

Canada

Child, Early and Forced Marriage Envelope of the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI)

Child, early and forced marriage (CEFM) threatens the lives and futures of girls and women around the world. Over the last several years, Canada has supported programming to end CEFM and support girls who have already been married through a number of channels, including through the **Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI)**. Recognizing the ongoing need to support grassroots and community-level initiatives aimed at preventing CEFM and supporting girls and women who have already been married, the Government of Canada has established a new funding envelope dedicated to CEFM through the CFLI.

The CFLI provides modest funding assistance to local-level community groups, non-government organizations, civil society organizations and, in exceptional cases, international NGOs, and government institutions for small projects addressing governance, democracy, capacity-building, economic and other social development issues, including those related to CEFM. CFLI funding is restricted to countries that are eligible for [Official Development Assistance \(ODA\)](#) under the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

The criteria for the Canada Fund are determined by the embassy or high commission responsible for each eligible country and are tailored to respond to local realities. CEFM is a complex and multifaceted issue requiring engagement at all levels of government and all sectors of society. There is growing international expertise and consensus that supports multi-sectoral approaches to ending CEFM. Effective programming approaches may include projects aimed at **empowering girls** (for example through mentorship programs and girls' clubs); **mobilizing families and communities** (including by raising awareness of the causes and consequences of CEFM and engaging with parents, men, boys and religious leaders); **providing services** (including access to education, healthcare and safe spaces); and **establishing and implementing laws and policies** aimed at ending CEFM. Note that CEFM projects that also focus on related issues such as violence against women, adolescent pregnancy, gender equality, women peace and security and child protection may also be eligible for funding.

In order to learn more about this CEFM programming envelope and how to apply for funding, we encourage you to contact the Canadian embassy or high commission that is accredited to your country and to consult their website. Thank you in advance for your interest. We all have a role to play in ending CEFM and we value the important contributions made by local organizations around the world to this end.