



# Ending Child, Early and Forced Marriage: A Holistic Approach



COMMONWEALTH *of* LEARNING



COMMONWEALTH  
HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING  
LONDON 2018

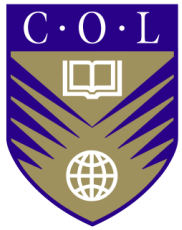
Professor Asha Kanwar  
President & CEO

Frances Ferreira, Senior Advisor

Women's Forum, CHOGM  
London, United Kingdom | April 18, 2018



Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting  
Vancouver, 1987



# COMMONWEALTH *of* LEARNING



To help Commonwealth governments and institutions use technologies to improve and expand access to education and training





ECONOMIC  
GROWTH



SOCIAL  
INCLUSION



ENVIRONMENTAL  
CONSERVATION

# *Learning for Sustainable Development*

# GOAL 4

A group of diverse young children, likely of African descent, are shown in a classroom setting. They are wearing blue and yellow school uniforms. The children are smiling and appear to be engaged in a learning activity. The background is slightly blurred, showing other children and a teacher.

ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY  
EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING  
OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

More at [sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgsproposal](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgsproposal)



# Leveraging New & Existing Technologies



# COL Strategic Plan 2015-2021



*COL recognizes that advancing the goals of both women's empowerment and gender equality are central to 'Learning for Sustainable Development'*

# Empowering Women and Girls

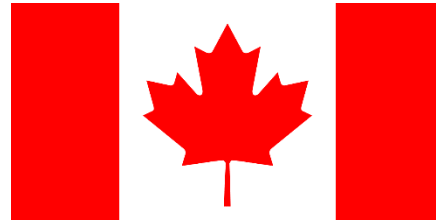


Photo credit: Joshua Estey, [DFAT Gallery](#)



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**



**Global Affairs  
Canada**

**Affaires mondiales  
Canada**



# High Rates of Child Marriage

Countries & Regions	Child marriage (%) 2010 - 2016*	
	Married by 15	Married by 18
Bangladesh	22	59
Pakistan	3	21
India	18	47
Mozambique	14	48
Tanzania	5	31

Source: [The State of the World's Children Report 2017 Statistical Tables: Child Marriages, UNICEF](#)



## The Price of Early Marriage

*“ If girls are not educated, they are compelled to early marriages. Most of these girls, who enter into early marriage, cannot even take care of themselves, so how can they take care of their children?”*

Religious leader in the Bihar, India





Community involvement prevented Fatima's early marriage  
in Mozambique



Giving girls and women agency: **Atia's Story**



Carpentry training with Shidhulai Swanirvar Sangstha in Bangladesh



Mobile phone technology training with Mann Deshi in India

# GIRLS Inspire: Results

**35,879**

women and girls  
completed skills and  
vocational training



**6,673**

women and girls in  
income generating  
opportunities



**177,568**

community  
members  
reached



**453**

child marriages  
prevented

Inform

Consult



Community  
Engagement

Collaborate

Empower

# Education Strategy



Boat Schools in  
Bangladesh



Pop-Up Learning  
Centres in Pakistan



Mobile Learning  
Centres in India and  
Mozambique



Safe Learning  
Environments



Vocational Skills Training

# Capacity Building



Learning about  
legal and social  
rights



Acquiring life skills,  
including health  
care



Understanding  
their choices



Instil confidence for  
making decisions



Gaining the support  
of fathers, spouses  
and brothers

# Health and Safety Strategy



Access to Health  
Resources



Accessible, safe,  
hygienic learning  
environments



Support Networks for  
family- and health-  
related issues

# Strategy for Employment



Financial literacy



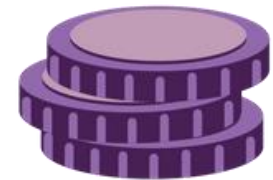
Career counselling



Job Fairs



Internships and  
Employment Placement



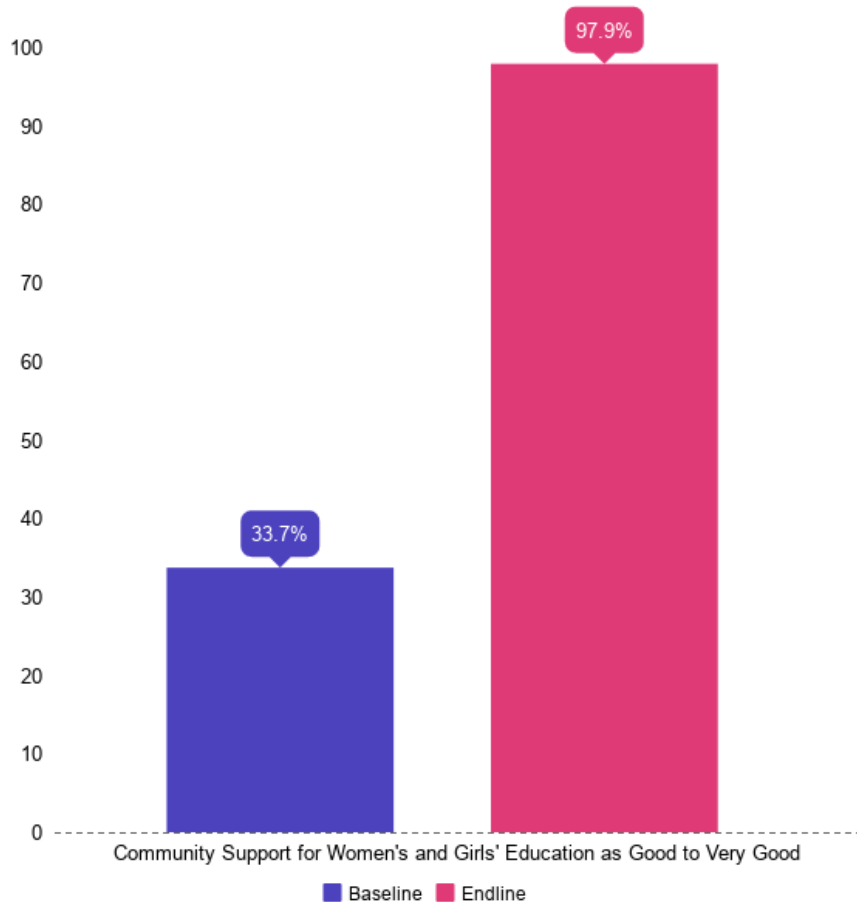
Microloans

# Model

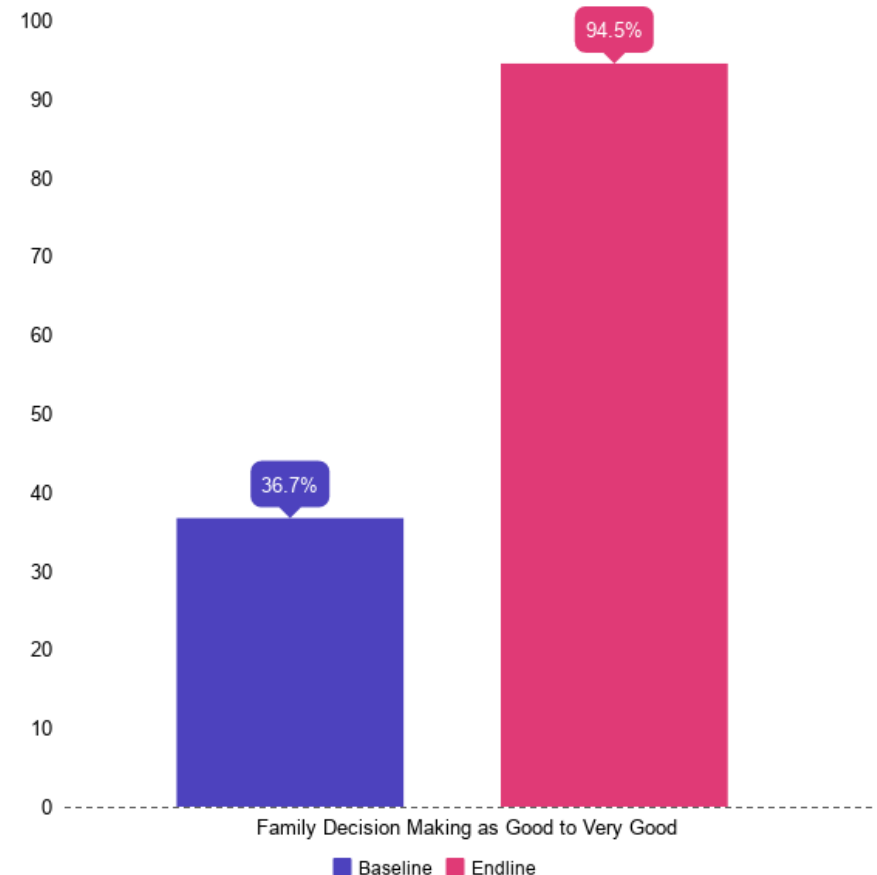


# Changing Social Norms

## Support for Women's and Girl's Education



## Perceptions of Decision Making in the Family





# Social Return on Investment

- Likelihood of being employed increased by 50 %
- Average number of hours of paid work per week increased by 11 hours
- Fivefold increase in income
- 10 % increase in the probability of females being decision makers



# Lessons Learned

- Building trust in the community
- Establishing safe learning environments
- Establishing multi-stakeholder partnerships
- Creating linkages with the labor market and financial institutions



# Integrate and Mainstream

- Digitize training programs in local languages
- Create skill-based value chains
- Engage governments to effect policy change



Thank You

[www.col.org](http://www.col.org)

