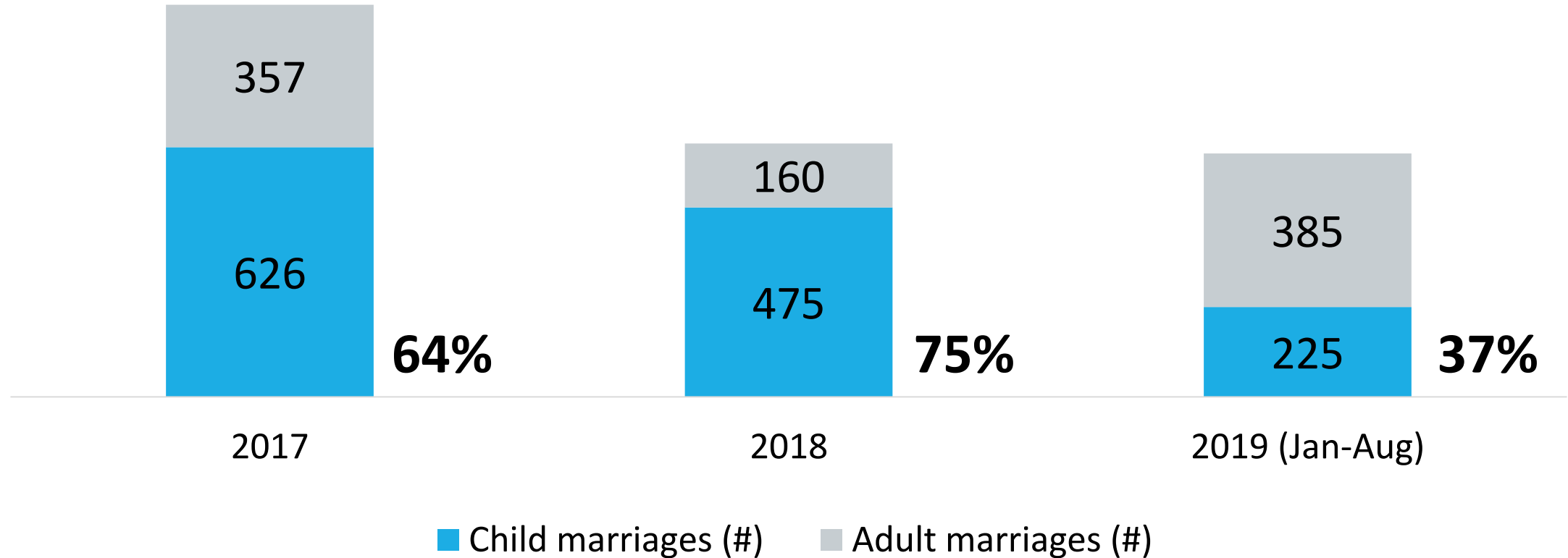


Child Marriage FGD Outcomes

Zaatari Camp CP-SGBV SWG - Sep 17, 2019

CM in numbers

Child marriage documentation in Zaatari (2017-2019)



CM: ongoing activities

Prevention

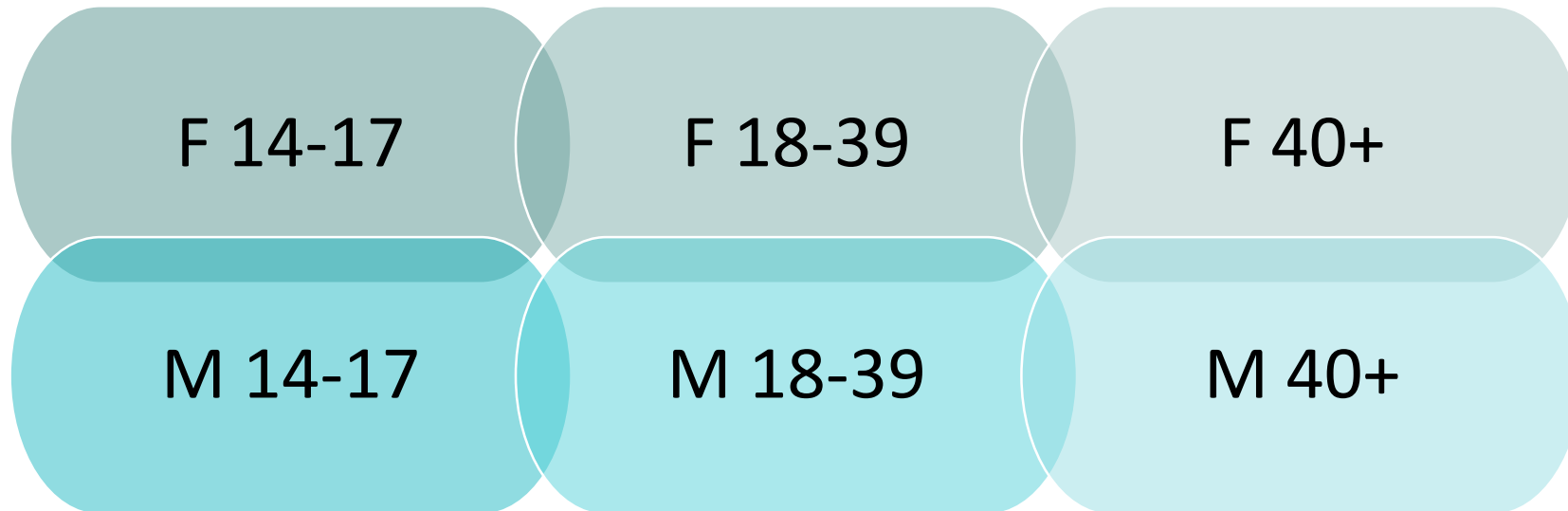
- Awareness-raising (IMC, UNHCR, UNICEF)
- Empowerment activities (IFH, UN WOMEN)
- Child marriage counselling (UNHCR)
- Life skills (UNICEF)

Response

- Case management (IFH, IMC, UNHCR)
- Support groups (IFH, IMC)
- Drop-out/remedial programs (RI)
- Psychosocial support (MC)

Interagency FGD structure

IFH, IMC, MC, RI, SCJ, UNHCR conducted 12 discussions on July 7-9



Interagency FGD questions

Question	Adolescents	Adults
What does the term “child marriage” mean to you? Do you know about the legal framework in Jordan?	X	X
Why do you think some children under 18 from ZC get married? Why do girls or boys decide to marry early?	X	
Why do children under 18 from Zaatari get married?		X
What do you think is a good age for girls to get married? Why?	X	
What do you think is a good age for boys to get married? Why?	X	
What are the advantages of girls getting married under 18? What are the disadvantages?	X	X
What are the advantages of boys getting married under 18? What are the disadvantages?	X	X
Is there anything else you would like to add about why children marrying is common in Zaatari?	X	X
In your opinion, is the fact that children under 18 years marry a challenge? If so, what could be the role of adolescents or the community to address this?	X	X
Are you aware of any Child Protection agencies providing activities to address child marriage? What other activities would you suggest to prevent children from marrying under age?	X	X
Is there anything else you would like to add about how child marriage can be reduced in Zaatari?	X	X

FGD outcomes: CM basics knowledge

Definition

- All groups: children getting married under 18 years old

Jordanian legal framework

- Adolescent groups: girls can get married at 15, boys at 16 or 18
- Adult groups: only M 18-39 knew legal age for marriage to be registered at Sharia Court is 15

FGD outcomes: CM causes

Family lineage

Religion

Protection

Ignorance

Love

Poverty

Tradition

Teaches
responsibility

FGD outcomes: good ages to marry, according to adolescents

Girls

- **Females:** At 20+ after finishing education, under 20 because no one would propose to an older girl for cultural reasons
- **Males:** After finishing high school, at 18 when she's mature

Boys

- **Females:** At 20-22 after university and is responsible
- **Males:** At 25 after having some life experience

FGD outcomes: CM (dis)advantages for girls



Advantages

- Orphaned girl has a new family
- Girl receives new clothes
- Girl protected from harassment
- Girl develops good behavior and morality
- Parents are happy
- Family reduces financial burden
- Family gets respect from community

Disadvantages

- Less time to enjoy youth
- Ill-prepared for responsibilities/parenting
- Has to drop out of school
- Girl not finishing school will have a negative impact on couple's children in future
- Health issues, high-risk pregnancies
- Increased chance of divorce
- Unaware how to cook or do housework

FGD outcomes: CM (dis)advantages for boys



Advantages

- Makes boys mature and take responsibility
- Establishes extended family if boy is only son
- Only son has kids to carry on family name
- Makes parents happy, especially to become grandparents
- Stops boys from harassing girls at schools
- Prevents immoral behavior (sex out of wedlock)
- Young girls are beautiful, willing to love spouse

Disadvantages

- Younger boys can't manage responsibilities
- Boys don't learn to be independent (go from parents' home to having a wife)
- Higher chance of divorce
- Can't enjoy youth
- Having to drop out of school
- Extra pressure to financially support new wife
- Child husbands can't protect their wives

FGD outcomes: responding to CM

Community's capacities

- Ensure all boys and girls under 18 are attending school
- Launch social media campaign
- Raise awareness of CM risks involving tribal and religious leaders
- Parents to stop entertaining proposals for underage children

Authorities' roles

- Change legal marriage age to 18 and fine those marrying underage

Partners' roles

- Launch social media campaign
- Distribute brochures about CM risks
- Develop a play about CM
- Engage girls in vocational skills courses
- Have information-sharing about CM risks and education benefits at schools
- Conduct more discussions with women and girls
- Increase work opportunities (including IBV) for parents
- Advocate to increase dowries

Way forward: interagency actions

CP-SGBV SWG is developing **interagency interventions with the community** to address CM in Zaatari Camp based on FGD outcomes.

Proposals

- Coordinate awareness raising key messages
- Work with influential community members (e.g. religious leaders)
- Engage children and youth (e.g. plays, social media campaign)
- Liaise with linked sectors (e.g. education, livelihoods)
- Launch a grassroots campaign (e.g. door to door sensitization, pledges)

Upcoming event: CM roundtable

IFH and UNFPA are coordinating a high-level roundtable discussion

- **Purpose:** to discuss current policies/regulations and to develop plans/programs to reduce CM in Zaatari Camp
- **Expected participants:** community leaders and members, SRAD, Sharia Court, other governmental actors, humanitarian agencies, CP-SGBV and Education SWG members, media
- **Date:** October 2019