GIRLS NOT BRIDES

Global Partnership to End Child Marriage

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 DECEMBER 2025

Company number: 8570751

Charity number: 1154230

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LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity Number:	1154230
Company Number:	8570751
Registered office and: Operational Address	Seventh Floor 65 Leadenhall Street London EC3A 2AD United Kingdom
Trustees:	Dr Alaa Murabit – Chair Ramin Shahzamani – Vice Chair Zipporah Jean Alaroker Georgia Arnold (Stepped down 2 December 2025) Sandra Breka (From 7 May 2026) Sinéad Donovan – Treasurer (From 30 January 2025) Michael Feigelson Emma Puig De La Bellacasa
Chief Executive Officers:	Dr Faith Mwangi-Powell (Left 30 June 2026) Amanda Austin (Interim Co-CEO from 1 July 2026) Lara van Kouterik (Interim Co-CEO from 1 July 2026)
Key Management Personnel:	Dr Faith Mwangi-Powell, Chief Executive Officer (Left 30 June 2026) Akila Lingham, Director of Operations & Finance (Left December 2025) Rita Soares, Director of Regions, Partnership & Member Engagement Amanda Austin, Director of External Engagement Loraine Stevenson, Director of People and Culture Lara van Kouterik, Director of Learning, Evidence and Impact (From April 2025) (Acting Director prior to this date) Caron McLoughlin, Director of Finance (From 1 June 2026)
Auditors:	Sayer Vincent LLP 110 Golden Lane London EC1Y 0TG
Bankers:	HSBC Bank plc 21 Kings Mall, London W6 0QF
Solicitors:	Bates Wells 10 Queen Street Place, London EC4R 1BE

INTRODUCTION TO *GIRLS NOT BRIDES*

Girls Not Brides is a global partnership with a singular purpose: to end child marriage. We envision a world where girls in all their diversity decide if, when, and whom to marry and where their rights and futures are fully realised.

To achieve this urgent goal, we've built a movement of more than 1,400 grassroots, national, and international organisations across nearly 100 countries. We know we can achieve more together than we ever could alone, which is why we mobilise, equip, and influence our ecosystem to address the political, social, legal, and economic conditions that allow the practice to persist. Inspired by shared purpose, we will influence systems change, harness collective power, and build a future free from child marriage.

How we work

Girls Not Brides is a global partnership of more than 1,400 civil society organisations across nearly 100 countries dedicated to ending child marriage. We bring together local, national, and global actors standing alongside girls as they shape their own futures. Our role is to mobilise this global partnership to affect transformative change. We aren't a service delivery organisation, a fund, or a replacement for local actors. Instead, we support local and national leadership, mobilise multi-sectoral action, and shape political and investment agendas to prioritise girls' rights. This involves connecting and amplifying the organisations best-placed to bring about meaningful change, and combining all our knowledge and resources to maximise impact towards our shared mission.

Girls Not Brides is constantly connecting, learning, uniting, resisting, and influencing, steadfast in our belief that change can and will happen. This means connecting efforts across countries and communities and mobilising leaders at every level. It means shaping political agendas, challenging unequal norms, and channelling resources to where they can have the greatest impact. And it means putting local, girl, and survivor leadership at the heart of every solution. Girls Not Brides stands in solidarity with our member organisations, which is why they inform what we say, what we do, and how we do it. Many of them work in the health, education, and human rights sectors; some implement programmes, while others focus on research and advocacy. All are united by a commitment to end child marriage, everywhere.

About child marriage

Every year, more than 12 million girls are married before they turn 18. Child, early, and forced marriage and unions deprive girls of their rights. When a girl is married too young, her chances to stay in school, earn a decent income, and make decisions about her own body and future are drastically reduced, locking her, and often her family, into cycles of poverty and inequality. When girls can choose if and when to marry, the result is better health outcomes, stronger economies, and more resilient communities. Ending child marriage and guaranteeing girls' rights means a fairer, more secure and prosperous future for us all.

Child marriages look different in every community, and the reasons behind it vary across and within regions. In summary, it's a systemic, multi-sector challenge rooted in gender inequality that no single organisation or approach can solve. That's why we work with a diverse network of organisations dedicated to ending the practice, advancing creative solutions and powerful influencing that prioritise the rights of girls everywhere.

What we learned

2025 was the final year of our 2022-2025 strategy. It was a year of deep reflection and evaluation, where we gathered lessons from our work and staff and consulted widely with our members, partners and allies to inform our new strategic plan for 2026-2030.

From these consultations we learnt that:

- We see the most significant reductions in child marriage when **multiple drivers are addressed simultaneously**.
- We see sustained progress in countries where **national ecosystems** are anchored in strong local leadership, backed by political will, and equipped with the resources and coordination to act.
- The trade-off: going 'deeper' or 'wider.' Investing in **sustained, intensive work** in fewer countries consistently **yields greater long-term impact** on targeted policy and norm shifts than spreading capacity and efforts thinly across many countries and regions.

These insights have underpinned our new 2026-2030 strategy, which focuses on two pillars: Global Action and Country Impact (see *Strategic Plans for the Future*).

Abbreviations

- CEFMU – Child, early and forced marriage and unions
- CSW – UN Commission on the Status of Women
- FGM/C – Female genital mutilation/cutting
- GTA – Gender-transformative approaches
- INGO – International non-governmental organisation
- LAC – Latin America and the Caribbean
- MoU – Memorandum of Understanding
- SORP – Statement of Recommended Practice
- The CRANK – Child Marriage Research to Action Network
- UK – United Kingdom
- UN – United Nations
- UNFPA – United Nations Population Fund
- UNGA – United Nations General Assembly
- UNICEF – United Nations Children's Fund
- WACA – West and Central Africa
- WHO – World Health Organisation

Definitions

Child marriage

We use the term "child marriage" to refer to all forms of child, early, and forced marriage and unions where at least one party is under the age of 18. In this, we include all girls and adolescents affected by the practice –

whether in formal or informal unions – and acknowledge the culturally-specific understandings of childhood and development, and the complex relationship between age, consent, and force.

The Movement to End Child Marriage

The Movement to End Child Marriage comprises an informal global network of civil society and grassroots organisations, national and international non-governmental organisations (INGOs), activists, academics, United Nations (UN) agencies, funders, governments, leaders and champions – all working towards a world without child marriage where girls can exercise their rights and reach their full potential.

The *Girls Not Brides* global partnership (the Partnership)

At the end of 2025, the *Girls Not Brides* partnership encompassed over 1,400 member organisations in nearly 100 countries, committed to working together to end child marriage and support married girls. *Girls Not Brides* member organisations work across sectors and range from small grassroots actors to large international organisations.

The *Girls Not Brides* Secretariat

The Partnership is supported by the *Girls Not Brides* secretariat – a diverse team based in the UK, Burkina Faso, Guatemala, India, Kenya, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Senegal and Uganda. The Secretariat plays three broad roles in civil society: a central support and coordination body for the largest global civil society partnership working to end child marriage; a representative of, and advocate for, civil society on work to end child marriage (including working to influence decision-makers and funders at different levels); and an expert, trusted thought leader on what works to end child marriage, and a convenor and source of evidence and shared learning.

Member coalitions

Many *Girls Not Brides* member organisations have come together to accelerate progress to end child marriage in their countries by forming member coalitions.

These are coalitions of *Girls Not Brides* member organisations that believe in the power of collective action to end child marriage . They work together to drive change in their country, often through collective advocacy and efforts to achieve systemic change in their context. *Girls Not Brides* supports collective action by members coalitions by providing financial and technical support and accompaniment.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Girls Not Brides was incorporated as a company in the United Kingdom (UK) on 14 June 2013 and registered as a charity in England and Wales on 17 October 2013. It transferred its assets and activities from what was once an initiative under The Elders Foundation to the independent entity on 10 December 2013.

Objects

The charity's objects are all regarded as exclusively charitable under the laws of England and Wales, including, but not limited to:

(a) The promotion of equality and human rights (as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent United Nations Conventions and Declarations) throughout the world, including, but not limited to:

- Raising awareness of human rights issues
- Relieving need among the victims of human rights abuse
- Research into, and international advocacy of human rights
- Providing technical advice to government and others on human rights matters
- Promoting respect for human rights among individuals and corporations
- Eliminating or preventing infringement of human rights

(b) The prevention and relief of poverty

(c) The advancement of health

(d) The advancement of education, but without limitation, by undertaking research and other educational activities and disseminating the results of that research

(e) The relief of those in need by reason of youth and/or ill health.

Board of Trustees

Girls Not Brides is governed by a Board of Trustees (the Trustees) who are responsible for overseeing the management of all *Girls Not Brides'* affairs. The Trustees are selected and elected according to procedures set out in the Articles of Association. The Trustees ensure that all activities fall within the charitable objectives. The Trustees' main responsibilities are related to administrative and financial governance, and the management of reserves and investments, as well as guiding and overseeing strategy development and planning. In particular, the Trustees are responsible for ensuring the legal and financial compliance of *Girls Not Brides*, including compliance with the Charity Commission's guiding principles and charity law.

The Trustees meet regularly throughout the year and act on advice and information provided by the Chief Executive Officer and the senior management of the charity. All Trustees are provided with an individual induction covering all aspects of the *Girls Not Brides* organisational structure and the roles and responsibilities of the Trustees within the organisation, as well as Charity Commission guidance on governance, and the duties of Trustees in the UK. Trustee-specific training courses are organised to ensure that the Board remains compliant with the Charity Commission and up- on current trends within the non-governmental sector. The Board has the following two sub-committees:

- FARC - The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee's overall purpose is to support the Board in its fiduciary duties and make sound recommendations to the Board with regards to the strategic direction of the charity's financial affairs. The Committee also acts, as required, as an Audit Committee, Risk Committee, and an Investment Committee. The Committee meets quarterly.
- PNC - The People and Nominations Committee's overall remit is to support the *Girls Not Brides* secretariat in the areas of Board governance, Trustee recruitment, diversity and inclusion, and employer remuneration and benefits. The Committee was introduced in 2024 and meets quarterly.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also directors of *Girls Not Brides* for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and UK Accounting Standards (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP)
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and Statements of Recommended Practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- Prepare the financial statements on the 'going concern' basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

So far as the Trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware.
- The Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the UK governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Trustees of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The Trustees are members of the charity; this entitles them only to voting rights.

The Trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

Auditors

Sayer Vincent LLP have indicated their willingness to continue in office and in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act. It is proposed that they be re-appointed auditors for the ensuing year.

Members of *Girls Not Brides*

The *Girls Not Brides* Secretariat supports the global partnership of member organisations. Membership is open to non-governmental organisations that endorse the mission statement and agree to the membership principles. These organisations are publicly and commonly referred to as "members" (as opposed to the Company Members described above).

Members contribute to the Partnership and engage with one another, as well as with the Secretariat, in a variety of ways depending on their interests and capacity. The work and interests of members help define the strategy of *Girls Not Brides*, and the Secretariat requests feedback from them on various issues on a regular basis.

Secretariat

Girls Not Brides' day-to-day operations are run by its staff based in its London, UK office, with additional individual team members based in Burkina Faso, Guatemala, India, Kenya, Malawi, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Senegal, and Uganda. In 2025, the Secretariat directorates consisted of External Engagement; Operations and Finance; Partnership and Regions; Learning, Evidence, and Impact; and People and Culture, with a Chief Executive Officer overseeing their work. The Chief Executive Officer reports to the Trustees. The Trustees delegate the day-to-day running of the organisation to the Chief Executive Officer.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The organisation's approach to risk management includes regular review of the Risk Register, with oversight from the Board of Trustees and input from all senior staff. *Girls Not Brides* views risk management as a continuous process that must be considered at the forefront of all activities by all staff members.

2025 showed a continuation of themes highlighted over the previous year; namely, changes in the geopolitical landscape; heightened risks to civic spaces; the targeting of actors focused on equality and gender; and decreased international development funding. All of these increase the vulnerability and risk faced by our partners and members, especially those with a primary focus on protecting the rights of women and girls.

The Risk Register is classified into seven categories: Fundraising, Finance & Grant Management, Governance & Leadership, Operations, Partnerships, Grant Making, and People & Culture. Within these categories, significant risks are identified and summarised, and appropriate risk mitigation strategies are put in place.

The principal risks and mitigations highlighted and discussed with Trustees include the following:

Fundraising Risk

- Losing donors or failing to raise sufficient funds in future years. This is mitigated by ongoing tracking of the funder pipeline; considering donors' evolving strategies; cultivating strong donor relationships; ensuring accurate forecasting; and building up the operational reserve.

Finance & Grant Management Risk

- Managing liquidity risks by regular updates of cashflow statements, enhanced expenditure tracking with quarterly reports reviewed by the senior leadership team, and operating a flexible investment policy.
- Ensuring financial sustainability by setting a clear Reserves Policy, with reserves calculated on specific

time ranges and reference to committed and uncommitted spend.

- Ensuring funding compliance by carrying out a detailed review of donor contract provisions prior to signing, and continual strengthening of finance and grant management teams.

Governance & Leadership

- Strengthening governance by regular review of composition of the Board and committees.
- Putting in place an external review of the new strategy, and ensuring that strategic enablers are clearly identified and costed with clear delivery milestones.

Grant Making

- Ensuring that robust due diligence processes are carried out before release of funds to grantees.
- Working to ensure safeguarding incidents are reduced by having comprehensive and up-to-date policies and processes, and frequent highlighting of safeguarding as a key issue in organisational culture, communications, induction, project management, training and documents.

Safeguarding and serious incidents

Girls Not Brides' commitment to safeguarding remains central to how we work and to the ambitions set out in our strategy. Safeguarding continues to underpin our organisational culture, our ways of working, and our relationships with partners globally.

Our safeguarding work includes ongoing efforts to strengthen the Secretariat's policies, procedures, and practices, as well as supporting *Girls Not Brides* members who receive financial investments to deliver programmes, activities, and events aimed at ending child marriage. Through this, we recognise our responsibility to promote safe and accountable approaches across the Partnership.

Alongside our routine safeguarding activities, this year also provided an important moment for internal reflection. With the launch of our new strategy (2026-2030), we will take the opportunity to review our safeguarding framework, ensure alignment with our organisational priorities, and reaffirm the standards we expect of ourselves and our members. These processes will embed and further clarify how safeguarding supports not only compliance, but also our wider organisational values and our collective impact.

The Trustees are cognisant of their obligations to report the most serious misconduct or abuse to relevant authorities in the UK and other countries of operation, in particular the formal requirements for Serious Incident Reporting to the Charity Commission for England and Wales. This obligation is understood across the broader definitions of Serious Incidents in which the Commission would have an interest. There were no Serious Incident Notifications made to the Commission during the period covered by this report.

Public benefit

The Trustees' report sets out *Girls Not Brides'* charitable activities in contributing to ending child marriage, which we have carried out in line with our charitable objects, being the promotion of equality and human rights, the prevention and relief of poverty, the advancement of health, the advancement of education, and the relief of those in need by reason of youth and/or ill health. The Board has considered the issue of public benefit and is confident that *Girls Not Brides'* activities comply with the duty in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit (as per guidance published by the Charity Commission).

Fundraising

Throughout 2025, *Girls Not Brides* continued to secure funding from committed government partners and private trusts and foundations. Our income remained predominantly unrestricted, with a steady increase in

restricted grants. Fundraising was led by the Senior Leadership Team and the Development & Outreach Team, with valuable support from colleagues across the global Secretariat and our Board.

Our activities focused on strengthening a healthy pipeline of prospective government and foundation donors, submitting timely renewals to maintain strong donor retention, preparing high-quality proposals and concept notes for new opportunities, and meeting all reporting requirements. The Development & Outreach Team also delivered a series of external-facing events to position *Girls Not Brides* strategically with new and existing donors and to nurture long-term relationships. Fundraising activity continued to be reported to and guided by the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee.

Girls Not Brides did not use professional fundraisers or commercial participators during the year, nor did we actively solicit funds from the general public, including vulnerable people. We complied with all relevant fundraising regulations and codes in 2025 and did not receive any complaints**.**

Remuneration policy

Girls Not Brides applies a Global Pay and Benefits policy, which provides the organisation with a framework and principles for pay and benefits for all team members, including how salaries are set, how pay increases are determined, and other pay-related topics.

In line with the values of *Girls Not Brides*, the policy aims to provide transparency, equity, and fairness to team members following a 'Total Reward Approach,' which includes financial and non-financial elements.

Girls Not Brides is guided by the following remuneration principles in line with the standards of Project Fair:

- Competitiveness: To attract and retain outstanding individuals, while considering market trends in the sector.
- Fairness and equity: To ensure that the compensation process remains consistent, non- discriminatory and reasonable, and that team members in comparable positions can afford a similar standard of living in different geographical locations.
- Transparency: To ensure team members have a clear understanding of the policies related to remuneration, while ensuring that individual salary data remains confidential.
- Value for money: To ensure that the funds of *Girls Not Brides* are used for their designated purpose, and that salaries reflect the size, complexity and budget of *Girls Not Brides*.

Girls Not Brides reviewed its Global Pay and Benefits policy in 2024, and this was approved by the Board of Trustees in January 2025.

During 2024, *Girls Not Brides* undertook a salary benchmarking review using data provided from the Birches Group. From the findings, incremental changes were implemented in April 2025. The next review will take place in 2028.

EVERY OUTCOME IS A DECISION: REFLECTIONS FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND BOARD CHAIR

Globally, around one in five young women were married before the age of 18 - roughly 12 million girls a year, 23 every minute. In many places that number is climbing, driven by conflict, climate, and economic instability that fall hardest on those with the fewest resources and the least power. 2025 sharpened all three. Conflict displaced more families, governments and donors pulled back hard: global aid saw its steepest single-year fall on record. And the roll-back in funding met a rise in something else: a coordinated, well-resourced opposition to girls' rights and autonomy. The systems meant to protect girls were left to do more, against more, with less.

The cost is immediate and concrete. Families pushed into poverty or uprooted by conflict are forced into impossible choices. Girls are taken out of school, cut off from health services, married younger. Each of those outcomes is a decision made somewhere, and each one can be decided differently.

That is the ground for our optimism, and it is earned. In 2025, communities, activists, and organisations did not wait for conditions to improve. They organised, adapted, and led, and they held girls' rights on the agenda even as the space for this work narrowed and the opposition to it grew louder. Their work proves the principle we build everything on: change is locally led, carried by strong coordination, and sustained by long-term, flexible funding.

The field has never had more organisations, more evidence, or more interventions that work. It has rarely been harder to show how the parts add up to a single girl's life. That gap — between real effort and commensurate outcome — is exactly the gap the global partnership exists to close.

Girls Not Brides exists to back that leadership and multiply it. In 2025 we connected members in nearly 100 countries, put the leadership of girls and young women in front of the people who set policy and budgets, and turned evidence and lived experience into pressure that moves decisions. Our efforts contributed to concrete results. In Burkina Faso, after years of dedicated advocacy, the legal age of marriage was raised to 18. And in Malawi, our member coalition influenced the creation of a credible, costed, shared roadmap for the Ministry of Gender, donors, and all stakeholders to implement the National Strategy to End Child Marriage.

Our 2026–2030 strategy is built to act on this moment. It rests on two pillars: Global Action and Country Impact. We will concentrate resources where they can have the greatest impact and connect efforts that have too often operated in parallel: deepening nationally led work in our strategic countries, and mobilising and unlocking funding so it reaches the communities doing the work. Alongside that, our Global Action work will press for the policy, the financing, and the accountability that hold change in place.

The future we are working towards, where every girl decides if, when, and whom she marries, is reachable. Whether we reach it turns on a choice that sits with all of us: to fund this work at the scale the moment demands, and to keep the leadership of girls and young women at its centre. We intend to make that choice, and to call on all those with the means to act to do the same. Because every outcome is the result of decisions made or deferred, and a more equitable future depends on the choices we make today.

Dr Faith Mwangi-Powell, Chief Executive Officer, & Dr Alaa Murabit, Board Chair

GIRLS NOT BRIDES' 2025 TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

Girls Not Brides achieved strong impact across its three pillars of work in 2025 - movement-building, influencing, and learning – working to foster powerful collective action to accelerate an end to child marriage.

Movement building

Lasting progress to end child marriage depends on strong, connected networks of organisations and leaders working in coordination. By convening diverse organisations and local leaders, Girls Not Brides help drive sustained change for girls, leveraging the collective power of member organisations, national and state partnerships, and coalitions to accelerate progress.

In 2025, Girls Not Brides strengthened our members' capacity, visibility, and collective voice through a package of fundraising, learning, advocacy, and tailored support. At the national level, we reinforced collective action, coordination, and learning among members, national and state partnerships, and coalitions. We also deepened coordination, fostered learning and advanced joint advocacy across Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).

We build and sustain a vibrant, well-equipped global partnership to end child marriage

Girls Not Brides is the largest and only global partnership dedicated solely to ending child marriage. By the end of 2025, we had 1,461 member organisations in 94 countries, with 15 new members in 2025. Out of these, 802 member are based in Africa, 411 in Asia, 85 in North America & Canada, 81 in Europe, 77 in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and 5 in Oceania.

The Girls Not Brides Secretariat is the backbone of this vibrant partnership, coordinating, supporting and sustaining our members to be better connected and equipped to drive change. Our members consistently highlight the value of being part of the global partnership, with our 2025 membership survey revealing that 92% have applied the *Girls Not Brides* learning product(s) to their work. 76% of members surveyed reported at least one benefit from strategic accompaniment.

> *I just wanted to thank you, because from this moment on, some reflections are already starting to emerge based on the questions you were sharing about the Gender-Transformative Accelerator tool. I think this tool is very interesting, and we hope to have it finalised soon so we can share it with our organisation.*
>
> **Isabel Inestroza, Unidad de Desarrollo Integral de la Mujer y la Familia, Honduras**

We invested in and strengthened member coalitions who unite to drive change

In 2025, *Girls Not Brides* provided £559,229 of direct financial grants to member coalitions. This dedicated financial support allows civil society organisations to coordinate, align, and sustain coordinated action.

Country	Name of member coalition	No. of members	2025 highlights	2025 direct financial grant (£)
Uganda	*Girls Not Brides Uganda (GNBU)*	124	GNBU advanced gender equality efforts after the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69) by engaging parliamentarians, submitting policy recommendations, and launching tools including a newsletter and child marriage data tracker. The	215,420

			8th Uganda Girls Summit mobilised diverse stakeholders to amplify girls' voices and strengthen accountability on child marriage and teenage pregnancy. Girls Not Brides also supported GNBU leadership, validated a revised advocacy strategy, and provided grants to sustain national dialogue and coordination on Ending Child Marriage strategy renewal.	
Tanzania	*Tanzania End Child Marriage Network (TECMN)*	103	TECMN led two major collective actions. Firstly, it secured high-level commitments from the Minister for Community Development to convene a multi-stakeholder forum in July 2025, jointly address delays in amending the Law of Marriage Act (1971), and review pregnancy-testing policies. TECMN also engaged the Ministry of Education, which agreed to establish a national re-entry data system and create a dedicated budget line. Secondly, TECMN members submitted a joint position to the United Nations Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN OHCHR) on a new Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), advocating for Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) as a right, and free public education, highlighting systemic gaps and financing needs. Girls Not Brides also supported TECMN through financial and technical support, a capacity-building workshop on advocacy and feminist leadership, membership expansion, governance improvements, development of national re-entry data systems, and community mobilisation through the End Child Marriage Caravan.	66,390
Niger	*Niger Platform to End Child Marriage*	60	Niger Platform to End Child Marriage completed various grant activities, including community workshops on ending child marriage and girls' education. Through Education Out Loud, the coalition advanced governance reforms, policy alignment, and evidence-based advocacy while sustaining collective action during political transition. Members also shaped the national strategy to end child marriage through coordinated planning, stronger governance, and ongoing government engagement.	30,371
Burkina Faso	*Coalition Nationale Contre le Mariage des Enfants au Burkina Faso* (National Coalition Against Child Marriage in Burkina Faso – CONAMEB)	76	Members of the Coalition jointly engaged the *Assemblée Législative de Transition* with coordinated evidence to defend 18 as the minimum legal age of marriage, strengthening unified civil-society influence on reform of the *Code de la Personne et de la Famille*. Through Education Out Loud, support strengthened CONAMEB's advocacy in a fragile civic space, reinforced legal protections for girls, and elevated	30,694

			national experiences to regional platforms.	
Malawi	*Girls Not Brides Malawi*	94	As part of the Accelerator project, the Malawi National Partnership strengthened coordination by convening targeted workshops and high-visibility events. This brought together over 100 stakeholders during the International Day of the Girl Child and the 16 Days of Activism to elevate political attention on child marriage, unite civil society behind calls for government financing of the National Strategy, reinforce policy continuity during political transition, and advance a focused agenda on funding, accountability, and sustained leadership. GNB Malawi also marked the African Union's Day of the African Child (16 June 2025) by advocating for child-centred budgeting through panels and side events, where children from GNB Malawi presented a Commitment Statement later adopted by the African Union.	67,175
Mozambique	Coligação para Eliminação dos Casamentos Prematuros (CECAP)	56	CECAP ran a social media campaign on preventing premature unions and promoting the 116 hotline, joined the International Conference on Premature Unions, engaged the Office of Women Parliamentarians to align with the new LUP agenda, supported the Nampula Community Leaders Conference where authorities pledged action, and released a National Plan of Action for Children (PNAC III) position paper that prompted the Minister of Labour, Gender, and Social Welfare to commit to accelerating its review.	48,181
Rajasthan	*Girls Not Brides Rajasthan State Partnership*	34	Members engaged with key external stakeholders, resulting in national recognition of RJSP's work and prompting the Government of India's Technical Support Unit for Ending Child Marriage to begin collaboration discussions with GNB. GNB also facilitated an FGD with the TSU and seven members, contributing to a Government of India compendium on child marriage. GNB Rajasthan also mobilised 640 youth to generate evidence on schemes supporting girls' secondary education, while GLP champions strengthened collective learning and youth engagement.	60,181

We strengthened members' capacity, visibility, and collective voice through a package of fundraising, learning, advocacy, and support

Through partnership with the Spanish foundation *Mundo Cooperante*, Girls Not Brides members across Africa and Asia secured a total of €860,000 in small grants under The Right to be a Girl initiative.

In East Africa, over 30 members from Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania engaged in a new Education Community of Practice (CoP) to share learning on girls' education and child marriage. Members contributed to the UN Universal Periodic Review, with education-focused recommendations, and took part in a regional learning session. The CoP also launched an online repository and will continue to support learning and advocacy over the next two years.

The Movement Building and Advocacy Leadership Programme (MBALP) included 26 participants from 11 countries in Africa and Asia, who completed the first module of the programme in June. The programme equipped participants with tools for leading collective advocacy and sustaining social movements to end child marriage and continued until December 2025.

We provided technical support to the Jharkhand State Coalition in India to strengthen youth-led collective action, including mapping project districts using government data, developing member-selection criteria, and designing a governance and advisory framework to guide the coalition's shift towards a youth-centred, systems-engagement approach. Our support was recognised by the Coalition Chair as "pivotal in strengthening strategy, coherence, and advocacy".

We strengthened national-level collective action, coordination and learning through targeted technical support to member coalitions

We provided support for collective action to members in Mexico through a combination of advocacy support, events, and targeted technical accompaniment. This included co-hosting a high-profile session at the 16th Regional Conference on Women (CRM), convening 74 stakeholders, and supporting the launch and uptake of *Opciones, No Sanciones* as a shared rights-based framework for national non-punitive responses to CEFMU. Member-led advocacy gained visibility globally through our member, Mano Vuelta A.C, presenting outcomes of their research on addressing CEFMU from the LAC region at the International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP) 2025 in Bogotá.

Tailored technical support, including Gender Transformative Approaches (GTA) Compass mentorship, joint communications work, and public engagement initiatives such as the 'Dear Future Me / *Un Futuro Propio*' exhibition with the Museum of Mexico City, expanded awareness and deepened gender-transformative practice. Collaboration with Girl Up México, UNFPA México, and National Population Council Mexico (CONAPO) further opened pathways for coordinated national action.

In Guatemala, Girls Not Brides provided sustained technical support to *La Mesa a Favor de las Niñas y Adolescentes (Mesa Niña)* to strengthen its governance, youth engagement, and collective advocacy. This included support to review and update the coalition's governance framework, and improve internal process manuals and institutional communication systems.

In Kenya, we contributed to the development of the country's first-ever National Strategic Framework to End Harmful Practices, alongside two tools to institutionalise prevention: a Comprehensive Survey Protocol and a Male Engagement Programme Framework.

In Jharkhand (India), we supported the coalition to revisit their vision, mission and membership criteria through a rights- and gender-justice lens. Our technical inputs helped translate gender knowledge into practice, while also integrating safeguarding as a core consideration. This groundwork contributes to more gender-transformative and rights-based collective action.

All these efforts enhanced coordination, coherence, and youth-led advocacy, positioning the organisations for more effective national-level action on gender equality, children's rights, and CEFMU.

We deepened coordination, fostered learning and advanced joint advocacy through targeted technical support to member coalitions across Africa, Asia, and LAC

Across the Africa region, we provided technical support to eight member coalitions in Tanzania, Uganda, Nigeria, Mozambique, Niger, Burkina Faso, and Malawi. This included accompaniment on movement-building; governance; advocacy; monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning (MEAL); gender-transformative approaches; and safeguarding, alongside direct support to national-level initiatives such as Uganda's National Symposium on Ending Child Marriage, Tanzania's election year legal-reform advocacy, and joint education sector influencing in Niger and Burkina Faso through Education Out Loud (EOL) coalitions.

Regional influencing was further advanced through engagement with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Model Law processes and by supporting African members to participate in cross-regional and UN-level dialogues. These efforts contributed to strengthened coordination, improved technical capacity, and notable systems-level gains - including major legal reform in Burkina Faso; enhanced social norms leadership in Uganda; sustained advocacy in Mozambique; and deeper integration of CEFMU into education, SRHR, and protection agendas across multiple countries.

We strengthened capacity of members in Gender Transformative Approaches (GTA) and social norms change across Asia and LAC

In Asia, we delivered structured capacity-building on Gender Transformative Approaches, Social Norms Change, and Social and Behaviour Change to 23 members in India (Rajasthan and Jharkhand) and 18 in Nepal. Technical accompaniment supported members to refine evidence-generation tools and integrate GTA into youth-led research across 16 districts in India, while in Nepal the training strengthened members' ability to apply GTA to national and provincial policy influence.

Participants in both countries applied learning to improve programme design, analyse gendered power relations, and integrate GTA principles into advocacy and organisational processes. These efforts contributed to strengthened governance and strategic clarity within National Partnerships, improved coherence across youth-led campaigns, and deeper adoption of gender-transformative approaches. Members reported increased confidence and capacity to move beyond gender-sensitive programming towards genuinely transformative, evidence-informed strategies to address the social norms driving CEFMU.

In LAC, Girls Not Brides provided tailored capacity-building support on Gender Transformative Approaches to two member organisations, *Ideas Ch'ieltik* (Mexico) and CREAMOS (Guatemala), through nine GTA Compass mentorship sessions as part of the regional pilot. This technical accompaniment strengthened feminist analysis, organisational reflection, and programmatic decision-making on CEFMU, enabling both organisations to identify structural gender barriers and revise internal processes and programme design to better address unequal power relations and discriminatory norms.

The application of the GTA Compass also enhanced member ability to integrate power analysis into community strategies, refine advocacy messages, and more intentionally challenge harmful gender norms. Learning generated through this pilot is informing refinement of the GTA Compass ahead of its 2026 regional roll-out, supporting stronger gender-transformative, community-rooted responses to CEFMU across LAC.

Influencing

Throughout 2025, Girls Not Brides convened, coordinated, and influenced key actors across the entire child marriage ecosystem to ensure that adolescent girls remain at the heart of policy, programming, and funding commitments. We elevated the voices and expertise of our global membership and leveraged the latest data and evidence to drive transformative change.

We influence stronger political commitments and increased funding to end child marriage

In 2025, our efforts catalysed donor alignment and positioned the Movement to unlock new and emerging political commitments. Collectively, our work strengthened the global financing ecosystem for CEFMU by coordinating donor leadership, elevating member evidence, and embedding CEFMU within multi-sector financing agendas.

Positioning child marriage as a global priority through high-level platforms

Girls Not Brides strengthened global financing and political momentum for CEFMU by engaging across key global and regional platforms, including the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69), UNGA, the Feminist Financing Conference and the Reykjavik Forum.

At UNGA, we co-hosted a high-level, closed-door reception with *Girls First Fund*, *Together for Girls*, and *Fos Feminista*, convening 45 senior government, multilateral, and philanthropic leaders to address funding rollbacks and align near-term collaboration, alongside targeted donor bilaterals.

Our strategic discussions with Norad led to renewed support to end child marriage through UNICEF's Global Programme to End Child Marriage (GPECM).

Notably, Sida invited us to provide input into the operationalisation of Sweden's Gender Equality Strategy (2025–2028), including opportunities to strengthen gender equality programming and integrate efforts to address child, early and forced marriage and unions (CEFMU). This engagement reflects recognition of our expertise and thought leadership. These outcomes signal growing donor confidence in our approach and reinforce the centrality of ending child marriage within wider gender and development agendas.

Influencing and mobilising funding for the field

We strengthened relationships with existing donors to the end child marriage cause, including The Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF), Wellspring, Global Affairs Canada (GAC), Sida, and the Gates Foundation through targeted briefings and bilateral meetings, aiming to influence these funders to continue to invest in ending child marriage among general decline in funding availability and competing priorities.

We initiated promising conversations with prospective donors including Fondation Chanel, the Minderoo Foundation and the Latin American Children's Trust.

We participated in the Financing Feminist Futures Conference (7–10 October 2025, Madrid), contributing to the development of a research strategy on financing to end child marriage and gathering insights on shifts needed in feminist financing - including stronger collective action amid funding cuts and far-right threats, greater use of economic arguments, and the importance of long-term, flexible support to women's rights organisations and women's funds. Discussions also highlighted the role of Corporate Social Responsibility and family philanthropy (particularly in India) and underscored the need for Girls Not Brides to deepen its understanding of national-level financing ecosystems in Africa and South Asia.

We co-hosted a Strategic Partners Meeting with the FCDO, bringing together 15 major donors and partners (including the World Bank, UNFPA, UNICEF, NORAD, SDC, the Gates Foundation, CIFF, and GAC) and securing agreement on four collective actions for 2026: strengthening Global South government engagement; advancing narrative change; expanding domestic resource mobilization; and commissioning joint research on the funding landscape - underpinned by a Joint Advocacy Brief co-developed with UNICEF, UNFPA, and Girls First Fund on the impact of aid cuts.

We contributed to the WHO/UNICEF Digital Dialogue on Ending Child Marriage, engaging 200 global participants and positioning CEFMU as a cross-regional priority within EVAC (Ending Violence Against Children) systems and multisectoral accountability frameworks. Insights and key outcomes from the dialogue are captured in our blog post: *Global Dialogue Urges Progress Towards Ending Child Marriage.*

We engaged in the Rise Up Policy Forum (Vilnius) to link CEFMU to broader regional and global political agendas around girls' rights, health systems, and social protection – strengthening cross-movement coalition potential.

We actively engaged other sectors to ensure that ending child marriage is prioritised across all areas of policy and practice

Child marriage is driven by multiple interconnected factors, so our influencing work spans related sectors such as education, health, and climate. This approach helps build a broader, more coordinated response, ensuring holistic and multisectoral strategies to end child marriage.

Girls Not Brides elevates CEFMU as a priority issue across different sectors. For example, in 2025, at the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) pre-session in Geneva, our Uganda member coalition's contributions helped shape the UN's List of Issues for Uganda, ensuring that critical concerns such as legal reform, gender stereotypes and girls' access to services are on the government's accountability radar.

In Asia, we co-organised a regional event at the Asia Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development, spotlighting youth-led advocacy from seven countries and framing child marriage as a cross-cutting issue impacting multiple SDGs. We were also invited to speak on civil society's role in delivering the Pact for the Future, where we advocated for long-term, flexible funding for CSOs.

In 2025, Girls Not Brides engaged with specific sectoral concerns such as education, law, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), and humanitarian aid.

Education

We submitted input to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN OHCHR), and proposed an optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on strengthening the right to education, stressing its role in preventing child marriage and protecting girls' rights – including married girls. Our template also enabled submissions from members in Uganda and Tanzania.

Girls Not Brides launched a new Community of Practice with 36 members in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda to advance education as a tool to end child marriage, guided by a six-member steering group and focused on knowledge sharing, capacity building, advocacy, networking and pooled fundraising. We coordinated the East Africa Education Community of Practice meeting in August 2025, convening 24 participants from Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda to examine the right to free secondary education and showcase member work and advocacy linked to preventing child marriage.

Girls Not Brides joined the AU-CIEFFA #AfricaEducatesHer mission in Malawi, reinforcing that ending child marriage is central to girls' education outcomes; introducing the Malawi Accelerator to translate continental commitments into national action; and strengthening linkages to the Continental Education Strategy for Africa 2026–2035 and entry points for coalitions in policy, learning, and advocacy.

We contributed at the 4th African Girls' Summit in Adis Abbaba (8–10 December 2025), elevating education as a protective and transformative factor and highlighting gaps in free, safe, quality education.

Law

In November, we convened a Child Marriage and Sexuality Working Group global convening with UNFPA in Geneva, focusing on what role laws can and should play in prevention and response to child marriage and in driving social change, and to encourage the global community to 'support child marriage laws that go beyond criminalization'. We also partnered with the Clooney Foundation for Justice on legal advisory meetings to provide legal counsel on ending child marriage in Africa.

We contributed to UN Women's strategy review on legal equality for women and girls.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)

We explicitly linked child marriage and SRHR to strengthen integrated responses by co organising and positioning

Latin America and the Caribbean research at the International Conference on Family Planning via a panel with Equality Now, Profamilia Colombia, and Mano Vuelta A.C.

Humanitarian aid

Girls Not Brides made an intervention at the launch of *Strengthening Community-Rooted Feminist Organisations to Address Child Marriage in Crisis* (5th November 2025), pressing for systematic integration of child marriage prevention into humanitarian programming.

Our session at the Africa Regional Convening (23 –25 September 2025) included a deep dive on the Climate–Conflict–Crisis nexus, advancing collective influencing to address how crises drive child marriage risk and to align humanitarian and protection actions.

Our contributions at the 4th African Girls' Summit (8–10 December 2025), foregrounded humanitarian and fragile contexts, connecting child marriage, gender-based-violence, and digital safety.

Driving progress regionally by anchoring CEFMU within key policy and accountability processes in Africa and LAC

Africa

In Africa, we aligned our influencing efforts with the AU's Year of Education, amplifying youth-led research at the GIMAC (Gender Is My Agenda Campaign Network) Summit and advancing CEFMU integration into education policy through ministerial engagement and AU CIEFFA (International Centre for the Education of Girls and Women in Africa) dialogues.

At the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) 45th Session (7-11 April 2025), we catalysed commitments to harmonise national laws to set the marriage age at 18 and supported the launch of a 35-week campaign to track progress on children's rights.

The Grand-Bassam Joint Declaration co-developed during an Education Out Loud convening that Girls Not Brides were part of framed CEFMU as both a human rights and education issue, serving as a regional accountability tool aligned with the AU Continental Education Strategy.

From 23 to 25 September 2025, over 30 representatives of African Union, civil society organisations, youth leaders, United Nations Agencies, development partners gathered in Nairobi, Kenya, for the Regional Consultative Convening on Collective Influencing to Address Child Marriage. This event took place at a pivotal moment in Africa's efforts to end child marriage and other harmful practices. Key outcomes included the publication of a collective Call to Action and the development of the foundations of an Africa Advocacy Roadmap to ending child marriage.

LAC

Girls Not Brides supported the meaningful participation of LAC country members in national, regional, and global policy spaces, ensuring that CEFMU remained visible in regional financing and feminist policy debates. These engagements elevated CEFMU as a priority issue across LAC, strengthened cross-country advocacy, and expanded the political visibility of member organisations.

We sponsored 17 organisations to engage in the Regional Conference on Women (CRM) and 100% of supported organisations reported the space as relevant and useful.

We enabled *Mano Vuelta A.C.* (Mexico) to present LAC-specific CEFMU evidence at the International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP). This contribution helped integrate LAC's CEFMU evidence into global SRHR debates, while Colombian CSOs collectively influenced early implementation of Law 2447 in 2025 by providing technical recommendations, securing formal engagement with ICBF, and laying stronger foundations for monitoring and advocacy into 2026.

We strengthened coordinated national advocacy in Colombia by supporting 12 civil society organisations to form the #*NiñasNoEsposas ¡La Ley es Ahora*! coalition, providing technical accompaniment with P*rofamilia* and *Genfami*, and enhancing CSO engagement in official government processes such as ICBF's civil society working group.

Our strategic engagement in Bolivia, Colombia, Guatemala and Mexico has contributed to the creation of legislative reforms, intersectoral collaboration and national policy integration, demonstrating our impact across both institutional and grassroots spheres.

Youth-led influencing to address CEFMU in LAC

Girls Not Brides strengthened youth-led influencing in LAC by supporting the first in-person meeting of the *Red de Voceras* in Guatemala, engaging 28 girls, adolescents, and young women to build leadership, rights-based advocacy skills, and strategic communication capacities related to gender inequality, children's rights, and CEFMU.

The *Red de Voceras* now serves as a structured platform for coordinated youth advocacy across Mesa Niña and the wider region. Girls Not Brides also enabled meaningful youth participation in regional policy spaces, including support for youth representatives to engage in the Regional Conference on Women (CRM), where sessions convened 74 participants and elevated adolescent girls' perspectives within feminist and policy debates on CEFMU.

These efforts increased the visibility of youth-led strategies, strengthened collective action, and created sustainable pathways for ongoing youth engagement through Mesa Niña's governance restructuring and the continued activation of the *Red de Voceras* beyond 2025.

We amplify our members' expertise and power on global and regional platforms

Local and national civil society organisations hold deep knowledge on what works to end child marriage and are critical to driving change within families, communities, and countries. Girls Not Brides works to elevate these voices on global and regional platforms, facilitate direct connections with decision-makers, and advocate for the central role of civil society in driving change with, and for, girls.

In 2025 we strengthened the visibility and influence of our members through coordinated global and regional communications and advocacy efforts. At the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69), we co-hosted the flagship *Dear Future Me* event, bringing together over 200 stakeholders and launching a global campaign centred on girls' voices and the film *Nawi*. The campaign collected 65 letters from girls across Africa, Asia and LAC, secured more than 35 public commitments from key actors, and generated over 273,000 organic impressions online, further amplified through high-profile reshares.

At the regional level, we tailored communications efforts to strengthen member visibility and influence. In Asia, we supported national and regional communications through evidence-based blogs, digital campaigns and ethical storytelling training, including content linked to the *Gender Leadership Programme* and the *AWID Forum*. In LAC, implementation of a regional communications strategy resulted in 14 targeted outputs, including policy advocacy campaigns, tutorial videos, interviews with feminist leaders, and data-driven storytelling. These efforts reached more than 44,000 users and generated over 4,000 engagements, contributing directly to advocacy outcomes while reinforcing a bold, feminist and locally rooted narrative.

We also invested in co-creating communications outputs with members and partners to amplify locally-led advocacy. This included collaborative content around regional convenings; social media campaigns linked to feminist forums; *International Day of the Girl* activities with Colombian members and Profamilia; and a podcast produced with Mexfam. In Mexico, the *Un Futuro Propio* exhibition, delivered in partnership with the *Museum of Mexico City* between August and October 2025, attracted more than 500 visitors and elevated girls' voices through cultural platforms, combining storytelling, visual media and public engagement to catalyse calls to action.

Storytelling remained a central pillar of our communications approach. Initiatives such as *Mool Stories* provided in-depth, evidence-based narratives that highlighted the lived experiences of girls and the work of member organisations. Stories from India and Nepal explored the intersections of social norms, economic marginalisation, and child marriage, while equipping members with compelling, rights-based narratives to strengthen advocacy and donor engagement.

These efforts were complemented by a strong and consistent digital presence. Across social media platforms including Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube, we published 322 posts, reaching a total audience of 300,562 followers. This generated 1.58 million impressions and 124,747 engagements, reflecting an engagement rate of 7.88%. YouTube contributed to this reach with 27,772 views and an increase of 172 subscribers, bringing the total subscriber base to 6.48K.

Publications and campaign outputs further strengthened engagement and knowledge sharing. We published 42 stories, blogs and news items in three languages, covering regions across Africa, Asia and LAC. These outputs spanned legislative developments, member and civil society organisation spotlights, research and evidence, and thought leadership. Eight newsletters were produced and shared with members and supporters. Campaigns continued to drive targeted engagement, with *Dear Future Me* generating 294,813 impressions and 7,910 engagements, and *Movement Makers* reaching 34,131 impressions and 1,767 engagements.

We also strengthened our media visibility and thought leadership. The organisation was featured by *FP Analytics* and the *Sol de Janeiro Foundation*, highlighting the leadership of Dr. Faith Mwangi-Powell and our role in strengthening, connecting and amplifying locally-led efforts globally. Coverage in *Raising Women Magazine* further reinforced our organisation's leadership during a challenging global funding environment and underscored the urgency of sustained investment in girls' rights.

At the same time, we advanced our organisational identity and positioning through a comprehensive brand refresh. This included the recruitment of *Shape History*, extensive internal consultations, and engagement across Secretariat teams, as well as consultations with members and partners. This process resulted in a fully updated brand strategy, including a refreshed mission, vision, values and tone of voice, positioning us clearly for the next phase of our work.

Learning

Girls Not Brides is a global knowledge and learning hub, driving a shared understanding of what works to end child marriage. Evidence and learning play a central role in our work, ensuring that policies, programmes and investments to end child marriage and support married girls are grounded in evidence. We play a critical role in connecting evidence with practice, sharing knowledge across our membership, the research community, funders, and policymakers.

In 2025, we made significant progress in leveraging knowledge, learning and evidence to strengthen the global response to child marriage.

We generate, use, and share the latest evidence to drive informed action

We developed a range of learning products including case studies, briefs, and tools and held webinars to discuss and share evidence and learning opportunities. We also conducted learning and research initiatives and provided technical support to members to help improve monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning.

Upgrading the Child Marriage Research to Action Network (CRANK)

The Child Marriage Research to Action Network (CRANK) is a global knowledge-sharing and research coordination platform. We hold regular online meetings on the latest child marriage evidence and practice, maintain an extensive database of ongoing and completed research on child marriage, and provide members with easy-access research synthesis and summaries.

In 2025, the CRANK Research Tracker and Database underwent significant upgrades to enable integration of the GreeneWorks Global Child Marriage Research Database, which contains studies from 2000 to the present in English, French, Spanish, and Portuguese.

The submissions form and web layout were also improved to enhance user experience. This dataset has been integrated into the CRANK Research Tracker and Database alongside 126 newly identified studies from 2020–2025. The platform is currently in final pilot testing ahead of its 2026 launch as the largest publicly-accessible and curated database of child-marriage research.

Developing a Global Shared Research Agenda

In 2025 we embarked on a journey to develop a global shared research agenda to prevent and respond to child marriage (in collaboration with UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage, UNICEF Innocenti and the World Health Organisation. This included global consultations, including *Join the Journey: Shaping a Global Shared Research Agenda to Prevent and Respond to Child Marriage* in September 2025, which attracted 446 registrations and 279 participants with interpretation in seven languages; and *Shape Action: A Global Thematic Consultation on Social Norms and Child Marriage* in December 2025, with 223 registrations and 52 participants and multilingual interpretation. Recordings, slides, and summaries from these sessions were made available to support ongoing learning across the partnership.

We also convened two regional consultation sessions: one piloted at the Africa Regional Convening, with 30+ stakeholders, and another with the Africa Action Group to End Child Marriage. This further strengthened the shared research agenda by identifying priority evidence gaps through inclusive, participatory processes.

Development of Learning Products

In 2025 we developed a set of twenty key learning products to strengthen evidence generation and knowledge uptake across our partnership. These included products such as working papers, research papers, blog series, data reports, toolkits, learning resources and initiatives, and webinars. These products significantly expanded our members' access to evidence and strengthened global learning on key issues relevant to their work.

Key outputs included a CRANK research brief on the interlinkages between climate change and child marriage, published in French, Spanish and English, and case studies from conflict-affected Mozambique, highlighting the realities faced by adolescent girls in contexts such as Cabo Delgado. We also published a working paper titled *Ending child marriage: Why punitive approaches are not the answer* in multiple languages, alongside an updated brief on child marriage and sexual and reproductive health and rights launched on World Sexual Health Day.

Efforts to strengthen data use and evidence included the *Counting what matters* blog series, a data report on child, early, and forced marriages and unions in Mexico, and a complementary toolkit titled *Options, Not Sanctions*, promoting non-punitive approaches. In addition, we advanced research mapping international funding to end child marriage between 2015 and 2024, with publication planned for 2026.

Learning and exchange were further supported through a regional learning call on advancing gender equality to end child marriage in Latin America and the Caribbean, which attracted 226 registrations and 50 participants.

Webinars and convenings

We delivered three webinars focused on advancing evidence and learning on emerging and underexplored issues. These included a research meeting on the interlinkages between climate change and child marriage in April, a session on using alternative sources of evidence to address child marriage in May, and a webinar on child marriage in conflict- and crisis-affected settings in June.

We carried out webinar follow-ups with resource sets: presentations, recordings, and key takeaways in English, French, and Spanish.

Our webinars engaged over 400 participants from different countries and regions and explored emerging themes such as alternative data sources and child marriage in crisis settings. Interpretation in six key languages ensured inclusion of grassroots activists from across different regions.

Impact and uptake of learning products

When asked, 92% respondents said they had applied Girls Not Brides learning products in their work. CRANK membership increased by 10% to nearly 700 members, with 45 participants opting into the Global Shared Research Agenda follow-up process. Event materials enabled wide dissemination among members, UN agencies, and researchers.

The punitive approaches working paper also demonstrated strong field uptake, described as "mind-opening" in global legal convenings and actively applied by members in India, informing programme design, legal framing, and cross-regional dialogue. Collectively, these resources establish a more coordinated, evidence-driven foundation for global and regional action to end CEFMU.

We strengthened the coordination and uptake of research and evidence

Research initiatives

We advanced several strategic research initiatives to inform policy and investment decisions. These initiatives underscore our commitment to evidence-informed advocacy, learning and collaboration to drive systemic change at national, regional and global levels.

Girls Not Brides and Girls First Fund collaborated on joint research in partnership with Publish What You Fund (PWYF) to better understand the funding landscape to end child marriage. This landmark study – International Funding to End Child Marriage: Reviewing a Decade of Investment - analysed ten years of funding data (2014–2024) from major databases to map who is funding efforts to address child marriage, how much is being invested, and where those resources are going.

A key finding is that funding to end child marriage is grossly inadequate and represents a tiny fraction of overall ODA. This evidence informs our follow-up research and supports our engagement with donors to promote more strategic and equitable investments.

Research on migration and child marriage in Nepal

Girls Not Brides initiated a research study, co-funded by GAGE, on the links between labour migration (cross-border, foreign employment, and internal migration) and CEFMU in Nepal. A virtual kick-off meeting brought together members and researchers from Social Science Baha and the Nepal Research Institute to align on the study's objectives, methodology, research sites, and district-level roles, enabling coordinated planning for field data collection. The study fills a major evidence gap by examining how migration dynamics shape child marriage risks, such as marriages arranged to manage financial hardship, secure remittances, or respond to prolonged male absence – issues largely absent from national datasets. Early collaboration with members strengthened data quality and ensured the research reflects lived realities across migrant and non-migrant households. The study is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2026 and will inform member advocacy on policy gaps in national and provincial systems, including migration-CEFMU linkages, documentation systems, and reintegration programmes.

We support our members to apply evidence and learning to strengthen their impact

Building the skills, knowledge and leadership needed to collectively address child marriage is a key component of our learning offer to members. Across Africa, Asia, and LAC, Girls Not Brides provided coordinated Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) support to strengthen members' ability to generate, analyse, and use evidence for advocacy and programme improvement.

Africa: We strengthened coalition data systems and accountability processes, including supporting Uganda to develop a harmonised MEL Framework and unified reporting template; improving Tanzania's compliance,

safeguarding and MEL systems for its new grant cycle; and helping Malawi validate indicators and develop monitoring tools for the national child-marriage strategy.

Asia: We supported large-scale, youth-led evidence-generation processes in Rajasthan and Jharkhand - refining tools, reviewing questionnaires, and strengthening analysis for data gathered from 2,021 youth and community stakeholders. In Nepal, MEAL inputs are shaping monitoring indicators, guidelines, and a Theory of Change for the government's "Child Marriage-Free Zones," improving alignment with national and provincial systems.

LAC: We delivered a regional Participatory M&E workshop for 20+ organisations, building common understanding of indicators, accountability, and evidence integration through participatory methodologies and peer learning.

Global: MEAL support included developing project learning questions for the UNICEF/UNFPA Global Programme (Malawi & Uganda) and disseminating CRANK learning products – event pages, recordings, slides, and summaries – to strengthen evidence uptake across regions.

Impact and uptake of MEAL support

This support strengthened evidence-based advocacy and accountability across the partnership. Uganda improved cross-agency MEL alignment; Tanzania and Malawi strengthened national planning and compliance systems; and EOL coalitions maintained coordinated evidence generation in unstable contexts. In Asia, youth-generated evidence informed advocacy agendas in Rajasthan and Jharkhand, while Nepal's indicators and Theory of Change strengthened provincial strategies.

In LAC, 100% of workshop participants found the MEAL support useful, 93% gained new perspectives, and 87% developed new strategies. Globally, CRANK membership grew by 10% to nearly 700 members, with 45 new contributors to the Shared Research Agenda. Overall, MEAL support equipped members and coalitions with stronger systems, tools, and skills for credible, coordinated, evidence-driven advocacy to end CEFMU.

Southern African Development Community (SADC) Community of Practice

Girls Not Brides coordinated the SADC Model Law Community of Practice (CoP), bringing together regional partners including Plan International, UNICEF, UNFPA, Equality Now, Hivos, Care International, and the SADC Parliamentary Forum. Through this platform, we facilitated joint development of regional Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and Learning (MERL) tools - comprising a MERL framework, Theory of Change, minimum implementation standards, and a digital dashboard to track Model Law implementation across Member States. The CoP also supported multi-stakeholder engagement at the 58th SADC Parliamentary Forum General Assembly, where parliamentarians reviewed and validated these tools, confirming political ownership and regional alignment.

These efforts generated tangible accountability gains by establishing the first unified regional mechanism for monitoring laws, policies, budgets and implementation on ending child marriage across SADC. Validation by parliamentarians strengthened regional oversight and supported Member States to align national legislation with the "18 with no exceptions" standard. The CoP also enhanced coordination among UN agencies, INGOs, and civil society networks, resulting in agreed next steps for 2026, including broader stakeholder validation, operationalisation of dashboard indicators, and continued shared learning – reinforcing regional accountability for girls' rights.

Operations & People: The critical foundations of our impact

We continued to invest significant effort into the systems and structures that support the Girls Not Brides team to deliver impact, including safeguarding, grant management, and digitalisation.

Safeguarding

During 2025 Girls Not Brides continued to embed standards of safeguarding, focused on strengthening safeguarding systems, building team member and Member capacity, and fostering a safe and inclusive culture across the Secretariat and the global Partnership. Key areas of progress included are outlined below.

The Secretariat's Global Safeguarding Manager and the Senior Coordinator for Grants, in collaboration with Regional Project Managers and Safeguarding Champions, have embedded safeguarding throughout the grant-making process. Partners received targeted support during the application phase to implement context-sensitive safeguarding measures, including risk identification, clear reporting pathways, and adherence to core safeguarding standards. Following grant approval, ongoing due diligence helps ensure partners maintain safeguarding standards and deliver safe programming. By integrating global safeguarding guidance with national level expertise, the Secretariat helps to ensure that that all funded partners manage safeguarding risks responsibly and uphold safe practices across diverse operating contexts.

Capacity Strengthening and Knowledge Sharing

Safeguarding capacity strengthening continued to reinforce core organisational standards and compliance with internal policy requirements. Secretariat team members completed the mandatory annual safeguarding refresher training, while all new joiners received a structured induction comprising facilitated sessions, self-paced e-learning modules, and formal acknowledgment of safeguarding responsibilities during onboarding. These measures ensure consistent understanding of safeguarding obligations across the Secretariat and support a sustained culture of awareness, accountability, and good practice.

Safeguarding Champions convene at least quarterly, supplemented by ad-hoc in-country one-to-one engagements with the Global Safeguarding Manager to support shared learning and consistent practice. The organisation also participates in a global safeguarding network, enabling continuous knowledge exchange and alignment with emerging best practice. All team members complete the mandatory safeguarding induction on joining, followed by annual refresher training to maintain up-to-date awareness of responsibilities. In addition, relevant safeguarding resources are disseminated to members upon request or where they are identified as beneficial to strengthening practice.

Digitalisation at Girls Not Brides

In 2025, Girls Not Brides completed the implementation of SAP Concur for the automation of invoices, credit cards and expenses.

In the sphere of cybercrimes, credit card fraud and email hacking, Girls Not Brides continues to run a mandatory annual training on cyber security and the prevention of fraud for all its team members. Girls Not Brides is a Cyber Essentials certified organisation.

STRATEGIC PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

In 2026, *Girls Not Brides* enters the first year of a new strategy period. Our 2026-2030 Strategy sets out a roadmap to transform lives. By realising the rights and futures of girls we can unlock social and economic potential that will drive prosperity and progress for generations to come. Our Strategy is anchored in our vision for a world without child marriage: where girls in all their diversity decide if, when, and whom to marry, and where their rights and futures are fully realised. Over the next 5 years, *Girls Not Brides* will contribute to an accelerated decline in child marriage – reducing the number of girls affected from 1 in 5 to 1 in 7. This will be delivered through two mutually-reinforcing strategic pillars:

- **Pillar 1: Global Action** – aiming to protect and unlock at least $1 billion to end child marriage and ensure it is a non-negotiable priority in international funding and development agendas.
- **Pillar 2: Country Impact** – ensuring sustained national action by governments and civil society in up to 10 countries, contributing to a reduction in child marriage prevalence.

We will focus on four core, interdependent tactics to achieve our two strategic goals. We will:

1. **Mobilise** the End Child Marriage Movement around collective agendas, coordinated action, and shared moments of influence.
2. **Equip** members, coalitions and other relevant stakeholders with the learning and data they need to implement effective, evidence-based solutions.
3. **Influence** political action at all levels, combined with systemic change in countries where conditions are most ripe for impact.
4. **Fund** national member coalitions and protect (and unlock) international financing to end child marriage.

These tactics are designed to reinforce one another across the subnational, national, regional, and global levels. When implemented in coordination, they unlock systems-level change, shifting how child marriage is prioritised, resourced, and addressed across sectors and settings.

Key Highlights for 2026

2026 marks a pivotal moment for *Girls Not Brides*, transitioning into our new 2026-2030 Strategy. The first year of strategy delivery will be a time of transition and phasing out some legacy work, as well as laying the foundations that will enable us to deepen impact over the next five years. Our focus in 2026 is on five core organisational priorities. These priorities identify the essential areas of focus that will enable us to operationalise and ensure smooth transition into delivery of the 2026-2030 Strategy.

- Launch the 'End Child Marriage Collective' and build the international influencing roadmap
- Design and implement the new country impact approaches
- Strengthen evidence, learning, and knowledge platforms
- Complete and/or transition existing grant and engagement commitments
- Strengthen organisational enablers

Global Action

Our global action work in 2026 will focus on strengthening the international enabling environment for ending child marriage by deepening political commitment, shaping shared agendas and building a more coordinated movement. Central to this effort is the consolidation of the End Child Marriage Collective as a credible platform

for joint action, alongside the development of a clear strategic direction for our global influencing work. Through these shifts, we aim to lay the groundwork for sustained political attention, coordinated advocacy and future resource mobilisation.

By the end of 2026, we expect to have launched the End Child Marriage Collective, with at least ten founding members and strong engagement across convenings; secured increased political prioritisation from at least eight target governments; and strengthened collaboration with at least ten leading international organisations. We will have a clear and actionable 2026-2030 Influencing Strategy, and strengthened financing and sectoral influencing pathways informed by the Funding Landscape Analysis. In collaboration with key partners, we will launch the Global Shared Evidence Agenda to End Child Marriage and an updated global database of child marriage research. An integrated 2026-2027 communications plan, supported by improved media capacity, will guide our thought leadership. Collectively, these results will position us with a strong and coordinated foundation for deeper influencing and resource mobilisation in the next phase of the strategy.

Country Impact

Our country impact work focuses on contributing to systemic change in ten priority countries. While our 2026-2030 Strategy identifies clearly the country impact we want to achieve, we see a big shift in how *Girls Not Brides* works (in collaboration with its members) to achieve country impact. In 2026, we will therefore refine and operationalise our approach for both Accelerator and Strategic Engagement countries to ensure greater clarity, coherence and effectiveness in how we support national partners.

By the end of 2026 we want to achieve early results in Malawi as the first Accelerator Country. This includes increased coordination among the ecosystem in Malawi, and visible policy shifts through increased investment in the implementation of the NSECM in at least two districts in 2026. Moreover, we will have identified and laid the foundations for a second Accelerator Country to be phased in in 2027. Strategic Engagement pathways will be in motion across eight countries (Nigeria, Uganda, Kenya, Burkina Faso, Nepal, India, Mexico and Colombia), with early signals of policy progress and strengthened capacity and coordination among member-led coalitions to carry out direct policy advocacy. Some of these countries will lay the foundation for future Accelerator work. In addition, we will have completed responsible transitions in nine countries that will be phased out under the new 2026-2030 Strategy (Mozambique, Tanzania, Guatemala and Niger, and current 'light touch' engagement countries: Mali, Togo, Cote D'Ivoire, Senegal and Benin) and reactivated engagement in countries that will be phased in, beginning with Bangladesh. Collectively, these outcomes will position us to contribute to measurable impact in ten countries over the next five years.

Organisational strengthening to support strategy delivery

In 2026 we will strengthen the systems, capabilities, structure and organisational architecture needed to deliver the 2026-2030 Strategy.

By the end of 2026 we will have a future-focused MEAL system that shifts us from activity tracking to meaningful impact measurement. A fully operational results framework, digital dashboards, and a harmonised indicator bank will support outcome and impact tracking across the Secretariat and coalitions. Early lessons from the Malawi Accelerator will inform refinement of the Accelerator approach.

By the end of 2026 we will produce research and evidence syntheses that directly support strategic priorities. Key areas include Phase Two of the funding landscape study for the ECM Collective (Pillar 1), and research on national strategies to end child marriage, including a tool to strengthen such strategies in AC and SE countries (Pillar 2). We will create spaces for knowledge exchange, track engagement with evidence products, conduct user-testing with at least one target audience, and support evidence uptake across the Secretariat.

In 2026 we will secure at least £4.3M of funding for FY27 and strengthen long-term financial sustainability by retaining core donors, cultivating high-value partners, and diversifying revenue. Improved internal processes and collaboration will underpin this work. We will explore new funding streams, including high-net-worth individuals (HNWIs). Our new brand will go live in April 2026.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income

In 2025, *Girls Not Brides'* total operating income was £5,876,777 (2024: £5,352,027), an increase of 10%. Funding from government grants formed the majority of the unrestricted income, with other funding coming from trusts & foundations and bank interest. This year, restricted income was £2,247,851 (2024: £980,805), the increase being predominantly due to FCDO funding. Restricted funding represented 41% of total fundraising income.

With special thanks to our partners and donors for working with us in 2025:

- **Advancing Girls Fund of Tides Foundation**
- **Belron Ronnie Lubner Charitable Foundation**
- **Education Out Loud (Global Programme for Education / Oxfam Denmark)**
- **Ford Foundation**
- **Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)**
- **Gates Foundation**
- **Government of Canada**
- **Nationale Postcode Loterij**
- **Oak Foundation**
- **Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)**
- **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)**
- **The David and Lucile Packard Foundation**
- **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**
- **UNICEF**
- **Wellspring Philanthropic Fund**

Expenditure

The total expenditure for the year was £5,530,098 (2024: £4,809,595) driven by an increase in restricted spend. In 2025, restricted expenditure totalled £2,481,277 (2024: £828,340).

Reserves

As of 31 December 2025, the total reserves were £9,939,888 (2024: £9,593,209).

These were made up of General Funds, £2,900,770 (2024: £2,625,635); Designated Funds, £7,121,896 (2024: £6,854,366); and Restricted Funds (£82,778) (2024: 113,207). The negative fund balance on restricted funds was due to several pending donor receipts; these amounts have been received post year-end.

Unrestricted Reserves Policy

At 31 December 2025, *Girls Not Brides'* unrestricted reserves (excluding designated and restricted reserves) increased to £2,900,770 (2024: £2,625,635) in anticipation of the launch of the new 2026-2030 strategic plan.

In line with SORP (FRS 102), we maintain financial reserves to ensure the sustainability and resilience of our organisation. Reserves are held to protect our work against future uncertainties, manage financial risks, and provide a buffer in the event of unexpected shortfalls in income or unforeseen increases in expenditure.

Our reserves enable us to:

- Sustain operations during periods of income fluctuation or delays in grant funding
- Meet our contractual and legal obligations to staff and partners
- Respond flexibly to emerging opportunities or challenges aligned with our mission
- Invest in strategic initiatives and ensure continuity of essential projects

The level of reserves is reviewed annually by the Board of Trustees as part of our financial planning and risk management processes. This review considers the nature of our income and expenditure, the reliability of income streams, our strategic priorities, and the wider economic context.

In accordance with SORP requirements, we distinguish between unrestricted reserves that are freely available for general purposes and those that are designated or restricted for specific uses. Our policy aims to hold unrestricted free reserves, equivalent to three to six months' core operating expenditure – a level we believe is prudent and proportionate to our risk profile and operating model.

Consequently, our policy results in maintaining a resilience target in the range of £1.6m to £3.2m to provide operational working capital and to mitigate against unforeseen risks. At 31 December 2025 our general reserves of £2.9m fell within this target. We will continue to develop plans to increase our sources of unrestricted funds, but recognise that this will take time and may, in the short term, require some investment from our existing designated reserves. We will continue to monitor our funding position closely, particularly in light of the funding uncertainty in the sector.

Designated Funds

At 31 December 2025, Girls Not Brides' designated reserves increased to £7,121,895 (2024: £6,854,366) as a result of interest received on investments. These unrestricted funds were received as a gift from MacKenzie Scott in 2023 and have been designated as a strategic reserve to drive future growth, catalyse innovation, and ensure long-term sustainability in pursuit of our strategic objectives. These funds are being held in medium-term investments and are shown on the Balance Sheet.

Our new strategy for 2026–2030 is bold, ambitious, and unapologetically focused on impact. It calls on us to lead differently – more courageously, more collaboratively, and more intentionally. The delivery of the 2026-2030 strategy will require an increased investment. In response, we are committed to deploying our resources where they are needed most.

The Trustees have approved a phased release/drawdown of designated funds from January 2026, over 2-5 years to enable delivery of the 2026-2030 Strategy, ensuring that every pound is used to fuel transformational change. These investments will be guided by clear strategic priorities, rigorous oversight, and an unwavering commitment to maximising impact across our two Strategic pillars; Global Action and Country Impact.

Restricted Funds

At 31 December 2025, there was a negative balance of £82,778 on restricted funds (2024: £113,208). These funds represent fund balances which have not yet been spent or grantee commitments where we are awaiting receipt of funding from the donor. In FY26 will we revise our Grantee policy to only recognise year one of multi-year grantee agreements.

Exemptions from disclosure

This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies' regime under the Companies Act 2006.

This report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 26 June 2026 and signed on its behalf by

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Dr Alaa Murabit
Chair of the Board of Trustees

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Girls Not Brides (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- Give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended
- Have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice
- Have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on *Girls Not Brides'* ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information

The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' Annual Report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other

information contained within the Annual Report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- The information given in the Trustees' Annual Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- The Trustees' Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Annual Report. We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- Adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- The financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- Certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- We have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- The directors were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the *Statement of Trustees' responsibilities* set out in the Trustees' Annual Report, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud are set out below.

Capability of the audit in detecting irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, our procedures included the following:

- We enquired of management, which included obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation, concerning the charity's policies and procedures relating to:
    - Identifying, evaluating, and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
    - Detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud;
    - The internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- We inspected the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in, focusing on those laws and regulations that had a material effect on the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on the operations of the charity from our professional and sector experience.
- We communicated applicable laws and regulations throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit.
- We reviewed any reports made to regulators.
- We reviewed the financial statement disclosures and tested these to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

- We performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.
- In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments, assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias and tested significant transactions that are unusual or those outside the normal course of business.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Noelia Serrano (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of Sayer Vincent LLP, Statutory Auditor
Invicta House, 110 Golden Lane, London, EC1Y 0TG

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (incorporating an income and expenditure account)

For the year ended 31 December 2025

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	**2025 Total £**	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2024 Total £
Income from:							
Donations and Grants	2	3,267,120	2,247,851	**5,514,971**	3,995,486	980,805	4,936,291
Investment Income		361,806	-	**361,806**	415,736	-	415,736
Total income		3,628,926	2,247,851	**5,876,777**	4,371,222	980,805	5,352,027
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	3a	351,009	-	**351,009**	312,025	-	312,025
Charitable activities							
Equality, Human Rights and relief of poverty	3a	2,697,812	2,481,277	**5,179,089**	3,669,230	828,340	4,497,570
Total expenditure		3,048,821	2,481,277	**5,530,098**	3,981,255	828,340	4,809,595
Net income for the year	5	580,105	(233,426)	**346,679**	389,967	152,465	542,432
Total funds brought forward		9,480,001	113,208	**9,593,209**	9,090,034	(39,257)	9,050,777
Transfers		(37,440)	37,440	**-**	-	-	-
Total funds carried forward		10,022,666	(82,778)	**9,939,888**	9,480,001	113,208	9,593,209

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in Note 14a to the financial statements.

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 December 2025

	Note		2025		2024
Fixed assets:		£	£	£	£
Tangible assets	10		12,867		9,126
Current assets:					
Debtors	11	776,500		123,626	
Cash at bank and in hand		754,731		1,154,427	
Short term investments		9,282,252		8,948,873	
		10,813,483		10,226,926	
Current liabilities:					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(803,281)		(642,843)	
Net current assets			10,010,202		9,584,083
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	12a		(83,181)		
Total Net Assets			9,939,888		9,593,209
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted funds	14a		(82,778)		113,208
Unrestricted funds:					
Designated funds	14a	7,121,896		6,854,366	
General funds	14a	2,900,770		2,625,635	
Total unrestricted funds			10,022,666		9,480,001
Total Funds			9,939,888		9,593,209

Approved by the Board of Trustees on **26th June 2026** and signed on their behalf by

Dr Alaa Murabit
Chair of the Board of Trustees

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW

For the year ended 31 December 2025

Cash flows from operating activities	Note	**2025**		**2024**	
		£	**£**	**£**	**£**
Net income for the reporting period					
(as per the statement of financial activities)		346,679		542,432	
Depreciation charges	10	8,662		9,960	
Loss on the sale of fixed assets	10	181		-	
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors	11	(652,875)		37,473	
Increase in creditors	12	243,619		286,148	
Cash flows from operating activities			**(53,734)**		876,013
Cash flows from investing activities					
Payments for property and equipment	10	**(12,583)**		-	
Net cash used in investing activities			**(12,583)**		-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year			**(66,317)**		876,013
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year			**10,103,300**		**9,227,298**
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year			**10,036,983**		10,103,300
Cash and cash equivalents			**754,731**		1,154,427
Short term Investments			**9,282,252**		**8,948,873**

Analysis of cash and cash equivalents and of net debt

	At 1 January 2025	Cash flows	Other non-cash changes	At 31 December 2025
	£	£	£	£
Current accounts	1,154,427	(399,696)	-	**754,731**
Deposit accounts	8,948,873	333,379	-	**9,282,252**
Total cash and cash equivalents	10,103,300	(66,317)	-	**10,036,983**

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2025

1. Accounting policies

a) Statutory information

Girls Not Brides is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is incorporated in England and Wales (company number: 8570751; charity number: 1154230).

The registered office address is Seventh Floor, 65 Leadenhall Street, London, EC3A 2AD.

b) Basis of preparation

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value, unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland Charities SORP (FRS 102) including Update Bulletin 2, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, and Companies Act 2016.

c) Public benefit entity

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

d) Presentational and functional currencies

The accounts are presented in sterling. The functional currencies of the charity are sterling, US dollar and euro. The accounts are presented in sterling since that is the currency in which the charity conducts most of its activities. No amounts have been rounded.

e) Going concern

There are no material uncertainties that cast significant doubt upon the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

f) Income

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.
- Any income received where the donor has specified that it is to be expended in a future accounting period is included within creditors as deferred income.
- Investment income is included when receivable.

g) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objects of the charity. Restricted funds are only for use of the purposes prescribed by the donors.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the Trustees for particular purposes.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2025

h) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT that cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates:

- Costs of generating funds comprise the costs associated with attracting donations and grants.
- Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them. These are split in accordance with the project codes used in the charity's accounting system.
- Support costs consist of the charity's administration budget heading. Support costs are allocated to the charity's charitable activities on a similar basis to prior years with 6% allocated to Costs of generating funds.
- Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity. These costs are associated with constitutional and statutory requirements and include any costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities. Cost are allocated on a similar basis to prior years with 6% allocated to Costs of generating funds.

i) Grants payable

Grants payable are made to third parties in furtherance of the charity's objects. Grants to Partners, members and coalitions are recognised as per the Financial Investments Policy. Single or multi-year grants are recognised and accounted for in the year that the grant contract is signed by the third party, unless there are existing grant contract conditions.

j) Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged in the income and expenditure account on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

k) Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised at cost and are depreciated over their useful economic lives.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

- Computers and software – over 3 years
- Furniture and equipment – over 3 to 5 years
- Leasehold improvements – over length of lease

Fixed assets with a value less than £1,000 are not capitalised.

l) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

m) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash in hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2025

change in value.

n) Creditors and provisions

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the charitable company does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least 12 months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised at the transaction price.

Provisions are recognised when the company has an obligation at the reporting date as a result of a past event, it is probable that the company will be required to settle that obligation and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

o) Pensions

The company operates a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of its employees. The costs of contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which they are payable.

p) Foreign currencies

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate as at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities are re-translated at the rate of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Any differences are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2025

2 Income from donations (grants)

			2025			2024
	Unrestricted	Restricted	**Total**	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	**£**	£	£	£
Government grants	1,706,060	1,487,911	**3,193,971**	1,471,089	-	1,471,089
Other grants and donations	1,561,060	759,940	**2,231,000**	2,484,397	980,805	3,465,202
	3,267,120	2,247,851	**5,514,971**	3,955,486	980,805	4,936,291

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2025

3a Analysis of expenditure (current year)

	Raising funds	Charitable activities	Governance costs	Support costs	**2025 Total**	2024 Total
	£	£	£	£	**£**	£
Staff costs (Note 6)	193,120	1,069,036	-	551,386	**1,813,542**	1,586,363
Premises costs (rent, utilities)	-	-	-	195,622	**195,622**	239,003
Travel and workshops / meetings	32,412	573,881	17,225	36,464	**659,982**	669,864
Consultancy	31,658	1,476,232	52,978	103,395	**1,664,263**	1,052,692
Grants (Note 4)	-	559,229	-	11,229	**570,458**	738,161
Professional fees	-	12,578	15,360	31,514	**59,452**	142,721
IT and communications	-	72,903	-	128,521	**201,424**	158,546
Office and other	13,597	158,423	-	193,335	**365,355**	222,245
	270,787	3,922,282	85,563	1,251,465	5,530,098	4,809,595
Support costs	75,088	1,176,377	-	(1,251,465)	**-**	-
Governance costs	5,134	80,429	(85,563)	-	**-**	-
Total expenditure 2025	**351,009**	**5,179,089**	**-**	**-**	**5,530,098**	

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2025

3b Analysis of expenditure (prior year)

		Charitable activities				
	Raising funds £	Human rights £	Relief of poverty £	Governance costs £	Support costs £	Total **£**
Staff costs (Note 6)	184,360	430,353	430,353	-	541,297	**1,586,363**
Premises costs (rent, utilities)	-	-	-	-	239,003	**239,003**
Travel and workshops / meetings	46,478	269,427	269,427	34,454	50,078	**669,864**
Consultancy	-	475,582	475,582	43,534	57,994	**1,052,692**
Grants (Note 4)	-	362,802	362,802	-	12,557	**738,161**
Professional fees	-	56,884	56,884	14,100	14,853	**142,721**
IT and communications	-	24,416	24,416	-	109,714	**158,546**
Office and other	4,481	28,463	28,463	-	160,838	**222,245**
	235,319	1,647,927	1,647,927	92,088	1,186,334	4,809,595
Support costs	71,180	557,577	557,577	-	(1,186,334)	-
Governance costs	5,526	43,281	43,281	(92,088)	-	-
Total expenditure 2024	**312,025**	**2,248,785**	**2,248,785**	-	-	**4,809,595**

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2025

4 Grant making

	2025	2024
	£	£
Cost		
Associação Moçambicana Desenvolvimento da Família, Mozambique	**-**	36,979
Association for Social and Human Awareness (ASH), India	**60,181**	-
Centre for Unfolding Learning Potentials, India	**-**	55,577
Child and Youth Protection Foundation, Nigeria	**-**	35,580
Child Rights Empowerment and Development Organisation	**213, 895**	54,110
Children's Dignity Forum, Tanzania	**66, 390**	80,627
Ciprodeni, Guatemala*	**(16, 864)**	94,951
Enda Reprame, Guatamala	**11,371**	-
Fundacao Para o Desenvolvi	**48,161**	-
The Foundation for Children's Rights, Malawi	**67,175**	77,002
GFM, Ivory Coast	**11, 365**	-
Girls Legacy Trust, Malawi	**-**	15,490
Orchid Project, Kenya	**-**	91,703
Relutet, Togo	**11,414**	-
SongES, Niger	**30,371**	40,599
Voix de Femmes, Burkina Faso	**30,694**	42,323
Yawalaya, Nepal	**-**	59,223
Other small grants	**36,305**	53,998
Total for the year	**570,458**	**738,161**

** The negative amount refers to a grant adjustment made for a 2024 grant where the recipient was unable to spend down the full funding*

In line with *Girls Not Brides* Financial Investment Policy, all grants during the year were made to registered member and partner institutions and not to individual beneficiaries.

5 Net income for the year

This is stated after charging:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Depreciation	**8,662**	9,960
Operating lease rentals payable:		
Property	**131,733**	126,280
Auditor's remuneration (excluding VAT):		
Audit	**12,800**	11,750
Other auditing services (EOL project)	**5,100**	4,925
Foreign exchange losses / (gains)	**(6,482)**	13,660

6 Analysis of staff costs, Trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

Staff costs were as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Salaries and wages	**1,470,756**	1,292,271
Social security costs	**175,165**	143,868
Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	**146,951**	129,215
Other forms of employee benefits (medical, life and travel insurance)	**20,670**	21,009
	1,813,542	1,586,363

Girls Not Brides makes contributions to a defined contribution scheme. The amount of contributions due to the scheme at the year ended 31 December 2025 was £nil. (2024: £nil).

In 2025 payments of £58,427 (2024: £nil) were made in compensation to former employees.

During the year 2025, *Girls Not Brides* paid £743,470 (2024: £663,241) to regional contractors to continue delivering support to Partners and members as part of the strategic plan. Regional contractors are based closer to our members and Partners as part of *Girls Not Brides*' deepening of its global and regional presence.

The number of employees whose remuneration for the year fell within the following bands was:

	2025	2024
	No.	No.
£60,001 - £70,000	-	1
£70,001 - £80,000	4	2
£120,001 - £130,000	1	1
£180,001 - £190,000 (including termination payment)	1	-

The total employee benefits (including pension contributions and employer's National Insurance) of the key management personnel was £705,970 (inclusive of termination payments) (2024: £463,766). In 2025 the Chief Executive Officer and five directors were responsible for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the charity.

7a Staff numbers

The average number of UK employees (headcount based on number of staff employed) during the year was 28 (2024: 26).

The average monthly number of UK employees (FTE) during the year was 28 (2024: 27)

7b Overseas contractors

The average number of overseas contractors (headcount) during the year was 23 (2024: 21).

The average number of overseas contractors (FTE) during the year was 23 (2024: 21).

8 Related party transactions

There are no related party transactions to disclose for 2025 (2024: one related party transaction through the Gates Foundation).

9 Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Short leasehold improvements £	Computer & software £	Furniture & equipment £	Total £
Cost				
At the start of the year	106,515	85,907	57,875	250,297
Additions in year	-	12,583	-	12,583
Disposals in year	-	(7,697)	-	(7,697)
At the end of the year	106,515	90,793	57,875	255,183
Depreciation				
At the start of the year	106,515	76,780	57,875	241,170
Charge for the year	-	8,662	-	8,662
Eliminated on disposal	-	(7,516)	-	(7,516)
At the end of the year	106,515	77,926	57,875	242,316
Net book value				
At the start of the year	**-**	**9,126**	**-**	**9,126**
At the end of the year	**-**	**12,867**	**-**	**12,867**

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2025

11 Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other debtors	**77,465**	65,572
Prepayments	**167,380**	58,054
Accrued income	**531,655**	-
	776,500	123,626

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	**154,977**	187,627
Taxation and social security	**48,769**	41,063
Grants payable	**211,861**	228,240
Other creditors	**273,512**	185,913
Deferred income	**114,162**	-
	803,281	642,843

12a Creditors: amounts falling due after one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Grants payable	**83,181**	-
	83,181	-

13a Analysis of net assets between funds (current year)

	Designated Funds	General unrestricted	Restricted	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	12,867	-	12,867
Net current assets	7,121,896	2,887,903	(82,778)	9,927,021
Net assets at 31 December 2025	**7,121,896**	**2,900,770**	**(82,778)**	**9,939,888**

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2025

13b Analysis of net assets between funds (prior year)

	Designated Funds	General unrestricted	Restricted	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	9,126	-	9,126
Net current assets	6,854,366	2,616,509	113,208	9,584,083
Net assets at 31 December 2024	**6,854,366**	**2,625,635**	**113,208**	**9,593,209**

14a Movements in funds (current year)

	At 1 January 2025	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 December 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds:					
Education Out Loud	3,820	246,862	(270,260)	-	(19,578)
Belron Ronnie Lubner	-	147,372	(70,531)	-	76,841
FCDO	-	1,487,911	(1,487,990)	-	(79)
Ford Foundation	194,299	-	(194,299)	-	-
Gates Foundation	-	127,553	(97,925)	-	29,608
Girls First Fund	-	28,589	(16,000)	-	12,589
Oak Foundation	(37,440)	60,850	(39,035)	37,440	21,815
UNFPA	(47,471)	126,663	(79,734)	-	(542)
UNICEF	-	22,071	(225,503)	-	(203,432)
Total restricted funds	**113,208**	**2,247,851**	**(2,481,277)**	**37,440**	**(82,778)**
Unrestricted funds:					
Designated funds:					
Sustainable Growth & Innovation Fund	6,854,366	267,530	-	-	7,121,896
Total designated funds	**6,854,366**	**267,530**	**-**	**-**	**7,121,896**
General funds	**2,625,635**	**3,361,396**	**(3,048,821)**	**(37,440)**	**2,900,770**
Total unrestricted funds	**9,480,001**	**3,628,926**	**(3,048,821)**	**(37,440)**	**10,022,666**
Total funds	**9,593,209**	**5,876,777**	**(5,530,098)**	**-**	**9,939,888**

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2025

14b Movements in funds (prior year)

	At 1 January 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds:					
Education Out Loud	-	253,589	(249,769)	-	3,820
Ford Foundation	-	393,850	(199,551)	-	194,299
Gates Foundation	-	220,813	(220,813)	-	-
Oak Foundation	-	56,342	(93,782)	-	(37,440)
UNFPA	(39,257)	56,211	(64,425)	-	(47,471)
Total restricted funds	(39,257)	**980,805**	**(828,340)**	**-**	**113,208**
Unrestricted funds:					
Designated funds:					
Sustainable Growth & Innovation Fund	6,438,630	-	-	415,736	6,854,366
Total designated funds	6,438,630	**-**	**-**	**415,736**	**6,854,366**
General funds	2,651,404	**4,371,222**	**(3,981,255)**	**(415,736)**	**2,625,635**
Total unrestricted funds	9,090,034	4,371,222	**(3,981,255)**	**-**	**9,480,001**
Total funds	**9,050,777**	**5,352,027**	**(4,809,595)**	**-**	**9,593,209**

Narrative to explain the purpose of each fund is given at the foot of the note below.

Purposes of restricted funds

Education Out Loud

In 2025, *Girls Not Brides* received grant funding of £246,862 from Education Out Loud for strengthening collective action to end child marriage, keep girls in school and advance gender equality in West Africa. This was in continuation of the project started in 2024. Income is received quarterly in arrears and the negative balance represents amounts not yet claimed at 31 December 2025, payment has been received post year end.

UNFPA

In 2025 UNFPA awarded *Girls Not Brides* a continuation grant for the Child Marriage Action to Research Network (CRANK). In 2025, a total expense of £79,734 was incurred for this project.

UNICEF

In 2025, *Girls Not Brides* embarked upon the second project stage for capacity building in national civil society organisations to analyse and address causes of gender inequality. This project will continue until 2027. Income is received

quarterly in arrears and the negative balance represents amounts not yet claimed at 31 December 2025, this payment has been received post year-end.

Oak Foundation

During the year *Girls Not Brides* were awarded a continuation of this grant supporting Learning activities, all funding has been received for this project and activities have been extended to March 2026.

Belron Ronnie Lubner Foundation

In 2025 Belron awarded *Girls Not Brides* a continuation grant to accelerate progress in Child Marriage prevention. This funding is in place until August 2027.

Gates Foundation

During the year Girls Not Brides carried out activities including Movement Building and Advocacy Leadership Programme (MBALP) and Tanzania co-creation and grant-giving, the project has now been extended to September 2026.

FCDO

In 2025 *Girls Not Brides* embarked upon a new project focussing on key countries and amplifying support for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), feminist entities and movements – particularly those led by girls themselves. This funding agreement ran to March 2026.

Ford Foundation

In 2025 *Girls Not Brides* completed activities supporting gender equality; funding was recognised in full in prior periods.

Girls First Fund

In 2025 *Girls Not Brides* were awarded new funding for Research and Advocacy work. This project will continue until January 2026.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2025

15 Operating lease commitments payable as a lessee

Total amount payable in respect of non-cancellable operating leases:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Less than one year	60,555	148,932
One to two years	-	60,555
Two to five years	-	-
	60,555	209,487