Kurdistan Region of Iraq

The prevalence of child marriage was highest among internally displaced persons compared to refugees and host populations. Education was a protective factor.

Economic insecurity within displaced populations is driving decision-making around child marriage and inter-ethnic marriages.

Agency and decision-making power for girls were diminished and related to serious mental health consequences. Gender norms and associated practices regarding family honor and education are grounded in gender discrimination that drives child marriage.

The Women’s Refugee Commission, in partnership with the Johns Hopkins Center for Humanitarian Health, has joined forces with a broad consortium of UN agencies, international NGOs, and academic institutions to examine the prevalence and drivers of child marriage in humanitarian contexts and inform prevention and risk mitigation programming.