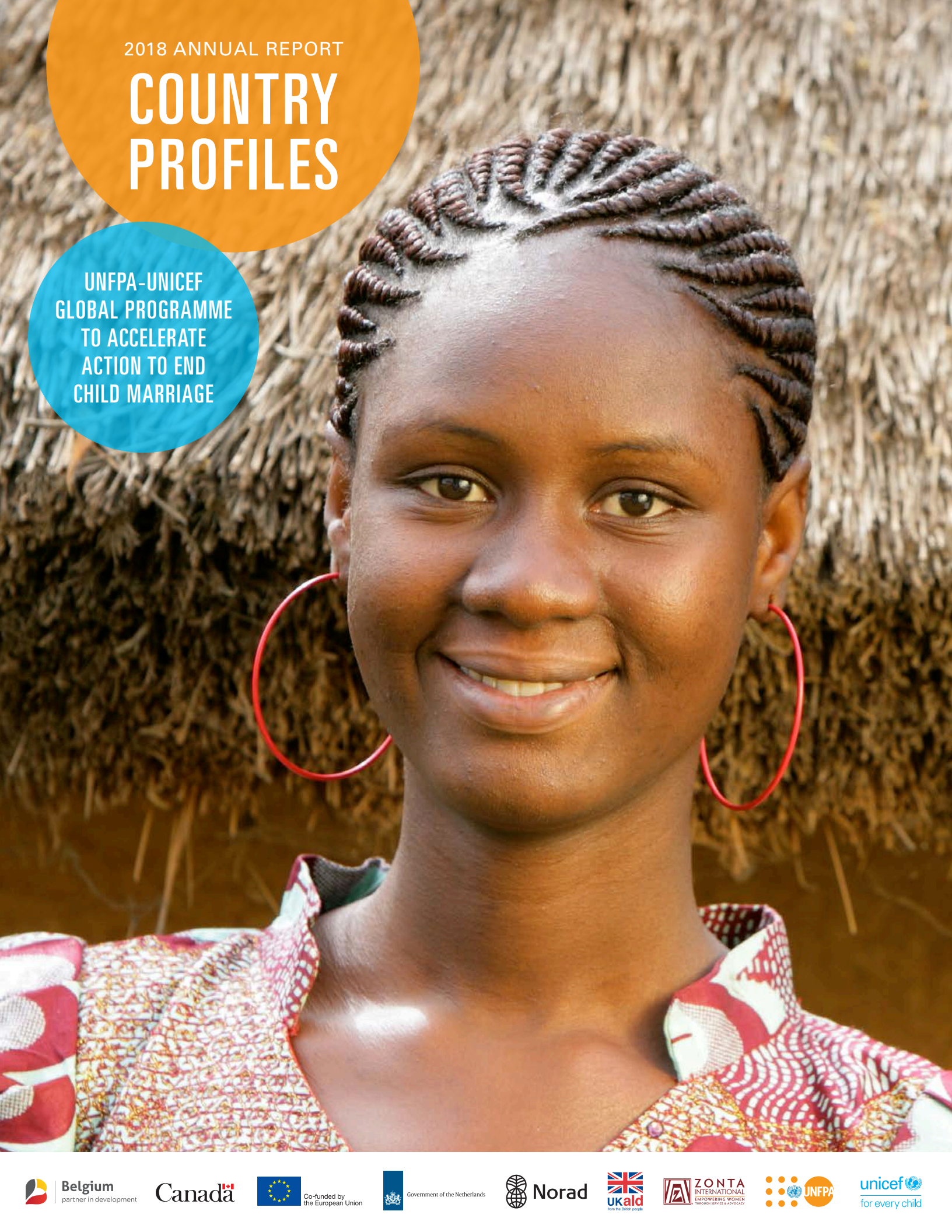


2018 ANNUAL REPORT

COUNTRY PROFILES

UNFPA-UNICEF
GLOBAL PROGRAMME
TO ACCELERATE
ACTION TO END
CHILD MARRIAGE



The Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage is generously funded by the Governments of Belgium, Canada, the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom and the European Union and Zonta International.

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August 2019

BANGLADESH

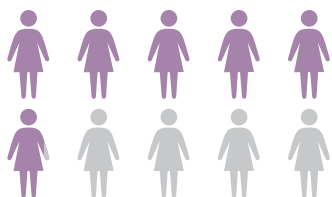
COUNTRY PROFILE



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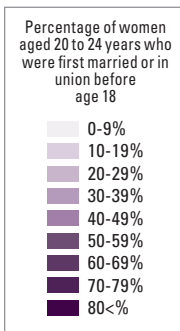
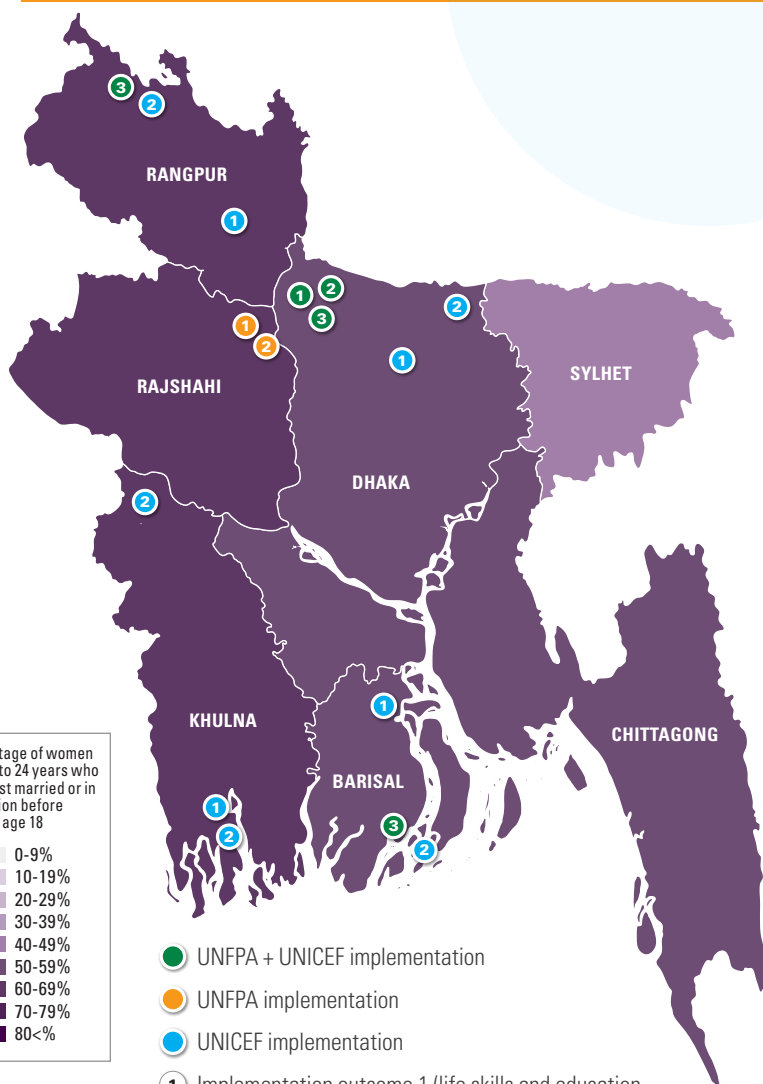
COUNTRY PROFILE



59¹ Percentage of young women (aged 20–24) married or in union by age 18



22² Percentage of young women (aged 20–24) married or in union by age 15



- UNFPA + UNICEF implementation
- UNFPA implementation
- UNICEF implementation
- 1** Implementation outcome 1 (life skills and education support for girls)
- 2** Implementation outcome 2 (community dialogue)
- 3** Implementation outcome 3 (strengthening education, health and child protection systems)

Note: This map is stylized and not to scale. It does not reflect a position by UNFPA or UNICEF on the legal status of any country or area or the delimitation of any frontiers. Implementation areas are shown by district and only reflect implementation under the Global Programme. Source for child marriage prevalence data is the Demographic and Health Survey 2014.

 **2.05**³ BIRTHS PER WOMAN

Total fertility rate (average number of children a woman would have by the end of her reproductive period if her experience followed the currently prevalent age-specific fertility rates)

 **78**⁴ ADOLESCENT BIRTH RATE

Number of births per 1,000 adolescent girls aged 15–19

 **26%**⁵

Upper secondary school completion rate among girls aged 3–5 years above upper secondary graduation age

 **30.8**⁶ Percentage of women aged 15–19 who have begun childbearing

 **1.11**⁷ Gender parity index for primary school enrolment

¹ Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), 2014; ² DHS, 2014; ³ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019). World Population Prospects 2019, Online Edition; ⁴ United Nations Statistics Division (2018), SDG Database, <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database>; ⁵ DHS, 2014; ⁶ DHS, 2014; ⁷ UNICEF global databases (April 2019)

GLOBAL PROGRAMME RESULTS IN 2018



87,024

Number of girls reached with life skills interventions



817,952

Number of community members engaged in community dialogue



119

Number of health and child protection service delivery points supported to provide adolescent girl-friendly services



114

Number of schools supported to provide girl-friendly quality education

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Bangladesh drew up its National Action Plan (NAP) to End Child Marriage, jointly launched by the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs and UNICEF. The goal of the NAP is to end the marriage of girls below 15 years of age, to reduce by one third the rate of marriage for girls below 18 years by 2021, and to eliminate child marriage by 2041.
- ✓ A parliamentary sub-committee on 'Preventing Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Including Eliminating Child Marriage' was set up within the Standing Committee of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs with support from UNFPA and the Speaker of Parliament. This partnership with the Parliament Secretariat is strategic because it offers UNFPA and partners an additional avenue through which to advocate on ending GBV and child marriage. This important milestone was further supported by the publication of a policy brief by UNFPA, following a national child marriage study conducted in 14 districts, that focused on the benefits of education in reducing child marriage. A policy dialogue that advocated for investing in education was held in collaboration with Prothom Alo, the national daily newspaper with the highest circulation.
- ✓ The Global Programme established anti-sexual harassment committees in 72 secondary schools in two target districts and trained committee members on how to prevent sexual harassment in schools. According to the 2018 national child marriage study, about one in three adolescent girls have experienced some form of sexual harassment in their home, school or in the community. Thanks to the training, the attitude of schoolteachers towards sexual harassment within their school campuses is changing.
- ✓ Two national media campaigns on ending child marriage ran on radio, television and print media throughout the year, reaching an estimated adult population of 5.8 million with comprehensive messages on ending child marriage.



Outcome 1: Empowering adolescent girls

PROGRESS OF INDICATORS

Outcome 1.1: Proportion of adolescent girls in programme areas demonstrating increased knowledge and skills				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
NA	NA	Baseline: 15.9%	Target: 18.6% Results: 18.2%	Target: 21.2% Results:
Outcome 1.2: Girls' retention rate at primary school level				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
NA	NA	Baseline: 70%	Target: 70% Results: 70.3%	Target: 70% Results:

Output 1.1: Number of girls 10-19 years of age actively participating in targeted interventions				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: 16,169	Target: 100,000 Results: 93,166	Target: 101,500 Results: 87,024	Target: 84,230 Results: 87,024	Target: 84,230 Results:
Output 1.2: Number of girls supported to access and remain in primary/lower secondary/non-formal education				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: 16,169	Target: 9,000 Results: 37,371	Target: NA Results: NA	Target: NA Results: NA	Target: NA Results:

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

The approach to empowering adolescent girls included support to 1,873 Adolescent Clubs, using programme-recruited and trained facilitators (gender promoters) to deliver a combination of life skills with focus on GBV and livelihood skills. The provision of stipends to the most vulnerable was a particularly innovative aspect of the Adolescent Club programme. The stipend enables the most vulnerable to translate their knowledge into economic and social empowerment and increases their self-confidence. Selected adolescents must develop a venture plan in consultation with gender promoters and are invited to choose a project considering their interests, skills and the market feasibility. Their families are involved throughout the whole application process to provide the adolescents' with an enabling and supportive environment. There are five eligibility conditions: being a member of an Adolescent Club for at least six months; owning a birth certificate; having a bank account; going to school; and not getting married before age 18.

Following the findings and recommendations from the national study 'Ending Child Marriage in Bangladesh: What matters for change?', boys, men and families of girls were targeted and engaged by the gender promoters to influence change in gender norms. However, 2018 being a national election year hampered the regular activities of the Adolescent Clubs. Overall, 108,780 adolescents (87,024 girls and 21,756 boys) completed the 38 life skills sessions in the Adolescent Clubs. Eight hundred (640 girls and 160 boys) of the adolescents that had dropped out of school went back to school after receiving stipends to run small, income-generating activities. More than 10,000 community members comprising parents, lawyers, teacher representatives, female ward or union members and representatives from child-led organizations gained knowledge on referral mechanisms during emergencies regarding any

kind of violence, including child marriage. Around 150 child marriages were stopped through the support of Community-Based Child Protection Committees in the programme districts during 2018. In Bhola district, 28,759 girls attending Adolescent Clubs also benefited from sessions on personal and menstrual hygiene management and the effects of child marriage. These sessions were delivered by gender promoters who have been trained in menstrual hygiene management by the Global Programme.

Based on the analysis of key survey data, 18.2 per cent of girls interviewed during the 2018 national household survey demonstrate knowledge and skills around key issues, compared with 15.9 per cent in the previous 2017 survey. A recent qualitative study commissioned by the UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia also concluded that knowledge of their rights and of the harm of discriminatory social practices and norms such as child marriage has increased among those participating in the Adolescent Clubs in Bangladesh.

OTHER ACTIVITIES WITH POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

Technical support provided by UNICEF focused mainly on the development of the Standardized Adolescent Empowerment Package (SAEP). So far around 170 national experts from diversified fields have contributed to the SAEP and the final draft of the package is being pre-tested. The main theme of the SAEP is to transform adolescents as 'agents of change' through life skills based education including capacity development on basic, adolescent-specific aspects such as health, pre-parenting, education, food and nutrition, information and communication technology, gender, emergency, livelihood skills development training, child protection, human diversity and disability, and ethics and morality. UNICEF has launched the 'Accelerating Protection for

Children (APC)' project with a special focus on adolescents, under which 2,100 Adolescent Clubs are being established to empower approximately 500,000 adolescents by 2021 through the implementation of the SAEP.

CHALLENGES

- ✓ Engaging and retaining the most marginalized children in the Adolescent Clubs is a challenge. Adolescents involved in child labour, children with disabilities or those already married are the most likely to not enrol in the Adolescent Clubs, or to fail to attend on a regular basis and drop out. Family restrictions and limitations in accessibility (e.g. distance, safety) add to the challenges. Social workers together with peer leaders and other club members are working to support the attendance of these adolescents.

HEADLINE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

- ✓ UNFPA will focus on capacity-building by training peer educators (gender promoters) and on programme scaling. So far, UNFPA has supported the setup of Adolescent Clubs and recruitment of peer educators in the targeted districts.
- ✓ UNICEF will focus on capacity-building within the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs at central level, including by training field officials on the Standardized Adolescent Empowerment Package (SAEP) and the software for geographic information system mapping of Adolescent Clubs; and by establishing a digital platform (under pilot in Bhola district).



Outcome 2: Social and behaviour change communication to influence gender and social norms

PROGRESS OF INDICATORS

Outcome 2: Proportion of individuals in programme areas that hold gender equitable attitudes				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
NA	NA	Baseline: 43.2%	Target: 45% Results: 44.7%	Target: 47% Results:
Output 2.1: Number of individuals in programme areas who regularly participate in dialogues promoting gender equitable norms including delaying child marriage				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: 722,491	Target: 1,003,000 Results: 1,013,419	Target: 165,400 Results: 429,420	Target: 880,600 Results: 817,952	Target: 1,000,600 Results:

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

UNFPA focused on small group engagement using community dialogues with locally elected representatives and secondary school teachers to highlight how they can contribute to transforming community perceptions of adolescent girls, so that they are seen as assets for their families and the community. The key messages that were communicated at these dialogues included the importance of empowering adolescent girls, preventing sexual harassment and investing in adolescent girls so that they can reach their full potential; and the role of adolescent girls in contributing to their families and the community. However, due to the 2018 national elections, the frequency of arranged gatherings of these small groups for dialogue was reduced.

In addition to community dialogues, UNFPA continued to invest in the development of the 'Shahana' cartoon series, which consists of six, 10-minute episodes highlighting sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and GBV issues faced by adolescents in the community. This cartoon series has been well received by school-going and out-of-school adolescents taking part in UNFPA-supported interventions, and by actors in the development sector.

To complement these efforts, UNICEF's community engagement work focused on facilitating a wider participation of stakeholders and on enhancing the local capacities of community-level, frontline volunteers and local leaders to facilitate community dialogues and promote positive behaviours and norms. The



The television drama ‘Ichhe Dana’ is part of a larger community campaign by the Government of Bangladesh, which aims to change norms around gender roles and the practice of child marriage in the country.

community dialogues messaging addressed the harmful effects of child marriage and the responsibility of duty-bearers to enable young girls and boys to grow their full potential. In addition to community dialogues, UNFPA and UNICEF supported the television drama ‘Ichhe Dana,’ which focused on addressing cross-sectoral issues including gender equality and gender norms, and also the national, trans-media campaign ‘Dhol,’ which focused on transforming social norms through social media.

The outcomes of the community dialogues are monitored through shifts in norm change, the number of child marriages initiated and prevented, and pledges and public declarations made. A total of 317,952 individuals were reached through community dialogue meetings (159 per cent of the target). Independent media monitoring by partners indicated that an estimated 500,000 individuals in targeted programme areas were reached with continuous media messages focused on social and gender norms transformation (75 per cent of target). The analysis, however, did not take into consideration the millions of young people reached through social media due to data being unavailable by geographic location. Baseline and midline studies to track the effectiveness of these media interventions have been completed by BRAC University and point to interim results in terms of recall, knowledge and behaviour change.

OTHER ACTIVITIES WITH POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

The technical and financial support provided by the Global Programme focused on making improvements to enable more effective coverage of the basic social services national household survey of more than 200,000 households. These adjustments were made both to its modules and platform. In particular, a module on social norms related to child marriage was added to the survey, the subsequent analysis of which led to a discussion paper entitled ‘Ending Child Marriage in Bangladesh: What matters for change?’ This paper explores the correlations between social norms and child marriage across the country and highlights areas where action must be accelerated to end it. A follow-up video entitled ‘What Matters Most for Change?’ will be used in advocacy and communication campaigns in 2019. The evidence from this survey has resulted in plans for the programme to make a major shift towards working closely with men and boys as agents for gender equality, and towards strengthening the cross-sectoral nature and convergence of interventions. An online dashboard that provides real-time visualization of social norms around child marriage has been created with support from the programme and is hosted by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.⁸

⁸ The dashboard can be accessed at http://mscwb.bbs.gov.bd/reportmodule/generate_storyline/child_marriage/.

CHALLENGES

- ✓ Community engagement interventions through massive and repetitive interpersonal communication and periodic dialogues are human-resource intensive. Government institutions often do not have enough skills and human resource capacity to support extensive community interventions, thus compromising the Global Programme's interventions at this level.

HEADLINE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

- ✓ Given that young people are more open to engaging with messages provided through entertainment, it is important to maintain the momentum and produce additional "edutainment" materials. UNFPA will focus on supporting the development of additional 'Shahana' cartoon series.
- ✓ Adopting a public-private partnership approach enabled UNICEF to expand the reach and intensity of media dissemination in 2018. UNICEF will continue to focus on strengthening government ownership and involvement in the media campaigns to end child marriage.



Outcome 3: Strengthening prevention and protection systems

PROGRESS OF INDICATORS

Outcome 3.1: Number and proportion of adolescent girls in programme areas that have utilized health or protection services				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
NA	NA	Baseline: NA	Target: 72,254 Results: 70,058	Target: 75,000 Results:
Outcome 3.2: Percentage point difference in exam-pass rates between boys and girls in programme areas				
Output 3.1: Number and proportion of service delivery points in programme areas implementing guidelines for adolescent girl-friendly health and protection services				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: NA	Target: 100 Results: 89	Target: 50 Results: 134	Target: 72 Results: 119	Target: 10 Results:
Output 3.2: Number of non-formal/primary/secondary schools implementing interventions to improve the quality of education for adolescent girls				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: 7	Target: 47 Results: 620	Target: 50 Results: 70	Target: 96 Results: 114	Target: 96 Results:

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

UNICEF complements girl-focused and community-level social and behaviour change communication interventions by strengthening systems in education, health and child protection sectors to link the Adolescent Clubs, schools and communities with adolescent-friendly health services. Awareness sessions in schools and Adolescent Clubs make it easier for girls to connect with adolescent-friendly health service delivery points. UNICEF also supports Adolescent Clubs in the communities and primary and secondary schools in the upgrade of their water, sanitation and hygiene facilities, including by improving the school infrastructure by renovating toilets and handwashing stations, constructing water, sanitation and hygiene blocks in schools and constructing bathing cubicles for girls in the community, and

by providing training and orientation of gender promoters and schools in menstrual hygiene management for adolescent girls, and curriculum and package development for in-school (math and English remedial support and life skills) and out-of-school (livelihood and life skills) adolescents.

UNFPA interventions are focused on improving the quality of education for adolescent girls by establishing anti-sexual harassment committees in 72 secondary schools within the two targeted districts. The establishment and operation of anti-sexual harassment committees in secondary schools is based on the guidelines provided by the Bangladesh High Court. The committee members have been trained to prevent sexual harassment in their schools and as a result there has been a

These kinds of trainings are very useful. Students will learn about sexual harassment and avoid doing it themselves if they can be involved in such discussions.

PARTICIPANT AT THE SEXUAL HARASSMENT PREVENTION TRAINING

change in attitudes of teachers towards sexual harassment within their school campuses.

In total, 114 formal and non-formal schools were supported in implementing interventions to improve the quality of education for adolescent girls (119 per cent of target).

The outcomes of improvement in quality of health, education and child protection services and facilities are monitored through improvements in uptake of services in the targeted districts. Operational studies are being designed to research the success of attempts to keep adolescent girls in school and the quality of their education, and thereby to reduce child marriage.

Overall 70,058 adolescent girls were referred to and accessed health and protection services from the supported delivery points (97 per cent of target). The adolescent health programme, through training 207 service providers, which included doctors, nurses, family welfare visitors and community medical officers, improved the capacity of 54 service delivery points to implement guidelines for adolescent girl-friendly services. In addition, the programme also provided orientation to 450 peer educators on adolescent-friendly health services to improve awareness and referral mechanisms in the upazila (administrative region) of Nilphamari. Sixty-five training sessions on adolescent-friendly services were also organized for parents and gate keepers at Union Health and Family Welfare Centers and Community Centers. Overall, the capacity of 119 service delivery points to implement guidelines for adolescent girl-friendly health and protection services was improved in 2018 (165 per cent of target).

OTHER ACTIVITIES WITH POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

The Global Programme focused on updating the national guidelines and standard operating procedures for adolescent-friendly health services and training of trainers, and the development of national information, education and communication materials on adolescent health. These products will assist the government in further strengthening systems for delivering adolescent-friendly health services in addition to creating awareness of and demand for these services.

CHALLENGES

- ✓ The inability of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs to provide coordination among key sectoral ministries such as health, education and social welfare is a challenge for programme implementation. The Ministry has no officials at union level, and as a result, there is limited engagement with, or technical support for, the implementation and monitoring of adolescent service programmes.
- ✓ The Rohingya crisis response continues to be a significant drain on human resources; this has affected the implementation of interventions under the Global Programme.
- ✓ The low capacity of government agencies for timely delivery of projects in the water, sanitation and hygiene sector and the inadequate funding available to schools for supporting the operation and maintenance of water, sanitation and hygiene facilities are major challenges to the provision of services to girls in schools.
- ✓ There have been additional funding related challenges. The Bangladesh water, sanitation and hygiene standard for toilets is one toilet for 50 students. Meeting this standard is challenged by the lack of resources and of space in the schools and the fact that the government is not prioritizing water, sanitation and hygiene in schools. In fact, there is no indicator in the Education Management Information System for monitoring the water, sanitation and hygiene situation in secondary schools.

HEADLINE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

- ✓ Implementation research is being undertaken to identify a gender-responsive, cost-effective adolescent-friendly health services model. Currently, there is no standard model for the effective coverage of adolescent health needs.
- ✓ The Global Programme is looking to strengthen government capacity for increasing satellite health services in Adolescent Clubs and schools.



Outcome 4: Strengthening the legislative and policy frameworks

TIMELINE OF SOME KEY EVENTS

- **1984:** Acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
- **1990:** Ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- **2013:** As part of the Universal Periodic Review, supported recommendations to improve efforts to protect children from forced marriage and to more effectively implement the Child Marriage Restraint Act and the Dowry Prohibition Act
- **2014:** As a representative of the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), supported the Kathmandu Call to Action to End Child Marriage in Asia, including commitments to ensure access to legal remedies for child brides and to establish a uniform minimum legal age of marriage of 18
- **2014:** At the global Girl Summit in the United Kingdom, signed a charter committing to end child marriage by 2020
- **2015:** Committed to eliminate child, early and forced marriage by 2030 in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- **2015:** As a member of the South Asian Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC), adopted a regional action plan to end child marriage (2015–2018)
- **2015:** Developed a National Action Plan to Eliminate Child Marriage (2015–2021)
- **2017:** At the Voluntary National Review at the High Level Political Forum, noted that women’s empowerment plays a prominent role in the Constitution of Bangladesh, the National Women Development Policy and the Child Marriage Restraint Act
- **2017:** Adopted the Child Marriage Restraint Act (including a special provision allowing child marriage in ‘special cases’)
- **2017:** At the Voluntary National Review at the High-Level Political Forum, noted that women’s empowerment plays a prominent role in the Constitution of Bangladesh, the National Women Development Policy and the Child Marriage Restraint Act
- **2018:** Approved and launched a National Action Plan to Eliminate Child Marriage

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

UNFPA and UNICEF worked jointly at the policy level to advocate with the government, especially the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs to foster an enabling legal and policy framework to end child marriage. A key strategy used to

strengthen accountability mechanisms was to advocate with the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs to approve the National Action Plan (NAP) to End Child Marriage and to develop an associated monitoring and evaluation framework. Another strategy used was to advocate and promote interventions to end child marriage through the high-level ‘Local Consultative Group-Women’s Advancement and Gender Equality’ (LCG-WAGE) which is co-chaired by the Secretary of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs and UNICEF and includes all the development partners in Bangladesh. UNFPA and UNICEF use this policy forum to hold the government, and especially the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, accountable for ending child marriage and to advocate for coordination and cross-sectoral collaboration across government ministries e.g., of education, health, and social welfare.

The launch in 2018 of the NAP represents a significant step forward for Bangladesh in terms of its legislative and policy frameworks. There have been delays from the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs in producing an English version of the NAP for use by all development partners; UNFPA and UNICEF are pushing for progress on this and the Global Programme is making efforts to tackle coordination challenges between the different ministries of the government, particularly those with the most relevant portfolios for preventing child marriage, namely the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Education. Given that a monitoring and evaluation framework has yet to be developed, it has not been possible to monitor improvements.

OTHER ACTIVITIES WITH POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

Bangladesh has benefited from a prior budget scoping analysis that provided a comprehensive picture of national budget allocations across the key sectors that address drivers of child marriage. This will impact on the policy advocacy towards increased resource allocations to end child marriage. UNICEF is now making efforts to progress budget analysis at sub-national levels for advocacy for increased investments in child marriage.

CHALLENGES

- ✓ The inability of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs to provide coordination among key sectoral government ministries such as health, education and social welfare remains a challenge.
- ✓ There is limited and weak capacity of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs at the district and upazila levels, with the ministry having no officials at union level. As a result, the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs has limited engagement in the interventions at these levels and is not able to provide any technical support for or monitoring of adolescent programmes at community and household level.
- ✓ Ending child marriage programmes require multisector collaboration, adequate sector funding and proper monitoring, which have been lacking. The education, social welfare and health sectors need more technical support and the financial resources to invest in initiatives

that provide access to quality services for girls, particularly those that result in their economic empowerment.

HEADLINE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

- ✓ A monitoring and evaluation framework will be developed in 2019 as a monitoring mechanism for the implementation of the NAP. To ensure that the monitoring and evaluation framework and the costing of the NAP is completed by 2019, closer collaboration is required between UNFPA and UNICEF, together with strong advocacy efforts with key government officials. Strengthening collaboration between the relevant line ministries needs to be prioritized. Though the LCG-WAGE group, the development partners are pushing for a stronger coordination role by the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, so that it holds all ministries accountable for their implementation targets, and for a monitoring and evaluation system to be put in place for the NAP.



Outcome 5: Strengthening data and evidence base

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

The Global Programme supported evidence and data generation by means of various strategies in Bangladesh in 2018. UNICEF focused on strengthening and developing modules within real-time monitoring systems that track changes in norms of child marriage practice over time. This used data from the national household survey on essential coverage of basic social services in Bangladesh, and enabled the data to be visualized, analysed and interpreted via a live online dashboard hosted by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics. In collaboration with the Ministry of Finance, UNICEF conducted a pioneering scoping analysis of government resource allocation to end child marriage related programmes.

UNFPA focused on the generation of evidence and data from a qualitative study on community engagement; and on organizing forums for the dissemination of findings at all relevant levels.

During 2018, findings on child marriage from the essential coverage of basic social services survey were translated into audio-visual media products for wider dissemination through social media platforms. These made the case for social norms

being key drivers for child marriage programming and for the government and communities to take action. Results from the analysis of the national survey data from 200,000 households was used to develop and publish a discussion paper entitled 'Ending Child Marriage in Bangladesh: What matters for change?'. In addition, a qualitative study resulted in the report, 'Context of Child Marriage and its Impact in Bangladesh' and an associated policy brief, which were published and disseminated during the year. Following the dissemination of findings from the scoping analysis of resource allocation, budget allocation analysis at sub-national levels is being progressed with a view to increasing investments in preventing child marriage.

Bangladesh has also finalized and launched a monitoring and evaluation framework for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which includes indicators, baseline values and targets. The SDG National Action Plan, which details the targets for the SDG implementation for each ministry and division, was launched in June 2018. In addition, other assessments have been undertaken in support of programme implementation, which include the baseline and midline assessment of the impacts of the television drama series and the mass media campaigns relating to ending child marriage.

OTHER ACTIVITIES WITH POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

UNICEF supported efforts to integrate adolescent health indicators into the national health management information system. This will improve government accountability for adolescent health programmes.

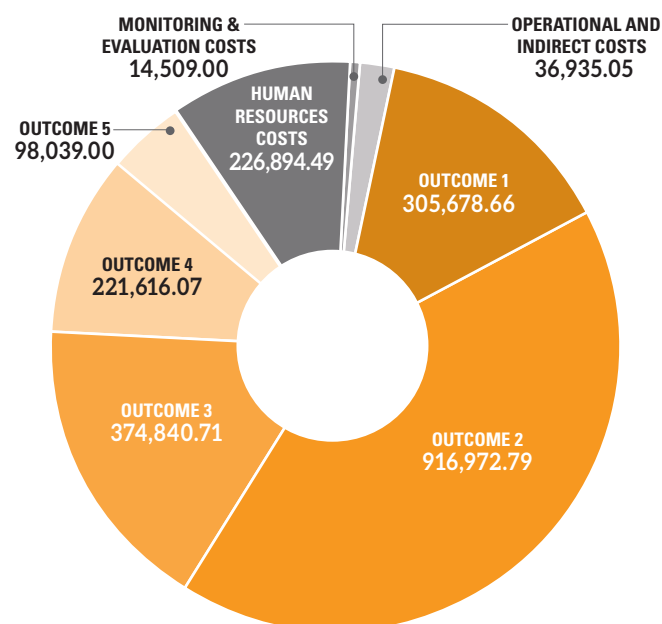
CHALLENGES

- ✓ Limited local capacity for ensuring the quality analysis of survey data.
- ✓ Lack of adequate funding to support evidence generation and research on the intersectionality of child marriage and other relevant issues.

HEADLINE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

- ✓ The Global Programme will support national and local actors for ensuring the analysis of survey data study of the child marriage programme in consultation with partners in 2019.

Financial information - Expenditure by outcome (USD)



Communications to end child marriage

Ending Child Marriage – Keshab Roy	Video: www.facebook.com/watch/?v=603007416816547 (accessed May 2019)
Ending Child Marriage – Football	Video: www.facebook.com/watch/?v=580194615751582 (accessed May 2019)
Ending Child Marriage – Cyclist	Video: www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2323399191034595 (accessed May 2019)
Adolescent Empowerment Event	Video: www.facebook.com/unicef.bd/videos/2153339981373851/ (accessed May 2019)
Icche Dana television drama series	Videos: youtube.com/playlist?list=PLCHLzDmRp8SVn3JmNveBXPcDMLzUv4BvL (accessed May 2019)



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BURKINA FASO

COUNTRY PROFILE



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BURKINA FASO

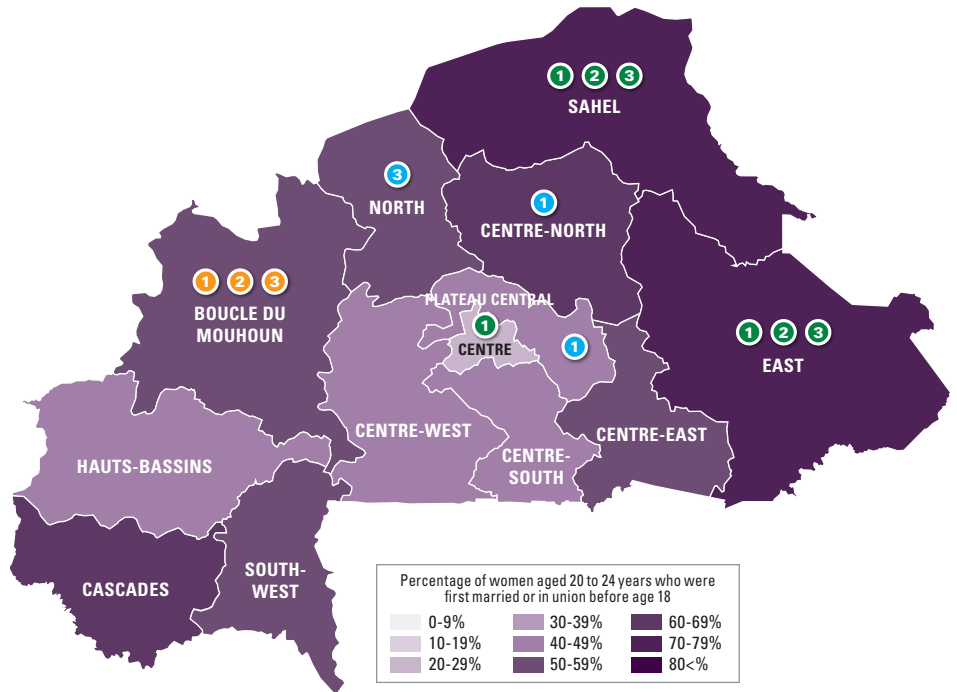
COUNTRY PROFILE



52 ¹ Percentage of young women (aged 20–24) married or in union by age 18



10 ² Percentage of young women (aged 20–24) married or in union by age 15



Note: This map is stylized and not to scale. It does not reflect a position by UNFPA or UNICEF on the legal status of any country or area or the delimitation of any frontiers. Implementation areas only reflect implementation under the Global Programme. Source for child marriage prevalence data is the Demographic and Health Survey 2010.

- UNFPA + UNICEF implementation
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- UNICEF implementation
- 1** Implementation outcome 1 (life skills and education support for girls)
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5.23³ BIRTHS PER WOMAN

Total fertility rate (average number of children a woman would have by the end of her reproductive period if her experience followed the currently prevalent age-specific fertility rates)

132.3⁴ ADOLESCENT BIRTH RATE
Number of births per 1,000 adolescent girls aged 15–19

2%⁵
Upper secondary school completion rate among girls aged 3–5 years above upper secondary graduation age

23.6⁶ Percentage of women aged 15–19 who have begun childbearing

0.95⁷ Gender parity index for primary school enrolment

¹ Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), 2010; ² DHS, 2010; ³ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019). World Population Prospects 2019, Online Edition; ⁴ United Nations Statistics Division (2018). SDG Database, <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database>; ⁵ DHS, 2010; ⁶ DHS, 2010; ⁷ UNICEF global databases (April 2019)

GLOBAL PROGRAMME RESULTS IN 2018



58,341

Number of girls reached with life skills interventions



28,958

Number of girls supported to stay in school



1,236,880

Number of community members engaged in community dialogue



89

Number of health and child protection service delivery points supported to provide adolescent girl-friendly services



305

Number of schools supported to provide girl-friendly quality education

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Advocacy and engagement with the government by UNFPA and UNICEF resulted in the Burkina Faso National Assembly adopting on May 31, 2018 a revised Penal Code that penalizes all forms of child marriage. The Penal Code includes strengthened provisions to improve the protective environment of girls in schools against abuse and to punish perpetrators, including teachers.
- ✓ A multisectoral platform was established to support the implementation of the National Strategy to End Child Marriage. The Global Programme continues to provide the necessary coordination support, supporting two mandatory sessions in 2018 of the multisectoral platform, which have resulted in better monitoring and coordination of the national strategy.
- ✓ Support from UNFPA and UNICEF for capacity-building among parliamentarians and line ministries in gender-based budgeting, and in the use of gender and child rights tools to review policies and programmes, led to increased resources being allocated to initiatives for achieving gender equality in the country.



Outcome 1: Empowering adolescent girls

PROGRESS OF INDICATORS

Outcome 1.1: Proportion of adolescent girls in programme areas demonstrating increased knowledge and skills				
Outcome 1.2: Girls' retention rate at primary school level				
Output 1.1: Number of girls aged 10-19 years actively participating in targeted interventions				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: 7,637	Target: 11,250 Results: 14,977	Target: 35,080 Results: 34,907	Target: 38,000 Results: 58,341	Target: 80,000 Results:
Output 1.2: Number of girls supported to access and remain in primary/lower secondary/non-formal education				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: 937	Target: 1,100 Results: 1,105	Target: 12,297 Results: 12,124	Target: 21,000 Results: 28,958	Target: 35,000 Results:

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

The UNFPA and UNICEF programme approach to empowering adolescent girls includes the use of community mentors, who recruit girls through door-to-door household visits and provide the girls with life skills training including information on adolescent

sexual and reproductive health, family planning and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). The Global Programme recruits and trains the mentors on adolescent sexual and reproductive health, family planning, gender-based violence and HIV counselling skills. In addition to the life skills training and provision of information

and awareness on gender-based violence and menstrual hygiene management, the programme also provides education scholarships and school kits to vulnerable girls to keep them in school. Both agencies also create opportunities for the economic empowerment of out-of-school girls through vocational training in income-generating activities such as loincloth weaving and cloth sewing. Prevention and protection service facilities in the communities are used as entry points for targeting most of the out-of-school girls in addition to the use of community workers to promote safe spaces or girls' clubs in community classrooms.

I was promised to marriage since the age of eight. My parents had decided to give me up for a forced marriage. As I learned from the mentor [in the girls' club] that a girl does not have to marry before the age of 18, or to a man she does not like, I decided to go and see the mentor to explain my situation.

SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD GIRL, PARTICIPATING IN A GIRLS' CLUB IN BURKINA FASO

Increased government commitment to and involvement in activities geared towards the elimination of harmful practices, boosted by two high-level advocacy events led by the First Lady, led to greater mobilization of communities with more girls being recruited to the life skills training. In total, 58,341 girls received life skills training that included education on sexual and reproductive health, gender-based violence, financial management and the means to become agents of change against child marriage, and 28,958 girls received direct educational support from UNFPA and UNICEF. A 'U-Report' opinion poll on child marriage among 39,000 users of the mobile phone platform found that 86 per cent of youth are against marriage below age 18.

During 2018, the Global Programme supported the government in increasing access to children's formal or informal education and encouraging their completion of basic education. Through the direct support of UNICEF, 16,523 girls obtained access to post-primary or secondary education or informal education in five target regions (Sahel, Plateau Central, East and North). The support provided by UNICEF focused mainly on expanding the menstrual hygiene management (MHM) initiative to 110 schools to facilitate girls' education. Under this initiative, trained teachers are currently providing sexual and reproductive health



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and puberty education to 14,646 girls (66 per cent at primary and 34 per cent at post-primary level) and 3,879 boys, including 1,000 adolescents in emergency settings. The MHM initiative implemented by UNICEF inspired other partners to start implementing similar projects with their own funds in other regions. To strengthen programmatic complementarity, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education in harmonizing MHM communication tools across partners and donors. Furthermore, to accelerate the scaling up of the MHM initiative, UNICEF introduced it into the basic education curricula and finalized a teacher training module on MHM. These interventions improved girls' access to education at the national level, and most significantly at the post-primary level, which attained a gender parity index of 1.14 based on the gross enrolment rate.

OTHER ACTIVITIES WITH POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

UNICEF continued its support through complementary funding of the efforts of the National Social Protection Policy (NSPP) to strengthen institutional framework and capacity. The support specifically focused on the creation of a pool of trainers who subsequently developed the capacity of national and local actors in the social protection sector, including local civil society organizations. A series of training sessions helped to reinforce the coordination and implementation of the NSPP by identifying it as the overarching policy framework that links to other public policies. UNICEF also financially and technically supported the NSPP in the implementation of a consensual methodology that targets poor and vulnerable people, which is part of an ongoing government initiative to establish a national single registry. The data generated from surveying the most vulnerable population in 48 municipalities will make sure that 'no one is left behind' by shedding a light on the living condition of people, including adolescent girls, who remain invisible in the administrative data and statistics.

CHALLENGES

- ✓ Insecurity, particularly in the Sahel and East regions, means that girls are at an increased risk of being exposed to forced marriage and gender-based violence. The security crisis hampers access and therefore makes it difficult to provide services to vulnerable and most-at-risk girls in these areas.
- ✓ National laws are not harmonized with the government's commitment to eliminate harmful practices such as child marriage. Girls are being forced to marry through kidnappings, sexual abuse in schools, including by teachers, and through traditional contracts based on honour.

HEADLINE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

- ✓ UNFPA will focus on extending the practice of setting up watch cells to monitor "child marriage free villages" to other areas, in addition to establishing more safe spaces for girls.
- ✓ The Global Programme will focus on developing a model of geographic convergence and joint implementation by UNFPA and UNICEF to deliver a comprehensive package of services to adolescent girls.



Outcome 2: Social and behaviour change communication to influence gender and social norms

PROGRESS OF INDICATORS

Outcome 2: Proportion of individuals in programme areas that hold gender equitable attitudes				
Output 2.1: Number of individuals in programme areas who regularly participate in dialogues promoting gender equitable norms including delaying child marriage				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: 19,600	Target: 28,000 Results: 28,400	Target: 760,900 Results: 822,337	Target: 1,072,337 Results: 1,236,880	Target: 1,200,000 Results:

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

The Global Programme's main approach to delivering effective and relevant messages to communities and families is through the capacity development of 948 community leaders (traditional and religious), to enable them to be 'change agents' who engage community members in participatory dialogues, information sharing and face-to-face meetings. Participatory dialogues include regular interpersonal communication through meetings, which bring together religious and traditional leaders for open exchanges and information sharing on customs, practices and social norms, the roles and responsibilities of leaders in promoting practices and norms conducive to children's well-being and the consequences for children's personal development and future. Dialogues on child and women rights, the benefits of keeping girls in school and the benefits of delaying the age of marriage are also key components of the exchanges. Face-to-face dialogue is arranged with parents and individuals in communities including both boys and girls. Messages to communities and leaders focus on the rights of women and girls, gender equality in relation to gender-transformational approaches, the promotion

of accountability, and the involvement of men and boys in deconstructing social values and norms that perpetuate the phenomenon of child marriage and other harmful practices. In 2018, 209,866 individuals (128,592 males) participated in regular community dialogue sessions.

In cases where insecurity reduced accessibility to some communities, the Global Programme focused on promoting media campaigns to equip individuals with knowledge and competences, and to influence social norms to promote the elimination of child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM). The Communication for Development (C4D) section of UNICEF, in partnership with the Cinema Numerique Ambulant and community radio stations, supported the delivery of social and behaviour change communication interventions in five regions with a high prevalence of child marriage. These interventions used a mix of approaches to engage communities and support change, enhance the role of women and influence traditions and decision makers. These approaches included radio programmes and community theatre plays.

Nearly 594 community leaders and 354 'change agents' (including school children) in 60 villages were trained to hold home visits and groups discussions on children's rights, in households, churches and mosques. In addition, field radio programmes and other activities including theatre productions, radio games, video-screenings and educational talks brought the information and knowledge directly to over 83,748 individuals (6,547 women and 17,491 children) to promote practices and social norms favourable for protecting children against marriage and FGM. Approximately 1.027 million individuals (407,369 males) were reached through mass media campaigns during 2018.

Sensitization activities carried out at community level through radio programmes and interpersonal communication in households and public places by community leaders contributed to increased awareness and knowledge among families and communities about the consequences of child marriage and FGM for children's and mothers' health. Several community leaders made commitments to support the elimination of these practices by denouncing people who continue to practise them. School children who were trained on these issues are considering themselves as 'ambassadors' and, in many cases, such activities have strengthened a consensus between children and their parents for ending child marriage and FGM.

The government, with support from the Global Programme, developed a national campaign for the acceleration of the elimination of child marriage, 'Ne m'appellez pas Madame' ('Don't call me Madame') in 2018. The campaign includes a video clip featuring 1,000 adolescent girls speaking up for the elimination of child marriage together with two internationally known Burkinabè artists.

OTHER ACTIVITIES WITH POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

Both UNFPA and UNICEF focused on providing technical support to partners to ensure the capacity of media sector actors for delivering messages on issues relating to child protection, with an emphasis on gender implications. This support allows radio actors in particular to elaborate on gender sensitive messages and to produce relevant micro-programmes.



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HEADLINE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

- ✓ A priority for 2019 is to further engage and mobilize boys and men for gender equality. Changing behaviour and social norms is a long-term process and community leaders have pointed out that giving up the practices of child marriage and FGM does not only depend on their decisions, but on the commitment of the entire community. There is an obligation to place boys and men at the centre of action in addressing behaviours and social norms to create sustainable change for ending child marriage and FGM.
- ✓ Continue the roll-out of the national campaign for ending child marriage titled 'Don't call me Madame'.



Outcome 3: Strengthening prevention and protection systems

PROGRESS OF INDICATORS

Outcome 3.1: Number and proportion of adolescent girls in programme areas that have utilized health or protection services				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
NA	NA	Baseline: NA	Target: 20,000 Results: 21,120	Target: 35,000 Results:
Outcome 3.2: Percentage point difference in exam-pass rates between boys and girls in programme areas				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
NA	NA	Baseline: +3.7	Target: +2.7 Results: +5.7	Target: +1.7 Results:
Output 3.1 Number and proportion of service delivery points in programme areas implementing guidelines for adolescent girl-friendly health and protection services				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: 47	Target: 54 Results: 54	Target: 54 Results: 54	Target: 60 Results: 89	Target: 85 Results:
Output 3.2 Number of non-formal/primary/secondary schools implementing interventions to improve the quality of education for adolescent girls				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: 151	Target: 300 Results: 301	Target: 370 Results: 386	Target: 400 Results: 305	Target: 400 Results:

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS

In partnership with the government and civil society groups at national and local levels, the Global Programme focused on strengthening prevention and protection systems by building the capacity of institutional and community service providers through training on sexual and reproductive health (including family planning) and community advocacy, in order to reinforce the quality of services provided to adolescent girls; by supporting schools and youth clubs financially in order to enhance communication activities; and by improving educational quality and focus so that it is adolescent girl-friendly and incorporates MHM and the quality child-friendly schools (QCFS) approach.

During the year, 111 facility-based health workers were trained in adolescent-friendly health services. Better implementation of adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health standards were reported at the 37 health facilities where workers were trained. In addition to training facility-based workers, the Global Programme provided training to 1,519 community-based health workers and 65 child protection workers, who offer frontline

services and referrals to adolescents on health and protection issues. As a result, 21,120 girls utilized health and protection services. Post-service feedback revealed that the adolescents are satisfied with the service and the attention provided via adolescent clubs. In total, 89 service delivery points implemented guidelines for adolescent girl-friendly health and protection services.

Financial support from the Global Programme, complemented with funds from elsewhere, focused on bringing UNICEF's QCFS approach to 305 schools. The QCFS initiative improved girls' access to education at the national level, and most significantly at the post-primary level, which attained the gender parity index of 1.14 based on the gross enrolment rate. At the primary level, the gender parity index remains below the national target at 0.96. Although the gender parity index has slightly increased between 2017 and 2018 in two of the programme's priority regions, gender equity at post-primary level was attained only in the East region (from 0.97 in 2017 to 1.01 in 2018). The Sahel region is far from reaching gender equity, despite a slight increase in the gender index (from 0.73

in 2017 to 0.78 in 2018). Moreover, the completion rate of post-primary education at the national level remains extremely low, especially for girls (39.2 per cent against 42.1 per cent for boys) with significant regional disparities (for example, 6.8 per cent for girls and 10.4 per cent for boys in the Sahel region).

OTHER ACTIVITIES WITH POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

Technical support from the Global Programme focused on supporting the Ministry of Education to harmonize MHM communication tools across implementing partners. Furthermore, to accelerate the scaling up of the MHM initiative, UNICEF has introduced it into the basic education curriculums and finalized a teacher training module on MHM. Through a new partnership between UNICEF and vocational training schools in the Sahel region, adolescents have been trained as local

manufacturers of reusable sanitary pads to meet growing local demands with cost-effective products. These interventions have great potential to improve girls' access to and regular attendance in schools in addition to livelihood empowerment.

CHALLENGES

- ✓ Due to the worsened security context in implementing areas, training of teachers and preparing children and schools on the safe school approach have been delayed.
- ✓ The training on QCFS in terms of water, sanitation and hygiene, child protection and reproductive health aspects requires funding that is currently not adequate.

HEADLINE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

- ✓ Support the integration of sexual education into the national formal curricula and non-formal education programmes.



Outcome 4: Strengthening the legislative and policy frameworks

TIMELINE OF SOME KEY EVENTS

- **1987:** Acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
- **1989:** The Code des Personnes et de la Famille set the minimum age of marriage to 17 for girls and 20 for boys, and to 15 for girls and 18 for boys if authorized by a civil court
- **1990:** Ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- **1992:** Ratified the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
- **2006:** Ratified the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa
- **2008-2010:** The Ministry of Social Action and National Solidarity implemented a pilot project 'Eliminating early marriage in Burkina Faso: a community protection, empowerment and intervention plan' in five regions
- **2011:** The government held a panel discussion on forced and child marriage
- **2013:** Co-sponsored the United Nations General Assembly resolution on eliminating child, early and forced marriage
- **2013:** Co-sponsored the Human Rights Council resolution on eliminating child, early and forced marriage
- **2013:** As part of the Universal Periodic Review, supported recommendations to increase the minimum legal age for marriage to 18 years and to explicitly prohibit child marriage
- **2014:** Co-sponsored the United Nations General Assembly resolution on eliminating child, early and forced marriage
- **2014:** Signed a joint statement at the Human Rights Council, calling for a resolution on child marriage
- **2014:** At the global Girl Summit in the United Kingdom, signed a charter committing to end child marriage by 2020
- **2015:** Committed to eliminate child, early and forced marriage by 2030 in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- **2015:** Launched the African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage in Africa
- **2015:** Adopted the National Strategy for the Prevention and Elimination of Child Marriage (2016–2025) and an accompanying Action Plan (2016–2018)
- **2016:** The government promised to increase the minimum legal age of marriage for girls to 18
- **2017:** As a member of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), adopted the Strategic Framework for Strengthening National Child Protection Systems, under which protecting children from marriage is a priority
- **2017:** The First Lady hosted a national high-level panel on child marriage
- **2017:** The First Lady indicated her support to the National Coalition to End Child Marriage in advocating to the National Assembly to raise the legal age of marriage to 18

8 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), 'Social Institutions and Gender Index Burkina Faso', 2018.

- **2018:** The revised Penal Code penalizes all forms of child marriage
- **2018:** Established a multi-stakeholder platform to support the implementation of the National Strategy for the Prevention and Elimination of Child Marriage
- **2018:** Co-sponsored the United Nations General Assembly resolution on eliminating child, early and forced marriage

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS

UNFPA and UNICEF worked jointly in collaboration with other national stakeholders to advocate the strengthening of existing legal and policy frameworks to protect girls against harmful practices, including child marriage. Following advocacy efforts and engagement with the government, on May 31, 2018 the Burkina Faso National Assembly adopted the revised Penal Code, which penalizes all forms of child marriage. The Penal Code includes strengthened provisions to improve the protective environment of girls in schools against abuse and to punish perpetrators, including teachers. The Global Programme, in partnership with other stakeholders, has offered support to the government for conducting a national study on child marriage and developing a communication plan to increase sensitization on ending child marriage.

The agencies provided a leadership role in convening a multisectoral platform to coordinate national efforts for the implementation of the national strategy to end child marriage and the Global Programme continues to provide the necessary coordination support. The programme supported two mandatory sessions of this multisectoral platform in 2018, which have resulted in better monitoring and coordination of the national strategy. The programme is still committed towards engaging with the government to advocate for the alignment of the national strategy with international law, and to make sure that girls are free to decide whether, when and with whom they want to marry.

Recent studies revealed weak integration of gender dimensions into the country's budget allocations, which hampers adequate responses to gender-specific needs.⁸ UNICEF, in collaboration with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and partners from the national gender consultation group, has strengthened the capacity of decision makers (parliamentarians and line ministries) in gender-sensitive budgeting, and also engaged in advocacy with the Ministry of Social Action and the Ministry of Economy and Finance. As a result, the 2018 budget

circle recommends that six pilot ministries spanning across all social sectors incorporate gender-sensitive budgeting, and a gradual expansion of this approach to ten additional ministries by 2021. This structural change will trigger a systematic incorporation of a gender lens into sectoral budgeting exercises, which will result in more domestic resources being invested in promoting gender equity through national and local programmes. The exercise will also encourage each ministry to discuss strategies and implementation modalities for gender-responsive interventions. UNICEF, together with partners and national trainers, will provide technical assistance to ensure effective implementation of the gender-sensitive budgeting process and documentation of lessons learned from this pilot initiative.

OTHER ACTIVITIES WITH POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

UNFPA funded the capacity-building of parliamentarians on the use of gender and child rights analysis tools to enable them to review policies and programmes from a gender and child rights perspective. Moreover, all the strategies implemented are based on gender perspectives, in particular the operationalization of transformational gender approaches through the involvement of men and boys in the programme to end child marriage.

CHALLENGES

- ✓ The delay in the adoption of the revised version of the Code for Persons and Family from 2017 remains a concern. The adoption of this code is crucial because it contains key provisions for a strengthened enabling environment for children, such as the alignment of the minimum legal marriage age with international standards.
- ✓ Government commitments for domestic funding need to be sustained through budget lines and allocation of budgets. This is a long process and not always easy, with need for consistent capacity-building and advocacy work by the Global Programme and partners.

HEADLINE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

- ✓ The Global Programme will prioritize support for the development and implementation of the monitoring and evaluation framework for the national strategy to end child marriage.
- ✓ The development and validation of a national communication plan for the acceleration of the elimination of child marriage and harmful practices is also a high priority, as well as implementation of the high-level advocacy plan led by the first lady.
- ✓ The Global Programme will continue to strengthen national capacity on gender-responsive budgeting.



Outcome 5: Strengthening data and evidence base

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS

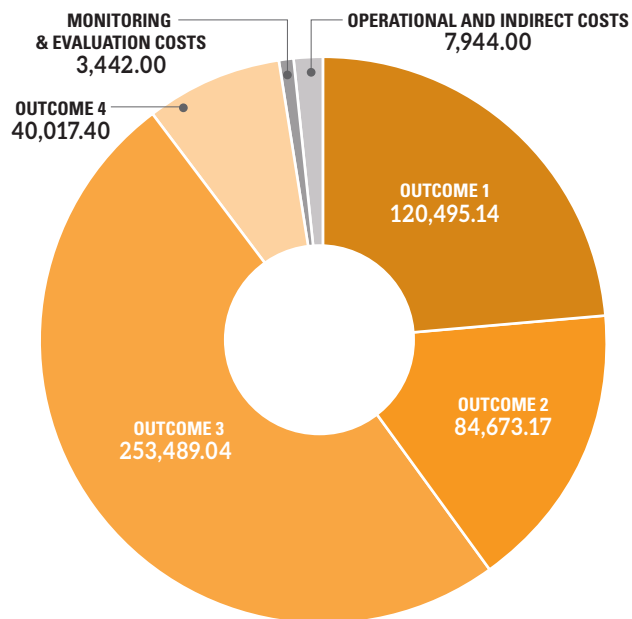
In collaboration with the National Institute of Statistics and Demography, the Global Programme contributed to building evidence on child marriage prevalence. The programme supported secondary comparative analysis of the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) from 2010 and 2015 on child marriage to understand trends and progress towards the end of child marriage.

To improve public investments in adolescent-focused interventions, giving attention not only to increased resource allocation but also to efficient and equitable spending, technical and financial support was provided to the government for conducting a budget trend-analysis covering the period 2013–2018. The findings were disseminated as a policy brief and used for advocacy towards the 2019 budget cycle.

OTHER ACTIVITIES WITH POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

UNICEF and Terre des Hommes Lausanne supported the online testing of the Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS) software to build a harmonized, quality information management system for child protection. This system will improve the quality and availability of administrative data, especially for adolescent girls.

Financial information - Expenditure by outcome (USD)



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ETHIOPIA

COUNTRY PROFILE



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ETHIOPIA

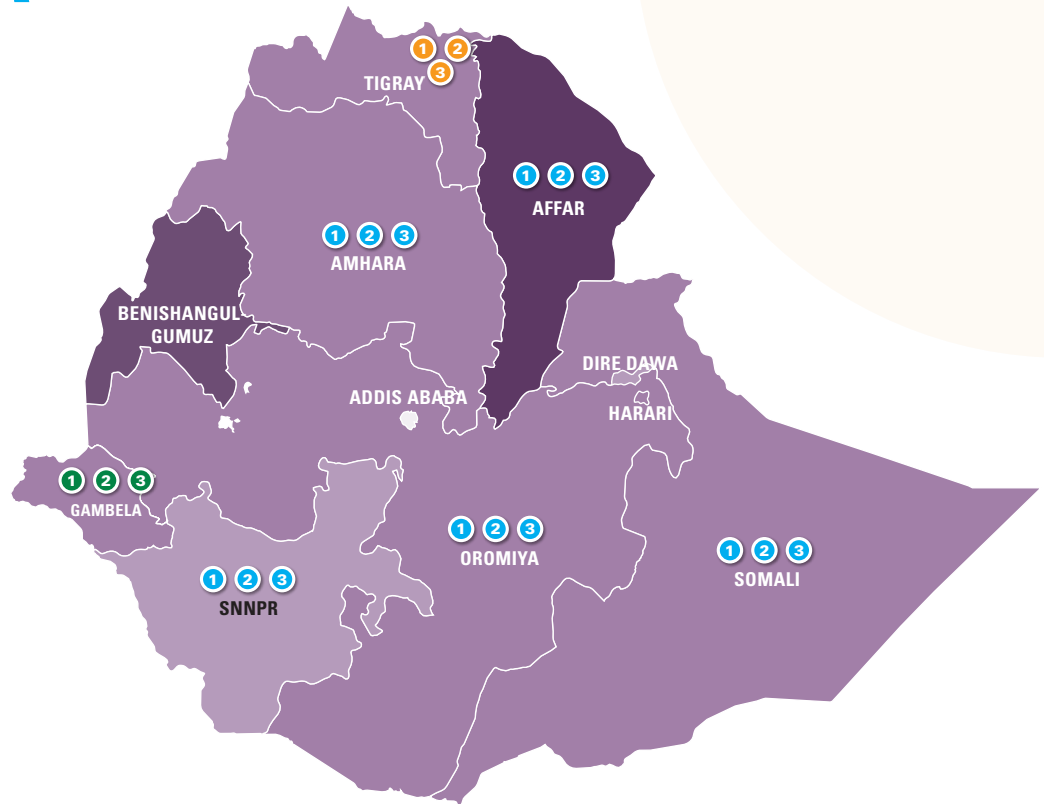
COUNTRY PROFILE



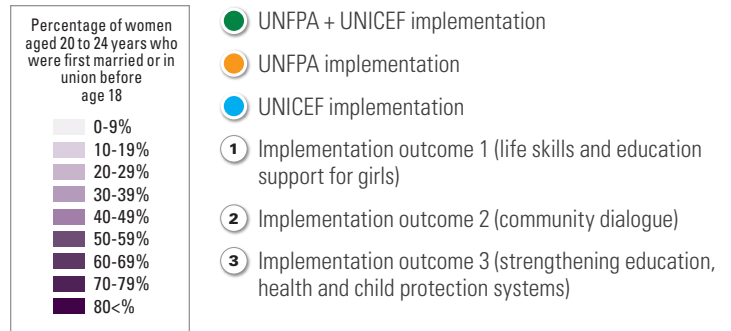
40¹ Percentage of young women (aged 20–24) married or in union by age 18



14² Percentage of young women (aged 20–24) married or in union by age 15



Note: This map is stylized and not to scale. It does not reflect a position by UNFPA or UNICEF on the legal status of any country or area or the delimitation of any frontiers. Implementation areas only reflect implementation under the Global Programme. Source for child marriage prevalence data is the Demographic and Health Survey 2016.



4.30³ BIRTHS PER WOMAN

Total fertility rate (average number of children a woman would have by the end of her reproductive period if her experience followed the currently prevalent age-specific fertility rates)



79.5⁴ ADOLESCENT BIRTH RATE

Number of births per 1,000 adolescent girls aged 15–19



12%⁵

Upper secondary school completion rate among girls aged 3–5 years above upper secondary graduation age



12.5⁶ Percentage of women aged 15–19 who have begun childbearing



0.93⁷ Gender parity index for primary school enrolment

¹ Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), 2016; ² DHS, 2016; ³ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019). World Population Prospects 2019, Online Edition; ⁴ United Nations Statistics Division (2018), SDG Database, <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database>; ⁵ DHS, 2011; ⁶ DHS, 2016; ⁷ UNICEF global databases (April 2019).

GLOBAL PROGRAMME RESULTS IN 2018



97,924

Number of girls reached with life skills interventions



73,771

Number of girls supported to stay in school



570,548

Number of community members engaged in community dialogue



659

Number of health and child protection service delivery points supported to provide adolescent girl-friendly services



987

Number of schools supported to provide girl-friendly quality education

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Community level activities working to eliminate child marriage continued to create an environment for collective consensus and action towards ending the practice, with 77 kebeles⁸ in the Amhara region and one kebele in the Gambella region declaring themselves free from child marriage in 2018.
- ✓ Strengthened capacity of law enforcement bodies through training resulted in improved collaboration with communities, enabling the identification and cancellation of 4,076 child marriage arrangements in Amhara, Afar, Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples (SNNP) and Oromia regions.
- ✓ The statistical brochure, 'Ending Child Marriage: A profile of progress in Ethiopia' was disseminated by the National Alliance to End Child Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation among key stakeholders. The brochure is based on a thorough analysis of the latest Ethiopian Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) data from 2016.
- ✓ The government was supported in the development of a training course on the Adolescent and Youth Health Strategy to strengthen adolescent-sensitive interventions.



Outcome 1: Empowering adolescent girls

PROGRESS OF INDICATORS

Outcome 1.1: Proportion of adolescent girls in programme areas demonstrating increased knowledge and skills				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
NA	NA	Baseline: 27%	Target: 30% Results: NA	Target: 33% Results:
Outcome 1.2: Girls' retention rate at primary school level				
Output 1.1: Number of girls aged 10-19 years actively participating in targeted interventions				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: 82,400	Target: 18,124 Results: 51,239	Target: 187,660 Results: 75,733	Target: 47,200 Results: 97,924	Target: 140,000 Results:
Output 1.2: Number of girls supported to access and remain in primary/lower secondary/non-formal education				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: 4,460	Target: 5,684 Results: 5,415	Target: 4,010 Results: 3,112	Target: 22,550 Results: 73,771	Target: 60,310 Results:

⁸ The lowest administrative unit in Ethiopia.

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

UNFPA and UNICEF have continued to support the training of mentors and gender-focused teachers and have also provided support to efforts to establish and operate girls' and gender clubs that target both in- and out-of-school adolescents in communities, and have enabled links to education and protection services. According to qualitative research on the school-related gender-based violence (GBV) code of conduct, commissioned by UNICEF in 2018, the high level of activism by members of girls' and gender clubs and school authorities has contributed to skills and awareness building, in some cases provided safe spaces and enabled the young people to engage in a wide range of activities to support equity and inclusion.

If a girl has not heard about her own arranged marriage, we will inform her saying 'this problem is coming to you.' If she is willing to get married, we will convince her [not to marry] first. Then after we convince her, we will go to her home in order to convince her mother and father. Then we come to the school, and if her parents say 'ok, we do not marry her off', we made her to continue attending her education.

**FROM A FOCUS-GROUP DISCUSSION
IN A GIRLS' CLUB, AMHARA REGION**

Students have been reluctant to report more serious forms of violence, including child marriage, because of a perceived lack of support and confidentiality associated with the process. During 2018, the Global Programme scaled up a project providing legal literacy education in communities and schools, which included raising awareness of existing legal frameworks, the legal implications of child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM) and the code of conduct on prevention of school-related GBV. A total of 97,924 adolescent girls received training in life skills (largely in schools through gender clubs, and some out of school), which contributed to building their self-esteem, assertiveness and critical thinking about their situation, enabling them to identify challenges and propose options as well as to influence family and other community members' decisions on matters affecting their life.

Girls starting from their eighth birthday used to get married. But now such cases are not common. Even some students write and alert us when their parents like their fathers try to get them married. We have managed to stop such marriages. This practice is very rare now. Most families want their children to get an education and live a bigger dream. The community is considering early marriage as inappropriate. They want their children to go to school.

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE, AMHARA REGION

The successful collaboration and coordination among partners working on the education component and the child protection component resulted in the cancellation of 4,076 child marriage arrangements in Amhara, Afar, SNNP and Oromia regions in 2018. More than 347 girls (40 in Somali and 307 in Gambella region) who had dropped out of school due to child marriage were supported to re-enrol and continue their education. One of the girls who came back to school said that she 'finds this opportunity as regaining her confidence, social support system and future hope'. Despite insecurity in some parts of the programme areas, which delayed the school opening date, the successful implementation of interventions that targeted schools and parents, and the enhanced collaboration among families and teachers as well as the school administration, in addition to the financial support from the Global Programme, enabled a total of 73,771 adolescent girls to continue with their education during 2018.

CHALLENGES

- ✓ Instability at a political and security level due to the emergency situation prevailing in the country caused delays in the school opening dates and in the programme implementation in some parts of the targeted regions, increasing the risk of school dropout by adolescent girls.
- ✓ The implementation of life skills education programmes reaching out-of-schools girls is still challenging due to the lack of adequate social platforms to work with, and considering the specifics circumstances and profiles of those girls who are furthest behind.
- ✓ Working with safe spaces has been a key strategy in the empowerment of married and unmarried girls within existing community structures for reaching the most marginalized and ensuring sustainability. However, the creation of a targeting and outreach strategy, as well as tailored life skills session for married girls, is still missing.

HEADLINE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

✓ Increasing involvement of non-governmental organizations in the implementation of out-of-school interventions will improve the capacity for reaching the most marginalized girls at community level. A revision of the national life skills manual in collaboration with the Ministry of Education is expected for in-school programmes, creating opportunities to harmonize different modules, set standards for quality

and influence key dimensions relevant for adolescent girl empowerment and gender equality outcomes.

✓ Creating and strengthening the linkage between development and humanitarian interventions and actors will support the ongoing implementation of the Global Programme, including its adaptation to humanitarian settings, learning from the situation in 2018. Addressing specific needs of married and internally displaced adolescent girls remains a necessity.



Outcome 2: Social and behaviour change communication to influence gender and social norms

PROGRESS OF INDICATORS

Outcome 2: Proportion of individuals in programme areas that hold gender equitable attitudes				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
NA	NA	Baseline: 27%	Target: 29% Results: 44.7%	Target: 31% Results:
Output 2.1: Number of individuals in programme areas who regularly participate in dialogues promoting gender equitable norms including delaying child marriage				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: 14,400	Target: 104,800 Results: 31,400	Target: 140,889 Results: 600,586	Target: 499,262 Results: 570,548	Target: 507,250 Results:

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

The value of community dialogues and media campaigns supported by UNFPA and UNICEF is increasingly being acknowledged by communities in Ethiopia as a valuable means of addressing norms and risks associated with harmful practices. According to the qualitative research study conducted by UNICEF, harmful practices are not perceived to be an issue in communities where there is no community awareness work taking place or where awareness-raising is superficial and information-focused. Respondents in the study spoke of the value of specialist, community-based organizations and how dialogues on addressing norms elevate the issues of harmful practices.

The community-level activities against harmful practices, especially child marriage and FGM, continued to create an appropriate environment for collective consensus and action towards ending the practices in the six target regions for ending child marriage (Afar, Amhara, Gambella, Oromia, Somali and SNNP) and the three target regions for ending FGM (Afar, Somali and SNNP). As a result, 77 kebeles in Amhara region and one kebele in Gambella region declared themselves free from child marriage during 2018.

Communal meetings like edir²⁴ and parent-teacher meetings can be used as platforms to create awareness. Publicizing it over media like television and radio is also important. At the edirs, traditional informal organizations provide assistance for local community schools, and things are getting better. Students are aware of sexual violence related issues. Teaching students is also teaching the society.

SCHOOL DIRECTOR, ADDIS ABABA

In 2018, the Global Programme achieved significantly better results in engaging community members through participatory dialogues, which increased awareness of the benefits of investing in adolescent girls and ending child marriage and of shifting to more gender equitable norms, reaching in total 170,548 individuals, including religious leaders. It is estimated that media campaigns reached more than 400,000 people in the target regions with messaging challenging gender norms, which are a primary driver of child marriage. The campaigns were also used to

²⁴ A traditional 'burial society'.

spread news of changes happening in the community and sharing good practice, which can influence other surrounding communities and build a critical mass supporting the shift in norms. Media campaigns were integrated with other interventions for supporting changes in attitudes, behaviours and practices, reaching a broad range of community members and gatekeepers.

Our drama club plays a vital role in creating awareness in the community by performing school plays and presenting poems by working with teachers. This has direct impact since parents are presented with effects of early marriage and gender abuses. The plays will be directed by our teachers and most of the participants are female students; they will perform the plays as boys and girls since most boys do not like to participate.

SCHOOL DIRECTOR, AMHARA REGION

CHALLENGES

- ✓ A regional state of emergency was declared in Gambella region, with restrictions on public gatherings and mobility in the selected districts. This led to delays in arranging

some of the community dialogues and planned trainings, in addition to late fund disbursement.

- ✓ Changes in attitudes on an individual level are not tracked or measured in the community conversations, due to their focus on community participation and inclusion. Nevertheless, during the community dialogues, people are speaking up with confidence about sensitive subjects such as adolescent sexuality and menstrual hygiene, challenging community perceptions and prevailing norms, and seeking consensus among all community members.

HEADLINE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

- ✓ UNICEF has planned to revise and update the community dialogue manuals and implementation guides as well as other social mobilization tools, in the process to systematically reframe the harmful practices agenda as a broader gender equality and women's empowerment issue. The primary aim of the dialogue will, as a result, be broader empowerment of girls and women, including ending child marriage.
- ✓ UNFPA has envisioned trainings to strengthen the capacity of community dialogue leaders, religious leaders and faith-based organizations, especially concerning the legal framework and service referrals, in recognition of their capacity to engage communities



Outcome 3: Strengthening prevention and protection systems

PROGRESS OF INDICATORS

Outcome 3.1: Number and proportion of adolescent girls in programme areas that have utilized health or protection services				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
NA	NA	Baseline: 100,000	Target: 100,000 Results: 83,475	Target: 100,000 Results:
Outcome 3.2: Percentage point difference in exam-pass rates between boys and girls in programme areas				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
NA	NA	Baseline: +6	Target: +5 Results: +5	Target: +4 Results:
Output 3.1 Number and proportion of service delivery points in programme areas implementing guidelines for adolescent girl-friendly health and protection services				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: 242	Target: 877 Results: 885	Target: 962 Results: 1,021	Target: 636 Results: 659	Target: 458 Results:
Output 3.2 Number of non-formal/primary/secondary schools implementing interventions to improve the quality of education for adolescent girls				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: 200	Target: 713 Results: 455	Target: 725 Results: 460	Target: 422 Results: 987	Target: 295 Results:

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS

The Global Programme continued to strengthen the capacity of national, local and community health and protection structures to deliver adolescent girl-friendly protection and health services through training, improvement of service delivery points and establishing of linkages and referral mechanisms between service delivery points. In 2018, UNICEF supported 637 service delivery points in 72 districts in six regions in implementing the guidelines developed by the respective regions. A total of 11,098 staff and members of the Bureau of Women, Children and Youth and law enforcement bodies were trained to provide protection and referral services to adolescent girls, including case management, leading to the cancellation of 4,076 child marriage arrangements.

In all cases, we have been orienting them about what is early marriage; and how to prevent early marriage. If they find out that there is an arranged marriage by the parents, members should come and tell us secretly and we intervene to stop the early marriage. We have been doing awareness creation with them.

GENDER-FOCUS TEACHER, ADDIS ABABA

UNFPA supported 13 service delivery points in selected districts to provide adolescent girl-friendly health services and regional and district level coordination and cross-sectoral referrals through the capacity-building of key stakeholders from health, education and law enforcement sectors. In addition, two health facilities were equipped with furniture and office supplies to provide age-appropriate youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health information and services in Gambella region. In Tigray region, regional and district level trainings were held with 225 key stakeholders from education, health, justice and law enforcement sectors to strengthen referral systems; 193 health service providers participated in training in adolescent and youth-friendly service provision, and seven health facilities were supported with in-kind support. Health facilities were linked with in- and out-of-school activities for effective service provision and referrals.

There are evening school students in our school – who take classes after 5:30pm – who are mainly maids from the surrounding communities, and therefore we do our best to raise awareness among these groups of the community on gender-based violence through different trainings. We have given them detailed training, for example, on their rights, on what to do and not to do, for example, on clothes not to wash – underwear for instance – and how to become systematic in handling cases of violence and even how to save their life for that matter.

SCHOOL DIRECTOR, ADDIS ABABA

The Global Programme supported the creation of a gender-friendly school environment free from school-related GBV by putting in place a school code of conduct and a school-related GBV case handling mechanism with different reporting options. These help adolescent girls to feel safe and supported, to continue their education and to increase their performance. Overall, 987 schools in Somali, Amhara and Oromia regions were reached with different capacity-building for improved quality of education.

OTHER ACTIVITIES WITH POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

The Ministry of Women, Children and Youth carried out supportive supervision of eight sectors to assess to what extent the sectors have institutionalized gender mainstreaming in their plans, budgets and implementation capacities. Based on their findings, the Ministry then provided feedback to the sectors. Through targeted support to Harari region, 47 (26 female) experts from all sectors were trained on the gender mainstreaming levelling tool. The Ministry of Women, Children and Youth will continue to support and follow-up on the roll out of the levelling tool by the sector bureaus in Harari.

CHALLENGES

- ✓ The absence of mechanisms for collecting comprehensive and disaggregated data on children being referred to and receiving protection services is a challenge, specifically relating to capacities, mandates and quality of services.

HEADLINE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

- ✓ The Global Programme acknowledges the need to define and standardize services, including protection services, to enhance effectiveness, adequacy, relevance and friendliness. Discussions have been initiated with the Federal Supreme Court and the Federal Attorney General to this end and this will progress in 2019.

- ✓ To address quality of education and efforts to eliminate school-related GBV, strengthening procedures including different committees, revisiting the existing training guides and providing trainings to teachers, students and committee members are among the key plans identified for follow-up in 2019.
- ✓ Continue capacity-building processes for health providers to overcome challenges relating to the turnover of staff is a priority for the Global Programme in 2019.



Outcome 4: Strengthening the legislative and policy frameworks

TIMELINE OF SOME KEY EVENTS

- **1981:** Ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
- **1991:** Acceded to the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- **2000:** Revised the Family Code to set the minimum legal age of marriage to 18. However, the Minister of Justice may grant dispensation for individuals to marry at 16 years upon application by themselves or their parents/guardians
- **2002:** Ratified the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
- **2004:** Signed the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa
- **2006:** The National Action Plan for Gender Equality (2006–2010) acknowledges the problems caused by child marriage and its link to school dropout rates and proposes sensitizing communities to the dangers of marrying young
- **2013:** Co-sponsored the United Nations General Assembly resolution on eliminating child, early and forced marriage
- **2013:** Co-sponsored the Human Rights Council resolution on eliminating child, early and forced marriage
- **2013:** Committed to ending child marriage by the end of 2020 under the Ministerial Commitment on Comprehensive Sexuality Education and Sexual and Reproductive Health Services for Adolescents and Young People in Eastern and Southern Africa
- **2013:** Launched the National Strategy and Action Plan on Harmful Traditional Practices Against Women and Children in Ethiopia
- **2013:** Established a National Harmful Traditional Practices Platform to institutionalize and measure progress towards eliminating child marriage by 2025
- **2014:** Co-sponsored the United Nations General Assembly resolution on eliminating child, early and forced marriage
- **2014:** Signed a joint statement at the Human Rights Council, calling for a resolution on child marriage

- **2014:** As part of the Universal Periodic Review, supported recommendations to address deeply rooted child marriage practices
- **2014:** At the global Girl Summit in the United Kingdom, signed a charter committing to end child marriage by 2020
- **2015:** Committed to eliminate child, early and forced marriage by 2030 in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- **2015:** Co-sponsored the Human Rights Council resolution on eliminating child, early and forced marriage
- **2015:** At the first Ethiopian Girl Summit, committed to eliminate child marriage by 2025
- **2017:** At the Voluntary National Review at the High-Level Political Forum, highlighted that its Women and Policy strategies address the elimination of child marriage
- **2017:** Co-sponsored the Human Rights Council resolution on eliminating child, early and forced marriage in humanitarian contexts
- **2018:** Drafted National Action Plan to End Child Marriage
- **2018:** Held a National Girl Summit
- **2018:** Co-sponsored the United Nations General Assembly resolution on eliminating child, early and forced marriage

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS

With the strong partnership with the Ministry of Women, Children and Youth as a lead agency on ending harmful practices, and working within the National Alliance to End Child Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation, it was possible for the Global Programme to influence the national roadmap on ending child marriage and FGM to adopt the major elements of the results frameworks, strategies and interventions of the Global Programme and the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme to Eliminate FGM. This achievement will further facilitate the national level alignment and increase national ownership of the programmes.

The National Girl Summit, and other similar events, such as the International Day of the Girl, which reflected on progress made by different actors to end child marriage, were convened during the year. The National Girl Summit, which had as its aim the renewal of government commitments, was attended by representatives of women's standing committees of the Federal Parliament, state ministers, heads of regional bureaus, district administrators, religious and traditional leaders, members of anti-harmful traditional practices committees, women's organizations, health extension workers and other civil society organizations. As a result, the standing committee of the Federal Parliament and regional councils were engaged during the year in strengthening the accountability mechanism for different sectors, such as education, health and justice, to ensure they take concrete action in ending child marriage and FGM, over and above raising questions during follow-up meetings.

OTHER ACTIVITIES WITH POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

The 'Public Expenditure Measurement' report was conducted

for the first time in Ethiopia in partnership with the Ministry of Women, Children and Youth and provided analyses on budget expenditures for children at federal, regional and district levels. In collaboration with United Nations agencies the 'Costing and Financing of the Child-Focused Sustainable Development Goals' study analysed the fiscal space for social sectors over 15 years and provided key costs for child-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that are useful for advocacy.

Due to the National Costed Roadmap on Ending Child Marriage and FGM still being under revision, a systematized and comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework is still needed to support implementing partners, in particular the Ministry of Women Children and Youth and the Federal Attorney General at national and regional levels.

HEADLINE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

- ✓ The National Costed Roadmap is expected to be completed and presented for approval in March 2019. The Global Programme is looking to support the government in its review of baseline expenditures so as to align to budget allocation targets the government has committed.



Outcome 5: Strengthening data and evidence base

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS

The Ministry of Women, Children and Youth and the National Alliance to End Child Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation, with support from UNICEF, published a brochure entitled, 'Ending Child Marriage: A profile of progress in Ethiopia,' which is currently being disseminated through various forums. The data in the brochure show regional variations in child marriage prevalence, with positive change being recorded at a higher rate in Addis Ababa, SNNP and Amhara regions, whereas the decline in child marriage prevalence is slower in Afar and Somali regions. The data also show where acceleration is required to reach the government target of eliminating child marriage and FGM by 2025 (which would also meet SDG 5.3, to eliminate the practices by 2030). UNICEF is using these findings for advocacy with senior officials in Afar and Somali regions to revisit efforts and to accelerate interventions shown to be working. At a federal level, UNICEF used the findings

during high-level advocacy with the president and the first lady to champion support for the protection and development of adolescent girls. The data are also being included in a costing exercise for ending child marriage and FGM and informs the development of the National Costed Roadmap.

A qualitative research project on the school-related GBV Code of Conduct was completed in 2018. The study revealed increased awareness of the Code, and that it has enabled students to speak out about violence and acted as a deterrent for perpetrators. In addition, the Federal Attorney General facilitated capacity-building trainings on results-based management and tracking of progress for the regional Bureau of Justice staff in the six regions targeted by UNICEF under the Global Programme. Ongoing initiatives related to strengthening implementing partners' administrative data systems have also been carried out.

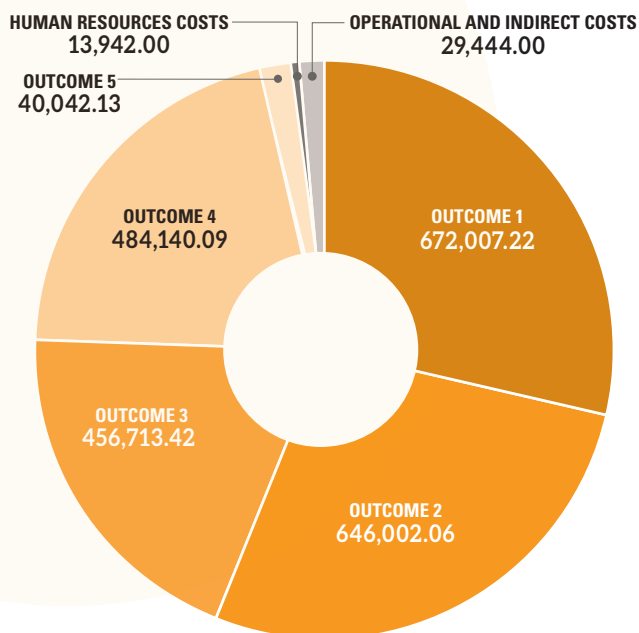
CHALLENGES

- ✓ The lack of programmes that address the needs of out-of-school girls, together with gaps in data on the circumstances and profile of out-of-school adolescent girls presented major challenges. As a result, only few out-of-school adolescent girls were reached by the Global Programme, even though they are more vulnerable to child marriage and other harmful practices.

HEADLINE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

- ✓ To address the above-mentioned challenge, interventions and institutions targeting out-of-school adolescent girls for learning will be mapped, and ongoing initiatives by other agencies will be leveraged.
- ✓ An assessment of the linkages between child marriage and the 'Productive Safety Net Programme', a government-supported social protection scheme, is underway as part of broader social protection programmes, and is expected to be completed in early 2019, and to contribute to the existing evidence informing programming and advocacy efforts nationwide.

Financial information - Expenditure by outcome (USD)



Communications to end child marriage

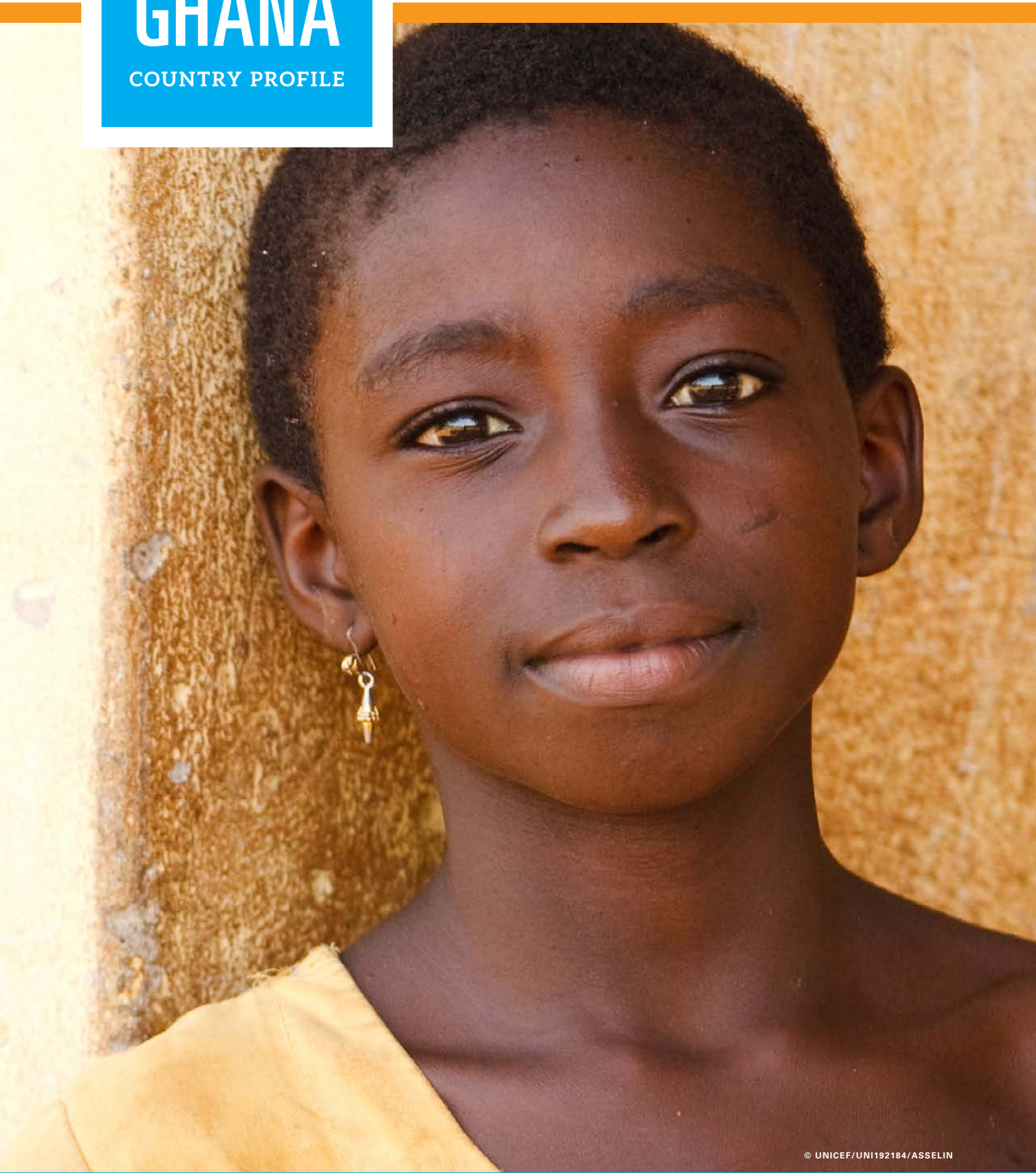
Ethiopian women and girls see "remarkable results" in ending child marriage	www.unfpa.org/news/ethiopian-women-and-girls-see-remarkable-results-ending-child-marriage (accessed May 2019)
Ethiopian girls learn the skills they need to thrive – and secure their independence	www.unfpa.org/news/ethiopian-girls-learn-skills-they-need-thrive-%E2%80%93-and-secure-their-independence (accessed May 2019)
Five brave girls say 'NO' to marriage	www.unicef.org/ethiopia/stories/five-brave-girls-say-no-marriage (accessed May 2019)



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GHANA

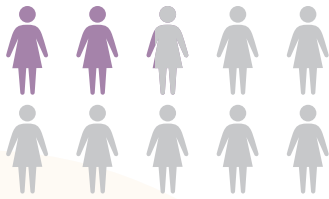
COUNTRY PROFILE



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GHANA

COUNTRY PROFILE

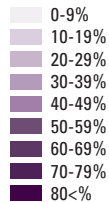


21¹ Percentage of young women (aged 20–24) married or in union by age 18

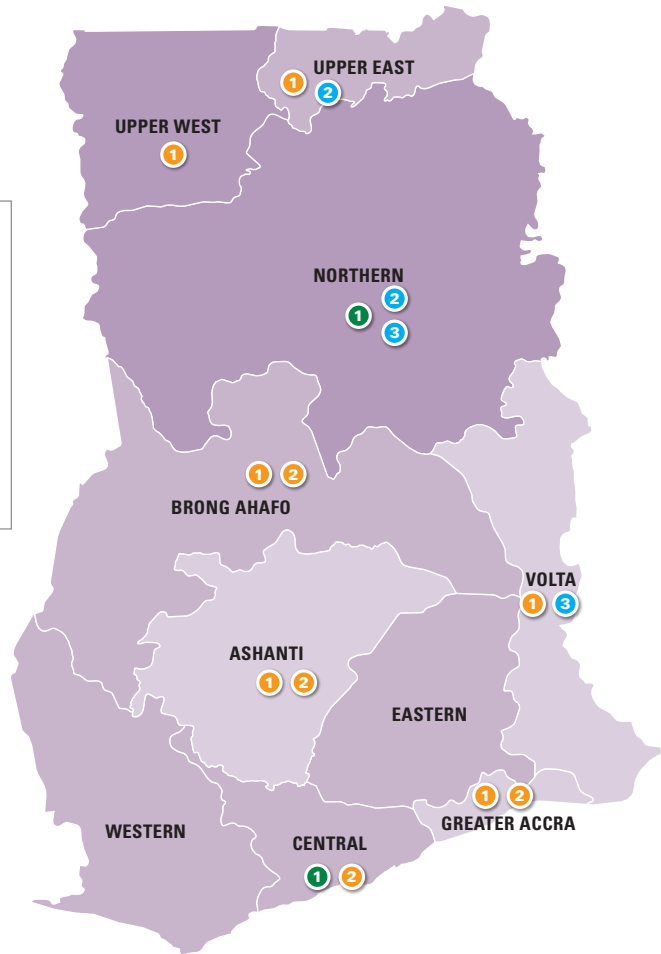


5² Percentage of young women (aged 20–24) married or in union by age 15

Percentage of women aged 20 to 24 years who were first married or in union before age 18



Note: This map is stylized and not to scale. It does not reflect a position by UNFPA or UNICEF on the legal status of any country or area or the delimitation of any frontiers. Implementation areas only reflect implementation under the Global Programme. Source for child marriage prevalence data is the Demographic and Health Survey 2014.



- UNFPA + UNICEF implementation
- UNFPA implementation
- UNICEF implementation
- 1** Implementation outcome 1 (life skills and education support for girls)
- 2** Implementation outcome 2 (community dialogue)
- 3** Implementation outcome 3 (strengthening education, health and child protection systems)



3.89³ BIRTHS PER WOMAN

Total fertility rate (average number of children a woman would have by the end of her reproductive period if her experience followed the currently prevalent age-specific fertility rates)



75.1⁴ ADOLESCENT BIRTH RATE

Number of births per 1,000 adolescent girls aged 15–19



35%⁵

Upper secondary school completion rate among girls aged 3–5 years above upper secondary graduation age



14.2⁶ Percentage of women aged 15–19 who have begun childbearing



1.02⁷ Gender parity index for primary school enrolment

¹ Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), 2014; ² DHS, 2014; ³ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019). World Population Prospects 2019, Online Edition; ⁴ United Nations Statistics Division (2018), SDG Database, <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database>; ⁵ DHS, 2014; ⁶ DHS, 2017; ⁷ UNICEF global databases (April 2019).

GLOBAL PROGRAMME RESULTS IN 2018



9,067

Number of girls reached with life skills interventions



753,810

Number of community members engaged in community dialogue



371

Number of health and child protection service delivery points supported to provide adolescent girl-friendly services

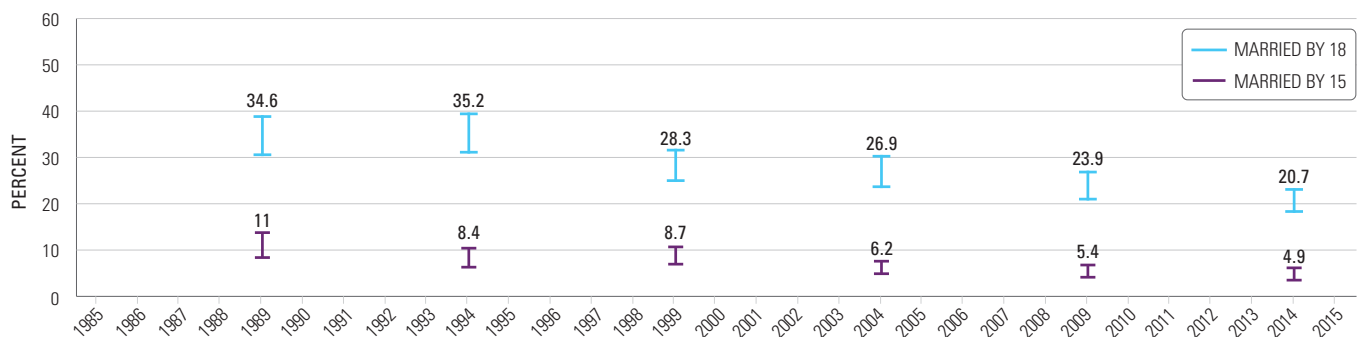
2018 HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ The government received support from the Global Programme to host the African Union's Second African Girls' Summit and the Youth Pre-Summit, where youth advocates were specially invited. The Girls' Summit generated dialogue relating to core issues affecting girls in Africa and provided recommendations to shape the second phase of the 'African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage', which is expected to cover the period 2019–2023. During the Girls' Summit, the Global Programme received high levels of visibility and recognition for its strategic support to end child marriage across the continent.
- ✓ As a result of UNFPA and UNICEF advocacy, the government allocated three per cent of its recurrent budget to the coordination and implementation of the National Strategic Framework on Ending Child Marriage (2017–2026), a budget allocation which is expected to be replicated over the 2019–2022 period.
- ✓ The Global Programme supported the creation of standard operating procedures for handling cases of child victims of (and witnesses to) sexual and gender-based violence abuses, including child marriage. These have been integrated into the curriculum for the national police training schools.
- ✓ UNFPA and UNICEF for the first time developed a common methodology for the joint delivery of empowerment interventions targeting vulnerable and marginalized adolescent

girls in convergence areas, by means of safe spaces. The pilot programme was designed with a significant documentation and learning component and is expected to be strengthened throughout Phase II of the Global Programme (2020–2024).

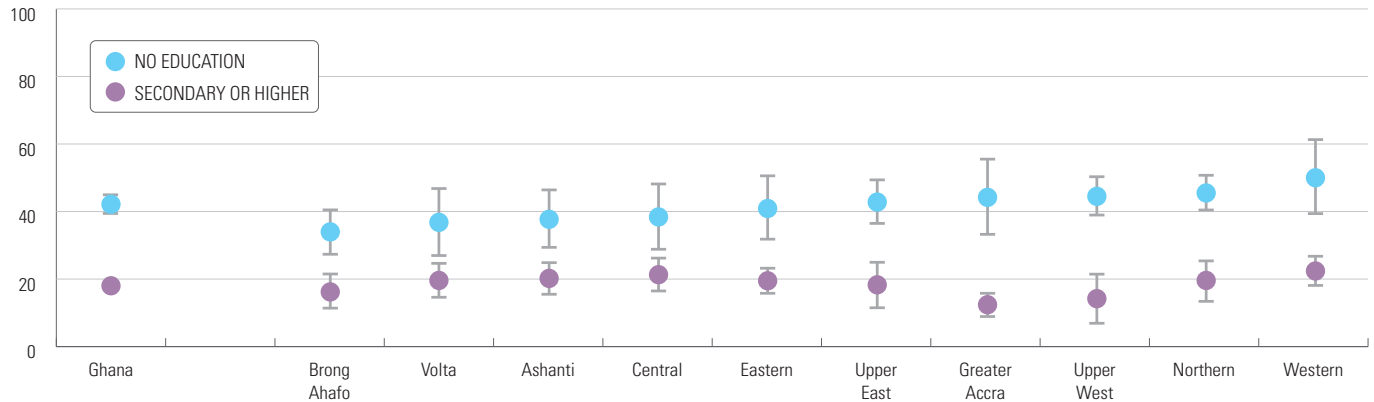
- ✓ Child marriage is becoming less common in Ghana. Currently available data show that one in five young women today were married before 18, compared with one in three in the early 1990s (see Figure 1). Although there is evidence of decline across all the regions of Ghana, the decline is more significant in the Ashanti, Greater Accra, Volta and Western regions. The prevalence of child marriage in Ghana also shows inequities in relation to girls' level of education (see Figure 2). The prevalence of child marriage among girls who have completed secondary or higher education, is much lower than among girls who have never attended school across regions. In every region of Ghana, the poorest women are also more likely than their richer counterparts to have been married during childhood. If the current rate of progress in Ghana is sustained, the proportion of women married as children will continue to decrease from 21 per cent in 2015 to 15 per cent by 2030 and 10 per cent by 2050. However, this rate of decline is not fast enough to keep pace with Ghana's population growth. If observed trends continue, the total number of women married as children will still be around 209,000, although 221,000 girls will have avoided early marriage (see Figure 3).

FIGURE 1: Percentage of women aged 20–24 years who were first married or in union before age 15 and before age 18 in Ghana⁸



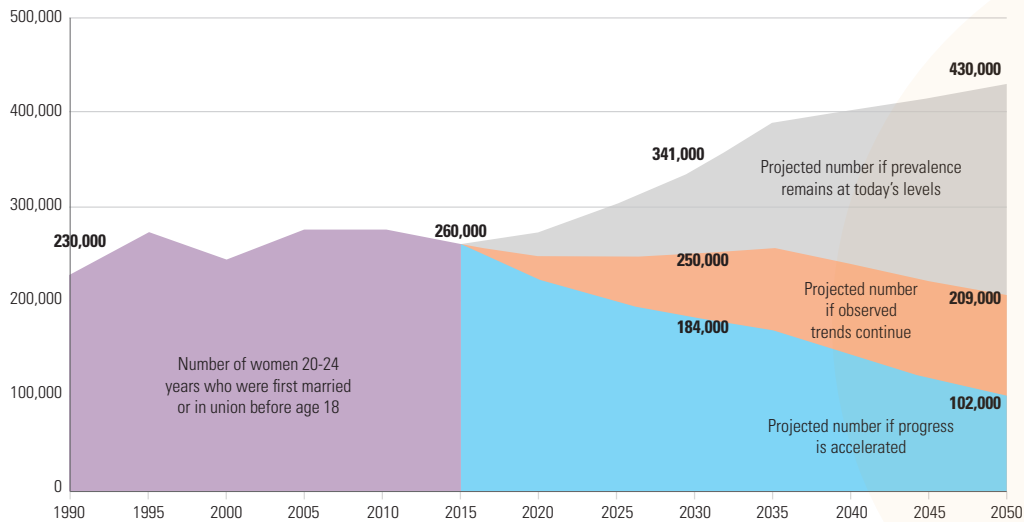
⁸ UNICEF global databases (April 2019).

FIGURE 2: Percentage of women aged 20–49 years who were first married or in union before age 18 in each region, by level of education?



9 DHS, 2014.

FIGURE 3: Number of girls and women married in childhood in Ghana, if projected population growth continue¹⁰



10 UNICEF global databases (April 2019).



Outcome 1: Empowering adolescent girls

PROGRESS OF INDICATORS

Outcome 1.1: Proportion of adolescent girls in programme areas demonstrating increased knowledge and skills

Outcome 1.2: Girls' retention rate at primary school level

Output 1.1: Number of girls 10-19 years of age actively participating in targeted interventions

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: 27,479	Target: 39,650 Results: 85,990	Target: 28,560 Results: 16,931	Target: 6,450 Results: 9,067	Target: 9,650 Results:

Output 1.2: Number of girls supported to access and remain in primary/lower secondary/non-formal education

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: N/A	Target: NA Results: NA	Target: NA Results: NA	Target: NA Results: NA	Target: 1,000 Results:

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

To sustain interventions in the community and schools, the approach of the Global Programme and its partners to girls' empowerment focused on the establishment of school-based, girls' or child rights clubs and community child protection committees, combined with the training and use of mentors or peer educators to deliver community services to adolescents, and involving the participation of community figures such as chiefs, traditional rulers and opinion leaders to address child marriage issues. For the first time, UNFPA and UNICEF developed a common approach for the joint delivery of empowerment interventions. This reached 1,200 adolescent girls in convergence areas.

Some parents are poor, and they sometimes force their younger girls to get married in order to gain an economic benefit such as cattle and money. Child marriage has affected most of our female children especially the uneducated ones. When I was not a member of the child rights club I did not know that a child has the right to say no to marriage if their parents are forcing them to do so.

FROM AN INTERVIEW WITH A 16-YEAR-OLD FEMALE STUDENT IN BAWKU WEST DISTRICT

The joint strategy delivered a package (lasting a minimum of 31 hours) of information and services in the areas of life skills, child rights, skills for employability, health including adolescent sexual and reproductive health, nutrition and menstrual hygiene management, and sexual gender-based violence, to a cohort of adolescent girls (aged 10–19) at risk of or affected

Even the pregnant girl in the school, we talk to her from time to time. She has been encouraged not to stop school and indeed she has not stopped. We do not tease or make fun of her but rather encourage her as we were taught by [the non-governmental organization] International Needs. Hopefully, she will deliver in February and after a while she will come back to school again. This was not the case some time ago. Those girls who become pregnant stop schooling because of the stigma. Also, I can now freely approach a teacher, even a male teacher, to inform him about any issue. I can voice my worries without being afraid or shy. When someone is trying to get me to do bad things I boldly tell the person I am not interested. Child rights clubs has really boosted my confidence. I know my rights as a child and even those to contact should anything or anyone try to harm me. I can discuss sexual and reproductive health with my peers without being shy.

YOUNG GIRL, NGYERESI, GOMOA WEST DISTRICT, CENTRAL REGION

The formation of the Child Rights Club and the introduction of drama toward eliminating teenage pregnancy and child marriage; awareness creation through drama, durbar and plays has led to a drastic reduction of teenage pregnancy. In 2016, 12 girls were pregnant in this school, but in 2017 only one girl got pregnant in the community. Teenage pregnancy used to be so common in this community and a reduction in it has caused a simultaneous reduction in school dropout and in child marriage.

GIRL IN A FOCUS-GROUP DISCUSSION, NGYIRESI, GOMOA WEST DISTRICT, CENTRAL REGION

by child marriage in convergence areas (four districts in the Northern and Central regions) by making use of safe spaces (for example, child rights clubs). Attendees at the clubs, whose opinions were captured through a Most Significant Stories research in selected areas attested to the fact that girls have gained confidence through participation in these clubs and this confidence has helped them to curb behaviours that could have led to teenage pregnancy.

Now wiser thanks to club discussions, girls have continued to teach their friends and mothers and have become more confident and open in talking to others about these issues. The use of trained mentors or peer educators to deliver life skills training enabled UNFPA to reach 5,367 adolescent girls in school clubs and safe spaces in the communities, and to support a further 2,500 girls who work as porters ('kayeyei') with livelihood training and sexual and reproductive health services, and encouraged parents to send their children back to school.

I refused to allow Aisha to go back and be a kayayei. Instead I insisted she went to school, so I put her back in school. She was re-enrolled in junior high school, she wrote [the exam] and made it.

A 43-YEAR-OLD WOMAN, KATALI COMMUNITY IN THE TOLON DISTRICT, NORTHERN REGION

OTHER ACTIVITIES WITH POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

UNFPA, in collaboration with the Planned Parenthood Association and other partners, focused on supporting the Sista's Cub Initiative – a community platform created to raise awareness and direct access to critical sexual and reproductive health services including contraceptives and sexually transmitted infections management in the community. The platform enables open conversations between the girls and parents on sexual and reproductive health. As part of efforts to address challenges at the community level, Parent-Child-Communication sessions were organized to bring the parents and girls together to hold difficult conversations. This also gave the girls the chance to educate their parents on the many dangers and risks they face in addition to the limited support for their basic needs, for example unreasonable demands from some of their teachers and school authorities, and attempts by some boys or men with money to lure them into marriage or dangerous relationships. The girls were then supported in requesting parental support to address these challenges. This approach gave an opportunity to address harmful socio-cultural practices and to rally parents to support changed attitudes towards and improved investments in their adolescent girls, and to delay marriage.

CHALLENGES

- ✓ Cultural and social norms restrict the level of engagement and participation of girls and boys at the community level. It is critical to engage caregivers, community members and service providers in creating an enabling environment for girls and boys to voice their needs and opinions and to thrive.

HEADLINE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

- ✓ Continue to scale up the mentorship approach and the Sista's Club initiative. There is a need for mentorship for young girls to help encourage adolescent mothers to go back to school as has been proved through some of the interventions under the Sista's Club initiative. When empowered, adolescent mothers can use their experience as a strong advocacy tool to educate their communities. Through the school mentorship outreach programme, mentors have taken up advocacy in their schools on teenage pregnancy, child marriage and sexual and gender-based violence. They have become more assertive and openly discuss adolescent sexual and reproductive health issues with their peers.
- ✓ A priority for the Global Programme going forward is to invest in a gender transformative approach. Male involvement is important for the next level of programming as 'engaged' boys can be important allies for reaching more young people. This was demonstrated indirectly when participants in the youth dialogue sessions went on to raise the awareness of more than 2,000 of their friends on issues of sexual and gender-based violence and adolescent sexual and reproductive health.



Outcome 2: Social and behaviour change communication to influence gender and social norms

PROGRESS OF INDICATORS

Outcome 2: Proportion of individuals in programme areas that hold gender equitable attitudes				
Output 2.1: Number of individuals in programme areas who regularly participate in dialogues promoting gender equitable norms including delaying child marriage				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: 72,569	Target: 151,270 Results: 2,401,120	Target: 51,049 Results: 51,329	Target: 661,070 Results: 753,810	Target: 960,500 Results:

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

Through the Global Programme, harmful gender norms within families and communities have been challenged, to make way for more equitable gender outcomes and a supportive environment for girls and young women. This was done through dialogues with parents, community chiefs, traditional rulers and opinion leaders, with reflections generated through the use of community facilitation toolkits. Programmatic approaches and tools utilized within the programme, particularly those supporting community engagements, are grounded in positive cultural practices, contextualized through consultations with implementing partners and communities (girls, boys, men and women) to ensure relevance and ownership; rather than being prescriptive, they stimulate community reflections and dialogues to analyse and challenge gender norms, gender socialization and stereotypes and power imbalances to work towards more equitable outcomes for girls and women in society.

International Needs together with UNICEF rolled out what is called 'the toolkit' which is a participatory advocacy thing. They educated and sensitized the community about child protection issues. The child rights club was formed as a result and the girls in the club are doing well. They now talk about teenage pregnancy and also dramatize the effects of it. Go around the community, you will find placards carrying messages of teenage pregnancy and child marriage, all these have resulted in the creation of awareness about these issues.

ADULT MALE, GOMOA DENKYIRA, GOMOA WEST DISTRICT, CENTRAL REGION

Parents were advised to encourage their teenage daughters who were pregnant or had children to return to school. They were also encouraged to support the girls by helping take care of the children while they attend school. Teenage mothers who wanted to continue schooling were supported with school fees, uniforms, books and other learning materials.

Sensitization activities at the community level, especially dramas, have achieved high levels of participation (753,810 individuals reported in 2018), especially among women and children. Lively discussions have led to improved dialogue and awareness of the

physical dangers to girls of child marriage and teenage pregnancy, the legal ramifications of child marriage, the importance of girls' education and the value of intergenerational communication.

A formative assessment supported by the Global Programme revealed that community discussions have contributed to bringing communities together to engage in conversations about difficult topics such as teenage pregnancy, sex and sexuality. In some cases, field work showed that community engagement is starting to trigger different attitudes towards, for example, children's education and girls' needs, gender roles and responsibilities within households.

A girl was in junior high school when her father wanted to marry her off to someone. According to the father, the girl's behaviour was awkward even though she was underage, that is 16 years old. He perceived the daughter was following and befriending men. The father advised her to stop the behaviour and concentrate on her education otherwise he had no option than to marry her off. The father was afraid that she would become pregnant and might bring shame or disgrace to him and the family.

FROM AN INTERVIEW WITH A 33-YEAR-OLD MALE FARMER FROM TUA, TOLON DISTRICT

The community has put in place some sanctions about child marriage. If any man should marry a school child they will report it to the police to arrest him. The chief can also ask the man to pay some fine.

ADULT MALE IN A FOCUS-GROUP DISCUSSION IN BIHISI, WEST MAMPRUSI DISTRICT

A UNICEF study of the most significant change stories on child protection in Ghana published during the year highlighted positive changes in the lives of the children owing to the sensitization on children's rights, family life, and sexual and reproductive health and rights. The data show a high rate of success for the various interventions in terms of bringing about change related to child protection, of 325 stories collected, 92.3 per cent reported an enhanced school participation and achievement; 88.3 per cent reported enhanced knowledge and awareness; 84.3 per cent

reported attitudinal and behavioural change; and 35.4 per cent reported of a safer environment. Participants overwhelmingly attested to the positive impact on their lives resulting from the awareness-raising campaigns that government and non-government programmes had delivered. This applied to both adults and children participating in the story collection project and demonstrates the impact of knowledge and awareness on reducing harmful practices.

The chief and the entire community have passed a by-law to protect parents from giving out their girl child into marriage, anybody who goes against it would be fined in the form of cash and animals. Children are not supposed to stay out up to 9:30 pm. No Imam would officiate your outdoorings or when given an underage child to marry.

**GIRL IN A FOCUS-GROUP DISCUSSION
IN KPALAYILI, TOLON DISTRICT**

CHALLENGES

- ✓ Cultural and social norms restrict the level of engagement and participation of girls and boys at community levels. The fact that some actions have been taken by local actors to prevent children from attending community outings appears to be more a reflection of the fear of teenage

pregnancy than of the undesirability of child marriage and may not be an indication of behavioural change towards child marriage as such, since many of the other structural drivers of child marriage remain unaddressed.

HEADLINE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

- ✓ Increase media advocacy and sensitization efforts relating to teenage pregnancy and sexual and gender-based violence, which were identified as major drivers of child marriage in the Central region.
- ✓ Establish community-based parent networks to help drive advocacy on parental roles and responsibility to end adolescent pregnancy, child marriage and sexual and gender-based violence.
- ✓ Continue to explore and strengthen linkages and partnerships with the beneficiaries reached by Global Programme activities in 2018 to reach more community and church members.
- ✓ Establish a monitoring framework for mentees and their parents to monitor their performance and progress in school.
- ✓ Through the 'Empowering Adolescents Girls Programme', a framework for engaging men and boys has been developed to guide male-targeted interventions aimed at reducing gender biases and gender discrimination. It is intended that this will generate synergies that could collectively transform gender relations in communities and thereby reduce the vulnerabilities of women and girls with respect to health, sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices.



Outcome 3: Strengthening prevention and protection systems

PROGRESS OF INDICATORS

Outcome 3.1: Number and proportion of adolescent girls in programme areas that have utilized health or protection services				
Outcome 3.2: Percentage point difference in exam-pass rates between boys and girls in programme areas				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
NA	NA	Baseline: +2.0	Target: +1.0 Results: NA	Target: 0.0 Results:
Output 3.1 Number and proportion of service delivery points in programme areas implementing guidelines for adolescent girl-friendly health and protection services				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: NA	Target: 30 Results: 45	Target: 200 Results: 322	Target: 275 Results: 371	Target: 200 Results:
Output 3.2 Number of non-formal/primary/secondary schools implementing interventions to improve the quality of education for adolescent girls				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: NA	Target: 2 Results: 1	Target: NA Results: NA	Target: NA Results: NA	Target: NA Results:

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

In 2018 the Global Programme supported the implementation of key national guidelines and standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the provision of age- and gender-responsive health and protection services to adolescent girls in programme areas. These included guidelines for the prevention of pregnancy among school girls and for facilitating the re-entry of girls into school after childbirth. The guidelines and procedures emerged within the context of key government policies aimed at creating an enabling environment for adolescent protection (e.g., the Adolescent Health Policy, the Free Senior High School Policy, the Gender Policy and the Child and Family Welfare Policy).

The child protection community facilitation toolkit was reviewed and new modules and SOPs developed to address gaps in gender, health, nutrition, menstrual hygiene management and case handling of child victims. The new SOPs on handling cases of child victims of and witnesses to child abuse and sexual and gender-based violence including child marriage has been integrated into the curriculum of the national police training schools. UNICEF continued to support extensive training for new recruits into the Ghana Police Service on the child-friendly policing initiative, covering the handing of child offenders, victims and witnesses. A total of 1,696 additional police officers (1,204 male and 492 female) received this training following the standard training material and SOPs for child victims, witnesses and offenders of crimes. Improved case management was seen at 71 service points.

As of December 2018, UNFPA had trained 86 health service providers on gender-responsive sexual and reproductive health services and 22 police prosecutors on sexual and gender-based violence case management and evidence presentation. It had also equipped 300 health facilities with adolescent health registers to improve data recording and tracking of adolescent girls receiving services. The Global Programme continued to strategically engage in planning and budgetary dialogues at decentralized levels to support an increase in resource

allocations for service provision relating to child marriage and child protection and sexual and gender-based violence cases. Overall 23,953 adolescent girls in and out of school accessed health and protection services during the year.

OTHER ACTIVITIES WITH POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

The SafeNet Programme, funded by the Canadian government, reaches pregnant girls with health, education and social services. A particular focus of the programme is to strengthen the linkages between the Ghana Health Service and the services provided by the Ghana Education Service, the Social Welfare department, the Births and Deaths Registry and non-governmental organization partners. UNFPA and UNICEF will continue to work together with the Ghana Health Service in common target districts to streamline capacity-building investments to the Ghana Health Service and develop synergistic approaches.

CHALLENGES

- ✓ Lack of coordinated services to address holistically the multiple, interconnected needs of adolescents across sectors is a challenge in Ghana.
- ✓ High staff turnovers and transfer within the government sectors of staff whose capacity has been improved by the Global Programme. Though the programme has focused on orientation and training of new staff, this strategy is not cost-effective and not sustainable given available resources.

HEADLINE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

- ✓ UNICEF is supporting the National Police Training Academy to roll out training on the new SOP on handling cases of child victims of and witnesses to child abuse and sexual and gender-based violence including child marriage for in-service police officers in 153 police stations during 2019, and all police promotional exams at all levels will include examination on child-friendly policing. Establish a cross-sectoral platform with stakeholders to support the case management process for victims of child abuse, child marriage and sexual and gender-based violence is a priority for the programme going forward.



Outcome 4: Strengthening the legislative and policy frameworks

TIMELINE OF SOME KEY EVENTS

- **1986:** Ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
- **1990:** Ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- **1998:** The Children's Act set the minimum legal age of marriage to 18 with no exceptions
- **2005:** Ratified the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
- **2007:** Ratified the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa
- **2013:** Co-sponsored the United Nations General Assembly resolution on eliminating child, early and forced marriage
- **2013:** Co-sponsored the Human Rights Council resolution on eliminating child, early and forced marriage
- **2014:** Co-sponsored the United Nations General Assembly resolution on eliminating child, early and forced marriage
- **2014:** Signed a joint statement at the Human Rights Council, calling for a resolution on child marriage
- **2014:** At the global Girl Summit in the United Kingdom, signed a charter committing to end child marriage by 2020
- **2014:** Established a multi-stakeholder Ending Child Marriage Unit
- **2015:** Committed to eliminate child, early and forced marriage by 2030 in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- **2015:** Co-sponsored the Human Rights Council resolution on eliminating child, early and forced marriage
- **2015:** Established a multi-stakeholder Ending Child Marriage Advisory Committee
- **2016:** Launched a National Campaign to End Child Marriage as part of the African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage in Africa
- **2016:** The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection celebrated the Day of the African Child with a national commemoration in the Volta region on the theme 'Ending child marriage in Ghana through strengthening of family and community structure'
- **2017:** Co-sponsored the Human Rights Council resolution on eliminating child, early and forced marriage in humanitarian contexts
- **2017:** As a member of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), adopted the Strategic Framework for Strengthening National Child Protection Systems, under which protecting children from marriage is a priority
- **2017:** As part of the Universal Periodic Review, supported recommendations to strengthen policies aimed at ending harmful practices, including child marriage
- **2017:** Launched a National Strategic Framework on Ending Child Marriage in Ghana (2017–2026) and a two-year work plan
- **2018:** Held an Adolescent Summit
- **2018:** Co-sponsored the United Nations General Assembly resolution on eliminating child, early and forced marriage
- **2018:** Hosted the African Union Second Girls Summit

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

The Global Programme is anchored on key human rights principles enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the International Conference on Population and Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as relevant national laws, policies and frameworks supporting gender equality, children's protection and adolescent development in Ghana. Among the latter, the most relevant include the Children's Act, the Domestic Violence Act, the Juvenile Justice Act, the Criminal Offences and Other Offences Act, the National Child and Family Welfare Policy, the Justice for Children Policy, the Gender Policy, the Adolescent Health Policy, the Gender in Education Policy, the National Strategic Framework on Ending Child Marriage and the Adolescent Pregnancy Strategy.

In 2018, ending child marriage and supporting adolescent girls' development continued to feature highly on the public agenda and among the political priorities of the government. The government demonstrated high-level commitment to end child marriage in Ghana, most notably by hosting the African Union Second African Girls Summit on ending child marriage in Accra in November 2018, in partnership with the African Union Commission. The government and partners critically appraised the progress, learning and achievements of the African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage over the last four years and advocated for increased cross-sectoral investments in adolescent girls, with the Global Programme receiving high

levels of visibility and recognition for its strategic support to end child marriage across the continent.

As a result of UNFPA and UNICEF's advocacy, the government allocated 3 per cent of its recurrent budget for the coordination and implementation of the National Strategic Framework on Ending Child Marriage (2017–2026), a budget allocation which is expected to be replicated each year over the 2019–2022 period. Substantial technical and logistical support continued to be provided to the Child Marriage Unit of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection to advance national coordination efforts in the implementation of the National Strategic Framework on Ending Child Marriage (2017–2026).

OTHER ACTIVITIES WITH POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

The government has set aside a further 3 per cent of its recurrent budget for running the Central Adoption Authority, which was set up to ensure the implementation of The Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoptions. To build consensus at the national level, three position papers were developed in 2018 with support of UNICEF and shared widely with relevant stakeholders. The papers covered three critical issues: child protection online, the age of consent and the prohibition of corporal punishment.

Led by the National Development Planning Commission, with support from UNICEF, all 254 municipalities and district assemblies reviewed their medium-term plans to reflect child protection interventions in 2018. The review was based on guidelines that specified specific guidance related to child protection and gender-based violence-related issues in the plans. This has resulted in most of the districts including child protection interventions in their plans and budgets during 2018. To monitor the implementation of the child protection-related protocols at the district and municipality level, key indicators relating to child protection and gender-based violence have been included in the performance contracts of the district assemblies.

CHALLENGES

- ✓ Though the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection received support from the Global Programme and partners, cross-sectoral coordination, including monitoring and evaluation remains a challenge due to limited resource capacity.

HEADLINE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

- ✓ A national stakeholders forum is being planned for February 2019 to support the updating of the operational and monitoring and evaluation plan of the National Strategic Framework on Ending Child Marriage for the period 2019–2020.



Outcome 5: Strengthening data and evidence base

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

The sixth Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) was undertaken in November 2018 by Ghana Statistical Services. This provided an updated picture of the situation concerning children in Ghana, including on core child protection issues including child marriage, exposure to violence, child labour, birth registration and adolescence. The MICS 2017–2018 revealed a continuous decline, though still slow, in the prevalence of child marriage in Ghana. In 2017, 19 per cent of girls were married by the age of 18 compared with 21 per cent in 2014, according to the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) data. Girls from rural areas, the poorest households and not in school continue to be those most at risk of or affected by child marriage in Ghana. However, there was no significant

decline in the absolute numbers of girls married as children, due to the compensating effect of population growth, which emphasizes the importance of accelerating progress.

A series of papers and research projects have been finalized and disseminated to inform the design and implementation of programme interventions as well as to facilitate stakeholder engagements in 2018 through the Global Programme and complementary funding. These include: 'Child Marriage and Associated Outcomes in Northern Ghana: A cross-sectional study'¹¹; a report on the impacts of the 'LEAP 1000' cash transfer programme on intimate partner violence; and the dissemination of formative research on barriers to girls' completion of junior high school in two districts of Ghana.

¹¹ The study was published in the BMC Journal of Public Health in 2018; accessed through www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5827991/

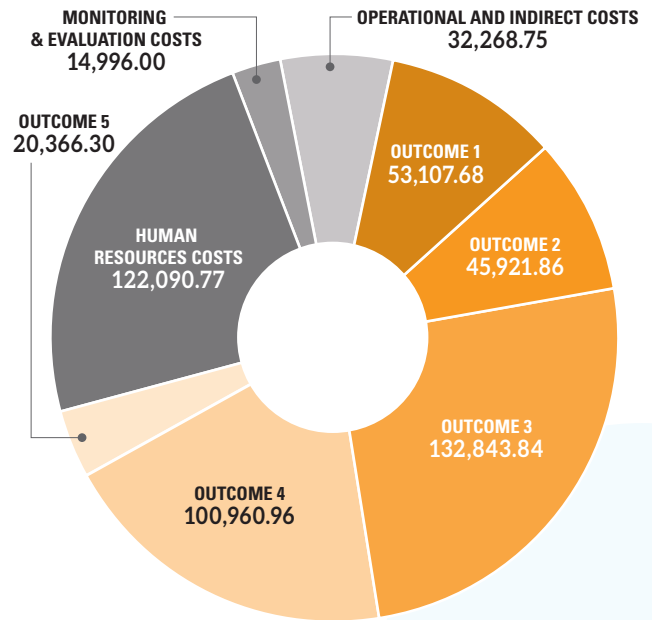
OTHER ACTIVITIES WITH POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

In line with SDG Target 5.3, to eliminate all harmful practices including child marriage, the National Strategic Framework on Ending Child Marriage sets an overarching goal of ending child marriage in Ghana by 2030. The indicator is also captured in the SDG Framework of the National Development Planning Commission. In 2019, one of the focus areas for the analysis of the MICS 2017–2018 data will be the trends and projections required for Ghana to achieve SDG Target 5.3.

HEADLINE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

- ✓ Ghana needs further support with evidence-sharing on the effectiveness of comprehensive life skills packages and models of scalability as well as monitoring and evaluation support for the design of frameworks for life skills measurement and gender equitable attitudes (baselines and end lines at outcome level).
- ✓ Furthermore, there is ongoing collaboration with UNICEF Data and Analytics section on an in-depth analysis of child marriage and adolescent girl data and trends as per the recent and ongoing releases of MICS 2017–2018 data.

Financial information – Expenditure by outcome (USD)



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COUNTRY PROFILE



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INDIA

COUNTRY PROFILE

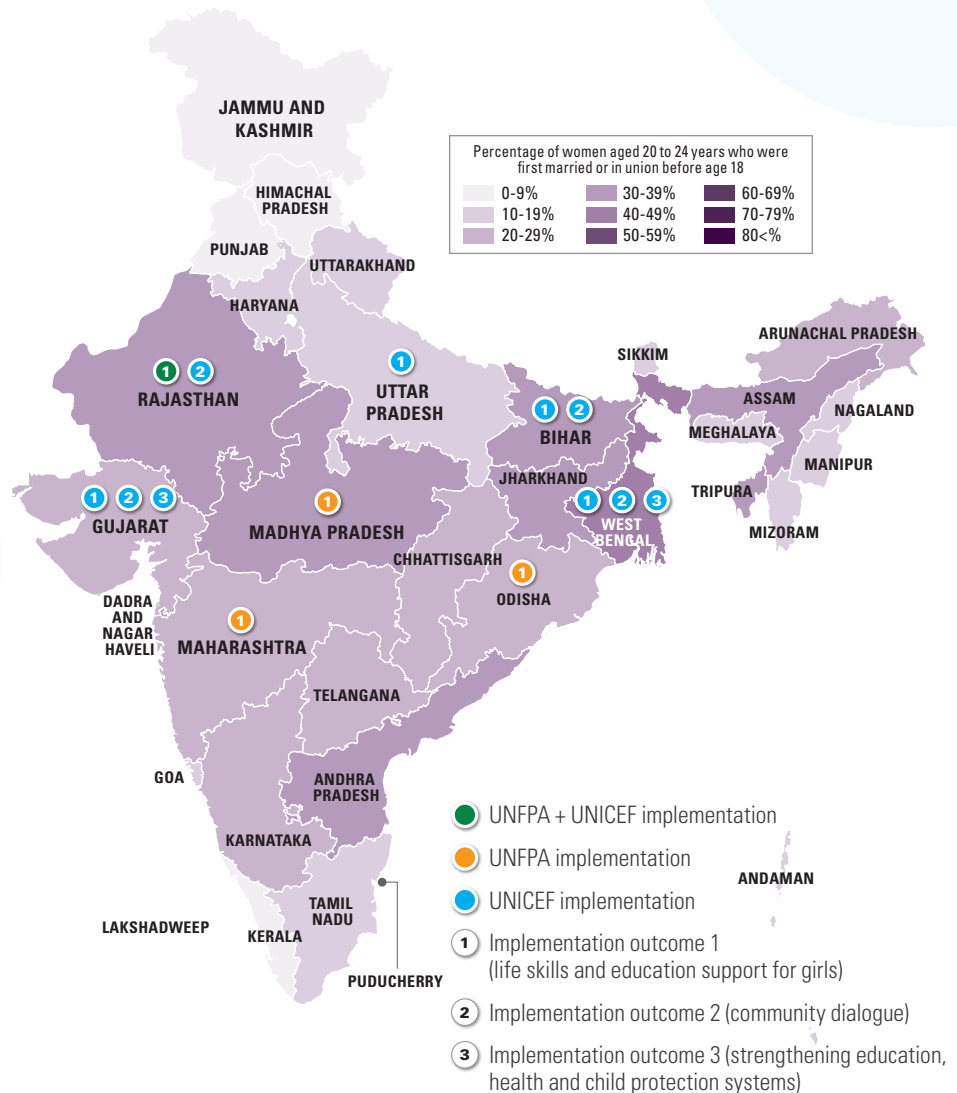


27¹ Percentage of young women (aged 20–24) married or in union by age 18



7² Percentage of young women (aged 20–24) married or in union by age 15

Note: This map is stylized and not to scale. It does not reflect a position by UNFPA or UNICEF on the legal status of any country or area or the delimitation of any frontiers. Implementation areas only reflect implementation under the Global Programme. Source for child marriage prevalence data is the National Family Health Survey 2015–2016.



2.24³ BIRTHS PER WOMAN

Total fertility rate (average number of children a woman would have by the end of her reproductive period if her experience followed the currently prevalent age-specific fertility rates)

10.7⁴ ADOLESCENT BIRTH RATE
Number of births per 1,000 adolescent girls aged 15–19


21%⁵
Upper secondary school completion rate among girls aged 3–5 years above upper secondary graduation age

7.9⁶ Percentage of women aged 15–19 who have begun childbearing

1.01⁷ Gender parity index for primary school enrolment

¹ National Family Health Survey (NFHS), 2015-1016; ² NFHS, 2015-1016; ³ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019). World Population Prospects 2019, Online Edition; ⁴ United Nations Statistics Division (2018), SDG Database, <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database>; ⁵ DHS, 2005; ⁶ Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), 2015-2016; ⁷ UNICEF global databases (April 2019).

GLOBAL PROGRAMME RESULTS IN 2018

 **2,285,980**
Number of girls reached with life skills interventions

 **3,508,271**
Number of community members engaged in community dialogue

 **3,428** Number of health and child protection service delivery points supported to provide adolescent girl-friendly services

 **3,220** Number of schools supported to provide girl-friendly quality education

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ The Global Programme continued to support the translation of national commitment to end child marriage into actions, such as developing costed and funded action plans for the states of Bihar and Rajasthan, a costed state action plan in Jharkhand and consolidating child protection schemes in Bihar, Gujarat, Odisha, Jharkhand and Rajasthan.
- ✓ The Global Programme reached almost 2.3 million girls through adolescent groups, which enabled their participation in and access to health information and life skills training. A total of 3.5 million parents and community members were reached through social and behavioural change communications designed to end child marriage and promote adolescent empowerment.
- ✓ In Uttar Pradesh, UNICEF scaled up interventions to end child marriage from 7 to 20 districts, resulting in the establishment of community platforms across 25 per cent of all districts, linked to 16,000 local governance councils.
- ✓ A plan developed by the Global Programme to generate evidence that identifies what works at scale resulted in the following knowledge products, which are now informing policy advocacy: (i) an overview of the trends in the prevalence and number of child marriages and possible drivers of change; and (ii) a summary of findings from high intensity programmes to end child marriage in four targeted districts.



Outcome 1: Empowering adolescent girls

PROGRESS OF INDICATORS

Outcome 1.1: Proportion of adolescent girls in programme areas demonstrating increased knowledge and skills				
Outcome 1.2: Girls' retention rate at primary school level				
Output 1.1: Number of girls aged 10-19 years actively participating in targeted interventions				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: 15,000	Target: 155,900 Results: 161,789	Target: 570,000 Results: 628,902	Target: 1,000,000 Results: 2,285,980	Target: 2,000,000 Results:
Output 1.2: Number of girls supported to access and remain in primary/lower secondary/non-formal education				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: 3,800	Target: 125,000 Results: 131,888	Target: NA Results: NA	Target: NA Results: NA	Target: NA Results:

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

UNFPA and UNICEF continued to reach the most marginalized adolescent girls in targeted states through support for training of peer educators and community frontline workers to provide life skills education and sexual and reproductive health information and services to girls in adolescent groups or other community-based clubs. UNICEF contributed to the consolidation of these states' social protection schemes by providing technical support, specifically in the redesign of cash transfers systems to ensure that most marginalized adolescent girls are reached.

UNFPA and UNICEF worked with the National Council for Educational Research and Training to develop a life skills education curriculum under the 'Ayushman', a national health and protection scheme in India. The life skills education was implemented across the targeted states in innovative ways. For example, adolescents and other community members were trained to incorporate its messages into traditional stories to reach out-of-school children and improve attendance and retention of children in schools in Assam and Odisha. Graphic novels and activity-based communication materials were used in Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand. School councils, sports and adolescent forums (or 'manches' – named Meena, Gargi or Raju Manch, depending on location and whether they were aimed at boys or girls) were used to help develop enhanced life skills. In West Bengal, 389 Meena manches in districts with primarily Muslim populations were set up; they engaged 363,545 girls through peer education. Trained teams provided supportive supervision of the Meena and Gargi manches in 14 districts of Uttar Pradesh; these reached 275,683 girls with life skills education and information on menstrual hygiene management. In Rajasthan, 923,458 girls were reached through Meena-Raju manches (clubs involving both boys and girls) in 32,656 schools and 318 'Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya' (hostels for girls) across the state. In Madhya Pradesh, 723,294 adolescent girls were engaged by UNFPA in challenging gender norms through life skills and sexual and reproductive health education. UNICEF adopted an asset-based approach to enhancing the knowledge, life skills and agency of girls in West Bengal, which included providing access to services such as adolescent-friendly health clinics.

OTHER ACTIVITIES WITH POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

In Bihar, UNICEF provided technical support for developing a universal, integrated State cash transfer scheme that supports

a girl from birth till she reaches 21 years, by integrating smaller, social protection programmes across three departments. In Jharkhand, based on analysis and advocacy conducted by UNICEF, two child cash transfer programmes have been re-designed to improve targeting of recipients, the degree of linkage to services and levels of inclusion of adolescent girls. UNICEF provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, a branch of the government of India, resulting in the inclusion of components relating to adolescent empowerment and the ending of child marriage in their national guidelines, which will be implemented across all states.

CHALLENGES

- ✓ Achieving engagement with out-of-school girls is extremely challenging, given that many of them are likely to be engaged in paid work. The work conditions for such girls are often exploitative. In such conditions, interventions need to be multi-pronged, with the aim of deepening the engagement with the girls and their families, as well as with their employer and nature of occupation. Given the extent of these investments, a degree of trade-off between at-scale outreach and the ability to reach the most marginalized and vulnerable girls is inevitable.
- ✓ The programme would benefit from a better understanding of which accelerators of change work at scale, which are the most effective and which are the most cost-effective interventions. Areas for further inquiry include linking cash transfer schemes to programmes such as adolescent clubs and comprehensive sexual education interventions, which may optimize the effect of cash grants in incentivizing adolescent girls to take up education and opportunities.
- ✓ The Global Programme in India faced weak institutional leadership and poor coordination between national programmes intended to reach adolescent girls. In many states there is no overarching vision for a broad-scale investment that goes beyond narrow cash transfer schemes addressing specific issues, and that would require coordination and convergence between at least 10 departments.
- ✓ While enhancing and augmenting the programmes that drive change, such as education, the empowerment of adolescent girls, community mobilization and incentivizing change, there is also a need for a differentiated approach, for within state and inter-state collaboration, which should be based on the prevalence of the issue and the social norms in each context.

HEADLINE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

- ✓ India has a federal governance structure, which means that state policy and legislative measures depend on central government policy and legislative measures. The relationship between the two governments also has an impact on the on-ground result. Influencing national legislation and political will could have widespread positive impact. Drawing on international evidence and pressure groups will help to achieve this and thereby accelerate the programming.
- ✓ West Bengal has the second highest prevalence of child marriage in India at 41.6 per cent. It is planned to increase

the programme's coverage from two districts in this state to six in 2019. This programming shift would entail working more strategically at the district level and not so intensely at the block and sub-block levels, the lowest administrative levels.

- ✓ In Uttar Pradesh, the programme will emphasize skill development through linkages with the National Skill Development Mission, under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, along with social mobilization and social and behaviour change communication. The programme will also focus on working with men and boys along with women and adolescent girls.



Outcome 2: Social and behaviour change communication to influence gender and social norms

PROGRESS OF INDICATORS

Outcome 2: Proportion of individuals in programme areas that hold gender equitable attitudes				
Output 2.1: Number of individuals in programme areas who regularly participate in dialogues promoting gender equitable norms including delaying child marriage				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: 87,000	Target: 140,000 Results: 140,000	Target: 200,000 Results: 1,466,077	Target: 750,000 Results: 3,508,271	Target: 3,500,000 Results:

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

The programme continued to reach out to parents and community members through community dialogues and supporting community structures, platforms and service providers to improve the life of adolescent girls and boys and to challenge negative social gender norms. Participants in the dialogues included parents, girls and boys, religious leaders and community members. The dialogues were facilitated by a wide range of communication and advocacy packages and tools, including interactive audio-visuals and media campaigns at various levels, aimed at building knowledge and skills and promoting intergenerational dialogue between parents and adolescents.

Communication and advocacy campaigns in support of ending child marriage were held in Assam, Bihar, Maharashtra, Odisha and West Bengal, all states with high incidences of child marriage. In Uttar Pradesh, 1,500 adolescent girls trained as digital champions ('sathis') produced 103 short videos covering positive stories of resistance to or avoidance of child marriage. Further, UNICEF scaled up its interventions for ending child marriage from 7 to 20 districts in the state, resulting in the

establishment of community platforms across 25 per cent of districts, and linking to 16,000 local governance councils. Stories of change and the voices of adolescent girls and boys were amplified through media partnerships. Key media influencers mobilized to give visibility to adolescent issues, reaching 30 million people. The overarching strategy was to shift the perception of adolescents from objects of concern to active partners. This has meant recognizing young people's participation as both an entitlement and a cross-cutting principle. To this end, platforms were created with the aim of providing space, voice and audience for the adolescents. Various means of engagement were used, including peer educators' sessions in groups with fellow peers, life skills training, inter-gender dialogue, rights-based discourse, folklore and other tools, where possible making use of linkages to government schemes, and designed to promote enrolment and attendance at school and completion of education. The parents and the community members were engaged through group meetings and intergenerational dialogue; other activities such as street plays and film shows helped to reach and mobilize especially marginalized communities and districts with a greater than 50 per cent prevalence of child marriage.

OTHER ACTIVITIES WITH POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

Partnerships have been established with six academic institutions to inform programming on gender based social norms and social and behaviour change communication capacity-building.

CHALLENGES

- ✓ Child marriage is linked to complex behaviours relating to the value and sexuality of girls, and to expectations surrounding marriage and dowry. Given this complexity, it is important to provide sustained and progressive support to programmes that address the underlying drivers of child marriage. Sustained financial support is needed to programme on a multi-year basis and enable interventions to grow organically, so they can produce meaningful change over time, as required for complex challenges.



Outcome 3: Strengthening prevention and protection systems

PROGRESS OF INDICATORS

Outcome 3.1: Number and proportion of adolescent girls in programme areas that have utilized health or protection services				
2015	2016		2018	2019
NA	NA	Baseline: 1,140,392	Target: 790,000 Results: 1,420,806	Target: 1,800,000 Results:
Outcome 3.2: Percentage point difference in exam-pass rates between boys and girls in programme areas				
Output 3.1 Number and proportion of service delivery points in programme areas implementing guidelines for adolescent girl-friendly health and protection services				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: NA	Target: 5 Results: 3,673	Target: 750 Results: 785	Target: 2,500 Results: 3,428	Target: 5,000 Results:
Output 3.2 Number of non-formal/primary/secondary schools implementing interventions to improve the quality of education for adolescent girls				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: NA	Target: NA Results: 1,627	Target: 750 Results: 1,185	Target: 2,000 Results: 3,220	Target: 5,000 Results:

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

The system-strengthening aspects of the Global Programme focused on approaches for mainstreaming adolescent-friendly public services and care institutions. These included the development and review of national and state guidelines, procedures and training curricula; and building the capacity of master trainers to provide cascaded training to care and service providers and frontline workers in the programme's targeted states.

At the national level, UNFPA developed resources – including e-learning modules – for health care providers on integrated and rights-based sexual and reproductive health services

in order to mainstream a youth-friendly philosophy in public health facilities. UNFPA also supported the training of 800 service providers in Rajasthan on the National Adolescent Health Guidelines, and 52 health care providers and accredited social health activities in Odisha, on youth-centric health care provision. Overall in the three states where UNFPA supported work on youth-friendly health services – which included Madhya Pradesh – there was a 17 per cent increase in the number of visits to public health facilities by adolescents seeking counselling services during the year. In Rajasthan the increase was 22 per cent and in Madhya Pradesh there was a 33 per cent increase between 2017 and 2018.



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Through advocacy and engagement with the national government, 76 child-friendly courts were established at the district level in nine states; and seven states set up child-friendly police stations in all districts. In Bihar, UNICEF supported the orientation and sensitization of 101 Child Marriage Prohibition Officers, 38 Deputy Superintendents of the police (covering all districts), 38 District Welfare Officers and 250 women police personnel on the issues of child marriage and dowry prevention, with an emphasis on strengthening administrative structures. Task forces set up across all districts and at the sub-district level resulted in increased reporting of cases of child marriage and increased public awareness. Child Marriage Prohibition Officers became active members of these task forces, and reached out to the block and Panchayat levels (the lowest administrative level in India). Policy input and technical assistance from UNICEF and its partners led to improvements in information management systems and in monitoring and oversight mechanisms in twelve states. In Bihar, regular monitoring of cases regarding children brought before the Juvenile Justice Board through the effective use of the information management systems led to a 34 per cent reduction in cases pending or awaiting trial.

In Gujarat and Rajasthan, UNICEF in partnership with the government and civil society organizations focused on the strengthening of school management committees through training and sensitization on the issues of girls' education, learning and retention; child marriage; child protection; life skills;

school mapping and micro-planning processes. In one district, Banaskantha, where 101 schools benefited from this activity, 8,312 girls that had dropped out of school were re-enrolled.

OTHER ACTIVITIES WITH POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

The collaboration between UNICEF and 15 state governments focused on strengthening the skills of the child protection workforce with the aim of improving service delivery to vulnerable children. The review and/or development of modules for the capacity-building of the child protection workforce put special emphasis on gender sensitization and have included a separate chapter on this. UNICEF also undertook decisive steps to institutionalize capacity-building in National Law Universities, Policy Academies and Public Administration Institutes with a focus on skills development, mentoring and establishing practice standards during the year.

CHALLENGES

- ✓ A lack of good quality educational initiatives means there are limited alternatives to formal schooling. The dropout rate among girls and boys in secondary schooling remains high. Together with the education sector, alternative education and tracking of transition within the education system are being explored as options to address this constraint.
- ✓ In Uttar Pradesh, plans by UNICEF to scale up the programme from 20 districts to 35 districts are hampered by the fact that the state government does not have an agency to support implementation in 35 districts. In high prevalence districts access to secondary and higher secondary school is limited.

HEADLINE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

- ✓ In Gujarat, evidence-based learning through the robust assessment of children will be completed. The community-based strategies adopted for ensuring the transition of girls from elementary to secondary school in Banaskantha will be scaled up across the entire district by the state government.



Outcome 4: Strengthening the legislative and policy frameworks

TIMELINE OF SOME KEY EVENTS

- **1992:** Acceded to the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- **1993:** Ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
- **2006:** The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act set the minimum

legal age of marriage to 18 with no exceptions

- **2013:** Drafted a National Action Plan to Prevent Child Marriage
- **2014:** As a representative of the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), asserted the Kathmandu Call to Action to End Child Marriage in Asia, including commitments

to ensure access to legal remedies for child brides and to establish a uniform minimum legal age of marriage of 18

- **2015:** Committed to eliminate child, early and forced marriage by 2030 in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- **2015:** As a member of the South Asian Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC), adopted a regional action plan to end child marriage (2015–2018)
- **2017:** As part of the Universal Periodic Review, agreed to consider recommendations to improve enforcement of legal provisions against child marriage
- **2017:** Rajasthan state launched a Strategy and Action Plan for the Prevention of Child Marriage
- **2018:** Jharkhand state developed a roadmap to end child marriage
- **2018:** Bihar state launched a Strategy and Action Plan for the Prevention of Child Marriage

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS

The Global Programme's overarching approach is based on strengthening and enhancing the approaches of existing government-led large-scale national programmes addressing child marriage, with an emphasis on targeted interventions focused on empowerment, health, education, changing social norms and structures at national level. At state level, both agencies are supporting the advancement of costed action plans to end child marriage by means of government schemes that deliver services to adolescent girls and boys, as well as community platforms and media campaigns.

Intensified engagement with parliamentarians and influencers led to positive policy change for children, including a landmark decision in the state of Bihar to provide cash incentives in support of newborn girl survival, and a state plan of action to end child marriage has been developed and funding sources identified. West Bengal, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand are in the processes of developing state action plans and roadmaps to end child marriage following continued advocacy and engagement with respective state actors.

OTHER ACTIVITIES WITH POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

Rajasthan and Assam have taken positive steps towards supporting a State Commission for the Protection of Child Rights, which will develop roadmaps towards better and more effective monitoring of key child rights legislations. A partnership with the Supreme Court of India galvanized its commitment to child protection reforms. Regular regional and state reviews assessed performance regarding the implementation of child protection legislation, identified challenges and set out action plans. UNICEF also engaged with the High Courts to reinforce their oversight and coordination functions; and with state governments in leveraging existing financial resources from various departments for the protection of children.

The National Girls' Education Action Plan was developed with the national government's Ministry of Human Resource Development. This plan includes a focus on social norm change to encourage girls to complete elementary school. Haryana state is demonstrating an at-scale, government-owned model for using the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao campaign, aiming to generate awareness and improve the efficiency of welfare services for girls, to improve the safety of women and girls in public spaces in two districts. This has led to a commitment from the state's Chief Minister to guarantee the safe mobility of all girls and boys going to school.

CHALLENGES

- ✓ There are various challenges across states. These include the lack of human resources dedicated to some government schemes, the lack of coordination mechanisms for multisectoral convergence, the difficulty of finding the right balance between operating at scale and identifying in-depth strategies to reach the most marginalized adolescent girls, and the lack of government presence in prospective locations for scaling up.

HEADLINE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

- ✓ Continue to support the development of costed state plans of action in West Bengal, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand.



Outcome 5: Strengthening data and evidence base

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

UNICEF developed an evidence generation plan to define what works at scale. This resulted in two knowledge products: an overview of the trends in child marriage prevalence and absolute

numbers and possible drivers of change; and a summary of the knowledge generated from high-intensity programmes to end child marriage in four districts, analysed using regression analysis. These products will inform UNICEF's policy advocacy

and interventions. UNFPA completed a desk review of research and approaches related to child marriage in India from a historical perspective. West Bengal made an analysis of the 'Vulnerabilities of Adolescent Girls in West Bengal', based on secondary data.

Efforts have been made to develop a robust results framework, with monitoring tools, for generating and verifying data and evidence, effective monitoring, and tracking progress and results. UNFPA focused on establishing a programme-wide monitoring and evaluation system that includes project-specific management information systems for capturing data on input- and process-level indicators. In addition, project-specific quarterly and annual reports were used to monitor programme activities. The data collected through the quarterly and annual reporting is collated and processed through UNFPA's Strategic Information System that enables planning, monitoring and reporting on each of the different projects. UNICEF used a Quarterly Programme Monitoring System to generate data on progress in West Bengal and Rajasthan. The reports generated have informed corrective action regarding programme implementation. Furthermore, the management information system staff have been oriented on gathering data at the village level in Uttar Pradesh through the paper- and online-based management information system.

OTHER ACTIVITIES WITH POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

At the national level, UNICEF continued to provide technical support to the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration in strengthening the Education Management Information System for improved data quality. A data visualization tool was developed with user friendly dashboards and mobile applications based on the Education Management Information System and the National Achievement Survey. Through these applications, the status and trends of key education indicators disaggregated by sex, social group, and location are accessible to the general public and school management from national to district and block levels, and importantly the data are being used for effective education planning and monitoring.

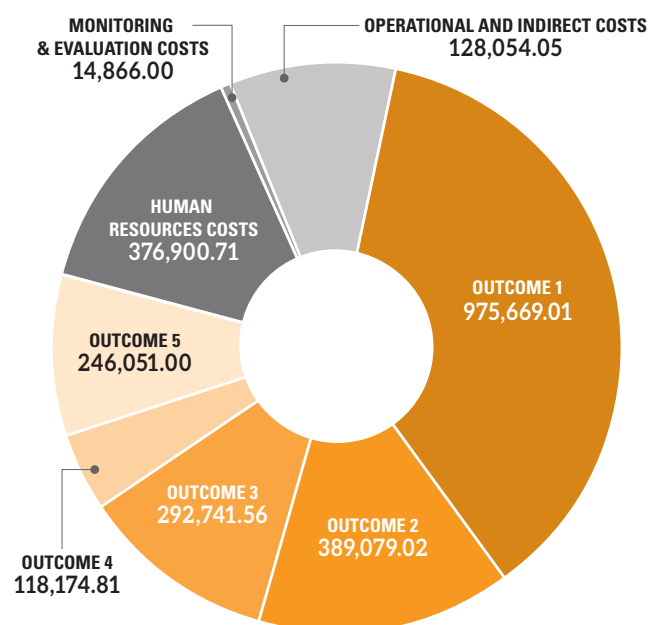
CHALLENGES

- ✓ In Bihar, technical support is needed for conducting concurrent monitoring and for creating an oversight mechanism to check progress.
- ✓ In West Bengal the paucity of disaggregated data on adolescents and on the capacity deficits of service providers within the system presents a challenge.

HEADLINE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

- ✓ A desk review of the history of, debates about and future directions for dealing with child marriage, undertaken by UNFPA, will be published in 2019.
- ✓ In West Bengal, securing support for optimizing government funding to increase the reach of the programme and to support the district administrations in evidence generation and monitoring is a high priority.

Financial information – Expenditure by outcome (USD)



Communications to end child marriage

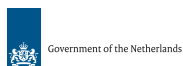
Fighting child marriage within the community	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1k8SZbQkHngbGV5DdfuVaZlfTsG3MWja0/view?usp=sharing (accessed May 2019)
Odisha girl Geetanjali Marndi talks about menstruation in Delhi	http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/odisha/2018/may/29/odisha-girl-geetanjali-marndi-talks-about-menstruation-in-delhi-1820784.html (accessed May 2019)
Media coverage report: 18th International Children's Film Festival, Malda	https://drive.google.com/file/d/16KlwJEHcpqB4D5fLE_2MDtlr_skJneF7/view?usp=sharing (accessed May 2019)

MOZAMBIQUE

COUNTRY PROFILE



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MOZAMBIQUE

COUNTRY PROFILE

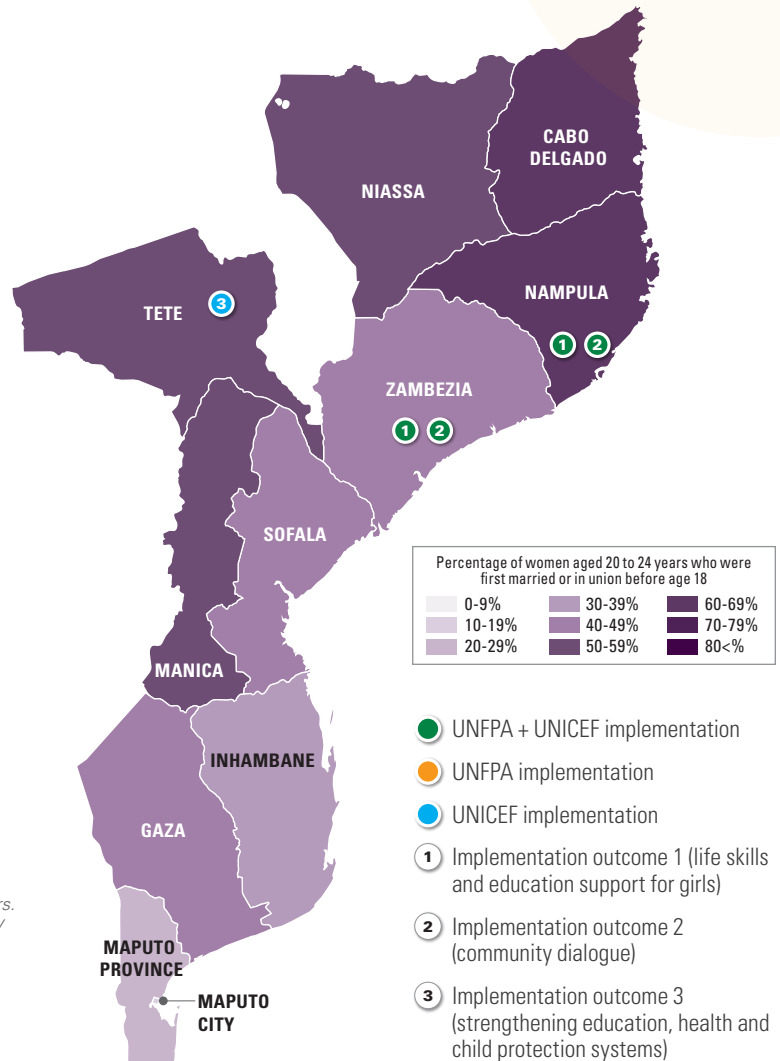


48¹ Percentage of young women (aged 20–24) married or in union by age 18



14² Percentage of young women (aged 20–24) married or in union by age 15

Note: This map is stylized and not to scale. It does not reflect a position by UNFPA or UNICEF on the legal status of any country or area or the delimitation of any frontiers. Implementation areas only reflect implementation under the Global Programme. Source for child marriage prevalence data is the Demographic and Health Survey 2011.



4.89³ BIRTHS PER WOMAN

Total fertility rate (average number of children a woman would have by the end of her reproductive period if her experience followed the currently prevalent age-specific fertility rates)



193.9⁴ ADOLESCENT BIRTH RATE

Number of births per 1,000 adolescent girls aged 15–19



4%⁵

Upper secondary school completion rate among girls aged 3–5 years above upper secondary graduation age



37.5⁶ Percentage of women aged 15–19 who have begun childbearing



0.95⁷

Gender parity index for primary school enrolment

¹ Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), 2011; ² DHS, 2011; ³ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019). World Population Prospects 2019, Online Edition; ⁴ United Nations Statistics Division (2018), SDG Database, <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database>; ⁵ DHS, 2011; ⁶ DHS, 2011; ⁷ UNICEF global databases (April 2019).

GLOBAL PROGRAMME RESULTS IN 2018

 **221,234**
Number of girls reached with life skills interventions

 **2,532**
Number of girls supported to stay in school

 **5,856,978**
Number of community members engaged in community dialogue

 **119** Number of health and child protection service delivery points supported to provide adolescent girl-friendly services

 **114** Number of schools supported to provide girl-friendly quality education

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Advocacy efforts by UNFPA, UNICEF and other partners were rewarded in December 2018, when the government of Mozambique passed decree 435/2018. This revoked the existing decree, 39/2003, which ordered the transfer of pregnant girls out of standard day school and into night school. Decree 39/2003 had prevented pregnant girls from enjoying their right of access to education, since in Mozambique the number of schools offering night shifts is very limited, and those that do are far from the villages and do not offer a safe environment for girls.
- ✓ Through the mapping and review of laws and policies, and the implementation of the national end child marriage strategy (2016–2019), the Global Programme helped to identify gaps where services were not being strengthened and economic opportunities not created. This enabled actions to be taken that resulted in stronger, multisectoral coordination for addressing child marriage and violence against children.
- ✓ A mass media campaign against child marriage reached approximately 5 million people nationwide, according to a reach and recall assessment.
- ✓ The SMS BIZ/U-Report platform was scaled up. A counselling hub was established in Quelimane, which increased the response capacity of the service and enabled it to be decentralized. The number of girls using the SMS BIZ/U-Report platform grew from 4 per cent to 44 per cent of all users following the launch of the Girl-to-Girl invite system, an innovative approach to scaling up the platform. Five girls registered more than 50 friends each and in total more than 8,600 girls successfully registered under this initiative.
- ✓ The mentorship approach was scaled up to 1,629 community spaces in 19 districts in Nampula and Zambezia provinces, which were jointly targeted by UNFPA and UNICEF, reaching 221,234 adolescent girls with life skills education.



Outcome 1: Empowering adolescent girls

PROGRESS OF INDICATORS

Outcome 1.1: Proportion of adolescent girls in programme areas demonstrating increased knowledge and skills				
Outcome 1.2: Girls' retention rate at primary school level				
Output 1.1: Number of girls aged 10-19 years actively participating in targeted interventions				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: 14,636	Target: 2,682 Results: 16,200	Target: 150,000 Results: 127,714	Target: 65,314 Results: 221,234	Target: 63,000 Results:
Output 1.2: Number of girls supported to access and remain in primary/lower secondary/non-formal education				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: 264	Target: NA Results: NA	Target: 2,350 Results: 2,358	Target: 2,500 Results: 2,532	Target: 2,532 Results:

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

In partnership with the government and other partners, the programme continued to pursue innovative and sustainable approaches to engaging and empowering adolescent girls by means of gender-focused interventions that see adolescent girls as having rights and being agents of change. Such interventions include building the capacity of mentors in community safe spaces to act as a 'social vaccine' and thereby help girls to develop their self-respect and sense of empowerment. This approach ensures continuity of support to adolescent girls in communities. The programme continues to empower adolescent girls with information and knowledge on child marriage, early pregnancy, sexual abuse and gender-based violence including by means of counselling using innovative social media and information technology platforms. It also sensitizes them through the media with specific messages on child marriage as a harmful practice, sexual and reproductive health and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) prevention.

UNFPA and UNICEF jointly reached 221,234 adolescent girls with life skills education using the mentorship approach in 1,629 safe spaces during 2018, and 2,532 girls received educational support. The community mentorship sessions take place in a girls-only community safe space selected by the adolescent girls themselves, and occur on a weekly basis for four months with each session having a duration of one and a half to two hours. They provide the adolescent girls with information on sexual and reproductive health, gender-based violence, human rights, life skills, participation and citizenship. The school mentorship programme is implemented by young female mentors between 15 and 27 years of age with previous experience as community activists or peer educators and with some level of secondary schooling. These mentors act as role models for the girls they mentor and also take on roles as community advocates and referrers of the adolescent girls to health, justice, social protection and education services.

My mentor is my everything. She was there for me during difficult situations. She accompanied me to the youth-friendly services to consult a nurse on the use of contraceptives. She also encouraged me to return to school and to go after my dreams.

MARCIA, ADOLESCENT GIRL PARTICIPATING IN THE GIRL EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME RAPARIGA BIZ

UNICEF supported the non-governmental organization Linha Fala Crianca in remodelling the call centre for the Child Helpline and upgrading the information management system in line with international and regional standards. Linha Fala Crianca established partnerships with universities that enabled them to recruit volunteers and thereby extend working hours, which resulted in expanded access to child-friendly reporting opportunities and telephone-based counselling. During eleven months of 2018, Linha Fala Crianca received 116,855 phone calls (approximately 360 calls per day) of which 70,842 were about violence against children, and 72 per cent were made by children. Linha Fala Crianca registered 828 cases with a total of 978 victims; child marriage, early pregnancy and school-related problems were among the most commonly reported. The majority of victims were girls aged 15–18, followed by girls aged 11–14.

OTHER ACTIVITIES WITH POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

UNICEF, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, reviewed the policy and legal framework relating to violence against children in schools, together with reporting and referral mechanisms. The findings indicate large gaps in regulations and policies relevant to addressing violence against children in schools – and a need for their harmonization with primary, or core laws, such as the Children's Law and the Penal Code. The forthcoming report will contribute to strategies for strengthening the reporting and referral mechanisms for violence against children in schools.

CHALLENGES

- ✓ Reaching girls at scale remains a challenge. The objective of the Rapariga BIZ programme supported by the Global Programme is to reach more than a million adolescent girls by 2020 using the mentorship approach. However, the capacities of the implementing partners are too limited for this degree of scale-up. Intensive support is needed from UNFPA and UNICEF to help the implementing partners reach targets and maintain quality of provision.
- ✓ Reaching remote areas still poses a challenge to the programme due to the limited capacity of local partners in those areas.
- ✓ Providing all mentors – the backbone of the mentorship approach – with continuous learning and refresher training opportunities to maintain their capacity and knowledge and accelerate the positive results is key; however, the available funding for this is still very low.

HEADLINE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

✓ Strengthen joint delivery at the district level is a key priority for 2019.

✓ Another priority is to strengthen the supervision and quality-monitoring of the mentorship sessions.



Outcome 2: Social and behaviour change communication to influence gender and social norms

PROGRESS OF INDICATORS

Outcome 2: Proportion of individuals in programme areas that hold gender equitable attitudes				
Output 2.1: Number of individuals in programme areas who regularly participate in dialogues promoting gender equitable norms including delaying child marriage				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: 21,945	Target: 80,000 Results: 73,759	Target: 2,292,000 Results: 822,522	Target: 254,800 Results: 5,856,978	Target: 3,508,600 Results:

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

The Global Programme takes a gender-targeted approach focused on adolescent girls and young women as right-holders and agents of change to address the underlying causes of gender inequality. These stem from cultural and social perceptions and norms that define the role of girls and women in Mozambican society and related expectations in terms of child bearing and marriage. These underlying drivers are addressed by engaging various community actors and families by means of dialogues aimed at challenging perceptions and beliefs, and at creating a foundation from which to transform attitudes and behaviours about the role of girls and their rights – including to freedom from child marriage, early pregnancy and violence.

During 2018, six people from key UNFPA implementing partners participated in a training course delivered under the Tostan Community Empowerment Programme in West Africa to help strengthen the human rights-based approach towards community dialogues under the programme. A total of 1,420 community leaders and key influencers, including traditional leaders, religious leaders, initiation rites facilitators, school directors, mentors and government district representatives engaged in 110 community dialogues based on the revised approach, as implemented by UNFPA implementing partners, in 14 districts. The dialogues reached a total of 2,800 people in these communities. Meanwhile UNICEF implementing partners convened 400 community dialogues (comprising six sessions each) that engaged 5,087 people in Nampula province where child marriage rates

are among the highest in the country. Efforts to improve the knowledge and attitudes of families, adolescents and children on key issues affecting their lives were undertaken during the year. As a result, approximately 2 million people were reached by community platforms (such as multimedia mobile units, community theatres and events led by religious leaders) in the priority districts of Zambezia, Nampula, Tete and Gaza with key messages on child marriage, Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices, water and sanitation, HIV, birth registration and education. A communication for development (C4D) strategy for the promotion of access to and retention of children in school was also developed. A mass media campaign was launched on child marriage in early June, reaching approximately 5 million people nationwide, according to a reach and recall assessment. The new radio drama, 'Os inTXunáveis,' and related storylines with a focus on adolescents were conceived and produced, and broadcast in July 2018. Ouro Negro live radio programmes were produced weekly and broadcast across 42 radio stations.

In addition, over 1,600 children's and adolescents' media producers were actively involved in the production of more than 3,400 child-to-child and adolescent-to-adolescent radio and television programmes across several broadcasters.

OTHER ACTIVITIES WITH POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

During the year the national mass media campaign, 'Aqui para Ti,' on sexual and reproductive health and HIV prevention was also launched, which reached more than 8 million people, of which 36

per cent were adolescents and youth aged 15–24 years, and with a girl-to-boy ratio of 51 to 49 per cent. Interestingly, most of the adolescents and youth reached through the campaign were living in rural areas where the use of mobile phones is very limited. The national radio channel was indicated as the main means for listening to the messages, followed by community radio for those living in the more remote areas.

CHALLENGES

- ✓ Political tensions in certain parts of the target provinces, including municipal elections, affected mobilization activities in the communities and especially participation in community dialogues.
- ✓ Deeply-rooted social and cultural norms and practices,

such as initiation rites (including the betrothal of children for marriage, the marrying of children as payment for debt, etc.), negatively impact the well-being of adolescent girls and put them at risk of child and forced marriages, yet the pace and scale of programming to address this is limited due to the complexity and sensitivities. Dialogue with the government on this issue has just started.

- ✓ Challenges remain in implementing a strong monitoring and evaluation system for capturing the gender transformative outcomes of social norms change programming interventions.

HEADLINE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

- ✓ A priority for 2019 is to continue to implement measures for monitoring social norms transformation.



Outcome 3: Strengthening prevention and protection systems

PROGRESS OF INDICATORS

Outcome 3.1: Number and proportion of adolescent girls in programme areas that have utilized health or protection services				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
NA	NA	Baseline: 136,000	Target: 72,254 Results: 70,058	Target: 75,000 Results:
Outcome 3.2: Percentage point difference in exam-pass rates between boys and girls in programme areas				
Output 3.1 Number and proportion of service delivery points in programme areas implementing guidelines for adolescent girl-friendly health and protection services				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: NA	Target: 100 Results: 89	Target: 50 Results: 134	Target: 72 Results: 119	Target: 10 Results:
Output 3.2 Number of non-formal/primary/secondary schools implementing interventions to improve the quality of education for adolescent girls				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: 7	Target: 47 Results: 620	Target: 50 Results: 70	Target: 96 Results: 114	Target: 96 Results:

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

In partnership with the government and with civil society groups at national and local levels, the Global Programme focused on strengthening prevention and protection systems by a number of methods. It grew the capacity of institutional and service providers to deliver youth-friendly and gender-sensitive sexual and reproductive health services at the school, health facility and community levels, targeting the same adolescents as the

mentorship approach in 20 districts. The Global Programme supported an increase in multisectoral coordination and helped create linkages between interventions. It strengthened information management and reporting systems, including call centres, in line with international and regional standards; and strengthened community-based services, such as child protection committees and school councils, so they were better able to prevent and address child marriages. It also supported the national health

system in the provision of sexual and reproductive health services, through the Provincial Directorates of Health, in both target provinces, at health facility, community and school levels, by employing mobile teams to reach out to adolescents with adolescent sexual and reproductive health services in remote areas.

As part of the process of strengthening multisectoral linkages, the programme organized two-day training sessions for 200 health, education and protection service providers from 20 districts. These covered the procedures and guidelines that are required for integrated approaches to handling and responding to gender-based violence, violence against women, child marriage and domestic violence cases. Later during the year, a poll was conducted through the SMS BIZ platform to assess user satisfaction with the quality of adolescent-friendly health services. Out of 186,573 users reached by the poll, 35,045 (about 19 per cent) participated. Of those, 26 per cent had visited an adolescent- and youth-friendly service for their last medical visit, and 70 per cent of those reported being satisfied with the health services provided.

In Zambezia and Nampula provinces, 30 Community Committees for the Protection of Children were trained and provided with coaching and materials relating to the identification and handling of cases of sexual violence and child marriage. Overall, 9,685 children at risk were identified and referred to the District Service of Health and Social Affairs and the Provincial Directorate of Gender, Child and Social Action. Some 1,202 cases of sexual violence and 201 cases of child marriage were referred to the Police Department. As part of strengthening the health and social affairs systems, 23 service providers from the District Service of Health and Social Affairs and 12 service providers from the Provincial Directorate of Gender, Child and Social Action were trained during the year in provision of adolescent sexual and reproductive health services. Training in the provision of psychosocial care and support activities was given to 179 local officials and members of Child Protection Community Committees, which went on to benefit 4,470 children (2,683 female and 1,787 male). In total, 1,500 parents and community members were sensitized to enable children's attendance to child-friendly spaces and psychosocial support activities.

Strengthening information management systems involved supporting the organization Linha Fala Crianca to remodel the call centre and upgrade the information management system to bring



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them into line with international and regional standards. Linha Fala Crianca also trained 206 mentors of the Rapariga BIZ programme in four districts in Nampula (Rapale, Nacala-Porto, Monapo and Angoche) on procedures and protocols for identifying, reporting and referring cases of violence, child marriage and gender-based violence. Linkages created between Linha Fala Crianca and local mentors will help promote the reporting of cases through the Linha Fala Crianca toll-free number in target districts, and encourage community-based referral and follow up by mentors.

CHALLENGES

- ✓ Generally, the capacities of local partners – both civil society and the government – remain weak and need intensive technical and financial support. District and community services are extremely limited and have very poor capacity for ensuring access to quality and timely health, education and protection services.
- ✓ The existence of multiple programme coordination mechanisms at all levels remains a challenge, along with the proliferation of different mandates and programmes addressing child marriage, violence against children and gender-based violence.



Outcome 4: Strengthening the legislative and policy frameworks

TIMELINE OF SOME KEY EVENTS

- **1994:** Ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- **1997:** Acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
- **1998:** Ratified the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
- **2004:** The Family Law set the minimum legal age of marriage to 18. However, the law allows marriage at 16 in exceptional circumstances with judicial consent
- **2005:** Ratified the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa
- **2013:** Co-sponsored the Human Rights Council resolution on eliminating child, early and forced marriage
- **2013:** Committed to ending child marriage by the end of 2020 under the Ministerial Commitment on Comprehensive Sexuality Education and Sexual and Reproductive Health Services for Adolescents and Young People in Eastern and Southern Africa
- **2014:** Signed a joint statement at the Human Rights Council, calling for a resolution on child marriage
- **2015:** Committed to eliminate child, early and forced marriage by 2030 in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- **2016:** As part of the Universal Periodic Review, supported recommendations to establish the minimum age of marriage at 18 and to operationalize a gender strategy within the education system in order to combat child marriage
- **2016:** Developed a National Costed Strategy to Prevent and Eliminate Child Marriage (2016–2019)
- **2018:** Co-sponsored the United Nations General Assembly resolution on eliminating child, early and forced marriage
- **2018:** Passed decree 435/2018, revoking the existing decree 39/2003 that ordered the transfer of pregnant girls to night schools

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

Advocacy efforts by UNFPA, UNICEF and other partners were rewarded in December 2018, when the government of Mozambique passed decree 435/2018. This revoked the existing decree, 39/2003, which ordered the transfer of pregnant girls out of day school and into night school. Decree 39/2003 had prevented pregnant girls from enjoying their right of access to

education, since in Mozambique the number of schools offering night shifts is very limited, and those that do are far from the villages and do not offer a safe environment for girls.

With UNICEF support, 200 justice personnel were trained to provide adolescent and child-friendly services. UNICEF also provided operational support to the Minor Court and Minor sections of provincial courts. The annual meeting of the judiciary gathered 60 actors from the judiciary, prosecution services, social welfare services and the police and provided a platform for consultations on the draft Regulation of Children's Law and the draft Law on Child Marriage and for discussing challenges and responses to child protection issues.

UNICEF in partnership with the Ministry of Education reviewed the policy and legal framework relating to violence against children in schools, together with reporting and referral mechanisms. The findings indicate large gaps in regulations and policies relevant to addressing violence against children in schools – and a need for their harmonization with primary, or core laws, such as the Children's Law and the Penal Code. The forthcoming report will contribute to strategies for strengthening the reporting and referral mechanisms for violence against children in schools.

CHALLENGES

- ✓ While Mozambique has a relatively favourable policy and legal framework for promoting and protecting adolescent girls, major challenges remain in coordinating the implementation of these instruments at the national and decentralized levels. The most promising approach will be to support the lead Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action in establishing and running coordination and oversight for the implementation of the National End Child Marriage Strategy, to better engage all sectors at national and provincial level, and to disseminate more information on the strategy, as well as other laws and policies.

HEADLINE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

- ✓ In 2019, operationalizing the core package of end child marriage interventions and strengthening district coordination will be among the top priorities, along with strengthening the coordination of the response to cases of violence against children in schools through the National Reference Groups.



Outcome 5: Strengthening data and evidence base

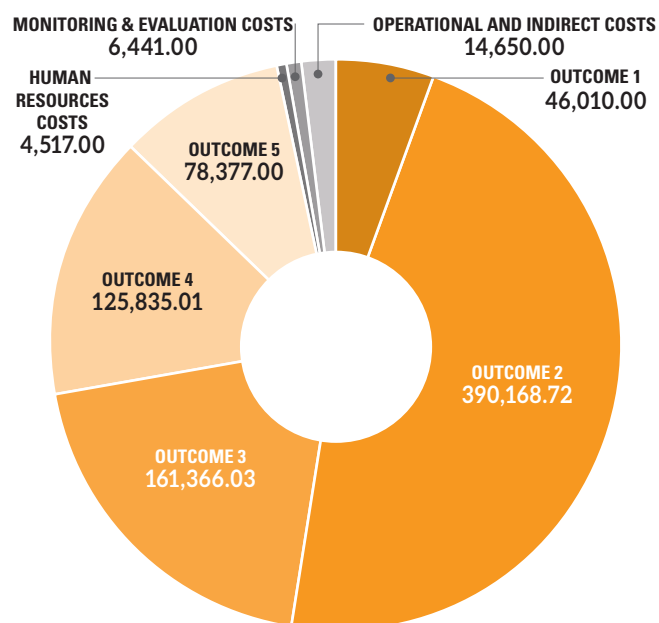
ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action with support from UNFPA and UNICEF strengthened the national end child marriage coordination mechanism at the national level and in target provinces and conducted a mapping exercise and a review of the implementation of the National End Child Marriage Strategy (2016–2019). The exercise helped strengthen capacity and increase the engagement and participation of various sectors and civil society organizations. However, data collection to check against the indicators of the National Strategy was challenging due to gaps and inconsistencies within the monitoring and evaluation framework of the strategy, a lack of reliable data especially at output and outcome level, and varying degrees of commitment from various sectors. The review indicated that the largest investment by the government, United Nations agencies and civil society was in social mobilization and social norms transformation, with large gaps remaining in the areas of strengthening of services and creating economic empowerment opportunities. The report is currently with the Council of Ministers and will provide the basis for a decision on further extension of the strategy beyond 2019.

In 2018 UNICEF supported the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action in piloting a district coordination model for monitoring the implementation of the National Strategy in two districts (Pebane in Zambezia and Monapo in Nampula). The objective was to strengthen understanding among multisector government actors and civil society organizations of the theory of change required to reduce child marriage, and to identify district level interventions that would address the various drivers

of child marriage. It was also important to create a monitoring framework for regular data collection based on suitable indicators and sources as identified by the programme and its partners. The district groups have reportedly continued to hold regular meetings and the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action is very keen to continue the exercise and replicate it in more districts, once certain gaps and challenges as identified in the first phase have been addressed. These include the need to instill strong leadership in district administrators, to ensure that information feeds into district planning processes, and the need to analyse the work done by other mechanisms to minimize duplication and mainstream where possible.

Financial information – Expenditure by outcome (USD)



NEPAL

COUNTRY PROFILE



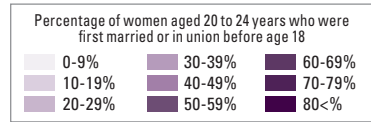
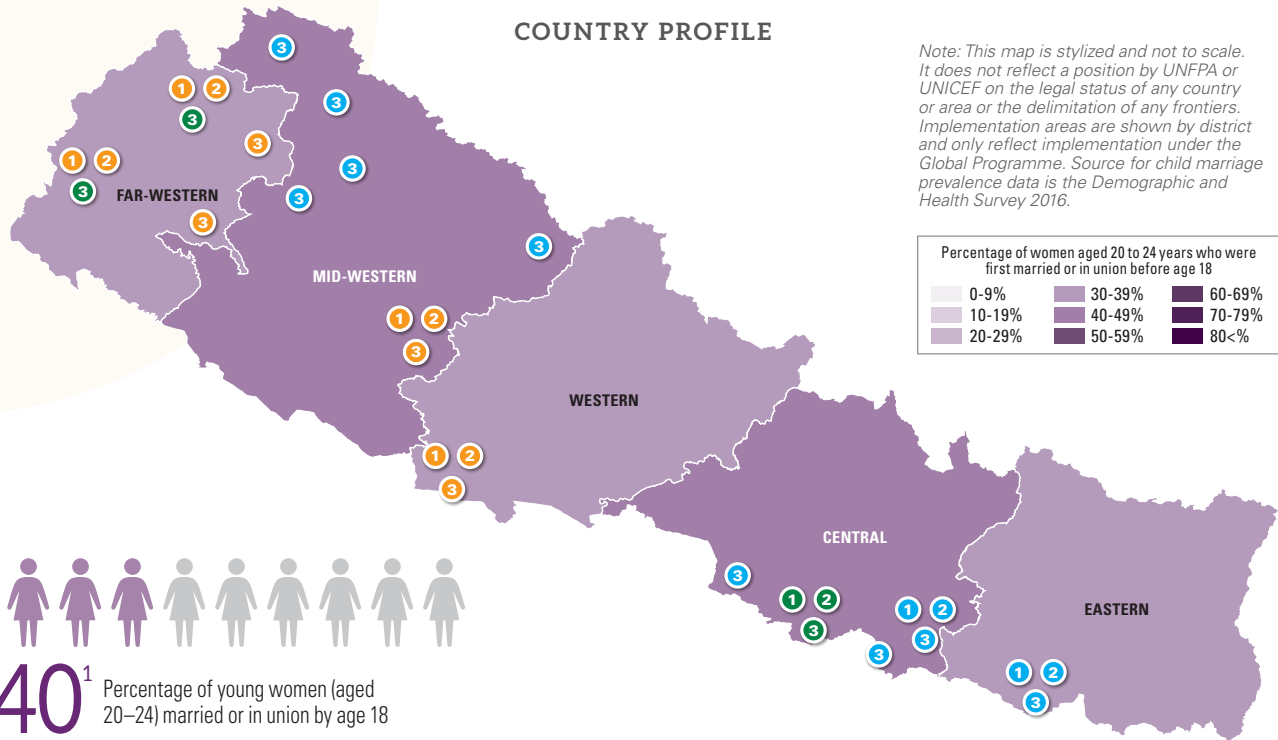
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NEPAL

COUNTRY PROFILE

Note: This map is stylized and not to scale. It does not reflect a position by UNFPA or UNICEF on the legal status of any country or area or the delimitation of any frontiers. Implementation areas are shown by district and only reflect implementation under the Global Programme. Source for child marriage prevalence data is the Demographic and Health Survey 2016.



40¹ Percentage of young women (aged 20–24) married or in union by age 18



7² Percentage of young women (aged 20–24) married or in union by age 15

- UNFPA + UNICEF implementation
- UNFPA implementation
- UNICEF implementation
- ① Implementation outcome 1 (life skills and education support for girls)
- ② Implementation outcome 2 (community dialogue)
- ③ Implementation outcome 3 (strengthening education, health and child protection systems)



1.93³ BIRTHS PER WOMAN

Total fertility rate (average number of children a woman would have by the end of her reproductive period if her experience followed the currently prevalent age-specific fertility rates)



88.2⁴ ADOLESCENT BIRTH RATE

Number of births per 1,000 adolescent girls aged 15–19



21%⁵

Upper secondary school completion rate among girls aged 3–5 years above upper secondary graduation age



16.7⁶ Percentage of women aged 15–19 who have begun childbearing



0.99⁷

Gender parity index for primary school enrolment


¹ Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), 2016; ² DHS, 2016; ³ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019). World Population Prospects 2019, Online Edition; ⁴ United Nations Statistics Division (2018), SDG Database, <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database>; ⁵ DHS, 2014; ⁶ Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), 2016; ⁷ UNICEF global databases (April 2019).

GLOBAL PROGRAMME RESULTS IN 2018

 **8,297**
Number of girls reached with life skills interventions

 **7,493**
Number of girls supported to stay in school

 **210,144**
Number of community members engaged in community dialogue

 **97** Number of health and child protection service delivery points supported to provide adolescent girl-friendly services

 **550** Number of schools supported to provide girl-friendly quality education

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Advocacy and technical support to the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens led to the government enacting the new Children's Act 2075, paving the way to respecting, protecting and fulfilling the rights of children in Nepal.
- ✓ A new Adolescent Health and Development Strategy was endorsed by the Ministry of Health and Population with ending child marriage as one of its key targets. The strategy's monitoring and evaluation framework includes child marriage indicators in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and targets for adolescent fertility rates.
- ✓ The second Nepal Girl Summit involved all seven states and provided advocacy opportunities for strengthening multisectoral coordination and the prioritization of the issue of child marriage. It has resulted in relevant activities being included in municipalities' and districts' annual plans and budget allocations. In addition, several states and local governments have designed their own schemes that target girls with the objective of eliminating harmful practices including child marriage.
- ✓ As part of efforts to promote sustainable social and financial life skills through the comprehensive training package called Rupantaran, 10 local governments have signed letters of commitment to provide in-kind support (space and stationery) and to explore financial support in subsequent annual budget allocations for the Rupantaran classes.
- ✓ Capacity-building for law enforcement officials combined with outreach programmes to raise awareness on issues affecting children and women have contributed to an increase in the number of crimes against women and children being reported to the police (such as rape, attempted rape, child marriage, domestic violence and trafficking), from 13,573 in 2017 to 14,796 cases during 2018.



Outcome 1: Empowering adolescent girls

PROGRESS OF INDICATORS

Outcome 1.1: Proportion of adolescent girls in programme areas demonstrating increased knowledge and skills				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
NA	NA	Baseline: 21.6%	Target: 25% Results: 65.7%	Target: 30% Results:
Outcome 1.2: Girls' retention rate at primary school level				
Output 1.1: Number of girls aged 10-19 years actively participating in targeted interventions				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: 6,047	Target: 5,050 Results: 7,566	Target: 3,840 Results: 9,666	Target: 8,810 Results: 8,297	Target: 11,052 Results:

Output 1.2: Number of girls supported to access and remain in primary/lower secondary/non-formal education

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: NA	Target: NA Results: 9,804	Target: 1,500 Results: 2,621	Target: 4,325 Results: 7,493	Target: 3,600 Results:

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

Training in social and financial skills through the comprehensive package called Rupantaran has continued to empower adolescent girls in the programme areas to better express and exercise their choices and to stay in school. This is despite disruptions to programme delivery that have occurred due to changes in national governance, specifically federalization and the associated administrative restructuring, which affected community delivery systems and structures. Overall, 8,297 adolescent girls attended the Rupantaran social and financial skills sessions in 2018. An analysis of a sample of pre- and post-training assessments for 3,624 girls showed improvements in specific knowledge and skills for 65.7 per cent of them as a result of their participation in the programme.

Earlier, I was not interested in going to school. I tried to go for two or three days but I quit. After joining the 'Rupantaran' programme, I realized the importance of education and now I go to school regularly. I am working hard to have a bright future. Besides studying, I sell green vegetables during my free time and earn money which I save for my studies.

PUSPA MANDAL, 12, SAPTARI DISTRICT

With the skills I learnt through 'Rupantaran' sessions, I was able to support my mother to re-open the vegetable shop that supports our livelihood. In the mornings and evenings, I work in the shop and I go to school during the day. My aim is to complete my education. I am planning to expand the business after completing grade 10.

APSHANA KHATUN, 15, RAUTAHAT DISTRICT, WHO LOST HER FATHER BEFORE SHE WAS BORN

The Global Programme, in collaboration with the government and partners, has also supported the provision of non-formal education to 7,493 adolescent girls during 2018, of which 6,334 (85 per cent) subsequently enrolled or re-enrolled in formal education.

One of our friends aged 13-14 was about to get married but we did not let it happen. We talked to the parents of the girl about the harmful effects of the child marriage. We got the support from our teachers and the principal and even the police to stop it from happening.

FOCUS-GROUP DISCUSSION WITH JUNIOR CHAMPIONS, DHANUSHA

Some 17 child marriages were intercepted by case workers associated with schools that were implementing ending child marriage education programmes. These cases were brought to the attention of school management through a 'suggestion box' in which students drop their reports of issues relating to child marriage, bullying, harassment and violence and other issues.

We have learned many things through the sessions, in particular menstrual hygiene. Now we know that it is very important to stay clean. [...] Also, we have learned to make the sanitary pads. We make the pads ourselves

FOCUS-GROUP DISCUSSION WITH JUNIOR CHAMPIONS, KALIKOT

OTHER ACTIVITIES WITH POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

A new Adolescent Health and Development Strategy was endorsed by the Ministry of Health and Population; ending child marriage is one of its key targets. The strategy's monitoring and evaluation framework includes child marriage indicators in accordance with the SDGs, and targets for adolescent fertility rates.

During 2018, the government undertook some innovative initiatives including guardianship to protect girls' human and civil rights, mobilizing local structures (including Community Learning Centers and Alternative Learning Centers) for re-enrolling out-of-school children in education, and handing full sets of text books to children on the first day of enrolment. The government has continued the enrolment campaign and

providing midday meals in disadvantaged communities. It has allocated additional resources through targeted interventions to selected districts based on their disparity in education ranking.

As a joint financing partner, UNICEF contributed to the strengthening of sector planning and implementation processes, including joint planning and budget reviews. As a result, the government achieved 69.5 per cent of its annual targets for enrolment, retention, and learning outcomes, despite the political disruption. One target focuses on reducing the number of out-of-school children, and this decreased markedly from the 2015 baseline of 541,542 to 328,593 (176,106 boys and 152,487 girls). UNICEF supported the government in implementing the Consolidated Equity Strategy in the 10 districts identified (through the composite Educational Equity Index) as having the highest disparities in education outcomes. As a result, the total number of out-of-school children between the ages of 5 and 12 decreased by 47 per cent across 186 municipalities in these 10 districts.

SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL SKILLS PACKAGE GRADUATE BECOMES A ROLE MODEL IN KAPILVASTU

Srijana Kurmi lives in a remote and disadvantaged village in the southern belt of Kapilvastu. Here, women are subordinate to men and are expected to live within the confines of the four walls that they call home. This unequal balance of power creates systemic blockages to the advancement of girls. Gender-based violence, as a result, is commonplace and women are often economically dependent on men.

Srijana long struggled to complete her secondary education amidst constant domestic pressure from family and relatives alike. Subdued and, in-turn, exhausted she was close to giving up on her dreams. However, in 2016, all of this changed. Srijana met like-minded girls in an Adolescent Girl Group and actively participated in capacity-building exercises that were organized. The training she received during the Social and Financial Skills Package roll-out greatly enhanced her leadership skills and taught her to leverage her network to spread the word about ending child marriage. The training she received also inspired her to champion women's rights in her community. As a result of her active participation, Srijana was selected to become a co-facilitator in the following year.

CHALLENGES

- ✓ There is a potential backlash against girls who become empowered through the programme because they begin to express unorthodox opinions, question the status quo, and hence become viewed as 'rebels' and 'trouble-makers'. Some of the girls enrolled in the programme are already reporting this experience. Addressing this is crucial, because it may lead to some parents pressuring girls into early marriages due to a perception that they have become too liberal and may get into 'trouble'. The Global Programme is addressing this challenge by involving boys in the 'Rupantaran' programme through dedicated boys' sessions. Changing the perceptions and attitudes of boys will help to bring peers and communities into line with the more progressive thinking being displayed by the girls.

HEADLINE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

- ✓ A review of the Rupantaran social and financial skills package from a gender transformative lens planned for 2019 will examine the extent to which the social backlash to empowered girls is occurring and will propose recommended actions to mitigate it.
- ✓ Based on experience from the 2018 programme efforts, the need to strengthen linkages with skill development programs, especially for adolescent girls who choose not to enrol/return to schools has been identified. Adolescent girls participating in 'Rupantaran' sessions will therefore be taken on visits to skill-development training sites in their vicinity after completing the module on livelihood options.
- ✓ Self-initiated child marriage (by elopement) is rapidly increasing in Nepal, irrespective of the community or context. The 2015 formative household survey revealed that more than one in every five (22 per cent) child marriages (of girls) occurs through self-initiated elopement. The Global Programme is designed on the premise that child marriages are arranged by parents. It is therefore important to change the programme's strategy to address this issue. This will require an understanding of the drivers and implications of self-initiated child marriage, and of whether providing life skills training to adolescents – and information to parents – about child rights, puberty, parenting and the consequences of child marriage can help prevent self-initiated marriages. The Global Programme is supporting research on this topic in Nepal, which, it is hoped, will inform future strategies once findings are available.



Outcome 2: Social and behaviour change communication to influence gender and social norms

PROGRESS OF INDICATORS

Outcome 2: Proportion of individuals in programme areas that hold gender equitable attitudes				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
NA	NA	Baseline: 43%	Target: 45% Results: 44.1%	Target: 47% Results:
Output 2.1: Number of individuals in programme areas who regularly participate in dialogues promoting gender equitable norms including delaying child marriage				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: 13,309	Target: 20,520 Results: 20,032	Target: 8,787 Results: 208,083	Target: 91,400 Results: 210,144	Target: 1,091,400 Results:

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

In 2018, the Global Programme supported the roll out of the ‘Rupantaran’ social and financial skills package for training parents. This takes a gender-transformative approach to promoting gender equality and empowerment. The parents’ package included introductory sessions on, for example, changes that occur during adolescence, and on child marriage and its harmful consequences, followed by a discussion on how to avert damaging practices. During the year, 2,944 parents completed the training; in addition, community dialogues and mobilization reached 7,200 family members and community leaders, and motivated them to commit to end child marriage. Thanks to an ‘appreciative inquiry’ approach, local leaders also committed towards ending child marriage. This approach included carrying out a needs-assessment of all vulnerable adolescent girls and responding to their needs.

UNFPA developed a behaviour-change communication package that was used in a number of media-related activities. It included materials and tools that target audiences through a story-based format. 200,000 people in target communities were reached by means of such media activities, which were designed with the aim of promoting the end to child marriage. Overall, 44.1 per cent of the adult respondents to a survey of parents who had experienced the Rupantaran package held gender equitable attitudes in 2018 compared to 43 per cent in 2017.

OTHER ACTIVITIES WITH POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

To address social norms relating to gender discrimination and gender-based violence, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens in finalizing the strategy for male engagement in ending violence against women and girls which was used to help with orientation and engagement within state assemblies and with local government representatives in all seven states during the ‘16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence’ campaign. Approximately 2,000 provincial and local government representatives were sensitized with the key messages of the strategy, specifically to promote positive roles for men in ending violence against women and girls and changing harmful social norms and stereotypes about masculinities. A film designed to engage men and boys in addressing gender-based violence and related posters were also developed to help disseminate the strategy.

CHALLENGES

- ✓ Despite having the will and means, the limited capacity and understanding of the newly organized municipalities means that locally elected representatives are facing challenges in prioritizing relevant activities under the local plans. Many local authorities are currently focusing on investing in ‘visible’ actions such as building roads and other infrastructures. Continued advocacy and technical support is required to change their mindset in order to equally prioritize work on changing social norms.

HEADLINE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

- ✓ The Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens has recently launched the strategy for men's and boys' engagement with UNICEF support. UNFPA is also revising its strategy for male engagement following constructive

evaluation findings in its other gender-based violence prevention programmes. In 2019, efforts will be made to implement some of the activities outlined in these strategies. Big shifts are not anticipated, however some 'fine-tuning' in approaches to prevention may occur.



Outcome 3: Strengthening prevention and protection systems

PROGRESS OF INDICATORS

Outcome 3.1: Number and proportion of adolescent girls in programme areas that have utilized health or protection services				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
NA	NA	Baseline: 12,287	Target: 13,000 Results: 21,065	Target: 25,000 Results:
Outcome 3.2: Percentage point difference in exam-pass rates between boys and girls in programme areas				
Output 3.1 Number and proportion of service delivery points in programme areas implementing guidelines for adolescent girl-friendly health and protection services				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: 4	Target: 6 Results: 317	Target: 127 Results: 89	Target: 78 Results: 97	Target: 20 Results:
Output 3.2 Number of non-formal/primary/secondary schools implementing interventions to improve the quality of education for adolescent girls				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: NA	Target: NA Results: 257	Target: 140 Results: 360	Target: 360 Results: 550	Target: 120 Results:

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

According to the 2018 formative review of the adolescent health programme in Nepal, 25 per cent of adolescent girls are currently being reached by adolescent-friendly health services. Capacity-building among health workers has contributed to an increase in the number of health facilities delivering adolescent-friendly services. During 2018, the adolescent-friendly health services added 38 new health facilities in addition to eight existing health facilities being certified as adolescent-friendly. Advocacy work is ongoing to ensure the gradual phase out of UNFPA from the certification work, and full take-over of the programme by the government. In addition, 30 health workers from 10 sites were trained to understand and cater to the specific needs of adolescents, and in the importance of providing services and information to adolescents – married or unmarried – in an open and non-judgmental fashion.



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Capacity-building for law enforcement officials combined with outreach programmes to raise awareness on issues primarily affecting women and children have contributed to an increase in the number of crimes against women and children being reported to the police (such as rape, attempted rape, child marriage, domestic violence and trafficking), from 13,573 last year to 14,796 cases.

In collaboration with the Nepal Police (under the Women and Children Service Directorate), UNICEF supported a six-day training course on child justice; and psychosocial support was conducted for 64 police personnel (58 women and six men). Four training courses for a total of 136 police personnel were conducted on maintaining and using an online gender-based violence database. These trainings have supported the Nepal Police in handling cases relating to women and children in a child- and gender-sensitive manner. A school-based outreach campaign for children called 'Police My Friend' was conducted in two districts. A total of 3,838 students in grades six to nine, and aged 11 to 16 years, benefitted from the campaign.

The Global Programme also worked on enhancing school-based interventions to prevent child marriage and links with/referrals to the police, alongside other child protection services in the community. Several case studies suggested that the government-endorsed Rupantaran life skills training package, which was delivered in school settings, had enabled students to speak up if they had experienced or witnessed child marriage. In total, more than 32,583 students (17,227 of which were girls) in grades five to nine (aged between 11 and 16 years) and approximately 2,000 school teachers gained knowledge on preventing gender-based violence and child marriage as a result of the school-based response mechanism. Schools have started to refer cases to judicial committees of respective municipalities as well. A total of 240 formal schools and 310 informal school centers were supported to implement guidelines that promote quality education for adolescent girls. Ten of these established an Adolescent-Friendly Information Corner, which facilitates a link between the school and local health services.

Evaluations carried out indicate that the biggest impact of after-school programmes has been improved levels of engagement and awareness around harmful social practices (including child marriage). Improvement in learning outcomes was minimal. Key elements of the after-school programmes will be carried forward in two provinces, focusing on enrolment, changing attitudes and negative behaviours.

CHALLENGES

- ✓ One of the major challenges faced in 2018 was the frequent duty-station rotation of security and justice professionals. The programme and partners have invested resources in building the capacity of specific duty-station justice and security professionals, including social workers, to improve knowledge levels and enhance their capacity for providing child-friendly and gender-sensitive services designed to protect children in contact with the justice system.

HEADLINE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

- ✓ UNICEF will continue to work closely with the selected local governments to develop and strengthen local level reporting systems for women and children cases.

IN THE SOUTH OF NEPAL, A YOUNG GIRL ON HER WAY TO BECOMING A CHILD BRIDE REACHES OUT TO HER SCHOOL FOR HELP

The truth emerged when the school management found a note that the girl Janaki had written and dropped in the school's suggestion box. It turned out that her impending marriage, set up by her family, had been bothering her for some time. The practice of child marriage is common in her village, like in so many others across Nepal, where school-going girls are often pressured by their families to drop out and get married. Janaki, though, was not ready to give in. She decided to use the suggestion box to request the support of the school in stopping the marriage before it was too late.

"It was easier to write down my problems rather than going up to talk directly to a teacher or the principal," Janaki says. "It was much less scary." With the help of the school and a social worker, intervening with her parents, Janaki's planned child marriage was cancelled.



Outcome 4: Strengthening the legislative and policy frameworks

TIMELINE OF SOME KEY EVENTS

- **1971:** The Marriage Registration Act set the minimum legal age of marriage to 20. Boys and girls can marry by 18 with parental consent
- **1990:** Ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- **1991:** Ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
- **2013:** Co-sponsored the Human Rights Council resolution on eliminating child, early and forced marriage
- **2014:** As a representative of the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), asserted the Kathmandu Call to Action to End Child Marriage in Asia, including commitments to ensure access to legal remedies for child brides and to establish a uniform minimum legal age of marriage of 18
- **2014:** At the global Girl Summit in the United Kingdom, signed a charter committing to end child marriage by 2020
- **2015:** Committed to eliminate child, early and forced marriage by 2030 in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- **2015:** As a member of the South Asian Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC), adopted a regional action plan to end child marriage (2015–2018)
- **2015:** As part of the Universal Periodic Review, noted that several recommendations related to combatting early and forced marriage were already being implemented, including awareness-raising with families
- **2016:** Launched the National Strategy to End Child Marriage, aiming to end the practice by 2030, and developed a fully costed National Action Plan for the strategy (not yet implemented)
- **2016:** Arranged a Nepal Girl Summit, reaffirming commitments to end child marriage by 2030
- **2018:** Enacted the new Children's Act 2075, paving the way to respecting, protecting and fulfilling the rights of children in Nepal
- **2018:** Launched the Adolescent Health and Development Strategy, with ending child marriage as one of its key strategies
- **2018:** Arranged a Nepal Girl Summit

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

Advocacy and technical support to the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens led to the government enacting the new Children's Act 2075, paving the way to respecting, protecting and fulfilling the rights of children in Nepal. Five additional recommendations from the Committee on the Rights of the Child relating to child protection have been addressed by a different law: the landmark Act Relating to Children (2018), for which UNICEF provided technical support and advocacy. The Act Relating to Children spells out a progression of provisions to be enacted relating to child protection and justice for children, in line with Nepal's international commitments. It also specifically prohibits and criminalizes the act of 'fixing the marriage' of a child. This relates to the practice seen in certain Nepali communities of arranging the engagement of young children. Although technically not 'marriage' in a legal sense, these engagements nonetheless operate as marriages in practice, violating the rights of the children in question. The Act Relating to Children condemns fixing the marriage of a child as a form of violence against children and prohibits the same. It also makes the government accountable for supporting the victims of child marriage.

Through effective advocacy, UNFPA and UNICEF have supported important progress of the government towards harmonizing the laws that deal with the legal validity and registration of child marriage. There are two conflicting provisions regarding the status of marriage below the age of 20 years, in the National Civil (Code) Act 2017 and the National Criminal (Code) Act 2017 respectively. Extensive advocacy has resulted in an amendment being considered by parliament to harmonize the conflicting provisions and thereby make such marriage legally 'void'.

UNFPA and UNICEF engaged in multiple policy dialogues with the state and local government and were involved in a range of actions, including organizing large advocacy events such as the Second Nepal Girl Summit covering all seven states; jointly leading the annual celebrations of the International Day of the Girl Child at state and local levels, and arranging capacity-building workshops for newly elected officials. The programme

thus contributed towards improving and harmonizing legal provisions. As a result of the policy dialogues, more than 60 per cent of the country's municipalities have included activities on ending child marriage in their annual plans.

The programme has also strengthened monitoring and accountability mechanisms by fostering partnerships with civil society partners working on this issue. Similar mechanisms are being established at state and local government levels. Even though the implementation coordination mechanism is outlined in the National Strategy to End Child Marriage, the government has required significant pushing from UNFPA and UNICEF and the global partnership Girls Not Brides to systemize the monitoring mechanism. To remove this dependency, the Global Programme is advocating that coordination of interventions to end child marriage is included as one of the lead ministry's, the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens, key performance indicators.

CHALLENGES

- ✓ As Nepal ventures into a federal structure, uncertainties about the mandates and responsibilities of various government bodies are paramount. Nonetheless, a federal structure offers great promise for better programmatic implementation. However it will take time to reorganize local government infrastructure, which will inevitably result in a backward slide in the outputs of the programme.

HEADLINE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

- ✓ A year's experience of working with newly established local governments has displayed a clear need for concerted efforts to build the capacity of local bodies. In 2019, both agencies will expand and accelerate systematic engagement with local policy makers covering all the municipalities of the ending child marriage districts.
- ✓ Build capacity of decentralized structures (especially new municipalities) in evidence-based planning and budgeting so as to identify the most pressing concerns in their communities, to tailor programmes to meet these needs and to increase the impact of the money spent.



Outcome 5: Strengthening data and evidence base

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

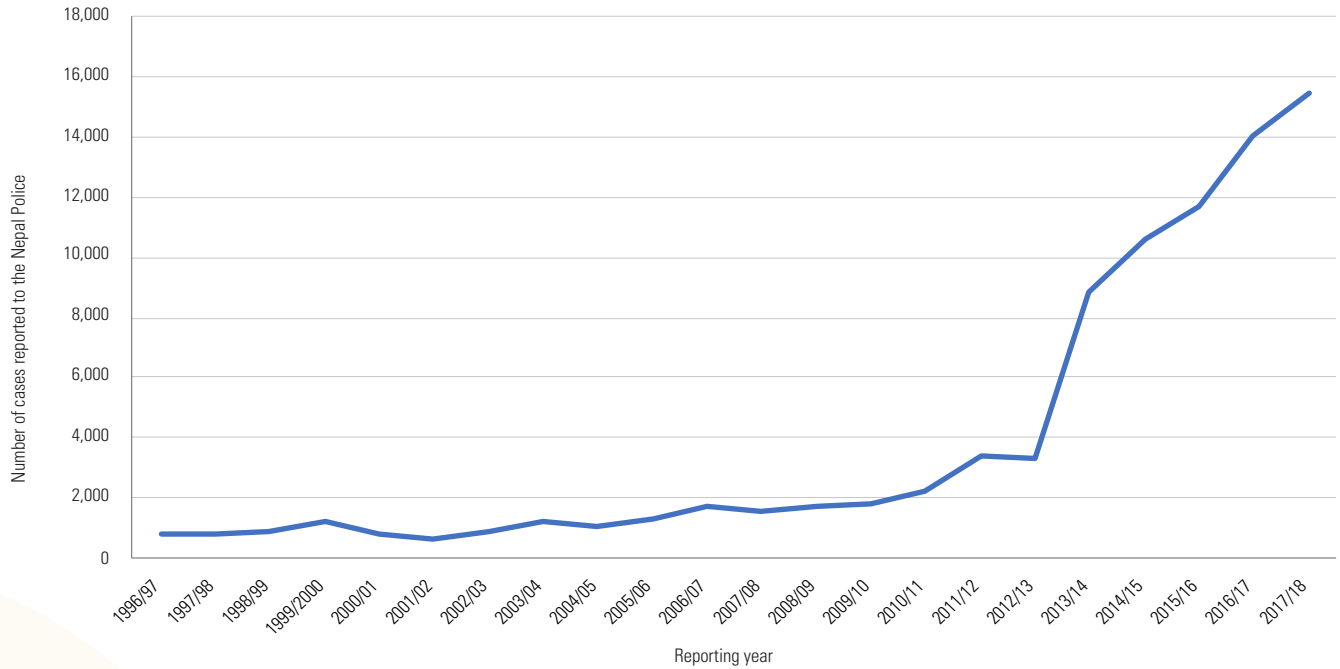
UNICEF in collaboration with UNFPA, the Ministry of Health and Population and other partners increased national and subnational capacity in child marriage planning and programming by conducting a formative review of adolescent health in Nepal to assess the national situation on adolescent health. This also contributed to the Adolescent Health and Development Strategy launched in 2018. The review explored the adolescent health situation at national and sub-national levels, looking mainly at adolescent sexual and reproductive health, mental health, nutrition, menstrual hygiene and road traffic injuries. The review revealed that child brides, adolescents experiencing gender-based violence and bullying in schools (girls are often bullied during menstruation) and adolescents with low parent engagement are at higher risk of mental health problems such as anxiety, depression and suicide attempts. It recommended interventions to reduce the mental health risks by reducing the rates of child marriage and gender-based violence, eliminating the stigma of menstruation, and creating an enabling environment for menstruating girls to

attend school by providing affordable sanitary pads and water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in schools. These measures should be implemented in combination with a system for the early detection of warning signs across multiple settings, and the establishment of a functioning referral mechanism together with improvements in the quality of mental health care.

A review of the after-school programme produced by UNFPA and UNICEF contributes to evidence and knowledge about child marriage. The review showed the effectiveness of life skills sessions for empowering adolescent girls and boys (even though its impact on educational outcomes was limited). The programme team is working on revising this strategy to strengthen school systems so that they also improve learning and retention for adolescent girls.

Currently in progress and expected to generate additional strategic evidence that will add value to child marriage knowledge is Round Six of the Nepal Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS). The MICS will support efforts to monitor

FIGURE 4: Cases of crimes against women and children reported to Nepal Police



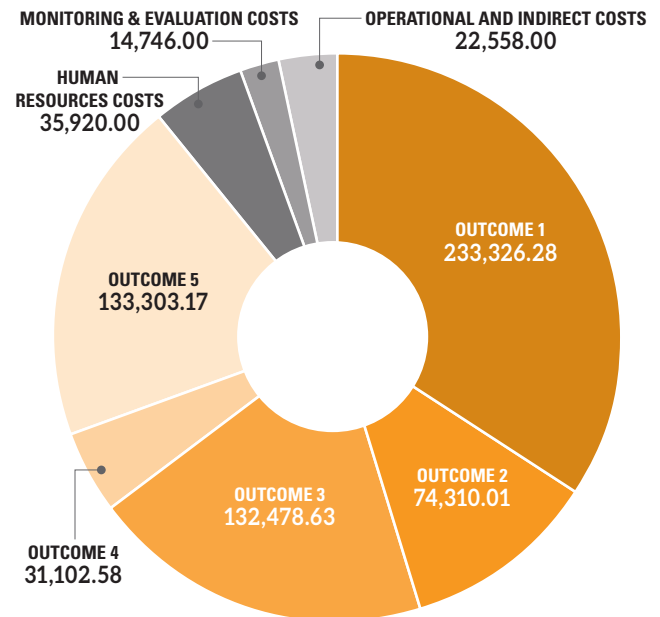
progress towards SDG target 5.3 and will also help establish baselines for Phase II of the Global Programme (2020–2023), in addition to aiding with the development of strategic plans for specific programme interventions.

UNICEF supported four training courses delivered to 136 police personnel covering the management of an online gender-based violence database. These trainings have supported the Nepal Police in handling cases involving crimes against women and children in a child and gender-sensitive manner. The monitoring of cases has improved as depicted in Figure 4.

Communications to end child marriage

Transformations: Challenging child marriage through community empowerment	Video: https://youtu.be/JFJFlp3isC4 (accessed May 2019)
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Financial information – Expenditure by outcome (USD)



NIGER

COUNTRY PROFILE



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NIGER

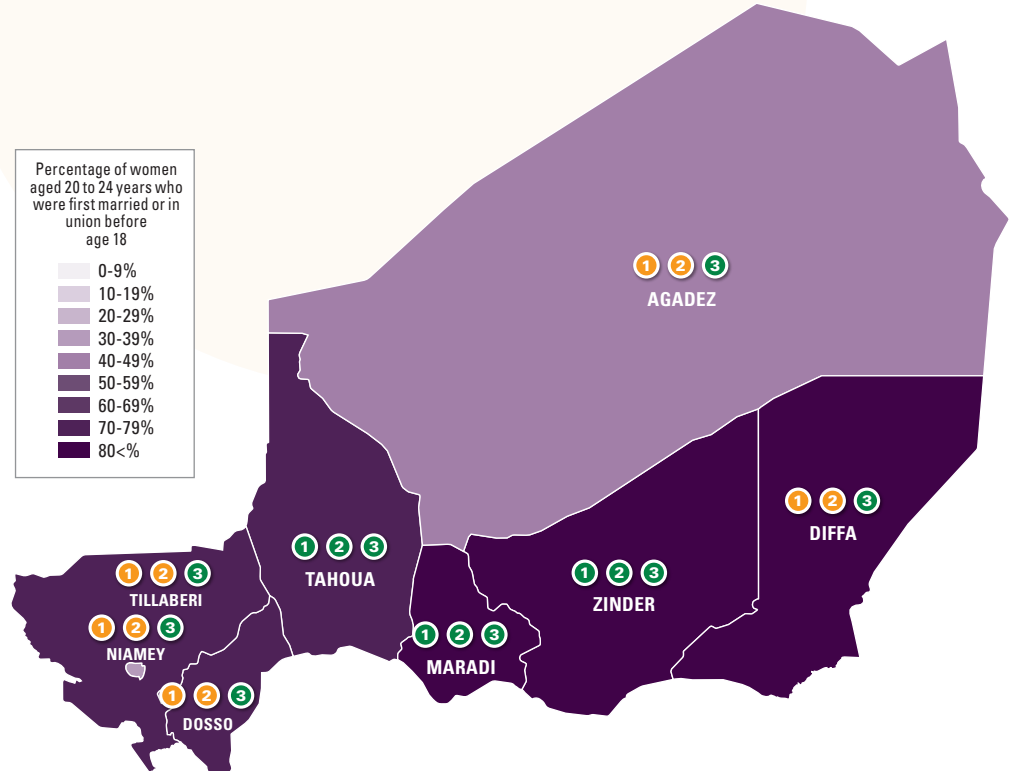
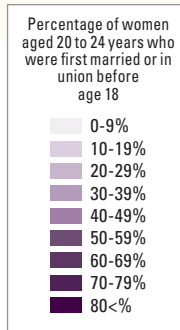
COUNTRY PROFILE



76¹ Percentage of young women (aged 20–24) married or in union by age 18



28² Percentage of young women (aged 20–24) married or in union by age 15



Note: This map is stylized and not to scale. It does not reflect a position by UNFPA or UNICEF on the legal status of any country or area or the delimitation of any frontiers. Implementation areas are shown by district and only reflect implementation under the Global Programme. Source for child marriage prevalence data is the Demographic and Health Survey 2012.

- UNFPA + UNICEF implementation
- UNFPA implementation
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- Implementation outcome 1 (life skills and education support for girls)
- Implementation outcome 2 (community dialogue)
- Implementation outcome 3 (strengthening education, health and child protection systems)



6.95³ BIRTHS PER WOMAN

Total fertility rate (average number of children a woman would have by the end of her reproductive period if her experience followed the currently prevalent age-specific fertility rates)



146⁴ ADOLESCENT BIRTH RATE

Number of births per 1,000 adolescent girls aged 15–19



1%⁵

Upper secondary school completion rate among girls aged 3–5 years above upper secondary graduation age



40.4⁶ Percentage of women aged 15–19 who have begun childbearing



0.86⁷ Gender parity index for primary school enrolment

¹ Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), 2012; ² DHS, 2012; ³ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019). World Population Prospects 2019, Online Edition; ⁴ United Nations Statistics Division (2018), SDG Database, <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database>; ⁵ DHS, 2012; ⁶ DHS, 2012; ⁷ UNICEF global databases (April 2019).

GLOBAL PROGRAMME RESULTS IN 2018



66,688

Number of girls reached with life skills interventions



449,511

Number of community members engaged in community dialogue



163

Number of health and child protection service delivery points supported to provide adolescent girl-friendly services

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ The country accomplished the development of the costed National Action Plan (NAP) to End Child Marriage with the leadership of the National Coordinating Committee and technical support from UNICEF. The NAP is a major milestone for the government towards its commitment to end child marriage, as until 2015 it was not possible to discuss the practice of child marriage for fear of hostile responses from religious groups.
- ✓ Under the patronage of the first lady, Dr. Lalla Malika Issoufou, the government, in collaboration with the UNFPA West and Central Africa Regional Office, organized

on 26 September 2018 a high-level side-event on the margins of the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York under the theme, 'Addressing child marriage, and promoting women and girls' well-being in Niger'. The interest of the highest officials from several countries was evident, with more than 30 first ladies and ministers, 22 international institutions, and 40 government representatives in attendance to discuss community-based interventions in Niger that can help harness the benefits of the demographic dividend, with a growing young population in the country, but that need to be intensified to create a greater impact.



Outcome 1: Empowering adolescent girls

PROGRESS OF INDICATORS

Outcome 1.1: Proportion of adolescent girls in programme areas demonstrating increased knowledge and skills				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
NA	NA	Baseline: 55%	Target: 60% Results: 64.8%	Target: 70% Results:
Outcome 1.2: Girls' retention rate at primary school level				
Output 1.1: Number of girls aged 10-19 years actively participating in targeted interventions				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: 11,642	Target: 23,702 Results: 21,885	Target: 13,500 Results: 17,000	Target: 64,000 Results: 66,688	Target: 41,335 Results:
Output 1.2: Number of girls supported to access and remain in primary/lower secondary/non-formal education				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: 714	Target: 45,465 Results: 19,088	Target: 38,300 Results: 43,245	Target: NA Results: NA	Target: NA Results:

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

The UNFPA and UNICEF programme approach focused on strengthening the capacity of the adolescent girls' clubs through the recruitment and training of mentors to provide services to the adolescent girls in and out of school. This included training in livelihood skills and income generation, and referrals for health and protection services. The impact of the adolescent empowerment interventions in Niger is demonstrated through the knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence gained by the adolescent girls. According to findings from the evaluation of the UNFPA-supported 'Illimin Zaman Dunia' adolescent initiative, more than six in ten unmarried adolescent girls said that they will not accept a forced marriage and four out of five of the adolescent girls know at least one method of modern family planning. However, negative social norms still prevail among adolescent girls in the community with 82 per cent of them believing that education is more suitable for boys than girls.

Overall, 66,688 adolescent girls that participated in the empowerment programme benefited from knowledge on human rights and life skills training. Nine out of ten of these targeted girls were out of school. Of these, 18 per cent were referred for health and protection services and 189 returned to school following participation in the programme.

OTHER ACTIVITIES WITH POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

A milestone was passed in December 2017 with the signing of a presidential decree for schooling girls' protection and support. In operationalizing this decree, the Ministry of Education started the development of a girl's education action plan and

the revision of laws relating to girls' education expected to be finalized in 2019. Girls' education developed into a key priority for the Local Partners Education Group, particularly the sub-group on 'access', where UNICEF advocated for a mapping exercise to coordinate interventions promoting girls' education.

CHALLENGES

- ✓ In 2018, Niger was affected by multiple crises: cross-border insecurity affecting populations in the Lake Chad Basin area (Diffa region) and in areas near the borders with Mali and Burkina Faso (Tahoua and Tillabéry regions); natural disasters resulting in fodder deficit and food insecurity affecting the regions of Agadez, Tahoua, Maradi and Zinder, and floods across the whole country. These had adverse impacts on programme delivery especially at the community level, including enrolment and retention in formal schools.
- ✓ Critical skills and competencies are still limited at regional and decentralized levels, especially those relating to girls' education. To boost the ongoing decentralization process and the enhancement of competencies in gender programming, UNICEF supported the capacity-building of 35 education focal persons for girls around the country, which had as their remit understanding and tackling gender-based violence, which they delivered by means of a training session held on the Nigerien Women's Day. This brought attention to the issues needing to be addressed.

HEADLINE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

- ✓ To achieve the effective empowerment of adolescent girls, a critical mass of them must be reached. UNFPA will focus on strengthening efforts towards attaining this through job skills training and income generation activities.



Outcome 2: Social and behaviour change communication to influence gender and social norms

PROGRESS OF INDICATORS

Outcome 2: Proportion of individuals in programme areas that hold gender equitable attitudes				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
NA	NA	Baseline: NA	Target: NA Results: 35.3%	Target: 40% Results:
Output 2.1: Number of individuals in programme areas who regularly participate in dialogues promoting gender equitable norms including delaying child marriage				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: 52,250	Target: 75,645 Results: 95,623	Target: 127,840 Results: 193,020	Target: 183,836 Results: 449,511	Target: 213,960 Results:

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

UNFPA and UNICEF have engaged traditional leaders through the Association of Traditional Chiefs of Niger with the aim of encouraging them to support community dialogues and the work done by community facilitators and adolescent girls' mentors. Traditional leaders have also been engaged in the development of media campaigns through radio channels and social media platforms. The prospects of this partnership improved once it had garnered the solid commitment of some traditional leaders. For example, the Chief of the Canton of Illéla (Tahoua region), which has 240 villages and a high prevalence of marriage for girls aged just 12 to 13 years, signed a circular prohibiting child marriage in these villages.

In 2018, 273,640 people (52 per cent of them women) participated in community dialogues and 175,871 in media campaigns. Thanks to the work of child protection committees, 165 cases of child marriage have been delayed or cancelled and 385 children, including 104 girls, have been sent back to school following mediation with parents or community leaders. The UNFPA 'Illimin Zaman Dunia' adolescent initiative evaluation highlighted the role played by parents and domestic violence in early and forced marriages in Niger. Four in five (80.9 per cent) of the adult respondents (aged 20 years and above) agreed that a girl should drop out of school for marriage as marriage is better for their safety or well-being than education.

Parents marry their children forcibly because they love marriage not the girl. Other parents want to strengthen relationships, that is why they forcibly marry their children to a family member. Other girls who love the company of men are married off early to avoid family embarrassment.

HALIMATOU, 19, MARRIED AT THE AGE OF 16

Close to a third of the adult respondents think that boys and girls should be treated the same. A quarter (24.7 per cent) of the adult respondents were of the opinion that the parents should choose the husband of the girl.

The first night when I refused to touch him, he beat me and slept with me. He beat me for two days, every time he had reports. I fled the village to go to Maradi to my mother's sister. She brought me back the same day and my father threatened to deny me if I was still fleeing my home. [My husband] beat me every time he wants to have intercourse with me. I do not tell anyone because they will say I am lying. When I got pregnant, he did not beat me anymore. I gave birth two months ago. I ended up giving in. My marriage is three years old now. He beats me for the slightest mistake.

HALIMA, 15, NEVER ENROLLED IN SCHOOL AND IS NOW DIVORCED WITH ONE CHILD, WHO IS THREE YEARS OLD

More than half (56.1 per cent) consider spousal violence to be justified if the woman refuses sexual intercourse with husband.

Lessons learned from the community-based approaches provide strong evidence to address issues of gender inequality. However, the cost of these approaches is a barrier to scaling them up. For this reason, Niger has found it useful to review the content of the community-based programs in order to define a package of activities to take the programme to scale.

CHALLENGES

- ✓ In addition to insecurity, the policy and legal frameworks in Niger are not aligned and therefore make it difficult for community-based interventions to bring about social change. Niger's minimum age for a girl to marry is 15 years. The government fears hostilities from religious organizations would result if it were to be raised.

HEADLINE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

- ✓ The Global Programme will focus on harmonization of community approaches and tools in order to create the critical mass of population that will bring about social change.



Outcome 3: Strengthening prevention and protection systems

PROGRESS OF INDICATORS

Outcome 3.1: Number and proportion of adolescent girls in programme areas that have utilized health or protection services				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
NA	NA	Baseline: 20,000	Target: 21,600 Results: 55,207	Target: 31,000 Results:
Outcome 3.2: Percentage point difference in exam-pass rates between boys and girls in programme areas				
Output 3.1 Number and proportion of service delivery points in programme areas implementing guidelines for adolescent girl-friendly health and protection services				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: NA	Target: 222 Results: 116	Target: 278 Results: 324	Target: 166 Results: 163	Target: 438 Results:
Output 3.2 Number of non-formal/primary/secondary schools implementing interventions to improve the quality of education for adolescent girls				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: NA	Target: NA Results: NA	Target: NA Results: NA	Target: NA Results: NA	Target: NA Results:

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

Considerable progress has been made in strengthening the country’s health and protection systems in line with requirements to tackle harmful practices, primarily child marriage and female genital mutilation, with an emphasis on government ownership of the process. In total, 55,207 adolescent girls accessed health or protection services in 2018. The quality of services for adolescent girls improved thanks to the ongoing training of social workers and the enhanced networking with other service providers (including of formal, non-formal and vocational education; social welfare, health, justice, and security) and also with non-governmental organizations, transport federations, etc., to provide an all-round response to the needs of adolescent girls.

The proportion of communes/areas that have established protection committees, under a programme that started in 2015, reached 96 per cent (743 areas) compared with 63 per cent (545) in 2017. An additional 159 village committees were set up, bringing the total number of villages with committees to 575 by 2018. The committees attended one-year educational sessions on child marriage, health, education, protection and children’s rights with an average participation of 80 per cent. An action plan was developed and implemented

by all the committees and, in each case, the community made a public declaration of the abandonment of harmful practices against women and children, especially child marriage, as proof of their commitment to promote positive social norms. Two communes (Bima and Tassara in the region of Tahoua) were not reachable due to the security situation.

UNICEF provided technical support to the Ministry of Justice and other implementing partners to ensure that cases involving children are managed in a child-friendly manner and in line with the relevant standards. To improve the case management of minors who come into contact with the law, 43 judges, 10 prosecutors, 11 justice social workers and 11 clerks were trained in child protection issues and judicial procedures to enable them to fulfill their role as child protection proponents. Part of the training entailed raising their awareness of the importance of alternatives to detention, and that this sanction should only be used as a last resort and for as brief a time as possible. The need to work in synergy with each other and to collaborate with other sectors was also highlighted. Improvements in practice are being measured from regional to departmental levels, and from central to regional levels, by means of a monitoring system that requires monthly data collection.

OTHER ACTIVITIES WITH POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

The 2018 Third National Forum on Child Protection provided an opportunity for stakeholders in the protection sector to discuss current issues such as migration and harmful practices, to share best practice, and to discuss challenges that hamper the implementation of interventions aimed at reinforcing the child protection system. Following the advocacy of UNICEF, one of the main recommendations of the forum was that a national child protection coordination mechanism should be established to strengthen collaboration and synergy between different sectors such as education, health, protection and justice.

CHALLENGES

- ✓ The weaknesses in basic public services, in terms of quality and access and especially the coverage of education services, is constraining progress. This is compounded by gaps in the formal education curricula relating to content that is relevant to girls' needs – for example, life skills education – as well as by the limited range of educational options available. Vocational, non-formal, or other alternatives for older children, for example, are often lacking. Furthermore, the school environment is not conducive to protecting girls from violence and abuse. Therefore, interventions in the field of education need to be strengthened.

HEADLINE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

- ✓ The focus will be on the coordinating system strengthening approaches to the various sectors.



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Outcome 4: Strengthening the legislative and policy frameworks

TIMELINE OF SOME KEY EVENTS

- **1990:** Ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- **1993:** The Civil Code set the minimum legal age of marriage to 15 for girls and 18 for boys. However, minors can marry at a younger age with parental consent, and the President may grant age exceptions for serious reasons
- **1999:** Acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
- **1999:** Ratified the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
- **2004:** Signed the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa
- **2014:** Signed a joint statement at the Human Rights Council, calling for a resolution on child marriage
- **2014:** Launched the African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage under the theme 'Obstetric Fistula: Zero Tolerance!'
- **2015:** Committed to eliminate child, early and forced marriage by 2030 in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- **2015:** Launched the National Action Plan on the Promotion of Interventions for Adolescents (2016–2019), covering issues of child marriage and other harmful traditional practices
- **2016:** As part of the Universal Periodic Review, supported recommendations to adopt a Family Law to protect girls from child marriage, increase the minimum legal age for marriage to 18 and implement a comprehensive strategy to eliminate the practice
- **2016:** Established a National Committee to coordinate actions designed to end child marriage in Niger
- **2017:** As a member of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), adopted the Strategic Framework for Strengthening National Child Protection Systems, under which protecting children from marriage is a priority
- **2017:** Hosted a First Ladies Forum on Child Marriage, for First Ladies from West African states
- **2018:** At the Voluntary National Review at the High Level Political Forum, reported on some of the changes in child marriage prevalence and legislative reforms related to the legal age of marriage
- **2018:** Developed a National Action Plan to End Child Marriage
- **2018:** Co-sponsored the United Nations General Assembly resolution on eliminating child, early and forced marriage

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

A major achievement in 2018 was the development of the costed National Action Plan (NAP) to End Child Marriage, which was led by the National Coordinating Committee with technical support and funding from the Global Programme. The NAP represents a major milestone for the government on the path towards its commitment of ending child marriage; until 2015 it was not possible even to discuss the practice of child marriage for fear of hostilities from religious groups. During the year, the Ministry of Education launched a revised national policy on girls' education and training, accompanied by an action plan. The revisions made to the policy were informed by a study on the profile and causes of out-of-school children, which highlighted the magnitude of the problem with out-of-school children in Niger. Analysis of the data highlighted gender disparities and identified key gender issues that will be addressed in the revised action plan, known as the Education and Training Sector Plan. As part of the preparatory work for the revised policy, the ministry also commissioned a study on secondary girls' education, which was coordinated and supervised by UNICEF with the ministry's monitoring and evaluation implementation support unit (CAMOS).

CHALLENGES

- ✓ Progress in reforming laws to address harmful practices and especially child marriage is very slow. This is because the government is not considering raising the legal age of marriage for girls to 18 as a priority, in part because of the risk of rejection resulting from the influence of certain religious organizations.



Outcome 5: Strengthening data and evidence base

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

UNICEF supported efforts to strengthen the national information systems that collect, analyse and supply statistical survey data and other data relating to various social sectors, such as education, health, water, sanitation and hygiene, child protection and civil registration.

UNFPA conducted an evaluation of the 'Illimin Zaman Dunia' adolescent empowerment programme that ran between 2013 and 2018 to assess the impacts on and changes to adolescent girls' lives and also the community's view of child marriage. Some of the preliminary results of the evaluation have been used in this report and will be used to strengthen the programme. In recent years, Niger had developed regulatory frameworks relating to statistical data processing. These include the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics 2017–2021, the National Quality Assurance Framework, and a charter for the quality of public statistics. However, despite this positive policy environment, data quality remains a critical issue. For instance, in 2018, preliminary results of the Niger 2017 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) were contested by data users, including government ministries and partners who contributed to DHS funding. With support from the United States government, an independent data quality evaluation was conducted and concluded that the DHS 2017 dataset did not meet minimum quality standards and could neither be validated nor published.

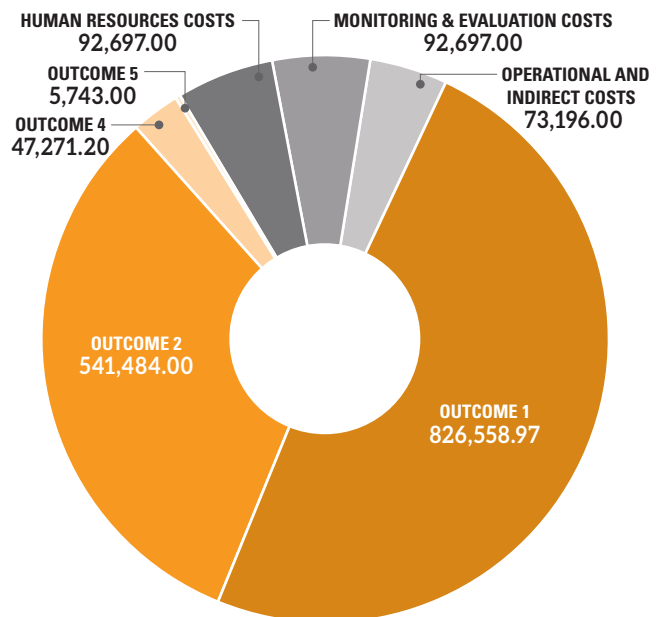
CHALLENGES

- ✓ The Demographic and Health Survey data collected in 2017 could not be published to severe data quality issues. In addition, administrative data collected by health, education and social services is yet to improve.

HEADLINE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

- ✓ The evaluation of the 'Illimin Zaman Dunia' programme will be used to strengthen the Global Programme's approach to empowering adolescent girls. Some areas for improvement include; strengthening measures to enable their economic empowerment; making better links with health services; and incorporating a gender and human rights module. Shifting restrictive gender norms in the community continues to be challenging, and calls for measures to strengthen the parent- and community-facilitation component of the Illimin Zaman Dunia programme.

Financial information – Expenditure by outcome (USD)





SIERRA LEONE

COUNTRY PROFILE

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SIERRA LEONE

COUNTRY PROFILE

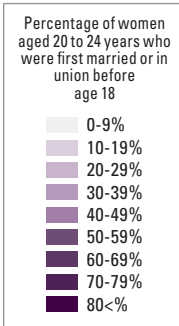
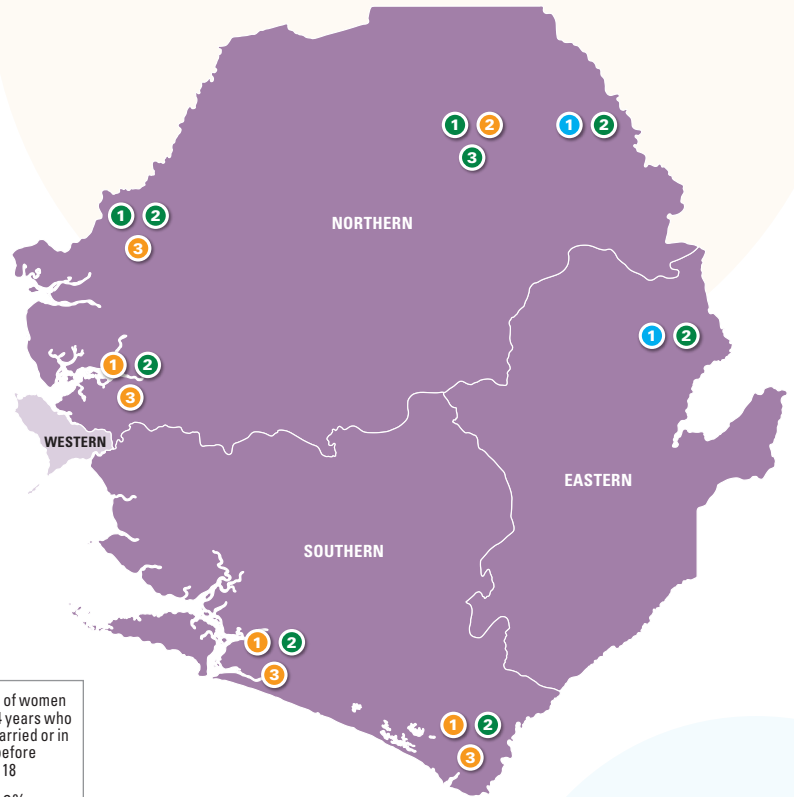


39¹ Percentage of young women (aged 20–24) married or in union by age 18



13² Percentage of young women (aged 20–24) married or in union by age 15

Note: This map is stylized and not to scale. It does not reflect a position by UNFPA or UNICEF on the legal status of any country or area or the delimitation of any frontiers. Implementation areas are shown by district and only reflect implementation under the Global Programme. Source for child marriage prevalence data is the Demographic and Health Survey 2013.





- UNFPA + UNICEF implementation
- UNFPA implementation
- UNICEF implementation
- 1 Implementation outcome 1 (life skills and education support for girls)
- 2 Implementation outcome 2 (community dialogue)
- 3 Implementation outcome 3 (strengthening education, health and child protection systems)

 **4.32**³ BIRTHS PER WOMAN

Total fertility rate (average number of children a woman would have by the end of her reproductive period if her experience followed the currently prevalent age-specific fertility rates)

 **101.3**⁴ ADOLESCENT BIRTH RATE
Number of births per 1,000 adolescent girls aged 15–19

 **16%**⁵
Upper secondary school completion rate among girls aged 3–5 years above upper secondary graduation age

 **27.9**⁶ Percentage of women aged 15–19 who have begun childbearing

 **1.00**⁷ Gender parity index for primary school enrolment

¹ Demographic Health Survey (DHS), 2013; ² DHS, 2013; ³ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019). World Population Prospects 2019, Online Edition; ⁴ United Nations Statistics Division (2018), SDG Database, <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database>; ⁵ DHS, 2013; ⁶ DHS, 2013; ⁷ UNICEF global databases (April 2019).

GLOBAL PROGRAMME RESULTS IN 2018



14,738

Number of girls reached with life skills interventions



160

Number of girls supported to stay in school



29,508

Number of community members engaged in community dialogue



95

Number of health and child protection service delivery points supported to provide adolescent girl-friendly services



200

Number of schools supported to provide girl-friendly quality education

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ A major achievement in 2018 was the development of a costed, multisectoral National Strategy for the Reduction of Adolescent Pregnancy and Child Marriage led by the National Secretariat for the Reduction of Teenage Pregnancy, which was launched in December 2018.
- ✓ A draft bill to harmonize the Child Rights Act (2007) and the Customary Marriage and Divorce Act (2009) has been submitted to the Members of the Parliament for their review and finalization.
- ✓ 225 community action plans are being implemented across nine districts, having engaged a total of 14,374 families and community members in 2018 to promote positive social norms to prevent child marriage, teenage pregnancy and female genital mutilation.
- ✓ The National Life Skills Manual for in- and out-of-school adolescents was launched by the government; this will create a framework for age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health information and education.



Outcome 1: Empowering adolescent girls

PROGRESS OF INDICATORS

Outcome 1.1: Proportion of adolescent girls in programme areas demonstrating increased knowledge and skills				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
NA	NA	Baseline: 40.3%	Target: 45% Results: 42.8%	Target: 50% Results:
Outcome 1.2: Girls' retention rate at primary school level				
Output 1.1: Number of girls aged 10-19 years actively participating in targeted interventions				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: 23,331	Target: 3,000 Results: 4,398	Target: 4,200 Results: 12,381	Target: 7,000 Results: 14,738	Target: 7,000 Results:
Output 1.2: Number of girls supported to access and remain in primary/lower secondary/non-formal education				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: 7,011	Target: 4,000 Results: 7,608	Target: 1,500 Results: 1,188	Target: 100 Results: 160	Target: NA Results:

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

Following the launch of the National Life Skills Manual for in- and out-of-school adolescents, which will create a framework for age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health information and education, UNICEF this year supported the training of 75 social workers from the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs and civil society organization partners on the use and content of the manual. A collaboration between UNFPA, UNICEF, the National AIDS Secretariat, the National Secretariat for the Reduction of Teenage Pregnancy and non-governmental organization partners supported the training of 180 national life skills trainers from civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations to scale up life skills training.

UNFPA and UNICEF used the safe spaces model together with trained mentors to empower adolescent girls with life skills education. Through the establishment of 370 safe spaces and the training of 570 mentors, UNFPA and UNICEF provided a total of 14,738 adolescent girls with life skills, livelihood skills, financial literacy and, in some clubs, training in small credit facilities or schemes. Furthermore, UNICEF engaged 28,447 adolescents aged 15 to 19 as 'U-Reporters,' who used the social messaging platform U-Report to undertake polling on issues concerning young people at least four times throughout the year.

During 2018, UNFPA and UNICEF conducted a retrospective study of the social drivers and dynamics that encourage child marriage within the targeted communities of the Global Programme. Following technical advice from the Global Programme Support Unit, the study used mixed methods and established a comparison group, since no baseline study had previously been commissioned. Seventeen questions relating to self-efficacy were asked, covering issues arising in the contexts of education, early marriage, daily life, decision making and work. Adolescent girls scored fairly well on the self-efficacy scale (42 per cent on average), and much more highly in the intervention areas (47 per cent) than in the comparison area (30 per cent). The self-efficacy results were higher for older girls (46 per cent) than for younger girls (30 per cent), for Christians (50 per cent) than for Muslims (41 per cent), and for girls who belonged to a girls' club (47 per cent) than those who did not (32 per cent).

What I believe is that, girls or boys should get married at the age of 20 years, some 30 years and 40 years because they would have completed their education or have gone through certain level in their education.

FOCUS-GROUP DISCUSSION WITH UNMARRIED GIRLS, KAMBIA DISTRICT

Me, I was not involved in the UNFPA-UNICEF child marriage programme though I knew about it and some of my colleagues were part of some group which were going from school to school to talk to boys and girls about teenage pregnancy.

FOCUS-GROUP DISCUSSION WITH MARRIED BOYS, KAMBIA DISTRICT

To facilitate the retention of girls in education, the Global Programme supported girls who had dropped out to return to school, and girls at risk of dropping out to remain in school. The support included coverage of the costs of school fees, uniforms, books, school bags and other supplies.

During the year, 160 girls were reintegrated into formal education in two districts. They were supported with the registration process: the programme engaged with school authorities and the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education to enable the girls' placement in the schools.

OTHER ACTIVITIES WITH POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

UNICEF completed a mapping of adolescent girls at risk in four districts. This will contribute to the development of guidelines for establishing adolescent safe spaces.

Recognizing that the vulnerabilities of children – especially adolescents – were heightened during the election period in March 2018, UNICEF started a one-year project in the districts of Kambia, Kenema, and Kono to equip adolescents and their communities with the knowledge, attitudes, skills and practices that would enable them to positively contribute to peace and stability in their community and society. Leveraging strengths in child protection and education sectors, the project focuses on preventing violence and fostering peaceful conflict mediation techniques through adolescent empowerment and community engagement. Trainings started in November 2018.

CHALLENGES

- ✓ The Girls' Access to Education (GATE) programme, funded by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID), ended in September 2018, creating a gap in education support for girls. Hence, funding for complementary approaches to providing services that help adolescent girls access formal education, as well as to providing informal learning opportunities, must be re-evaluated.
- ✓ Support for girls who have left school – including girls with young children – to re-enter school should be provided. This will be challenging for many reasons, including the need for childcare for the children, but this may be the best way to keep these girls from falling further into poverty and social isolation and from having additional children throughout their teen years.
- ✓ The Global Programme is currently being implemented to varying degrees and through various methods at different places, with variations in geographic scale, the use of complementary interventions, and the use of monitoring and evaluation tools, strategies and frameworks. This means that neither the activities nor the tools used by the implementing partners are necessarily harmonized. This requires better management and monitoring by UNFPA, UNICEF and the implementing partners themselves.

- ✓ Further, an increase in number of actors working to end child marriage in the country squeezes both the available resources and the capacity to coordinate activities; the latter risks duplication of efforts. To minimize this risk, the National Secretariat for the Reduction of Teenage Pregnancy and ministries, departments and agencies must be provided with the capacity to better coordinate between development partners. As the Global Programme reaches out to more girls it is also important to ensure that the supply of relevant services can meet the increasing demand. Here once again, the National Secretariat for the Reduction of Teenage Pregnancy and ministries, departments and agencies must ensure adequate coordination between service providers.

HEADLINE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

- ✓ The Global Programme needs to standardize tools for mapping adolescent girls and their vulnerabilities, and agree on best practice for safe space facilitation. Further, to ensure the success of the safe space programme, parents and guardians of the participating girls need to be engaged on a regular basis to support the girls' empowerment.



Outcome 2: Social and behaviour change communication to influence gender and social norms

PROGRESS OF INDICATORS

Outcome 2: Proportion of individuals in programme areas that hold gender equitable attitudes				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
NA	NA	Baseline: 35%	Target: 35% Results: 30%	Target: 38% Results:
Output 2.1: Number of individuals in programme areas who regularly participate in dialogues promoting gender equitable norms including delaying child marriage				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: 18,000	Target: 12,000 Results: 13,485	Target: 5,000 Results: 15,963	Target: 5,500 Results: 29,508	Target: 15,000 Results:

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

In most Global Programme countries, traditional leaders play a vital role in engaging with community members, through dialogue meetings, to help engender an understanding of harmful practices especially child marriage. However, in Sierra Leone, weakening traditional structures, which have resulted

in a reduced level of social support for children in general, means that engaging traditional leaders is often no longer feasible. Roles such as those of Chiefs and headmen, where responsibility traditionally lay for addressing social issues and providing guidance in their communities, are often no longer being replaced – including in programme-targeted communities

such as Mambolo and Kukuna – leading to an erosion of certain social norms and customs. In recognition of this, the Global Programme uses social and behaviour change communication to influence gender and social norms by collaborating with community religious leaders through the Inter-Religious Council of Sierra Leone (an umbrella organization of Muslim and Christian groups) to support families and communities in understanding harmful practices and their impacts.

During 2018, through engagements with the Inter-Religious Council, 500 religious leaders across the country made a symbolic pledge not to solemnize the marriages of minors. Close to 30,000 individuals participated in community dialogues on ending child marriage. Mass media campaigns were also created with the help of the Inter-Religious Council. For example, the programme’s implementing partners developed radio jingles in Krio and five local languages on the adverse effects of early childbirth, child marriage and other forms of harmful traditional practices, which were aired daily through the community radio stations in the target districts. Radio panel discussions were also held, for which panelists were drawn from religious groups, community leaders, health workers and members of community-based groups. These emphasized the need to delay marriage amongst young girls and promoted safe sex and family planning.

The impact of the programme’s approach to social and behaviour change communication was assessed by means of a retrospective study of social drivers and dynamics conducted by UNFPA and UNICEF in 2018. Focus group discussions with adult participants noted that child marriage is currently uncommon and has declined in their communities over recent years. They also noted, however, that child cohabitation is on the increase as a result of teenage pregnancy.

From what I know, the laws are there, the Child Right Act is there, and it says you should not give your child to marriage before the age of 18, so that is the law, they have enacted it in parliament.

KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW WITH MALE LOCAL LEADER, SAMAI TOWN, KENEMA DISTRICT

There is actually a law in our community that I know of, which prohibit any man or boy to have an affair with any child below the age of 18 years; any man that tampers with a girl that is below 18 years will be levied a fine of Le500,000 or face a jail term of five years and since that law was passed here in this community, there have not been instances of child abuse or child marriage happening again frequently like before.

FOCUS-GROUP DISCUSSION WITH FATHERS, 25 YEARS AND OLDER, KOINADUGU DISTRICT

Four questions were asked about early marriage, with an average response rate of 30 per cent. Notable results from the marriage questions were: 40 per cent agreed that the family should decide at what age a girl should be married; 23 per cent agreed that girls should be married early to protect them from sexual harassment; and 17 per cent agreed that girls should be married early to ease a family’s financial burden.

Children in focus-group discussions stated that marriage is a means of improving difficult living situations or of escaping neglectful or harsh treatment by parents or guardians. Adult respondents in all sites agreed that this perception is widespread among children, especially those whose living situations are considered intolerable. Marriage is also seen as a way for children to have their own house, more freedom from parents or guardians and a greater degree of autonomy.

The environment here is that everyone is married, and it is difficult to resist. The child is exposed to fighting and domestic violence or arguments, so she wants to leave the house, so she does not have to see the parents fighting every day. So, when a guy says he loves her, she will easily go to be with him.

FOCUS-GROUP DISCUSSION WITH FATHERS, KAMBIA DISTRICT

Girls are not opposed to becoming married, they just want to wait until they are older and to have some say in the timing of their marriage. Overall, 86 per cent of girls indicated that they wanted to marry after they had completed their education or had attained the age of 18 years.

Community leaders, including Chiefs, religious leaders and counsellors who speak out against child marriage were viewed as having a powerful impact on behaviour in their communities. Some took on this role because they saw the negative effects of the practice in their own families and communities, including high numbers of girls and boys dropping out of school due to pregnancy and marriage. Others have been targeted for awareness raising and have received support from non-governmental organizations to initiate dialogue on the issue. The hierarchical nature of society and the respect for tradition and authority means that these individuals are powerful agents of change when they decide to speak about the risks of child marriage and the importance of education.

CHALLENGES

- ✓ Internal migration can separate family members and the receiving communities often do not replicate the social and cultural structures that help to enforce later marriage and sexual norms.

HEADLINE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

- ✓ The government's capacity to prioritize the development and implementation of parenting guidelines, especially towards girls, should be explored, and linked to the development of a 'communication for development' strategy to ignite behavioural change amongst parents.
- ✓ One way of ensuring that the community dialogues lead to social change is to require community gatekeepers to sign Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs). The programme intends to robustly monitor these MOUs in the communities in 2019 – and to give certificates of recognition to communities that have enforced the MOUs and put in place effective monitoring mechanisms to track the requisite transformation of social norms.
- ✓ The U-Report mobile platform needs to be scaled up and integrated into the media campaign to better capture the voices of adolescents.



Outcome 3: Strengthening prevention and protection systems

PROGRESS OF INDICATORS

Outcome 3.1: Number and proportion of adolescent girls in programme areas that have utilized health or protection services				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
NA	NA	Baseline: 10,558	Target: 12,000 Results: 14,738	Target: 18,728 Results:
Outcome 3.2: Percentage point difference in exam-pass rates between boys and girls in programme areas				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
NA	NA	Baseline: +5	Target: +4 Results: +5	Target: +3 Results:
Output 3.1 Number and proportion of service delivery points in programme areas implementing guidelines for adolescent girl-friendly health and protection services				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: NA	Target: NA Results: 21	Target: 12 Results: 11	Target: 30 Results: 95	Target: 12 Results:
Output 3.2 Number of non-formal/primary/secondary schools implementing interventions to improve the quality of education for adolescent girls				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: NA	Target: NA Results: NA	Target: NA Results: NA	Target: 150 Results: 200	Target: 384 Results:

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

During 2018, the Global Programme in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs supported implementing partners in maximizing the use of national case management systems and referral protocols, including the child protection protocols, to better manage cases involving adolescents and to provide comprehensive services to address their needs, including for survivors of child marriage. A gender-based violence coordination workshop was convened for 225 communities. This was part of a system strengthening approach that brought together social workers, family support unit officers, community learning centre coordinators and school guidance counsellors in efforts to increase awareness of gender-based violence, prevention strategies and response mechanisms; and to strengthen actions in these areas.

Overall, 14,738 adolescent girls were provided with health or protection services through referrals and access to service delivery points in 2018. According to the retrospective study, 21 per cent of the adolescent girls interviewed mentioned accessing health or protection services during the last 12 months. The Global Programme has supported a number of adolescent-friendly facilities across targeted areas since the inception phase. In 2018, 76 Family Support Units, five Rainbow Centers in five districts and 14 offices of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs across 14 districts implemented guidelines for adolescent

girl-friendly protection services. Further, 200 junior secondary schools implemented interventions to improve the quality of education for adolescent girls. One hundred and fifty guidance counsellors, across six districts, were trained to improve their knowledge and skills in career counselling, and seven sensitization meetings held in school assemblies led to increased knowledge on the provision of sexual and reproductive health services. The training was followed up by the Formal Education Unit of the Ministry of Education to monitor the guidance counsellors' school activities. Lastly, a two-day national workshop was held in August with key Ministry of Education staff and other stakeholders to develop a roadmap for the implementation of Comprehensive Sexuality Education in junior secondary schools in Sierra Leone.

OTHER ACTIVITIES WITH POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

Based on the recognition of the fact that quality services must be available, and of the benefits of UNFPA's ongoing support to improvements in the quality of care, including for adolescents and young people, the government has established a quality of care programme within the Ministry of Health and Sanitation.

CHALLENGES

- ✓ As is the situation in many contexts, in Sierra Leone there are significant differences in the types and patterns of child marriage and early union, and their causes. The practice can be influenced by gender inequality, negative gender roles, poverty, lack of access to education, and culture or traditions, making the task of identifying specific solutions very challenging. Ensuring that a quality, evidence-based programme is delivered requires strong, multisectoral coordination between ministries, departments, and agencies, but this is a challenge in Sierra Leone. To date, garnering the support of government counterparts so that they are fully on board and in line with the aims of the project, and ensuring government ownership of the process, has proved difficult.

HEADLINE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

- ✓ There needs to be constant engagement at the highest level with policy makers to ensure that the need for comprehensive sexuality education and its benefits for girls and boys is understood, and that the quality of education delivered is improved.



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Outcome 4: Strengthening the legislative and policy frameworks

TIMELINE OF SOME KEY EVENTS

- **1988:** Ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
- **1990:** Ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- **2002:** Ratified the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
- **2003:** Signed the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa
- **2007:** The Child Rights Act set the minimum legal age of marriage to 18
- **2009:** The Customary Marriage and Divorce Act allows boys and girls at age 16 to get married with parental consent
- **2013:** Co-sponsored the United Nations General Assembly resolution on eliminating child, early and forced marriage
- **2013:** Co-sponsored the Human Rights Council resolution on eliminating child, early and forced marriage
- **2013:** Launched the National Strategy for the Reduction of Teenage Pregnancy (2013–2015)
- **2014:** Co-sponsored the United Nations General Assembly resolution on eliminating child, early and forced marriage
- **2014:** Signed a joint statement at the Human Rights Council, calling for a resolution on child marriage
- **2015:** Committed to eliminate child, early and forced marriage by 2030 in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- **2015:** Co-sponsored the Human Rights Council resolution on eliminating child, early and forced marriage
- **2016:** At the Voluntary National Review at the High Level Political Forum, stated that the SDG target to eliminate child, early and forced marriage falls under 'Pillar 8: Gender and Women's Empowerment' in its Agenda for Prosperity
- **2016:** Launched the African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage in Africa
- **2016:** As part of the Universal Periodic Review, agreed to examine recommendations to prohibit harmful practices, including child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM)
- **2017:** Co-sponsored the Human Rights Council resolution on eliminating child, early and forced marriage in humanitarian contexts
- **2017:** As a member of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), adopted the Strategic Framework for Strengthening National Child Protection Systems, under which protecting children from marriage is a priority

- **2017:** Arranged a regional high-level meeting on child marriage in West and Central Africa
- **2018:** Launched the National Strategy for the Reduction of Adolescent Pregnancy and Child Marriage (2018–2022)

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

In 2018, the government, in collaboration with UNFPA, UNICEF and other United Nations agencies and non-governmental organization partners, developed a National Strategy on the Prevention of Teenage Pregnancy and Ending Child Marriage in Sierra Leone (2018–2022). The strategy is a follow up to the national strategy for the reduction of teenage pregnancy (2013–2015), developed in response to the recognition by national authorities of the high rates of teenage pregnancy and child marriage in the country.

The 2018 strategy details the commitments to tackling the challenge of adolescent pregnancy and child marriage made across five government ministries: the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs, the Ministry of Youth Affairs, the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education, and the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development. The strategy and associated guidelines were endorsed and launched in late 2018. It incorporates a monitoring and evaluation framework that details impact, outcome and output indicators, organized into six 'pillars'. The framework has been designed to track progress against the specific indicators and enable stakeholders to learn from what is and what is not working. The strategy will be integrated into national and regional development plans and frameworks through a nationwide coordination mechanism led by the National Secretariat for the Reduction of Teenage Pregnancy.

Progress made in other areas includes a review of relevant laws on sexual violence and related issues (including child marriage), which resulted from a heightened national level of awareness of sexual violence in households and communities. This led to advocacy actions and flagship campaigns such as the 'Hands Off Our Girls' campaign supported by the first lady. The campaign addresses wider objectives concerning young women's and girls' empowerment and education, as well as

issues such as gender-based violence, rape, and all forms of abuse and discrimination against women and girls.

There is also improved coordination at chiefdom, subnational and national levels, where meetings take place regularly with multisector stakeholders from sectors such as education, health and child protection, to agree on concrete steps for policy implementation. Through the work of the Global Programme, 225 community action plans to end child marriage and teenage pregnancy are being implemented across the target districts, and are regularly updated by coordination committees.

In addition, a National Development Plan is being finalized in Sierra Leone, linking all its development priorities to the Sustainable Development Goals. A draft National Gender Strategy has been revised to include child marriage as one of its priority areas. The Free and Quality Education Policy, launched in September 2018, is the flagship development programme for the government, and provides a means of ensuring that all girls are enrolled in school.

OTHER ACTIVITIES WITH POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

UNICEF supported the manager of the National Secretariat for the Reduction of Teenage Pregnancy to represent Sierra Leone at the African Union Second African Girls Summit, which was held in November 2018 in Ghana, and which served as a strategic platform from which to guide the next phase of the African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage for 2019–2023.

CHALLENGES

- ✓ An anticipated risk for the Global Programme during the year was changes in the political context in Sierra Leone following the 2018 presidential elections. Although implementation of activities slowed down while the national government went through a transition period, the programme continued to engage with the National Secretariat for the Reduction of Teenage Pregnancy and line ministries on the issue of child marriage. In fact, the formation of a new government generated opportunities for advocacy and lobbying to make ending child marriage a priority for the new government, with good results: the government came out with a strong child protection manifesto.
- ✓ A draft bill to harmonize the Child Rights Act (2007) and the Customary Marriage and Divorce Act (2009) has been submitted to the Members of the Parliament for their review and finalization. While laws in Sierra Leone prohibit child marriage, implementation is weak. The process to address contradictions between these laws and the Customary Marriage Act has been slow. Many rural communities respect customary leadership and local bylaws more than national laws. Further, not enough people are aware of the legal age of marriage and girls tend to underestimate it. Continued messaging about the law and the fact that it supersedes local traditions is needed.

HEADLINE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

- ✓ A national action plan to implement the new teenage pregnancy and child marriage strategy must be developed, based on its key priorities, with the process being led by the National Secretariat for the Reduction of Teenage Pregnancy. Four regional workshops to disseminate the strategy were planned for 2018 but were postponed until early 2019.



Outcome 5: Strengthening data and evidence base

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

The Sierra Leone Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2017 report was launched in partnership with the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development and Statistics Sierra Leone during the year. The report shows that 29.9 per cent of women aged 20–24 years were married before the age of 18 and 12.9 per cent before the age of 15. According to the data, the prevalence is higher in rural areas where 42 per cent of women aged 20–24 years were married before the age of 18 compared to 20 per cent in urban areas. The MICS data has

gained credibility with government and development partners as quality data that can be used to assess the situation of women and children in Sierra Leone. The MICS data also informed programming for the 2019 Global Programme work plan and in the planning for Phase II of the Global Programme, to be launched in January 2020. A seven-minute video clip was produced and shared on social media and WhatsApp to further the dissemination of the report. UNICEF's new Country Programme development process, the government's national development plan, the second multi-dimensional

child poverty estimate, education indicators, and the MICS-EAGLE (Education Analysis for Global Learning and Equity) all benefited from the MICS data. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) also used the data to calculate households' multi-dimensional poverty.

In addition to the MICS 2017 data, the Global Programme conducted a retrospective study on the social drivers and dynamics that encourage child marriage. Technical support from the Global Programme Support Unit in New York facilitated a quasi-experimental approach to the study design in order to assess the effect of the programme. The programme also commissioned a secondary analysis of the census data on child marriage and a mapping of vulnerable adolescent girls at risk of child marriage, as part of evidence generation to inform national programming.

OTHER ACTIVITIES WITH POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

UNICEF's investment in the child protection case management and information management system Primero has allowed for better evidence generation, providing informative data to enable the strategic design and planning of child protection interventions including against child marriage amongst partners.

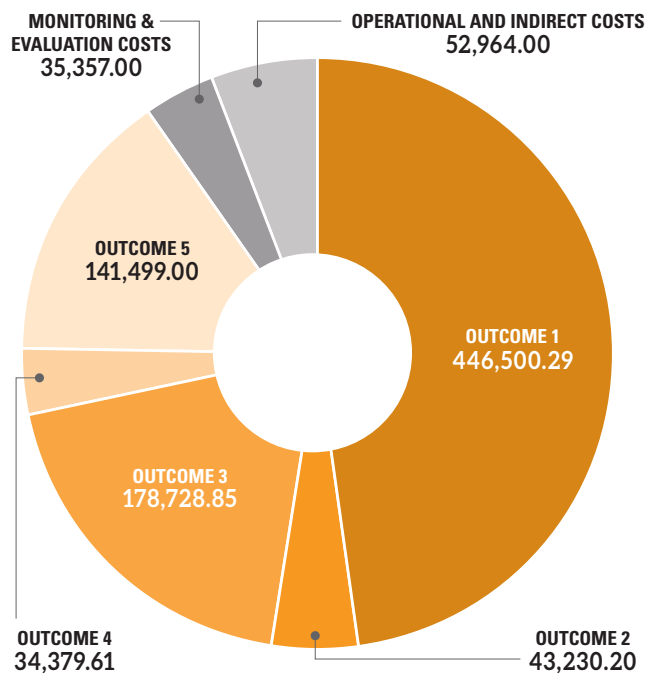
CHALLENGES

- ✓ The Global Programme in Sierra Leone has not identified a tool or method for monitoring and evaluating empowerment or social change. However, UNICEF has enlisted the support of the West and Central Africa Regional Office and the University of Pennsylvania to pre-test a social norms programming guide and a formative research tool to improve the measurement of social norms change.

HEADLINE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

- ✓ Investing in a well-designed database to inform programming and advocacy will be essential. The Global Programme in Sierra Leone does not have a specific knowledge management strategy in place but there is a plan to develop one. Social norms change measurement will also be a priority.

Financial information – Expenditure by outcome (USD)



Communications to end child marriage

National strategy for the reduction of adolescent pregnancy and child marriage 2018–2022	https://sierraleone.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/National%20Strategy%20for%20the%20reduction%20of%20Adolescent%20Pregnancy_final_Oct%202019.pdf (accessed May 2019)
News: Overcoming child marriage to pursue an education - Zainab's story	https://sierraleone.unfpa.org/en/news/overcoming-child-marriage-pursue-education-zainabs-story (accessed May 2019)
News: Empowering adolescents through Girls' Clubs	https://sierraleone.unfpa.org/en/news/empowering-adolescents-through-girls%E2%80%99-clubs (accessed May 2019)
Video: Adamsay Kargbo's story	www.dropbox.com/s/t9cfvg3otn6yu58/Adamsay%27s%20story.mp4?dl=0 (accessed May 2019)
Video: Humu Kamara's story	www.dropbox.com/s/ufdtca56vk8xbbb/Humu%27s%20story.mp4?dl=0 (accessed May 2019)

UGANDA

COUNTRY PROFILE



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UGANDA

COUNTRY PROFILE

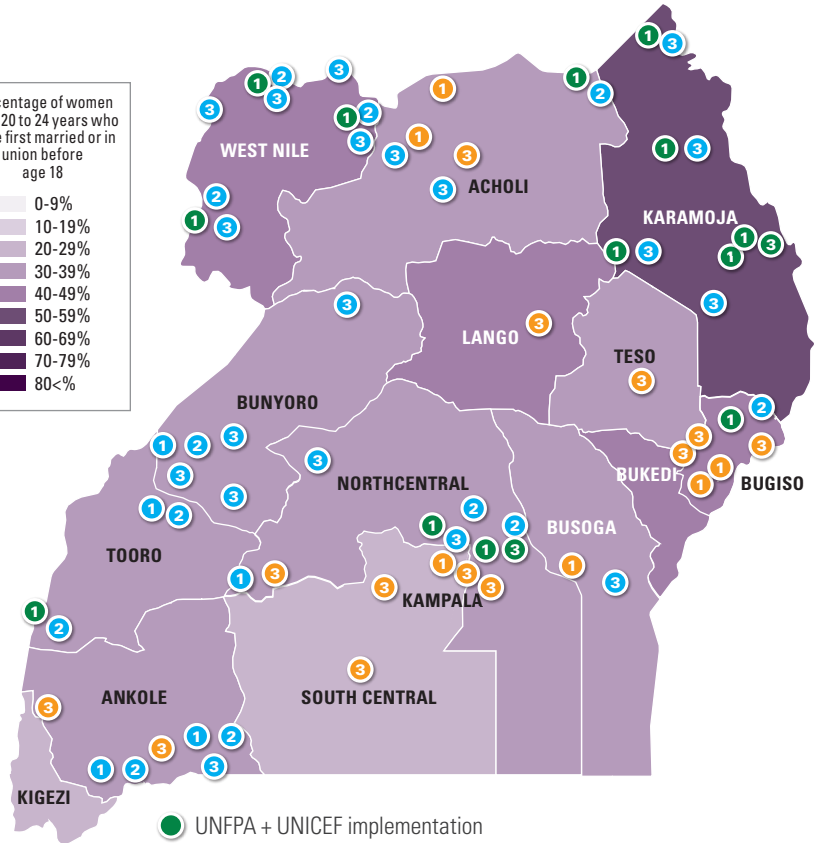
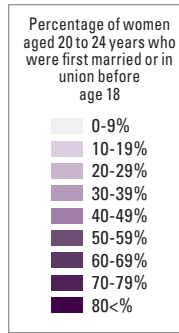


34¹ Percentage of young women (aged 20–24) married or in union by age 18



7² Percentage of young women (aged 20–24) married or in union by age 15

Note: This map is stylized and not to scale. It does not reflect a position by UNFPA or UNICEF on the legal status of any country or area or the delimitation of any frontiers. Implementation areas are shown by district and only reflect implementation under the Global Programme. Source for child marriage prevalence data is the Demographic and Health Survey 2016.



- UNFPA + UNICEF implementation
- UNFPA implementation
- UNICEF implementation
- 1** Implementation outcome 1 (life skills and education support for girls)
- 2** Implementation outcome 2 (community dialogue)
- 3** Implementation outcome 3 (strengthening education, health and child protection systems)

5.01³ BIRTHS PER WOMAN

Total fertility rate (average number of children a woman would have by the end of her reproductive period if her experience followed the currently prevalent age-specific fertility rates)

131.5⁴ ADOLESCENT BIRTH RATE
Number of births per 1,000 adolescent girls aged 15–19

13%⁵
Upper secondary school completion rate among girls aged 3–5 years above upper secondary graduation age

24.8⁶ Percentage of women aged 15–19 who have begun childbearing

1.03⁷ Gender parity index for primary school enrolment

¹ Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), 2016; ² DHS, 2016; ³ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019). World Population Prospects 2019, Online Edition; ⁴ United Nations Statistics Division (2018), SDG Database, <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database>; ⁵ DHS, 2011; ⁶ DHS, 2016; ⁷ UNICEF global databases (April 2019).

GLOBAL PROGRAMME RESULTS IN 2018



114,429

Number of girls reached with life skills interventions



8,744

Number of girls supported to stay in school



375,611

Number of community members engaged in community dialogue



733

Number of health and child protection service delivery points supported to provide adolescent girl-friendly services



759

Number of schools supported to provide girl-friendly quality education

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Policies to end child marriage including the National Strategy to End Child Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy were disseminated in 15 districts, reaching 113 sub-counties and prompting 15 districts to make commitments to end child marriage in their 2019–2020 district budgets.
- ✓ A costed Multi-Sectoral National Strategic Framework for Adolescent Girls that aims to eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against adolescent girls, including the most marginalized and vulnerable groups, in order to advance their social and economic participation in Uganda was launched.
- ✓ The Multi-Sectoral Communication for Development Strategy for Adolescent Girls was launched, which aims to guide gender- and age-responsive communications programming in support of important social and economic development goals for adolescents.
- ✓ UNFPA and UNICEF provided technical support for the approval of the National Sexuality Education Framework, removing an important bottleneck in the provision of school-based life skills education.



Outcome 1: Empowering adolescent girls

PROGRESS OF INDICATORS

Outcome 1.1: Proportion of adolescent girls in programme areas demonstrating increased knowledge and skills				
Outcome 1.2: Girls' retention rate at primary school level				
Output 1.1: Number of girls aged 10-19 years actively participating in targeted interventions				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: 2,516	Target: 28,733 Results: 71,892	Target: 16,865 Results: 24,515	Target: 74,245 Results: 114,429	Target: 116,246 Results:
Output 1.2: Number of girls supported to access and remain in primary/lower secondary/non-formal education				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: NA	Target: 8,100 Results: 6,286	Target: 5,180 Results: 2,568	Target: 11,115 Results: 8,744	Target: 23,108 Results:

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

The Global Programme has the principles of human rights-based, gender-transformative and culturally sensitive programming built into its design and implementation. Integrated programme strategies include strengthening the capacity of the government and other implementing partners to provide services that meet quality of care standards, are responsive to the needs of adolescents and young people, and are acceptable and accessible by those people. For example, through the Empowerment and Livelihood for Adolescents clubs, girls aged 10–14 are provided with information and life skills that are age appropriate, culturally and religious sensitive, and that enable them to make safe and healthy life choices. On the basis of this successful project, in 2018 the Global Programme influenced the completion and approval of the National Sexuality Education Framework, thus contributing to the strengthening of capacity at a national level to end child marriage through the provision of life skills education in all schools in Uganda.

The Ministry of Education and Sports in collaboration with UNICEF and other partners implemented a public-facing initiative called Safe-to-Learn, which engages the public on violence against children in schools, inspires people to take action to end the practice, and creates an atmosphere that encourages leaders, schools and communities to make positive and lasting change. Adolescents volunteer their time to map safe spaces in their schools and communities and to advocate for action to make them safer. The Global Programme, using some of the 5,984 peer educators and mentors trained during 2018, leveraged this initiative to reach adolescent girls directly with life skills education in some of the newly established safe spaces and school clubs. Overall, 114,429 adolescent girls were equipped with life skills, health information and knowledge provided by peer educators or mentors in safe spaces in schools and communities in 2018.

The UNFPA and UNICEF implementing partners alongside peer educators and mentors also mobilized parents to support back-to-school campaigns. Within the districts of Arua, Adjumani

SCHOOL CLUBS EQUIPPING ADOLESCENTS WITH SURVIVAL SKILLS

By Proscovia Nakibuuka Mbonye

In the two remote districts of Amudat and Napak, in the Karamoja sub-region, Straight Talk Foundation has established school clubs that are equipping adolescents with life skills. The skills will enable them to survive and thrive in school and after school.

Club members are trained by the senior women teachers in life skills including self-esteem and assertiveness, how to manage oneself, how to live with others, peer-to-peer support techniques, and stress management in school and at home. Some of the members have been living on the street and are now back in school. The club members then impart all the skills learned to the rest of the pupils in their school and other young people out of school.

“We have seen tremendous changes among our students. Their engagement in the clubs has helped them learn several things. Before the clubs, they were timid,



shy, and lacked confidence. But today, they are disciplined, have obtained leadership skills, and their public speaking has greatly improved,” said Napayok Betty, Headmistress, Lodoi Primary School, Napak district. “They also participate in radio talk shows and speak with confidence as they disseminate messages to people.”

The club members have also been taught how to make beads, decorations, bangles, belts and walking sticks, which they sell to make a little money. Others have started up vegetable gardens, while many are rearing animals like goats and sheep. To support their income-generating projects, the school administrations are

buying their vegetables to supplement the school meals.

Members have also been educated in menstrual hygiene management and trained in how to make reusable pads. This has had a positive impact on absenteeism among girls, which used to be very high in many schools.

“These skills will change their lives forever. They will also utilize them to earn a living after school,” Napayok confirmed. “Our clubs use some of the money earned to buy scholastic materials and materials like cotton wool, fabric, and polythene, which are used to make the reusable pads,” she added.

Driven by their slogan ‘Start small, grow big’, the club members have been empowered by the skills acquired from the UNICEF-supported clubs and are changing communities. “There is therefore no doubt they are ‘change agents,’” said Sambey Logira, UNICEF Education Officer.

and Yumbe, these mobilization campaigns and support were extended to refugee-hosting communities. A total of 8,744 adolescent girls were supported to return to school and 31,350 parents and caregivers signed pledges of commitment to provide support for their adolescents' charges to complete school, specifically by providing for their scholastic and other needs and protecting them from child marriage and all other forms of violence.

OTHER ACTIVITIES WITH POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

A costed, Multi-Sectoral National Strategic Framework for Adolescent Girls that aims to eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against all adolescent girls, including the most marginalized and vulnerable groups, in order to advance their social and economic participation in Uganda, was launched during the year.

CHALLENGES

- ✓ Operating in a humanitarian environment has added challenges, presented by, for example, the breakdown of families, loss, war-related stress disorders, and

separation of children from their families. The latter leads to heightened vulnerability of the children, especially girls, to sexual, physical and other forms of violence, including exploitation and child marriage.

- ✓ Anecdotal evidence indicates high incidence of child marriage among refugee communities in the hosting districts of Arua, Adjumani and Yumbe. Girls, both in hosting communities and in refugee settlements, are seen as economic assets from which families can gain wealth in the form of a bride price paid upon marriage. Girls are therefore prevented from participating in community activities, so as to prevent them becoming less "marriageable". The Global Programme is collaborating with partners to address this challenge and support families and girls affected by the continued war in South Sudan.

HEADLINE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

- ✓ The Global Programme has prioritized improving the quality and effectiveness of life skills programmes for 2019. This will be done by harmonizing facilitation modules and tools for carrying out the programmes.
- ✓ The Global Programme will build on efforts to match increased demand for services from girls empowered by the programme with their delivery, including of sexual and reproductive health and child protection services.



Outcome 2: Social and behaviour change communication to influence gender and social norms

PROGRESS OF INDICATORS

Outcome 2: Proportion of individuals in programme areas that hold gender equitable attitudes				
Output 2.1: Number of individuals in programme areas who regularly participate in dialogues promoting gender equitable norms including delaying child marriage				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: 2,250	Target: 8,435 Results: 24,206	Target: 20,180 Results: 104,797	Target: 219,658 Results: 375,611	Target: 405,928 Results:

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

With technical support from UNFPA and UNICEF, the Multi-Sectoral Communication for Development (C4D) Strategy for Adolescent Girls was launched, which aims to guide gender- and age-responsive communications programming in support of important social and economic development goals for adolescents. The strategy coincides with a need for heightened media engagement and campaigns and provides guidance in the application of tried and tested C4D approaches at multiple levels (individual, family, community, institutional

and policy) to increase knowledge, shift norms and attitudes, increase skills, empower, and change behaviours, in order to get positive outcomes and increased access to social services and support for adolescent girls.

C4D interventions have enhanced adolescent empowerment. In 2018, community dialogues on adolescent issues such as child marriage, violence against children, and girls' education reached 375,611 community members (166,585 males and 209,026 females) resulting in enhanced parental engagement in schools.

A total of 31,350 parents and caregivers both in the refugee and host communities recognized the benefit of positive parenting skills and became acquainted with key family care practices; they also engaged in the enforcement of child protection policies and signed pledge cards committing their support for their adolescent girls to complete school and not marry early. C4D activities also engaged adolescents themselves through school clubs and the U-Report mobile platform: 122,088 young people aged 15–24 years were involved in discussions on child marriage, sexual and reproductive health, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), re-enrolment of adolescent mothers into school and the (re-)enrolment of out-of-school children.

HEADLINE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

- ✓ The Global Programme will use the recently developed National Strategic Framework for Adolescent Girls and the C4D strategy to strengthen social and behaviour change communication interventions. There is an opportunity in 2019 to create synergy between public advocacy and C4D. UNICEF seeks to move away from standalone public advocacy and towards public engagement for individual and social change. In 2019, UNICEF will seek to use the media to leverage and drive change processes that will facilitate the strategic shifts specified in the C4D strategy.



Outcome 3: Strengthening prevention and protection systems

PROGRESS OF INDICATORS

Outcome 3.1: Number and proportion of adolescent girls in programme areas that have utilized health or protection services				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
NA	NA	Baseline: 149,124	Target: 81,546 Results: 49,110	Target: 78,333 Results:
Outcome 3.2: Percentage point difference in exam-pass rates between boys and girls in programme areas				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
NA	NA	Baseline: +1.6	Target: +1 Results: -1.0	Target: +0.0 Results:
Output 3.1 Number and proportion of service delivery points in programme areas implementing guidelines for adolescent girl-friendly health and protection services				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: 15	Target: 40 Results: NA	Target: 741 Results: 943	Target: 989 Results: 733	Target: 1,038 Results:
Output 3.2 Number of non-formal/primary/secondary schools implementing interventions to improve the quality of education for adolescent girls				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: NA	Target: 100 Results: 687	Target: 625 Results: 32	Target: 789 Results: 759	Target: 830 Results:

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

Promoting health forums, strengthening linkages between services and strengthening referral processes have all contributed to improved access to services for adolescent girls; educating them about the services available then resulted in an increase in the uptake of those services. To guarantee the availability of

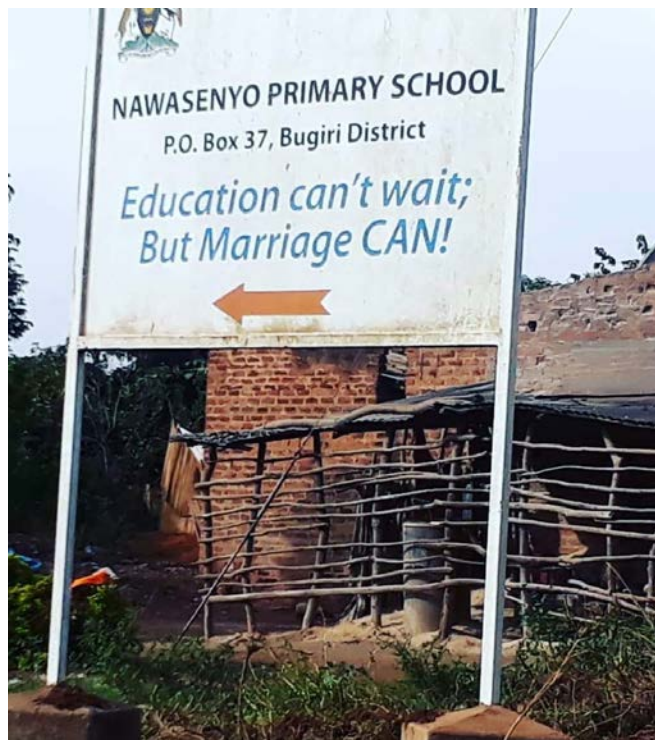
appropriate services at the delivery points in the communities, 266 health providers and peer educators were trained in adolescent-friendly health service delivery during 2018. As evidence of strengthened community-based referral mechanisms, 9,633 girls who attended Empowerment and Livelihood for Adolescent clubs were referred to health facilities and received protection,

counselling and care services. Advocacy and technical and financial support from UNFPA and UNICEF contributed to making 678 health facilities more adolescent girl-friendly.

The programme also leveraged financial and technical support for the Uganda Child Helpline call centre to refer adolescent girls for case management to 16 district Child Helpline action centres and 116 community child helplines. In 2018, a total of 153 cases relating to child marriage were reported by community members calling the Child Helpline. Of these, 31 marriages were stopped before they happened. The parents concerned were counselled and compelled to take the children back to school.

Responding to the need for access to justice for the newly empowered girls, in 2018 the Global Programme supported 14 pilot 'special court' sessions relating to gender-based violence. This initiative will be scaled up in 2019 with strengthened capacity, which will allow gender-based violence special courts to be integrated into national institutions such as the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs and the Justice Law and Order Sector strategic investment plan. Furthermore, the Justice Law and Order Sector Annual Progress Report 2017–2018 reported that the proportion of child-friendly service points within justice institutions had increased to 60 per cent, an eight percentage point increase on figures from 2016–2017. Thanks to the advocacy and capacity-building efforts of UNICEF, which culminated in a final batch of training courses for 45 prosecutors in 2018, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions established a child-friendly room and held special court sessions for child victims of violence to clear the backlog of children's cases and to ensure swifter justice for children.

Lastly, 759 primary schools were supported in the improvement of the quality of their education for adolescent girls. The Global Programme supported the training and mentoring of the school leadership team (headteachers, deputy headteachers, school management committees and parents-teachers associations) in the characteristics of child-friendly schools; supported parental involvement; supported the creation of a safe learning environment; supported effective reporting and referral of cases of violence against children through orientations and dissemination of the Reporting, Tracking, Referral and Response Guidelines; equipped students with life skills through school clubs and digital platforms; and supported gender mainstreaming.



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OTHER ACTIVITIES WITH POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

A number of plans, strategies, policies and standards were developed, launched and disseminated across the education sector, including the National Gender in Education Strategy; the Education Response Plan for Refugees and Host Populations; the Basic Required Minimum Standards for Child-Friendly Schools standard (revised in 2018 to include child-friendly standards and to be rolled out nationally in 2019); the National Inclusive Education Policy (for children with disabilities) (drafted and awaiting revisions so as to include all forms of marginalization to be consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals); and the Child-to-Child Teachers Handbook.

CHALLENGES

- ✓ Key challenges include the growing rate of new HIV-infections among young people, especially adolescent girls. Support from the Global Programme will target critical high-risk groups for testing and trialling a differentiated care model, in an attempt to reduce the burden on health workers.
- ✓ Access to justice is limited in rural communities; many cases including those of a criminal nature are negotiated and settled by the parents and the culprits go unpunished. The programme responded to this challenge by supporting a pilot of gender-based violence special court sessions. This initiative will be scaled up in 2019.

- ✓ The number of trained para-social workers is limited, and there is no logistical support to help them fulfil their duty to mobilize communities to participate in Global Programme activities, identify adolescents at risk of child marriage, refer them to services and opportunities, or monitor the activities of adolescent and parent groups under their care. The programme will leverage resources from other programmes like the Spotlight Initiative, funded by the European Commission, to train and build the

capacity of more para-social workers, as well as to provide basic requirements like bicycles and stationery.

HEADLINE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

- ✓ The Global Programme will continue to make efforts to strengthen referral linkages between girl-focused interventions and sexual and reproductive health and child protection services.



Outcome 4: Strengthening the legislative and policy frameworks

TIMELINE OF SOME KEY EVENTS

- **1985:** Ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
- **1990:** Ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- **1994:** Ratified the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
- **2008:** Launched the National Population Policy, acknowledging the harmful cultural practices driving child marriage and the need to address them
- **2009:** Launched the Gender in Education Policy, pledging to facilitate the re-enrolment of girls who drop out of school as a result of child marriage
- **2010:** Ratified the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa
- **2010:** Launched the National Development Plan (2010–2015), acknowledging that child marriage affects early pregnancies and poor health outcomes for women and children, and committing to delay marriages by extending basic education
- **2013:** Co-sponsored the United Nations General Assembly resolution on eliminating child, early and forced marriage
- **2013:** Co-sponsored the Human Rights Council resolution on eliminating child, early and forced marriage
- **2013:** Committed to ending child marriage by the end of 2020 under the Ministerial Commitment on Comprehensive Sexuality Education and Sexual and Reproductive Health Services for Adolescents and Young People in Eastern and Southern Africa
- **2014:** Co-sponsored the United Nations General Assembly resolution on eliminating child, early and forced marriage
- **2014:** Signed a joint statement at the Human Rights Council, calling for a resolution on child marriage
- **2014:** At the global Girl Summit in the United Kingdom, signed a charter committing to end child marriage by 2020

- **2015:** Committed to eliminate child, early and forced marriage by 2030 in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- **2015:** Launched the African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage in Africa
- **2015:** Launched the National Strategy on Ending Child Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy (2014–2020)
- **2016:** At the Voluntary National Review at the High Level Political Forum, provided baseline data on the situation for child marriage in the country
- **2016:** As part of the Universal Periodic Review, supported recommendations to implement the national action plan to more effectively combat child marriage
- **2016:** The Children Act set the minimum legal age of marriage to 18 with no exceptions
- **2018:** Co-sponsored the United Nations General Assembly resolution on eliminating child, early and forced marriage
- **2018:** Launched the National Multi-Sectoral Coordination Framework for Adolescent Girls and the Multi-Sectoral Communication for Development (C4D) Strategy for Adolescent Girls

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

UNFPA and UNICEF advocacy, financial and technical support resulted into the dissemination of policies to end child marriage – including the National Strategy to End Child Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy – in 15 districts targeted by the programme, reaching 113 sub-counties and prompting all the 15 districts to include commitments to end child marriage in their 2019–2020 district budgets.

The Ministry of Education and Sports was supported by the programme to finalize the National Sexuality Education Framework, which is aimed at building the agency of girls in school. Both UNFPA and UNICEF supported the ministry

in the development of an operational guide to steer the implementation of this education in various settings. Sexuality education helps young learners gain knowledge and skills on their sexuality, prevention of pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases and thereby strengthens the agency of young people.

The National Multi-Sectoral Coordination Framework for Adolescent Girls, which is linked to national planning instruments such as the National Development Plan II and key sectoral policies, was also developed; this outlines critical actions and results over nine key areas of intervention including child marriage and guides how different sectors and government agencies will work together to achieve a better situation for adolescent girls in the country. The framework is supported by a Multi-Sectoral C4D Strategy for Adolescent Girls (see *Outcome 2*).

OTHER ACTIVITIES WITH POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

A draft National Child Policy and its costed implementation plan have been developed, awaiting completion of a regulatory

impact assessment and final approval by Cabinet. The development of the Child Policy was informed by the recently launched National Violence Against Children Survey.

UNICEF has supported the development of the Children Act Regulations. Once finalized, these regulations will enable the implementation of the Children Act and ensure better understanding, interpretation and implementation of the Act, including dealing with cases of child marriage.

CHALLENGES

- ✓ Despite increased advocacy against child marriage and government commitments to developing national guidance and policy, efforts to transform policy commitments into actions are still inadequate.

HEADLINE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

- ✓ UNFPA and UNICEF will support the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development in undertaking a mid-term review of the National Strategy for Ending Child Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy. Both agencies are also keen to progress budget advocacy and budget commitments tracking tools.



Outcome 5: Strengthening data and evidence base

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

The Global Programme leveraged technical and financial support from the government for the generation of data and evidence relating to child marriage. UNFPA conducted an ethnographic survey on teenage pregnancy and early marriages to identify the patterns and contexts, and to gain an understanding of the family and social settings and relationships that drive teenage pregnancy and early marriage in the country. The survey also revealed the potential for achieving a demographic dividend, harnessing the increasingly young population of Uganda, by informing policy advocacy and engagement in relation to the gaps in sexual and reproductive health knowledge and services in the country. The study revealed that teenage pregnancies and early marriages feed into each other and expose girls to multiple vulnerabilities. Teenagers from poorer households were unable to meet basic needs and lacked financial resources, so were more likely to trade sex in exchange for money for essentials like transport to and from school using local cyclists (*boda boda*), and therefore



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to become pregnant. Technology, media and social media, especially via mobile phones, were also cited as influences on sexual choices, as were community entertainment platforms like unregulated discos and makeshift video halls.

UNICEF supported a mapping exercise to establish 'Who is doing What Where' and the level of investment made by different stakeholders in preventing violence against children, and thus to provide more coordinated and evidence-based guidance to the government, and to civil society and development partners for developing and implementing a comprehensive, multisector strategy and system for preventing and responding to violence against children, including child marriage.

Through its Social Policy section, UNICEF supported the development of sector-specific national budget framework papers and conducted orientation exercises for implementing partners to help them develop coherent, sector-specific advocacy strategies for actively (and constructively) engaging in the finalization of the 2018–2019 national budget. Additionally, support was provided to help with strengthening information management system capacity in institutions such as the police. This took the form of training sessions in maintaining data and records to ensure quality case recording and timely reporting at a national level.

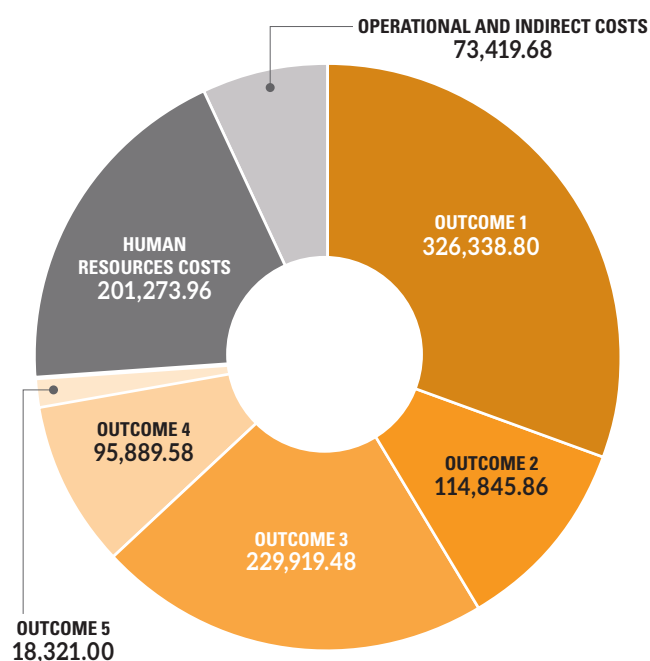
CHALLENGES

- ✓ The lack of adequate funding to support evidence generation and research on the intersectionality of child marriage and other relevant issues has been a challenge.

HEADLINE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

- ✓ Priorities include integrating sector information management systems for consolidated data collection, analysis, harmonization and management through the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development.
- ✓ There will be a special focus on in-depth analyses and modelling of existing data sets.
- ✓ Collecting annual child marriage prevalence data using the community integrated system supported by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics will also be a priority.
- ✓ Finally, there will be a push for evidence-based engagement of the National Planning Authority to position child marriage within national and local government planning, compliance and performance tools.

Financial information – Expenditure by outcome (USD)



Communications to end child marriage

No more rags, leaves and sitting on sand during menstruation	www.unicef.org/uganda/stories/no-more-rags-leaves-and-sitting-sand-during-menstruation (accessed August 2019)
Vibrant School Management Committees in Moroto support learning in primary schools	www.unicef.org/uganda/stories/vibrant-school-management-committees-moroto-support-learning-primary-schools (accessed August 2019)
School clubs equipping adolescents with survival skills	www.unicef.org/uganda/stories/school-clubs-equipping-adolescents-survival-skills (accessed August 2019)

YEMEN

COUNTRY PROFILE



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YEMEN

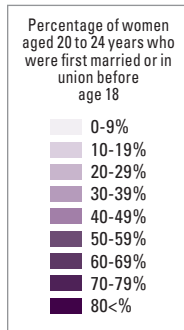
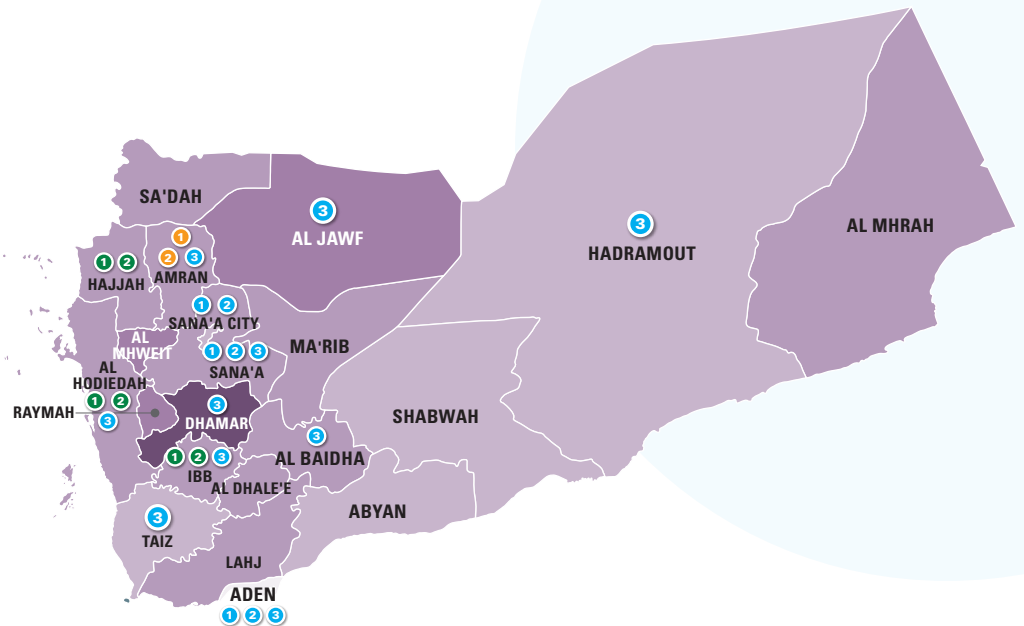
COUNTRY PROFILE



32¹ Percentage of young women (aged 20–24) married or in union by age 18



9² Percentage of young women (aged 20–24) married or in union by age 15



UNFPA + UNICEF implementation

UNFPA implementation

UNICEF implementation

1 Implementation outcome 1 (life skills and education support for girls)

2 Implementation outcome 2 (community dialogue)

3 Implementation outcome 3 (strengthening education, health and child protection systems)

Note: This map is stylized and not to scale. It does not reflect a position by UNFPA or UNICEF on the legal status of any country or area or the delimitation of any frontiers. Implementation areas are shown by district and only reflect implementation under the Global Programme. Source for child marriage prevalence data is the Demographic and Health Survey 2013.



4.4³ BIRTHS PER WOMAN

Total fertility rate (average number of children a woman would have by the end of her reproductive period if her experience followed the currently prevalent age-specific fertility rates)



67.2⁴ ADOLESCENT BIRTH RATE

Number of births per 1,000 adolescent girls aged 15–19



23%⁵

Upper secondary school completion rate among girls aged 3–5 years above upper secondary graduation age



10.7⁶ Percentage of women aged 15–19 who have begun childbearing




0.85⁷ Gender parity index for primary school enrolment

¹ Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) 2013; ² DHS 2013; ³ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019). World Population Prospects 2019, Online Edition; ⁴ United Nations Statistics Division (2018). SDG Database, <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database>; ⁵ DHS 2013; ⁶ DHS 2013; ⁷ UNICEF global databases (April 2019)

GLOBAL PROGRAMME RESULTS IN 2018

 **5,197**
Number of girls reached with life skills interventions

 **71,343**
Number of community members engaged in community dialogue

 **272** Number of health and child protection service delivery points supported to provide adolescent girl-friendly services

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ A communication guidance and strategy document on social norms and behaviour change was developed in 2018, to help awareness-raising and behaviour-change initiatives across the end child marriage programme sites.
- ✓ In 2018, the case management standard operating procedures (SOP) was updated, with clear referral pathways including between the social workforce and the education sector. This is expected to improve coordination and increase the number of referrals of child protection cases between schools and social workers, including in response to child marriage.
- ✓ An integrated life skills package was developed in partnership with a range of actors for supporting life skills education in schools. The package is aligned to the Life Skills and Citizenship Education framework developed by UNICEF's Middle East and North Africa Regional Office.
- ✓ The Global Programme has made big leaps of progress in streamlining programming thanks to two factors: firstly, linking to a systems approach, notably the education and child protection sectors and secondly by tapping into regional resources such as the abovementioned Life Skills and Citizenship Education framework and a nationally developed social and behaviour change and communication guidance and strategy.



Outcome 1: Empowering adolescent girls

PROGRESS OF INDICATORS

Outcome 1.1: Proportion of adolescent girls in programme areas demonstrating increased knowledge and skills				
Outcome 1.2: Girls' retention rate at primary school level				
Output 1.1: Number of girls aged 10-19 years actively participating in targeted interventions				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: NA	Target: 19,350 Results: 3,660	Target: 5,500 Results: 5,569	Target: 320 Results: 5,197	160
Output 1.2: Number of girls supported to access and remain in primary/lower secondary/non-formal education				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

UNFPA and UNICEF continued to empower adolescent girls with training in life skills and health information and by providing legal and psychological support; and economic support in terms of cash transfers. The development and implementation of a harmonized life skills package, where all implementing partners use the same package and methodology, enabled the empowerment of girls in 32 schools with high dropout rates across the country. Providing training to 208 teachers and mentors to deliver life skills training in schools and communities enabled the programme to reach and empower a total of 5,197 adolescent girls.

OTHER ACTIVITIES WITH POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

The global Basic Education and Gender Equality programme has maintained a focus on ensuring access to learning opportunities for children and youth, especially in those regions most affected by the conflict, as determined by the Humanitarian Needs Assessment for the sector. Despite the substantial challenges presented by the level of insecurity and the co-existence of two opposing authorities, the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) supported the re-integration or enrolment of 1,220 vulnerable, out-of-school girls aged 10–14 into formal education.

CHALLENGES

- ✓ The Global Programme faced several challenges in implementing the programme in 2018. These included: under-estimation of the time required to review existing life skills programmes and develop a life skills manual aligned with the UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office Life Skills and Citizenship Education framework; lengthy delays in obtaining approval of separate sub-agreements which are required by authorities before implementation can begin; and lengthy coordination and negotiation processes with local authorities to arrive at agreement on selection criteria for schools hosting the life skills programme as well as criteria for the selection of teachers involved in the delivery of those activities.
- ✓ Another challenge in Yemen is that most cases of child marriage are not accompanied by any legal documentation. To address this, an advocacy network has been developed consisting of the main civil registration authority and legal secretaries, to facilitate the procurement of identification papers. Further, there are currently not enough



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interventions in Yemen that encourage girls to continue with their education, compounded by a shortage of female teachers and catch-up classes.

HEADLINE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

- ✓ The life skills package needs to be reviewed and updated, drawing from lessons learned in the first phase of implementation. One lesson is that the vocational training and economic empowerment activities for girls and families must be increased to enable them to escape poverty, and consequently reduce the prevalence of child marriage.
- ✓ In 2018, the interventions of UNFPA and UNICEF did not systematically target the same cohort of girls under Outcomes 1 and 2. This is an area for improvement in 2019. Tackling the issue of child marriage requires addressing it through different sectors, and also by targeting decision-makers within the family as well as the affected girls, as part of a holistic and integrated approach. From January to March 2019, the life skills programme will be accompanied by community dialogue and access to support services. Sustained presence in those communities beyond March will be guaranteed, funded by Global Programme funds and leveraged funds from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).



Outcome 2: Social and behaviour change communication to influence gender and social norms

PROGRESS OF INDICATORS

Outcome 2: Proportion of individuals in programme areas that hold gender equitable attitudes				
Output 2.1: Number of individuals in programme areas who regularly participate in dialogues promoting gender equitable norms including delaying child marriage				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
NA	Target: 15,500 Results: 278,080	Target: 276,000 Results: 65,804	Target: 21,000 Results: 71,343	Target: 11,000

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

In 2018, UNICEF, with support from UNFPA and other implementing partners, led the development of a guidance manual and strategy on social norms and behaviour change. This will be used to guide awareness raising initiatives across all targeted sites. The strategy follows the communication for development (C4D) approach, defined as a systematic, planned and evidence-based strategic process for promoting positive and measurable behaviour and social change, intrinsically linked to programme elements. The resulting communication strategy requires the specific involvement of children, families and communities in the change process through awareness-raising, information sharing, community dialogue and mobilization as well as skills-based initiatives.

As part of the implementation of the strategy, a total of 23 interactive theatre performances of the play “The Tragedy of Farah”, developed by UNFPA, were conducted in Ibb governorate, with a total audience of 5,938 community members. Many of the attendees, who included influential social figures, decision makers, sheikhs and religious leaders in the governorate, openly expressed their admiration for the interactive performance and its importance in spreading community awareness on issues related to gender-based violence, including child marriage. This resulted in representatives of local councils, elders and community leaders from six districts (Al Makhadir, Dhi as Sufal, Al Mashanna, Al Udayan, Bani Awadi, Al Dhihar and Hazm Al Udayn) signing a document setting out a commitment to support advocacy efforts to put an end to the harmful practice of child marriage, and agreeing to continue awareness raising on the issue through community meetings, mosque sermons, and other similar activities.

Meanwhile, 65,405 people including 45,155 adolescents (22,517 girls and 26,638 boys) and 16,250 adults (8,033 women and 8,217 men) were reached by UNICEF with key messages on the prevention of child marriage by means of youth clubs, schools and community gatherings.

CHALLENGES

- ✓ Community engagement takes time and requires sustained presence. Admission into communities in Yemen requires the agreement of tribal and religious leaders. Only once this has been established can further awareness raising and community dialogue follow. Community initiatives aligned with the social norms and behaviour change communication strategy for ending child marriage can now proceed in 2019, building on the relationships established.

HEADLINE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

- ✓ Media campaigns planned during 2018 will be implemented in 2019. In addition to the community activities, radio sessions and an animation series designed to support adolescents to effectively engage with their communities will be developed and broadcast through social media and radio channels.
- ✓ There is also a plan to design and roll-out an orientation and sensitization workshop aimed at local media, covering how to best depict cases of child marriage and related issues in the media to ensure gender sensitive messaging. The main thrust of the strategy is to use local media, social media, journalists and television and radio presenters to influence and mobilize larger audiences.



Outcome 3: Strengthening prevention and protection systems

PROGRESS OF INDICATORS

Outcome 3.1: Number and proportion of adolescent girls in programme areas that have utilized health or protection services				
Outcome 3.2: Percentage point difference in exam-pass rates between boys and girls in programme areas				
Output 3.1 Number and proportion of service delivery points in programme areas implementing guidelines for adolescent girl-friendly health and protection services				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: NA	Target: NA Results: NA	Target: NA Results: NA	Target: 66 Results: 272	Target: 30
Output 3.2 Number of non-formal/primary/secondary schools implementing interventions to improve the quality of education for adolescent girls				
Baseline: NA	Target: NA Results: NA	Target: NA Results: NA	Target: NA Results: NA	Target: NA

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

In addition to girls’ empowerment initiatives, life-saving services were provided to girls who have survived or been rescued from child marriages. As part of the Global Programme, UNFPA provided 4,123 critical services to survivors of child marriage, including health, psychological and legal services, resulting in the successfully rehabilitation of the girls involved.

As part of the system strengthening approach, UNICEF supported the development and roll-out of a case management training manual to guide the response to the needs of adolescents in and out of school, including for psycho-social support, in connection with violence against children and child marriage. The roll-out within schools was facilitated in collaboration with a technical working group of ten representatives from the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour.

In addition, a ‘gap analysis’ was carried out, focusing on how to improve coordination between the two sectors (social welfare and education services) and in particular on enhancing the ability of social workers in both school and community settings to systematically identify and refer children to appropriate services, and to support children who have dropped out to return to school wherever possible. As a result of these consultations, standard operating procedures (SOPs) and referral pathways were delineated. Training of trainers is ongoing for 30 teachers

and social workers and cascaded trainings at lower levels will be provided to at least 160 social workers in schools during 2019, including at all of the end child marriage programme sites, with a focus on the 32 sites funded under the Global Programme and a further 49 sites funded with other grants.

CHALLENGES

- ✓ The population in some of the targeted areas covered by UNFPA is dispersed. Insecurity, and high transportation costs, have made it difficult for adolescent girls to access services from existing service delivery points.
- ✓ In addition, in some cases, the husbands or parents of the girls have not allowed them to receive psychological treatment and other needed services.

HEADLINE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

- ✓ Training of social workers and teachers on the case management guidelines is a priority for 2019.
- ✓ Developing a complaint and investigation mechanism to help with protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and ensuring safe and easy access, especially for adolescent girls.
- ✓ Enhancing the role of social workers by building their capacity on psycho-social first aid and focused, non-specialized, psycho-social support.



Outcome 4: Strengthening the legislative and policy frameworks

TIMELINE OF SOME KEY EVENTS

- **1984:** Acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
- **1991:** Ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- **1999:** The amended Personal Status Law set no minimum legal age of marriage
- **2013:** Co-sponsored the Human Rights Council resolution on eliminating child, early and forced marriage
- **2014:** As part of the Universal Periodic Review, supported recommendations to promote girls' education as a means to eradicate child marriage
- **2014:** At the global Girl Summit in the United Kingdom, signed a charter committing to end child marriage by 2020
- **2014:** The National Dialogue Conference recommended that the government set the minimum legal age of marriage to 18
- **2014:** As part of the Universal Periodic Review, the Minister of Human Rights was commended for taking an active stance against child marriage

- **2015:** Committed to eliminate child, early and forced marriage by 2030 in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

The current environment in Yemen is not conducive to legislative and policy progress and planned legislative reviews and legal amendments continue to be on hold. In the meantime, UNFPA and UNICEF have continued to engage in high-level advocacy with the de-facto authorities to ensure that the most vulnerable adolescent girls were reached with quality preventive and protection interventions delivered in a timely manner. Both agencies advocated with the government authorities, and specifically the National Authority for the Management and Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Recovery, to enhance the role of partners in emergency responses and to strengthen coordination between government and civil society organization partners.



Outcome 5: Strengthening data and evidence base

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

Research and data collection are challenging in Yemen given the protracted and continuing conflict, access challenges, and restrictions imposed by authorities on data collection and assessments.. Despite these challenges, UNICEF led a joint formative research project to unpack the factors influencing individual behaviour and understand the social influences, social norms and dynamics that affect their practices. The results will inform the development of multi-faceted strategies to address a range of factors, including social influences and norms; services, laws and regulations; and influencers in the community, in a holistic manner. The draft research report is expected in the first quarter of 2019.

In addition to this, UNFPA is collaborating with Women's Refugee Commission and the John Hopkins University to understand the scale and drivers of child marriage among

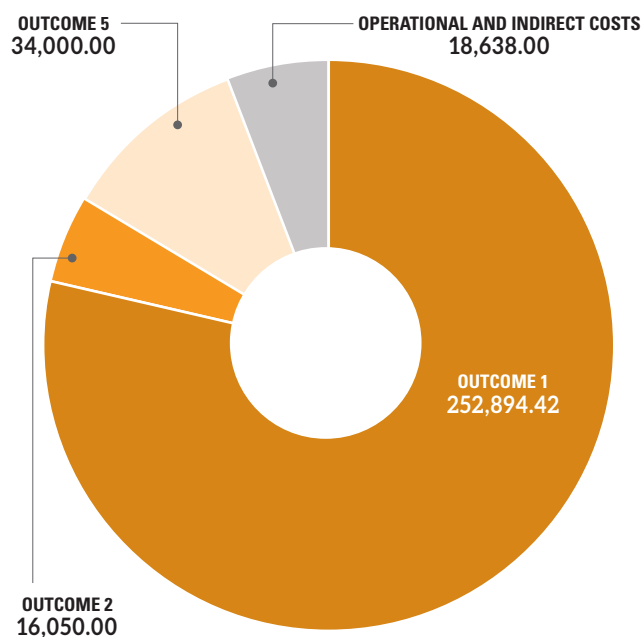
internally displaced persons (IDPs) in conflict affected areas to inform the development of programmes targeting child marriage in humanitarian settings. This research is conducted among the IDPs and neighbouring host communities in the governorates of Sana'a, Ibb and Aden in order to measure the prevalence of child marriage among the IDPs and their host communities; determine the main drivers of child marriage; understand the impact of conflict and displacement on the practice of child marriage; and identify, based on the findings, the best interventions to end child marriage.

The UNFPA- and UNICEF-led research will look at the issue of child marriage from different perspectives. It is intended that their findings will complement each other and provide a deeper understanding of the issue in humanitarian settings, with the aim of better informing the design of programme interventions.

HEADLINE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

- ✓ The activities under Outcome 5 are to be finalized by the spring of 2019. The evidence from the studies will then inform programming.
- ✓ Understanding the factors that influence individual decisions requires the use of research methods that avoid bias, which itself requires strong technical skills. In 2019, the programme will conduct research after pre-testing the methodology in the locations where the research is to be carried out.
- ✓ Developing databases and information management systems, especially in the health sector, to generate accurate and timely evidence (for example, using the Child Protection Information Management System) is also a key priority of the Global Programme going forward.

Financial information - Expenditure by outcome (USD)



Communications to end child marriage

Video: Success story – Interactive Theatre Early Marriage Project (Governorate of Ibb, Amran and Hajjah al-Hudaydah)	https://youtu.be/I9Pbtd4m5Vo (accessed May 2019)
Video: Success story – We have been born again	www.youtube.com/watch?v=NWReWX2sXn0&feature=youtu.be (accessed May 2019)
Awareness raising video: Some words	www.youtube.com/watch?v=hUH2lagoYgk&feature=youtu.be (accessed May 2019)
Awareness raising video: It must flourish	https://youtu.be/8leD26uJRqo (accessed May 2019)
Awareness raising video: Nothing for her	https://youtu.be/MEWcvhpkICU (accessed May 2019)
Human interest story video: The biggest prison	www.youtube.com/watch?v=lNlJaK3fNzY&feature=youtu.be (accessed May 2019)
Video: Promo is a comma (only in Arabic)	https://youtu.be/8QDPZ-YKU64 (accessed May 2019)
Video: Documentation of the interactive theatres (only in Arabic)	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1cxnGHyDIH8Cu4qGGxDcuZphdAW8I79TD (accessed May 2019)



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ZAMBIA

COUNTRY PROFILE



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ZAMBIA

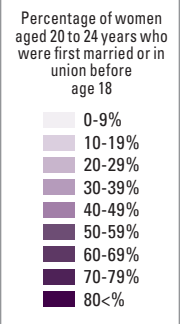
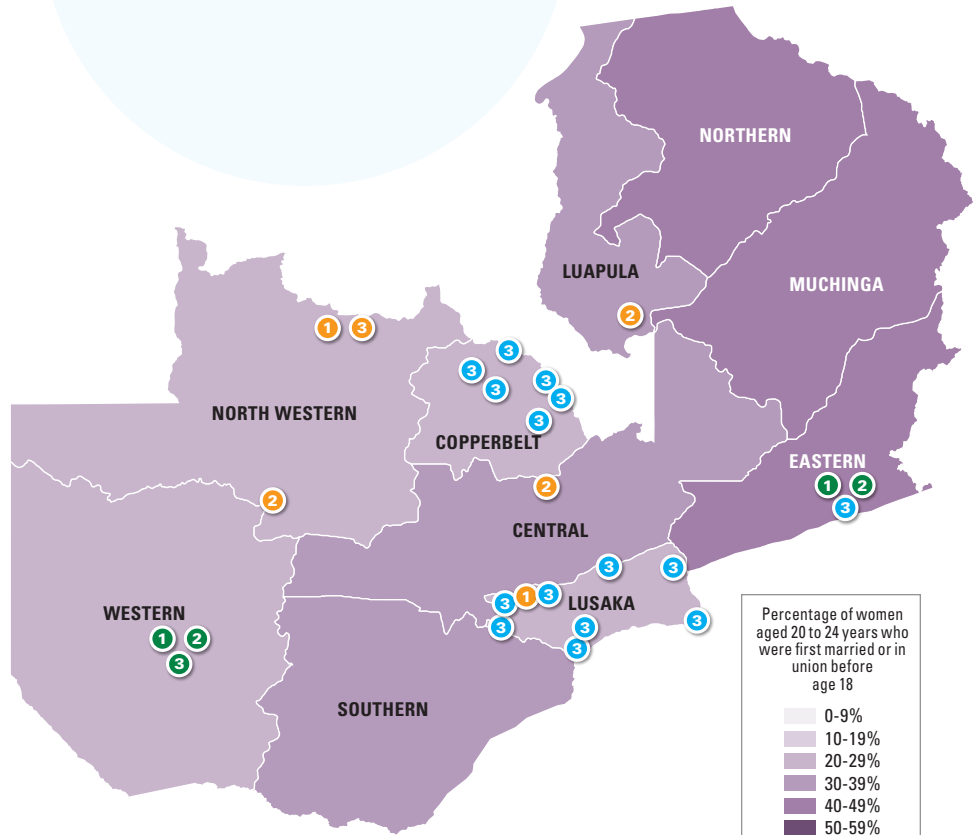
COUNTRY PROFILE



31¹ Percentage of young women (aged 20–24) married or in union by age 18



6² Percentage of young women (aged 20–24) married or in union by age 15



- UNFPA + UNICEF implementation
- UNFPA implementation
- UNICEF implementation
- 1 Implementation outcome 1 (life skills and education support for girls)
- 2 Implementation outcome 2 (community dialogue)
- 3 Implementation outcome 3 (strengthening education, health and child protection systems)

Note: This map is stylized and not to scale. It does not reflect a position by UNFPA or UNICEF on the legal status of any country or area or the delimitation of any frontiers. Implementation areas are shown by district and only reflect implementation under the Global Programme. Source for child marriage prevalence data is the Demographic and Health Survey 2013.

4.66³ BIRTHS PER WOMAN

Total fertility rate (average number of children a woman would have by the end of her reproductive period if her experience followed the currently prevalent age-specific fertility rates)

141.2⁴ ADOLESCENT BIRTH RATE

Number of births per 1,000 adolescent girls aged 15–19

23%⁵

Upper secondary school completion rate among girls aged 3–5 years above upper secondary graduation age

28.5⁶ Percentage of women aged 15–19 who have begun childbearing

1.02⁷ Gender parity index for primary school enrolment

¹ Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) 2013–14; ² DHS 2013–14; ³ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019). World Population Prospects 2019, Online Edition; ⁴ United Nations Statistics Division (2018). SDG Database, <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database>; ⁵ DHS 2013–14; ⁶ DHS 2013–14; ⁷ UNICEF global databases (April 2019).

GLOBAL PROGRAMME RESULTS IN 2018



5,575

Number of girls reached with life skills interventions



31,357

Number of community members engaged in community dialogue



26

Number of health and child protection service delivery points supported to provide adolescent girl-friendly services



80

Number of schools supported to provide girl-friendly quality education

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ The two Global Programme priority districts (Katete and Senanga) developed and launched district plans of action adapted from the National Action Plan for Ending Child Marriage and the Seventh National Development Plan. Both districts also developed costed, multisectoral operational frameworks.
- ✓ The National Advocacy and Communications Strategy for Ending Child Marriage was published and launched in December 2018. The strategy will harmonize ending child marriage communication activities and ensure they are mainstreamed into policies and programmes.



Outcome 1: Empowering adolescent girls

PROGRESS OF INDICATORS

Outcome 1.1: Proportion of adolescent girls in programme areas demonstrating increased knowledge and skills				
Outcome 1.2: Girls' retention rate at primary school level				
Output 1.1: Number of girls aged 10-19 years actively participating in targeted interventions				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: 4,229	Target: 3,680 Results: 2,778	Target: 5,790 Results: 9,851	Target: 2,990 Results: 3,575	Target: 2,990
Output 1.2: Number of girls supported to access and remain in primary/lower secondary/non-formal education				
NA	Target: 900 Results: NA	NA	NA	NA

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

The Global Programme continued to empower adolescent girls in the two targeted districts of Katete and Senanga with life skills education and information on sexual and reproductive health. These were delivered by mentorship sessions held in community safe spaces and schools, and also by using the U-Report mobile platform to raise awareness of the risks of child marriage and teenage pregnancy and of the availability of sexual and reproductive health and protection services. A total of 60 mentors, trained during 2018, provided life skills education

to 3,575 adolescent girls in Katete and Senanga districts within these safe spaces. As a result of the mentorship programme, school administrators in the districts are reporting a reduction in school dropout rates for adolescent girls. A total of 23 Community Action Groups were created and supported with funds for the identification and re-enrolment of girls that had dropped out of school, as part of the effort towards retaining girls in school. Anecdotal analysis of the 2018 school records showed a 46 per cent reduction in school dropout rates related to child marriage and teenage pregnancy in Senanga district.

The number of adolescents accessing information on sexual and reproductive health and the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) using the U-Report mobile platform increased in 2018, with subscriptions rising by 10 per cent (from 174,972 adolescents and young people to 192,773), due largely to the 2-for-5 campaign (enrol two members, obtain 5 Kwacha, equivalent to US\$0.41 worth of mobile phone airtime) and also to improved coordination within the U-Report governance structures.

Through UNICEF support [...] we identified an adolescent girl who dropped out of school in grade six due to lack of financial support. We linked the girl to the Community Welfare Assistance Committee within her community which, upon our follow up and advocacy, subsequently linked her to the social welfare support system. The girl is now back in school and has reached grade eight. Obviously if we keep this girl in school, the risk of marrying early is significantly reduced.

A LEAD PEER EDUCATOR FROM LIANGATI, SENANGA DISTRICT

OTHER ACTIVITIES WITH POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

A proof of concept project to test the use of schools as a platform for changing behaviours among learners and corresponding communities was designed by the Ministry of Education with support from UNICEF. Implementation of the project has started in four schools.

CHALLENGES

- ✓ The Global Programme is not adequately funded, which presents several challenges, including high rates of attrition of peer educators and limited resources to support the education of girls.
- ✓ The drafting of a Child and Family Welfare System Framework had to be postponed due to frequent changes in key positions in the Ministry and suspensions originating from concerns over the financial mismanagement of the national Social Cash Transfer programme.



Outcome 2: Social and behaviour change communication to influence gender and social norms

PROGRESS OF INDICATORS

Outcome 2: Proportion of individuals in programme areas that hold gender equitable attitudes				
Output 2.1: Number of individuals in programme areas who regularly participate in dialogues promoting gender equitable norms including delaying child marriage				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: 2,454	Target: 2,453 Results: 910	Target: 3,076 Results: 974	Target: 2,000 Results: 31,357	Target: 6,000

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

Since 2017, the Global Programme has focused on supporting the government in strengthening the capacities of traditional and religious leaders for protecting adolescent girls from child marriage and teenage pregnancies. This requires those leaders to take a multisectoral approach to providing adolescent-friendly services within communities, which entails convening dialogues and organizing platforms for behaviour change, among other things.

As a result of these efforts, in 2018, traditional leaders in Liko community, for example, initiated dialogue meetings on their own and reached out to 2,122 people, encouraging parents and guardians of adolescents to ensure that they attended events held in safe spaces.

Various community-driven approaches ensured that people were reached, engaged and mobilized in gender transformative

dialogues. Some of the approaches used in other communities included door-to-door conversations to raise awareness, campaigns during traditional ceremonies, visits to friends' homes and visits to markets to engage people there.

In addition, the Global Programme implemented an awareness and communications model called 'Start Awareness Support Action' (SASA), which reached a total of 22,456 people. SASA proved successful in engaging communities and imparting information on harmful practices. It entails four stages: igniting interest on an issue, raising awareness, supporting survivors and victims, and then taking further action, which comprises more of advocacy with duty bearers such as the government and service providers. SASA has proven itself as an effective awareness-raising and action-oriented model that results in systematic community mobilization.

CHALLENGES

- ✓ Running media campaigns using radio is not always effective since most households, for example in Senanga district, lack radios. To address this, the Global Programme is establishing radio listening groups in such communities and intends to use these to promote discussions on behaviour change as well, including the prevention and protection of adolescents from child marriage and teenage pregnancy.

HEADLINE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

- ✓ Implementing tools for measuring changes in e.g., attitudes, behaviours and practice was delayed during 2018, and will be prioritized in 2019. This will include deploying administrative data and qualitative monitoring to assess progress with respect to the implementation of district action plans.



Outcome 3: Strengthening prevention and protection systems

PROGRESS OF INDICATORS

Outcome 3.1: Number and proportion of adolescent girls in programme areas that have utilized health or protection services				
Outcome 3.2: Percentage point difference in exam-pass rates between boys and girls in programme areas				
Output 3.1 Number and proportion of service delivery points in programme areas implementing guidelines for adolescent girl-friendly health and protection services				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baseline: 5	Target: 80 Results: 27	Target: 74 Results: 64	Target: 6 Results: 26	Target: 6 Results:
Output 3.2 Number of non-formal/primary/secondary schools implementing interventions to improve the quality of education for adolescent girls				
Baseline: 424	Target: 500 Results: 744	Target: 100 Results: 113	Target: 19 Results: 80	NA

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

Implementing the guidance and counselling guidelines in schools, supporting open learning and transit schools for out-of-school children, and boosting referrals to health and protection services have resulted in improvements in school retention levels and learning outcomes for girls. For example, during 2018, of the 2,255 out-of-school girls that benefited from the 50 open learning and transit schools established to provide a second chance of education in a girl-friendly environment, 1,946 (88 per cent) achieved the minimum levels of numeracy and literacy required for reintegration into formal

education. As a result, these girls have been mainstreamed in the formal education system. One hundred and thirty one headteachers and school health and nutrition workers in 60 schools received training on implementing the guidance and counselling manual in schools, which translated into a marked reduction in adolescent girls' dropout rates.

The model of open learning and transit schools, supported by trained mentors, has been incorporated as a strategy for addressing educational inequities in the country's Education Strategic Sector Plan. UNFPA and UNICEF have continued

You can actually feel it, that they give you attention as you explain and provide services in a way that is friendly and respectful. It is much easier to come again and encourage my friends not to fear if as young people we are treated this way at health facilities. Interacting with peer educators was very helpful as well as they gave me information and escorted me to a health provider.

ADOLESCENT GIRL DURING A SERVICE EXIT INTERVIEW IN SENANGA DISTRICT

to support the revitalization of adolescent-friendly spaces, effectively increasing the number of adolescent-friendly service delivery sites. Specifically, that support translated into 64 health workers from 26 facilities, and 46 peer educators or mentors, being trained in adolescent-friendly health services; and all the benefitting facilities being refurbished and supplied with recreational materials for adolescents. Thanks to the work of the peer educators, community development assistants and social welfare workers in the community, about 13,707 girls were referred to and accessed health and protection services in 2018.

OTHER ACTIVITIES WITH POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

UNICEF supported the Ministry of General Education in developing strategies and interventions that address equitable access to, retention in and completion of school among girls. Those strategies include the Out-of-School Children Education Strategy and the national School-Related Gender-Based Violence action plan. An out-of-school children data collection tool was developed and rolled out to 1,450 primary and secondary schools in five provinces.

CHALLENGES

- ✓ One challenge experienced is the limited capacity of some health workers and peer educators to analyse and use disaggregated data, and limited coordination of adolescent-friendly health services at the district level.

HEADLINE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

- ✓ The focus for 2019 will be on supporting the scaling up of the Adolescent Health Services Platform model in areas with a high burden of disease and other detrimental conditions among adolescents.



Outcome 4: Strengthening the legislative and policy frameworks

TIMELINE OF SOME KEY EVENTS

- **1964:** The Marriage Act sets the minimum legal age of marriage to 21. However, persons 16–21 years old can marry with parental consent and a person below 16 can marry with judicial consent assuming the particular circumstances of the case are not contrary to public interest
- **1985:** Ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
- **1991:** Ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- **1992:** Signed the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
- **2006:** Ratified the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa
- **2013:** Co-sponsored the United Nations General Assembly resolution on eliminating child, early and forced marriage
- **2013:** Co-sponsored the Human Rights Council resolution on eliminating child, early and forced marriage
- **2013:** Committed to ending child marriage by the end of 2020 under the Ministerial Commitment on Comprehensive Sexuality Education and Sexual and Reproductive Health Services for Adolescents and Young People in Eastern and Southern Africa
- **2013:** Launched a nation-wide campaign to end child marriage, prioritizing engagement with traditional leaders and law reform
- **2014:** Co-sponsored the United Nations General Assembly resolution on eliminating child, early and forced marriage
- **2014:** Signed a joint statement at the Human Rights Council, calling for a resolution on child marriage
- **2014:** At the global Girl Summit in the United Kingdom, signed a charter committing to end child marriage by 2020
- **2014:** Held a National Symposium on Child Marriage
- **2015:** Committed to eliminate child, early and forced marriage by 2030 in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- **2015:** Co-sponsored the Human Rights Council resolution on eliminating child, early and forced marriage
- **2015:** Hosted the first ever African Union Girls Summit on Ending Child Marriage
- **2016:** Co-sponsored the United Nations General Assembly resolution on eliminating child, early and forced marriage
- **2016:** Hosted a review meeting of the African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage in Africa
- **2016:** Adopted the National Strategy on Ending Child Marriage in Zambia (2016–2021) with the aim of reducing child marriage by 40 percent by 2021
- **2017:** Co-sponsored the Human Rights Council resolution on eliminating child, early and forced marriage in humanitarian contexts
- **2017:** Launched the seventh National Development Plan (2017–2021), including child marriage-related interventions, helping to institutionalize efforts to address child marriage across ministries and budgets
- **2018:** As part of the Universal Periodic Review, supported recommendations to take all necessary measures to accelerate implementation of the Marriage Bill (2015) and to end child marriage
- **2018:** Launched district-level action plans to end child marriage, with costed multisectoral operational frameworks, in Senanga and Katete districts
- **2018:** Co-sponsored the United Nations General Assembly resolution on eliminating child, early and forced marriage

ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

The two Global Programme districts (Katete and Senanga) each developed and launched a district plan of action adapted from the National Action Plan for Ending Child Marriage and the Seventh National Development Plan. Both districts developed costed, multisectoral operational frameworks that seek to provide an integrated vision and clear direction to all sectors at various levels involved with the prevention of children marriage and efforts to respond where it occurs.

CHALLENGES

- ✓ At the national level, the monitoring and accountability mechanisms for implementing the National Action Plan remain weak, with no finalized monitoring and evaluation framework in place at the Ministry of Gender. The Ministry of Gender does have an implementation monitoring and evaluation framework and reporting format but accounts from the UNICEF technical advisor, based at the ministry, and the Ministry of Gender Chief Planner indicate that there is no consistent reporting against this. The weakness appears to lie with a lack of coordination with and between the line ministries. Through its technical advisor UNICEF has worked to overcome this weakness: three multisectoral coordination meetings were held during the year and technical experts in the line ministries are starting to collaborate as a result.



HEADLINE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

- ✓ The next step is to support the process of finalizing the indicators against which the districts can report on a regular basis. In order to support and simplify reporting, the indicators need to be in line with those against which the Ministry of Gender must report for the Seventh National

Development Plan, which will mean that the line ministries are also obliged to report on them to the Ministry.

- ✓ Taking measures to improve and monitor the accountability mechanisms for ensuring that actions are taken to address child marriage will continue, and will be strengthened, throughout 2019, at both national and district levels.



Outcome 5: Strengthening data and evidence base

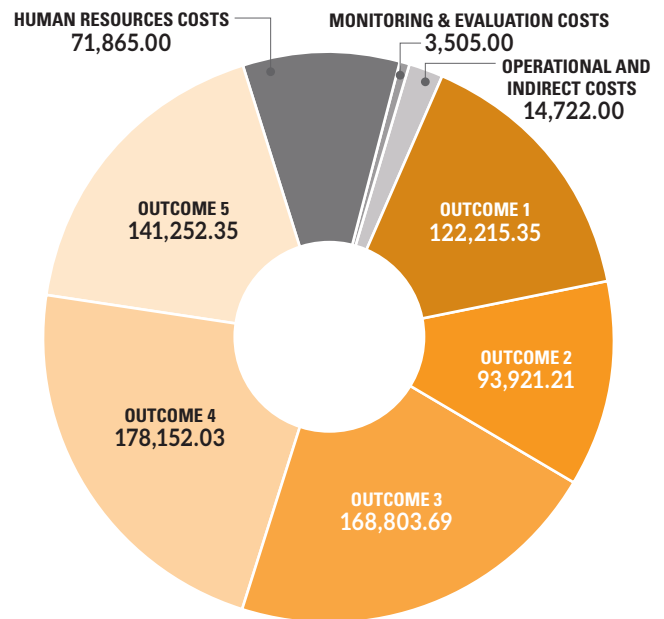
ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS MADE

In efforts to bolster evidence-based programming, advocacy and technical support on the part of UNFPA and UNICEF, in partnership with others, led to a revision of Zambia's Health Management Information System, so that it now includes adolescent indicators disaggregated by age and sex. In addition, the National Aids Commission was supported to strengthen its management information system by improving its user interface and integrating U-Report data.

In 2018, a number of key assessments and research projects were completed, including a study on community perceptions of child well-being, a landscape assessment on case management, a landscape assessment on care services and district profiles for Katete and Senanga. These were used to inform the development of the Katete and Senanga district action plans as well as the design of community level case management.

UNFPA and UNICEF advocated for evidence-based programming and supported the Ministry of Health to undertake a knowledge, attitudes and practices study on factors affecting adolescent and young mothers' access to sexual and reproductive health services. This will inform interventions designed to ensure the adherence of young people to treatment programmes and their retention in care, especially for young mothers.

Financial information – Expenditure by outcome (USD)



Communications to end child marriage

National Communications & Advocacy Strategy	www.unicef.org/zambia/reports/national-advocacy-and-communication-strategy-ending-child-marriage-zambia-2018-2021 (accessed May 2019)
Media coverage Strategy launch	www.dropbox.com/s/jsu6soqhkcgmk4i/Govt%20set%20to%20eliminate%20child%20marriage.pdf?dl=0 (accessed May 2019)
Media coverage district plans launch	www.dropbox.com/s/d100b0pq981s960/Lizzie%20launches%20Districts%20Action%20Plan%20on%20ending%20child%20marriages.pdf?dl=0 (accessed May 2019)
Early marriage, early divorce, now back in school in Zambia	www.unicef.org/zambia/stories/early-marriage-early-divorce-now-back-school-zambia (accessed May 2019)

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

COUNTRY PROFILES

UNFPA-UNICEF
GLOBAL PROGRAMME
TO ACCELERATE ACTION TO
END CHILD MARRIAGE