting themes and findings. Overall, it was found that:

- Despite laws prohibiting marriage under 18, many young people continue to marry and cohabit due to poverty, lack of opportunity, and entrenched gender norms.
- Informal unions are common in Ethiopia, Peru and Zambia; relationships of this kind may leave young women less protected than in formal marriages.
- Although older people say there is more gender equality than in previous generations, young people's unions continue to be marked by unequal power relationships, and traditional household and caring roles.
- Many young couples experience conflict, which can lead to violence. Divorce and separation are common in Peru, Ethiopia and Zambia, but not India.
- Young married and cohabiting parents say their children are a source of joy, but almost all regret the choices they made to marry or cohabit, and say they were unprepared for married life.

- There is a lack of services and support for young married, cohabiting and divorced couples. Many want to return to school, but few are able to do so. All hope to give their children better lives than their own.

Below the main research results are synthesised according to each of the three overall project objectives.

Objective 1: To generate new research evidence of international relevance on child marriage, cohabitation and parenthood that can improve programs and policies addressing life course poverty and gender inequality.

Results:

- Young people in the study gave a range of economic, social and personal reasons for why they married or cohabited when they did. **Decisions to enter into a union, whether formally or informally, were made in light of collective, familial and relational concerns, rather than solely out from the wishes of an individual young person.**
- **Early marriage and cohabitation patterns vary according to age and gender.**
 - For girls and young women in the study, marriage and cohabitation were related to the desire to escape oppressive or violent situations in their family environment, to improve their socio-economic situation, to begin a longterm relationship with someone they loved, and to seek protection.
 - Boys and young men married and began cohabiting at a later age than women. The majority did so because they felt pressured by their families or their partners' families, and because they wanted or felt obligated to fulfil their social and cultural responsibilities to care for and protect their families.
- **Families often, but not always, play a decisive role in the decision to marry or cohabit:** At the community level, families encourage (and sometimes demand) marriage/cohabitation when it is publically known that a young couple has begun a sexual relationship. The family plays a protective role in the face of the social "disgrace" and possible abandonment of the girl or young woman by the man involved.
- **Adolescence is a time of burgeoning sexuality and experimentation but is nonetheless a socially taboo subject:** Sexual activity during adolescence is not rarely accepted in the social sphere, and is almost always considered permissible in the context of cohabitation or marriage.
- **Marriage and cohabitation at an early age limit girls' educational opportunities:** Some girls do not manage to complete their basic education and others do not continue with higher studies because they must conform to traditional gender roles associated with the care of the household and children.
- **Adolescents and young men and women begin marriage or cohabitation with limited knowledge about or access to sexual and reproductive health services:** The use of modern contraceptive methods usually begins after young women have had their first child or after they have been married. Young people demand better knowledge about these issues, which they argue are insufficiently addressed in school and public health settings.

- **Teenage girls and young women face a lack of opportunities in their communities:** Although access to education for girls and young women has improved in recent years, many cannot access schooling beyond the primary level. For some girls and young women in these circumstances, cohabitation and/or marriage are understood as one of the only or few opportunity available to them to improve their own well-being, and that of their families.
- **Relationships within young couples are marked by unequal power relations:** Young men and women often feel that they were not prepared to start a life together and that the life that they had hoped for did not turn out as they expected. Expectations regarding gender roles in the home subordinate women to their male partners and to their in-laws. Husbands/partners exercise control over their wives' actions as well as their bodies, including through violence.
- **Married and cohabiting adolescent girls and young women who begin living together at a young age are the most vulnerable to violence:** Females who started cohabitation with male partners between the ages of 14 and 15 appear more likely to be victims of physical and psychological violence from their partners. It is common for husbands/partners to believe their partners need to be disciplined in order to learn and fulfil their role as "wives".
- **Young couples' families play a fundamental role in the functioning of the marriage/partnership:** Family members help to mediate conflict and to resolve marital/domestic problems between a couple. They are also a source of childcare support. Girls and young women - as well as many boys and young men – were able to access schooling or higher education because of financial and in-kind support from family. Equally, family support is a prerequisite for girls and young women whose marriages/relationships breakdown, either because of domestic violence or for other reasons.
- **Social and gender norms define and reinforce the dynamics within the couple:** Although changes in family dynamics are recognised across all research settings, such as the fact that women are now able to work more than in previous generations, the domestic burden continues to fall primarily on women. Many young men feel that they must exercise control over their partners in order to demonstrate their strength and masculine identity. Within an ostensibly less conservative relationship, such as a cohabitation between young people, young women still find their autonomy is limited and consider this to be normal. There is little expectation within couples that traditional gender roles will, or should, change.

Objective 2: To use children and young people's knowledge and perspectives to inform research and influence policy decision making.

- Adolescents and young people were the primary respondents in this study and their perspectives and experiences have formed the basis upon which the findings of this study have been established.
- Innovative research methods were used to elicit adolescents' and young people's perspectives, including drawing, ranking and timeline exercises, as well as individual interviews, group discussions, video and photography.
- Digital stories and videos have been developed by young research participants to share their perspectives and experiences. These have been shown in communities across Zambia and to service providers at the district level and national-level policy makers and donors. Similar digital methods have also been used in Ethiopia to document the experiences of young married couples and individuals.

Objective 3: To build the capacity of research partners and institutions, policymakers and other stakeholders to use research messages and adopt evidence-based approaches.

- YMAPS was a collaborative research project with partners in six different countries (Ethiopia, India, Peru, Zambia, Canada and the UK). Cross-country, comparative learning was a fundamental component of the project and one that benefitted all project partners in all locations. Insights, ideas and reflections were provided by a diverse team of skilled researchers and technical experts in a number of different ways, including through peer review, local piloting and adaptation of research tools, national and international reference groups, policy workshops with multi-lateral, bilateral, government and non-government actors over the lifespan of the project.
- Field teams in the study countries involved a mix of senior and junior researchers, facilitating mentoring and skills development, including by affording junior researchers opportunities to enhance field experience, data management, analysis, writing and public presentation.
- In depth training in research methods, including the use of photography, video and other digital methods, was undertaken in Zambia and Ethiopia; trained researchers then used these skills to collect data in their national settings. In Zambia, academic staff and graduate students in public health also received research training and several are now actively using these techniques in their research, including on orphanhood, HIV/AIDS, teen pregnancy, water-borne illnesses and other topics.

Research ethics:

Ethics were an ongoing consideration throughout this research. For example, most of the children and young people and couples involved in this study lived in difficult circumstances and poverty. The observational nature of YMAPS meant that participation in the research brought little direct benefit to participants. Ultimately, in consultation with communities and across the project team, it was agreed that in participants could be compensated for their time and contribution with a gift, such as a very small amount of cash (to reimburse transport costs, or to cover child care expenses while participants engaged in the research).

Across the international research team, we discussed who needed to provide informed consent, given the varying ages of participants and the power hierarchies within families, in the differing study countries. In some countries, in addition to securing informed consent from young female participants, consent was also sought from husbands (of female participants) and in-laws, in line with local social expectations. We reasoned that the risk of reinforcing gender-age hierarchies that disadvantage young women was counter-balanced to some degree by prioritising the participation of the young women in the research.

Digital stories were made in Zambia and Ethiopia. These activities involved a dozen vulnerable young people photographing images of their everyday lives, then researchers using these photographs and the young people's explanations of them, to tell a story for a wider research and policy audience. We were keen to ensure that the final digital images and stories reflected the realities that the young people wished to portray and did not portray them as victims. Another concern was around anonymisation and confidentiality. This was a challenge especially for the Ethiopian stories based on the Young Lives sample, since Young Lives does not reveal the identities of research participants or the study locations. These rules required careful editing and multiple debates about what constitutes an anonymised image, and whether these ethical commitments to anonymization affected the power of the storytelling. Moreover, in Zambia, the release of the films was slightly delayed as all of the young people involved were given the opportunity to review the products before they were shared with a wider audience. Ultimately, each approved of the products and provided their consent to their distribution.

Use of research results and impact: In each of the study countries and at the international level, advisory groups were set up to provide technical input, explore the findings of the research and connect study findings to ongoing and future policy and programmatic work. The lockdown associated with COVID-19 has meant that many of the national face-to-face dissemination events have been postponed. But several workshops and seminars have taken place online, and in each country the PIs are actively discussing research findings with relevant and interested parties. For example, in Ethiopia and Zambia, UNICEF is currently assessing how the study findings relate to their work. Discussions at the community level are also underway, albeit on hold at the moment as a result of the pandemic. This work will continue in earnest as soon as it is safe and possible to do so.

Social media, most notably Twitter and Facebook, has also been widely used to disseminate the findings of the research and to promote the policy relevance of the findings at the country and global level. Blogs have also been used to share various aspects of the research process, such as the challenges faced in recruiting boys and young men to participate. These more informal means of information and knowledge sharing are part of the broader effort of YMAPS to extend the reach of the research findings outside the academy.

Some comments about the YMAPS research results from policy-makers in the four study countries and internationally:

Angela Bravo, Ministry of Education, Peru: *“We are working in the area of adolescent wellbeing and this report bring us evidence in order to understand and characterize the adolescent population, their need in the individual aspect and the collective aspect (...)Perhaps we [as a ministry] have focused a lot on early childhood, but now we need information such as this report about the adolescence to fill the gaps and promote the policy of well-being and education for adolescents[...] We have to have a clear route on the issue of adolescence. It is necessary to work the policy considering life and trajectory, including comprehensive sexuality education and above all to work on the issue of agency in these boys and girls (...) which is what most questions me about the study, we have to achieve boys who decide with freedom.”*

Maricarmen Santiago, Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations, Peru: *“The study is important at this time because we are redesigning the policies of early childhood and adolescence. This study puts on the agenda a problem that has to do with the well-being of children and adolescents so that they can achieve their development. This study shows us an idea and return of the problems that influence comprehensive development and mention how poverty and violence are important for understanding unions at an early age.”*

Leah Gaffney, UK Department for International Development, Zambia: *“Your report on young marriage, parenthood and divorce in Zambia is very interesting... we are very interested in research and interventions for young people, sexual reproductive health rights and education...and wanted to have you share your analysis with colleagues.”*

VI. Methodology

Describe and discuss the research methods and analytical techniques used and any problems that arose. Research instruments such as questionnaires, interview guides, and any other documentation judged useful to understanding the project should also be included. Indicate and explain any changes in orientation that may have occurred since the project was

designed. Indicate any particular learning about merits of different methods for addressing the project's research problem and generating desired outputs and outcomes.

YMAPS was an exploratory, mixed methods study that took place in three sites (rural, peri-urban, and urban) in each of four countries (Ethiopia, India, Peru and Zambia).¹ Its focus was on the generation of qualitative data, that was later contextualised by longitudinal and other survey data from national, regional and global studies conducted by Young Lives and others, such as UNICEF and UNFPA. Data collection combined reviews of relevant documentary sources (such as NGO and Government assessments, reports, ethnographic and other academic research, project needs assessments and evaluations, and other relevant archival materials) as well as individual and group-based interview methods. Creative tools such as life history timelines and community mapping exercises were used to elicit discussion on particular topics (e.g., events leading up to marriage; young couples' access to and experience of support and services; etc.). Selection of participants was designed to cluster interviews around 'core' children and young people, for example, by involving their spouses or parents, to enhance understanding of family and generational dynamics, power and change. By having a cumulative view of data from different contexts and different actors, the aim was to acquire as valid, reliable and objective information as possible. An overall YMAPS research guide containing all suggested research instruments was developed for adaptation and contextualization at the individual country level.

In addition to the tools that are described in the research manual, two additional data collection methods were used in Ethiopia and Zambia. These tools were employed after initial analysis of the country-level data revealed the importance of highlighting the experiences of individual adolescents and young people in creative and participatory ways. In Ethiopia, digital stories were developed with five young people, in which individuals spoke in depth about their lives. Similar visual methods were used in Zambia, where a mash up of digital story telling and Photovoice methods were employed to enable 6 adolescents to share their experiences and perspectives on what it is like to be a young parent in their community. Further details of these approaches are outlined in the corresponding country reports submitted by EDRI (Ethiopia) and Child Frontiers (Zambia).

A study of this kind required a nuanced approach that used mixed methods to generate meaningful data about the complexity of girls' and boys' and young people's lives in different settings. A focus on the individual experiences and perspectives of married, divorced and single parents within the contexts of their families and communities allowed for the emergence of rich detail and important insights. The ability to triangulate and contextualise learning through investigations with parents, peers, service providers and others allowed for a layered understanding of the issues that is rare in the literature on child marriage and parenthood globally. Moreover, the diversity of groups and individuals who participated in this study necessitated the use of a variety of data collection methods to ensure that there were sufficient opportunities and avenues to effectively involve all whose perspectives were sought.

VII. Project Outputs

Making reference to the open access dissemination plan, what were the main outputs of the project? Identify any outputs that were planned, but which have yet to materialize. Specify

¹ The India component of the overall study was funded by the Children's Investment Fund Foundation. India was also the country where some of the overall YMAPS data collection methods were initially piloted.

when these outputs will be completed, including plans for any future publications. Specify how you have met the requirements of IDRC's Open Access Policy. If appropriate, highlight any unique or innovative outputs. If appropriate, explain why outputs were not completed or were of poor quality.

Knowledge outputs (including publications, reports, journal articles, etc.)

Title and Author(s)	Venue	Link	Peer-reviewed?	Contribution
ETHIOPIA				
Yisak Tafere, Nardos Chuta, Alula Pankhurst, and Gina Crivello (2020) <i>Young Marriage, Parenthood and Divorce in Ethiopia</i> .	Research report	https://www.younglives.org.uk/node/8923	No	Filled data gap and input for policy review
Pankhurst, A. (2020) <i>Continuity and Change: Marriage and Parenthood Among Ethiopian Adolescents</i> . Nb. published as a joint publication with IDRC, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, Unicef and Young Lives	Policy brief	https://www.younglives.org.uk/content/continuity-and-change-marriage-and-parenthood-among-ethiopian-adolescents	No	Identified policy relevance
Gina Crivello, Jo Boyden & Alula Pankhurst (2019) <i>'Motherhood in Childhood': Generational change in Ethiopia</i>	Journal Article	http://www.lectitopublishing.nl/download/motherhood-in-childhood-generational-change-in-ethiopia-5918.pdf <i>Feminist Encounters: A Journal of Critical Studies in Culture and Politics</i> , 3(1-2), article 12 Nb. The grant contributed to supporting human resource costs (time for writing).	Yes	Filled data gaps and highlighted intergeneration and social change with respect to the relationship between female childhood, child marriage and adolescent motherhood in Ethiopia.

Five <i>digital stories and videos</i> developed by young research participants to share their perspectives and experiences on young marriage and parenthood.	Digital stories	Publication link pending. Films will be launched in October.	N/A	Using a visual and storytelling format that allows individuals to narrate aspects of their everyday married and parenting lives.
PERU				
Rojas, V. & Bravo, F. (2019) <i>Experiencias de convivencia, matrimonio y maternidad/paternidad en adolescentes y jóvenes peruanos. Reporte de investigación YMAPS.</i>	Research report	http://www.grade.or.g.pe/wp-content/uploads/NDM_YMAPS_RojasBravo19.pdf English translation of the research report available here	No	Filled data gaps, especially in relation to experience of cohabitation in Latin America
Rojas, V. & F. Bravo (2019). <i>Experiencias de convivencia, matrimonio y maternidad/paternidad en adolescentes y jóvenes peruanos. Análisis & Propuestas, 44.</i>	Policy brief	http://www.grade.or.g.pe/wp-content/uploads/GRADENDM_ap44.pdf	No	Identified policy relevance and targeted relevant sectors
Rojas, V.; F. Bravo & N. van der Gaag (2020) <i>Breaking the Silence. Why do Young Women in Peru Marry or Cohabit at a Young Age, and What are the Consequences?.</i> En: Crivello, G. & G. Mann (eds.). <i>Dreaming of a Better Life Child Marriage Through Adolescent Eyes</i> (pp. 49-60).	Book chapter	http://www.grade.or.g.pe/wp-content/uploads/LIBRO_DreamingofABetterLive_YL.pdf	Yes	Filled data gaps, especially in relation to the experience of cohabitating girls and young women in Peru and Latin America more generally.
Niños del Milenio Podcast Serie 1. YMAPS Episodio 1 <i>motivaciones que llevaron a jóvenes peruanas y peruanos a iniciar la convivencia o el matrimonio entre los 14 y 21 años.</i>	Podcast	Episode 1: https://bit.ly/3bHLQw8	N/A	Presented research findings in an engaging and accessible manner.
Niños del Milenio Podcast Serie 1. YMAPS Episodio 2:	Podcast	Episode 2:	N/A	Presented research

<i>¿Qué motiva a hombres jóvenes a iniciar la convivencia a edad temprana? ¿Qué papel juegan las normas sociales?</i>		https://bit.ly/3cT0oe5		findings in an engaging and accessible manner.
Niños del Milenio Podcast Serie 1. YMAPS Episodio 3: Resumen de resultados y recomendaciones de políticas	Podcast	Episode 3: https://bit.ly/36x3qCt	N/A	Presented research findings in an engaging and accessible manner.
Alan Sanchez & Marta Favara (2019) <i>Consequences of teenage childbearing in Peru. Is the extended school- day reform an effective policy instrument to prevent teenage pregnancy?</i>	Young Lives Working Paper 185	https://www.younglives.org.uk/sites/www.younglives.org.uk/files/YL-WP185.pdf Nb. The working paper has been revised and submitted to the Review of Development Economics as part of a special issue (revised and resubmitted).	Yes	Filled data gaps.
ZAMBIA				
Mweemba, O. & Mann, G (2020). <i>Young Marriage, Parenthood and Divorce in Zambia</i> .	Research report	https://www.younglives.org.uk/sites/www.younglives.org.uk/files/YL-CountryReport-Zambia-Mar20.pdf		Filled data gaps, especially in relation to peer marriages, young parenthood and divorce.
Mweemba, O. & Mann, G (2020). <i>Policy Brief 3: Young Marriage, Parenthood and Divorce in Zambia</i> (Summer 2020)	Policy brief	https://www.younglives.org.uk/sites/www.younglives.org.uk/files/YMAPS-PolicyBrief-03-UnderstandingChildMarriage-Jun20-LowRes.pdf		Identified policy relevance and targeted relevant sectors and government Ministries.
Mann, G., & O. Mweemba (2020) 'Bridget's story: A Photo Story of Adolescent Motherhood in Zambia' in (eds) Crivello & Mann. <i>Dreaming of a Better Life: Child Marriage Through</i>	Book chapter	https://www.younglives.org.uk/sites/www.younglives.org.uk/files/YL-DreamingOfBetterLife-LowRes_0.pdf (page 79-93)		Filled data gap with a presentation of a young woman's story, in her own words, in an

<i>Adolescent Eyes</i> . Oxford: Young Lives and IDRC.				accessible and open manner.
Six <i>digital stories and videos</i> developed by young research participants to share their perspectives and experiences on young marriage and parenthood.	Digital stories	Publication link pending. Films will be launched in October.	N/A	Using a visual and storytelling format that allows individuals to narrate aspects of their everyday married and parenting lives.
INDIA (data collection and country research report funded separately by CIFF)				
Marcello Perez-Alvarez & Marta Favara (2019) <i>Maternal age and offspring human capital in India</i> (supported publication costs)	IZA Institute of Labour Economics Discussion Paper 12489	https://www.iza.org/publications/dp/12489/maternal-age-and-offspring-human-capital-in-india	Yes	Filled data gaps.
Renu Singh and Kath Ford (2020) <i>Influencing policy to reduce child marriage in India</i>	Book chapter	https://www.younglives.org.uk/sites/www.younglives.org.uk/files/YL-DreamingOfBetterLife-LowRes_0.pdf (pages 155-161)	No	Expert interview about the role of research in influencing child marriage policy in India.
COMPARATIVE INTERNATIONAL				
Winter, F. (2018) <i>Policy Brief 1: Understanding Child Marriage: Insights from Comparative Research</i> .	Policy brief	https://www.younglives.org.uk/sites/www.younglives.org.uk/files/YMAPS%20Policy%20Brief%2001%20-%20Understanding%20Child%20Marriage_0.pdf	No	Consolidated data and identified gaps in information and knowledge
Van der Gaag, N. (2020) <i>Supporting Married, Cohabiting and Divorced Adolescents: Insights from Comparative Research</i> .	Policy brief	https://www.younglives.org.uk/sites/www.younglives.org.uk/files/YMAPS-PolicyBrief-02-UnderstandingChildMarriage-Mar20-LowRes.pdf		Identified policy relevance across a range of sectors such as SRHR, education, health, etc.

Crivello, G. & Mann, G. (2020) <i>Young Marriage, Parenthood and Divorce: A Comparative Study in Ethiopia, India, Peru and Zambia</i> .	Research report	https://www.younglives.org.uk/sites/www.younglives.org.uk/files/YL-ComparativeReport-Feb20-LowRes.pdf		Filled data gaps, especially in relation to the experience of cohabitation and divorce, and in the similarities between the experience of young marriage and parenthood in three very different social and cultural contexts.
Kristine Briones & Catherine Porter (2019) <i>How does teenage marriage and motherhood affect the lives of young women in Ethiopia, India, Peru and Vietnam?</i>	Young Lives Working Paper 186	https://www.younglives.org.uk/node/8807	Yes	Filled data gaps.
New research on adolescent experience of marriage, cohabitation, divorce and parenthood (14 May 2020)	News release	https://www.younglives.org.uk/content/new-research-adolescent-experience-marriage-cohabitation-divorce-and-parenthood	No	News release to launch comparative research report and raise project profile.
Young Marriage and Parenthood Study case studies from Zambia, Peru, India and Ethiopia	Case studies included with press pack	(see Annex attachments)	No	Case studies drawing on the voices of young people for use in project communications
Blog: <i>The Young Marriage and Parenthood Study (YMAPS) – One Year On</i> . Gina Crivello and Gillian Mann.	In-house publication	https://www.younglives.org.uk/content/young-marriage-and-parenthood-study-ymaps-%E2%80%93-one-year-0	No	Reflected on progress of the research one year into the collaborative study.
Blog: <i>Why is it difficult to interview young fathers about fatherhood and why is it important to keep trying?</i> Francis Bravo.	In-house publication	https://www.younglives.org.uk/node/8830	No	Presented insights into research methods and ethics in an informal and accessible manner

Blog: <i>Adolescent voices must shape policies designed to reduce early cohabitation in Peru</i> . Vanessa Rojas:	In-house publication	https://www.younglives.org.uk/node/8810	No	Provided critical insights into policy making processes in an accessible manner.
Blog: <i>Early reflections on findings from the Young Marriage and Parenthood Study</i> . Julia Tilford, Sheila Avila	In-house publication	https://www.younglives.org.uk/node/8787	No	Consolidated the experience of researchers in at the midpoint of a multi-country study in an accessible manner.
Blog: <i>Lessons from co-constructing digital stories with vulnerable young people in Ethiopia</i> . Nardos Chuta, Gina Crivello, Julia Tilford, Agazi Tiumelissan	In-house publication	https://www.younglives.org.uk/node/8856	No	Provided methodological insights and reflections in an accessible manner.
Blog: <i>Coming of age in the time of coronavirus: young lives and families in low- and middle-income countries</i> . Gina Crivello	Oxford Science Blog	https://www.ox.ac.uk/news/science-blog/coming-age-time-coronavirus-young-lives-and-families-low-and-middle-income	No	Highlights concerns around effects of the pandemic on young people in marriage and with young families in LMICs.
Animation: <i>Second chances: Young Marriage, Parenthood and Cohabitation</i> (3:37)	Animated film	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dB2AbqMqMOE&feature=emb_title	N/A	Communicates in a visual and storytelling format the overall findings across all four YMAPS country settings, targeting a broad audience.

Conference presentations (including strategic engagement at policy forums or panels)

Title & presenter(s)	Date, location	Venue	Comments
ETHIOPIA			

<i>Young Marriage and Parenthood Study: Research findings.</i> Yisak Tafere, Nardos Chuta and Alula Pankhurst	08 October 2019, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	Stakeholders and Reference Group of the Study	Input to the final published report
PERU			
<i>Experiencias de convivencia, matrimonio y maternidad/paternidad en adolescentes y jóvenes peruanos.</i> Vanessa Rojas	03 December 2019, Lima, Peru	Launch of the Peru country analysis report	
“Matrimonio, convivencia y paternidad temprana en el Perú” (Young Marriage and Parenthood Study) Vanessa Rojas.	20/05/2019 – 22/05/2019 Rio, Brazil	International Conference: ‘In Whose Best Interest?’	Organised by The Institute of International Relations and the Department of Social Work at PUC-RIO
<i>“La inequidad y la violencia como factores relevantes en la toma de decisión para iniciar la convivencia en Perú” (Inequality and violence as factors influencing the decision live in informal unions in Peru)</i> Vanessa Rojas	14/06/2019 Lima, Peru	Meeting in which the report by Plan International Peru and UNFPA was launched: ‘Peruvian adolescents: Young marriage or informal unions - tradition, challenges and recommendations.’	<i>Vanessa provided a commentary on the report and presented evidence from YMAPS</i>
ZAMBIA			
Oliver Mweemba & Gillian Mann <i>‘Implications for policies and programmes on sexual and reproductive health from the YMAPS Study in Zambia’.</i>	27 July 2020	Two hour long workshop for DFID Zambia and government, bilateral and multilateral donors on SRHR in Zambia	Organised by DFID Zambia to stimulate thinking and action on how to better address the SRHR needs of adolescents.
COMPARATIVE INTERNATIONAL			

‘Marital and fertility decision-making among adolescents and married young couples: A qualitative study in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, India’, Gina Crivello	12-15 Nov 2018	2018 International Conference on Family Planning, Kigali, Rwanda	<p>Speaker in panel on: Understanding the Reproductive Desires and Family Planning Needs of Married Adolescents and Young Women</p> <p>Panel organized by: Suzanne Petroni, Gender Equality Solutions, LLC, with participation from Girls not Brides, CARE International, and Population Council’s Girl Center.</p>
YMAPS international team <i>Stakeholder roundtable meeting –YMAPS</i>	1 Feb 2019 Lima, Peru	Peruvian stakeholder meeting	<p>A stakeholder roundtable meeting was scheduled to coincide with the YMAPS international team meeting in Lima, enabling YMAPS researchers from Peru, Ethiopia, Zambia, India, Canada and the UK to present emerging findings to Peruvian policy makers, academia, activists and NGOs. Among attendees were representatives from the Ministry of Women, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, UNICEF, Manuela Ramos, Plan International, UNFPA, PROMSEX.</p> <p>Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s8DWw9ZR26E</p>
Gina Crivello “Marriage and Parenthood in Young Lives”	30/09/2019 – 02/10/2019 Geneva, Switzerland	‘Advancing the evidence base on strategies to end child marriage and support married girls’, meeting organized by the Department of Reproductive Health and Research (RHR) / Human Reproduction Programme (HRP) of the World Health Organization (WHO), in collaboration with UNICEF/UNFPA and Girls Not Brides.	Although Young Lives was invited to contribute to the session on ‘Measuring child marriage rates, trends & determinants’, it was a timely opportunity to signal emerging findings from YMAPS, network, and to flag the array of upcoming communications outputs that the study will be keen to share with this network.

<p>Webinar: <i>Child Marriage Before and After Covid-19</i>,</p> <p>Presentation on 'Young Marriage and Parenthood Study'. Gina Crivello and Gillian Mann</p> <p>'Introduction to IDRC's Early Child and Forced Marriage Programme' Ramata Molo Thioune , IDRC Senior Program</p>	<p>19/05/2020</p>	<p>This webinar brought together YMAPS research on married, cohabiting and divorced adolescents, GreeneWorks' research on the pathways and obstacles to leaving child, early, and forced marriage and Girls Not Brides' Agenda for Action in the face of COVID-19. It argued for a range of specific measures that take young people's needs into account as the world reorients itself after the current crisis.</p>	<p>https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/events/webinar-marriage-and-divorce-among-adolescents-before-and-after-covid-19/</p>
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VIII. Problems and Challenges

Have there been any problems or challenges faced by the project? These could include delays, problems amongst stakeholders, with research activities etc. Highlight any risks that might have emerged in the project, and innovative ways you have found to deal with these risks. Reflect on possible problems and challenges related to ethics.

If the threat of COVID-19 and related lockdown measures have meant altering in-country plans, especially with regard to dissemination and impact, please describe these changes and any adjustments or future plans, if any.

As mentioned above, the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in the postponement of some face to face dissemination activities. One of the events that was cancelled was a panel presentation to be held at the UNCSW in New York in March 2020. Other events included the in-country dissemination and policy development workshops that were planned to take place in Ethiopia, Peru and Zambia, but were postponed because of widespread lockdown measures. In response to this challenge, and to enable the research findings to be shared as widely as possible, webinars and seminars were held online, and one-on-one telephone conversations were held with members of the advisory committees, and government, NGO, multilateral and bilateral donors in several countries. The PIs are continuing to

make these contacts and to continue the dissemination of the research to the target audiences, despite the fact everyone affiliated with YMAPS has been working from home for the past six months, as are the majority of those we seek to connect with.

IX. Administrative Reflections and Recommendations

This section is not about research recommendations, but administrative recommendations for IDRC. What would you do differently as a result of this experience, and what general and useful lessons can be derived for improving future projects?

What recommendations would you make to IDRC with respect to the administration of the project, related to the scope, duration, or budget? Candid observations about the overall experience with the project are encouraged. However, any sensitive or confidential information should be addressed through a direct exchange with the program officer and documented and filed separately.

YMAPS' contractual arrangements with IDRC comprised 4 separate contracts (Child Frontiers, PSI, GRADE, and University of Oxford). Because each institution had different project start and end dates, partners were out of synch in their reporting requirements across the whole project period. This lack of synchronicity and decentralised contractual arrangements also created some challenges around project management, particularly in relation to the University of Oxford's role in managing deliverables for partners with whom it did not have a direct contractual relationship. In addition, having four separate budgets reduced project flexibility and ability to reallocate overall project underspend or respond to new opportunities in a timely and efficient manner. YMAPS also faced challenges when a change in government in Ethiopia resulted in the dissolution of our key partner (EDRI) as it was reconstituted as PSI; the Oxford YMAPS budget was required to absorb some financial costs during this period of transition, which it was subsequently unable to recover.

Despite these challenges, the YMAPS partners are very proud of their collective achievements during the course of this project and believe we have delivered a broad range of powerful research outputs that have the potential to directly inform future policy and programme decisions to improve the lives of young people experiencing early marriage and parenthood. We are very grateful to the IDRC for funding this research and providing continued advice and support throughout the project.