# LEGAL AND SOCIAL NORM CHANGE FOR THE REALISATION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS' RIGHTS IN SRHR: ACHIEVEMENTS AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS IN AFRICA.

PERSPECTIVES FROM THE STATE OF AFRICAN WOMEN REPORT (2018)\*

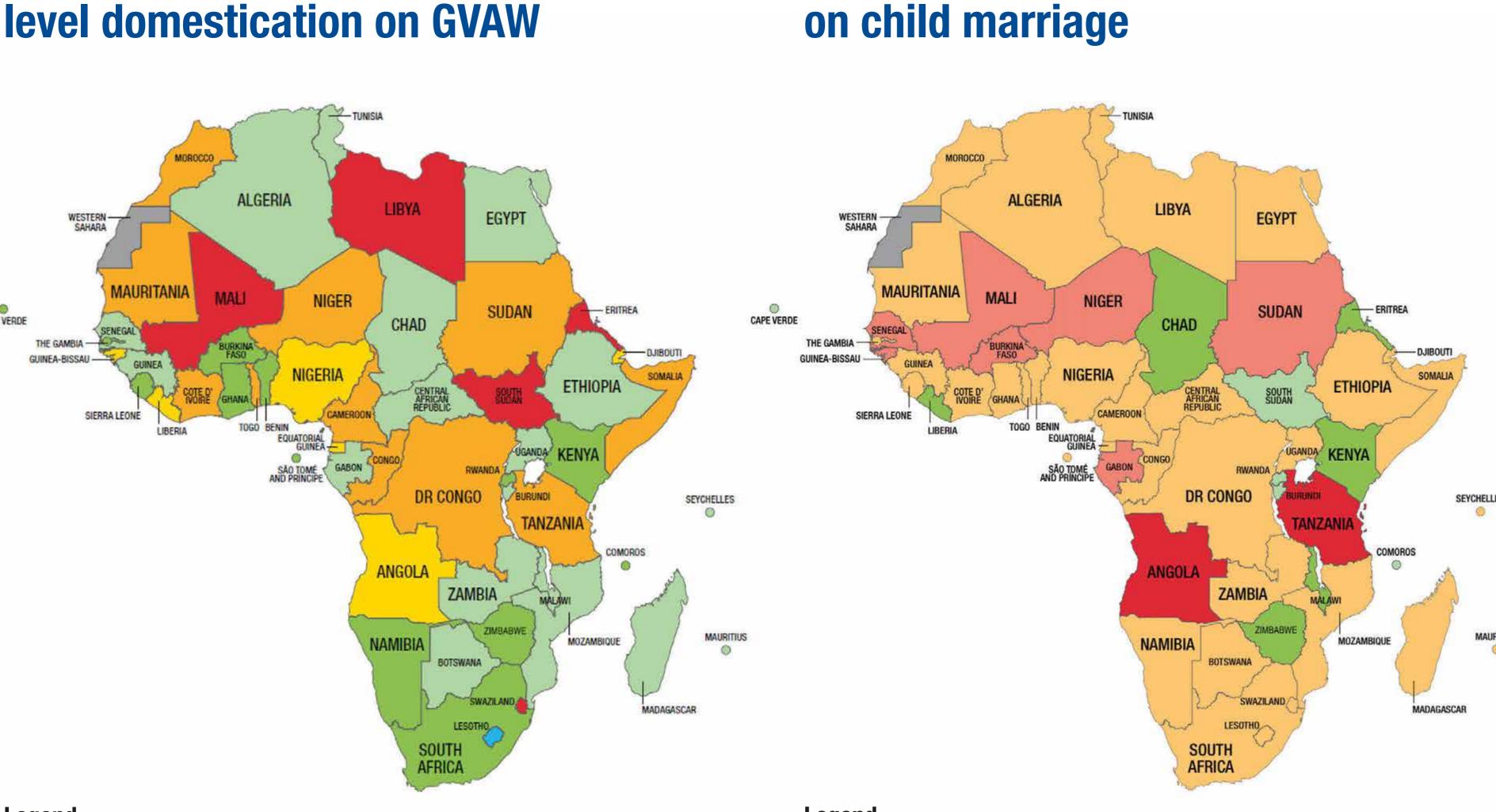


### BACKGROUND

#### 15th anniversary of the AU Maputo Protocol

- Comprehensive understanding of women and girls' rights in SRHR in 32 articles; explicit on discrimination
- Extensive provisions on the eradication of gender-based violence against women (GVAW) and harmful practices (HP)
- Explicit reference to marginalised groups

**Progress made with regard to national** level domestication on GVAW



#### Legend

- Legislation on domestic violence, sexual harassment and criminalisation on marital rape.
- Only legislation on domestic violence and sexual harassment. Marital rape not criminalised.
- Only legislation on domestic violence. No legislation on sexual harassment and marital rape not criminalised, or missing data.
- Only legislation on sexual harassment. No legislation on domestic violence and marital rape not criminalised.
- No legislation on domestic violence nor on sexual harassment. Marital rape is not criminalised
- Marital rape is criminalised and legislation on sexual harassment.
- No legislation on domestic violence. Data not available.

#### Legend

**Legal frameworks** 

- Legal age of marriage set at 18, with full and free consent, applying to all marriages. Action/strategic plan or campaign to end child marriage in place.
- Legal age of marriage set at 18, with full and free consent, applying to all marriages. No action/strategic plan or campaign to end child marriage in place (or missing data).
- Legal age of marriage set at 18 but presence of legal loopholes (either or both: no full and free consent and/or not applying to all marriages, or missing data).
- Legal age of marriage not set at 18 or missing data. Action/strategic plan or campaign to end child marriage in place.
- Legal age of marriage not set at 18 and no action/strategic plan or campaign to end child marriage in place.
- No data avilable.

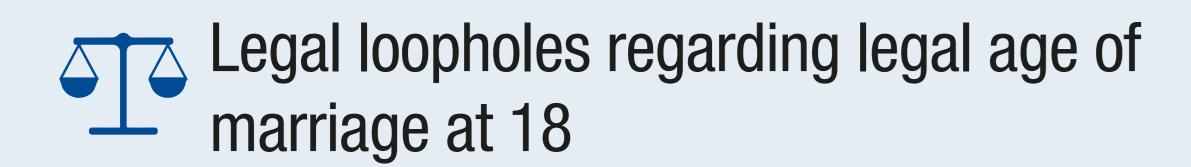
## **APPROACH AND RESULTS**

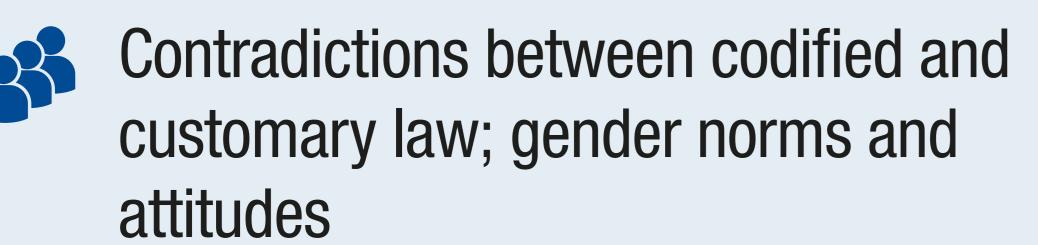
Strategies for legal and social norm change

#### **Approach** Results Court case for rape, abduction and Strengthened accountability standards forced marriage (Ethiopia). CSOs file a and reform of law that allows a rapist to complaint at the ACHPR who rules in escape charges if he marries his victim favour of the girl Adressing legal pluralism with respect Model law that serves as a reference to child marriage (SADC region). A document to facilitate countries to regional multi-stakeholder dialogue develop their own child marriage related leads to a draft model law that is laws reviewed by CSOs ECOWAS Court making first judgment Compensation of victims; request to strengthen GVAW prevention and on Maputo protocol on state accountability for failing to protect response system women's right (Nigeria) Distribution of guidelines among church Emerging social norms change among church members and in communities leaders condemning child marriage and FGM and promoting girls' education and engagement of boys (Kenya) Safe ride Campaign on sexual violence Social norm change among taxi drivers, leadership and public transport in public transport. Public sensitization and education and engagement with companies the taxi industry (SA) Stop Child Marriage campaign. Training Local by-laws to sanction child marriage of girls to lobby traditional chiefs who and annulation of child marriages adopted a declaration calling for age at marriage to be set at 18 (Malawi)

### PROBLEM







Limited translation into action plans and weak law enforcement; financial and human resource constraints

Focus has been on legal norm change

# LESSONS LEARNED



Intersections between GVAW, HP, sexual rights and reproductive health and HIV and AIDS require simultaneous action in all areas & both legal and social norm change

Training of legal and health professionals is key to the translation of legal and policy frameworks into practice

# FUTURE DIRECTIONS



Further support continental, regional and national campaigns



Raise awareness on, and further the use of, the Maputo protocol



Strengthen learning and collaboration Strengthen learning and collaboration across and between the RECs; support and use regional gender infrastructure and courts



Strengthen collaboration and coordination with traditional authorities and customary courts



Support women and girls' rights organisations















