REPORTING TEMPLATE

Member States Reporting Template For The African Union Accountability Framework on Eliminating Harmful Practices

Area of Focus	Questions
1. Mobilising political action	**1. List the international, regional or sub-regional human rights instruments, frameworks or political declarations (ACERWC, ACHPR, CEDAW, CRC, UPR, AU-VAW, Maputo Protocol, and others if applicable) on harmful practices your country ratified.** • Has the country also received recommendations from these commitments to address issues related to FGM and child marriage? ☐ Yes ☐ No • List the specific recommendations and actions received per instrument. • Of the instruments you ratified, which one have you submitted the initial and periodic reports on? • When was your last report deposited? ⬚ * **Documentation to be provided to verify the reports submitted or instruments ratified.**
	2. Is there a national action plan / strategy for addressing harmful practices (FGM and Child marriage)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

	• If yes, indicate the duration of the plan: [ ]
	• Is the action plan costed for implementation? ☐ Yes ☐ No
	• Which ministries are responsible for implementation of the national action plan /strategy?
	[ ]
	* Documentation to be provided to verify the report: signed documents, reports, national action plan.
2. Promoting legislation enforcement	**3. Is legislation (standalone or through other laws and provisions) in place to prohibit and criminalize FGM and child marriage and in which year (report separately for FGM and child marriage)?**
	• List all the legislation in place:
	[ ]
	• List the oversight bodies ensuring legislative enforcement:
	[ ]
	• What steps has your country taken to criminalise child marriage and FGM?
	[ ]
	* Documentation to be provided to verify the report: : Copy of legislation, clauses, oversight body mandates

4. What protective measures/services are in place for girls and women at risk or survivors of FGM and child marriage in social, health, education, legal and other sectors?

- Provide list of measures and services with details from the sectors mentioned above that are protective of FGM and Child marriage survivors:

- List responsible institutions.

- Indicate if reporting and referral systems exist, and describe the process

* Documentation to be provided to verify the report: copy of FGM and child marriage legislation, clauses from other provisions, Standard Operating Procedures, service reports and program records.

5. Is there a centralized and functional reporting mechanism to record incidents, investigations and prosecutions of cases of FGM and child marriage?

☐ Yes   If yes, at   ☐ National
☐ No   which level?   ☐ Sub-national

- Please explain in detail the reporting process and pathways:

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* Documentation to be provided to verify the report: documents and reports from the reporting mechanism.

6. Are there survivor-friendly, trauma informed and gender sensitive procedures and systems in the social, health, education and legal sectors to report on incidents of harmful practices?

☐ Yes   ☐ No

* If yes, documentation to be provided to verify the report: SOPs from the different sectors, reports

7. Are there legal and regulatory procedures and systems within the social, health, education and legal sector to enforce FGM and CM?

☐ Yes   ☐ No

- Do your national laws provide for extraterritorial jurisdiction for harmful practices committed against nationals abroad, and by foreigners on your territory?

☐ Yes   ☐ No

- Have there been any cases prosecuted under extraterritorial jurisdiction provisions?

☐ Yes   ☐ No

* Documentation to be provided to verify the report: SOPs from the different sectors, reports.

3. Advocating for increased allocation of domestic, financial resources	**8. Is there budgetary allocation by the national / local government to support initiatives addressing harmful practices (FGM and child marriage)?** ☐ Yes ☐ No ● If yes, specify the amount allocated and utilized for harmful practices disaggregated by FGM and CM where available, in the reporting period: [ ] * Documentation to be provided to verify the report: annual budget and expenditure reports.
4. Strengthening partnerships, monitoring and evaluation platforms and movements to end female genital mutilation, particularly within communities most affected by the harmful practice	**9. Is there a national monitoring and oversight systems on harmful practices (FGM and child marriage) within social, health, education, legal, and other sectors?** ☐ Yes ☐ No ● Is the monitoring process devolved to sub-national and local levels? ☐ Yes ☐ No ● Please describe the oversight coordination mechanisms at the national, sub national and local levels: [ ] * Documentation to be provided to verify the report: annual reports for each of these sectors.
	10. Does your country have a functional national, Sub-national and local database or data collection system on the prevalence and incidence of harmful practices (e.g., child marriage, female genital mutilation)? ☐ Yes ☐ No ● How frequently is data on harmful practices collected and published, and through which mechanisms in place to ensure its accuracy and reliability? [ ]

- Is the national database published and accessible to the public?

☐ Yes
☐ No

- Do the related sectors' administrative data include indicators on FGM and CM and are the administrative data systems linked to the national database?

☐ Yes
☐ No

- Is the FGM and CM data disaggregated by age, sex, and other relevant socio-economic indicators to inform targeted interventions?

☐ Yes
☐ No

☐ Yes   ☐ No

- Is there a national hotline that supports children to report harmful practices and how does this feed into the national database?

[text box]

* Documentation to be provided to verify the report

11. Is there a functional harmful practice (FGM/CM) or child protection national coordination body that convenes diverse governmental, non-governmental and grass root players in social, health, education, legal, and other sectors?

☐ Yes   ☐ No

- Who constitutes this body and how often do they meet?

[text box]

- How are survivors and young people involved in the coordination mechanism?

[text box]

* Documentation to be provided to verify the report: reports from the coordination body

12. Have clan, cultural and religious leaders from all faiths and denominations publicly denounced all forms of FGM and child marriage practices and issued official communication at national and sub-national level during the reporting period?

☐ Yes   ☐ No

- Specify how many declarations made:

* Documentation to be provided to verify the report

13. Are there areas that have been declared free of FGM and Child Marriage?

☐ Yes   ☐ No

- State number of administrative areas declared free of FGM and child marriage. Include the percentage coverage out of the total areas to be declared free of FGM and child marriage.

- Mention the Number of anti -Harmful Committee established and strengthened.

- What are the good practices/initiatives/interventions that could have led to the elimination of FGM or CM?

- Do you have cross-border agreements on FGM, Child marriage and other harmful practices?

☐ Yes
☐ No

- What mechanisms do you use to follow-up and track the implementation?

* Documentation to be provided to verify the report: reports, copy of communication by religious leaders.

5. Capacity building and awareness raising	**14. Is FGM and child marriage content on prevention and response integrated within training (pre- and in-service) curricula for social, health, education, police, and judiciary personnel. Submit FGM content for each listed sector/personnel training?** ☐ Yes ☐ No ● If yes, how many social welfare, health, education, judiciary and police professionals have been trained to prevent among those at risk and respond to harmful practices survivors during the reporting period? *** Documentation to be provided to verify the reports from each sector.**
	15. Are there national and subnational media campaigns to eliminate harmful practices during the reporting period? ☐ Yes ☐ No ● Are there campaigns on alternative positive practices to replace the harmful practices? ☐ Yes ☐ No ● Please describe how the campaigns are conducted: *** Documentation to be provided to verify the campaigns conducted**

List of abbreviations / acronyms

Acronym/Abbreviation	Full Form
ACERWC	African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
ACHPR	African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights
AU-VAW	African Union - Violence Against Women
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CM	Child Marriage
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
UPR	Universal Periodic Review

Glossary of terms

The proposed glossary of terms aims to clarify the concepts and terms. The list is not complete and the information is not definite:

Accountability: Accountability refers to the obligations of partners to act according to clearly defined responsibilities, roles and performance expectations, often with respect to the efficient use of resources.

Child marriage (as understood by ACERWC): Child marriage refers to any formal marriage or informal union in which at least one of the parties is under the age of 18 years. In the African context, the practice is considered a harmful social and cultural practice that violates the rights of the child, undermines their health, development, and dignity, and is prohibited under the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. ACERWC emphasises that States Parties should take effective legal and policy measures to prohibit child marriage and set the minimum age of marriage at 18 years for both girls and boys. (African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) — Declaration on Ending Child Marriage in Africa, adopted by ACERWC (which interprets and applies Article 21(2) of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Chid).

Discrimination: Any unfair treatment, exclusion, restriction, or preference based on a person's race, sex, gender, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, disability, age, or other personal characteristics that has the purpose or effect of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment, or exercise of their human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Empowerment: Implies an expansion in women's ability to make strategic life choices in a context where this ability was previously denied to them. It can be a process and an outcome.

Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ): Legal ability of a government or a state to exercise its authority beyond its physical borders. ETJ allows a nation to apply its laws, conduct investigations, or prosecute crimes occurring in foreign countries under specific circumstances. in the context of the African Union refers to the **legal authority exercised by a State or AU institution to apply and enforce its laws or judicial powers beyond its own territorial borders**, particularly in matters that affect its interests, nationals, or obligations under international and regional legal frameworks. It involves the extension of jurisdiction in cases where conduct outside the territory of a Member State or the AU has direct legal relevance—whether through nationality, effects, or other accepted bases under international law. While the AU itself does not offer a single formal definition in its Constitutive Act or core treaties, **the concept is reflected in AU discussions on jurisdictional bases such as in the context of transnational crimes and cooperation with the African Court, which recognises jurisdiction over extraterritorial acts that affect Member States' vital interests.**

Female genital mutilation: FGM comprises all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.

Framework: the ideas, information, and principles that form the structure of an organization or plan on which something is built.

Gender: means the roles, duties and responsibilities that are culturally or socially ascribed to a particular gender (AU Convention on ending VAWG)

Gender-based violence: any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.

Gender equality: women and men must enjoy equal opportunities, choices, capabilities, power and knowledge as equal citizens. Equipping girls and boys, women and men with the knowledge, values, attitudes and skills to tackle gender disparities is a precondition to facilitating sustainable development and a future for all.

Gender equity: refers to "fairness of treatment for women and men, according to their respective needs.

Harmful practices: Are persistent practices and behaviours that are grounded on discrimination on the basis of sex, gender, age and multiple discriminations that often involve violence and cause physical and/or psychological harm or suffering.

Sex: refers to the **biological and physiological characteristics** that define humans as **female, male, or intersex**. These characteristics include chromosomes, reproductive organs, and hormonal profiles. The term is distinct from gender, which relates to socially constructed roles and identities, please see above.
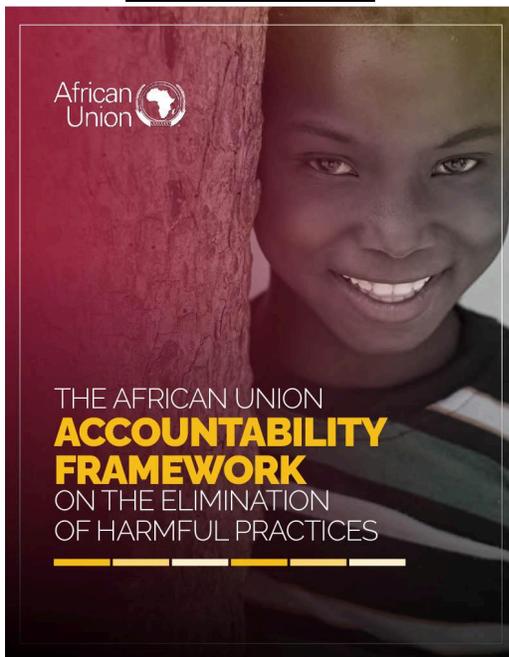
Social norms: Are common standards within a social group regarding socially acceptable or appropriate behaviours in particular social situations and the breach of which has social consequences.

Violence against women and girls: means all acts perpetrated against women and girls that cause or could cause them verbal, emotional, physical, sexual, psychological, or economic harm, including the threat to take such acts, or to undertake the imposition of arbitrary restrictions on, or deprivation of, fundamental freedoms in the private and public spheres, or in cyberspace, in times of peace, armed conflict, transition, post-conflict, disaster, and post-disaster situations **(AU Convention on ending VAWG).**
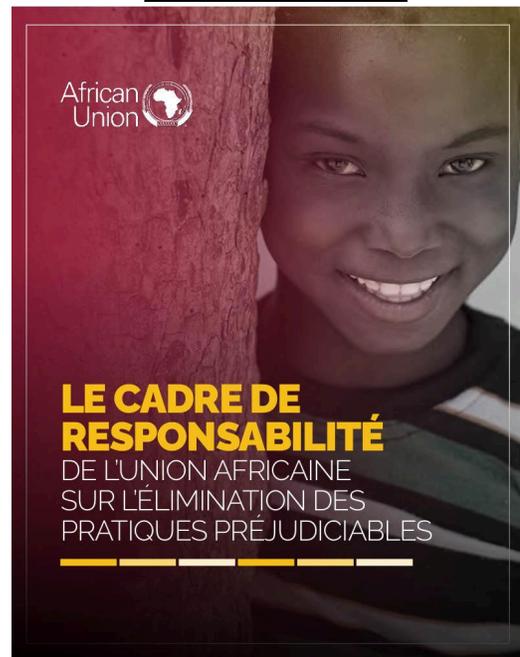
AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK ON ELIMINATION OF HARMFUL PRACTICES

Links to Document

EN Version

FR Version

In partnership with the African Union Commission, UNFPA is contributing to the development of a Reporting Template that will support the effective implementation of the AU Accountability Framework to end harmful practices.