



UNFPA-UNICEF  
Global Programme to  
End Child Marriage

# PHASE I (2016-2019) REPORT

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

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August 2020

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# ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

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<b>CAD</b>	Canadian Dollar
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organization
<b>DHS</b>	Demographic and Health Survey
<b>EAC</b>	East African Community
<b>EALA</b>	East African Legislative Assembly
<b>ECOWAS</b>	Economic Community of West African States
<b>EUR</b>	Euro
<b>FGM</b>	Female Genital Mutilation
<b>GBP</b>	Great British Pound
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-Based Violence
<b>GPSU</b>	Global Programme Support Unit
<b>MHM</b>	Menstrual Hygiene Management
<b>MICS</b>	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>NAP</b>	National Action Plan
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organization
<b>NOK</b>	Norwegian Krone
<b>SADC</b>	Southern African Development Community
<b>SAIEVAC</b>	South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children
<b>SGBV</b>	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal
<b>SRH</b>	Sexual and Reproductive Health
<b>SRHR</b>	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
<b>UN Women</b>	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UNHCR</b>	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children’s Fund
<b>USD</b>	United States Dollar
<b>WASH</b>	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization



# PROGRAMME SUMMARY

Programme/ project name	UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage
<b>Donors</b>	Governments of Belgium, Canada, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, and UK, the European Union and Zonta International
<b>Global Programme funds used</b>	<b>UNICEF:</b> USD 51,421,765.47 as at 31 December 2019 <b>UNFPA:</b> USD 32,413,294 as at 31 December 2019
<b>Unspent balance</b>	<b>UNICEF:</b> USD 18,228,027.80 as at 31 December 2019 <b>UNFPA:</b> (UCJ18) USD 4,089,964 as at 31 December 2019
<b>Report type</b>	Final Phase I – headquarters
	Regional offices of: Eastern and Southern Africa, Middle East and North Africa, West and Central Africa, and South Asia Country offices of: India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Niger, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, Uganda, Mozambique, Zambia and Yemen
<b>Reporting period</b>	January 2016 to December 2019
<b>Relevant SDG targets and UNICEF and UNFPA Strategic Plan priorities</b>	<b>SDG</b> SDG 5.3: Eliminate all harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
	<b>UNICEF Strategic Plan</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Outcome P6: Increased national capacity to provide access to child protection systems that prevent and respond to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect</li> <li>■ Output P6.b.4: Countries (of those with child marriage prevalence is 25% or higher) with national strategies or plans on child marriage with a budget</li> </ul>
	<b>UNFPA Strategic Plan</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Output 6: Young people, in particular adolescent girls, have the skills and capabilities to make informed choices about their sexual and reproductive health and rights, and well-being</li> <li>■ Output 9: Strengthened policy, legal and accountability frameworks to advance gender equality and empower women and girls to exercise their reproductive rights and to be protected from violence and harmful practices</li> <li>■ Output 12: Strengthened response to eliminate harmful practices, including child, early and forced marriage, female genital mutilation and son preference</li> </ul>
<b>Focus population</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Adolescent girls (aged 10–19 years) reached by direct interventions (primarily life-skills programmes)</li> <li>■ Household or community members/leaders (e.g. through regular and repeated participation in community dialogues)</li> <li>■ Adolescent girls reached through quality services (health, education, social protection, child protection, etc.) as a direct result of investments in system strengthening</li> </ul>



<p><b>Programme partners</b></p>	<p>In the 12 focus countries, the Global Programme works with governments at both national and subnational levels, regional bodies engaged in relevant initiatives, academic institutions, international and national non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, religious communities, faith-based organizations, the private sector and the media.</p>
<p><b>UNICEF contacts</b></p>	<p>Cornelius Williams, Associate Director, Child Protection, Programme Division, <a href="mailto:cowilliams@unicef.org">cowilliams@unicef.org</a>, tel. +1 (212) 824-6670</p> <p>Nankali Maksud, Coordinator, UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage, Child Protection, Programme Division, <a href="mailto:nmaksud@unicef.org">nmaksud@unicef.org</a>, tel. +1 (917) 265-4515</p>
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@UNFPA Asia and the Pacific and UNICEF South Asia

”  
 What makes us proud:  
 Working together  
 Partnerships, perspectives and  
 (evidence-based) practice  
 Making an impact for all boys  
 and girls.

Kendra Gregson, Regional Advisor Child Protection, UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia, and Ingrid Fitzgerald, Regional Advisor Gender and Human Rights, UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Trends in child marriage

According to the latest estimates, 650 million women alive today were married as children. Over the past decade, the proportion of women who were married as children decreased by 15 per cent, from 1 in 4 to about 1 in 5 women. At this rate, it would take another 50 years to eliminate child marriage worldwide. The current rate of decline in child marriage has to be significantly accelerated in order to meet the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target of ending child marriage by 2030.

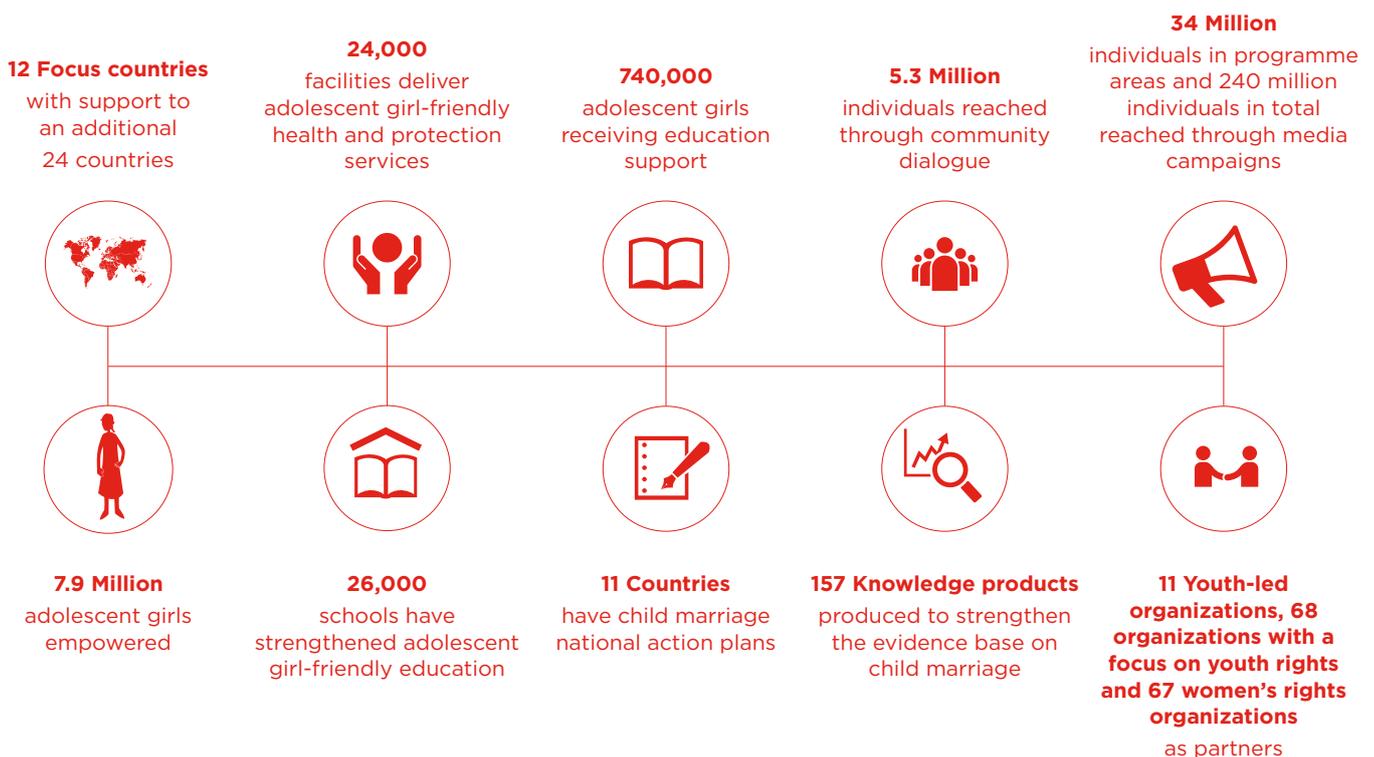
The reduction in child marriage has been uneven. While South Asia has seen significant reductions in child marriage, largely due to progress in India, the global burden is shifting to sub-Saharan Africa, where rates of progress need to be scaled up dramatically to offset population growth.

Globally, 115 million boys and men were married before the age of 18 years. The countries in which child marriage among boys is most common are geographically diverse and differ from the countries in which the practice is most common among girls. Girls remain disproportionately affected, with 1 in 5 young women aged 20–24 years old married before her 18th birthday, compared with 1 in 30 young men.

## Global Programme achievements

■ **Advocacy:** The Global Programme to End Child Marriage (the Global Programme) has played a key role in accelerating the momentum to end child marriage, through positioning the global, regional and national agenda, national policy and legislative support, as well as by demonstrating innovative community action. The Global Programme has continuously elevated the issue of child marriage by organizing and providing support to global, regional and national political and partnership dialogues.

Figure 1. Phase I (2016–2019) in review



- **Data and evidence generation:** United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) has produced statistical data and analysis on the latest global, regional and national child marriage trends. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has released estimates of the costs associated with global efforts to end gender-based violence and harmful practices, including child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM). An independent evaluation of Phase I and the Phase II design workshop has provided recommendations and inputs for revisions to the strategic direction of the Global Programme for the five years from 2020 to 2024.
- **Advancing child marriage programming:** Over the course of Phase I, the Global Programme has made significant investments to improve the effectiveness of its programming by commissioning numerous studies to improve knowledge and evidence of what works to end child marriage, commissioning an independent evaluation of Phase I, sharpening gender-transformative approaches, strengthening joint and convergent programming, and developing new pathways to scaled-up programming and to reaching larger numbers of vulnerable adolescent girls and communities.

The Global Programme has played a unique role in bringing together the combined capabilities of UNFPA and UNICEF to facilitate the multisectoral approach that is needed to tackle the complex set of interrelated issues that enable child marriage, well beyond the 12 focus countries under the Global Programme.

## Headline results

The Global Programme has surpassed most of its output targets, reaching millions of people in the 12 programme countries with interventions designed to end child marriage. The programme has continuously extended its reach to larger populations of adolescent girls and community members.

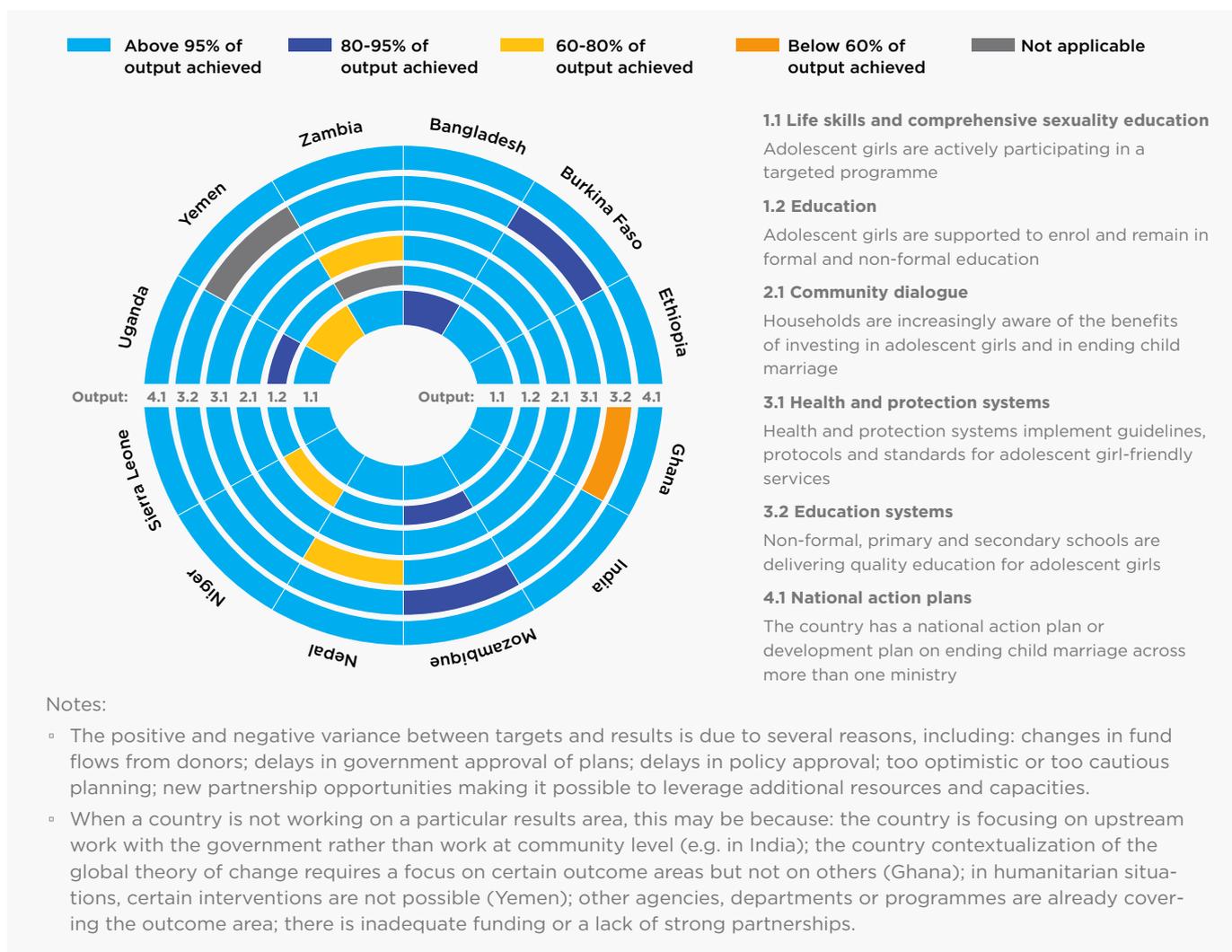
Most countries have reached or exceeded their targets, and there have been significant improvements in programme achievements over the four years of the Global Programme implementation.

Table 1. Phase I output indicator performance

Output indicators	Target	Result	Per cent achieved
<b>1.1 Life skills and comprehensive sexuality education:</b> Adolescent girls are actively participating in a targeted programme	6,426,102	7,971,937	124%
<b>1.2 Education:</b> Adolescent girls are supported to enrol and remain in formal and non-formal education	703,899	744,812	106%
<b>2.1 Community dialogue:</b> Households are increasingly aware of the benefits of investing in adolescent girls and in ending child marriage	25,869,434	39,483,656	153%
<b>3.1 Health and protection systems</b> are supported to implement guidelines, protocols and standards for adolescent girl-friendly health and protection services	18,544	24,267	131%
■ Number of adolescent girls in programme areas who have utilized health or protection services	5,071,216	6,096,672	120%
<b>3.2 Education system:</b> Non-formal/primary/secondary schools are supported to improve quality of education for adolescent girls	16,229	26,380	163%
<b>4.1 National plan of action:</b> The country has a costed national action plan or development plan on ending child marriage across more than one ministry	11	11	100%
<b>5.1 Evidence on scale models:</b> Country-specific, high-quality data and evidence are generated and shared on what works at scale to accelerate ending child marriage	12	12	100%



Figure 2. Phase I performance against output indicators, by country



- Empowerment of adolescent girls:** Countries have reached 24 per cent more adolescent girls than targeted with life-skills and empowerment interventions such as asset-building and comprehensive sexuality education, and 6 per cent more girls with school-based education. Countries have improved their monitoring systems to better track changes in the knowledge, skills and attitudes of adolescent girls that have the potential to enable them to make their own decisions.
- Community dialogue and mobilization for social and behaviour change:** Countries have reached 53 per cent more people through community-based dialogue and through media campaigns than originally targeted. Countries have improved, diversified and expanded approaches to changing gender-based social norms, by raising public awareness and mobilizing communities for the prevention of child marriage and the empowerment of adolescent girls. Community-level interventions include creative approaches to engaging all community members and gatekeepers, including women, men, boys and community leaders. Media

campaigns are enabling countries to reach large numbers of people at low cost. In areas affected by insecurity, radio broadcasts bring the Global Programme to people who would otherwise not be reached. While the programme continues to invest in the monitoring of social and behaviour change efforts at community level, monitoring the effectiveness of media campaigns and broadcasts remains challenging.

**Systems strengthening:** Country offices have stepped up their efforts to ensure adolescent girls have access to essential social services. They have exceeded their health and protection systems targets by 31 per cent and their education targets by 63 per cent. Health interventions focus on adolescent sexual and reproductive health information and services, and on menstrual hygiene management. The programme has fostered sustainability through advocacy, institutionalization, strengthening national and subnational systems, developing capacities and mobilizing and leveraging complementary funding.

- **Government ownership and investments:** Of the 12 governments, 11 have developed child marriage national action plans (NAPs). All of these 11 countries have costed plans, and 7 have allocated budgets for the implementation of the NAPs. In addition, several countries have succeeded in changing legislation to end child marriage and policies that discriminate against married and pregnant adolescent girls, especially in respect of their continued access to education.
- **Evidence generation to inform programming:** In Phase I, the Global Programme established the foundation of evidence for programming and policy advocacy to end child marriage. Country and regional offices completed 157 studies, which included analyses of the drivers of child marriage, mapping the implementation of national strategies, and assessments, reviews and evaluations of programme outcomes. At the global level, the independent evaluation team completed the joint formative evaluation of the Global Programme, and the UNICEF Office of Research (Innocenti) conducted a review of the 76 studies that had been supported by the Global Programme in 2016 and 2017. The Global Programme's publications were made widely available through two publication catalogues for 2016–2017 and 2018–2019.



## Next steps

2020 marks the beginning of the implementation of Phase II of the Global Programme. In support of the roll-out of the new theory of change and results framework, the programme will invest in the following areas.

- **Implementing gender transformation as an overarching strategy:** Promote gender-equitable norms that influence child marriage at all levels, from the empowerment of adolescent girls to community awareness-raising and mobilization, to the design and delivery of health, education and social services, and at policy development and implementation levels. Further, strengthen gender transformation and rights-based approaches in the Global Programme's policy, programme and research work and provide guidance to equip and strengthen the capacities of country offices and partner agencies. Topics of the technical notes to guide this work include: strengthening agency and decision-making among adolescent girls, transformation of gender norms, engaging men and boys, and other topics.
- **Acknowledging gender discrimination in all its forms and linkages to child marriage:** Address the manifestations of power relations and discriminatory gender norms and practices where they are linked to child marriage, including: violence against women and girls; FGM and harmful initiation rites; sexual exploitation, trafficking and marriage-related migration; boy preference and gender-biased sex selection; sexual and reproductive health and rights, early pregnancy and early sexual initiation; HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections.
- **Encouraging a more inclusive understanding of child marriage:** Promote a more nuanced and inclusive perspective of the various forms of child marriage and early unions within and across regions.
- **Expanding the target group:** Explicitly include pregnant, married and divorced adolescent girls and adolescent mothers and continue efforts to remove and replace laws, policies and rules that prevent pregnant and married girls from attending school.



- **Extending the reach and ensuring inclusion:** Step up efforts to ensure policies, services and investments are inclusive of the most marginalized and disadvantaged adolescent girls and the most vulnerable populations. This means the design, funding, staffing and delivery of education, health and protection services must be appropriate and adequate for reaching adolescent girls who are pregnant, married or divorced, and those who are out of school, with disabilities or otherwise marginalized and disadvantaged.
- **Recognizing the multifaceted drivers of child marriage:** Embrace the variations in early marriage and early unions in different parts of the world. Focus on transforming structural gender inequalities, including discriminatory gender-based social norms and practices, promote a range of opportunities for adolescent girls (in education, health, protection, and livelihoods) and leverage partnerships in broader platforms to address livelihood and economic constraints that trigger child marriage.
- **Working with boys and men:** Systematically engage boys and men to promote positive masculinities and partner with them as agents of change to maximize impact. Expand partnerships with organizations involving boys and men in child marriage programmes.
- **Generating and using evidence and strengthening knowledge management:** Develop a Phase II evidence and research strategy to strengthen the evidence base and improve the quality and timeliness of data generation and knowledge management to inform future programming. Continue to build a community of practice related to child marriage programming to share lessons and best practices across countries, within the Global Programme and beyond, including regional and at-scale initiatives such as the Spotlight Initiative. Strengthen and contextualize monitoring and reporting systems, especially data related to the change in social and gender norms and behaviours.
- **Addressing child marriage in humanitarian settings:** Further clarify the challenges and approaches needed to prevent and respond to child marriage in humanitarian settings, including conflicts, natural disasters and public health emergencies.

- **Supporting a global movement to end child marriage:** Expand technical support and knowledge to countries and regions beyond the scope of the Global Programme, including Latin America and the Caribbean, to accelerate progress towards the elimination of child marriage by 2030.

## Notes on the Phase I report

This report covers Phase I of the Global Programme from 2016 to 2019, and much of the report provides an analysis for all of Phase I. The report is based on the 2019 annual country and regional reports and draws on previously published documents, including the annual Global Programme reports for 2016, 2017 and 2018, the independent Global Programme evaluation and newsletters. The report has the following sections:

- **Chapter 1. Recent trends in child marriage** recaps the latest child marriage analysis, including regarding the marriage of boys
- **Chapter 2. Global Programme achievements** presents highlights of global and regional advocacy; global data analysis, evaluation and studies; and overall programmatic improvements regarding gender transformation, joint and convergent programming and reaching adolescent girls at scale
- **Chapter 3. Programme performance against the results framework** focuses largely on output- and outcome-level achievements in 2019
- **Chapter 4. Programme governance and management** presents achievements and investments related to communication, knowledge management, lessons, monitoring and evaluation, and resource mobilization and expenditure
- **Chapter 5. Next steps** presents priorities for Phase II implementation in 2020

## Acknowledgements

UNFPA and UNICEF gratefully acknowledge the generous financial support from the Governments of Belgium, Canada, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway and the UK, the European Union and Zonta International.



”

It has been a magnificent and great learning journey for me being a part of the Global Programme to End Child Marriage in Phase I. The empowerment of girls through the social and financial package was an essential part of the programme which has strengthened and empowered girls to become change agents to end child marriage. It will be a remarkable achievement to end child marriage in Phase II with joint efforts of UN agencies, implementation partners, the government, networks of adolescent girls, and media and political representatives.

Khagendra Bhatta, District Officer, UNFPA Nepal



# CHAPTER 1

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## RECENT TRENDS IN CHILD MARRIAGE



The statistics presented in this chapter are based on Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) and Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) data. The analysis was done by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) Data and Analytics section in New York.<sup>1</sup>

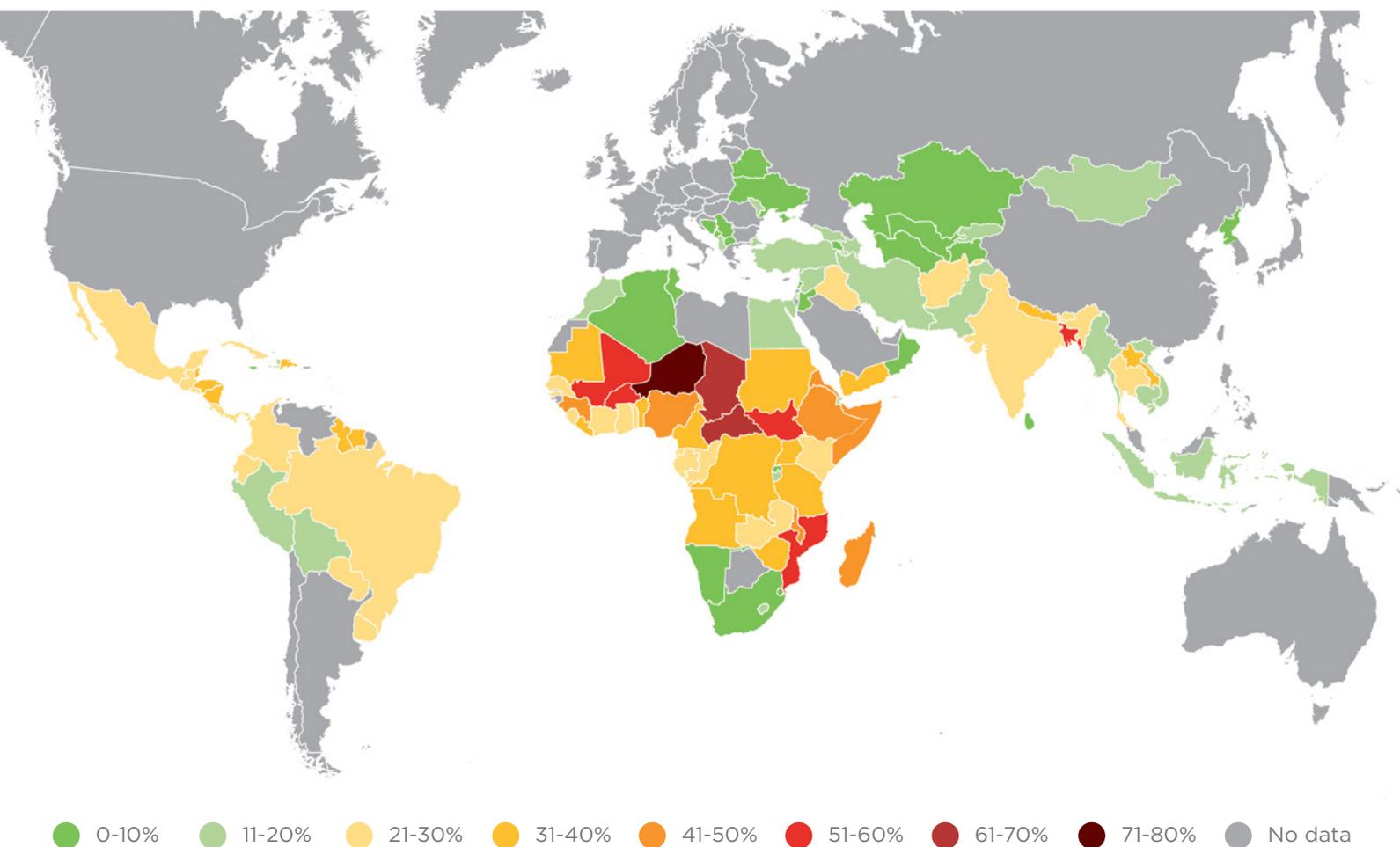
## 1.1 Global situation

Child marriage is a violation of human rights. Many factors interact to place a child at risk of marriage, including poverty, the perception that marriage will provide ‘protection’, family honour, social and gender norms, customary or religious laws that condone the practice, an inadequate legislative framework, and the state of a country’s civil registration system. While the practice affects girls disproportionately more than boys<sup>2</sup>, it is a violation of children’s rights regardless of sex.

<sup>1</sup> Source of data: [United Nations Children’s Fund, ‘Child marriage’, UNICEF data](#), April 2020, accessed May 2020.

<sup>2</sup> Globally, the prevalence of child marriage among adolescent boys is one sixth that among adolescent girls.

Figure 3. Percentage of women aged 20–24 years who were first married or in union before the age of 18 years



Source: UNICEF global databases, February 2020, based on the latest available DHS, MICS or other nationally representative surveys.

Notes: 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. The line between India and Pakistan represents approximately the Line of Control agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties. The final boundary between the Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.

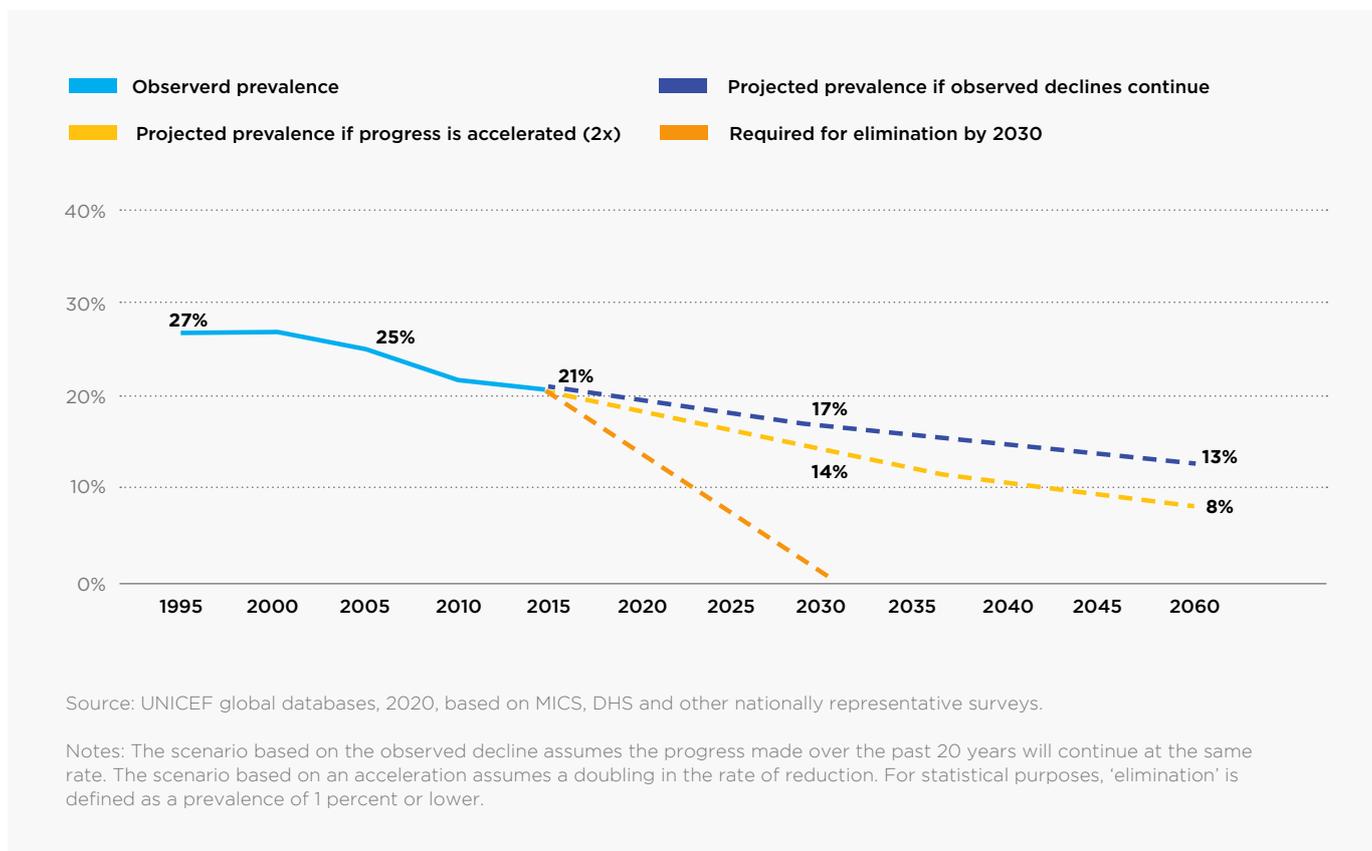


### 1.1.1 Child marriage among girls

Global child marriage rates are slowly declining, with South Asia witnessing the largest reductions, largely due to progress in India. The proportion of women who were married as children decreased by 15 per cent in the last decade. Increasing rates of girls’ education, proactive government investment in adolescent girls, and strong public messaging around the illegality of child marriage and the harm it causes are among the reasons for the shift. However, the total number of girls married in childhood still stands at 12 million per year, and progress must be significantly accelerated in order to end the practice by 2030 – the target set in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (see Figure 4). At current rates, more than 120 million additional girls will marry before their 18th birthday by 2030.

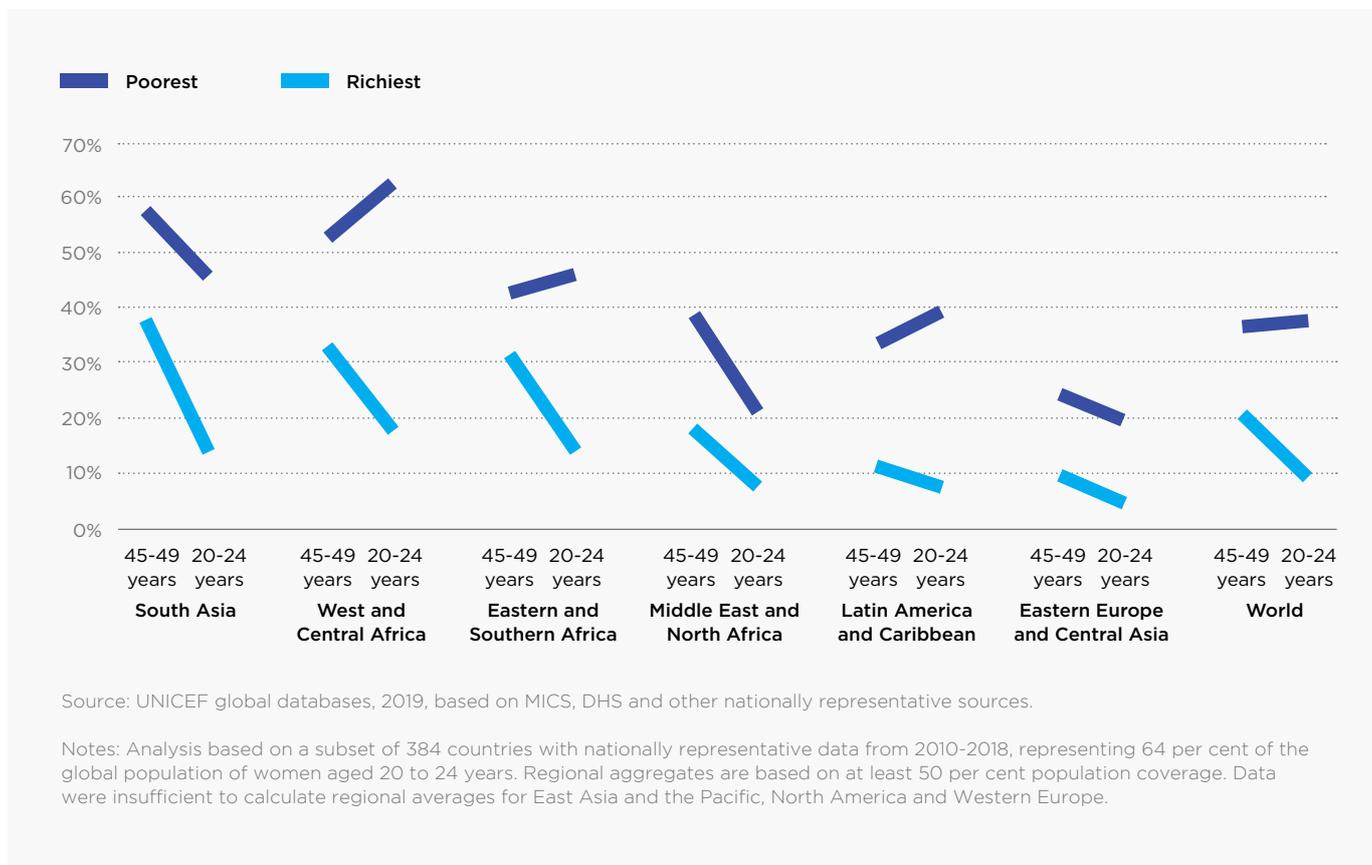
The rate of progress varies by region and by population group. Progress has been fastest among the richest quintiles and slowest among the poorest 20 per cent of the population. In sub-Saharan Africa and in Latin America and the Caribbean, the rate of child marriage among the poorest population segment has even increased (see Figure 5).

**Figure 4. Percentage of women aged 20–24 years who were first married or in union before age 18 years, with projected percentages**





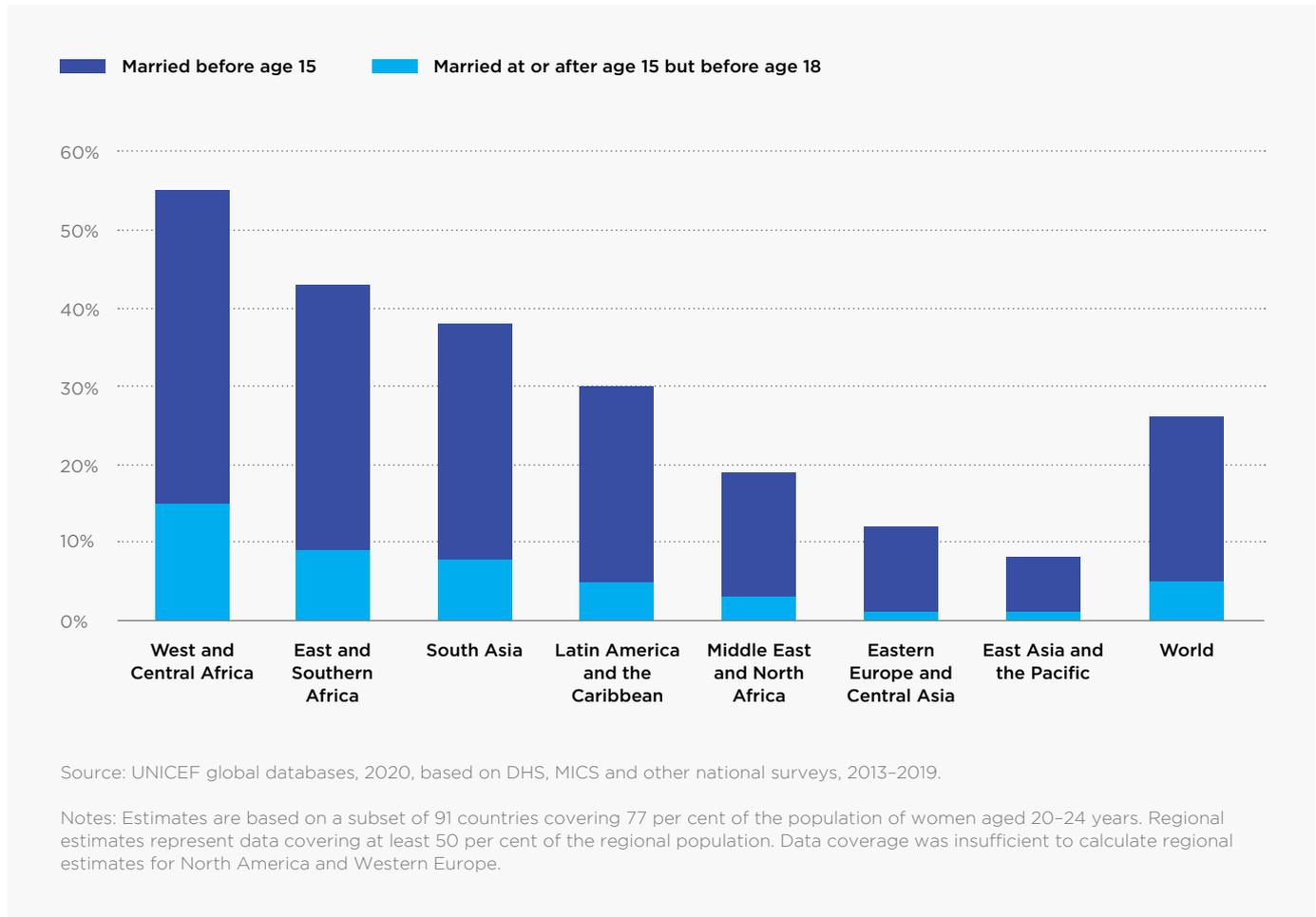
**Figure 5. Percentage of women aged 20–24 years who were first married or in union before age 18 years, by region and wealth quintile**



Across the globe, the burden of child marriage has shifted from South Asia to sub-Saharan Africa, where rates of progress need to be scaled up dramatically to offset population growth. Levels of child marriage are highest in sub-Saharan Africa, where 35 per cent of young women are married before age 18, followed by South Asia, where nearly 30 per cent are married before age 18 years. Lower levels of child marriage are found in Latin America and Caribbean (25 per cent), the Middle East and North Africa (16 per cent), and Eastern Europe and Central Asia (11 per cent). While other regions have made progress in reducing child marriage and early unions, the prevalence in Latin America and the Caribbean has remained stagnant for 25 years (see Figure 6).



Figure 6. Percentage of women aged 20–24 years who were first married or in union before ages 15 and 18 years, by region

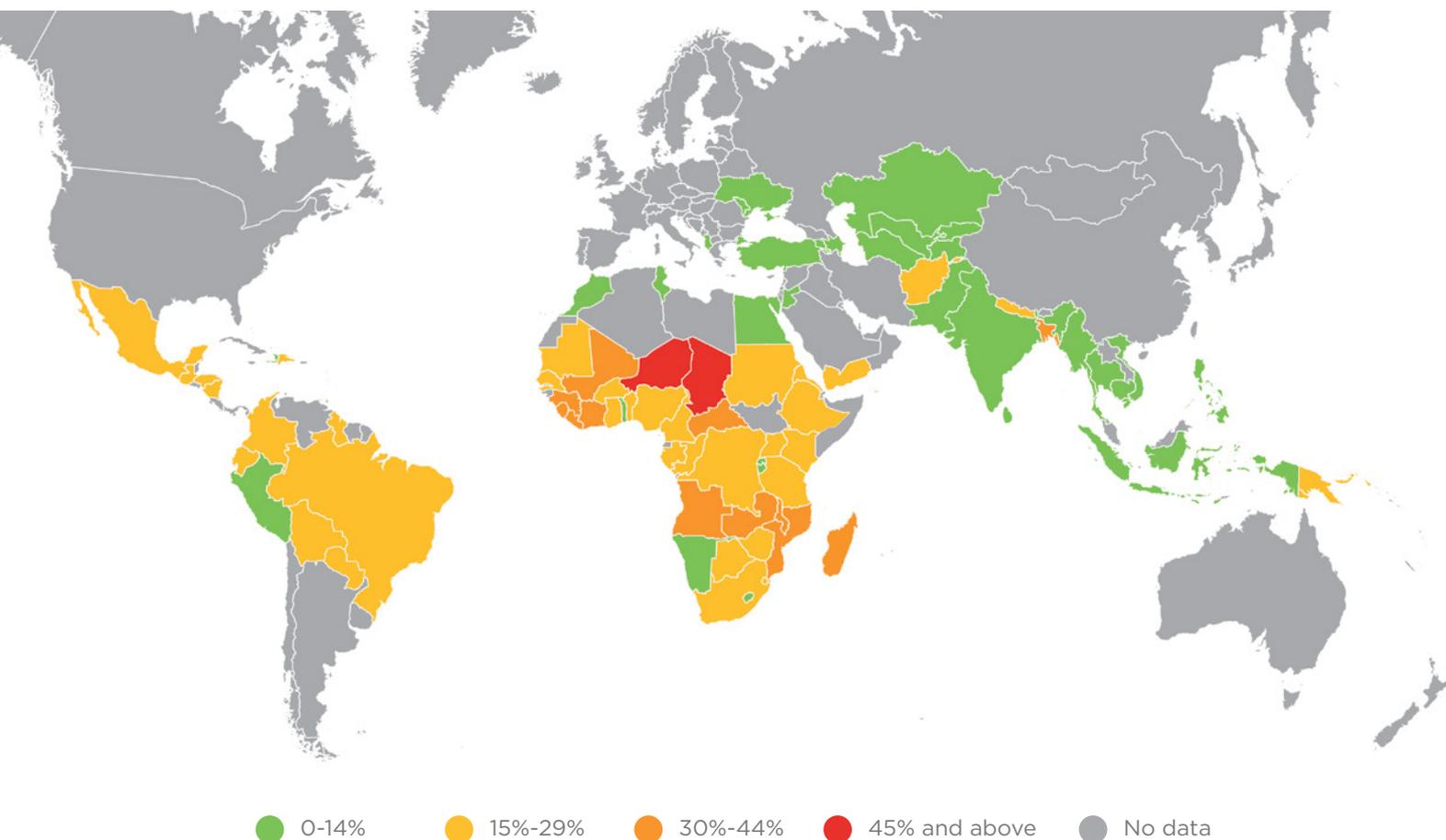


In addition to high rates of child marriage, adolescents, both married and unmarried, have high rates of unintended pregnancies. Roughly half of the pregnancies among adolescents aged 15–19 years in developing regions are unintended, a higher proportion than in any other age group.<sup>3</sup> The achievement of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) relies on the realization of sexual and reproductive rights. This includes, among other things: the right to decide whether, when, and whom to marry; to decide whether and when to have children and how many; and to have access to the information, resources, services and support necessary to achieve these rights free from coercion and violence.



<sup>3</sup> Gutmacher Institute, 'Adding It Up: Costs and benefits of meeting the contraceptive needs of adolescents in developing regions', 2018.

Figure 7. Percentage of women aged 20–24 years who gave birth before the age of 18 years



Source: UNICEF global databases, February 2020, based on the latest available DHS, MICS or other nationally representative surveys.

Notes: 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. The line between India and Pakistan represents approximately the Line of Control agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties. The final boundary between the Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.

In many countries, the initiation of sexual activity before marriage is more common than sexual initiation within marriage. In some countries, 40 per cent or more of young women have had premarital sexual intercourse. It is not uncommon for first births that occur within marriage to be the result of premarital conception, which suggests that many adolescent girls marry earlier than they might have expected, as a result of premarital conception, e.g. in settings where pregnancy/child birth outside of marriage is not seen as acceptable. The data indicate a relatively high level of premarital conception (up to 39 per cent in some African countries, up to 29 per cent in Latin American and Caribbean countries, and up to 25 per cent in Asian countries).

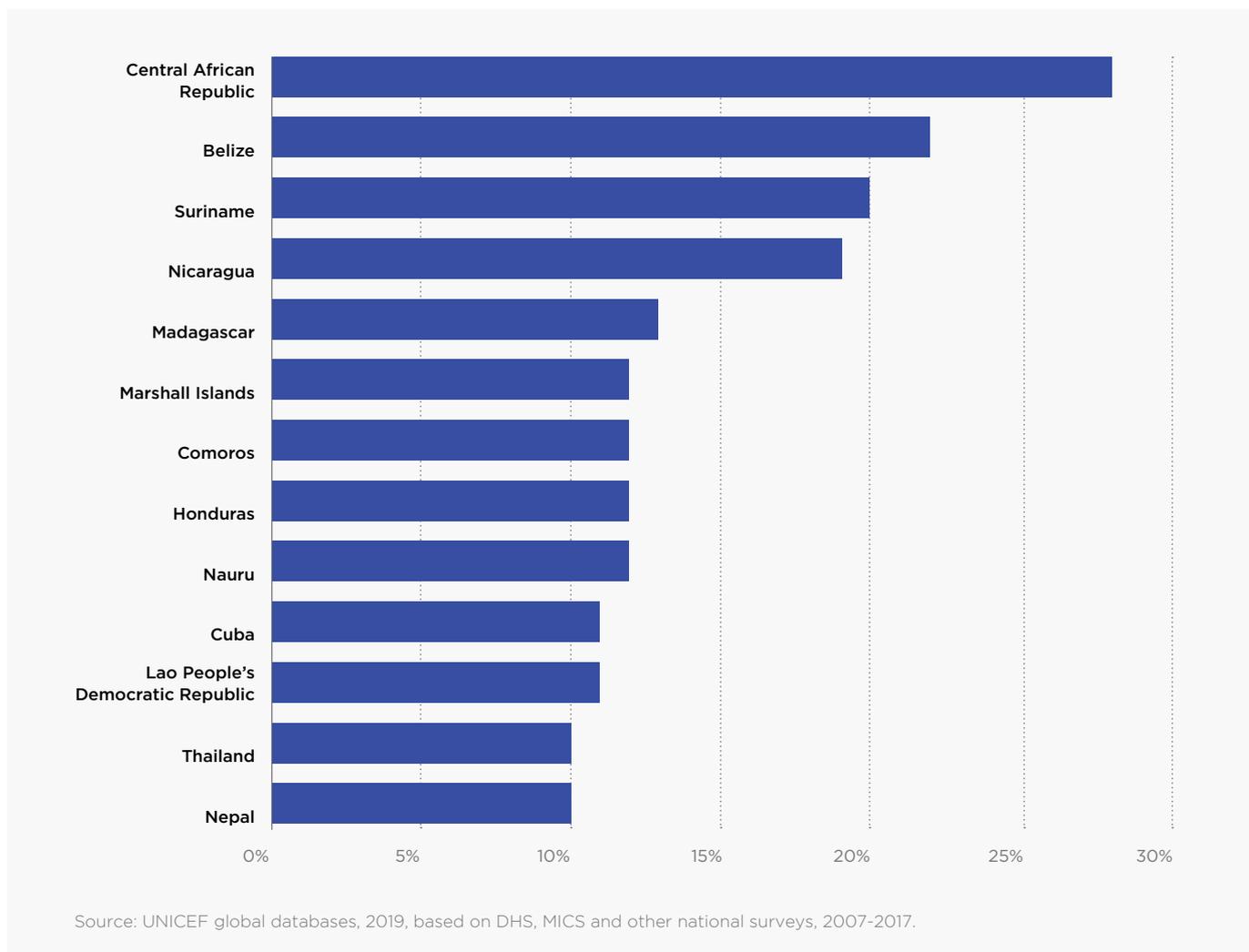
### 1.1.2 Child marriage among boys

Globally, 115 million boys and men were married before age 18 years. Countries where child marriage among adolescent boys is most common are geographically diverse and differ from countries where the practice is most common among adolescent girls.

The percentage of men aged 20–24 years who married as children ranges from 8.4 to 28 per cent in countries with data. The practice appears most common among respondents living in the poorest households and in rural areas, and with no education or only primary schooling.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Misunas, Christina, Colleen Murray Gastón and Claudia Cappa, 'Child marriage among boys in high-prevalence countries: An analysis of sexual and reproductive health outcomes', BMC International Health and Human Rights, vol. 19, no. 25, 16 August 2019.

Figure 8. Countries with the highest rates of men aged 20–24 years who were first married or in union before age 18 years



Child marriage affects adolescent girls and boys in different ways. Adolescent girls remain disproportionately affected, with 1 in 5 young women aged 20–24 years old married before their 18th birthday, compared with 1 in 30 young men. The social and reproductive vulnerabilities adolescent girls face present a challenge well beyond social and economic deprivations. Adolescent girls face SRH vulnerabilities including coerced sex, unwanted pregnancy, birth complications, morbidity, mortality and reproductive responsibilities. While child grooms are less numerous than child brides, they too experience rights violations that cut short their childhood. Further research is needed on the drivers of child marriage among boys and the effect of marriage on child grooms.

”  
At age 15, I dropped out of school to get married to an army sergeant who was 20 years older than me.

My husband abused me... even when I was pregnant with his child.

With the help of a mentor, I finally moved out of my abusive marriage, together with my baby.

Chipasha is today a girls' advocate in Zambia, after being a member of a safe space supported by the Global Programme

## 1.2 Child marriage in Global Programme countries

Levels of child marriage vary across Global Programme countries, from below 30 per cent in Ghana, India and Zambia, to above 50 per cent in Burkina Faso, Mozambique, Bangladesh and Niger. However, there is evidence of a generational decline in the practice, although the amount of progress has varied across countries and some countries have shown stronger declines than others.

Global Programme countries account for over 300 million of the 650 million girls and women globally who were married in childhood.

Figure 9. Change, from around 1990 to around 2015, in percentage of women aged 20–24 years who were married or in union before the age of 18 years

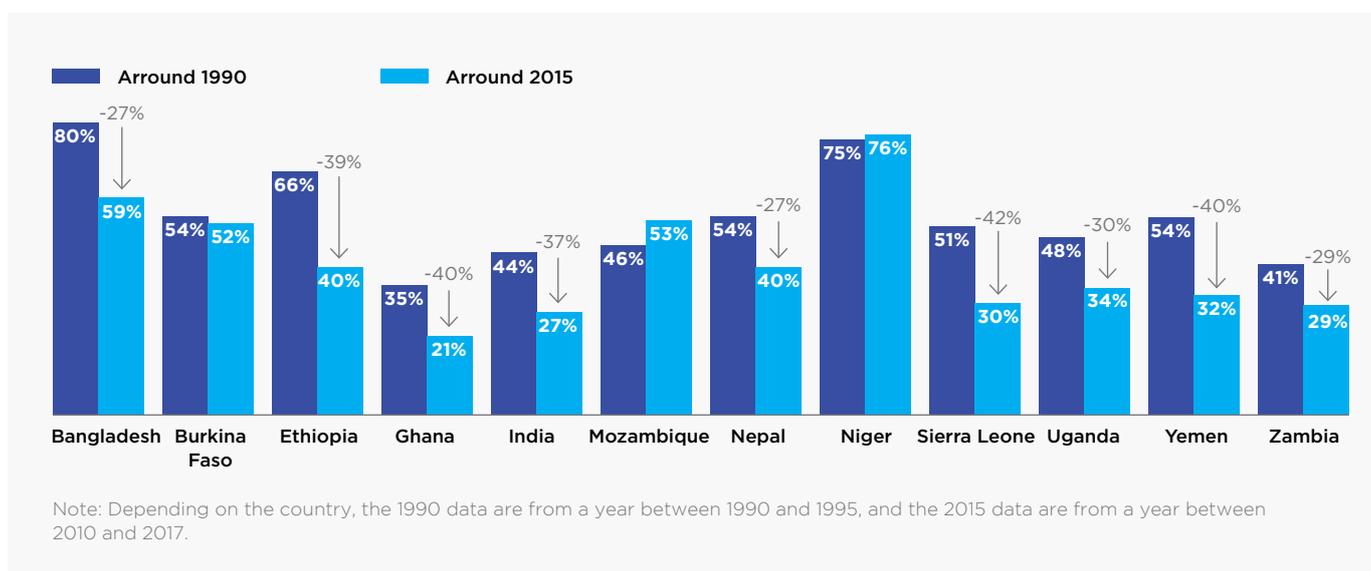
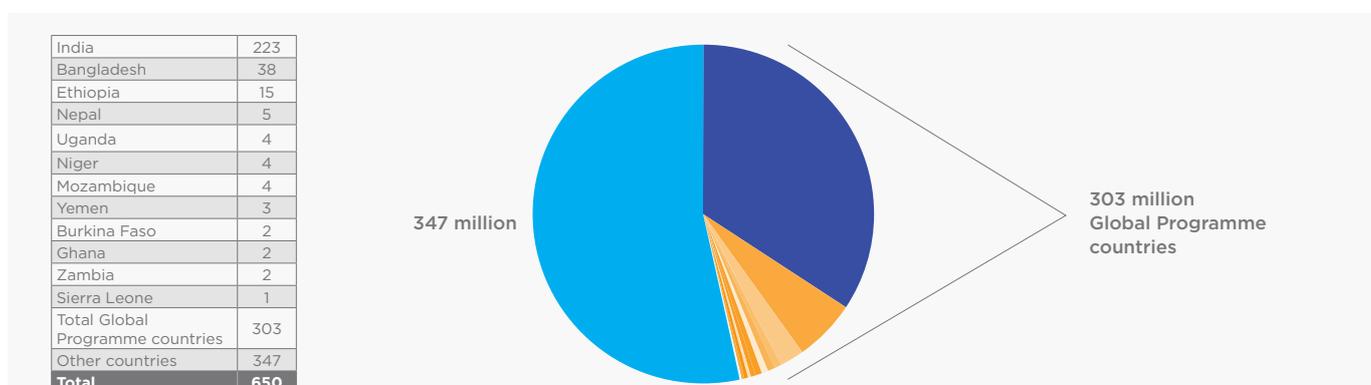


Figure 10. Number of adolescent girls and women who married in childhood



Source: UNICEF global databases, 2020. Demographic data are from United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, 'World Population Prospects 2019', online edition, revision 1, 2019.

Notes: For details of the calculation of girls and women married in childhood, see: United Nations Children's Fund, Child Marriage: Latest trends and future prospects, UNICEF, New York, 2018. Estimates refer to population year 2019, with the exception of Ethiopia (2016) and India (2016), which align with burden numbers recently published in country-specific analyses. Values below 2 million are rounded to the nearest hundred thousand; those above 2 million are rounded to the nearest million.



”

Growing up, I never realized that so many girls are denied education and forced to marry early. I was fortunate to get an education that opened doors for me. We must all work tirelessly to help girls and young women overcome barriers to their rights and development, so they can reach their full potential.

Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of International Development of Canada



# CHAPTER 2

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## GLOBAL PROGRAMME ACHIEVEMENTS



## 2.1 Key highlights

The Global Programme has played a key role in accelerating the momentum to end child marriage through positioning the global, regional and national agenda, national policy and legislative support, as well as by demonstrating innovative community action:

- The Global Programme has surpassed its targets, reaching millions of people in the 12 programme countries with interventions designed to end child marriage. The programme is extending its reach and accelerating its approach for most outputs.
- The programme has increased and met targets for girls' access to health and protection services over each year of the programme.
- The programme has fostered sustainability through advocacy, institutionalization of interventions, strengthening national and subnational systems, developing capacities and leveraging and mobilizing complementary funding.
- The programme has played a unique role in bringing together the combined capabilities of UNFPA and UNICEF to facilitate the multisectoral approach that is needed to tackle the complex set of interrelated issues that enable child marriage well beyond the 12 focus countries.

The Global Programme has been well designed to foster change processes and is on track to achieve programme outputs. Three areas of progress at the level of adolescent girls and communities in Phase I include:

- The programme reached nearly 8 million adolescent girls with life skills education and economic empowerment, far exceeding the objective to reach 6.4 million adolescent girls by the end of 2019.
- The programme expanded community outreach significantly and shows signs of scaling up, reaching 39 million individuals with information related to ending child marriage.
- The programme increased targets for adolescent girls' access to health, protection and education services over each year of its existence, and has collectively exceeded targets each year.

Table 2: Phase I output indicator performance

Output indicators	Target	Result	Per cent achieved
<b>1.1 Life skills and comprehensive sexuality education:</b> Adolescent girls are actively participating in a targeted programme	6,426,102	7,971,937	124%
<b>1.2 Education:</b> Adolescent girls are supported to enrol and remain in formal and non-formal education	703,899	744,812	106%
<b>2.1 Community dialogue:</b> Households are increasingly aware of the benefits of investing in adolescent girls and ending child marriage	25,869,434	39,483,656	153%
<b>3.1 Health and protection systems</b> are supported to implement guidelines, protocols and standards for adolescent girl-friendly health and protection services	18,544	24,267	131%
<b>3.2 Education system:</b> Non-formal/primary/secondary schools are supported to improve quality of education for adolescent girls	16,229	26,380	163%
<b>4.1 National plan of action:</b> The country has a costed national action plan or development plan on ending child marriage across more than one ministry	11	11	100%
<b>5.1 Evidence on scale models:</b> Country-specific, high-quality data and evidence are generated and shared on what works at scale to accelerate ending child marriage	12	12	100%

## 2.2 Human rights approach

From commitments to sustained actions towards the fulfillment of the:



During Phase I the Global Programme stepped up global, regional and country-level efforts to advance the fulfilment of children's rights. The human rights approach to programming has translated international human rights treaties such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), as well as the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action and the Beijing Platform for Action into sustained actions on the ground.

By supporting evidence-based interventions to end child marriage as a harmful practice that violates human rights, such as programmes centred on girls' empowerment, engaging families and communities, strengthening health, education and protection systems, and transforming discriminatory laws and policies, the Global Programme has contributed to guaranteeing the right to development, the right to education, and the right to health — including sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), the right to protection under the law, and the right to a life free of violence, particularly gender-based violence (GBV) and violence against children — and the right to participation, particularly of young people in matters that affect them.

Examples of such efforts include the application of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Model Law on Eradicating Child Marriage and Protecting Children Already in Marriage in Eastern and Southern African countries, and the advocacy strategy undertaken with civil society networks in Mozambique around the recommendations of the United Nations Universal Periodic Review, provoking changes in the law that sent pregnant adolescent girls to night schools.



” This programme enables me to help adolescents fight for their rights and eliminate harmful social norms such as child marriage and restrictions on girls that prevail in society. I am so proud to be a part of this programme along with brilliant colleagues across the globe.

Soniya Menon, Communication for Development Officer, UNICEF India, Bihar Field Office

## 2.3 Advocacy and influencing policy

The Global Programme has made significant contributions to the growing global movement to end child marriage. The programme is welcomed by stakeholders at all levels and is valued for its contributions to normative frameworks and multisectoral collaboration. The Global Programme has continuously elevated the issue of child marriage by organizing and providing support to global and regional political and partnership dialogues.

### 2.3.1 Global advocacy initiatives

- In June 2017, the African Union Peace and Security Council held an open session on ending child marriage, aimed at raising awareness of the impact of conflict on children who are at risk of sexual exploitation and abuse, including child marriage. In August 2018, a follow-up session was arranged, to which the Global Programme provided technical inputs.
- In 2018, the Global Programme helped co-convene a high-level side event to the 62nd United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, in collaboration with the UNFPA–UNICEF Joint Programme on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation: Accelerating Change, titled ‘Acceleration Efforts to Eliminate Child Marriage and FGM in Africa by 2030’.
- During the European Development Days in 2018, UNFPA and UNICEF organized a high-level session titled ‘Free from Violence – Free to Change the World’. The session was informed by evidence and lessons learned from the Global Programme as well as the UNFPA–UNICEF Joint Programme on Eliminating Female Genital Mutilation: Accelerating Change.
- In September 2018, the Global Programme provided technical inputs and helped co-convene the high-level side event under the theme ‘Accelerating Action the End Child Marriage’ on the margins of the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly.



”  
When we value, invest in and meaningfully engage young people, we can become the champions needed to influence parents, communities and policy makers.

Petrider Paul, African Union Youth Advisory Council, at the 63rd session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup> To read a blog post by Petrider on the event, see: Paul, Petrider, ‘A Seat at the Table: A young person’s view from the UN’, Girls Not Brides, 5 April 2019.

- In 2019, the programme provided technical inputs and helped co-convene a high-level side event to the 63rd United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, entitled ‘Accelerating the Elimination of Harmful Practices to Reap the Demographic Dividend for Africa’.<sup>6</sup>
- In 2019, the Global Programme participated in several side events to the 63rd United Nations Commission on the Status of Women arranged by the African Union and by Zonta International.
- The United Nations Human Rights Council resolution on child, early and forced marriage was adopted at the 41st session of the Human Rights Council in July 2019. The resolution urges states to respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of women and girls, to promote equality in all aspects of marriage and its dissolution, and to ensure the timely registration of births and marriages.
- In partnership with Girls Not Brides, UNFPA and UNICEF co-hosted a side event at the Women Deliver Conference in Vancouver, Canada, in 2019, titled ‘Transforming the Lives of Millions of Girls: Accelerate an End to Child Marriage’.
- The Global Programme provided support to the 2019 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD25) in Nairobi, where leaders made more than 400 commitments on ending harmful practices. Ninety-three commitments explicitly include actions towards ending child, early and forced marriage and unions.<sup>7</sup>



”  
 Child marriage is at the core of harms done towards the human population, hindering girls’ ability to achieve fulfilment in their lives.

Susanne von Bassewitz, President of Zonta International, at the 63rd United Nations Commission on the Status of Women



”  
 Our vision is for every girl to live a life free of child marriage and FGM.

Dag-Inge Ulstein, Minister of International Development of Norway, at the 63rd United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

<sup>6</sup> For more information, see: United Nations Population Fund and United Nations Children’s Fund, ‘[Accelerating the elimination of harmful practices to reap the demographic dividend for Africa](#)’, UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage newsletter, March 2019.

<sup>7</sup> For more information, see: United Nations Population Fund and United Nations Children’s Fund, ‘[Ending child marriage underscored as a global priority at the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25](#)’, UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage newsletter, November 2019.



### 2.3.2 Regional advocacy initiatives

#### South Asia

The two regional offices engaged with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and its institutions, including as co-chairs of the South Asian Coordinating Group on Violence Against Children (SACG), as well as with the South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children (SAIEVAC). Activities included supporting implementation and monitoring of the first five-year Regional Action Plan on Child Marriage, a high-level conference on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and violence against children, and meetings of the South Asian Network of Human Rights Institutions on ending child marriage.

The Global Programme has supported engagement with South-East Asian countries and regional bodies, including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), to ensure that efforts to end child marriage are adapted to regional and country contexts and different patterns of adolescent pregnancy, child marriage and early union.

In addition, the Global Programme has worked with the Asia-Pacific Regional Steering Committee for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) to promote the use of civil registration to end child marriage, within the Framework for Action to Improve CRVS. With the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and South Asia Civil Registration Professionals (CR8), at a meeting of the CR8, the Global Programme examined marriage registration processes and practices in South Asia.<sup>8</sup>

In 2018, the UNFPA and UNICEF supported the Regional Forum on Adolescent Pregnancy, Child Marriage and Early Union in South-East Asia and Mongolia. The forum was held in Bangkok, Thailand, in partnership with the International Planned Parenthood Federation, Plan International and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), as part of South-South learning on adolescent pregnancy, child marriage and early union. The 140 representatives of governments, United Nations agencies and civil society made a call for action to mobilize political will, invest in a better understanding of the situation, and develop enabling and empowering laws, policies and programmes that recognize adolescent sexuality.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>8</sup> See: United Nations Children's Fund, '[Status of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in South Asia](#)', UNICEF, 2020.

<sup>9</sup> See: van der Ree, Marleen, '[Regional Forum on Adolescent Pregnancy, Child Marriage and Early Union in South-East Asia and Mongolia](#)', UNFPA and UNICEF, 2018.

#### Middle East and North Africa

The Regional Accountability Framework of Action to End Child Marriage in the Middle East and North Africa and the Arab States was developed to strengthen, guide and accelerate joint programming, advocacy and results for girls and women on ending child marriage. The framework involves United Nations agencies, civil society organizations and universities in the region.

The Global Programme dialogued with the League of Arab States to organize an Arab Girls Summit, and with the African Union to organize the African Union Conference to End Child Marriage in Ghana in November 2018 (the second African Girls Summit). The statement developed at the conference was used to follow up and advocate to push for ending child marriage in African Union member countries.

#### Sub-Saharan Africa

The Global Programme strengthened regional and subregional partnerships to end child marriage at country level. Partners include the African Union, SADC, East African Community (EAC), SADC Parliamentary Forum and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Key events and initiatives included:

- The Global Programme partnered with the African Union Commission to organize the first and second African Girls Summits in 2016 (Zambia) and 2018 (Ghana) as part of South-South learning. The Ghana Summit attracted first ladies, ministers and other government officials, as well as religious and traditional leaders, United Nations representatives, civil society organizations (CSOs), and youth from 30 countries across the continent to share experience and good practice as well as challenges on ending child marriage at country, regional and international level.
- The Global Programme supported the SADC Parliamentary Forum through the development of the SADC Model Law to Eliminate Child Marriage and Protect Children. With support from the Global Programme and in partnership with Plan

- International, Girls Not Brides and the World Young Women's Christian Association (World YWCA), UNFPA co-hosted a consultative meeting with the SADC Parliamentary Forum General Assembly on the Model Law for CSOs in March 2016.
- The UNFPA and UNICEF regional offices supported ECOWAS to prioritize ending child marriage as a key issue for West Africa. Notable outcomes included the adoption of a child policy with a focus on child protection and a five-year roadmap on child marriage, including a model law on child marriage and an accountability mechanism to monitor actions by member states.
- The High-Level Meeting on Child Marriage for West and Central Africa was held in Dakar in October 2017, with the aim of capitalizing on momentum in the region towards ending child marriage and of building consensus on what it will take to translate existing and future commitments into tangible, measurable actions aimed at ending child marriage in the region. The first gathering of its kind to address child marriage in the region, it brought together around 350 participants from 24 countries and was supported by the Global Programme.
- The Global Programme supported the drafting of the EAC/East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights Bill, which included child marriage.
- The Global Programme provided technical and financial support to the African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage, which galvanized and amplified regional and national commitments to increase the minimum age of marriage for adolescent girls in line with regional and international standards.
- The Global Programme helped the African Coalition for Menstrual Health Management to support countries to issue policies, remove value added tax on sanitary products and launch national programmes on menstrual hygiene management (MHM). The biennial African Symposium for MHM is a strong platform for advocacy, networking and knowledge sharing.
- UNFPA co-hosted the first East and Southern African symposium on MHM in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2018. The symposium was organized by the Department of Women in the Presidency of the Republic of South Africa, in partnership with UNICEF, the United Nations

Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), the World Health Organization (WHO) and regional CSOs. The symposium reinforced the commitment of the participants to jointly strengthen advocacy for policymaking, support evidence-based programming and scale up innovative and sustainable models for empowering and better responding to the MHM needs of adolescent girls, women and other people who menstruate, throughout their menstrual life cycle, in Africa.



”

**If we do not act now on FGM and child marriage, we are all complicit, not just the parents.**

Hélène Ilboudo, Minister of Women, National Solidarity, Family and Humanitarian Action of Burkina Faso, at the 63rd session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

### 2.3.3 National policy advocacy

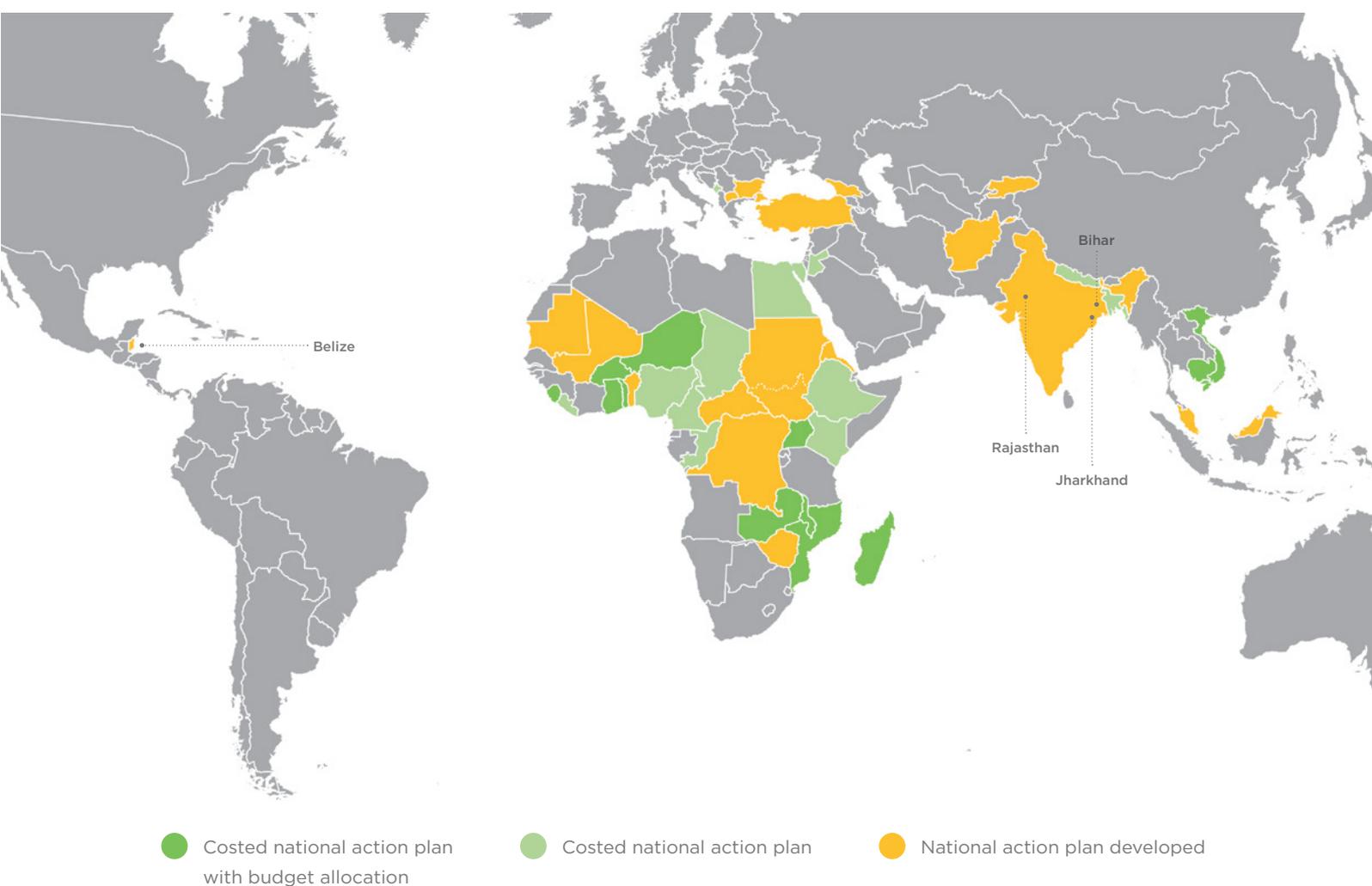
UNFPA and UNICEF collaborated at the highest levels to support governments to develop national and subnational action plans to end child marriage and support coordination mechanisms. This is a role for which UNFPA and UNICEF are uniquely positioned, and they are integral to ensuring that momentum towards ending child marriage continues.

Globally, 42 countries have developed national strategies or plans of action to end child marriage. Eleven of the twelve Global Programme countries developed national action plans (NAPs); of these, nine have costed these plans and seven have allocated public resources for the implementation of the plans.

In all, 24 countries' plans are costed; 19 of these countries are in Africa, 2 in South Asia and 2 in the Middle East; 9 are Global Programme focus countries.

In Phase II, the Global Programme will step up advocacy for greater government investment, evaluation of costing strategies, and tracking of budget allocations and outcomes, to foster sustainability and support the operationalization of policies and plans. The programme will also continue to strengthen legislative frameworks to support adolescents' rights.

Figure 11. Countries with national plans of action to end child marriage



Source: UNICEF strategic monitoring questions, 2019.

Notes: India has 3 states with action plans, but no national action plan. 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. The line between India and Pakistan represents approximately the Line of Control agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties. The final boundary between the Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, policy actions to end child marriage have been included in national development plans, plans for the prevention of adolescent pregnancy, and GBV strategies at the national and subnational level (e.g. in Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico and Peru).

Many governments are now adopting national strategies to end child marriage and action plans with clear interventions to delay marriage and increase investment in the poorest and most marginalized girls.<sup>10</sup>

### Legal age of marriage

The Global Programme advocated for and supported campaigns to lift the minimum age of marriage for adolescent girls and ensure accountability.

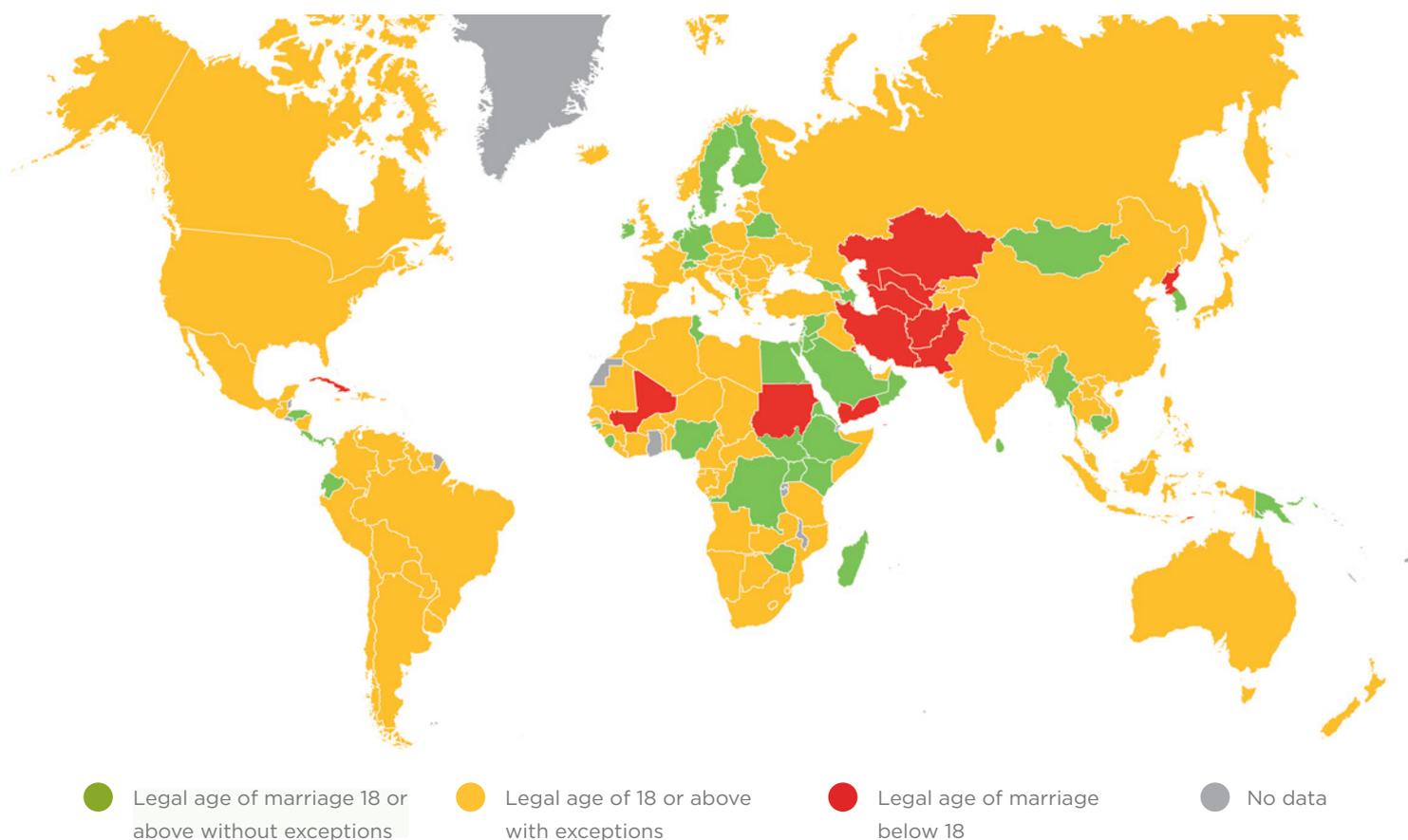
Child marriage remains legal not just in some of the Global Programme focus countries, but also elsewhere around the world (see Figure 12).

In the USA, the Global Programme in partnership with the UNICEF USA National Committee supported bill S427, which was passed with overwhelming bipartisan support and which set the minimum age of marriage for adolescent girls in the US state of New Jersey at 18 years.

According to the evidence, legislative reforms setting the legal age for marriage at 18 years (or higher) and eliminating parental or judicial exceptions must be accompanied by a wide range of additional policies and interventions.

<sup>10</sup> Wodon, Quentin, et al., '[Economic Impact of Child Marriage: Global synthesis report](#)', International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) and World Bank, June 2017.

Figure 12. Global map of legal age of marriage



Source: Global Programme monitoring dashboard, 2020.

Notes: 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. The line between India and Pakistan represents approximately the Line of Control agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties. The final boundary between the Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.



The Global Programme is supporting legal reforms accompanied by evidence-based interventions in the education, health and child protection sectors to address the complexities of child marriage.

During Phase I, the advocacy and technical support efforts of the Global Programme and partners led a number of focus countries (e.g. Bangladesh, Mozambique and Nepal) to increase the minimum

age of marriage for adolescent girls to align with international standards, and others (e.g. Nepal and Sierra Leone) to review contradictions between civil/common law and customary law. In addition, the Global Programme supported changes in discriminatory laws restricting the rights of adolescent girls (e.g. Mozambique revoked the law which transferred pregnant adolescent girls to night schools).



## HADERU'S STORY

Kola Tembein District, Tigray Region, Ethiopia



Early in 2019, Haderu Gebray, 15 years, and her parents were arrested for planning her wedding. Child marriage is illegal in Ethiopia, yet her father, who works in government, planned to marry her to an older man she had never met. Her plight hit the media headlines instantly. All it took to create a huge public outcry on her behalf was a post on Facebook from a young man in her area. But the entire experience has left Haderu shaken.

What made her intended marriage ironic is that Haderu lives in a district where there is a strong movement against child marriage, with a high level of awareness that it is a harmful practice and of the legal consequences.

“At the time, I was not happy that the marriage was [cancelled], as so much effort and expense was [spent] by my parents in organizing the wedding,” Haderu says. She had resigned herself to her fate and planned to continue her education while married. However, in instances of child marriage, the girl typically drops out of school and does not complete her education.

The UNFPA–UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage is being implemented in Kola Tembein District as well as other districts in Ethiopia. In Kola Tembein, child marriage is a deeply rooted custom even among government employees like Haderu’s father, despite the government’s aim to end the practice. Parents such as Haderu’s often worry that their daughters may engage in premarital sex and ‘smear’ their family’s honour by losing their virginity prior to marriage. Minors like Haderu pay the price for this.

Thanks to the commitment of the Regional Government of Tigray and efforts made with the support of the Global Programme, child marriage is on the decline. Community structures at grassroots level, including religious organizations and CSOs, take the lion’s share of the credit.

When couples seek to marry at Guya Mariam church, Priest Gebreegziabher Tiku asks them to produce documents proving that they are not underage. He also preaches to his flock about the consequences of child marriage and other harmful practices. “We are seeing very good results as far as warding off child marriage is concerned,” he says.

Women development groups conduct community mapping exercises, which are stepped up in months prior to popular wedding seasons. The members keep track of every girl in the community, their marriage status and whether or not they are still in school. They report this information to the District Women’s Affairs Office. “This has helped us to prevent the marriage of underage girls,” says Leteselas Berhe, leader of a women development group in the Guya locality of the Kola Tembein District. “We have brought cases of violators to the attention of law enforcement bodies, one of which was the case of Haderu.”

Some families reverse their decision when they realise that the women development group is hot on the trail. But cases such as Haderu’s are usually handled by a marriage annulment committee set up at the local level, and the perpetrators are subject to the justice system.

“We have registered good results in the fight against harmful practices and promoting institutional delivery (at a health centre) and a savings culture among women,” adds Leteselas.

Because girls who leave school are more likely to be married off early, and because many child brides are forced to drop out, the women development groups also work closely with local schools.

While Haderu was unhappy about her personal situation being publicized on social media, she believes it was a good strategy for others to learn from. Currently in sixth grade, she is happy to be in school and wants to continue her education until she decides to marry.

Story and photo credit:  
UNFPA Ethiopia/Abraham Gelaw

## 2.4 Data and evidence generation

### 2.4.1 Global data on child marriage among girls and boys

UNFPA and UNICEF have been instrumental for many years in the generation and analysis of data on child marriage and adolescent reproductive health issues. Spurred on by the need for better data to measure the SDGs and progress against the Global Programme targets, and the need for updated figures for policy advocacy, the two agencies have deepened the analysis of child marriage trends and patterns. UNICEF produced statistical data and analysis on the latest global, regional and national child marriage trends. Publications include brochures on the prevalence of, and trends in, child marriage in India, Ethiopia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Middle East.<sup>11</sup> After an expert consultation arranged by UNICEF and Girls Not Brides on the relationship between HIV and child marriage, a joint white paper was published to advance the evidence base on child marriage and HIV.<sup>12</sup>

In 2018, UNICEF released new data on the total number of girls married in childhood. The estimates reveal shifts in the global burden of child marriage and show areas where rates of progress need to be scaled up dramatically.

In 2019, UNICEF released the first global analysis of child grooms and the total number of boys married in childhood. Using data from 82 countries, the analysis revealed that child marriage among boys is prevalent across the world, spanning Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, South Asia, and East Asia and the Pacific.<sup>13</sup> The new data add to the understanding of how gender roles are fuelling child marriage.

In 2019, UNFPA released estimates of the costs of global efforts to end GBV and harmful practices, specifically child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM). The study developed a methodology to estimate the costs of ending child marriage in 68 countries that bear 90 per cent of the global burden of child marriage. According to the study, ending child marriage in these 68 countries will cost USD 35 billion from 2020 to 2030, with USD 600 being required to avert one case of child marriage.<sup>14</sup>



<sup>11</sup> For statistical analyses, see: United Nations Children's Fund, '[Child marriage](#)', UNICEF data, April 2020.

<sup>12</sup> Girls Not Brides and United Nations Children's Fund, '[Advancing the Evidence Base on Child Marriage and HIV](#)', Girls Not Brides and UNICEF, London and New York, April 2019.

<sup>13</sup> United Nations Children's Fund, '[115 million boys and men around the world married as children - UNICEF](#)', UNICEF press release, 6 June 2019.

<sup>14</sup> Johns Hopkins University et al., '[Costing the Three Transformative Results: The cost of the transformative results UNFPA is committed to achieving by 2030](#)', UNFPA, January 2020.

## 2.4.2 Regional and country data

UNICEF produced several global, regional and country-specific statistical analyses (using Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS), Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) and other national surveys) on trends in child marriage and progress towards the SDGs which galvanized support to end child marriage and informed policy and programme initiatives:

- The regional offices in **West and Central Africa** used the statistical analyses of ‘Child Marriage in West and Central Africa – At a glance’<sup>15</sup> to galvanize support for the High-Level Meeting on Child Marriage held in Dakar in October 2017, with the aim of capitalizing on momentum in the region to end child marriage and to build consensus on what it will take to translate existing and future commitments into tangible, measurable actions aimed at ending child marriage in the region.
- The regional offices in **Eastern and Southern African** commissioned a review of literature and an empirical assessment of DHS and MICS data in 17 of the 21 countries in the region, titled ‘Child Marriage in Eastern and Southern Africa: Determinants, consequences and the way forward’. The analysis focused on the 20- to 24-year-old cohort, because it provides an overview of the group of women recently married as children.
- **Ethiopia** used the country statistical analyses to inform the development of their new national roadmap to end child marriage and FGM.
- **South Asia** regional offices commissioned a child marriage estimation study which is a rerun of the baseline study that determined the number of adolescent girls and boys who were in a marriage in 2014, to assess how many marriages were averted by the end of 2017.
- The regional offices in **Latin America and the Caribbean** used the regional statistical analysis to inform the development of the regional framework to end child marriage as well as advocate for prioritization of child marriage issues in the region.

## 2.4.3 Studies and evaluations

At the global level, an evaluability assessment of the Global Programme led to significant adjustments in programming, monitoring and reporting during the last two years of Phase I. The joint independent evaluation of Phase I informed the development of Phase II of the Global Programme, including shifts in strategies. Based on the recommendations of the evaluation, UNICEF partnered with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to pursue research on how to effectively deliver large-scale child marriage programmes targeted at girls most in need.

The Global Programme partnered with the University of California San Diego to produce three publications: ‘Strengthening the evidence base in support of behaviour and social change interventions to end child marriage’, ‘Associations between village-level norms related to age and choice in marriage and younger age at marriage among adolescent wives in rural Niger’ and ‘Longitudinal analysis of the effects of parent-child relationships on child and early marriage in Ethiopia, India, Peru and Vietnam’. These publications informed the development of national roadmaps to end child marriage in Ethiopia and Niger as well as re-informing the development of communication for development strategies at regional and country level.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, the Global Programme supported the regional study ‘A Hidden Reality for Adolescent Girls: Child, Early and Forced Marriages and Unions in Latin American and the Caribbean’. The study, conducted by UNFPA and Plan International regional offices in eight countries, highlights the specificities of the region and explores the great diversity across its countries. Drawing on research conducted in Bolivia, Brazil, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Peru, the Dominican Republic and Guatemala, the study contributes to raising the visibility of harmful practices in Latin American and the Caribbean.<sup>16</sup>

More information about regional and country-level studies is included in the Outcome 5 section (see Chapter 3, section 3.5).

<sup>15</sup> United Nations Population Fund West and Central Regional Office and United Nations Children’s Fund West and Central Africa Regional Office, ‘Child Marriage in West and Central Africa – At a glance’, UNFPA and UNICEF, September 2018.

<sup>16</sup> Greene, Margaret E., ‘A Hidden Reality for Adolescent Girls: Child, early and forced marriages and unions in Latin American and the Caribbean’, regional report, Plan International and UNFPA, n.d..

## 2.5 Child marriage programming

Over the course of Phase I, the Global Programme has made significant investments to improve the effectiveness of its programming by commissioning numerous studies to improve knowledge and evidence of what works to end child marriage, commissioning an evaluation of Phase I, sharpening

gender-transformative approaches, strengthening joint and convergent programming, and developing new pathways to scaled-up programming and to reaching larger numbers of adolescent girls and communities.

**Table 3. Programme shifts and improvements for Phase II**

Phase I	Phase II
Empower adolescent girls	Make gender transformation an overarching strategy
Delay marriage until age 18	Create a broader range of life options for adolescent girls – beyond early marriage
Focus on the prevention of formal marriage before age 18	Take a more inclusive perspective of various forms of child marriage and early unions within and across regions
Focus on child marriage, acknowledging other forms of gender discrimination against girls	Address forms of gender discrimination when they are closely linked to child marriage
Address all major drivers of child marriage equally in different settings	Address different drivers of child marriage according to country and subnational contexts
Mostly focus on unmarried adolescent girls	Expand the target group to include married, widowed, divorced or separated adolescent girls
Focus on the most vulnerable and most marginalized adolescent girls	Reach and include specific groups of vulnerable and marginalized adolescent girls
Focus on adolescent girls and communities	Have more intentional engagement with boys and men on positive masculinities
Make small ancillary investments in economic skills and assets for adolescent girls	Increase emphasis on skill building for livelihood and social protection through partnerships
Focus on changing social norms	Change/transform social norms, and promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours
Conduct various studies, mostly focused on prevalence and drivers of child marriage	Focus integrated research strategy more on learning what works, where, and for whom, based on an evaluative approach
Initiated knowledge management strategy	Strengthen knowledge management further for wider dissemination and scale-up
Provide some support beyond the 12 Global Programme countries	Extend Global Programme technical support and knowledge management (but not funding) to other countries and regions
Differentiate the Global Programme approach slightly according to context	Further contextualize approaches, including preventing child marriage in humanitarian settings

## IRENE'S STORY

Odramacaku, Uganda



Uganda, December 2018.  
© UNICEF/UN0297700/Adriko

Christmas is one of the busiest times of the year for beauty salons in the small town of Odramacaku, in Uganda's northern Arua District. For 16-year-old Irene Asibazuyo, it means that she will make a little more money. Unlike other children her age, she is a hairdresser, plaiting hair instead of going to classes. She was enrolled in primary school and enjoyed studying mathematics, social studies and English until her childhood ended abruptly in 2017, when she was raped during a visit to her uncle in South Sudan; the man who raped her later vanished.

"In my culture, when a man rapes you, they must take you as their wife," Irene explains, "otherwise, your family risks being cursed or struck by a bad omen."

She found herself at a crossroads: "I could not go back home, because I knew I would be ridiculed by my peers and my own relatives. Instead, I went to the man's home. I explained the incident to his parents, who advised me to stay. Since he had raped me, I knew that no man would ever take me as his wife."

Irene felt stranded, scared, confused and abused. She stayed at the man's home for a week, but he never returned. Yet, according to her culture, her marriage had already begun.

"While I was living in that home, I thought about my friends," she says. "All I did was cry, and I could not eat. I used to fetch water, among other chores, and I worried about my future."

Irene's situation only started to change when her parents across the border learned about the End Child Marriage campaign, implemented by World Vision with support from the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage. Irene's parents and a UNICEF-trained social worker crossed over the border with South Sudan to rescue Irene, defying cultural taboos to support their daughter.

Today, Irene still lives with the traumatic memories of the attack. She dropped out of formal education, but decided to apply for a job at the salon. "As I feared being called names like 'married woman' or 'raped girl', I chose to pursue hairdressing instead," Irene recalls. She describes hairdressing as the "magic" skill that helped her overcome trauma and earn a living.

Irene now regularly attends UNFPA- and UNICEF-supported community dialogues, campaigns against child marriage, and is seen as a role model in her community. She mentors child brides who have been abandoned with their children and teaches them to plait hair. "I share the knowledge I have and what I know," she reflects. "I am happy that they will be able to earn some money to look after their children. I encourage them to work and not stay at home."

Irene also encourages her younger siblings to go to school, and provides the necessary support. "I want my siblings to complete school so that they can live a better life than me," she says. "I sometimes feel disappointed that I did not return to school."

However, she is glad that she learned a trade. And she turned it into a platform to support other girls. One day Irene wishes to return to school, but not in her village. "I do not want my peers to laugh at me because of what happened. I will go to another district for my education and learn how to write and speak English."

Story by:  
Proscovia Nakibuuka Mbonye, UNICEF Uganda

## 2.5.1 Gender transformation

During Phase I, the Global Programme took a gender-targeted approach, focusing on adolescent girls. Yet the programme needed to deepen the analysis of underlying gender-related drivers and engage men and boys in positive masculinities systematically across programme interventions.

Based on stakeholder feedback gathered during the independent evaluation and the Phase II design process, the Global Programme made significant adjustments to its programme strategy. The Global Programme also positioned itself in defining gender-transformative programming through practical, succinct and practitioner-tailored guidance to operationalize the shift in programming. The Global Programme produced a technical note on gender norms to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and good practice to promote change in gender norms, as well as providing practical guidance on the application of key concepts and effective programming approaches to change social norms in the context of ending child marriage.

### Major shifts in Phase II:

- Make gender transformation an overarching strategy: Promote gender-equitable norms that influence child marriage at all levels
- Encourage a more inclusive understanding of child marriage: Promote a more nuanced and inclusive perspective of the various forms of child marriage and early union within and across regions.
- Acknowledge gender discrimination in all its forms and linkages to child marriage.
- Recognize the multifaceted drivers of child marriage in different settings.
- Expand the target group: Explicitly include pregnant, married and divorced adolescent girls and adolescent mothers.
- Consider reach and inclusion: Policies, services and investments have to be inclusive of the most marginalized and disadvantaged adolescent girls.
- Work with boys and men as agents of change to maximize impact.



### South Asia

Throughout Phase I, South Asia invested in understanding, challenging and trying to change gender norms, while recognizing that gender transformation cannot be achieved within the life of a four-year programme. Examples of activities include: a study on structural violence, which looked at the intersections of gender, socioeconomic status, caste, disability and violence against children; a paper on the intersections between child marriage and other harmful practices, which highlights gender dimensions and gender inequalities that underpin harmful practices; and regional meetings on adolescent pregnancy, early union and child marriage in South East Asia, which highlighted gender inequality as a driver of child marriage. Examples of promoting gender transformation at country level include: adolescent club programming, which aims to address harmful gender and social norms that underpin child marriage in all three programme countries (Bangladesh, India and Nepal); a communications campaigning in Bangladesh targeting men and boys as fathers and grooms; the Generation Breakthrough programme in Bangladesh, which aims to promote healthy, respectful relationships and which targets both boys and girls; and engaging boys around positive masculinities in adolescent clubs.

**Table 4. Challenges of promoting gender transformation in South Asia**

Challenges of promoting gender transformation	Implications for Phase II programming in South Asia
Gender transformation takes time and does not happen within the life of a single programme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognise that gender transformation takes time, and programme accordingly.</li> </ul>
There has been a lack of attention to boys as grooms and to gender transformation that engages men and boys for their own sake and not only to support women and girls.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage men and boys in their own right and to support positive masculinities for the mutual benefit of boys and girls.</li> </ul>
There is no common understanding of gender and social norm change, how it happens, and how to measure it.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a common understanding of gender transformation that encompasses both gender and social norm change and reduces structural inequality and discrimination.</li> <li>Develop common measures for gender transformation that can be applied across the programme.</li> </ul>
At times, the two agencies have had different understandings and approaches to addressing gender issues and norms (UNFPA tends to focus more on women and girls and gender determinants, and UNICEF to locate gender within other structural inequalities and determinants).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Move beyond the binary approach to understanding gender and gender transformation.</li> <li>Pay greater attention to promoting a positive approach to adolescent sexuality, especially for girls; without transforming attitudes and behaviours regarding sexuality, gender transformation is not possible.</li> </ul>

### Middle East and North Africa

Humanitarian crises across the region have reinforced traditional gender roles and gender inequality through the disruption of social networks, the inability to conduct programming for extended periods of time due to displacement, and through multiple protection challenges. The UNICEF Regional Office is promoting a comprehensive programming approach to social and behavioural change communication through its programmatic guidance ‘Everybody Wants to Belong’. Yemen is drawing on formative research on child marriage and implementing gender-responsive social and behavioural change communication and life-skills programmes with the aim of influencing transformative change.

#### Child marriage programming in humanitarian settings

The Global Programme has supported programmes in several humanitarian settings, including Yemen, Burkina Faso, Bangladesh and Mozambique. Over the past years, the Global Programme has carried out a number of studies addressing child marriage in humanitarian settings, organized a consultation on the topic in Amman, Jordan, and produced a technical note on the Global Programme’s approach to preventing and responding to child marriage in humanitarian settings.

### East and Southern Africa

The Global Programme is moving towards a more inclusive gender-transformative approach, with efforts to engage boys and address masculinities. For example, in Ethiopia, Mozambique, Uganda, and Zambia, adolescent girls have been involved in life-skills and comprehensive sexuality education, delivered through mentorship programmes at community level or through school-based activities. This has resulted in adolescent girls having increased self-confidence and knowledge about sexual and reproductive health (SRH), with a strong focus on menstrual hygiene management, a desire for education and other aspirations for their future. However, the programme has made limited progress in reaching married, separated and divorced adolescent girls, considering different types of marriage (e.g. love marriages, cohabiting), and addressing the specific needs of adolescent girls in different contexts. In addition, the programme is challenged by the lack of complementary strategies for economic empowerment as an alternative to child marriage. The programme has made efforts to involve men – as fathers and leaders – in community dialogues, and this has helped to create a more supportive environment for adolescent girls to exercise their rights and to challenge gender norms and stereotypes. However, the involvement of boys in life-skills and other programme interventions has been less systematic.



## West and Central Africa

In Phase I, the Global Programme promoted gender equality through approaches to empowering adolescent girls, including life-skills education, asset-building and comprehensive sexuality education in safe spaces and through mentorship. In Phase II, these will be complemented by additional investments to create enabling environments to end child marriage through stronger engagement with communities, religious leaders and men and boys. The programme will continue to strengthen links between education, health

and protection systems to ensure that girls have access to education and SRH services, as well as enhancing economic skills and vocational educational training.

Notes: Shifts in country approaches and strategies in Phase II are included in the outcome sections below and in the accompanying country profiles. Analyses of country efforts to contextualize evidence-based theories of change and strategies are included in the country profiles.

## Leaving no one behind

All adolescent girls targeted by the Global Programme face social and cultural barriers, including: restrictions on their autonomy, mobility and access to means of communication; a culture of silence that discourages community members from speaking out against child marriage and violence against women and children; and resistance against SRHR and comprehensive sexuality education for adolescents. The most marginalized adolescent girls, those who are left behind, are facing barriers in addition to those faced by the large majority of adolescent girls at risk of child marriage.

The Global Programme has targeted areas with high prevalence of child marriage. At community level, country offices have targeted out-of-school girls, those most at risk of child marriage, pregnant teenagers and teenage mothers. Some countries, such as Niger and Sierra Leone, have prioritized orphaned girls or those living with one parent. In India, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and religious minorities were identified as marginalized communities and selected for programme implementation. Mapping exercises in Ethiopia and Sierra Leone were used to identify and target interventions<sup>17</sup> However, the Global Programme needs to do more to reach some of the most vulnerable adolescent girls, including those in less-accessible and remote areas, who are among those left furthest behind.

The Global Programme is in the process of finalizing a technical note on leaving no one behind. The note will guide countries to increase their efforts to leave no one behind during Phase II.

## Reasons why some adolescent girls are not attending empowerment programmes:

- Partners in Yemen have faced difficulties reaching some remote locations with high rates of child marriage.
- Reaching out-of-school girls has been a challenge in several countries. For example, it has been difficult to reach: out-of-school girls in Ethiopia, due to child labour and migration; children with disabilities in Bangladesh; and adolescent mothers with children in Sierra Leone.
- Life-skills sessions are offered through adolescent clubs for gender equality in Ethiopia, but reach has been limited to 30 students per club. To reach larger numbers of girls, the Ministry of Education, with support from UNICEF, is reviewing the content of the life-skills curriculum and considering offering life-skills sessions in other clubs as well.<sup>18</sup>
- Social media approaches (e.g. SMS Biz in Mozambique or U-Report in Nepal, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zambia) have broad reach but are unlikely to reach the most vulnerable groups, due to illiteracy and a lack of access to mobile phones.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>17</sup> UNFPA and United Nations Children's Fund, ['Joint Evaluation Report: UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage'](#), UNICEF, May 2019.

<sup>18</sup> UNFPA and UNICEF, ['Annual Report 2018: UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage'](#), UNICEF, May 2019.

<sup>19</sup> UNFPA and the United Nations Children's Fund, Joint Evaluation Report: ['UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage'](#), UNICEF, May 2019.

## 2.5.2 Joint and convergent programming

Given the complexity of the issues surrounding child marriage, a multisectoral approach is an effective means of reducing adolescent girls' vulnerability to child marriage and other harmful practices. While single-sector interventions such as cash transfers and access to education (including comprehensive sexuality education) can accelerate the decline in child marriage, they are not sufficient to end the practice.

Convergent, multisectoral and multilevel approaches are central to policy and programming aimed at preventing child marriage and promoting gender-equitable attitudes and behaviours. The Global Programme therefore supports a multipronged approach, with the goal of having services and interventions converge at the level of adolescent girls in the community. Implementing different sectoral interventions in parallel (e.g. secondary education, and adolescent SRH services) does not guarantee that all adolescent girls will benefit from all interventions. A convergent approach requires multisectoral design, planning, implementation, monitoring and programme coordination between implementing agencies and departments.

The Global Programme has made significant contributions to enhancing intersectoral and complementary collaboration on child marriage at all levels of operation. The programme has developed a technical note on convergent programming to provide additional guidance to country teams. The complementarity of the capabilities of UNFPA and UNICEF supports the convergence of a multisectoral approach, which is vital to tackling the complex issue of child marriage.

The average percentage of joint implementation areas by country has ranged between 32 and 43 per cent over the course of Phase I. There have been wide variations in joint implementation areas within countries over the years. This reflects a combination of different contextual factors, strategic opportunities and availability of funding. Joint operationalization at the subnational level remains a priority and a challenge for Phase II.

Figure 13. Percentage of joint implementation areas by country and year in Phase I

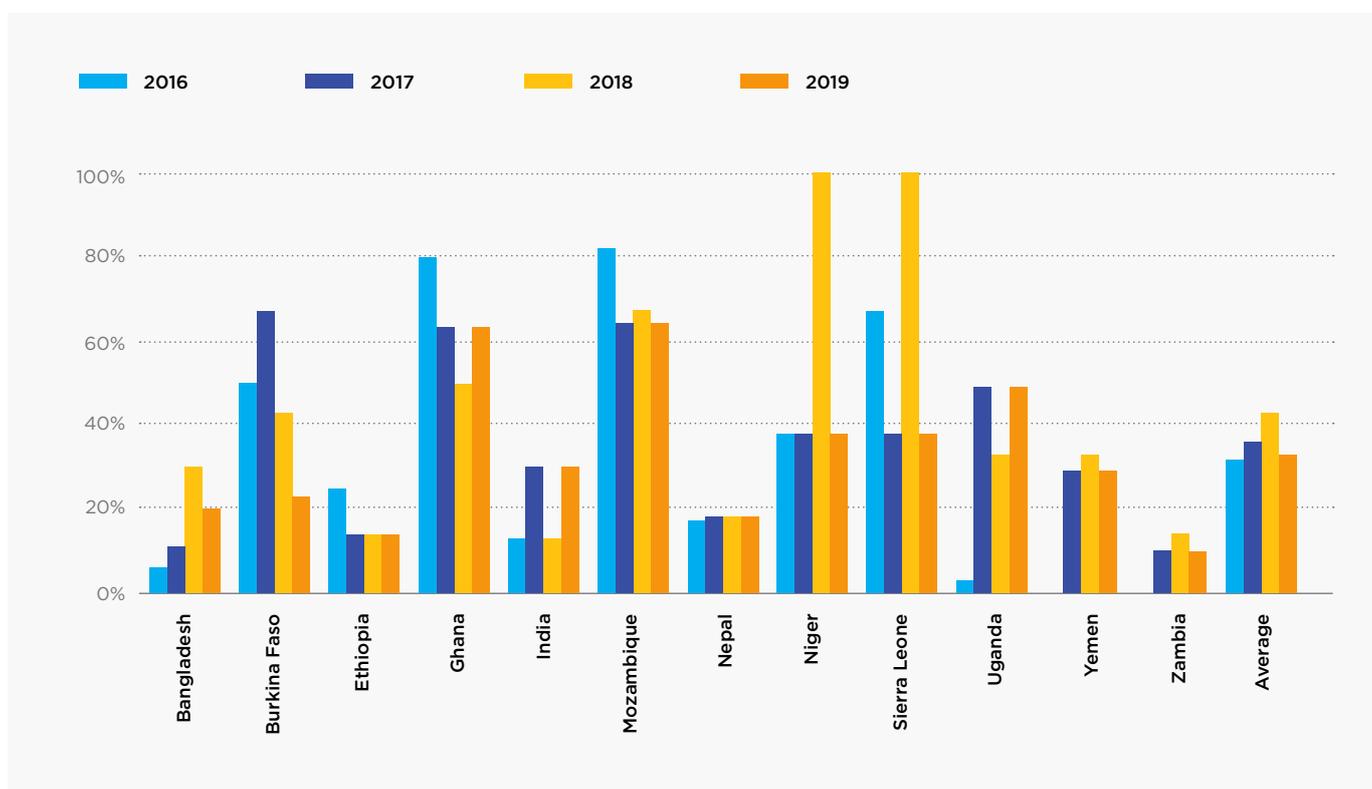
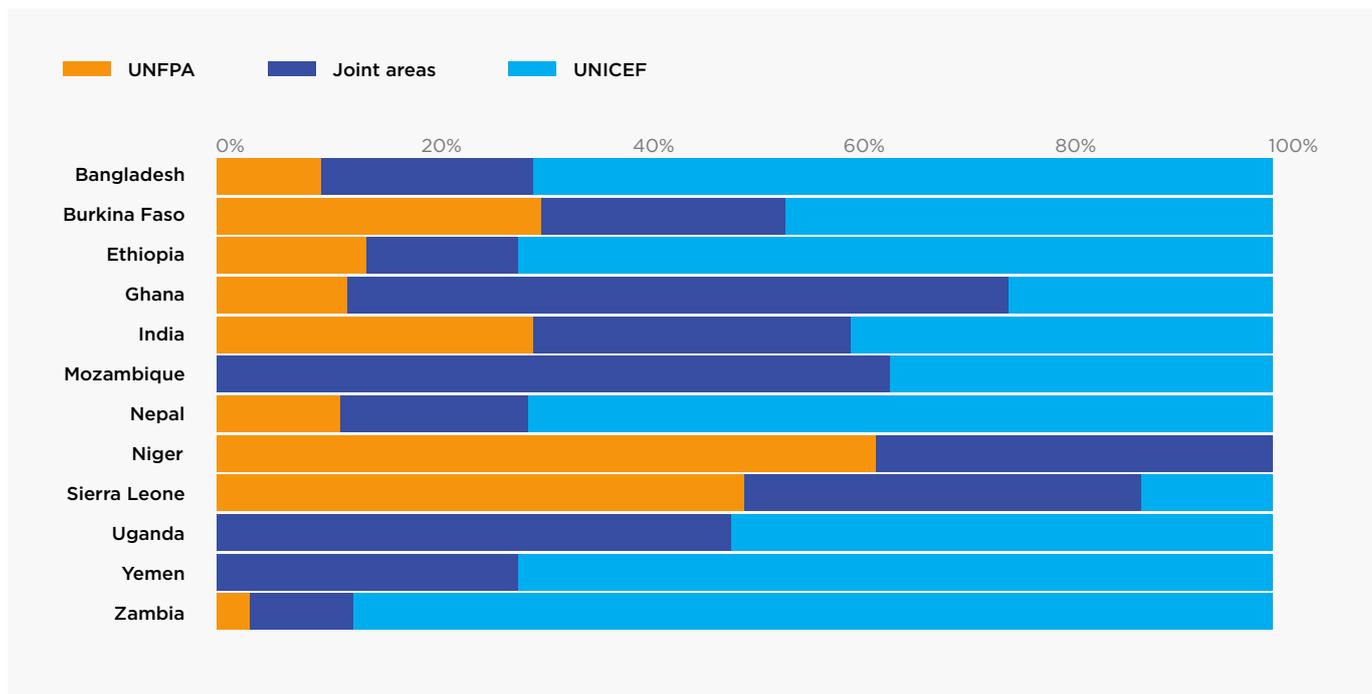


Figure 14. Global Programme implementation in 2019 by country – percentage by UNFPA, UNICEF and joint areas



### South Asia

All regional work is planned and implemented jointly. The two regional offices have been a model of joint working for country offices. Joint missions, monitoring, research studies, planning meetings and knowledge management have been a feature of this approach. Collaboration with regional institutions has also been planned and implemented jointly. This includes engagement with the South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children (SAIEVAC), South Asian Coordinating Group on Violence Against Children (SACG), and other South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)-related institutions in South Asia, as well as collaboration with UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office to engage with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in South-East Asia, and engagement with the Asia-Pacific Regional Action Framework to Improve Civil Registration and Vital Statistics. All regional studies have been done jointly. Even where one agency conducts a study independently, the other will provide technical inputs and review. This has resulted in research that is 'owned' by both agencies and that helps to build the evidence base for change. A common evidence framework was developed, combining regional and country inputs from both agencies, identifying priority research gaps.

### Middle East and North Africa

The regional offices provided joint technical assistance and in-country support to Yemen. The two regional offices collaborated on formative research on the drivers of child marriage and jointly organized a technical meeting held in Cairo to develop a strategic implementation plan for the child marriage programme in Yemen. The regional offices collaborated on the development and implementation of the Regional Accountability Framework and on several consultations. This has ensured regional coordination beyond UNFPA and UNICEF and engaged all major actors working in the area of child marriage. The regional offices collaborated on the African Union Conference to End Child Marriage, held in Ghana in 2018, which was led by UNFPA with support from UNICEF country and regional offices and headquarters. In 2019, UNICEF began conducting a situational analysis of women and girls in the Middle East and North Africa in collaboration with UNFPA and other partners; while not exclusively focused on child marriage, it is a critical issue that will be included in the analysis. The regional offices also jointly led the development of a study on prevalence of child marriage in humanitarian settings, gathering available evidence in the region.

### East and Southern Africa

The two regional offices coordinate technical assistance missions and joint meetings at country level. The regional offices promoted the use of existing country programmes and platforms for education, health and social protection services, so that girls are supported by community mobilization, referred to and reached with a package of services, and tracked through systems of effective, comprehensive case management. UNFPA and UNICEF maximized their comparative advantage at regional level: UNFPA established strong partnerships with the African Union, SADC and EAC to support the African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage, the establishment of the SADC Model Law and its user guide, and the development of the Sexual and Reproductive Health Bill and the promotion of MHM; UNICEF led efforts on social norms, budget guidance development and monitoring and evaluation (M&E). Both agencies promoted multisectoral collaboration at regional and country level, for example through the East Africa informal partners forum on child marriage, and with Girls Not Brides for the implementation of the SADC Model Law guide. In 2017–2018, the two regional offices mapped child marriage programmes and partners in 12 countries across the region.

### West and Central Africa

Throughout Phase I, UNFPA and UNICEF worked jointly at regional level on: the generation and use of data and evidence on child marriage, and the documentation of key interventions in the region; advocating regional institutions; providing technical support and guidance to country programmes; and joint regional consultations with country offices to design strategic frameworks and national plans. The regional offices provided support to all West and Central African country offices engaged in child marriage programmes. The regional offices developed and disseminated regional guidance documents such as the social norms and behaviour change framework 'Everybody Wants to Belong'. Regional technical support included: joint missions; technical support and guidance; quarterly joint webinars to review progress, provide guidance on reporting and planning, and respond to implementation challenges; and regional consultations to provide medium-term strategic direction and promote South–South exchange. Regional technical assistance enabled country offices to contextualize strategies, identify opportunities to accelerate programme implementation, and use a set of standard indicators for regular country reporting.



Sierra Leone, September 2013.  
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### Country examples of convergent programming

- In **Sierra Leone**, both UNFPA and UNICEF supported the design of the National Strategy for the Reduction of Adolescent Pregnancy and Child Marriage by addressing a strong focus on comprehensive sexuality education in and out of school.
- **Mozambique** scaled up the mentorship approach to 1,629 community spaces in 19 districts in Nampula and Zambezi Provinces, which were jointly targeted by UNFPA and UNICEF, reaching 221,234 adolescent girls with life-skills education.
- In **Burkina Faso**, the Global Programme and the UNFPA–UNICEF Joint Programme on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation target the same populations in the same geographic areas.
- In **Nepal**, the Global Programme 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.



- In **Zambia**, the Global Programme implemented 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, which has resulted in improvements in school retention levels and learning outcomes for girls. In addition, 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.
- In **Ghana**, the Global Programme engaged strategically in planning and budgetary dialogues at decentralized levels to support an increase in resource allocation for service provision relating to child marriage, child protection, and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) cases. Overall, 23,953 adolescent girls in and out of school accessed health and protection services during 2019.
- In **Ethiopia**, a single national strategy to address both child marriage and FGM was developed.
- In **Ethiopia, Uganda and Zambia**, the funding and implementation of NAPs on ending child marriage have been progressively decentralized to subnational levels.
- In **Ghana**, UNFPA and UNICEF developed a common methodology for the joint delivery of empowerment interventions that reached 1,200 adolescent girls in convergence areas.
- In **Burkina Faso**, the Multi-Sectoral Platform for Implementing the National Strategy and the Triennial Action Plan 2016–2018 were finalized in November 2015. A multisectoral committee was launched in June 2016 to coordinate the implementation of the strategy at the national level, with responsibilities shared across 13 ministries, technical and financial partners, and CSOs. The committee is chaired by the Ministry of Social Action and National Solidarity; the Ministry of Education as vice-chair and the Ministry of Gender as the secretariat also play key roles.
- In **Uganda**, the National Strategy to End Child Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy was based on a multidimensional vulnerability analysis pulling together data from various domains (e.g. health and education).

### 2.5.3 Scaling up programming to reach larger numbers of adolescent girls and communities

Throughout Phase I, the Global Programme has explored different pathways to scale up interventions and to reach larger numbers of adolescent girls and their communities. Approaches that have been used by different countries include:

- Horizontal scaling up, which is the replication of effective interventions, expansion of geographic coverage and increase in the target population reached.
- Vertical scaling up, which institutionalizes specific proven or promising approaches and innovations in government policies and systems.
- Use of media platforms to widely disseminate ideas, information and innovations.
- Engagement or partnerships with networks, organizations or social movements that can help reach and mobilize large constituencies of people with shared interests and a willingness to act.
- Grafting, which adds additional components to existing large-scale government or donor initiatives.

Table 5 below compares the scale-up of results across outcome areas and shows the capacity of the programme to increase outputs in relation to the 2015 baseline. The highest rates of scale-up were achieved in Outputs 1.1 (adolescent girl empowerment), 2.1 (media campaigns) and 3.2 (education systems); medium rates of scale-up were demonstrated in Outputs 1.2 (adolescent girl education) and 3.1 (health and protection systems); the lowest rate of scale-up was recorded in Output 2.1 (community dialogue).

Table 5. Scaling up results

Outputs	Year 2015 (baseline)	Year 2016	Year 2017	Year 2018	Year 2019	Scale factor between 2015 and 2019
1.1 Adolescent girl empowerment	<b>211,156</b>	535,540	1,585,733	4,558,227	<b>7,971,937</b>	<b>38</b>
1.2 Adolescent girl education	<b>33,355</b>	218,565	285,781	407,439	<b>744,812</b>	<b>22</b>
2.1 Community dialogue	<b>1,026,268</b>	1,148,638	1,708,217	3,433,356	<b>6,330,030</b>	<b>6</b>
2.1 Media campaigns	<b>1,026,268</b>	5,024,332	9,245,665	21,432,439	<b>35,206,162</b>	<b>34</b>
3.1 Health and protection systems	<b>968</b>	6,071	10,523	16,644	<b>25,235</b>	<b>26</b>
3.2 Education systems	<b>782</b>	5,722	8,521	14,791	<b>27,162</b>	<b>35</b>

### South Asia

The decline in child marriage is being accelerated through large-scale programmes and social protection schemes funded and implemented by the Government in India, the scale-up of adolescent clubs in Bangladesh, and, in Nepal, by the adoption of the Rupantaran financial and social skills curriculum by the Government, CSOs and United Nations actors. Interventions reaching large numbers of adolescent girls are being adapted to the shifting drivers and patterns of child marriage, which experiences of Phase I have highlighted the importance of. In areas where social and gender norms favouring child marriage are weakening, programmes should strengthen education and health services and income transfers that address the economic drivers of marriage among adolescents. In Nepal, for example, love marriages initiated by adolescents are on the rise, while the traditional norm of arranged child marriage is weakening; interventions are required that broaden opportunities, so that young people are able to make different choices beyond early marriage. In areas where social and gender norms favour child marriage and where families and communities maintain a strong influence over the marriage of children, priorities continue to be adolescent life skills, comprehensive sexuality education, parenting groups and broader community mobilization against child marriage and to promote social and gender norm change.

### Middle East and North Africa

Yemen remains a complex humanitarian context where the space to work on child marriage and other protection issues is limited. Flexible approaches have enabled some expansion of programme activities. The best opportunities for further scale-up can be achieved through intersectoral collaboration and by integrating child marriage interventions in ongoing GBV, child protection and youth programming.

### East and Southern Africa

In Mozambique, Global Programme support is integrated into Rapariga Biz, a national programme supported by UNFPA, UNESCO, UNICEF and UN Women that is on track to reach 1 million girls by early 2020 and will be further scaled up in Phase II. The Global Programme has implemented a catalytic approach by leveraging funding from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and will receive an additional boost through the Spotlight Initiative in Mozambique and Malawi. Several countries in the region, including Tanzania, Madagascar, Malawi, Burundi, South Sudan and Lesotho, have expressed interest in developing similar programmes with their own financial resources.

### West and Central Africa

The Illimin programme in Niger is a good example of scaling up a programme across the country. However, the limited funding of the Global Programme – and in some countries, changes in government – has impacted the ability of the programme to take to scale many of the effective interventions such as mentorship programmes using safe spaces.

### Key scale-up programme lessons for Phase II:

- Invest in data and evidence generation and the dissemination of what works to prevent and respond to child marriage, in order to develop programmes leading to large-scale change.
- Invest in evidence-based advocacy to influence and leverage government-led education, health and social protection schemes and programmes.
- Better integrate with other programming issues such as violence against girls and women.
- Balance the scaling up with key measures to strengthen the programme's ability to reach vulnerable groups of girls.
- Collaborate more with education and other sectors that already have large-scale national policy programmes and platforms for service provision, and use other sectors as vehicles for scaling up child marriage programmes.
- Integrate ending child marriage into adolescent SRHR programmes such as adolescent pregnancy prevention, comprehensive sexuality education and youth programming.



### Horizontal scaling up

- In **Nepal**, the social and financial skills training package for adolescents, called Rupantaran (meaning 'transformation'), is being widely implemented. The Rupantaran curriculum is used by the Nepalese Government, United Nations agencies, Scouting organizations, and local and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) across the country. This ensures that messaging is consistent across partners and in line with international and national guidelines.
- BRAC, the world's largest NGO by some measures, has designed a low-cost girls' empowerment intervention called Empowerment and Livelihoods for Adolescents (ELA), which UNFPA and UNICEF have supported in **Sierra Leone** and **Uganda** respectively. The programme has been streamlined for scale with a well-defined intervention model consisting of safe spaces for social and economic empowerment.

### Use of media platforms to widely disseminate ideas, information and innovations

- The Ouro Negro programme in **Mozambique**, supported by the Global Programme, uses radio drama, call-in shows, street theatre and social media to advance children's and adolescents' rights, gender issues, and social and reproductive health issues. The radio component has 3–4 million weekly listeners, 70 per cent of whom reported relevant behaviour change.
- The Ichhe Dana TV drama, along with radio shows and a social media strategy, discuss the rights of children and adolescents, with a focus on child marriage. The series has more than 6 million regular viewers across **Bangladesh**.
- **Mozambique, Sierra Leone** and **Uganda** used the U-Report mobile text-messaging platform to reach more than 200,000 adolescents with adolescent-friendly health information and to conduct a dialogue on child marriage.



## Engagement or partnerships with networks of organizations and social movements

At country level, the Global Programme supports the building of alliances and networks of civil society organizations (CSOs) to improve the effectiveness of programming and advocacy.

- In **Burkina Faso**, the Global Programme supports the National Coalition Against Child Marriage, which brings together more than 60 national CSOs raising a collective voice supporting the implementation and scaling up of the National Strategy to Prevent and Eliminate Child Marriage. The coalition has accomplished advocacy, law enforcement and community mobilization by engaging opinion leaders, media, youth and women leaders at the national level.
- In **India**, the Global Programme supports Partners for Law in Development, a legal resource group pursuing the realization of social justice and equality for women, to engage CSOs working with adolescents across the domains of health, education, sexuality and child protection. To date, over 100 CSOs have been engaged through consultative dialogues and capacity-building.
- In **Sierra Leone**, the Inter-Religious Council of Sierra Leone has played a key role in negotiating peace and facilitating dialogues among sectors. The Global Programme is partnering with the council to promote community engagement and political dialogue. Religious leaders are raising awareness about the negative effects of harmful practices, including child marriage, and advocating for the implementation of policy frameworks addressing the rights of girls and boys, to end child marriage.
- In **Zambia**, the Global Programme is partnering with the CSO Coalition on Ending Child Marriage as a strategic advocacy actor in the development of the National Strategy to End Child Marriage and its costed NAP. The coalition has been instrumental in the development and implementation of policy and legal frameworks at the national and provincial levels, and has contributed to the creation of accountability mechanisms such as M&E and communications strategies.

## Vertical scaling up

- In **Bangladesh**, the Global Programme institutionalized life-skills education in the national education system and skills-based education and alternative learning programmes for out-of-school adolescents in an education-sector-wide approach.
- In **India**, the Global Programme influenced West Bengal's 'Kanyashree Prakalpa' and several other cash transfer schemes and programmes. The West Bengal scheme has a reach of 4.3 million adolescent girls through conditional cash transfers to incentivize their continued education and prevent child marriage.
- In **Ghana**, the Global Programme integrated messaging on child marriage and early union into existing work with the Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana, the largest NGO in Ghana providing SRH services. The integration of child marriage and early union as issues not only introduced new messaging into programming but also enhanced a focus on contraceptive access for adolescent girls and young women, such as unmarried adolescent girls, to prevent pregnancy and subsequent union, and for married adolescent girls and young women, to delay second and even first births.

## Expansion of focus ('grafting')

- In **Ghana**, the Global Programme identified communities benefiting from Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty 1000, a government-run unconditional cash transfer programme targeted at pregnant women and women with children under the age of 15 months in extremely poor households, aimed at reducing poverty, increasing food consumption and improving child nutrition. The Global Programme set up safe spaces in these communities, targeting marginalized girls and providing life-skills training and adolescent SRH information.
- In **Bangladesh**, the Global Programme supported local administration and law enforcement officials to better understand the applicability of the special provision permitting marriages below the age of 18 and the process for applying the provision.
- Other institutional examples include the World Bank–UNFPA partnership on the Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend project, where one of the three pillars focuses on girls' education and empowerment, because of its criticality to reducing child marriage, delaying pregnancy and helping countries tap into their youthful populations for economic development.



”

The Global Programme to End Child Marriage played a catalytic role in the national effort to end harmful practices. I am honoured to be part of this programme which helped me support the Government of Ethiopia to develop an evidence-based national costed roadmap to end child marriage and FGM, which is the first in this sector and will broadly serve as a strategy for coordinating efforts of all stakeholders and for resource mobilization.

Zemzem Shikur, Social Mobilization Specialist, UNICEF Ethiopia



# CHAPTER 3

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## PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE AGAINST THE RESULTS FRAMEWORK



Phase I of the Global Programme focused on supporting the implementation of five evidence-based strategies to bring about large-scale change in the empowerment of adolescent girls and in gender transformation, with the ultimate aim of preventing and reducing child marriage:

1. Build the skills and knowledge of girls at risk of child marriage, and of married adolescent girls.
2. Support households in demonstrating positive attitudes towards adolescent girls.
3. Strengthen the systems that deliver services to adolescent girls.
4. Ensure that laws and policies protect and promote adolescent girls' rights.
5. Generate and use robust data to inform programmes and policies relating to adolescent girls.

This chapter of the report highlights the 2019 results while also presenting overall data and analysis of Phase I achievements at the output level.



Table 6. Summary of performance for output indicators in 2019

Output indicators	Target	Result	Per cent achieved
<b>1.1 Life skills and comprehensive sexuality education:</b> Adolescent girls are actively participating in a targeted programme	3,493,927	3,413,710	98%
<b>1.2 Education:</b> Adolescent girls are supported to enrol and remain in formal and non-formal education	378,823	337,373	89%
<b>2.1 Community dialogue:</b> Households are increasingly aware of the benefits of investing in adolescent girls and ending child marriage	15,535,227	16,670,397	107%
<b>3.1 Health and protection systems</b> are supported to implement guidelines, protocols and standards for adolescent girl-friendly health and protection services	8,315	8,591	103%
<b>3.2 Education system:</b> Non-formal/primary/secondary schools are supported to improve quality of education for adolescent girls	7,043	12,371	176%
<b>4.1 National plan of action:</b> The country has a costed national action plan or development plan on ending child marriage across more than one ministry	11	11	100%
<b>5.1 Evidence on scale models:</b> Country-specific, high-quality data and evidence are generated and shared on what works at scale to accelerate ending child marriage	12	12	100%



### 3.1 Building skills and knowledge of girls at risk of child marriage, and of married adolescent girls

#### Outcome 1

Adolescent girls at risk of and affected by child marriage are better able to express and exercise their choices

#### Skills- and knowledge-building approaches used in Phase I

- Life-skills-based education programmes are conducted both in and out of school by promoting psychosocial and interpersonal skills that can help people make informed decisions, communicate effectively, and develop coping and self-management skills that may help them lead a healthy and productive life.
- Comprehensive sexuality education is a curriculum-based process of teaching and learning about the cognitive, emotional, physical, social and gendered aspects of sexuality. It aims to equip girls and boys with knowledge, skills, attitudes and values that will empower them to: realize their health, well-being and dignity; develop respectful social and sexual relationships; consider how their choices affect their own well-being and that of others; and understand and ensure the protection of their rights throughout their lives.
- Protective asset-building programmes equip adolescent girls with social, health, cognitive

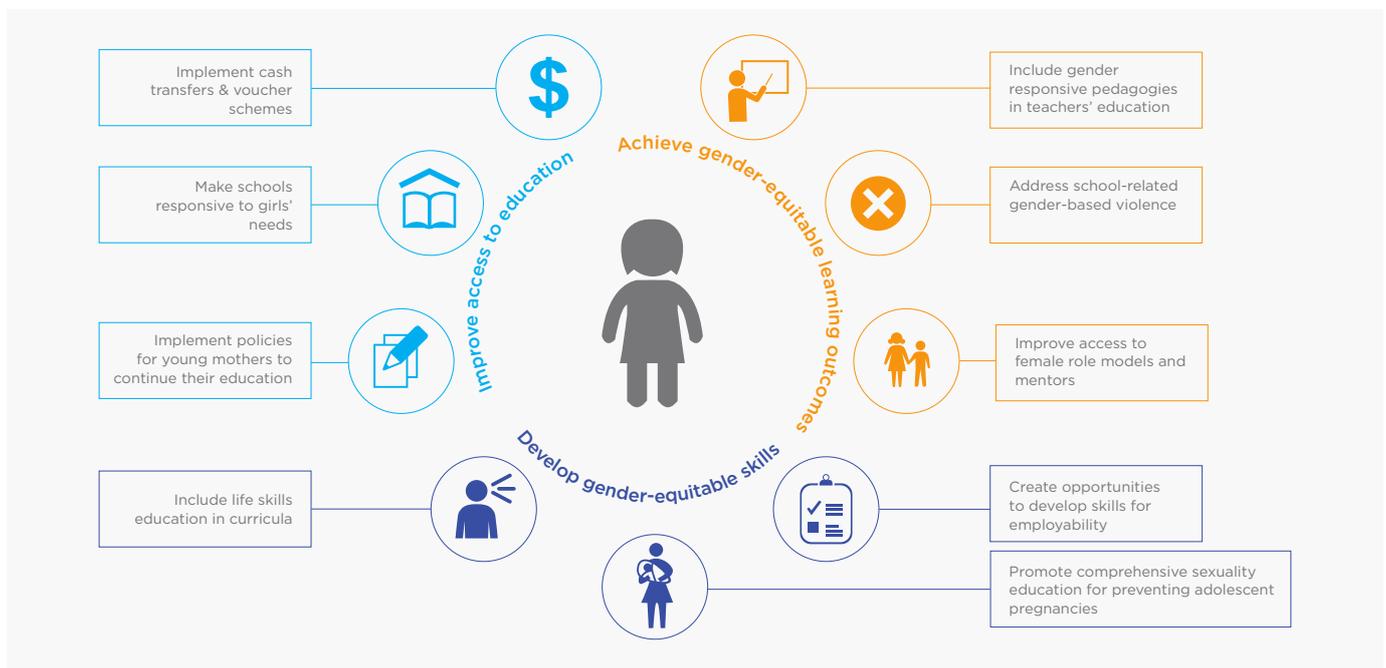
and economic assets, using a mentorship approach, and promote the participation of adolescent girls and young women at the community and systems levels.

In Burkina Faso, Mozambique, Niger, Uganda and Yemen the programme supported cash transfer interventions, and in Ethiopia the provision of in-kind items such as menstrual health products and school materials to promote retention of girls in school. In Mozambique and Zambia, the programme provided advocacy, policy dialogue, and support to implement improved access for pregnant adolescent girls and young mothers.

The programme supported gender-responsive pedagogies focused on improving girls' learning, preventing gender-based violence (GBV) and connecting girls to female role models and mentors who have completed secondary or higher education, in countries like Bangladesh, India, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Uganda.

Life-skills-based education and comprehensive sexuality education to help develop gender-equitable skills have been incorporated in curricula and educational materials for both teachers and students in countries such as Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Mozambique, Uganda and Zambia.

Figure 15. Gender-responsive strategies used in Phase I to improve education outcomes





### Outcome Indicator 1.1

Over the course of Phase I, the Global Programme and its partners supported adolescent girls at risk of child marriage, as well as married adolescent girls, to acquire critical skills, education and knowledge alongside addressing their sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Life skills, comprehensive sexuality education and protective asset-building approaches are all evidence-based and have been delivered as complementary approaches under the Global Programme, often overlapping but sometimes separate in implementation, within school and out-of-school settings. By 2019, 65 per cent of adolescent girls who had actively participated in at least one of the Global Programme's targeted interventions have demonstrated increased knowledge and skills, compared with 35 per cent of adolescent girls at the beginning of the programme in 2016.



”

The training on life skills has enabled teachers like me to understand young people's issues better; it has helped us communicate more clearly and bond strongly with students. We are able to better understand why a girl is not performing well or why she remains sad or unhappy. Accordingly, we try and take corrective steps including talking to parents to identify and resolve issues at home.

Life-skills teacher for girls in secondary school hostels in Madhya Pradesh, India





### Outcome Indicator 1.2

The programme enabled adolescent girls at risk of and affected by child marriage to enrol in and remain in school. Measures included conditional cash transfers, bursaries, stipends, scholarships and the covering of costs for or provision of textbooks, uniforms, transport, menstrual health products, and hidden, voluntary or school administrative charges related to helping girls access and/or remain in school. Girls' transition rate from primary to lower secondary school has increased in the programme focus areas, from 60 per cent in 2016 to 76 per cent by the end of 2019.



### Output Indicator 1.1

*Number of adolescent girls (aged 10–19 years) in programme areas actively participating in at least one targeted intervention*

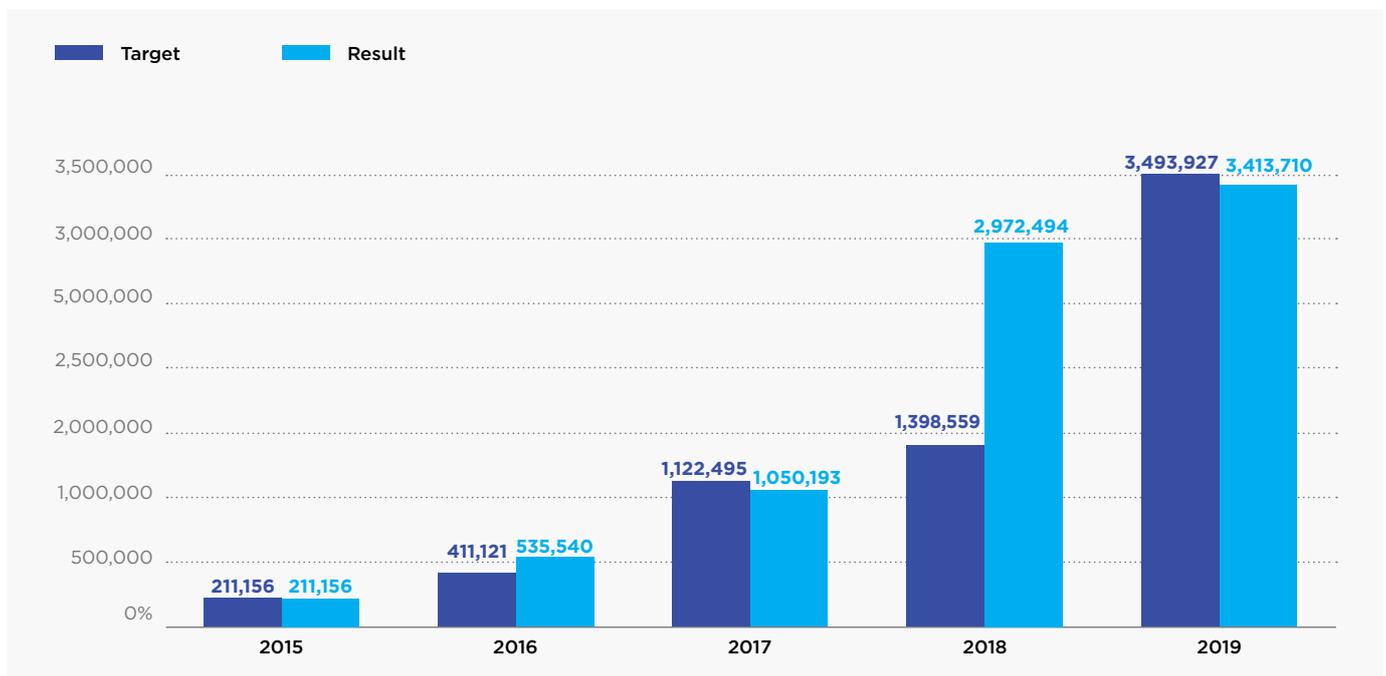
Progressively, countries have continued to show improvements in the design and planning of life-skills education, comprehensive sexuality education and protective asset-building interventions through strategies that tracked adolescent girls and leveraged investments from other initiatives and programmes. Over 8 million adolescent girls at risk of and affected by child marriage in programme areas actively participated in at least one targeted intervention during Phase I and the inception phase in 2015, far exceeding the programme's objective to reach 6.5 million girls by the end of 2019.

”

I learn from my girls' group what I don't get to learn in school; I found the sessions on health and menstrual health particularly interesting.

Ragini, 16, member of an adolescent girls' club in Udaipur, India

Figure 18. Number of adolescent girls aged 10–19 years who were targeted and participated in at least one Phase I intervention, by year





Most countries developed linkages with the education sector by institutionalizing life-skills education and comprehensive sexuality education training in formal education curricula and establishing school clubs to reach more girls. Countries such as Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Niger and Uganda designed interventions to ensure flexible hours for adolescent girls and provided home visits by peer leaders with the aim of motivating parents, families and in-laws to send adolescent girls, including married and disabled girls, to the life-skills sessions. Countries such as Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mozambique and Sierra Leone used peer networks and safe spaces mentors to mobilize and recruit adolescent girls, including on online platforms.

Comprehensive sexuality education programmes that provide life skills, sexual and reproductive health (SRH) information, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) prevention and menstrual hygiene management (MHM) were implemented in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, India, Mozambique, Nepal, Sierra Leone and Uganda. In Bangladesh and Mozambique, the Global Programme contributed to a gender-transformative agenda by facilitating the interactive sharing of ideas between adolescent boys and girls through mixed-sex safe spaces that provide life-skills education.



Ghana, July 2015.  
© UNICEF/UNI190971/Quarmyne

### Gender-responsive education interventions in Zambia and Ghana

In **Zambia**, second-chance education for about 2,255 adolescent girls is being provided through 25 transit schools and 25 open learning centres. Of these adolescent girls, 1,946 have achieved the minimum level of proficiency in numeracy and literacy required for reintegration into regular classes and have been mainstreamed into the formal education system. All schools hosting the transit classes and open learning centres have an established community action group. Community action groups have action plans, weekly outreach activities and meetings with school management, and continue to follow up prolonged absenteeism and student drop-outs. Through counselling parents and students, the community action groups are actively involved in deterring child marriage and in returning drop-outs to school. The model has been incorporated in the Education Strategic Sector Plan to address inequities. Findings from an end-line evaluation are expected in 2020. Findings from the evaluation will be disseminated among a broad group of stakeholders for potential scale-up and replication through implementation partnerships.

In **Ghana** in 2018, as part of the MHM campaign 'I am Amazing. Period', UNICEF implemented an MHM education package in 252 schools, reaching a total of 22,203 school children. This work informed the development of MHM guidelines for schools in 2019, which also form part of the national guidelines on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in schools. MHM awareness-raising was done during the Menstrual Health Day celebration. A total of 226 schools gained access to MHM services. At WASH camps, UNICEF supported life-skills education, MHM education and health and hygiene promotion through play and sport, media/advocacy skills and empowerment in five regions (Central, Volta, Northern, Upper East and Upper West). The activity was intended to empower both boys and girls to advocate for better WASH within their communities and schools. A total of 697 adolescent girls were reached in 2018.

**Table 7. Output Indicator 1.1: Number of adolescent girls (aged 10–19 years) in programme areas who actively participated in at least one targeted intervention**

Country	2015	2016		2017		2018		2019	
	Baseline	Target	Result	Target	Result	Target	Result	Target	Result
Bangladesh	16,169	100,000	93,166	101,500	87,024	84,230	87,024	103,142	89,974
Burkina Faso	7,637	11,250	14,977	35,080	34,907	38,000	58,341	204,291	310,042
Ethiopia	82,400	18,124	51,239	187,660	75,733	47,200	97,924	140,000	261,244
Ghana	27,479	39,650	85,990	28,560	16,931	6,450	9,067	19,650	20,046
India	15,000	155,900	161,789	570,000	628,902	1,000,000	2,285,980	2,800,000	2,496,395
Mozambique	14,636	2,682	16,200	150,000	127,714	65,314	221,234	63,000	51,676
Nepal	6,047	5,050	7,566	3,840	9,666	8,810	8,297	11,052	4,175
Niger	11,642	23,702	21,885	13,500	17,000	64,000	66,688	9,516	9,505
Sierra Leone	23,331	3,000	4,398	4,200	12,381	7,000	14,738	18,530	26,192
Uganda	2,516	28,733	71,892	16,865	24,515	74,245	114,429	116,246	135,690
Yemen	-	19,350	3,660	5,500	5,569	320	5,197	5,000	5,324
Zambia	4,299	3,680	2,778	5,790	9,851	2,990	3,575	3,500	3,447
<b>Total</b>	<b>211,156</b>	<b>411,121</b>	<b>535,540</b>	<b>1,122,495</b>	<b>1,050,193</b>	<b>1,398,559</b>	<b>2,972,494</b>	<b>3,493,927</b>	<b>3,413,710</b>

## VICTORIA'S STORY (16 YEARS OLD)

### Kpandai District, Northern Region, Ghana

“My parents depend on the rains for their harvest, so when the rains don't come, the crops fail and they make less profit from the harvest they sell. My father has five other children with his second wife, which makes it difficult for him to take care of us financially. He also believes that women do not contribute any important value to the fortune of the family, hence he is only interested in providing formal education for his four sons out of eleven children. The girls are expected to stay home and help their mothers with their chores.

When I got my period for the first time, I told my auntie and she coached me on what to do. But she asked that I stay outside the house, only to return when my menstrual cycle ended. It will be an abomination to the gods if she allowed me to stay in the house during that time of the month. This went on for a while and it always made me sad.

Our meetings at the Safe Space for Girls programme here are something I look forward to on Sunday afternoons. It has helped me a lot. I have learned about the dangers of teenage pregnancy, abortions and child marriage. What I have noticed here is that poverty and inadequate parental control is leading a lot of adolescent girls to have unprotected sexual relationships with their lovers. I want to see that changed in my community.”

### Output Indicator 1.2

*Number of adolescent girls in programme areas supported to access and remain in primary or lower secondary or non-formal education*

The Global Programme broadened partnerships with existing education initiatives and leveraged resources to support the education of adolescent girls in programme areas. The direct support from the Global Programme mainly targeted the most vulnerable and most at-risk girls for education support.

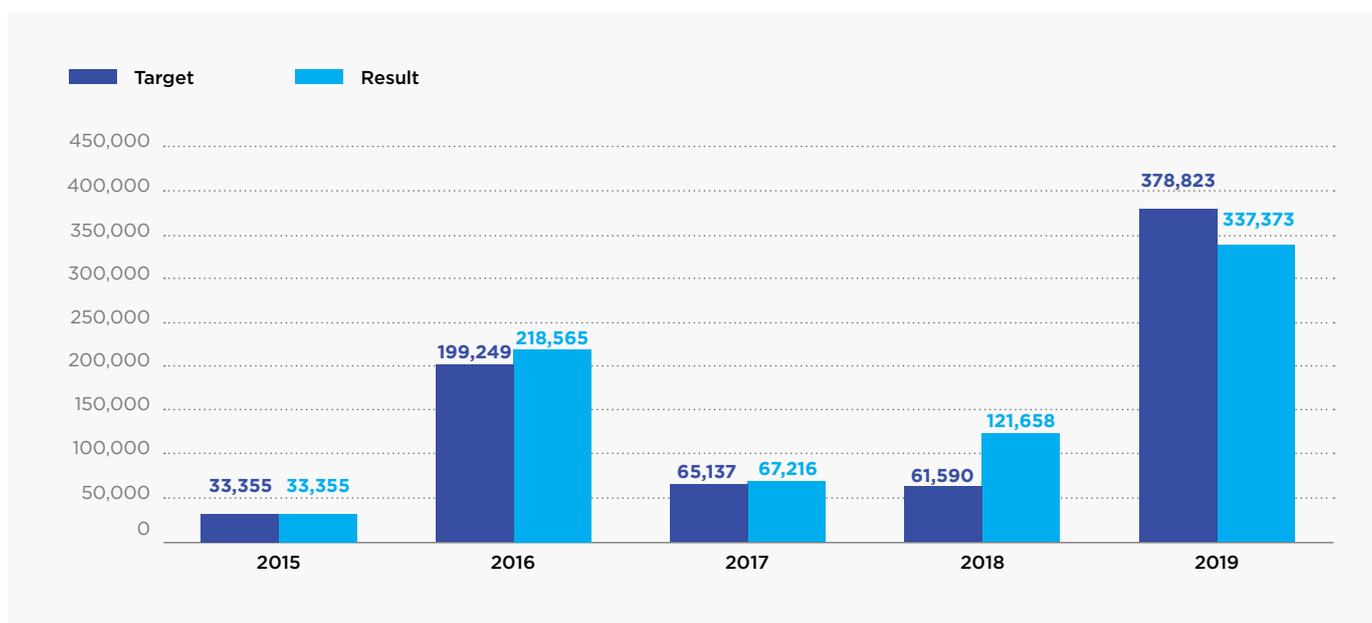


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I dream of becoming a midwife. I want to be there for the young mothers and their babies during childbirth. I feel they need someone at that point in their lives to assure them that their lives are not over. When they see how I overcame my situation to achieve my dreams, they will be inspired. I'm so much more confident now because I have learned about reproductive health, personal and menstrual hygiene and self-confidence. I am also very grateful for the help in facilitating my re-entry into school. I thought my life was over. I thought my education was over. Now I have a second chance.

Peace, 16 years old, Katejeli, Northern Region, Ghana

Figure 19. Number of adolescent girls aged 10–19 years who were targeted and received education support, by year



The Global Programme fostered linkages with the education sector that enabled out-of-school adolescent girls participating in community safe spaces to be registered and targeted, to support their enrolment in formal schools. Ghana, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zambia supported advocacy campaigns and provided support to pregnant adolescent girls and teenage mothers to re-enrol in formal schools. Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Nepal and Niger established community-based learning centres to create alternative and/or accelerated learning opportunities for out-of-school adolescent girls. Nepal organized various after-school activities, such as peer-led homework groups, learning camps, life-skills camps, quiz contests and sports activities, aimed at promoting girls' inclusion and boosting their learning. In Ethiopia, Niger and Sierra Leone, social protection incentives were given to girls' families in the form of direct material support to the girls to keep them in school. This had an impact on the programme's ability to scale up education support to adolescent girls. The programme is broadening partnerships to leverage national social protection systems to reach the most vulnerable and most at-risk girls and their families.



**Table 8. Output Indicator 1.2: Number of adolescent girls in programme areas supported to access and remain in primary or lower secondary or non-formal education**

Country	2015			2016		2017		2018		2019	
	Baseline	Target	Result	Target	Result	Target	Result	Target	Result		
Bangladesh	16,169	9,000	37,371	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Burkina Faso	937	1,100	1,105	12,297	12,124	21,000	28,958	35,000	27,197		
Ethiopia	4,460	5,684	5,415	4,010	3,112	22,550	73,771	60,310	58,580		
Ghana	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	1,000		
India	3,800	125,000	131,888	-	-	-	-	253,000	217,731		
Mozambique	264	-	-	2,350	2,358	2,500	2,532	2,532	1,576		
Nepal	-	-	9,804	1,500	2,621	4,325	7,493	3,600	7,908		
Niger	714	45,465	19,088	38,300	43,245	-	-	-	-		
Sierra Leone	7,011	4,000	7,608	1,500	1,188	100	160	-	-		
Uganda	-	8,100	6,286	5,180	2,568	11,115	8,744	23,108	23,108		
Yemen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	273	273		
Zambia	-	900	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,355</b>	<b>199,249</b>	<b>218,565</b>	<b>65,137</b>	<b>67,216</b>	<b>61,590</b>	<b>121,658</b>	<b>378,823</b>	<b>337,373</b>		



## ROUMANATOU'S STORY

### Niger

“My father saw me as an expensive problem. Something else to pay for. And so, when I started to refuse to get married, to say I wanted to continue studying, he didn't support me at all, but rather fought with me about it. Even my mother, she said ‘Good luck’ but gave no other support than that. I've no idea where I got the strength to keep fighting, but I did it.

I went to my family, and only one of my brothers supported me. I then went to the local military police and explained the situation. They told me it went beyond them, and that I had to take it to the courts. So I did. And I won. I just knew I couldn't leave my studies; it was a devastating time for me.”

This was when Roumanatou was 16 years old. The judge ruled in Roumanatou's favour but obliged her, personally, to repay the dowry and all other expenses her fiancé incurred during their engagement. In the end, the man forgave her, letting her off the hook for her debt.

Roumanatou is today a pioneer in her community in Niger, a teacher and an advocate.



## Challenges with building skills and knowledge of girls at risk of child marriage and married girls

### ■ Conflict and humanitarian situation

Child marriage is a negative coping mechanism for ‘protecting’ girls in the context of conflict and overcoming economic challenges. The worsening security situation in Burkina Faso, Niger and Yemen, including in countries hosting refugees, such as Bangladesh and Uganda, has had negative implications for the implementation of girls’ empowerment activities by Global Programme partners.

### ■ Unintended consequences and backlash

In adolescent-initiated marriages in countries such as Nepal and Zambia after girls were empowered to make their own decisions, community resistance was generated as well as fear among girls who faced backlash to participating in programmes. The Global Programme will intensify efforts to encourage gender-transformative thinking in families and communities in Phase II.

## Lessons and innovations

■ **Mobilization and participation:** In Niger and Burkina Faso, local, traditional and religious leaders have been critical to broadening the participation of adolescent girls in empowerment programmes and in convincing parents to keep girls in school. Door-to-door household visits have been effective in identifying and mobilizing at-risk adolescent girls in Burkina Faso. Community engagement needs to be intensified to ensure the safety and protection of adolescent club facilitators in Bangladesh. Youth-led advocacy has been effective in building awareness and mobilizing public support for ending child marriage in Ghana.

■ **Scale:** The expansion of the mentorship programme in Mozambique requires better supervision and monitoring of the quality of the mentors’ work. Institutionalizing and scaling up interventions requires the strengthening of multisectoral coordination across sectors and administrative levels in Bangladesh. Expanding life-skills training to other school clubs can be a way to reach more students at scale.

■ **Livelihood opportunities:** Addressing poverty and providing economic opportunities for women and girls are critical in ending child marriage (e.g. in Uganda and Yemen). Reaching adolescent girls who are out of school and/or working requires a combination of training, community mobilization and incentives (e.g. in India and Ethiopia). Life skills and SRH skills are insufficient to delay marriage if they are not complemented by livelihood opportunities and incentives for schooling.

## MASTURA YESMIN MIRA'S STORY

### Bangladesh

Mastura Yesmin Mira is the youngest of four daughters of Masud Rana and Sahirun Begum in Bangladesh. Mira is around 16 years old and a student in 11th grade. After witnessing the suffering of her two elder sisters due to early marriage, Mira decided to say no to being married early if she were asked.

In early 2018, when Mira was 14 years old, her parents wanted her to be married; Mira objected strongly. However, at that time she was not confident about her stand against child marriage. She felt she needed to find some friends to support her.

After a few months, in August 2018, Mira was invited to become a member of an adolescent club. Mira became an active member and was even offered the chance to be president of the club. Mira accepted the offer gladly. Within six months of Mira joining the adolescent club, in addition to preventing Mira’s own marriage, her club prevented four additional attempted child marriages. All the girls are now continuing their education.

## Phase II priorities and shifts

### Humanitarian situation

The programme will strengthen the nexus between development and humanitarian interventions that consider the increase in adolescent girls' vulnerability to child marriage due to the breakdown of social networks, the lack of protection systems, and the risks of violence.

### Gender-transformative approach

The programme will support: transformative facilitation (in mixed- and single-sex groups) and mentoring; the delivery of relevant content for a sufficient duration and with adequate intensity; meaningful referrals to services; and linkages to community engagement.

### Boys and men

The programme will continue to strengthen the engagement of men and boys more systematically, by questioning negative male gender roles, promoting positive masculinities, and forming boys' mentorship circles to improve community support for the development of girls. Boys will be part of life-skills and comprehensive sexuality education in schools to build the skills of boys to work with girls to challenge and change harmful social norms.

### Economic support and opportunities

The programme will leverage Generation Unlimited, among other United Nations initiatives, and youth training and livelihood initiatives to facilitate the transition of adolescent graduates into vocational-skills-building and employability programmes. The programme will also support

national advocacy for investment in such programmes in order to harness the demographic dividend (countries with high prevalence of child marriage are also the ones with the opportunity for such a bonus of economic growth).

### Collaboration and convergence

Intersectoral collaboration will be reinforced with nutrition interventions. In humanitarian settings, child marriage interventions will be embedded in interventions on GBV in emergencies for a more coordinated cross-sectoral response.

### Increased scale and scope

The programme will continue to harness opportunities to reach larger numbers of adolescent girls and boys by working with governments to institutionalize life-skills training in schools, scale up adolescent clubs nationwide, and leverage large-scale government and donor programmes. The programme will expand the integration of SRHR initiatives, including comprehensive sexuality education in schools and for out-of-school adolescents.

### Inclusion

The programme will invest more in targeted interventions for young people living with disability, including life-skills-based and comprehensive sexuality education interventions in institutions serving the needs of young people with disability.



## 3.2 Supporting households in demonstrating positive attitudes towards adolescent girls

### Outcome 2

Households demonstrate positive attitudes and behaviours toward investing in and supporting adolescent girls

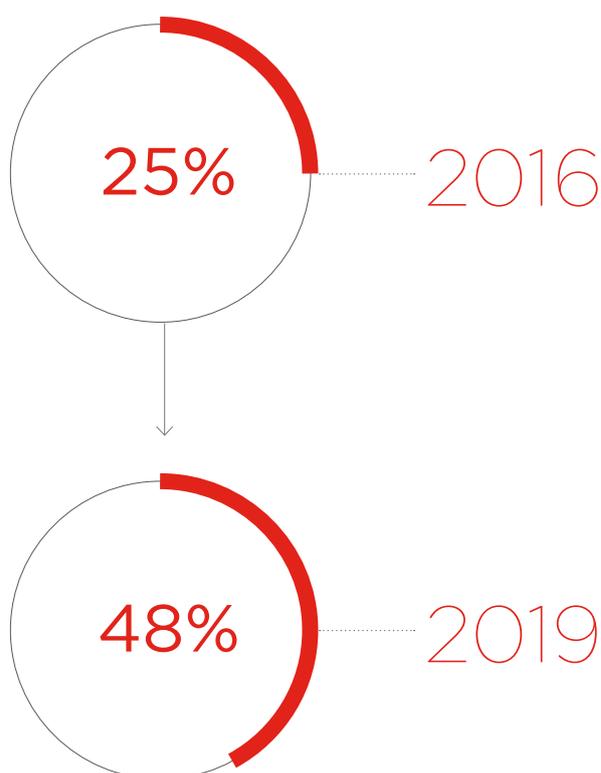
#### Gender and social norms change approaches

The Global Programme has been addressing the complexities of ending child marriage as a harmful practice and as a violation of human rights. Interventions for changing gender social norms have included: activities at the individual level; working with communities; working with systems such as health, education and social protection; and activities at the policy level, advocating for legal and normative changes to discriminatory laws and policies restricting the rights of adolescent girls and boys.

At the community level, the Global Programme has supported key interventions to promote a shift in gender norms in the targeted communities. These interventions include women, men and boys as agents of change for the promotion of girls' rights and the transformation of gender relations. The main interventions undertaken include: community dialogues, local leadership engagement, educational entertainment, and media campaigns. Both girls, boys, women and men have been part of these various interventions for gender-norm change supported by the country and regional offices.

#### Outcome Indicator 2.1

During Phase I, the Global Programme focused on examining and understanding the drivers of child marriage to design interventions that influence social norm and behaviour change. During Phase I, the proportion of individuals in programme areas who hold gender-equitable attitudes increased from 25 per cent in 2016 to 48 per cent in 2019.





**Output Indicator 2.1**

*Number of individuals in programme areas who regularly participate in dialogues promoting gender equitable norms including delaying child marriage*

**Community dialogues**

All countries implemented community dialogues engaging individuals, families, gatekeepers and local leaders. Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Uganda and Zambia implemented dialogues on adolescent pregnancy, sex and sexuality, menstrual health, gender stereotypes and discrimination, and GBV, to shift gender norms related to child marriage and promote gender equality.

**Engaging local leadership**

The Global Programme partnered with religious and traditional leaders to engage them as influencers with authority to be champions of change. Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Niger, Sierra Leone, Yemen and Zambia engaged religious and traditional leaders in dialogues and supported them to promote equitable gender norms using community platforms, the media and social media.

**Educational entertainment**

The Global Programme supported a wide variety of communication for development interventions along with educational entertainment, which is

considered a game-changer for development; its characters in mass media have the power to be role models, inspire audiences to engage in new thinking about what is possible, and change the perception of what is normal and socially acceptable behaviour. Countries used educational entertainment to reach millions of people, for example Mozambique with the Ouro Negro soap opera using radio broadcasting, and Bangladesh broadcasting the TV drama Ichhe Dana.

**Media campaigns**

The Global Programme supported mass media campaigns for social norm change in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mozambique and other countries. Using mass media allowed the programme to reach the most remote communities as well as to overcome restrictive environments and humanitarian emergencies.

Countries made better distinctions between community dialogue, social mobilization and mass media campaigns, with clearer formulation of community-focused dialogue methodologies and objectives. Community dialogues varied from ongoing quarterly sessions to dialogues conducted over a nine-month period, and most resulted in declarations to end child marriage in the community.

**Figure 21. Number of individuals targeted and reached each year through community dialogue and media campaigns, by year**

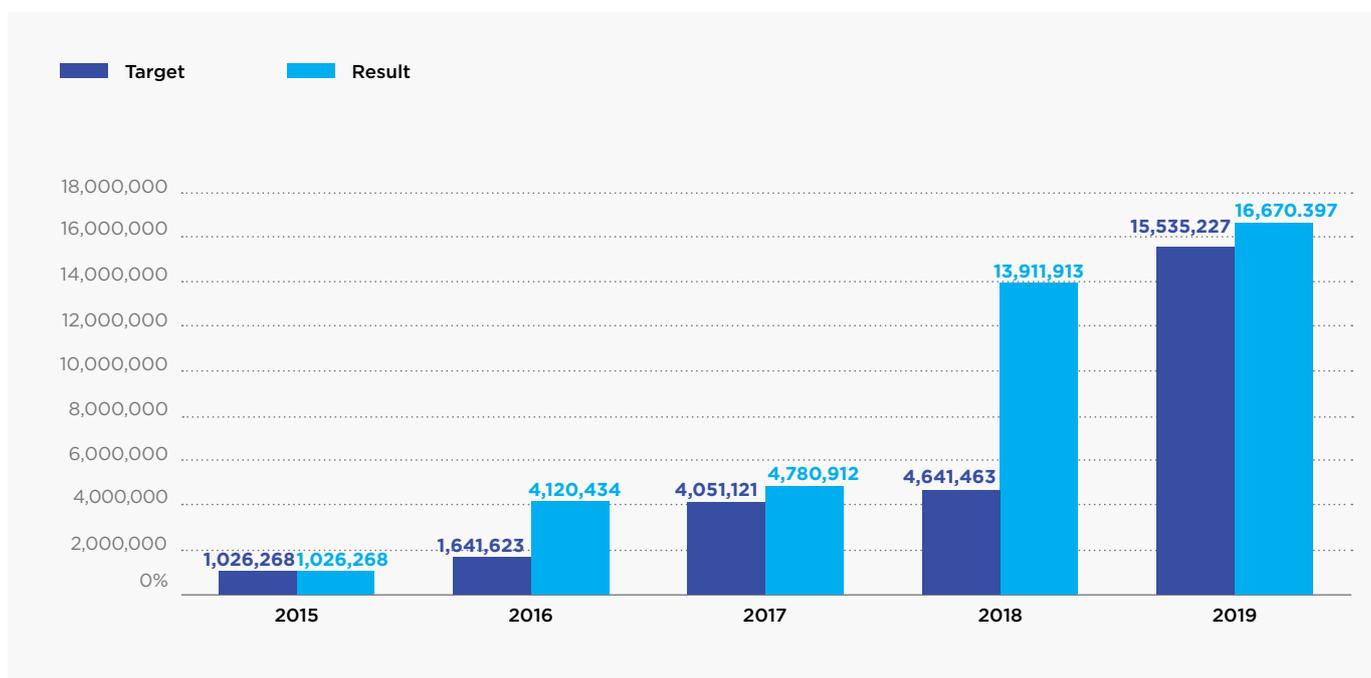
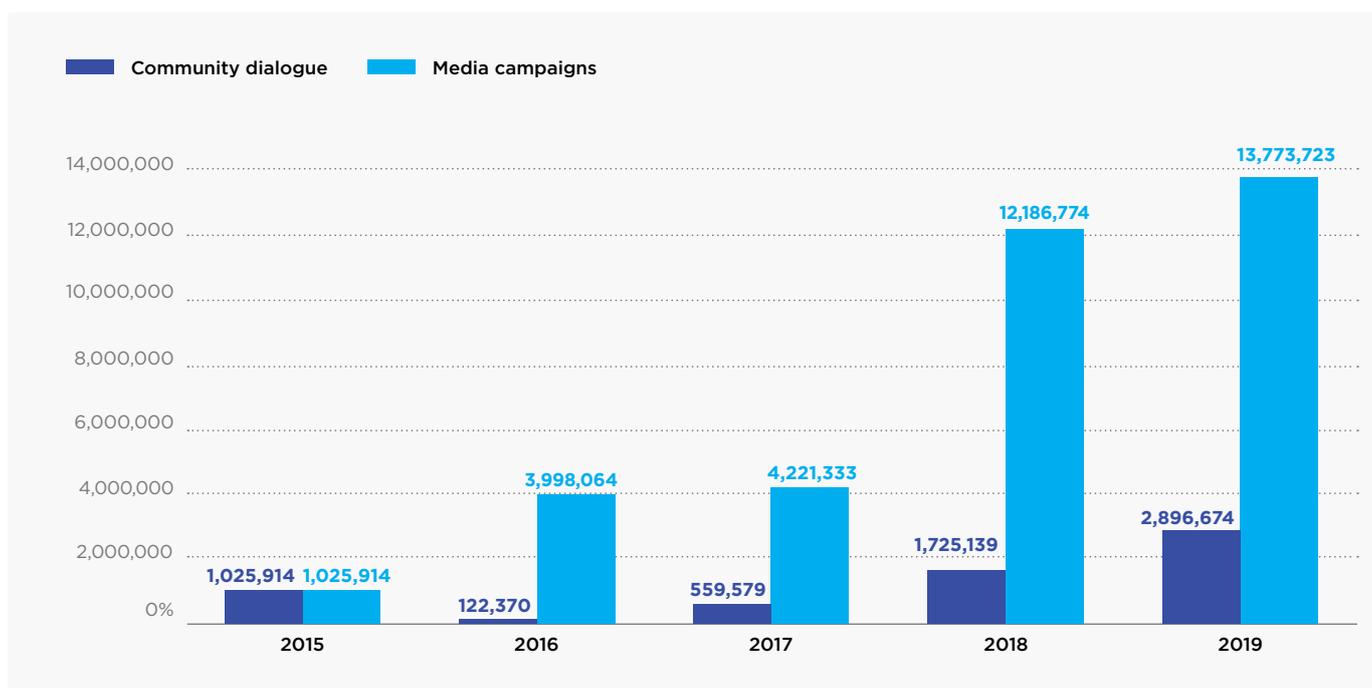


Figure 22. Number of individuals reached through community dialogue and media campaigns, by year



During Phase I, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger and Uganda shifted to more cost-effective methods, which included media campaigns through radio, TV, and other digital platforms to reach larger numbers of community members with social behaviour change messages. The involvement of gatekeepers is key to creating

an enabling environment for behaviour and attitude change. Burkina Faso, Ghana, Niger and Zambia supported high-level dialogues with religious and traditional leaders to engage communities to end child marriage.

## FATI'S STORY

### Plateau Central, Burkina Faso

In the commune of Zorgho, Ganzourgou province in the region of Plateau Central, Burkina Faso, a young girl from the village of Nabma-Yaoghin was promised in marriage. Seventeen years old and attending third grade, Fati is a member of a teenage club and has benefited from capacity-building on life skills, including SRH, law, gender, leadership and negotiation, as part of the project funded by UNICEF. Through outreach activities, Fati's parents and members of her prospective husband's family have been made aware of the importance of abandoning child marriage as well as promoting children's rights and, specifically, the rights of adolescent girls.

One day, Fati mentioned the problem of her marriage, which risked putting a stop to her education, as well as creating other problems linked to child marriage and early pregnancy. After several interventions, the representative of Fati's prospective future in-laws said: "I followed the the discussions of the consequences of child marriage, and, after discussions with the girl's family, we decided to cancel this marriage to allow Fati to continue her education and decide later regarding her own life." Because the two families reached an understanding, Fati has been able to continue attending school.

**Table 9. Output Indicator 2.1: Number of individuals in programme areas who regularly participate in dialogues promoting gender-equitable norms, including delaying child marriage**

Country	2015	2016		2017		2018		2019	
	Baseline	Target	Result	Target	Result	Target	Result	Target	Result
Bangladesh	722,491	1,003,000	1,013,419	165,400	429,420	880,600	817,952	1,351,100	1,560,412
Burkina Faso	19,600	28,000	28,400	760,900	822,337	1,072,337	1,236,880	3,308,480	3,325,496
Ethiopia	14,400	104,800	31,400	140,889	600,586	499,262	570,548	1,507,250	1,603,216
Ghana	72,569	151,270	2,401,120	51,049	51,329	661,070	753,810	82,015	95,686
India	87,000	140,000	140,000	200,000	1,466,077	750,000	3,508,271	4,500,000	4,506,245
Mozambique	21,945	80,000	73,759	2,292,000	822,522	254,800	5,856,978	2,508,600	2,544,216
Nepal	13,309	20,520	20,032	8,787	208,083	91,400	210,144	1,091,400	1,212,652
Niger	52,250	75,645	95,623	127,840	193,020	183,836	449,511	407,180	239,279
Sierra Leone	18,000	12,000	13,485	5,000	15,963	5,500	29,508	5,000	580
Uganda	2,250	8,435	24,206	20,180	104,797	219,658	375,611	654,202	1,541,312
Yemen	NA	15,500	278,080	276,000	65,804	21,000	71,343	80,000	38,564
Zambia	2,454	2,453	910	3,076	974	2,000	31,357	40,000	2,739
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,026,268</b>	<b>1,641,623</b>	<b>4,120,434</b>	<b>4,051,121</b>	<b>4,780,912</b>	<b>4,641,463</b>	<b>13,911,913</b>	<b>15,535,227</b>	<b>16,670,397</b>

While boys and men have been targeted by programme activities to varying degrees, less has been done to look at child marriage among boys, despite the fact that, globally, the number of adolescents in consensual marriages is estimated to be more than a third of the number of those married or in union as children.





## PANCHAYAT RAJ (VILLAGE COUNCIL) REPRESENTATIVE INVOLVED IN THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT'S BETI BACHAO, BETI PADHAO PROGRAMME

in a district supported by UNFPA in Madhya Pradesh, India

“When I initially attended the community dialogues on child marriage supported by the local NGO [non-governmental organization], I was very resistant. The messages against child marriage transmitted through the natak (plays) and films kept playing in my mind. During this time, I interacted with many young activists and also became more keenly aware of how young girls experience child marriage by observing the practice in my own village and community.

I gradually realized that child marriage wasn't the answer to my biggest concern: my granddaughter's safety and security. Marriage wasn't a guarantee for her security; education was. So I reversed my decision to marry off my granddaughter, in the face of opposition from my community. I know by refusing to have my granddaughter married so young, I have broken a custom. But I believe that norms should be broken for the right cause. My happiness lies in her well-being.

Many families in our village still do not welcome daughters. They prefer sons, since they think sons will support them in old age. But if we look around us, we see so many examples where it is daughters rather than sons who have come to their parents' aid in their old age.

Together we need to acknowledge that harmful practices like child marriage and gender-biased sex selection are still prevalent in our society; that is a first step in addressing the problem. We need to also be more aware about the changing times and keep step with them. I am certain that when all of us apply our collective will, we will be able to overcome these problems.”

## Challenges in supporting households to demonstrate positive attitudes towards adolescent girls

### Resistance and culture of silence and impunity

Due to resistance to social norms and behaviour change messages in Yemen, activities supporting households to demonstrate positive attitudes towards adolescent girls had to be suspended. In Mozambique, cultural, political, economic and social forces continue to perpetuate a culture of silence that discourages community members from speaking out against child marriage and violence against women and children. Resistance against SRHR and comprehensive sexuality education interventions in Uganda is driven by fears that such programmes increase promiscuity and women's control over their own sexuality.

### Measuring the impact of community dialogues and large-scale media campaigns on transforming social norms remains challenging

Everybody Wants to Belong and the female genital mutilation (FGM) ACT framework (which focuses on: assess and ascertain, consider the context, and track and triangulate) are two tools that have been developed to measure social norms, but their scope remains limited for understanding how social norms are changing within the community programmes.



Burkina Faso, December 2019.  
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## Lessons learned

- **Traditional and religious leaders**  
Engaging traditional and religious leaders is critical, to make them accountable for the implementation of community action plans and become champions for a change in social norms (e.g. in Mozambique, Zambia and Yemen).
- **Measuring change**  
Mechanisms have to be strengthened to track the results and quality of every intervention and to support government partners to mobilize their own resources and structures to implement the interventions at scale.
- **Economics versus social norms**  
In South Asia, the programme learned that an improved economic situation only seems to have a positive effect on reducing child marriage where social norms in favour of child marriage have already been weakened.
- **Gender roles**  
In areas of Southern Africa with a high incidence of child marriage, the roles of women are influenced by family values, teaching provided during initiation rites, and other sociocultural aspects. These persistent norms and traditions leave girls with little agency over their own life choices. Evidence emerged about the importance of engaging men and boys in child marriage interventions and of understanding how boys' socialization may lead them to “ascribe to rigid definitions of emotion-repressing, violent, misogynistic, and heteronormative manhood”.<sup>20</sup> Dominant or hegemonic masculinities affect the ways in which men and boys act as key gatekeepers of marriage decision-making, and as grooms and partners to young brides. It also shapes the ways in which they reflect and act on social norms about sexuality, masculinity, femininity, sexual behaviour, reproduction and family planning decisions, and violence, as well as experiences and expectations of married life.

## Phase II priorities and shifts

- **Community and religious leadership**  
The programme will continue to strengthen the capacities of community representatives and traditional and religious leaders to prevent child marriage.
- **Gender-transformative approach, including systematically engaging boys and men**  
Phase II will develop approaches and specific packages to engage men and boys to influence gender norms and power structures.
- **Harmonization of approaches**  
The programme will further harmonize approaches to the promotion of social and behaviour change.
- **Scale**  
The programme aims to reach larger numbers of communities through the systematic mapping and mobilization of existing community-level platforms of women, youth and men, and through the engagement of NGO networks to end child marriage.
- **Measuring impact**  
The programme will step up efforts to identify and develop ways to monitor social change at the community level, strengthen the monitoring capacities of partner agencies, and test different models to better design the most effective model for a community approach.
- **Boys and young men**  
The Global Programme will engage adolescent boys and young men in gender equality more systematically, cognizant of how norms around masculinities often cause harm to women and girls, and in the end affect boys and men as well.

<sup>20</sup> Kato-Wallace, Jane, et al., '[Adolescent Boys and Young Men: Engaging them as supporters of gender equality and health and understanding their vulnerabilities](#)', Promundo-US, Washington, D.C., UNFPA, New York, 2016.

### 3.3 Strengthening the systems that deliver services to adolescent girls

#### Outcome 3

Relevant sectoral systems deliver quality and cost-effective services to meet the needs of adolescent girls

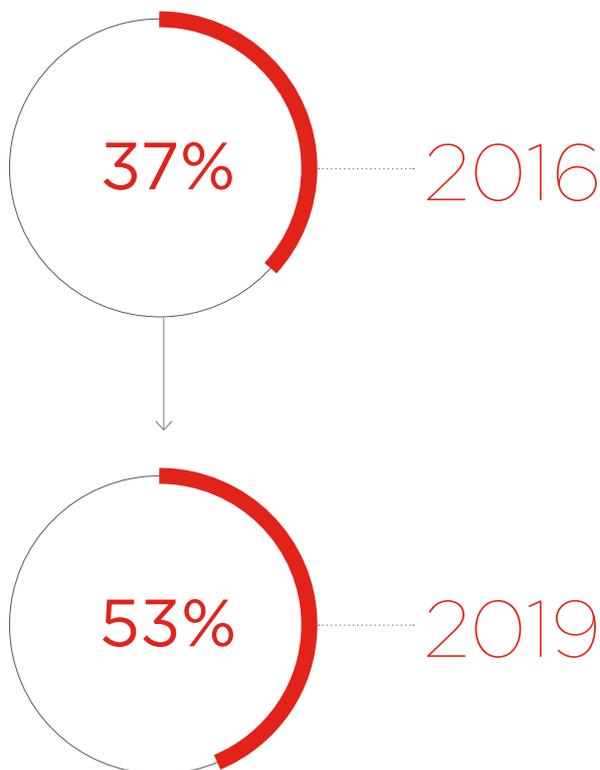
In Phase I, the Global Programme strengthened health, education and protection systems to prevent child marriage and support married girls, by getting child marriage recognized explicitly in sectoral policy documents, driving sectoral investments to geographic areas and populations at risk of child marriage, and building capacity of various frontline cadres on the issue on service provision and referrals.

The links between child marriage and SRH were a key focus of Phase I. The evidence shows that both unintended pregnancies among married girls and marriages fuelled by premarital unintended pregnancies are aggravated by the high unmet need for contraception among adolescents – much higher among adolescents aged 15–19 years (57 per cent) than among all women aged 15–49 years (24 per cent). Younger adolescent girls aged 15–17 years also have higher unmet need than those aged 18–19 years. In addition, globally, nearly one in three adolescent girls aged 15–19 (84 million) in formal unions have been a victim of emotional, physical or sexual violence perpetrated by their husbands or partners at some point in their lives.

To fill these gaps in meeting the SRH needs of unmarried and married girls and realizing their sexual and reproductive rights, UNFPA stepped up efforts to promote a comprehensive approach to SRHR, i.e. one adopting the full definition of SRHR and providing an essential package of SRHR interventions with a life-course approach. Institutional efforts, channelled selectively through the Global Programme, to promote the essential package included: comprehensive sexuality education; counselling and services for a range of modern contraceptives; and prevention, detection, immediate service delivery (i.e. the service requested is provided within 10 minutes after contact has been made) and referral for cases of SGBV.

#### Outcome Indicator 3.1

As a result of the programme's support of adolescent-friendly health and protection services, health or protection services were provided to 6.1 million adolescents in programme areas. The proportion of adolescent girls in programme areas who have utilized health or protection services has increased from 37 per cent in 2016 to 53 per cent by 2019.

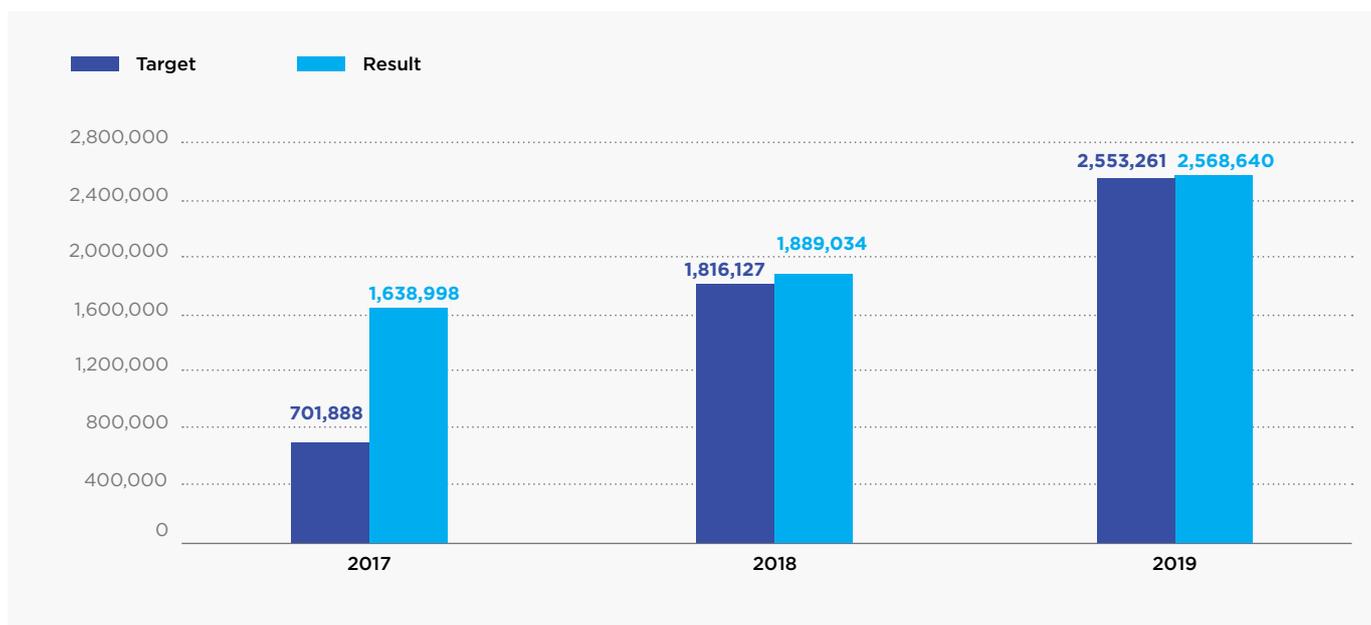


#### Output Indicator 3.1

Number and proportion of service delivery points in programme areas implementing guidelines for adolescent girl-friendly health and protection services

The Global Programme supported the development and implementation of guidelines for adolescent-friendly health and protection services and of training packages for health and social service providers, and supported quality improvement and certification of these services. By supporting facilities to improve services, the Global Programme was able to indirectly support the utilization of services of more than 11 million girls across the 12 countries.

Figure 24. Number of adolescent girls in programme areas who utilized health or protection services, by year



Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Mozambique, Niger and Uganda country programmes supported the development and implementation of national policies, guidelines and standards, and capacity-building for more gender- and child-sensitive health and protection services at national and subnational levels. In Burkina Faso, Nepal, Sierra Leone and Zambia, the Global Programme focused on the training and certification of gender-sensitive and child-sensitive services. In Sierra Leone 11 community health centres and health posts were renovated and upgraded to include separate confidential spaces for the provision of services to adolescents and youth. In Ethiopia, Niger and Burkina Faso the Global Programme supported legal and justice systems related to GBV through a case management approach.

The Ghana country programme supported the capacity-building of 470 police officers and Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit (DOVVSU) coordinators through training on the effective handling of SGBV cases using tools such as the Protocol and Codified Handbook, and also on the DOVVSU Data Management System (DODMAS), in order to be able to generate accurate and reliable SGBV data to inform programming. About 55 DOVVSU prosecutors were also trained on SGBV cases. DOVVSU was again supported to develop and update manuals to ensure information and services were standardized. In addition, 144 community engagement officers

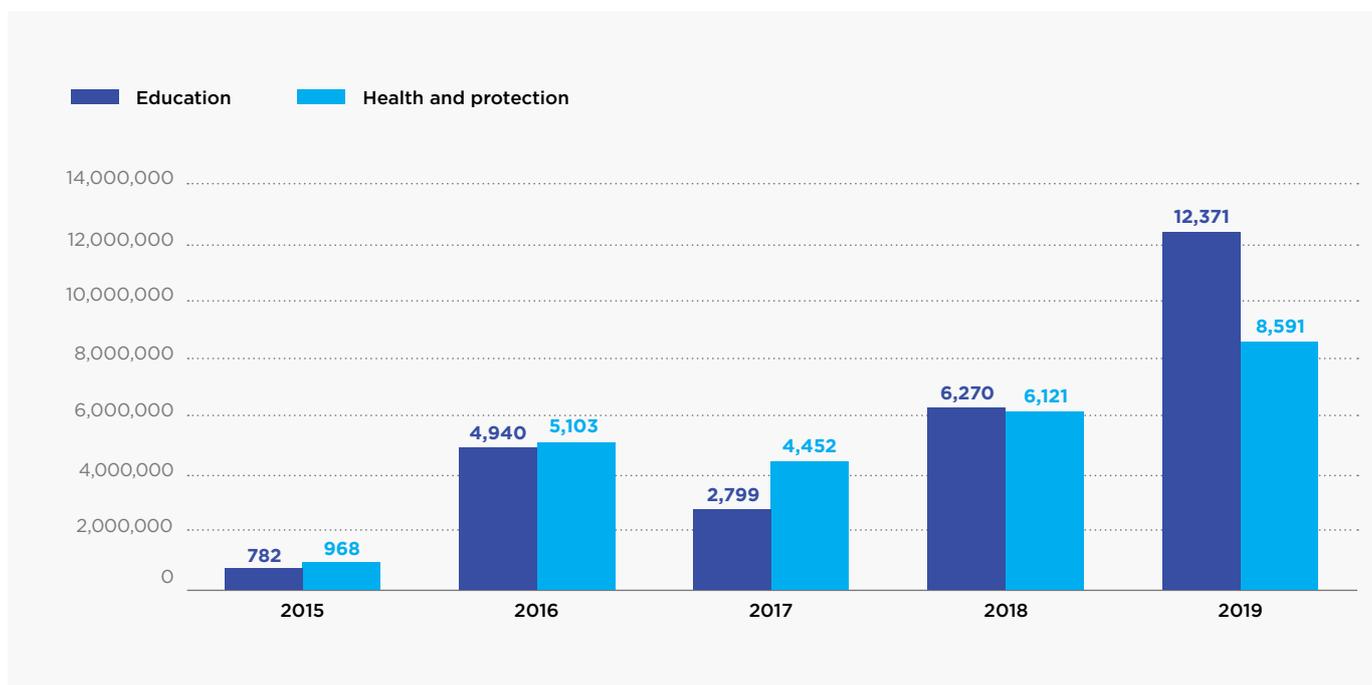
were trained with Global Programme support in three regions (Western Region, Brong Ahafo Region and Upper West Region) and 16 districts in the use of the gender, adolescent SRH, adolescence and SGBV tools and the monitoring application.



**Table 10. Output Indicator 3.1: Number of service delivery points in programme areas implementing guidelines for adolescent girl-friendly health and protection services**

Country	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	Baseline	Target	Result	Target	Result	Target	Result	Target	Result	
Bangladesh	-	100	89	50	134	72	119	77	67	
Burkina Faso	47	54	54	54	54	60	89	85	126	
Ethiopia	242	877	885	962	1,021	636	659	458	529	
Ghana	-	30	45	200	322	275	371	457	505	
India	-	5	3,673	750	785	2,500	3,428	5,000	4,702	
Mozambique	655	-	102	610	705	79	69	68	52	
Nepal	4	6	91	127	89	78	97	5	5	
Niger	-	222	116	278	324	166	163	438	159	
Sierra Leone	-	-	21	12	11	30	95	12	11	
Uganda	15	40	-	741	943	989	733	1,673	2,314	
Yemen	-	-	-	-	-	66	272	30	83	
Zambia	5	80	27	74	64	6	26	12	49	
<b>Total</b>	<b>968</b>	<b>1,414</b>	<b>5,103</b>	<b>3,858</b>	<b>4,452</b>	<b>4,957</b>	<b>6,121</b>	<b>8,315</b>	<b>8,602</b>	

**Figure 25. Number of facilities implementing interventions for adolescent girl-friendly education services and health and protection services, by year**



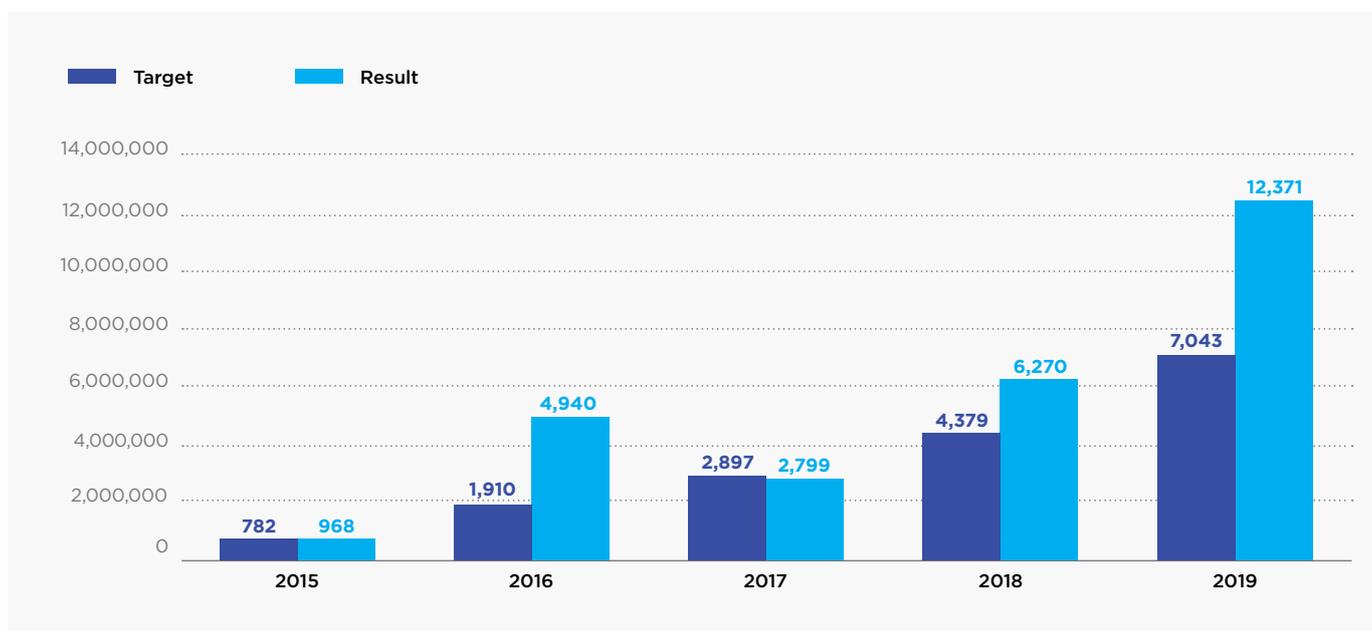
### Output Indicator 3.2

#### Number of non-formal/primary/secondary schools implementing interventions to improve the quality of education for adolescent girls

The Global Programme invested in supply-side interventions to keep girls in school – including improving physical infrastructure, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), MHM, teacher training, gender-responsive teaching, and curriculum and textbook reform – and the development and implementation of guidelines for and certification of child-friendly schools.

Manuals for life-skills-based education, comprehensive sexuality education, MHM and prevention of school-related GBV were integrated into government curricula in Bangladesh, Ghana, India, Mozambique, Nepal, Uganda and Zambia. In Burkina Faso the Global Programme improved the quality of education for adolescent girls by training 43,000 primary school teachers in the child-friendly schools approach.

Figure 26. Number of schools implementing interventions to improve the quality of education for adolescent girls, by year



**Table 11. Output Indicator 3.2: Number of non-formal/primary/secondary schools implementing interventions to improve the quality of education for adolescent girls**

Country	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	Baseline	Target	Result	Target	Result	Target	Result	Target	Result	
Bangladesh	7	47	620	70	72	96	114	96	96	
Burkina Faso	151	300	301	370	386	400	305	400	351	
Ethiopia	200	713	455	725	460	422	987	295	320	
Ghana	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
India	-	-	1,627	750	1,185	2,000	3,220	5,000	10,313	
Mozambique	-	100	100	117	191	143	55	250	150	
Nepal	-	-	257	140	360	360	550	120	120	
Niger	-	148	148	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Sierra Leone	-	-	-	-	-	150	200	-	-	
Uganda	-	100	687	625	32	789	759	830	969	
Yemen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Zambia	424	500	744	100	113	19	80	52	52	
<b>Total</b>	<b>782</b>	<b>1,910</b>	<b>4,940</b>	<b>2,897</b>	<b>2,799</b>	<b>4,379</b>	<b>6,270</b>	<b>7,043</b>	<b>12,371</b>	

India enhanced the capacity of over 15,000 teacher educators and academic leaders (30 per cent women) to review curricula, providing child-centred teaching and learning practices, quality mentoring, academic leadership and information and communication technology-led supportive supervision to improve grade-appropriate learning skills. In India, the Global Programme provided technical inputs to the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) for using National Achievement Survey data to train 4.2 million teachers and school leaders (nearly 60 per cent women).

The Global Programme in Uganda collaborated with Irish Aid to support school supervision visits, establish school management committees and train over 3,000 committee members, and construct 24 latrine blocks in selected primary schools. In Ethiopia, Mozambique, Uganda, and Zambia the Global Programme supported the integration of menstrual health into their child marriage programmes and are looking to scale up these efforts in Phase II of the programme. Uganda launched national standards for menstrual health products.

### Challenges with strengthening systems that deliver services to adolescent girls

#### ■ Sexual violence in schools

This remains a problem, because of the weak authority of committees dealing with sexual harassment (e.g. in Bangladesh), and inadequate systems such as for shelters, free medical care and adequate legal aid, as well as weak law enforcement to respond to sexual violence (e.g. in Ethiopia and Ghana).

#### ■ Barriers to adolescent sexual health information

Resistance to comprehensive sexuality education, due to religious and cultural taboos about openly discussing sexuality, is a major challenge. This is preventing the roll-out of comprehensive sexuality education in schools (e.g. in Bangladesh, Ghana and Uganda) and the provision of SRH information and services for adolescent girls (e.g. in Nepal).

#### ■ Protection system weaknesses

Child protection and GBV systems remain weak in much of the Global Programme countries, which results in a lack of referral and response services for adolescent girls who are victims/survivors of violence or are at risk of being married.

## Lessons and innovations

- **Commitments of boys and men**  
The inclusion of training topics identified by men and boys (e.g. family planning, financial management, drug abuse, human rights and sports) increased male involvement in and commitment to supporting adolescent girls.
- **Intimate partner violence**  
Work with married adolescent girls in India indicated high rates of GBV within marriage and highlighted the need to integrate GBV prevention and redressal in programming to end child marriage.
- **Sexual violence in schools, and mental health services**  
Linking schools and adolescent clubs to take action against sexual harassment increased demand for adolescent health services. Adolescent girls requested psychosocial counselling services. Complaint mechanisms can act as a deterrent against sexual harassment and bullying.

## Phase II priorities and shifts

- **Prevention of and response to sexual violence**  
Strengthening complaint mechanisms and helplines is a priority in Nepal and India, while case management and referral systems will be strengthened in Ethiopia, Ghana, Mozambique, Yemen and Zambia. Efforts to prevent and respond to violence in schools will be strengthened in Bangladesh and Mozambique.
- **SRH information, education and services**  
The programme will expand SRH services for adolescent girls and boys, strengthen school health programmes and promote partnership with social protection services.
- **Gender-responsive and transformative education**  
The programme will work with the education sector to provide high-quality gender-responsive education for adolescent girls, including sexuality education, prevention of GBV and child marriage, with the aim of achieving gender-transformative change.
- **Including married adolescents and those with disabilities**  
The programme will increase efforts to include girls with disabilities and married adolescent girls in programme activities, to provide them with appropriate information and skills.



Ghana, October 2011.  
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### 3.4 Strengthening legislative and policy frameworks

#### Outcome 4

National laws, policy frameworks and mechanisms to protect and promote adolescent girls' rights are in line with international standards and are properly resourced

In Phase I, UNFPA and UNICEF deepened partnerships with national governments and legislative bodies to advocate for policy changes at national and subnational levels. Both agencies worked in close partnership with government ministries and national parliaments, sharing the latest evidence and best practice, supporting the shaping of policies, and ensuring that policy commitments on ending child marriage are enshrined and enacted at all levels. The programme's four main areas of action under this outcome were:

##### ■ Policies and strategies

Supported multisectoral national action plans (NAPs) and subnational action plans on child marriage, and ensuring child marriage is reflected in gender, youth or health sectoral policies and strategies.

##### ■ Laws

Advocated for the legal age for marriage to be at least 18, without exception, and for the revision of associated laws on annulment of marriage, divorce, etc., and supporting enforcement mechanisms. At the inception of the Global Programme, the child marriage laws of most focus countries did not comply with international and regional commitments. In addition, there were clear conflicts between civil/common law and customary law regarding child marriage.

##### ■ Public financing and budgeting

Advocated for domestic investments to address child marriage and identified pathways for sectoral investments to drive change for those most at risk. UNFPA and UNICEF advocacy linking child marriage to the national development plan resulted in a budget allocation to end child marriage in Ethiopia, Ghana, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zambia. In India, Bihar and Rajasthan allocated budgets for the costed state action plans. In Burkina Faso, the Government is providing budgetary support for child marriage interventions through the First Lady's Office.

##### ■ Coalition building

Contributed, by supporting civil society coalitions advocating for the human rights of adolescents, to a more positive socio-political environment for ending child marriage.

#### Outcome Indicator 4

*Whether the country has resources allocated to decreasing child marriage in at least two ministries within a national action plan or another clearly defined policy/planning mechanism*

UNFPA and UNICEF collaborated at the highest levels to support governments to develop and implement national and state action plans to end child marriage. This is a role for which the United Nations is uniquely positioned and integral to ensuring that the momentum towards ending child marriage continues. Eleven countries (except Yemen) have developed NAPs, nine have costed the NAPs, and seven countries (in addition to Burkina Faso, which is funded through the First Lady's Office) have allocated public resources to implement the NAPs.

Table 12. Countries that have finalized, costed and financed NAPs to end child marriage

Status of NAP/strategy	2015 baseline	2016	2017	2018	2019
Countries with NAP or strategy to end child marriage	4	5	9	11	11
Countries with costed NAP to end child marriage (Output Indicator 4.1)	2	3	6	10	9
Countries that have allocated public resources for the implementation of the NAP to end child marriage (Outcome Indicator 4)	0	2	3	5	7

During Phase I, the Global Programme supported a number of legislative reforms and policy initiatives related to child marriage, including providing support for budget and expenditure analysis. In Bangladesh, the programme provided support towards the development of rules for the Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017 to exclude the special provision that allows for the marriage of children below the age of 18 under specific circumstances. UNICEF supported an analysis of budget commitments for ending child marriage. Advocacy in Mozambique led the Government to revoke a decree that ordered pregnant adolescent girls to be transferred from day to night schools; the decree had prevented pregnant adolescent girls from enjoying their right of access to education, since Mozambique has few night schools. In Nepal, the Government enacted a children's act that contains progressive provisions related to child protection and justice and criminalizes child marriage. In Sierra Leone, the programme supported the review of contradictions between civil/common law and customary law and the drafting of the prohibition of child marriage bill. In Burkina Faso, the programme advocated for the adoption and enforcement of a code of child protection and a code of persons and family, to raise the official legal marriage age for adolescent girls from 17 to 18. At regional level, the Global Programme provided technical and financial support to the drafting process and regional and national public hearings for the East African Community/East African Legislative Assembly (EAC/EALA) Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights Bill.

### Challenges with strengthening legislative and policy frameworks

#### Legislative reform

In Zambia, the child marriage bill was delayed due to competing agendas between lawmakers demanding the criminalization of child marriage versus those seeking to set a minimum age of marriage. In Niger, conservative religious opposition to raising the legal age of marriage for girls to 18 has stalled law reform; there have been delays in finalizing key legal frameworks such as the Children's Code and the Marriage Bill. The lack of a common conceptualization of child marriage is also leading to competing and contradictory programmatic approaches in Zambia and India.



”  
We really need to look at gender budgeting. But the truth is that you see very few women and girls around the table when there are budget discussions.

Nora O'Connell, Save the Children, at the 63rd session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women





■ **Limited effective enforcement of legal and policy provisions enacted at regional level and translated into national legislative and policy frameworks**

This is why focusing on supporting the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to develop and enforce an accountability framework to track progress of member states in addressing child marriage will be key within the ECOWAS Roadmap on Child Marriage in West Africa.

■ **Financing NAPs and tracking expenditure**

Lack of government commitment has hampered the implementation of costed NAPs in four countries (Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Nepal and Niger). The fiscal space and government budget allocations (financial and human resources) in countries to address child marriage have been limited. Continuing to position child marriage as a key issue on national and regional development agendas is important, as is the partnership with key organizations able to contribute to large-scale socioeconomic results.

**Lessons learned**

■ **Evidence-based policymaking**

Continued data-based advocacy to promote an evidence-based approach to ending child marriage has influenced decisions to develop policy and frameworks (e.g. in Bangladesh, Nepal, Niger, and Sierra Leone).

■ **Criminalizing adolescent sexuality**

In India, the alignment between the age of sexual consent and the legal minimum age of marriage has opened the door to the criminalization of adolescent sexuality. Efforts to end child marriage have to consider young people's agency in developing relationships, engaging in sexual activity, and accessing SRH information and services.

■ **Implementing action plans**

The Global Programme's dissemination and popularization of new legislation has been an important contribution to its widespread acceptance (e.g. in Uganda).



**Phase II priorities and shifts**

■ **Build country capacities to advance budget allocations, and ensure budget allocations are delivered through equity-focused, gender-responsive, effective and efficient budgetary mechanisms, with the engagement of civil society**

□ **South Asia**

Together with Plan International and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) secretariat, the two regional offices are planning a review of the current status of efforts to end child marriage in the region. The Global Programme is supporting an Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) meeting on child marriage, planned for 2020. Advocacy will continue through the regional steering group for the inclusion of marriage registration in the reform agenda for civil registration and vital statistics.

□ **Middle East and North Africa**

The regional offices will continue their engagement with the Regional Accountability Framework. In addition, the Global Programme is planning to learn from the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme to Eliminate Female Genital Mutilation, and to build coalitions and networks of religious leaders.

#### □ Africa

The regional offices will improve coordination between the African Union Commission, the United Nations and other regional stakeholders to strengthen political commitment and accountability, increase the allocation of resources, and scale up programmes among member states. Further, the offices will continue supporting the African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage by contributing to peer reviews, continue supporting the capacities of national statistics offices for data collection and analysis, and continue providing support for high-level events. The regional offices in East and Southern Africa will work with the African Union Commission and SADC/SADC Parliamentary Forum to harmonize laws and policies related to adolescent SRH. The offices will also continue supporting the finalization and adoption of the EAC/EALA bill on SRHR, including child marriage, and support the expansion of the African Coalition for Menstrual Health Management and the organization of the second African Regional Symposium on Menstrual Health Management. The regional

offices will intensify technical support for non-Global-Programme countries and promote the SADC Model Law to strengthen policy and programming throughout the SADC region and beyond.

#### ■ Policy and public finance advocacy

The Global Programme in Ghana will provide continued technical support for cross-sectoral analysis of budget expenditure related to ending child marriage; in Nepal the programme will support a coordination and monitoring mechanism for the costed national plan of action; and the India country programme will continue its evidence-based policy advocacy for laws related to young people's SRH and autonomy and on MHM.

#### ■ Alliance building

UNFPA in India will continue to build alliances and generate evidence to advocate to state governments on the linkages between child marriage and adolescent sexuality.



Uganda. March 2020.  
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### 3.5 Generating and using robust data to inform programmes and policies relating to adolescent girls

#### Outcome 5

Government(s) and partners within and across countries support the generation and use of robust data and evidence to inform policy and programming, track progress and document lessons

Phase I of the Global Programme contributed to the first generation of research, laying the groundwork by generating contextualized evidence on drivers and consequences, and communicating it to stakeholders across countries. Many programme-supported interventions show promise as scalable models, and some are already being replicated, but country offices are still working on fine-tuning interventions and providing more rigorous evidence on their impact. To ensure interventions are being scaled up with proof of efficacy, evaluative evidence generation is a priority for Phase II. Additional efforts are also needed to develop adequate national tracking systems.



Table 13. Five areas for child marriage research and evidence

Area	Broader field	Global Programme
<b>1. Prevalence, trends, determinants and correlates of child marriage</b>	Well studied, and standard measures and conclusions confirmed over time. Despite variation, fundamental drivers are common: economic, sexual control, gender and social norms, lack of options	Extensively studied, resulting in some redundancy; contextual variation well documented; lot of detailed information not always used in programme design
<b>2. Consequences of child marriage; addressing needs of married girls</b>	Significant emphasis in earlier years on consequences, especially adolescent SRH; more on costs of child marriage in later years; little on economic impact on adolescent girls; little intervention research—need shift from advocacy to programmes	Varies in quality; very little on programmes for married adolescent girls; potential for ‘piggybacking’ on evidence from adolescent SRH, schooling and GBV programmes for married adolescent girls
<b>3. Interventions to prevent child marriage; effectiveness, implementation science</b>	Still very few well-documented intervention studies that show effectiveness; some studies unpacking comprehensive components show single components have similar effects; mixed and inconclusive evidence from cash transfer evaluations	Limited evidence base and proof of concept on the intervention strategies chosen; enormous potential for implementation science research to assess, modify and adapt interventions
<b>4. Scale and sectoral options; learning from related fields</b>	Difficult to find, but a few emerging studies more deliberately link education and economic options and child marriage; scale and impact evaluations almost entirely lacking	Huge opportunity for collaborating with specific sectors to assess impact at scale; opportunity to learn from GBV, FGM and related areas
<b>5. Partnering, packaging, using and communicating evidence</b>	Number of disjointed efforts to package evidence base, each with its own approach; not coordinated; limited engagement of researchers from programme countries	Potential to be a more central player in coordinated efforts within and beyond the programme, and for collaboration and consortium building with researchers from programme countries



### Output Indicator 5.1

*Whether the country collects and shares high-quality data and evidence on what works at scale to accelerate ending child marriage*

At regional and country levels, the Global Programme completed 157 studies, surveys and evaluations during Phase I. The studies covered a wide range of issues, including the prevalence, drivers and consequences of child marriage and strategies to end child marriage.

Two publication catalogues were published to make this rich repository of knowledge more widely available. The catalogue covering 2018–2019 also went beyond including studies only commissioned under the Global Programme, and included studies related to child marriage from UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women offices across the world.<sup>21</sup> The UNICEF Office of Research also commissioned an internal review of the studies that had been completed during the first two years of programme implementation.<sup>22</sup>

#### Country-level studies

- During Phase I of the Global Programme, **Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, and Uganda** conducted formative research studies to contribute knowledge to level 1 learning and analysis of the drivers and causes of child marriage in targeted programme areas and contextualize the programme theory of change. Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Niger and Zambia used earlier situational analysis that had identified drivers and causes of child marriage to inform programming.
- **Mozambique** commissioned a mapping and review of the implementation of the national child marriage strategy (2016–2019), which helped the Global Programme identify gaps where services were not being strengthened and economic opportunities not being created. This enabled actions to be taken that resulted in stronger multisectoral coordination for addressing child marriage and violence against children.

<sup>21</sup> United Nations Population Fund and United Nations Children's Fund, ['Investing in Knowledge for Ending Child Marriage: Publications catalogue 2016–2017'](#), UNFPA and UNICEF, October 2018  
United Nations Population Fund and United Nations Children's Fund, ['Investing in Knowledge for Ending Child Marriage: Publications catalogue 2018–2019'](#), UNFPA and UNICEF, December 2019.

<sup>22</sup> UNICEF Insights from Global Research Produced under Phase I of the UNICEF-UNFPA Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage, 2019 (unpublished).

Table 14. Number of studies completed by country and regional offices during Phase I

Year	Number of studies completed
2016	34
2017	52
2018	35
2019	36
<b>Total</b>	<b>157</b>

- **Uganda** commissioned a mid-term evaluation of the national strategy to end child marriage. Findings and recommendations from the evaluation are being disseminated and will inform the development of a new national costed strategy to end child marriage and teenage pregnancy.
- **Ethiopia** commissioned an external formative assessment of strategies and approaches supported during the 2014–2016 period for the prevention of and response to child marriage, in partnership with the Government and civil society. Findings and lessons learned were used to improve the programming of interventions.
- **Zambia** developed three policy briefs: 'Adolescent Pregnancy in Zambia', 'Child Marriage in Zambia' and 'Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights in Zambia' in support of the implementation of the national plan of action to end child marriage.
- **Niger** commissioned an evaluation of the Illimin Zaman Dunia adolescent empowerment programme, to assess the impacts on and changes to adolescent girls' lives and also the community's view of child marriage. UNFPA and UNICEF also commissioned a study, 'State of Play: Child marriage in Niger' to examine the drivers behind the practice and also look at different strategies to end child marriage. Findings from these studies have been used to inform the recently developed national strategy and plan of action to end child marriage, as well as to strengthen the programme.
- **Ghana** commissioned and disseminated a series of papers and research that included: 'Child Marriage and Associated Outcomes in Northern Ghana: A cross-sectional study'; a report on the impacts of the LEAP 1000 cash-transfer programme on intimate partner violence; and formative research



on barriers to girls' completion of junior high school in two districts of Ghana. UNFPA and UNICEF used these papers and research to advocate for increased government investment in programmes to end child marriage.

- **Sierra Leone** commissioned a validation exercise of existing laws that provided a set of recommendations used by the Law Reform Commission to draft and hold public consultative meetings on a bill entitled 'The Prohibition of Child Marriage' in 2018. In 2019, results of the retrospective study on the social drivers and dynamics that encourage child marriage were released and used to contextualize the theory of change for Phase II of the programme.
- **Bangladesh** commissioned a scoping analysis of budget allocations for ending child marriage, which provided a comprehensive picture of national budget allocations across key sectors that address drivers of child marriage. The analysis was vital in informing the costing of the national plan of action to end child marriage, which has been approved; efforts to advance the analysis of budget allocations at subnational levels for increased investment in child marriage are ongoing.
- **India**, in collaboration with J-PAL, commissioned an analysis of global social protection programmes, to learn about interventions that contribute to reducing child marriage and enable the transition to post-primary education and work, and to refine cash transfer programmes for adolescents at the state level for a greater equity focus. The results from the analysis were used to inform the design of national and state social protection models and programmes.
- **Nepal** strengthened mechanisms to generate data and evidence through the use of an online platform that captures standardized profile information and assessment questions on knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding relevant issues covered in the life-skills curriculum, before and after completion of the training. A study, 'Situation Assessment of Child Marriage in Selected Five Intervention Districts of Nepal', examined the status of child marriage in the programme districts to understand the knowledge, attitudes and behaviour of stakeholders in combating child marriage and prepare a profile of the target population. This data and evidence informed the development of the adolescent health and development strategy launched in 2018, as well as contextualizing the theory of change of the programme.

## Regional studies

- The regional offices of **West and Central Africa** commissioned a study on the lessons learned, results and promising practices from Phase I of the Global Programme in the four focus countries (Burkina Faso, Ghana, Niger and Sierra Leone) and Nigeria. Findings from the study have been used to influence the design of Phase II of the Global Programme and other child marriage programme initiatives in the region. UNFPA also commissioned a study, 'Adolescents and Youth in West and Central Africa', which provides a comprehensive overview of child marriage and other key issues, including adolescent pregnancy, education and health, impacting adolescents and youth in the region. Findings were used to develop and disseminate a regional position paper on child marriage, adolescent pregnancy and the demographic dividend as a companion piece to a policy brief on child marriage from 2017.
- The regional offices in **Eastern and Southern African** commissioned a literature review of published and unpublished literature to strengthen knowledge sharing and evidence-based programming for a multisectoral response to MHM for adolescent girls in Eastern and Southern Africa. Report findings were used to inform the planning of the first regional symposium on MHM. A study, 'Child Marriage: A mapping of programmes and partners in twelve countries in Eastern and Southern Africa', generated evidence about the drivers and consequences of child marriage and informed the design of interventions within and beyond the Global Programme focus countries. The Global Programme supported the review of the African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage 2014–2018. The review provides an analysis of the key successes, challenges and opportunities and informed Phase II of the African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage.
- The UNICEF **Middle East and North Africa** and UNFPA **Arab States** regional offices commissioned formative research on the drivers of child marriage and used the findings to jointly organize a technical meeting held in Cairo to develop a strategic implementation plan for child marriage programmes in humanitarian settings, including in Yemen. UNICEF commissioned a situational analysis of women and girls in the Middle East and North Africa in collaboration with UNFPA and other partners; while not exclusively focused on child marriage, it is a critical issue that will be included



in the analysis due in 2020. The regional offices also jointly developed a study on the prevalence of child marriage in humanitarian settings. The recommendations from the study led to the development of a joint regional accountability framework of action to end child marriage for 2018–2021. The main focus of the framework is to mitigate the impact of conflict and humanitarian crises on the increasing prevalence of child marriage. Another multi-country study is underway, led by UNFPA diving deeper into the dynamics of child marriage in the region, particularly in humanitarian settings.

The UNICEF **South Asia** and UNFPA **Asia and the Pacific** regional offices commissioned a study to examine the drivers of child marriage in the region. The study provides a basis to profile locations where rates of child marriage have declined or where they remain high, and tailor interventions accordingly. A similar study focused on humanitarian settings is nearing completion and will inform programming in Phase II. A desk review of cash incentive programmes in South Asia designed to support the ending of child marriage argues that while cash transfers may have increased the age of marriage, the interventions did not profoundly shift the attitudes of parents or communities regarding

delaying the age of marriage, nor did they translate into wider social change, including change in the agency of the adolescent girls. The findings were used to inform country office engagement in these initiatives. UNICEF also commissioned a baseline study in partnership with BRAC, which assessed the impact of the Bangladesh media campaign ‘Raise the Beat to End Child Marriage’ on changing social norms and behaviour on child marriage and linked adolescent issues over the period of the campaign

### Monitoring and data systems

In addition to the studies, surveys and evaluations, the Global Programme strengthened monitoring and administrative data systems to record and track child marriage programmes at country level. To address national capacity gaps in relation to evidence generation and monitoring and evaluation (M&E), the regional offices for West and Central Africa developed an M&E capacity development plan in consultation with country offices. In Phase II, the Global Programme will work with external partners and governments, and through regional partnerships with regional academia and organizations, to strengthen M&E capacities.



India. May 2018.  
© UNICEF/UNO210185/Singh

## Challenges in strengthening data and evidence

### Quality of data

Challenges with the quality of data and statistical analysis have affected Ghana, Mozambique and Nepal.

### Measuring social norms

has been a challenge in some Global Programme countries (Ethiopia, India and Sierra Leone).

### Sensitivity of data

Data related to child marriage, adolescent sexuality and violence is considered sensitive by some governments and communities, leading to resistance to research studies (e.g. India) or delays in the approval of survey results (e.g. Bangladesh).

### Monitoring and data systems

Taking programmes to scale requires that data systems are also scaled up, which has caused challenges in Niger, especially where the programme relies of existing government data systems. In India it has been difficult to influence the government to ensure that data systems monitor and track the progress of programme interventions. Measuring the long-term impact of interventions on child marriage and/or adolescent pregnancy has been a challenge in West Africa. Overall, there is a need to further explore how proxy indicators can be used in monitoring.

### Limited M&E capacity

To address this gap at national and regional level, UNICEF's Regional Office for West and Central Africa developed an M&E capacity development plan in consultation with country offices.

## Making data accessible

The use of innovative approaches to visualizing data (e.g. dashboards, videos, and feedback loops within TV series development, i.e. where feedback from viewers is used to improve the content or structure of the next TV series) facilitates the dissemination and use of data (e.g. Bangladesh).

## Tracking change and monitoring impact

There is a need for robust mechanisms to track social norm change at community level (e.g. Ethiopia).



## Lessons learned

### Government involvement and leadership

Generating evidence at the budget level helps to identify government priorities, the real areas of work, and the most influential decision makers in terms of investments in ending child marriage (e.g. Bangladesh). Government involvement in all stages of data and evidence generation promotes ownership and accountability at national and subnational levels (e.g. Uganda).

### Evidence for policy advocacy

Government decision makers want to see evaluation findings from large-scale initiatives rather than from small-scale pilots (India).

## Priorities and shifts in Phase II

### South Asia

The regional offices aim to explore evidence and research gaps and measure the extent to which evidence is being used for programming. For example, the regional offices propose building on the work done in the study of the drivers of child marriage to support targeting approaches in specific geographic areas, as well as looking at neglected areas and research gaps, such as child grooms, and key questions, such as why marriage remains compulsory, especially for women and girls. The regional offices will undertake a baseline study on the use of evidence in country programming and a study to review whether the lives of children are better as a result of efforts to end child marriage.



### ■ Middle East and North Africa

The regional offices will use the Regional Accountability Framework Research Task Force to increase strategic and collaborative efforts on evidence generation and knowledge management. UNFPA and UNICEF will ensure that research is strongly supporting programmatic interventions to increase the scale and reach of the results.

### ■ East and Southern Africa

The regional offices will publish more brochures and develop in-depth reports that show the burden and trends of child marriage in the region, and will generate data to report against the Sustainable Development Goals.

### ■ Evidence building and sharing

India will expand the generation of evidence on the impact of life-skills education on the empowerment of adolescent girls, on MHM, and on the impact of laws related to child marriage on adolescent sexuality and agency. Ghana will intensify knowledge sharing and exchange.

### ■ Quantitative and qualitative studies

Ethiopia is supporting the inclusion of a module on child marriage in the country's Demographic and Health Survey; Zambia will undertake a baseline knowledge, attitudes and practices survey; Yemen and Mozambique will support research on child marriage in humanitarian settings; and Sierra Leone is commissioning a formative study on FGM.

### ■ Administrative data

Uganda, Ethiopia and Mozambique will work with government partners to strengthen routine administrative data systems to support evidence-based programming and budgets to be adolescent girl-friendly.

### ■ Monitoring progress

Uganda will support the Government to use evidence from the mid-term evaluation of the National Strategy to End Child Marriage and develop a new national costed strategy to end child marriage and teenage pregnancies. Ethiopia is one of the countries investing more in tracking progress on changing social and gender norms in target areas. Niger will strengthen the monitoring system to measure the impact of at-scale implementation.



”

I am proud to contribute to the social acceptance of ending child marriage in Burkina Faso that was increased by the campaign 'Ne m'appellez pas madame' ('Don't call me "Mrs"'). More than 1 million people have been reached by the campaign against child marriage, with 51,910 interactions, 45,000 views on YouTube and 500,000 views on Facebook.<sup>23</sup>

Désiré Yameogo, Child Protection Specialist,  
UNICEF Burkina Faso

<sup>23</sup> For more information, see: United Nations Children's Fund, '[Burkina Faso: Artist Smarty is committed to fight child marriage](#)', UNICEF, press release, 5 July 2019



# CHAPTER 4

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## PROGRAMME GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT



## 4.1 Partnerships

Child marriage is a complex issue that requires multifaceted interventions. Ensuring adolescent girls' well-being and improving their lives requires broad cross-sectoral commitments and integrated approaches. The success of UNFPA and UNICEF in the implementation of the Global Programme has depended on the strength of the multisectoral partnerships and coordination platforms with all stakeholders. The 2018 independent joint evaluation concluded that, with limited investment by the Global Programme in some outcome areas, the programme has successfully leveraged complementary funding through innovative partnerships and linkages to end child marriage. In order to overcome limitations in funding, innovative partnerships that bring together government, civil society organizations (CSOs), private sector, academia and other United Nations agencies are increasingly being promoted as a mechanism of pooling much-needed financing while mitigating some of the risks of doing business across sectors to address child marriage.

After an initial increase in the number of partnerships from 2016 to 2018, the number of implementing partnerships declined from 2018 to 2019. This decrease in implementing partnerships reflect a shift of the Global Programme towards strategic partnerships to support the scaling up of interventions to end child marriage. These partnerships have the greatest potential to deliver high-quality interventions to the largest numbers of adolescent girls while representing value for money.

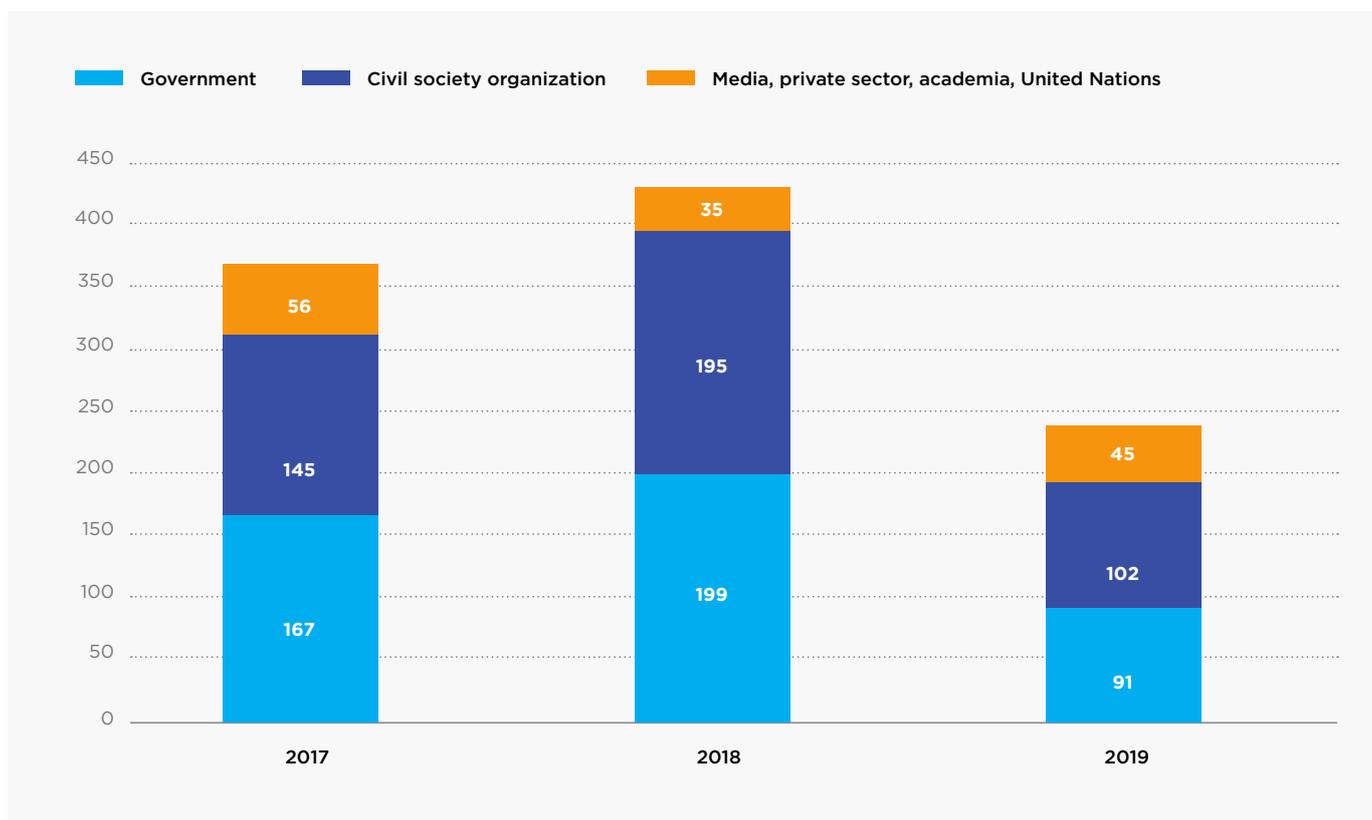


Table 15. Number of Global Programme partnerships 2017–2019

Year	Type of partnership	Government bodies	CSOs	Media, private sector, academia, United Nations
2017	Implementing partners	133	103	40
	Other partners	34	42	16
2018	Implementing partners	175	169	20
	Other partners	24	26	15
2019	Implementing partners	65	87	15
	Other partners	26	15	30



Figure 27. Number of Global Programme implementing partnerships and other partnerships, by year



The following figures (28 and 29) include only implementing partners and only other partners (such as for advocacy) respectively.

Figure 28. Number of Global Programme implementing partnerships, by year

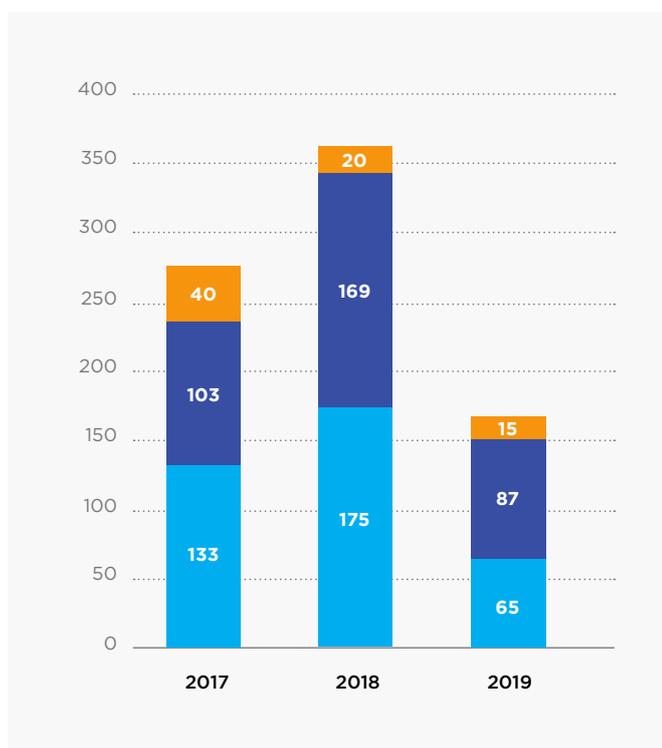
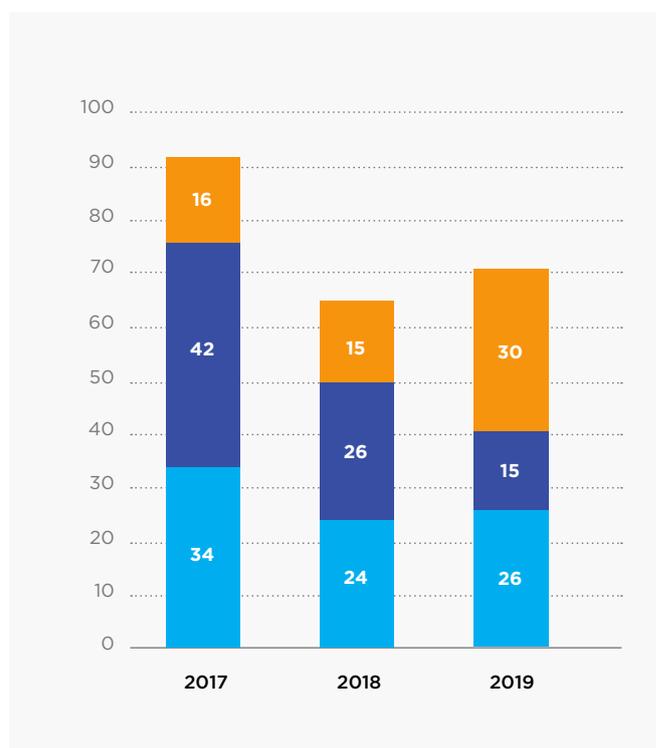


Figure 29. Number of Global Programme other partnerships, by year





### 4.1.1 Country-level partnerships

To ensure that partnerships represent value for money and generate benefits that exceed those that could be achieved through alternative modes of financing, the Global Programme pursued different types of partnerships, which include:

- **Partnerships for strengthening government health, education and protection systems**

For example, in Ethiopia, UNFPA and UNICEF, through the National Alliance to End Child Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), partnered with Pathfinder and the Organization for the Development of Women and Children to provide technical support and capacity-building to government agencies in the health sector.

- **Partnerships for joint research, innovation and technology transfer**

For example, in Bangladesh, UNICEF supported innovative technology-based tools that make data available, reliable and timely and strengthen government capacities to monitor and evaluate basic social services and take responsive actions to enhance them. In Ghana, UNICEF collaborated with the Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER) at the University of Ghana, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (USA), and Navrongo Health Research Centre to carry out a mixed-methods impact evaluation of Ghana's flagship social protection programme, Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP).

- **Partnerships for joint implementation of strategic initiatives**

For example, in Mozambique, the Global Programme provided different elements of a single package to girls in conjunction with the Rapariga Biz initiative. The initiative is being implemented with UNESCO and UN Women in 14 districts. In Sierra Leone and Nepal, the Global Programme used complementary funding from the Girls' Access to Education (GATE) programme to bridge the gap in accessing formal education for adolescent girls in programme areas. In Burkina Faso, the Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend (SWEDD) programme, financed by the World Bank with UNFPA technical support, has provided complementary funding to education and income-generating activities to adolescent girls in targeted Global Programme areas.

- **Partnerships with women's rights organizations**

In Burkina Faso, the Global Programme partnered with the Association Voix de Femmes to increase the engagement of community leaders and adolescent girls. In Ghana, the Global Programme partnered with International Needs Ghana and with the Northern Sector Action on Awareness Centre (NORSAAC) to deliver a package of information and services to adolescent girls at risk of and affected by child marriage. In Mozambique, the Global Programme partnered with N'weti to develop a community dialogue manual and monitoring tools. In Sierra Leone, the Global Programme partnered with the Women in Crisis Movement to engage community stakeholders, gatekeepers and service providers to advocate for and support interventions that empower adolescent girls and create safe spaces in communities.

### 4.1.2 Regional partnerships

- **South Asia**

The two regional offices collaborated with other United Nations agencies (e.g. UNESCO, UN Women, and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific [ESCAP]), with regional offices of international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) (e.g. Plan International) and regional networks and institutions (e.g. the South Asian Coordinating Group on Violence Against Children [SACG]), as well as research and academic institutes. Examples include the partnership with SACG and the South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children (SAIEVAC), which supported the high-level meeting on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and violence against children; the close collaboration of the regional offices with UNESCO, Plan International and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) to hold the Regional Meeting on Adolescent Pregnancy, Child Marriage and Early Union in South East Asia, and the collaboration of the regional offices with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and Plan International to convene a 'state of play' meeting on child marriage in South Asia in 2020.

- **Middle East and North Africa**

A consortium of partners was formed in the process of developing the Regional Accountability Framework on Child Marriage to coordinate

research on child marriage in humanitarian settings in the Arab States. A key strength of the group is the diversity of partners it brings together, including civil society, universities and United Nations agencies. The regional offices collaborated with a number of institutions to develop practical guidance for effective social norm and behaviour change programming. This cross-regional initiative also included West and Central Africa Regional Offices and East and Southern Africa Regional Offices. Guidance tools were developed in partnership with Ipsos, the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Edinburgh. UNFPA and UNICEF cultivated relationships across sectors, including education, for programmatic interventions, particularly for life skills in Yemen. This has directly resulted in increased reach and scope of programming and provided lessons learned for the adaptation of tools and approaches.

### East and Southern Africa

The two regional offices established and strengthened partnerships with regional partners such as the African Union, regional economic communities (the Southern African Development Community [SADC] and East African Community [EAC]) and parliamentary fora (the SADC Parliamentary Forum and the East African Legislative Assembly [EALA]). Other important partners are the African Union Goodwill Ambassador on Child Marriage, Girls Not Brides, Equality Now, Plan International, Save the Children and AfriYAN, which the two regional offices collaborated with for support of the African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage and the development and dissemination of the SADC Model Law on Child Marriage.

The two regional offices strengthened their collaboration with UN Women for the design of the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative to end violence against women and girls, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), harmful practices (including ending child marriage and FGM) as well as promoting sexual health and reproductive rights in Africa, in partnership with the African Union. The two regional offices also provided technical support for the UN Women-led multi-country analytical study on child marriage in 10 African countries. Girls Not Brides and UN Women also participated in the 2019 regional design workshop for Phase II of the Global Programme.



The Global Programme collaborated with Child Helpline International to develop standard operating procedures for call response and a quality standards guide to support member child helplines in the region. Other partnerships centred on menstrual hygiene management (MHM) and involved the Department of Women in the Presidency of the Republic of South Africa, UN Women, WHO and various CSOs. Initial efforts were made to establish new partnerships with Sonke Gender Justice to strengthen work with men and boys. The two regional offices also established a partnership with the African Council of Religious Leaders.

### West and Central Africa

The two regional offices developed strategic partnerships with regional bodies and institutions such as the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Economic Community of Central Africa States (ECCAS), fellow United Nations agencies (UN Women, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR], the International Organization for Migration [IOM]), as well as CSOs such as Girls Not Brides, Save the Children International, Plan International and the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE). These partnerships contributed to advocacy results as well as multisectoral programming with education.



### 4.1.3 Challenges, lessons and Phase II priorities

#### Challenges

- The regions are not the same for UNFPA and UNICEF and for many partners (some focus only on South Asia, some on the Asia region) and this can make collaboration challenging.
- Linkages between regional organizations and national offices are also uneven in terms of communication and engagement, so strong collaboration at regional level does not always translate to the country level, and vice versa.
- Key regional intergovernmental bodies (SADC and EAC) and parliamentary fora (SADC Parliamentary Forum and EALA) are key strategic partners for the Global Programme. But their limited financial resources, limited technical capacity and limited ability to coordinate result in high reliance on funding from United Nations partners and major international NGO partners, can have negative effects on the strategic value, quality, timeliness and systematic follow-up of partnership initiatives.
- Continuous investments in strategy dialogue, partnership-building, networking and capacity-building are needed for effective coordination, leveraging of resources and follow-up at policy and programme level for continued efforts to eliminate child marriage throughout the region.
- Child marriage is a relatively new area of programming in the Middle East, and few agencies are actively supporting programming, research and advocacy related to the issue.
- It is essential to strengthen capacities at community level and to identify other critical partners (e.g. faith-based leaders, and activists) to raise the profile and impact of interventions.
- There is a need to strengthen partnerships with different sectoral areas of work, to include non-traditional entry points for work to end child marriage.

#### Lessons learned

- Clarity about the purpose and scope of a partnership, and the contribution of and resources provided by and available to partners is critical, in order to manage expectations.
- Regional partnerships may not necessarily always support country-level work but are critical for advocacy and for positioning the issue.

- Being selective and strategic in prioritizing partnerships is key, but this can be challenging for an inclusive approach.
- Alignment of approaches is key, but this is not always the case in child marriage. Some regional organizations favour a more punitive approach in support of banning child marriage, which does not necessarily fit with the UNFPA and UNICEF approach.
- Partnerships take time, funds and effort. The focus needs to be on partnerships that deliver concrete results.
- There is a need to broaden partnerships with multilateral and regional organizations to ensure that social protection, poverty reduction and economic empowerment programmes and services respond to the needs of the poorest adolescent girls and their families, including in humanitarian contexts. These partnerships need to cover resource mobilization, programme implementation, policy development, and evidence generation and research. Institutions targeted should include: multilateral and intergovernmental organizations (e.g. the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the African Union, ECOWAS, ECCAS, UN Women, United Nations Development Programme [UNDP] and UNHCR), foundations and philanthropic organizations (e.g. the Organization of African First Ladies against HIV/AIDS [OAFILA]), academia (e.g. the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa [CODESRIA]), CSOs (e.g. Girls Not Brides Africa, and Plan International West and Central Africa) and the private sector.

#### Phase II priorities

- Continue partnerships with key regional intergovernmental bodies, international agencies, CSOs like Girls Not Brides, and CSO funders like Girls First Fund and AmplifyChange.
- Expand partnerships with Sonke Gender Justice on the engagement of boys and men, with women's rights organizations, and with faith-based organizations to intensify the work on gender transformation and social norm change.

## 4.2 Visibility and communication

Over the course of Phase I, the Global Programme has greatly increased its visibility and communication work. In 2019, the Global Programme continued to engage in communication activities to increase its visibility. The programme engaged followers on social media and through its newly launched website hosted by UNFPA. Further, the programme sent out email updates linked to key events, such as the Commission on the Status of Women, and the International Conference on Population and Development. Combined with an improved approach to promoting events, this allowed for greater dissemination of key messages and engagement with existing and new stakeholders.

In the lead-up to Phase II, the Global Programme developed a visual identity, including a new logo, which was launched in 2020. The visual identity will be rolled out to country and regional offices with the support of a visual identity guide, which aims to increase the visibility of the programme and its brand, as well as overall communication around the need to accelerate action to end child marriage.

Linked to the release of the first global estimates on child marriage among boys, UNICEF worked with media outlets to disseminate the data. In total, the data on child grooms generated 668 stories and mentions in print, online media and broadcast outlets monitored in the six official United Nations languages. This coverage included 43 mentions in top-tier outlets, including an exclusive story for The New York Times in collaboration with the Nepal Country Office.<sup>24</sup> Further media coverage from the Global Programme countries can be found in the annexes.

The Global Programme developed an advocacy brochure, highlighting strategies and key results from 2018. The brochure was printed in both English and French, and disseminated to all donors, the Global Programme Partner Advisory Group, and all UNICEF national committees. It was also distributed at events such as the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

To demonstrate its impact across implementing countries, the Global Programme produced a human interest stories catalogue, compiling stories from adolescent girls, parents and community members.<sup>25</sup>



”  
The kind of change I would like to see in the world is for the girl-child to not endure the injustices society has forced upon her.

Sharon Faith Nabushuwu, Uganda

The Global Programme supported the publishing of a blog post by one of the girls reached by the programme in Uganda. Sharon, an 18-year-old girl in Kimwanyi-Mulago, is today a volunteer with one of the BRAC Empowerment and Livelihood for Adolescent (ELA) clubs, supported by the Global Programme. In her blog post she writes about her experience of having her dreams of becoming a doctor shattered at age 16, when she was raped by a man in her village. The attack led to Sharon becoming pregnant and dropping out of school, feeling that she was a disgrace to her family. Luckily, staff from the ELA found Sharon during their outreach activities and convinced her to join the club, leading her to find new confidence and even take on a mentoring role for girls in similar situations as her.<sup>26</sup>

<sup>24</sup> Sharma, Bhadra, and Kai Schultz, [‘As world makes gains against child marriage, Nepal struggles to catch up’](#), The New York Times online, 6 June 2019.

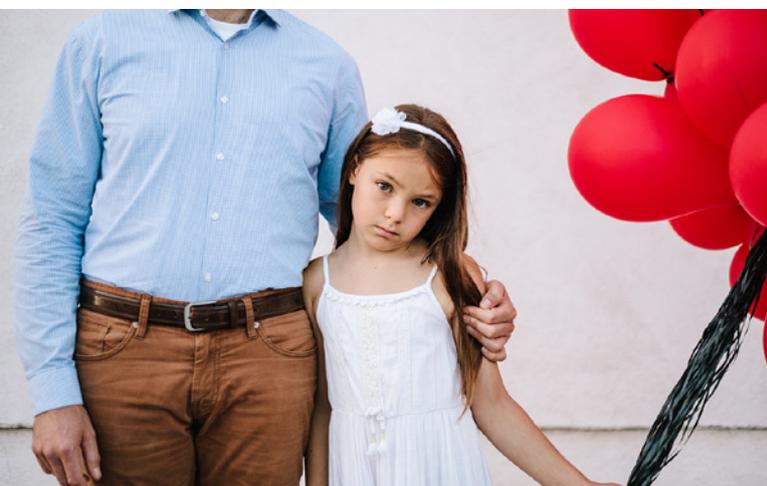
<sup>25</sup> United Nations Population Fund and United Nations Children’s Fund, [‘Voices of Change’](#), UNFPA and UNICEF, June 2019.

<sup>26</sup> To read Sharon’s full blog post, see: Nabushuwu, Sharon F., [‘From shattered dreams to championing the rights of girls’](#), Voices of Youth, 3 October 2019.

### Visibility and communication campaigns

The Global Programme launched campaigns at the global, regional and country level as part of its communication and visibility strategy. The programme utilized its social media accounts on Instagram (@gpchildmarriage) and Twitter (@GPChildMarriage), targeted at reaching online users and encouraging them to raise awareness of the programme, advocate for its aims, and influence their governments to invest in initiatives to end child marriage. In 2019, the number of followers continued to grow steadily on both accounts, with an additional 655 followers on Twitter during the year – reaching 1,034 followers in total – and 685 followers on Instagram. These include international and national NGOs, United Nations offices (including

and beyond the offices of the Global Programme), governments and child marriage advocates and activists. Most of the Instagram followers are located in Tanzania, Ghana, Uganda, USA and Egypt, whereas for Twitter, most followers are in USA, Ghana, India, UK, Nigeria and Uganda. Over 743,000 impressions on Twitter were recorded for tweets, with, on average, 1.5 per cent of the people reached through the social media platform engaging with the posts in some way during the year (engagement including e.g. likes, retweets and comments). In addition, the Global Programme was mentioned close to 1,000 times in posts by other accounts on Twitter.



Linked to Valentine's Day, UNICEF launched a global campaign, primarily targeting social media users between the ages of 18 and 34 years, called 'A Storybook Proposal... Except for One Thing', as a follow-up to the most-viewed ever UNICEF video, 'A Storybook Wedding' from 2016. The campaign included two advocacy videos to highlight the issue of child marriage, set up as videos of a normal engagement/proposal, but with a twist at the end when the viewer realizes that the bride-to-be is, in fact, a child. One of the videos was produced in English, set in a Western country.<sup>27</sup> In addition to this video, a region-specific video in French was developed for Africa, set in a francophone African setting, to speak to an even bigger audience and to specifically target the region with the highest prevalence of child marriage globally: West and Central Africa, where 41 per cent of all adolescent girls are married before age 18.<sup>28</sup>



Through UNICEF's main social media accounts, the campaign reached over 13.8 million people in the first month.

To increase the reach and engagement around the two videos and the issue, social media influencers globally were engaged to create content to raise awareness around ending child marriage for their platforms. Together with the two videos, UNICEF also issued a press release with 10 'fast facts' illustrating why we must end child marriage now.<sup>29</sup>

<sup>27</sup> UNICEF, '[A storybook proposal](#)', Twitter, 11 February 2019.

<sup>28</sup> UNICEF, '[Marriage proposals are supposed to be magical...](#)', Twitter, 13 February 2019.

<sup>29</sup> United Nations Children's Fund, '[Fast Facts: 10 facts illustrating why we must #EndChildMarriage](#)', UNICEF, 10 February 2019.



Further linked to Valentine's Day, UNFPA launched a campaign called '#IDONT' to raise awareness and engagement around the issue of child marriage.<sup>30</sup>



In Niger, the Global Programme joined forces with Moon Boots, a US DJ and music producer, to create a music video to his song 'Power'.<sup>31</sup> Linked to the release of the music video, UNICEF published a blog post by Communication Officer Nicholas Ledner on the development of the video.<sup>32</sup> The music video was filmed in the desert of Agadez, Niger, and was produced in partnership with UNICEF Niger, Moon Boots and Black Gatsby, an R&B singer/songwriter, and directed by South Africa's Rooftop Productions. The music video has been promoted on UNICEF global channels across the world since 1 July 2019.

”

I'm so grateful we have organizations like UNICEF tackling important issues and helping people in need around the world. I'll be getting married soon, which makes the cause of child marriage resonate with me even more. I'm honoured UNICEF chose the song by D'Angelo (Black Gatsby).

said Moon Boots

”

As an artist, my hope is to create music that can make an impact and help affect change in any way, whether big or small. I feel so grateful that 'Power' has inspired the family at UNICEF to share this important and powerful message, helping us all to be more aware of some of the troubles others are facing around the world.

affirmed Black Gatsby

<sup>30</sup> United Nations Population Fund, '[Saying #IDON'T to child marriage](#)', UNFPA, 1 February 2019.

<sup>31</sup> Haro, Juan, '[Music for Girls' Rights: UNICEF teams up with musician Moon Boots to empower girls in Niger](#)', UNICEF, 26 June 2019.

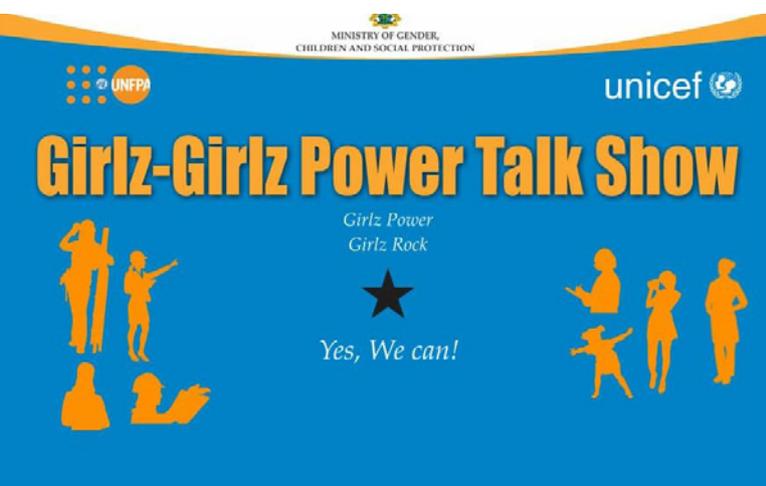
<sup>32</sup> Ledner, Nicholas, '[Music against child marriage](#)', UNICEF, 26 June 2019.



In Bangladesh, UNICEF, in partnership with the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs and UNFPA, launched an award-winning national multimedia campaign to end child marriage. The ‘Raise the beat for ending child marriage’ campaign has reached an estimated 190 million people across TV channels, radio and social media since its launch in late 2017, engaging close to 95 million through social media, and received several national and international awards.



In Burkina Faso, the multimedia advocacy campaign ‘Ne m’appelez pas madame’ (‘Don’t call me “Mrs”’) against child marriage has reached over 10 million people through radio debates. The campaign is used as an opportunity to raise awareness of the existence of and support from global and national initiatives to end child marriage. The music video was a collaboration with local artist Smarty.<sup>33</sup> As part of the same campaign, an additional video was also produced, featuring adolescent girls dancing while singing “I don’t want to be married, don’t call me ‘Mrs’...” to raise awareness around the issue of child marriage in the country.<sup>34</sup>



In Ghana, the Girlz Girlz Power Talk Show was jointly supported by UNFPA and UNICEF to create public awareness of various topics that relate to the development of adolescent girls. The number of TV viewers was estimated at over 400,000.

<sup>33</sup> United Nations Children’s Fund, ‘Burkina Faso: Artist Smarty is committed to fight child marriage’, UNICEF press release, 5 July 2019.

<sup>34</sup> UNICEF Burkina Faso, ‘Ne m’appelez pas madame’, YouTube, 21 March 2019.



In Mozambique, the entertainment-education radio drama Ouro Negro is a transmedia initiative (a technique of telling a single story across multiple platforms), comprising a long-running radio drama on issues related to adolescents, weekly live radio shows in local languages, stories adapted for community theatre performances and a social media presence. Ouro Negro together with the U-report online platform have reached an estimated 11 million listeners with culturally sensitive messages in local languages aimed at delaying and ending child marriage and raising the awareness of listeners of the existence of global and national initiatives to end child marriage.

”

Child marriage is not directly practised in the community. What happens is that, when a child gets pregnant, they marry her off to the one responsible, because we used to see it as normal and the right thing to do since that's the path they have decided to follow. So, parents will just go ahead to give the girl to the boy/man who got her pregnant as a way of relieving themselves from the burden of having to take care of another person (the baby). Both families just come together and solve the problem by joining the two together, and it may not necessarily be a marriage ceremony but the girl goes to stay with the boy who got her pregnant.

Through our interactions with International Needs and UNICEF, we got to understand that pushing a girl into marriage is like adding stones into a sack of stones. It makes matters worse because the girl is not capable of taking care of anyone; neither should her life come to an end because of one mistake. We have been educated on how to raise our children better to prevent teenage pregnancy in the first place and we have taken it upon ourselves to go door to door talking to fathers, mothers and the entire community about how teenage pregnancy hinders development.

Adult male, Dunkwa, Gomoa West District, Central Region, Ghana



## 4.3 Knowledge management and exchange

Over the course of Phase I, knowledge management and exchange, technical support and guidance have taken on an increasingly important part of the Global Programme's work. Notably, this work was driven by the development of knowledge management strategies by headquarters and by the South Asia regional offices.<sup>35</sup>

### 4.3.1 Technical guidance

At global level, UNFPA and UNICEF developed and rolled out programme guidance for accelerating action to end child marriage in Phase I. This guidance offered a framework to align Phase I country-level implementation with the Global Programme's theory of change and results framework. The guidance was adopted by the 12 Global Programme focus countries and by more than 20 additional countries.

Rather than producing another programme guidance manual for Phase II, the Global Programme commissioned a number of short evidence-based technical notes. The aim of the technical notes is to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and good practice to promote gender transformation as well as provide practical guidance on the application of key concepts and effective programming approaches related to ending child marriage. In addition, a programme document,<sup>36</sup> theory of change<sup>37</sup> and results framework<sup>38</sup> for Phase II were developed and rolled out following the recommendations of an independent evaluation and a Phase II design workshop in Jaipur, India, with participation from all countries targeted by the Global Programme as well as partners.

### Topics of technical notes completed or in preparation:<sup>39</sup>

- Life-skills programmes for empowering adolescent girls
- Gender transformation
- Scale-up in the Global Programme
- Convergent programming at a subnational level
- Adolescent girl empowerment
- Partnering with men and boys
- Gender norms
- Adolescent-girl-responsive systems
- Value for money
- Leaving no one behind
- Child marriage and the law
- Child marriage in humanitarian settings
- Seven steps to strengthening legislation, policy and public financing

The Global Programme published two publications catalogues to make the knowledge generated by its studies in Phase I more widely accessible: 'Investing in Knowledge for Ending Child Marriage 2016–2017' and 'Investing in Knowledge for Ending Child Marriage 2018–2019'.

In 2019, UNICEF regional offices in Middle East and North Africa, West and Central Africa, and Eastern and Southern Africa, with Global Programme support, developed a practical guide to tackling and leveraging social norms in behaviour change programming, titled 'Everybody Wants to Belong'.<sup>40</sup> The guide provides UNICEF and its governmental and non-governmental partners with accessible and engaging information on social norms and the role they play in perpetuating or

<sup>35</sup> For more information, see: United Nations Population Fund and United Nations Children's Fund, '[2018 Annual Report: Turning commitments into solid actions, UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage](#)', UNFPA and UNICEF, August 2019.

<sup>36</sup> United Nations Population Fund and United Nations Children's Fund, '[Phase II Programme Document 2020–2023, UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage](#)', UNFPA and UNICEF, November 2019.

<sup>37</sup> United Nations Children's Fund, '[Global Programme Phase II Theory of Change](#)', UNICEF, December 2019.

<sup>38</sup> United Nations Population Fund and United Nations Children's Fund, '[Global Programme Phase II Results Framework](#)', UNFPA and UNICEF, December 2019.

<sup>39</sup> All published technical notes are available here: United Nations Children's Fund, '[UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage](#)', UNICEF.

<sup>40</sup> Petit, Vincent, and Tamar Naomi Zalk, '[Everybody Wants to Belong: A practical guide to tackling and leveraging social norms in behavior change programming](#)', UNICEF, 2019

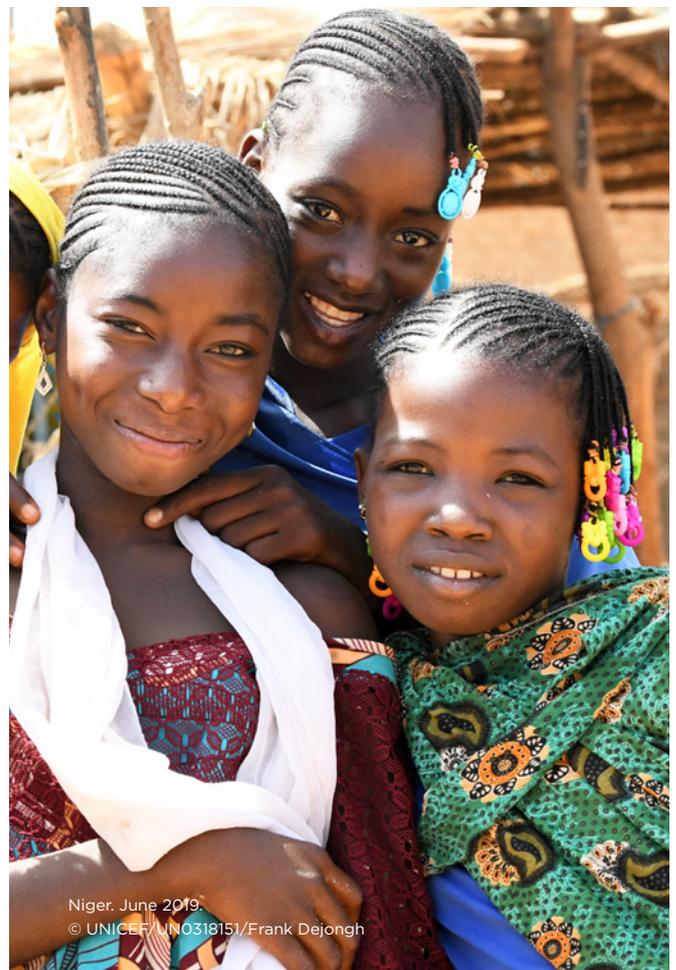
changing harmful behaviours, and best practices for programming. Twenty-four tools, concrete examples, step-by-step instructions, and tips and techniques that have been successfully employed in real-world settings are presented. The information is adaptable across a wide range of contexts and topics. The tools are organized in four sections: ‘Think’, ‘Plan’, ‘Act’ and ‘Dig’. The guide also presents basic principles to ensure data are generated throughout the life of the programme, using compelling evidence for its design and relevant monitoring to assess short and mid-term results and ensure improvements.

At regional level, UNICEF collaborated with the African Union Commission to publish the ‘LEADS Approach to Ending Child Marriage’.<sup>41</sup> The approach lays out key steps that the Global Programme and the African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage must undertake and must support African Union member states in pursuing in order to achieve SDG 5.3, to eliminate all harmful practices including child marriage, and Agenda 2063 (‘The Africa We Want’).<sup>42</sup>

The UNFPA Eastern and Southern Africa regional office developed and disseminated the ‘Guide to Using the SADC Model Law on Eradicating Child Marriage and Protecting Children Already in Marriage’.<sup>43</sup> The guide provides a common framework to end child marriage and protect children already in marriage. The guide is addressed to law makers and policy makers, service providers and civil society across the SADC region. It has the potential to trigger law and policy reforms on child marriage in SADC member states by providing an easy-to-apply regional standard, and the potential to promote cohesion among SADC member states in relation to their legal response to child marriage.

The UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office developed and disseminated standards to ensure that life-skills programmes are fit for

purpose to support efforts to end child marriage, contained in the publication ‘Life Skills Programmes to End Child Marriage: Are they fit for purpose? A regional synopsis from Eastern and Southern Africa’. This synopsis reviewed programmes in Ethiopia, Mozambique, Uganda and Zambia, as well as in Malawi, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe. Key lessons included the need to share a range of information and target a range of skills, use of participatory teaching methods that align with participants’ age and development stage, and the importance of educating, engaging and empowering adolescent boys and men, as well as parents, caregivers and wider community members, through life-skills curricula and programmes.



<sup>41</sup> United Nations Children’s Fund, ‘[LEADS Approach to Ending Child Marriage](#)’, UNICEF, n.d.

<sup>42</sup> For more information, see: ‘[Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want](#)’, African Union.

<sup>43</sup> SADC, Girls Not Brides and United Nations Population Fund, ‘[A Guide to Using the SADC Model Law on Eradicating Child Marriage and Protecting Children Already in Marriage: For parliamentarians, civil society organisations and youth advocates](#)’, SADC, Girls Not Brides and UNFPA, 10 December 2018.



The UNFPA and UNICEF regional offices for East and Southern Africa also developed and disseminated the following policy and programme guidance:

- Child Marriage: A mapping of Programmes and Partners in Twelve Countries in East and Southern Africa<sup>44</sup>
- Review paper on menstrual health management in East and Southern Africa<sup>45</sup>
- Child helpline standard operating procedures

In addition, with complementary funding from the UNFPA Safeguard Young People Programme and the United Nations ‘2gether 4 SRHR programme’, the Global Programme provided technical assistance for the following publications to improve adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR):

- SADC SRHR Strategy<sup>46</sup>
- Harmonizing the Legal Environment for Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights<sup>47</sup>
- Regional Guidance: Strengthening Competency-Based Education on Adolescent Health in Pre- and In-Service Training for Health-Care Providers<sup>48</sup>

### 4.3.2 Technical support

#### ■ South Asia

During Phase I, the two regional offices provided joint technical advice and support to country offices to implement the Global Programme. This included joint monitoring missions to countries, joint calls and webinars, setting up an email list for the Global Programme in the region, and convening regional planning and review meetings. A common comprehensive knowledge management strategy was developed and implemented to ensure that the latest evidence informs country programming. Technical assistance has helped to strengthen a comprehensive approach across the five outcome areas of the Global Programme and a joint approach in implementing key activities, in particular at the national level; it has also supported managing for risks, including risks of unintended consequences.

#### ■ Middle East and North Africa

The Joint Regional Accountability Framework of Action to End Child Marriage was developed in 2018 and is being used as a platform to convene regional stakeholders and country offices. In 2018, the social norm and behaviour change tools were rolled out and adapted as part of a cross-regional initiative between communication for development and child protection sections within UNICEF. The two regional offices provided technical assistance to the Yemen Country Office through calls and updates and through providing reviews of documents and technical support, including an in-country visit.

<sup>44</sup> United Nations Population Fund East and Southern Africa Regional Office and United Nations Children’s Fund East and Southern Africa Regional Office, ‘[Child Marriage: A mapping of programmes and partners in twelve countries in East and Southern Africa, UNFPA and UNICEF](#)’, September 2018.

<sup>45</sup> United Nations Population Fund East and Southern Africa Regional Office, ‘[Menstrual Health Management in East and Southern Africa: A review paper](#)’, UNFPA, June 2018.

<sup>46</sup> SRHR Africa Trust (SAT), ‘[Strategy for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in the SADC Region 2019–2030](#)’, SAT.

<sup>47</sup> United Nations Population Fund, ‘[Harmonizing the Legal Environment for Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights: A review of 23 countries in East and Southern Africa](#)’, UNFPA, 2017.

<sup>48</sup> United Nations Population Fund East and Southern Africa Regional Office, ‘[Regional Guidance: Strengthening Competency-Based Education on Adolescent Health in Pre- and In-Service Training for Health-Care Providers: East and Southern Africa Region](#)’, UNFPA, October 2019.

### ■ East and Southern Africa

The regional offices provided technical assistance to country programmes through country visits and at a distance. Some of the technical areas supported included: creating stronger linkages and synergies with existing adolescent-focused programmes for increased impact and expansion to other geographic areas; strengthening the measurement of results of the community engagement for social norm change; finalizing costed national action plans (NAPs) or strategies; providing budget advocacy and tracking allocations and spending. UNICEF East and Southern Africa Regional Office developed budget guidance for child protection which includes detailed guidance for child marriage budgeting and tracking. The two regional offices organized regional workshops to provide guidance and technical assistance to the four countries in the design of country programmes for Phase I and Phase II. The design workshops were followed by the establishment of a peer review mechanism for the Phase II programme document; this contributed to cross-country learning and exchange on challenges and lessons, which improved country work plans, result frameworks and theories of change. The regional offices also used other meetings (e.g. UNICEF East and Southern Africa Regional Office Child Protection annual meetings and UNFPA East and Southern Africa Regional Office technical meeting on evidence-based programming for adolescent girls for regional youth focal points) to inform other countries about the programme guidance and resources produced by the Global Programme.

### ■ West and Central Africa

UNFPA and UNICEF regional offices provided support to all West and Central Africa country offices engaged in child marriage programmes. Regional technical support included: joint missions; technical guidance developed and disseminated; quarterly joint webinars to review progress, provide guidance on reporting and planning, and respond to implementation challenges; and regional consultations to provide medium-term strategic direction and promote South–South exchange. Regional technical assistance enabled country offices to contextualize strategies, identify opportunities to accelerate programme implementation, and use a set of standard indicators for regular country reporting.



” Children should be free to grow into empowered adults that live happy, fulfilling lives. Child marriage robs children, especially girls, of the opportunity to achieve their full potential. I pledge to continue to work to make child marriage a thing of the past, because it has no place in our society.

Agnes Bangali, FGM Technical Specialist, UNFPA West and Central Africa Regional Office



## Opportunities for scaling up the use of knowledge in Phase II implementation

- Strengthen joint implementation at the subnational level through coordination of a comprehensive approach at local level.
- Strengthen the use of evidence in the programme, which the regional offices will monitor and support.
- Better target interventions based on recent evidence from research in South Asia; for example, work on social norms in areas where the child marriage norm remains strong, while concentrating on economic incentives and support in areas where the child marriage norm is already changing.
- Review the knowledge management strategy to identify what is working, what needs to be improved, and what needs to change. Adjust the knowledge management approach to enhance the use of knowledge and evidence by country programmes.
- Identify the opportunities to scale up programming in Yemen through gender-based violence (GBV), child protection, education, and adolescent/youth programming. In particular, better integrate child marriage life-skills and empowerment activities. In addition, expand into new geographic locations through formal education and school-based interventions.
- Adapt and implement in Yemen and other country programmes the lessons and programme models generated by programming in Jordan, Lebanon and Sudan. Learning has been documented through the Regional Accountability Framework of Action to End Child Marriage as well as consultations with partners, and will inform programming in Phase II.
- Broaden technical assistance and South–South engagement beyond the four Global Programme countries in East and Southern Africa and support other high-prevalence countries, such as Madagascar, Lesotho, South Sudan and Tanzania.
- Strengthen the measurement of social and behavioural change in collaboration with UNICEF headquarters, Middle East and North Africa Regional Office, and West and Central Africa Regional Office, particularly in the context of the Global Committee on Social Norms for Harmful Practices.



- Continue to develop the partnership with the Africa Council for Religious Leaders to strengthen the mobilization of interfaith networks in the region and support local community engagement interventions.
- Support countries with analysis of public budget expenditure on harmful practices, including child marriage. Country offices will be helped to prepare ending child marriage budget briefs to support the advocacy required for governments to allocate their own resources to child marriage interventions.

### Impact beyond the 12 Global Programme countries

The impact of the Global Programme providing technical support and knowledge management has continued to spread beyond the 12 programme countries (see Table 16).

Table 16. Impact beyond the 12 Global Programme countries (in Phase I)

Country and region	Type of engagement	Product
<b>Cambodia</b>	Technical support by the Global Programme Support Unit (GPSU)	Technical review of Provincial Action Plan to Prevent Child Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy in Ratanakiri (2017-2021)
<b>Dominican Republic</b>	Technical assistance by GPSU and regional office	Support to the Dominican Republic on the development of the NAP to end child marriage
<b>Eastern Europe and Central Asia</b>	Technical assistance on formative assessment of child marriage in the region	Remote technical assistance with the desk reviews of child marriage status in 10 Eastern Europe and Central Asia countries: Albania, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey
<b>El Salvador</b>	Technical assistance by GPSU and regional office	Support for child marriage and adolescent girls programming in El Salvador, leveraging funds from Canada and the Spotlight Initiative
<b>Eritrea</b>	Assessing progress on social norm programming on FGM and child marriage	Community mapping report
<b>Guatemala</b>	Technical support by GPSU and regional colleagues	UNFPA's Action for Adolescent Girls initiative, funded by Canada
<b>Haiti</b>	Technical support by GPSU and regional colleagues	UNFPA's Action for Adolescent Girls initiative, funded by Canada
<b>Indonesia</b>	South-South Exchange: technical consultation and exchange by GPSU to adopt and implement the Global Programme approach and strategies to end child marriage	Funding proposal to end child marriage developed with support from GPSU
<b>Kenya</b>	Sensitization and advocacy for improved MHM for adolescent girls and integration of multisectoral responses to MHM into adolescent health programmes	Kenya's first stand-alone national policy on menstrual health and national standards for menstrual health products, and the launch of national programmes for free distribution of menstrual products to adolescent girls in school





<b>Latin America and the Caribbean</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ South-South Exchange: GPSU organized a technical consultation and an exchange of experiences with the aim of encouraging countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to adopt and implement the Global Programme's approach and strategies to end child marriage</li> <li>■ Technical assistance, knowledge management and advocacy and visibility by GPSU in partnership with regional offices</li> <li>■ Partnerships and technical assistance by GPSU in partnership with Girls Not Brides in Latin American and the Caribbean</li> <li>■ Knowledge management and capacity-building supported by GPSU and regional offices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The Global Programme increased technical support and knowledge sharing with countries in Latin American and the Caribbean by including them in webinars, featuring them in the publication catalogue and newsletter, and giving them access to the programme documents developed at the global level. In addition, the Global Programme supported advocacy efforts like side events on child marriage and unions undertaken by regional offices at the global level during the Commission on the Status of Women and during the regional multi-stakeholder meeting held in Panama aimed at creating a regional platform to end child marriage in the region</li> <li>■ Adaptation supported for countries in Latin American and the Caribbean of the Girls Not Brides manual on youth participation to end child marriage, including translation into Spanish, a consultancy to pilot the manual in a participatory workshop with young female leaders, and getting recommendations to enhance the tool for the region</li> <li>■ Supported the International Colloquium on Gender and Masculinities in Costa Rica, presenting the importance of engaging men and boys to end child marriage, and, in partnership with World Scouting, the First Global Forum on Non-Formal Education in Brazil, with a focus on empowering adolescent girls in non-formal education to end child marriage</li> <li>■ Technical assistance with inputs to regional research on child marriage and early unions conducted by UNFPA Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office in partnership with Plan International</li> <li>■ Regional training co-facilitated to UNFPA youth and gender focal points on adolescent-girl-centred programming, a protective asset-building approach and the global vision to end child marriage</li> </ul>
<b>Lesotho</b>	Sensitization and advocacy for improved MHM for adolescent girls and integration of multisectoral responses to MHM into adolescent health programmes	Value added tax (VAT) removed from menstrual health products
<b>Malawi</b>	Support for study on social norms and harmful practices	Social norms study on harmful practices
<b>Middle East and North Africa</b>	Technical support by GPSU to develop a multi-year regional accountability framework of action	Joint UNFPA-UNICEF Regional Accountability Framework of Action to End Child Marriage in the Middle East and North Africa, which seeks to strengthen, guide and accelerate programming, advocacy and results for adolescent girls and women on ending child marriage
<b>Nigeria</b>	Technical support by GPSU and regional colleagues	UNFPA's Action for Adolescent Girls initiative, funded by Canada



<b>Paraguay</b>	Technical assistance by GPSU and regional office on child marriage programming	Support to UNFPA Paraguay on the design of research about child marriage and early unions from a mixed-methods perspective
<b>Serbia</b>	Technical support by GPSU towards programme design and a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) approach	In Serbia, programme approach to child marriage developed, indicators identified, and baseline assessment approach and questionnaire developed. Additional instruments provided, as requested, for work with schools on prevention of drop-out due to child marriage
<b>South Africa</b>	Sensitization and advocacy for improved MHM for adolescent girls and integration of multisectoral responses to MHM into adolescent health programmes	VAT removed from menstrual health products and national programmes launched for free distribution of menstrual products to adolescent girls in school
<b>South Sudan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Technical support by the GPSU to develop the Review of Strategic National Action Plan to Address Child Marriage 2017-2030</li> <li>■ Support for child marriage knowledge, attitudes and practices study</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ NAP development, informed by regional and global-level evidence on what works and what does not to end child marriage. Specifically, the plan draws on the Global Programme Theory of Change and uses the Global Results Framework in the development of the M&amp;E framework for the action plan. The Global Programme has shared the Indicator Index to support programme M&amp;E</li> <li>■ Carried out child marriage knowledge, attitudes and practices study</li> </ul>
<b>Spotlight Initiative</b> (Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Uganda, Zimbabwe)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ GPSU review and reshaping of the Spotlight proposal</li> <li>■ Technical guidance and knowledge sharing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Country Spotlight proposal reviewed to ensure that activities and approaches on harmful practices, especially child marriage, are harmonized with the Global Programme</li> <li>■ Technical guidance provided in Spotlight inter-agency consultations and Global Programme strategies shared, e.g. in life-skills and gender-based social norms programming.</li> <li>■ Multi-country proposals from CSOs reviewed to ensure gender-transformative approaches</li> </ul>
<b>Tanzania</b>	Sensitization and advocacy for improved MHM for adolescent girls and integration of multisectoral responses to MHM into adolescent health programmes. Support for national study on social norms	VAT removed from menstrual health products. National study conducted on social norms and values that support non-violence, as part of the National Plan of Action to Address Violence Against Women and Children (to be finalized in 2020)
<b>Vietnam</b>	Technical discussion and support on child marriage programming and support by GPSU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Discussion of technical approach to programming of child marriage programmes provided to UNICEF country office</li> <li>■ Technical review of national situational study on child marriage</li> </ul>
<b>Zimbabwe</b>	Sensitization and advocacy for improved MHM for adolescent girls and integration of multisectoral responses to MHM into adolescent health programmes	VAT removed from menstrual health products. Social norms baseline study on child marriage, through the multi-country contract with Ipsos, undertaken in 2019 and to be finalized in 2020

### 4.3.3 Knowledge dissemination and exchange

#### Newsletter and publication catalogues

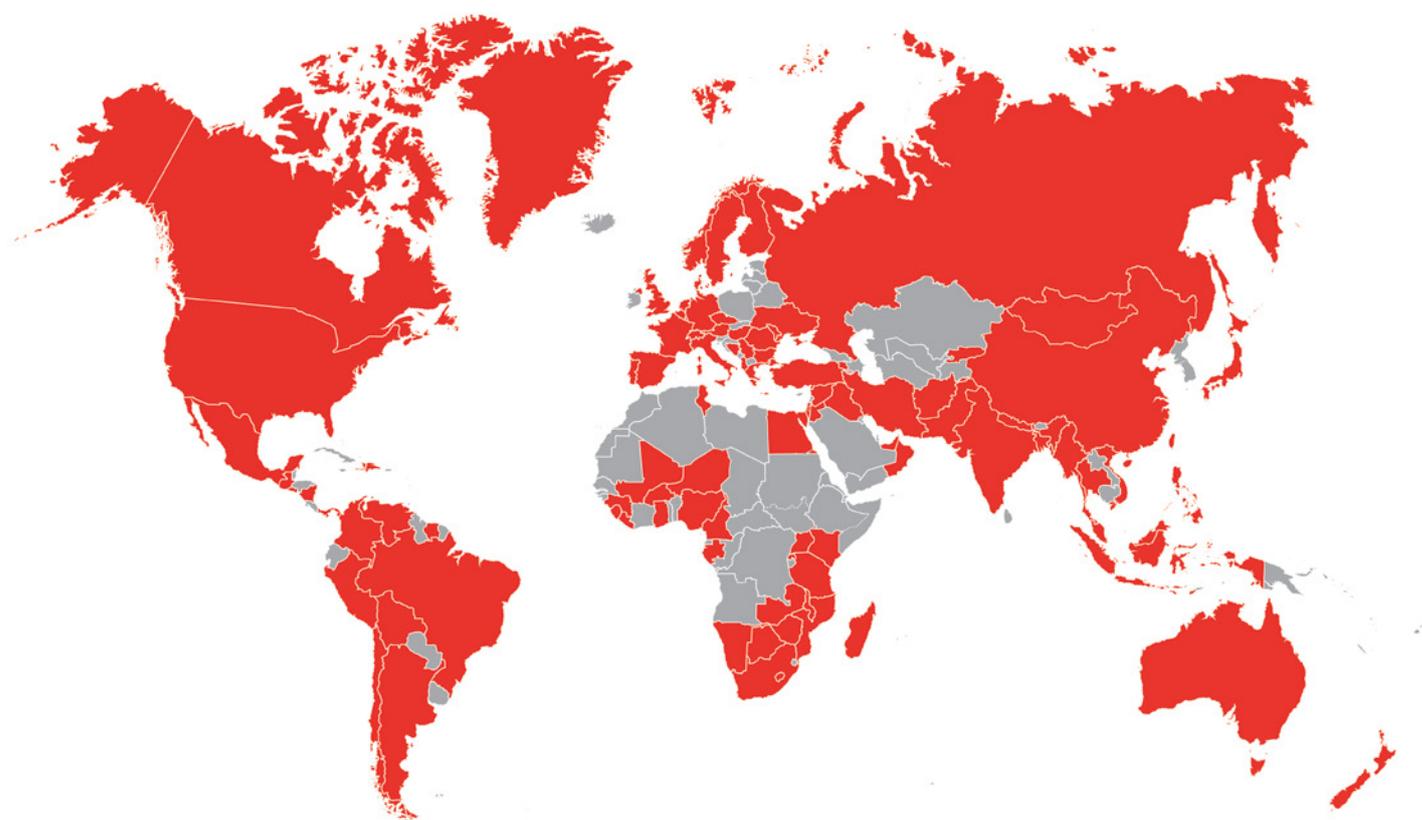
The Global Programme has structured and consolidated a global network that covers over 97 countries and targets government officials, policymakers, experts, academics, United Nations organizations and CSOs through its use of a monthly newsletter and biennial global publication catalogues. The monthly newsletter highlights new programme and key research messages, learning resources and the latest news on child marriage issues. The publications catalogue highlights studies that have been produced with Global Programme support as well as by related initiatives on ending child marriage.

During 2019, the Global Programme continued to send out monthly newsletters to showcase highlights from the programme and share learning and good examples of programming, as well as recent research linked to child marriage. Each newsletter focuses on a specific theme, with issues in 2019 including, for example: technology; leaving no one behind;

changing norms; engaging young change makers; systems strengthening; gender transformation; SRHR; and humanitarian settings. Since the first issue in November 2018, over 53 items of news, highlights and good practice from countries have been shared, along with over 52 reports, briefs and guides, 15 impact stories from the field, and question-and-answer sessions with 21 people across 12 countries.

The reach of the newsletter continues to grow, with 709 active subscribers at the end of May 2020, and is well beyond the Global Programme staff and targeted countries.

Figure 30. Countries with active readers of the Global Programme monthly newsletter



Notes: 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. The line between India and Pakistan represents approximately the Line of Control agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties. The final boundary between the Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.



### Social media

The Global Programme is also using its social media channels to engage with its audiences, including youth and women rights groups and initiatives, United Nations country and regional offices and other United Nations knowledge hubs, bilateral and international organizations, governments and CSOs.

### Knowledge hubs

The Global Programme SharePoint collaboration site is dedicated to promoting learning and knowledge sharing within UNFPA and UNICEF. The collaboration site holds a reference library of the latest studies and reports on child marriage and related themes, programming and monitoring tools and guides, communication products and a mailing list of focal points for easy reference, as well as resources and evidence from partners such as Girls Not Brides, UN Women and the Spotlight Initiative. The site also links to dedicated spaces for regional collaboration, set up for South Asia and West and Central Africa.

### Community of practice

A space was launched in 2019 for UNFPA and UNICEF staff working on child marriage to hold informal discussions and share best practice and lessons learned, and to build relations among the different country and regional offices.

### Webinars

In 2019, three external webinars were arranged by the Global Programme Support Unit (GPSU) to enable sharing of the latest evidence, good examples from programming, and lessons learned across Global Programme offices, within UNFPA and UNICEF and other United Nations agencies, and between CSOs and government representatives.

- The first webinar was a collaboration with the sections for Adolescent Development and Adolescent Participation (ADAP) and Communication for Development, as well as the Division of Communication in UNICEF and focused on adolescent engagement in ending child marriage programming. Presentations were made by joint Global Programme teams in Ghana

and Nepal, as well as by the ADAP team in UNICEF headquarters to give guidance on good practice in engaging adolescents in programming.

- Two subsequent webinars focused on conceptualizing life skills through a gender equality and empowerment lens, as well as shifting gender norms, as part of the Global Programme enhancing its approach to gender-transformative programming.
- The GPSU also arranged an internal webinar for UNFPA and UNICEF on the planned Phase II research agenda, as well as four 'open clinics' – dedicated time to ask questions and to discuss experiences, in 2019 specifically focusing on preparations for Phase II of the programme.

”

**There is no simple solution; ending child marriage requires a committed and dedicated response – multisectoral, even interdependent action to tackle the root causes.**

Dr Coumba Mar Gadio, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Zambia

### Knowledge exchange events and meetings

In 2019, UNICEF and Girls Not Brides organized a meeting and produced a joint publication on advancing the evidence base on child marriage and HIV.<sup>49</sup> This white paper makes recommendations for practitioners and researchers based on new findings, suggesting a more nuanced relationship between child marriage and HIV.

UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women organized a design workshop for Phase II of the Global Programme, in Jaipur, India, in February 2019.<sup>50</sup> The objectives of the workshop were to: exchange views with other country and regional teams, agencies and experts about the successes and challenges of Phase I of the programme; review the global theory of change and the results

<sup>49</sup> Girls Not Brides and United Nations Children's Fund, '[Advancing the Evidence Base on Child Marriage and HIV: White paper](#)', Girls Not Brides and UNICEF, London and New York, April 2019.

<sup>50</sup> UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage, '[We are at our world café, sharing learnings, strategies and successes across the Global Programme to End Child Marriage](#)', Twitter, 18 February 2019.



framework, and generate inputs for needed revisions for the next phase; build the capacity of participants on aspects of measurement and gender-transformative approaches; and begin the process of building a shared vision for Phase II of the Global Programme, including in humanitarian settings.<sup>51</sup>

## 4.4 Lessons from Phase I implementation

### Key learning and conclusions from the evaluation<sup>52</sup>

- The programme foundation and rationale are built on the widespread acknowledgment that child marriage impinges on children's rights and welfare.
- UNFPA and UNICEF have both played a key role in maintaining momentum to end child marriage through positioning the global, regional and national agendas, national policy and legislative support, as well as by demonstrating innovative community action.
- The programme is on track to achieve programme outputs, with aggregate tracking showing signs that the Global Programme is extending its reach and accelerating its approach for most outputs. The programme has surpassed its targets, reaching millions of people in the 12 programme countries with interventions designed to end child marriage.
- The programme has increased and collectively met targets for girls' access to health and protection services over each year of the programme.
- The programme has fostered sustainability through advocacy, institutionalization, strengthening national and subnational systems, developing capacities and mobilizing complementary funding.
- The programme has played a unique role in bringing together the combined capabilities of UNFPA and UNICEF to facilitate the multisectoral approach that is needed to handle the complex set of interrelated issues that enable child marriage.
- Early lessons suggest that: boys must be targeted as beneficiaries and as agents of change to maximize impact; more efforts are needed to reach the most vulnerable populations; and, importantly, better and timely data generation and knowledge management are needed to inform future programming.

<sup>51</sup> United Nations Population Fund, United Nations Children's Fund and United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, '[Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage: Phase II design workshop report](#)', UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women, April 2019.

<sup>52</sup> United Nations Population Fund and United Nations Children's Fund, '[Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage: Phase I evaluation summary](#)', UNFPA and UNICEF, n.d.

## Evidence and knowledge

- Better and timely data generation and knowledge management are needed to inform future programming.
- Work is needed on the evidence base and broadening the focus to examine new issues such as child marriage in humanitarian settings.
- Building effective programming to change social norms and behaviours requires a systematic approach that is based on local formative research and baselines.
- Research methodologies should be harmonized across countries to enable cross-country comparisons and to maximize learning and evidence generation.
- Invest more to disseminate evidence and lessons in order to learn from programming in countries with high rates of child marriage.
- Invest more in the regional learning component, drawing together M&E, research and evidence generation, and knowledge management. Review the evidence emerging from studies and from programme implementation in order to draw insights not just for specific countries, but across countries and the region as a whole.

## Target populations

- Boys must be targeted as beneficiaries and as agents of change to maximize impact.
- More efforts are needed to reach the most vulnerable populations.
- Engage with traditional leaders using a gender-transformational approach which allows leaders to reflect on their own life experiences while analysing the role of culture on the development of their own attitudes and behaviour towards ending child marriage. Indeed, many country offices have made a strategic choice of engaging with traditional authorities to address the cultural norms and practices that promote child marriage. This can contribute to strengthening networks of religious and cultural leaders' champions for ending child marriage, by building on initiatives that they have already been developing.

## Contextualization

### The importance of contextualization

One size doesn't fit all; child marriage is different in different country settings and localities, and programming needs to be adjusted accordingly. Adapting interventions to the Yemeni context has shown that cross-sectoral collaboration and 'piggybacking' on the access and resources of other sectors is key to enabling programming on child marriage in humanitarian settings.

### Contextualization of approaches and interventions

Considering the prevalence of child marriage in a country as well as the determinants that condone the practice, evidence indicates that a 'general' approach to addressing child marriage might be neither sufficient nor appropriate to reverse the trend. The contextualization helps to understand the importance of what are perceived as traditions or cultural attributes or social norms within societies in a country, and to design context-specific interventions needed for the country, which may not be necessarily be the same everywhere.





## Multisectoral programming

- Child marriage has to be embedded across programming areas, without losing sight of the issue. GBV, child protection, reproductive health, and education are obvious areas to work on at community level. The experiences of GBV and child protection are important for raising awareness of sensitive topics and strengthening community-based engagement.
- Strong multisectoral coordination at country level can increase quality assurance, harmonization of strategies and geographical convergence.
- The Global Programme has been designed to be multisectoral, with child protection, gender, health and education being key. However, there appear to be challenges in the full integration of SRH services within the Global Programme (regarding funding, resources and strategic activities) and in the involvement in ministries of health in certain countries. Findings from a regional study being conducted by UNFPA and UNICEF on Phase I in West and Central Africa indicates the need to further invest in stronger links between child marriage, SRH services and education – and make additional investments in these two key areas – within the Global Programme.

## Scale

- Focusing on scalable interventions answers to the strategic shift needed in the Global Programme. To eliminate child marriage, the Global Programme encourage countries to concentrate their efforts on a limited number of core evidence-based interventions that can be taken at scale. Interventions should particularly be concentrated on positive alternatives to child marriage, in which education plays a critical role. As school enrolment is strongly associated with delayed marriage, interventions are encouraged to be designed to support adolescent girls to stay in school through primary and lower secondary school and receiving quality education, while empowering them through life-skills programmes. Equally, a focus is needed on improving the quality and uptake of youth-friendly health services, particularly SRH services, to ensure that adolescent girls – both married and unmarried – are able to protect their SRH and plan their pregnancies.

## Regional partnerships and South-South learning

- Regional initiatives are complementing and reinforcing multi-country approaches to ending child marriage. For example, the influence of the SADC Model Law on Eradicating Child Marriage and Protecting Children Already in Marriage has spread throughout the African continent to West and Central Africa, the Horn of Africa and Latin America. This catalytic effect should be further strengthened in Phase II.
- Strengthen South-South learning with national partners through knowledge sharing workshops and webinars.
- Partnership development through the Regional Accountability Framework of Action to End Child Marriage has contributed significantly to placing UNFPA and UNICEF strategically in relation to convening and leading, information sharing and sharing of best practice. A key recommendation from the Middle East and North Africa/Arab States Regional Offices is to replicate such initiatives or structures in other regions.

### South Asia: What hasn't worked

- Legislative approaches and banning child marriage has had negative consequences for young people and their families. With the increase in peer and love marriages and elopements, a different approach is required that supports young people's empowerment and choices.
- Knowledge management and engaging country offices in using the evidence base for programming in a consistent and comprehensive way, anticipating and addressing the potential unintended consequences of child marriage interventions, are required.
- Monitoring the use of evidence and shifting the programme to address the changing patterns of child marriage will be important priorities in Phase II.

## 4.5 Monitoring

Over the course of Phase I, the Global Programme continued to invest in monitoring and reporting systems and to improve indicators to measure results. Some countries, such as India, developed sophisticated systems to measure outputs and outcomes, but many others struggled to monitor programme achievements, especially at the outcome level and particularly regarding the change in social norms and behaviours. Regional offices led the initiative to develop tools to measure social norm change, and the Global Programme is considering adapting social norm measurement tools from the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme to Eliminate Female Genital Mutilation.<sup>53</sup>

In 2017, UNFPA and UNICEF Evaluation Offices commissioned an independent assessment with the objectives of assessing the adequacy and validity of the Global Programme indicators, tools and systems for monitoring, measuring and verifying results (credible monitoring, reporting and evaluation systems) and whether resources are allocated to support adequate monitoring, evaluation and reporting on results. The assessment revealed that most Global Programme countries had developed systems to monitor and report on the global results framework indicators to measure a wider range of qualitative data on social change. However, there was a lack of systematic monitoring and reporting on cross-cutting issues. The findings and recommendations contributed to learning, management and programming improvements. The capacity of the Global Programme Support Unit team was enhanced with the recruitment of a senior-level M&E specialist.

The 2018 independent joint evaluation of the programme revealed improvements in the integration of child marriage into national data-collection systems, including the implementation of real-time monitoring systems in Bangladesh, Ghana, India, Nepal and Mozambique to monitor the performance of child protection services and changes in the normative dimensions of child marriage practices. Although these real-time monitoring systems are used for collection and reporting of programme data on a quarterly or annual basis, the Bangladesh, Mozambique and Nepal real-time monitoring systems track the effect of interventions on increasing access to and quality of services. In addition, Bangladesh,



Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Niger, Sierra Leone and Uganda commissioned household surveys using mixed methods that collected data to assess the effect of interventions on increasing access to and quality of services, including changes in social behaviours and practices addressing child marriage. The evidence was used to guide programmatic improvements, in addition to reporting on outcomes for the Global Programme.

The independent evaluation concluded that the Global Programme faces challenges with the lack of intermediate indicators that show progress towards results, and lacks adequate resources and capacity to measure progress against planned outcomes, and especially changes in social norms. The Global Programme incorporated these recommendations in the Phase II results framework, which includes immediate and intermediate outcomes. To support the comprehensive global results framework with explicit linkages between outputs and outcomes, an indicator reference manual with detailed tools for measuring and reporting on outputs and outcomes during Phase II was developed and disseminated in both French and English.

As the Global Programme is beginning to scale up, it is critical to consider the interaction between different programme outcomes to ensure that rising demands are met with opportunities and services of sufficient quality.

<sup>53</sup> For a description of the Global Programme's monitoring system, see: United Nations Population Fund and United Nations Children's Fund, UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage Programme Guidance, UNFPA and UNICEF, 2017. Available on request.



### Attribution of results

- The Global Programme attributes results to determine which of the results of UNFPA and UNICEF interventions to address child marriage are due to activities funded by the Global Programme, taking into account other funding streams and additional factors (e.g. use of facilities and structures of governments, communities and service providers, and programme staff paid through other funding sources) that may have influenced the achievement of the results. In order to advance attribution in results measurement, the Global Programme has:
  - Designed data collection tools with a menu of data items that are relevant and applicable to different results and circumstances
  - Reviewed the narrative report template to focus more on reporting attributed results as well as distinguishing those results that are complementary
  - Rolled out, through webinars, the indicator guidance tools with a specific focus on how to identify and report on attributed results
  - Encouraged countries to increase data collection and measurement resources

### Challenges

- Measuring and standardizing indicators has been time-consuming and challenging at all levels.
- While the data generated have made some important contributions to programme direction, there is still some variation in how closely different studies are targeted to the programme focus.
- A lack of focus on impacts is particularly evident.
- While the programme has helped to foster a learning environment within countries, opportunities for learning and sharing across regions and between countries, including countries with a high prevalence of child marriage that are not included in the Global Programme, have been limited.

- The extent to which interventions are institutionalized is not monitored by the global results framework, nor are there specific indicators to measure government ownership levels or capacity for uptake of initiatives.
- Efforts supported by the Global Programme show a strong potential for contributing to improved national monitoring of child marriage, but support for data integration into national systems has not been explicitly monitored by the results framework.
- The programme has begun tracking higher-level indicators, but data availability and reliability across countries, especially for qualitative measurements, remains an issue that will require continued focus.

### Plans for Phase II

- Invest more in strengthening systems to generate, disseminate and use data, evidence and knowledge.
- Focus programme support on improved national tracking, including real-time tracking of results.
- Move beyond output-level results reporting and analyse outcomes to demonstrate the impact of the programme.
- Document and disseminate lessons on which approaches are scalable when tackling child marriage. The Global Programme is uniquely placed to support learning in this area, given that it is the largest programme working on child marriage globally. The value-for-money study will support learning on this.
- Pay closer attention to the interaction between different programme outcomes during scale-up to ensure rising demands are met with opportunities and services of sufficient quality.
- Measure the long-term impact of interventions on child marriage and adolescent pregnancy and explore how to use proxy indicators for this purpose.



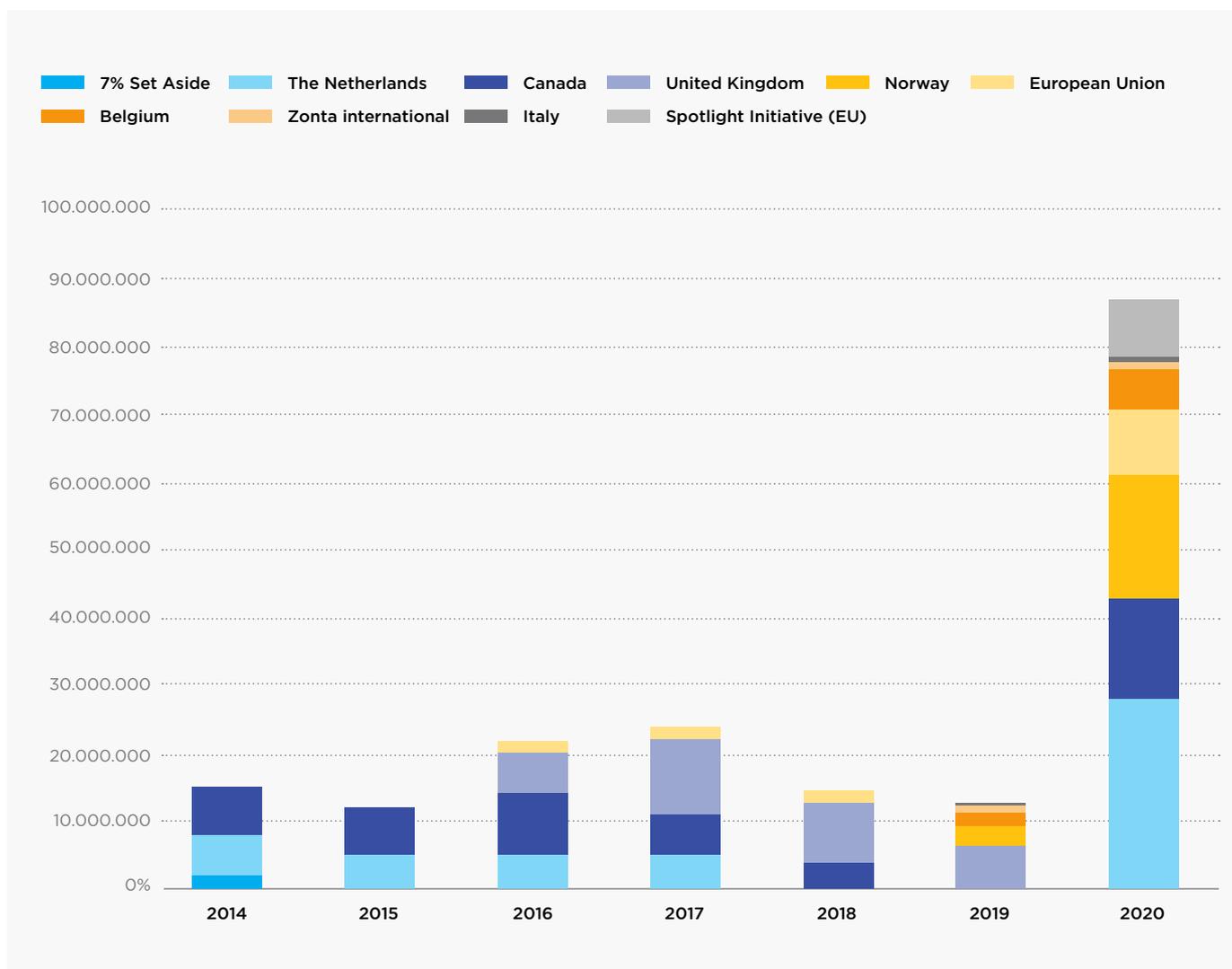
## 4.6 Resource mobilization, budgets and expenditure

### 4.6.1 Resource mobilization and donor support

Since the inception in 2014, the Global Programme has received a total contribution of USD 72,838,852 from its donors. During 2019, the Global Programme welcomed three new donors to those generously supporting the Global Programme agenda in 2018: the Government of Belgium, which made a contribution of EUR 8 million; the Government of Norway, with a contribution of NOK 25 million; and the first private sector partner, Zonta International, which made a contribution of USD 2 million. Further, the Government of Italy made contributions of USD 107,000 in 2019 and USD 500,000 in 2020 to the programme. The contributions from these new donors have increased the available Global Programme resources, which had dropped by 40 per cent in 2018 compared with 2017.



Figure 31. Global Programme annual funding (in USD) 2014–2020



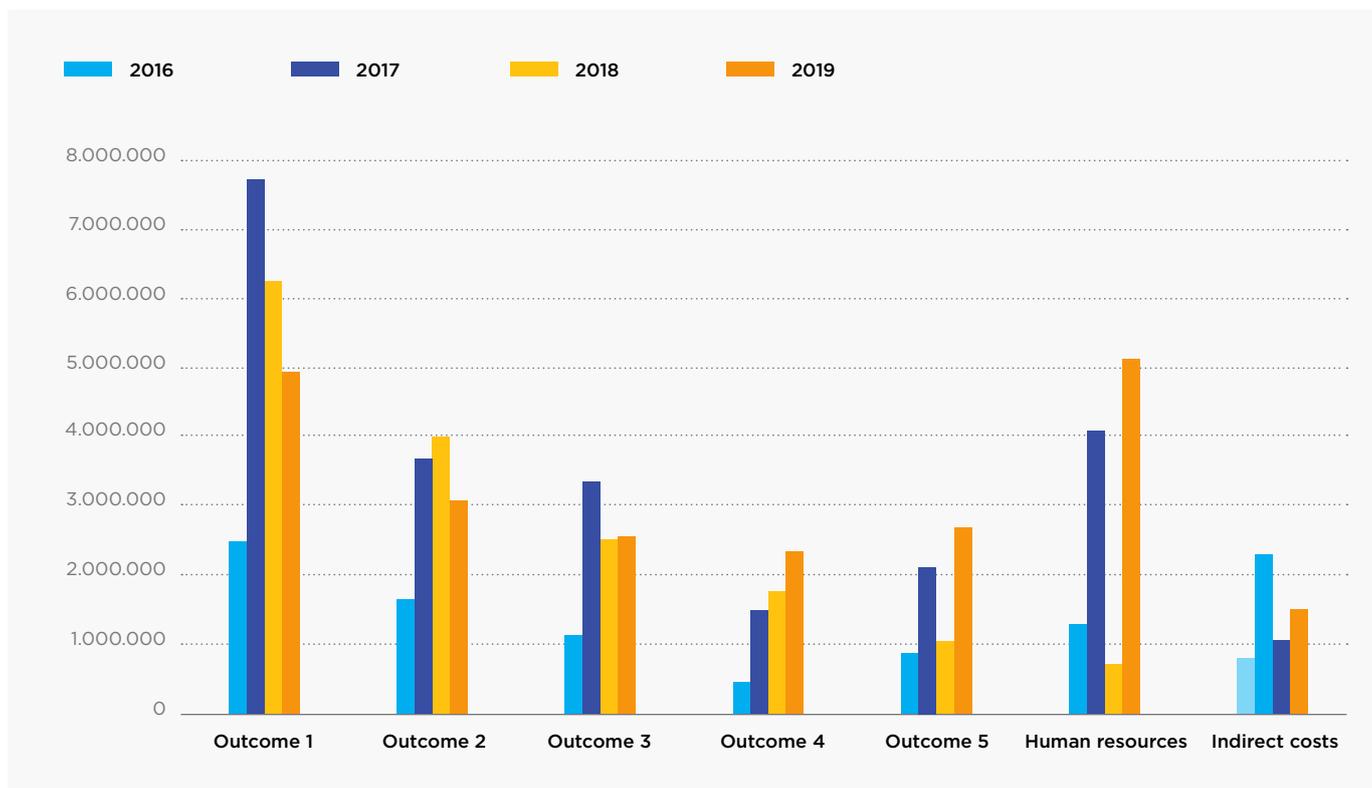
## 4.6.2 Phase I programme expenditure

Between 2016 and 2019 (the implementation period of Phase I), the Global Programme spent a total of USD 72,454,151 on programming, that is 99.5 per cent of the funds mobilized during the same period. Table 17 provides an overview of budget allocation and expenditure across the Global Programme in Phase I.

Table 17. Phase I expenditure on different outcomes and costs, by year

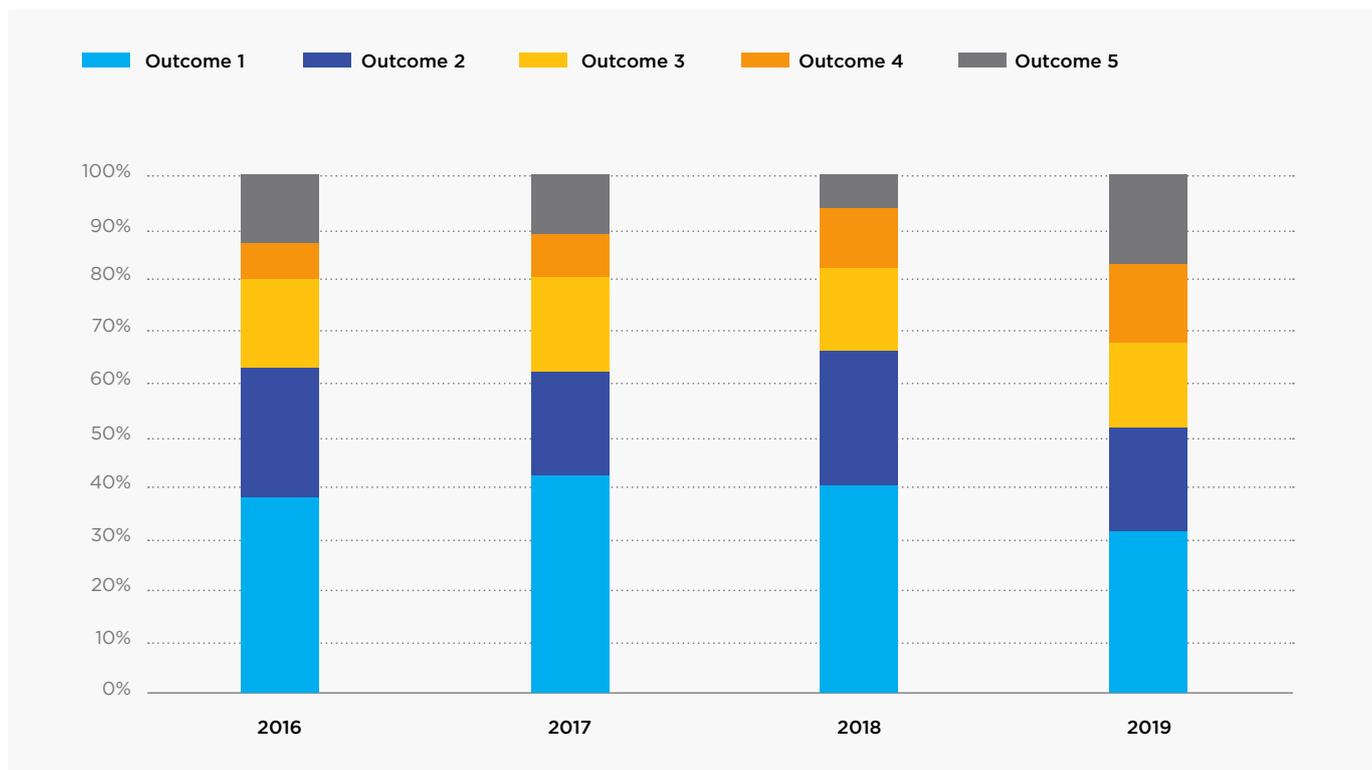
	Year 2016	Year 2017	Year 2018	Year 2019
<b>Outcome 1</b>	USD 2,470,338	USD 7,729,170	USD 6,235,128	USD 4,925,478
<b>Outcome 2</b>	USD 1,618,497	USD 3,680,842	USD 3,980,000	USD 3,053,891
<b>Outcome 3</b>	USD 1,107,393	USD 3,321,192	USD 2,498,479	USD 2,529,954
<b>Outcome 4</b>	USD 425,920	USD 1,466,879	USD 1,746,154	USD 2,310,325
<b>Outcome 5</b>	USD 851,841	USD 2,091,394	USD 1,004,821	USD 2,665,644
<b>Human resources</b>	USD 1,277,761	USD 4,075,015	USD 702,981	USD 5,120,433
<b>Indirect costs</b>	USD 766,657	USD 2,288,450	USD 1,041,982	USD 1,467,534
<b>Total</b>	USD 8,518,406	USD 24,652,942	USD 17,209,544	USD 22,073,259

Figure 32. Phase I expenditure on different outcomes and costs, by year



The following figure shows that outcome expenditure increased for Outcomes 4 and 5 from 20 to 32 per cent over the course of Phase I. This reflects the growing importance of data and evidence generation and upstream advocacy work to strengthen government commitments for sustainable investments in efforts to end child marriage.

Figure 33. Percentage of total expenditure on each Phase I outcome, by year



#### 4.6.3 Expenditure in 2019 by country and outcome

The allocation of resources by different country offices depends on several factors, including that: the focus may be on upstream work with government, rather than at community level (e.g. in India); the country contextualization of the global theory of change may require a focus on certain outcome areas but not on others (e.g. in Ghana); in humanitarian situations, certain interventions are not possible (as in Yemen); other agencies, departments or programmes are already covering the outcome area; there may be inadequate funding or a lack of strong partnerships; funding levels differ depending on the specific country office interventions; or the Global Programme is positioned to leverage resources from other complementary funding streams.

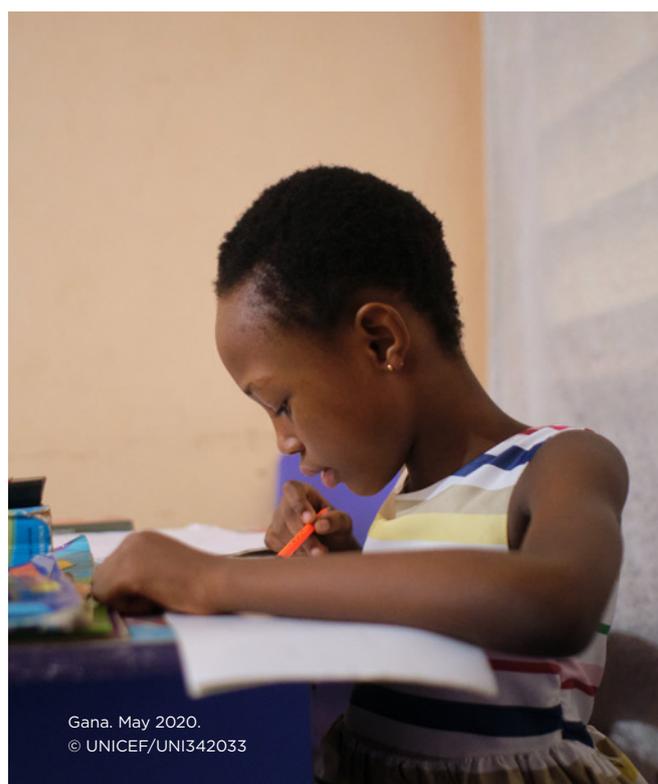




Figure 34. Expenditure in 2019 for each country, by outcome

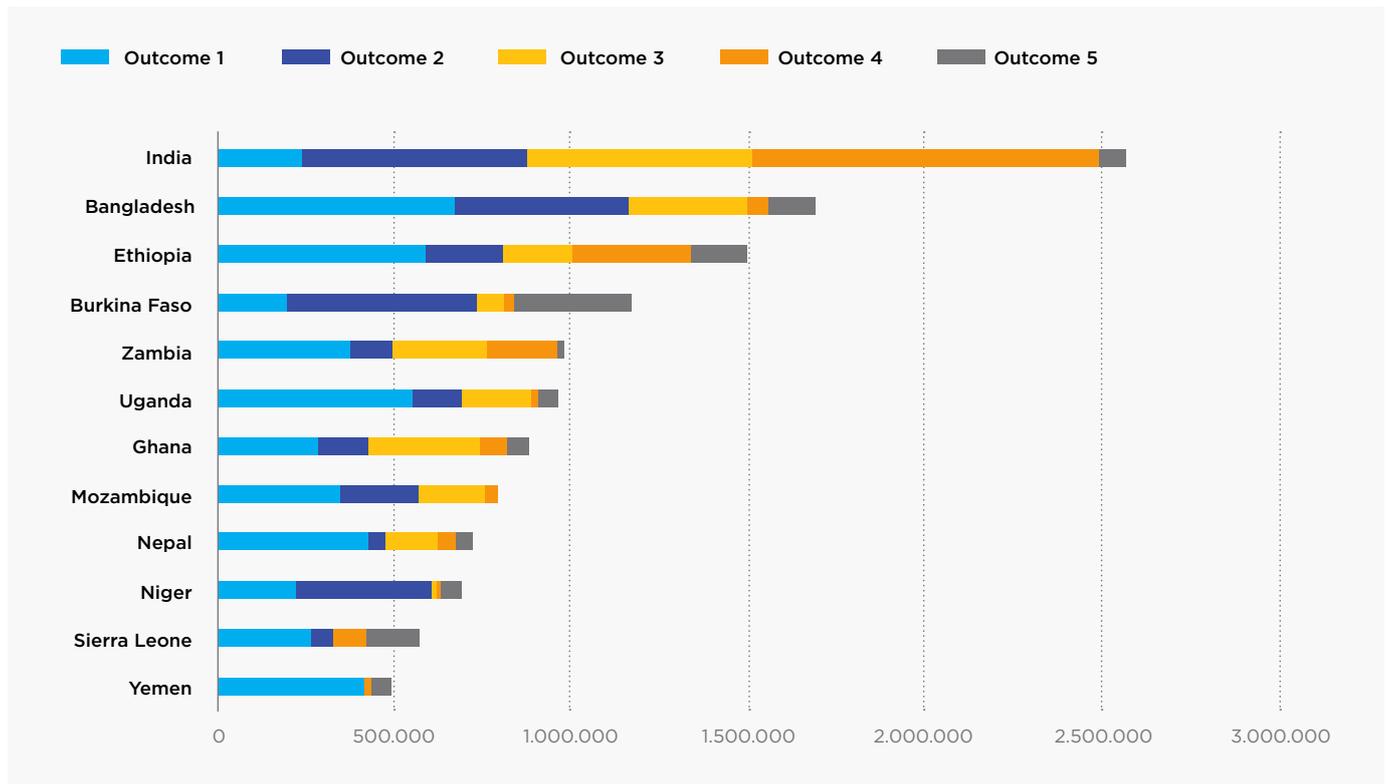
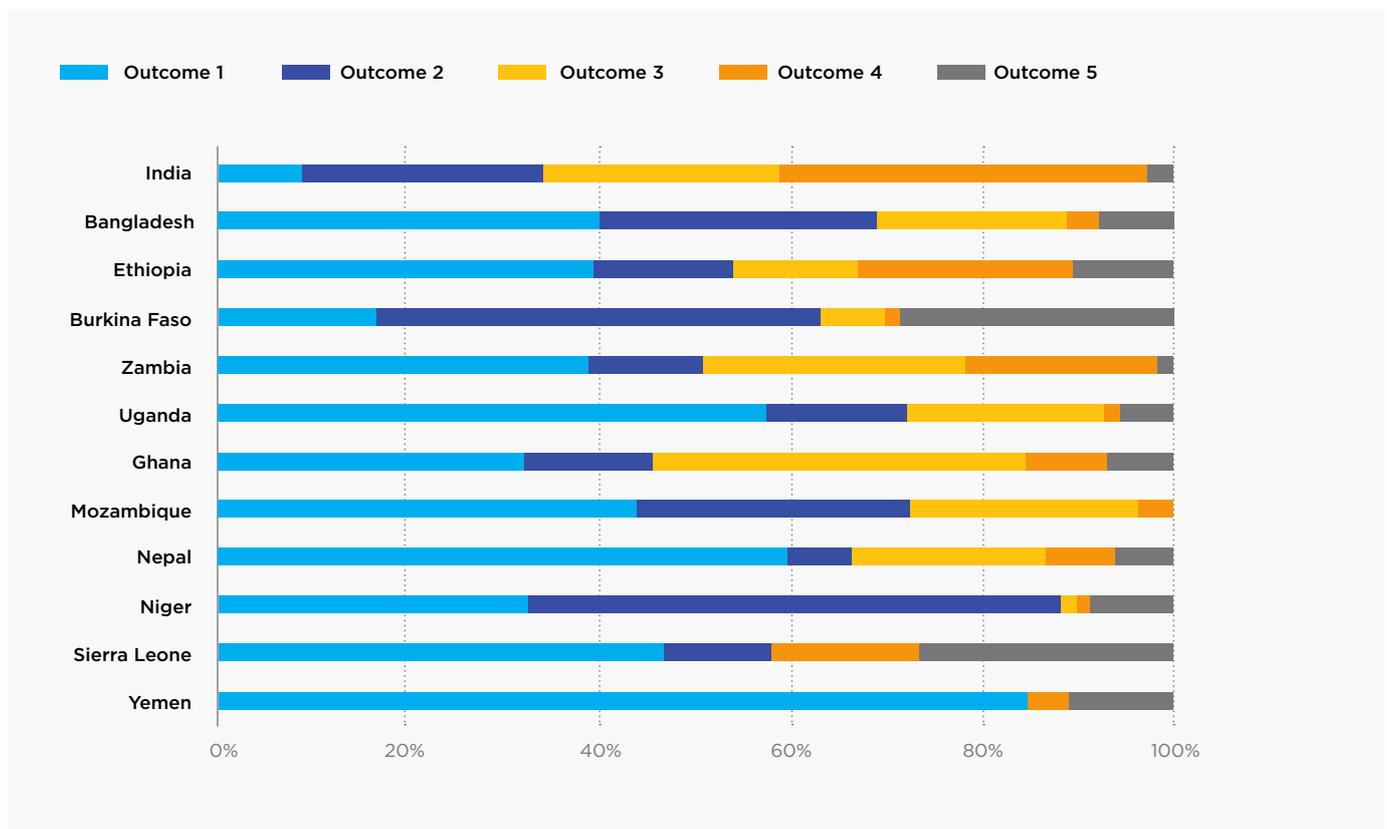


Figure 35. Percentage of each country's total expenditure in 2019 on each outcome





## 4.7 Value for money

The Global Programme has made significant strides to improve value for money in terms of the economy, efficiency, effectiveness and equity of the programme. Here are some examples.

### 4.7.1 Examples of achieving greater economy in the Global Programme<sup>54</sup>

#### Competitive procurement, bidding and contracting

UNFPA and UNICEF use competitive approaches for all contracts, to select the most competent contractor at the most reasonable price to deliver the work according to the terms of reference of the contract.

##### ■ Long-term agreements

The Global Programme has relied heavily on negotiating contracts and the use of long-term agreements to deliver savings on the procurement of goods and services.

##### ■ Ghana

The consultancy daily rate fee was negotiated by human resources to a lower, more cost-effective rate than the ones initially submitted by consultants.

#### Partnerships and joint ventures

##### ■ Same implementing partner

The Global Programme lowered implementation costs by using the same government implementing partners and programme cooperation agreements. In Niger, UNFPA and UNICEF share the same implementing partner. This has reduced the cost for girls admitted to the Illimin programme from USD 90 to USD 65. For the community-based approach to child protection, efforts have been made to reduce the cost per direct village intervention from USD 5,200 to USD 4,600. The reduction mainly concerned supplies where equipment used for one village is recovered for use in another village with the agreement of the communities.

##### ■ Collective negotiation

This is used with implementing partners to deliver key elements (e.g. life-skills training). As part of any partnership agreements with CSOs, the Bangladesh programme negotiates to increase the contributions of CSOs in the form of infrastructure, in-kind contributions and knowledge products, as well as by co-sharing human resources with other sectoral programmes, thus ensuring value for money.

##### ■ Budget planning with implementing partners

Ethiopia's Programme Implementation Manual standardizes payments for daily subsistence allowance, local field consultants, transportation, etc. The manual was endorsed by the Government of Ethiopia and United Nations agencies and provides guidance for a thorough review of costs and budget plans. In Zambia, contracting of implementing partners requires micro-assessment and review of the proposed contract through a review committee. Implementing partners are regularly monitored to ensure quality implementation of programming.

#### Convergence and joint programming

##### ■ Zambia

Cost sharing by organizing joint UNFPA and UNICEF workshops with the Government and other stakeholders has resulted in lower costs in programme implementation.

##### ■ Bangladesh

Organizing joint monitoring visits, conducting knowledge-sharing events, conducting monthly meetings through webinars, and making Skype calls contributes to reducing costs significantly.

##### ■ Uganda

In common programme districts, UNFPA and UNICEF pool activities and budgets to tackle multiple issues affecting a community. A single community dialogue session may cover key family-care practices, child protection, health and education.

<sup>54</sup> From: United Nations Population Fund and United Nations Children's Fund, 2017, 'Annual Report: Accelerating and Amplifying Change - UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage', UNFPA and UNICEF, August 2018.



## 4.7.2 Examples of achieving greater efficiency in the Global Programme<sup>55</sup>

### Leveraging resources of other agencies to implement activities and achieve outcomes at lower cost

- **Zambia**  
Linked 1,000 girls to a scholarship initiative offered by the private sector in coordination with the Office of the First Lady.
- **Nepal**  
Linked 2,373 girls to a Sambhav-funded after-school initiative to improve learning outcomes through homework clubs, sports and other extracurricular activities and Rupantaran life-skills sessions.

### Leveraging other programmes to contribute to ending child marriage

- **Sierra Leone and Nepal**  
In Sierra Leone, about 68,000 primary and secondary school girls received complementary support in the form of school materials and uniforms through the Girls' Access to Education (GATE) programme to continue their education. The Nepal programme leveraged the GATE programme to support 27,826 out-of-school girls with literacy and numeracy skills to enter formal schooling. More than 75 per cent of the girls graduating from the GATE programme were enrolled in formal schools.
- **India**  
Leveraged the Government and its partners to increase the efficiency of the Kanyashree Prakalpa cash-transfer scheme for adolescent girls. The Global Programme also provided direct technical assistance and guidance to this government-run scheme.

<sup>55</sup> From: United Nations Population Fund and United Nations Children's Fund, 2017, 'Annual Report: Accelerating and Amplifying Change - UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage', UNFPA and UNICEF, August 2018.

## Systems strengthening

The Global Programme strengthened government health, education and protection systems to enhance the reach and sustainability of services for adolescent girls.

- **The Global Programme supported the Government of Ghana**  
To develop and implement national guidelines to tackle pregnancy among school-aged adolescent girls and to support young mothers to return to school after giving birth; promote safe learning environments for boys and girls in schools and the wider community; strengthen the Gender in Education policy and gender-responsive pedagogy; pilot initiatives aimed at demonstrating effective girls' education models in resource-constrained environments; integrate comprehensive sexuality education into the national curriculum; and support MHM interventions and nutrition supplementation in schools.

## 4.7.3 Examples of effectiveness during Phase I of the Global Programme

- **Empowerment of adolescent girls**  
Countries reached 24 per cent more adolescent girls than targeted with life-skills and empowerment interventions and 6 per cent more with school-based education. Countries improved their monitoring systems to better track changes in the knowledge, skills and attitudes of adolescent girls that have the potential to enable them to make their own decisions.
- **Community dialogue and mobilization for social and behaviour change**  
Countries reached, through community-based dialogue and through media campaigns, 53 per cent more people than the set targets. Countries improved, diversified and expanded approaches to raise public awareness and mobilize communities for the prevention of child marriage and the empowerment of adolescent girls. Community-level interventions include creative approaches to engaging all community members and gatekeepers, including women, men, boys and community leaders. Media campaigns are enabling countries to reach large numbers of people at low cost. In areas affected by insecurity, radio broadcasts bring the Global Programme to people who would otherwise not be reached.

### Systems strengthening

Country offices stepped up their efforts to ensure adolescent girls have access to essential social services. They exceeded their health and protection system targets by 31 per cent and their education targets by 63 per cent. The programme has fostered sustainability through advocacy, institutionalization, strengthening national and subnational systems, developing capacities and mobilizing complementary funding.

### Government ownership and investments

Nine out of the twelve governments developed costed NAPs to end child marriage during Phase I, of which seven governments allocated budgets to implement the NAPs. In addition, several countries have succeeded in changing legislation and policies that discriminate against married and pregnant adolescent girls, especially with respect to their continued access to education.

### Evidence generation to inform programming

In Phase I, country and regional offices completed 157 studies, which included analyses of the drivers of child marriage, mapping the implementation of national strategies, and assessments, reviews and evaluations of programme outcomes. At the global level, the independent evaluation team completed the joint formative evaluation of the Global Programme, and the UNICEF Office of Research (Innocenti) conducted a review of the 76 studies that had been supported by the Global Programme in 2016–2017. The Global Programme's publications were made widely available through two publications catalogues for 2016–2017 and 2018–2019).

### 4.7.4 Example of equity

At country level, the Global Programme has taken action to enhance its ability to reach all adolescent girls, including the most vulnerable, for whom its activities and services are intended. Through the programme's use of innovative social media approaches, adolescent girls whose mobility within their communities is restricted are able to access life-skills education and information via the U-Report and SMS BIZ platforms and other social media platforms supported by the Global Programme. The multisectoral and convergent approach of the programme, leveraging partnerships with other sectors and stakeholders, has enabled adolescent girls in programme areas to access a comprehensive package of health, education and protection services.<sup>56</sup>



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Through a multisectoral and holistic approach I am committed to working with adolescents, young people and partners to end child marriage and address adolescent pregnancy in this generation.

Womba Mayondi, Programme Analyst Gender,  
UNFPA Zambia

<sup>56</sup> United Nations Population Fund and United Nations Children's Fund, 2017 Annual Report: Accelerating and Amplifying Change - UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage, UNFPA and UNICEF, August 2018.



# CHAPTER 5

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## NEXT STEPS





2020 marks the beginning of the implementation of Phase II of the Global Programme. In support of the roll-out of the new theory of change and results framework, the programme will invest in the following areas.

### **Implementing gender transformation as an overarching strategy**

Promote gender-equitable norms that influence child marriage at all levels, from the empowerment of adolescent girls to community awareness-raising and mobilization, to the design and delivery of health, education and social services, and at policy development and implementation levels. Strengthen gender equality and rights-based approaches in the Global Programme's policy, programme and research work and provide guidance in the form of technical notes on the transformation of gender norms (and other topics) to country offices and partner agencies. Develop guidance and tools for improved gender-based social norms and communication for development programmes. Strengthen technical assistance to country offices to ensure gender transformation is at the heart of programme interventions.

### **Acknowledging gender discrimination in all its forms and linkages to child marriage**

Address the manifestations of discriminatory gender norms and practices where they are linked to child marriage, including: violence against women and girls; female genital mutilation (FGM) and initiation rites; sexual exploitation, trafficking and marriage-

related migration; boy preference and gender-biased sex selection; sexual and reproductive health and rights, early pregnancy and early sexual initiation; and HIV/AIDS.

### **Encouraging a more inclusive understanding of child marriage**

Promote a more nuanced and inclusive perspective of the various forms of child marriage and early union within and across regions.

### **Expanding the target group**

Explicitly include pregnant, married and divorced adolescent girls and adolescent mothers and continue efforts to remove and replace laws, policies and rules that prevent pregnant and married adolescent girls from attending school.

### **Extending the reach and ensuring inclusion**

Step up efforts to ensure policies, services and investments are inclusive of the most marginalized and disadvantaged adolescent girls and the most vulnerable populations. This means the design, funding, staffing and delivery of education, health and protection services must be appropriate and adequate for reaching adolescent girls who are pregnant, married or divorced, those who are out of school, with disabilities or otherwise marginalized and disadvantaged.

### **Recognizing the multifaceted drivers of child marriage**

Embrace the variations in early marriage and early union in different parts of the world. Focus on transforming structural gender inequalities, including discriminatory gender-based social norms and practices, and promote a range of opportunities for adolescent girls (in education, health, protection and livelihoods). Connect with development partners to address economic and livelihood drivers of child marriage.

### **Working with boys and men**

Invest more to include boys as beneficiaries and as agents of change to maximize impact. Expand partnerships with organizations involving boys and men in child marriage programmes, including with Sonke Gender Justice, with whom UNFPA East and Southern Africa Regional Office has already engaged in development of comprehensive sexuality education and communication materials, and the Council of Traditional Leaders in Africa (COTLA).

### Generating and using evidence and strengthening knowledge management

- Develop a Phase II evidence and research strategy to strengthen the evidence base and improve the quality and timeliness of data generation and knowledge management to inform future programming.
- Continue to build a community of practice related to child marriage programming to share lessons and best practices across countries, within the Global Programme and beyond.
- Strengthen and contextualize monitoring and reporting systems, especially data related to the change in social and gender norms and behaviours. The cross-regional social and behavioural change communication study by Ipsos will generate gender-disaggregated baseline data to determine the gender attitudes of children, adolescents, families and communities, and to lay the foundation for measuring social and behaviour change.

### Addressing child marriage in humanitarian settings

Further clarify the challenges and approaches needed to prevent and respond to child marriage in humanitarian settings, including conflicts, natural disasters and public health emergencies.

### Supporting a global movement to end child marriage

Expand technical support and knowledge sharing to countries and regions beyond the scope of the Global Programme, including Latin America and the Caribbean, to accelerate progress towards the elimination of child marriage by 2030.

The Spotlight Initiative Regional Programme for Africa is funded by the European Union and implemented in partnership with the African Union Commission, UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women and UNICEF. The initiative supports the overall regional response to sexual and gender-based violence, harmful practices, including child marriage and FGM, and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). The design and implementation of the programme is guided by the African Union's Agenda 2063, the priorities of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol) and the Maputo Plan of Action for the operationalization of the continental policy framework for SRHR, as well as other key regional instruments.

The regional programme for Africa builds on the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation and the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage: strengthens legislation and policy processes of African Union member states in relevant areas; generates quality and reliable data; and supports women's movements and relevant CSOs. In addition, the regional programme complements existing country programmes in Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Uganda and Zimbabwe, and regional efforts to end child marriage and FGM.



In order to achieve its outcomes, the scope of the regional programme within the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage includes:

### Outcome 1

#### Legislative, policy and programmatic frameworks

- Provide support and build capacity of the African Union Commission and other regional bodies to advocate for and support new or existing initiatives to end child marriage.
- Strengthen the accountability of member states; systematically monitor national actions and progress in reducing the proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18 (Sustainable Development Goal [SDG] indicator 5.3.1), with a focus on SRHR.
- Support global and regional child marriage advocacy to ensure legal and policy frameworks are enabling, evidence-based and in line with human rights standards and ensure the best interests of vulnerable women and girls.

### Outcome 5

#### Quality and reliable data

- Support the engagement of regional bodies in global advocacy efforts with relevant partners to advocate for the establishment of a global reporting, accountability and visibility mechanism for tracking and analysing a comprehensive and prioritized set of progress measures on child marriage.
- Strengthen the capacity of national statistical institutions to collect, track and analyse macro-level data on child marriage (SDG 5.3).
- Strengthen capacities to integrate questions related to child marriage (e.g. on social change measures) into national surveys such as Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys and Demographic and Health Surveys.

### Outcome 6

#### Women's rights groups and CSOs

- Support the mobilization of women's rights groups, CSOs and their networks to collectively advocate for the prevention and mitigation of child marriage.



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It has been an exciting journey in Phase I of the Global Programme, working with different cohorts of girls, including marginalized groups, to ensure they gain information and access to services to promote their rights and to stand against harmful practices such as child marriage. Integrated approaches and strategic partnerships have facilitated substantial results in Ghana, and we cannot wait to commence Phase II.

Selina Owusu, National Programme Analyst Gender, UNFPA Ghana

# ANNEXES

## Evaluation conclusions and lessons by outcome area

Outcome area	Evaluation conclusions (mid-2018)	Lessons
<p><b>Outcome 1:</b> Adolescent girls at risk of and affected by child marriage are better able to express and exercise their choices</p>	<p>The Global Programme is increasingly able to reach adolescent girls with activities under Output 1.1, having reached nearly 5.5 million girls by mid-2018, far exceeding the programme's objective to reach 2.5 million girls by the end of 2019. Aggregate figures are disproportionately driven by India. Evidence from case study countries suggests that life-skills initiatives are making a positive contribution to Outcome 1. The programme has reduced its reach under Output 1.2 every year, and only half of the countries funded activities in 2018 to promote girls' school access, although complementary funding has been utilized for work under this indicator that is not well captured by reporting systems.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Mobilization and participation:</b> In Niger and Burkina Faso, local, traditional and religious leadership has been critical to broadening the participation of adolescent girls in empowerment programmes and to convincing parents to keep girls in school. Door-to-door household visits have been effective in identifying and mobilizing at-risk adolescent girls in Burkina Faso. Community engagement needs to be intensified to ensure the safety and protection of adolescent club facilitators in Bangladesh. Youth-led advocacy has been effective in building awareness and mobilizing public support for ending child marriage in Ghana.</li> <li>■ <b>Scale:</b> The expansion of the mentorship programme in Mozambique requires better supervision and monitoring of the quality of the mentors' work. Institutionalizing and scaling up interventions requires the strengthening of multisectoral coordination across sectors and administrative levels in Bangladesh. Expanding life-skills training to other school clubs can be a way to reach more students at scale.</li> <li>■ <b>Livelihood opportunities:</b> Addressing poverty and providing economic opportunities for women and girls are critical in ending child marriage (e.g. in Uganda and Yemen). Reaching adolescent girls who are out of school and/or working requires a combination of training, community mobilization and incentives (e.g. in India and Ethiopia). Life skills and sexual and reproductive health skills are insufficient to delay marriage if they are not complemented by livelihood opportunities and incentives for schooling.</li> </ul>



Ghana, May 2015  
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<p><b>Outcome 2:</b> Households demonstrate positive attitudes and behaviours toward investing in and supporting adolescent girls</p>	<p>Country offices have significantly expanded community outreach (Output 2.1) and the Global Programme shows signs of scaling up, reaching approximately 11.5 million individuals with information related to ending child marriage in the first half of 2018, significantly more than in 2016 and 2017 combined. Evidence of scaling up is occurring in the absence of a sound evidence base on the impact of interventions, and this requires immediate attention. While boys and men have been targeted by programme activities to varying degrees, little work has been done to look at child marriage among boys, despite the fact that consensual marriages between children may comprise more than one third of all child marriages. Further focus is needed to measure social norms and utilize critical mass theory to target approaches.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Traditional and religious leaders:</b> Engaging traditional and religious leaders is critical, to make them accountable for the implementation of community action plans and become champions for a change in social norms (e.g. in Mozambique, Zambia and Yemen).</li> <li>■ <b>Measuring change:</b> Mechanisms have to be strengthened to track the results and quality of every intervention and to support government partners to mobilize their own resources and structures to implement the intervention at scale.</li> <li>■ <b>Economics versus social norms:</b> In South Asia, the programme learned that an improved economic situation only seems to have a positive effect on reducing child marriage where social norms in favour of child marriage have already been weakened.</li> <li>■ <b>Gender roles:</b> In areas of Southern Africa with a high incidence of child marriage, the roles of women are influenced by family values, teaching provided during initiation rites, and other sociocultural aspects. These persistent norms and traditions leave girls with little agency over their own life choices. Evidence emerged about the importance of engaging men and boys in child marriage interventions and of understanding how boys' socialization may lead them to "ascribe to rigid definitions of emotion-repressing, violent, misogynistic, and heteronormative manhood".<sup>57</sup> Dominant or hegemonic masculinities affect the ways in which men and boys act as key gatekeepers of marriage decision-making, and as grooms and partners to young brides. It also shapes the ways in which they reflect and act on social norms about sexuality, masculinity, femininity, sexual behaviour, reproduction and family planning decisions, and violence, as well as experiences and expectations of married life. For Phase II, the Global Programme envisions engaging adolescent boys and young men in gender equality more systematically, cognizant of how norms around masculinities often cause harm to women and girls, and paradoxically in the end affect adolescent boys and young men as well.</li> </ul>
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<sup>57</sup> Kato-Wallace, Jane, et al., '[Adolescent Boys and Young Men: Engaging them as supporters of gender equality and health and understanding their vulnerabilities](#)', Promundo-US, Washington, D.C., UNFPA, New York, 2016.

<p><b>Outcome 3:</b> Relevant sectoral systems deliver quality and cost-effective services to meet the needs of adolescent girls</p>	<p>Country offices have increased targets for girls' access to health and protection services every year of the Global Programme and have collectively exceeded targets each year (Output 3.1). Mid-term 2018 data, collected through the Global Programme evaluation, show collective delivery rates more than six times the target, suggesting that the programme is moving towards accelerating interventions. The programme was able to scale up its activities around girls' education in 2018 (Output 3.2), assisting more than 8,000 schools to improve the quality of girls' education over the first six months of the year. This is equivalent to the total number of schools reached over the first two years of the programme. Aggregate data under Outcome 3 are dominated by India. Evidence of the efficacy of approaches is critical to supporting scale-up.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Commitments of boys and men:</b> The inclusion of training topics identified by men and boys (e.g. family planning, financial management, drug abuse, human rights and sports) increased male involvement in and commitment to supporting adolescent girls.</li> <li>■ <b>Intimate partner violence:</b> Work with married adolescent girls in India indicated high rates of gender-based violence within marriage and highlighted the need to integrate gender-based violence prevention and redressal in programming to end child marriage.</li> <li>■ <b>Sexual violence in schools and mental health services:</b> Linking schools and adolescent clubs to take actions against sexual harassment increased demand for adolescent health services. Adolescent girls requested psychosocial counselling services. Complaint mechanisms can act as a deterrent against sexual harassment and bullying.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Outcome 4:</b> National laws, policy frameworks and mechanisms to protect and promote adolescent girls' rights are in line with international standards and are properly resourced</p>	<p>UNFPA and UNICEF have worked collaboratively at the highest levels to support governments to develop and implement national/state action plans to end child marriage. This is a role for which the United Nations is uniquely positioned and integral to ensuring that momentum towards ending child marriage continues. Nine countries have developed action plans, five of which have allocated government resources to their plans. Advocacy for greater government investment, costing strategies and tracking of budget allocations is required over the next years of the programme, along with a continued focus on strengthening legal and other policy frameworks to support adolescent rights.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Evidence-based policymaking:</b> Continued data-based advocacy to promote an evidence-based approach to ending child marriage has influenced decisions to develop policy and frameworks (e.g. in Bangladesh, Nepal, Niger and Sierra Leone).</li> <li>■ <b>Criminalizing adolescent sexuality:</b> In India, the alignment between the age of sexual consent and the legal minimum age of marriage has opened the door to the criminalization of adolescent sexuality. Efforts to end child marriage have to consider young people's agency in developing relationships, engaging in sexual activity, and accessing SRH information and services.</li> <li>■ <b>Implementing action plans:</b> Disseminating and popularizing new legislation by the Global Programme has been an important contribution to its widespread acceptance (e.g. in Uganda).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Outcome 5:</b> Government(s) and partners within and across countries support the generation and use of robust data and evidence to inform policy and programming, track progress and document lessons</p>	<p>Global Programme investments in research and data have contributed to building a stronger evidence base on child marriage, although tracking has not offered an indication of data quality and usability to date. There is a significant risk that the programme is beginning to scale up interventions without sufficient proof of efficacy, making evidence generation a priority for Phase II.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Government involvement and leadership:</b> Generating evidence at the budget level helps to identify government priorities, the real areas of work, and the most influential decision makers in terms of investments in ending child marriage (e.g. in Bangladesh). Government involvement in all stages of data and evidence generation promotes ownership and accountability at national and subnational levels (e.g. in Uganda).</li> <li>■ <b>Evidence for policy advocacy:</b> Government decision makers want to see evaluation findings from large-scale initiatives rather than from small-scale pilots (e.g. in India).</li> <li>■ <b>Making data accessible:</b> The use of innovative approaches to visualizing data (e.g. dashboards, videos, and feedback loops within TV series development) facilitates the dissemination and use of data (e.g. in Bangladesh).</li> <li>■ <b>Tracking change and monitoring impact:</b> There is a need for robust mechanisms to track social norm change at community level (Ethiopia).</li> </ul>

## Risk matrix for the Global Programme

Risk	Probability	Impact	Mitigation	9 March 2020 update
<b>A. Country risks (political, security and humanitarian crisis)</b>				
<p>1. Political will of member states, including commitment to legal and legislative change and financial investments, is lacking, thereby hampering positive change.</p>	Low	Medium	<p>The Global Programme has strategically selected countries where some amount of momentum exists against the issue of child marriage. Strong working relationships with the authorities and national ministries will be maintained to build a sense of common purpose and enhance national ownership of the process. The programme will also amplify civil society voices, including for alliances and external funds, which tends to enhance government accountability.</p>	<p><b>Risk rating: Low</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Joint UNFPA-UNICEF advocacy strengthens country strategies for launch, implementation and budgeting of national action plans (NAPs) for ending child marriage.</li> <li>2. Lessons learned from countries that have launched and budgeted plans (Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mozambique and Uganda) shared with countries in the Global Programme and beyond.</li> <li>3. Continued engagement with regional economic communities such as the African Union, the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) through mechanisms such as the African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage for enhanced influence at country level.</li> <li>4. Continued engagement with regional and national government entities through mechanisms such as the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, and the United Nations General Assembly for high-level advocacy.</li> <li>5. Joint advocacy through civil society organization (CSO) networks such as Girls Not Brides (activated at global level and implemented at country level) to hold governments accountable.</li> </ol>



<p>2. Changes in the political context in countries, such as changes in leadership and shifts in national priorities (away from ending child marriage), affect continuation and sustainability of ongoing positive change processes.</p>	<p>Low to medium</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Country programmes are designed to implement strategic plans, in consultation with national governments and in alignment with national priorities. Both UNFPA and UNICEF have long-standing relationships with the legislative and executive arms of member states, which permits a high degree of continuity in work, with slight changes in direction as needed to align with any new priorities. The multisectoral nature of the Global Programme permits continuity and sustainability of action through the most promising lead ministries in any given context. Country commitments enshrined in international declarations and conventions are also utilized as the basis for sustaining action.</p>	<p><b>Risk rating: Low</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continued engagement with regional economic communities such as the African Union, SADC and ECOWAS through mechanisms such as the African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage for enhanced influence at country level.</li> <li>2. Evidence-informed advocacy with targeted sectors in all Global Programme countries except Yemen.</li> </ol>
<p>3. Humanitarian crises (e.g. new and emerging infectious diseases such as COVID-19<sup>58</sup> affecting Global Programme headquarters and regional and country offices, Ebola virus outbreak in Sierra Leone, earthquake in Nepal, conflict in Yemen, Rohingya crisis in Bangladesh, tropical cyclone in Mozambique, Sahel crisis in Burkina Faso and Niger) hamper or completely restrict implementation.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Headquarters, regional and country offices of both UNFPA and UNICEF prioritize disaster preparedness and temporarily shift to emergency response in affected regions and countries - which usually includes children and adolescents at risk of or affected by child marriage. In consultation with the Global Programme Steering Committee, to the extent possible, programme activities in unaffected regions and countries will continue, and programme activities to end child marriage will be reactivated in affected regions and countries as early as possible, including during the reconstruction phase.</p>	<p><b>Risk rating: Low</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. UNFPA and UNICEF continuously monitor the emergency situation in Global Programme countries.</li> <li>2. UNFPA and UNICEF headquarters and the regional offices in the Middle East and North Africa/Arab States, South Asia/Asia and the Pacific, Western and Central Africa, and East and Southern Africa consistently monitor the emergency situation in Yemen, India, Jordan, Nepal, Senegal, South Africa, Thailand, USA, Burkina Faso, Niger, Mozambique and Bangladesh, through situation reports.</li> </ol>

<sup>58</sup> World Health Organization, '[Coronavirus disease 2019 \(COVID-19\): Situation report - 48](#)', WHO, accessed on 9 March 2020



<p>4. The programme does not reach the most at-risk/vulnerable girls.</p>	<p>Low to medium</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>In designing the Global Programme, UNICEF applied a Monitoring Results for Equity System (MoRES) approach, to deliver equity-focused planning, programming and monitoring. This tool supports monitoring programmes and policies to ensure that an equity approach to reach the most marginalized children is evidence based and in support of the planned impact. UNFPA uses population data to conduct age, gender and geographically disaggregated analysis to estimate the prevalence and burden of child marriage. At the core of both these approaches are the identification and targeting of the most vulnerable, holding service providers accountable, and creating better access for the most disadvantaged communities – including girls at risk of and affected by child marriage.</p>	<p><b>Risk rating: Low</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strategic focus of the programme continues to aim to reach for the most vulnerable girls through MoRES and population data analysis.</li> </ol>
<p>5. Inadequate coordination between development partners working on ending child marriage results in duplication of efforts.</p>	<p>Low to medium</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Working jointly with multiple donors (Belgium, Canada, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, UK, the EU and Zonta International) through the Global Programme is already demonstrably mitigating this risk. In addition, the planned inception phase will ensure programmatic resources are complementary to each other and reach areas of greatest need. At country level, UNFPA and UNICEF are coordinating with governments to ensure that their strategy to end child marriage is aligned with national priorities, and supporting a unification of civil society efforts, in order to avoid duplication.</p>	<p><b>Risk rating: Low</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Governance structure of the Global Programme (such as the Steering Committee and the Partner Advisory Group) provides a forum for coordination between development partners, CSOs and governments.</li> <li>2. Active engagement in networks such as Girls Not Brides, including participation in its annual global meeting.</li> <li>3. Active engagement in and support of the implementation of the Spotlight Initiative to eliminate violence against women and girls.</li> </ol>
<p>6. Coordination is inadequate between UNFPA and UNICEF.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>The Global Programme works within a formalized programme structure that both facilitates and mandates various coordination systems, including through the Administrative Agent function and the Steering Committee.</p>	<p><b>Risk rating: Low</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Enhanced coordination between UNFPA and UNICEF through one Global Programme coordinator, joint communication and joint projects in similar geographic areas.</li> </ol>



<b>B. Development/delivery risks</b>				
<p>1. Inadequate capacity of government partners, CSO or UNFPA/UNICEF staff lowers effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, etc.</p>	Medium	Medium	<p>The Global Programme is developing a strong monitoring and evaluation framework with intermediate and immediate outcomes, including an independent evaluation in close cooperation with the independent offices of evaluation of both agencies. Programme baselines and regular monitoring will be established to track progress of Phase II implementation. An outcome evaluation will be carried out that will outline the degree to which results could be attributed to the Global Programme. In addition, the programme continues to generate data and evidence that will stand alone but also, critically, inform the outcome evaluation of the Global Programme. Put together, these elements will enable tracking of the programme's effectiveness at the intermediate and immediate outcome as well as output levels, which will provide useful benchmarks for assessing progress.</p>	<p><b>Risk rating: Medium</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agencies undertake continuous programmatic assessments to ascertain suitability of implementing partners, to ensure they are working with the best partners who are suitably positioned to achieve results and have the mandate and competitive advantage on the ground.</li> </ol>
<b>C. Partner risks</b>				
<p>1. Inadequate capacity of government partners, CSOs or UNFPA/UNICEF staff lowers effectiveness, efficiency, relevance etc.</p>	Low to medium	Low to medium	<p>One of the key assumptions underlying the Global Programme is of the need for capacity-building at country level of a variety of stakeholders. Capacity tends to vary across countries, and financial support dedicated to boosting capacity will be adjusted accordingly. Technical support across the programme (from headquarters, from regional offices, between countries, and from external technical partners) will also be allocated as per capacity and needs. Where needed, external consultants and partners will be brought on board to bridge the capacity gaps.</p>	<p><b>Risk rating: Medium</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Global Programme Support Unit (GPSU) and regional offices focus on the provision of technical support to enhance country capacity through: sharing information on knowledge management platforms; webinars; communities of practices (e.g. UNICEF Yammer); emails; monthly newsletter; country visits; annual consultations; and engagement of consultants.</li> <li>2. Country offices provide support and training of implementing partners on financial management, implementation of the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT), and reporting.</li> <li>3. Country offices facilitate quarterly and annual reviews of implementation, including monitoring of budget and South-South exchanges.</li> </ol>



<b>D. Financial risks</b>				
<p>1. The Global Programme does not attract enough funding to deliver results at scale, due to changes in partner priorities or other reasons.</p>	Medium	Medium to high	<p>The option of working jointly with other donors through the Global Programme will go a long way to mitigating this risk. In addition, Phase II will ensure programmatic resources are complementary and reach areas of greatest need. Further, the Global Programme has focused only on 12 countries.</p>	<p><b>Risk rating: Medium</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The GPSU is implementing a resource-mobilization strategy, actively identifying and meeting partners to raise resources.</li> <li>2. The GPSU is implementing a communication and visibility strategy, including an advocacy calendar to enhance visibility of the Global Programme.</li> <li>3. Strategic relationships with donors are fostered through regular meetings to review country situations and programme progress.</li> <li>4. Relationships with UNFPA and UNICEF national committees are sustained through visits, teleconferences and regular country updates.</li> </ol>
<b>E. Reputational risks</b>				
<p>1. The topic is culturally sensitivity and there is a conservative backlash from within the communities.</p>	Low	Low to medium	<p>It is crucial that the programme is not perceived as imparting a particular agenda or ideological framework that is not in the best interests of the community. Hence, careful consideration will be given to how issues are conceptualized and framed in any given country and subnational context, with adherence to basic do-no-harm guidelines. Community leaders, parents and guardians will be involved from the start, as per ethics protocols as well as cultural considerations. UNFPA and UNICEF have strong backgrounds in community-level work and are successfully managing programmes to end child marriage in many countries already, demonstrating that it is possible to avoid any reputational risks to the agencies or development partners.</p>	<p><b>Risk rating: Low</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agencies are implementing in a culturally sensitive manner at country level.</li> </ol>

<p>2. Government partners, CSO or UNFPA/UNICEF staff violate human rights – directly, or through actions (or omissions), or through business relationships or the supply chain.</p>	Low	Medium	<p>The Global Programme works within the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.</p>	<p><b>Risk rating: Low</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. UNICEF is implementing the procedures for a child safeguarding framework in all countries. The framework is supported by the 2016 Child Safeguarding Policy.</li> <li>2. UNICEF is implementing the framework for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) in all countries, which covers some issues that the child safeguarding framework does not.</li> </ol>
<b>F. Fiduciary risks</b>				
<p>1. Funds are not used for the intended purposes, do not achieve value for money, and/or are not properly accounted for.</p>	Low	Medium to high	<p>UNFPA and UNICEF policies on fraud and procurement are publicly available and strictly applied. Within the Global Programme framework, the Steering Committee is the highest body for strategic guidance, fiduciary and management oversight and coordination. The administrative agent will be accountable for effective and impartial fiduciary management. Outside the direct Global Programme framework is the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) Fiduciary Management Oversight Group, which serves as the first point of contact in headquarters for fiduciary matters. It oversees the implementation of the fiduciary aspects of UNDG policies on joint funding mechanisms and discusses any required departures from the standard memorandum of understanding, letters of agreement and steering committee terms of reference.</p>	<p><b>Risk rating: Low</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Programme countries continuously apply assurance activities through audit firms to support the undertaking of spot checks, audits and micro-assessments.</li> <li>2. Alternative solutions to direct cash transfers to partners are explored to avoid fraud or misuse to the greatest extent possible.</li> <li>3. UNFPA's and UNICEF's anti-fraud and whistleblower protection policies are shared with partners, consultants and contractors as appropriate.</li> </ol>

## Global Programme selected media and news coverage

Location	Title
Global	<a href="#">A seat at the table: A young person's view from the UN.</a>
Global	<a href="#">115 million boys and men around the world married as children.</a>
Global	<a href="#">1 in Every 5 Boys Married off Before they Turn 15, UNICEF Study Reveals.</a>
Global	<a href="#">Pioneering U.N. study counts 115 million 'child grooms' worldwide.</a>
Global	<a href="#">Globally, 115 million boys and men married as children, UNICEF reveals.</a>
Global	<a href="#">About 115 million 'child grooms' married before age of 15: UN.</a>
Global	<a href="#">UN report finds 115 million child grooms globally.</a>
Global	<a href="#">U.N. finds 115 million 'child grooms' with Central African Republic topping list.</a>
Global	<a href="#">U.N. finds 115 million 'child grooms' with Central African Republic topping list.</a>
Global	<a href="#">U.N. finds 115 million 'child grooms' with Central African Republic topping list.</a>
Global	<a href="#">Millions of child grooms forced into marriage, UN says.</a>
Global	<a href="#">Child grooms: An estimated 115m men married as children, Unicef research finds.</a>
Global	<a href="#">Les mariages d'enfants concernent aussi des millions de garçons.</a>
Global	<a href="#">Child grooms.</a>
Global	<a href="#">It's not just girls – one in 30 young men were married as children.</a>
Bangladesh	<a href="#">Child marriage is a blight on society.</a>
Burkina Faso	<a href="#">Mariage d'enfants dans la région de l'Est: Un phénomène qui perdure sous le poids de la tradition.</a>
Ethiopia	<a href="#">Child marriage is a global scourge. Here's how Ethiopia is fighting it.</a>
Ethiopia	<a href="#">Ethiopia's gender revolution: The road towards equality.</a>
Nepal	<a href="#">Let's salute and applaud the perseverance of these #girls from Baitadi, Sudurpaschim Province.</a>

## Stories and videos published by the Global Programme

This is a selected list of stories and videos published on UNFPA and UNICEF websites, on YouTube and on Twitter in 2019. For earlier stories, please see previous annual reports.

### Stories

Location	Title
Global	<a href="#">Menstruation is not a girls' or women's issue – it's a human rights issue</a>
Global	<a href="#">Saying #IDONT to child marriage</a>
Global	<a href="#">Fast Facts: 10 facts illustrating why we must #EndChildMarriage</a>
Global	<a href="#">Menstruation is not a girls' or women's issue – it's a human rights issue</a>
Bangladesh	<a href="#">National Multimedia Campaign for Ending Child Marriage</a>
Bangladesh	<a href="#">'Accelerating Action to End Child Marriage in Bangladesh'</a>
Burkina Faso	<a href="#">Burkina Faso: Artist Smarty is committed to fight child marriage</a>
Burkina Faso	<a href="#">La revue à mi-parcours du programme conjoint #unfpa #unicef est en cours</a>
Ethiopia	<a href="#">Family members arrested for planning child marriage for 15-year-old girl in Ethiopia</a>
Ethiopia	<a href="#">Five brave girls say 'no' to child marriage</a>
Ethiopia	<a href="#">"We are working against all odds": Despite progress, FGM and child marriage numbers cause alarm</a>
Ethiopia	<a href="#">Meet Habtam Melke, a health worker</a>
Ethiopia	<a href="#">I reiterated @UNICEFEthiopia commitment to accompany in addressing child rights and #EndChildMarriage in #Ethiopia</a>
Ghana	<a href="#">With support from @CanHCGhana through the UNICEF-UNFPA program, she [Faustina] learnt about reproductive health &amp; proper nutrition for her baby</a>
Ghana	<a href="#">Challenging harmful gender norms is one of the ways to #endchildmarriage and #endviolence against children</a>
Ghana	<a href="#">Today, we joined Ghana's 1st Lady, H.E. @RAkufoAddo to launch the 'Because I Want To Be' initiative</a>
India	<a href="#">Kiran, a girl from Purulia, who fights child marriage</a>
India	<a href="#">How parents in India are keeping their girls in school, and away from early marriages</a>
India	<a href="#">The rally to #EndChildMarriage begins at #Kumbh2019</a>
India	<a href="#">Exceptional support to #EndChildMarriage</a>
India	<a href="#">Members of block and village level child protection committees shared their community initiatives to #EndChildMarriage</a>
India	<a href="#">A one-day workshop at Karauli district in Rajasthan</a>
India	<a href="#">"Only one department cannot stop child marriage. It needs support from Education, Health, Panchayati Raj, Skill Devt and the community."</a>
India	<a href="#">'Girl Friendly Gram Panchayat Guidelines'</a>



<b>Mozambique</b>	<a href="#">Facing challenges together: Inspiring adolescent girls in Mozambique</a>
<b>Mozambique</b>	<a href="#">Young SMS counsellors in Mozambique share their stories</a>
<b>Nepal</b>	<a href="#">Out of her shell</a>
<b>Nepal</b>	<a href="#">Hats off to @Rolpamunicipal +local stakeholders for declaring their 11-point commitment to #EndChildMarriage</a>
<b>Nepal</b>	<a href="#">Meet Kriti Paswan (15), a Dalit @GPChildMarriage peer educator in Rautahat!</a>
<b>Niger</b>	<a href="#">Music for Girls' Rights</a>
<b>Niger</b>	<a href="#">Music against child marriage</a>
<b>Niger</b>	<a href="#">Alphadi: new 'Champion for children's rights' in Niger</a>
<b>Niger</b>	<a href="#">In Niger, girls take their shot at a better future</a>
<b>Niger</b>	<a href="#">Ending child marriage in Niger</a>
<b>Niger</b>	<a href="#">Empowering girls to advocate for their rights</a>
<b>Sierra Leone</b>	<a href="#">New youth advisory panel established to end child marriage and reduce teenage pregnancy in Sierra Leone</a>
<b>Sierra Leone</b>	<a href="#">A guiding hand: School counsellors in Sierra Leone address early pregnancy, child marriage</a>
<b>Sierra Leone</b>	<a href="#">#TeenagePregnancy, #ChildMarriage, and #FamilyPlanning</a>
<b>Sierra Leone</b>	<a href="#">#DYK about the newly established Youth Advisory Panel supported by @UNFPA in #SierraLeone?</a>
<b>Uganda</b>	<a href="#">From shattered dreams to championing the rights of girls</a>
<b>Uganda</b>	<a href="#">In Uganda, surviving rape and child marriage one plait at a time</a>
<b>Zambia</b>	<a href="#">I was a child bride... but today, I am a University Graduate!</a>
<b>Zambia</b>	<a href="#">Community-driven actions to end child marriage: the critical role of traditional leaders</a>
<b>Zambia</b>	<a href="#">"Safe Space" in My School Inspired Me to Claim My Rights: A Story from Rural Zambia</a>
<b>Zambia</b>	<a href="#">Youth Voices: Securing the future of women in Africa by standing with girls today</a>
<b>Zambia</b>	<a href="#">The Sub-Regional meeting on the SADC Model Law on eradicating child marriage has opened in Lusaka today</a>

## Videos

Location	Title
Global	<a href="#">A #marriage proposal she'll never forget - for all the wrong reasons</a>
Global	<a href="#">We are at our world café, sharing learnings, strategies and successes across the Global Programme to #EndChildMarriage</a>
Global	<a href="#">Thank you all who took part in our side event at #CSW63 last week to #EndChildMarriage &amp; #EndFGM in Africa</a>
Global	<a href="#">The Global Programme is combating #childmarriage in #Nepal</a>
Global	<a href="#">@ AfricanUnion Heads of State meet in #Niger</a>
Global	<a href="#">“My commitment [to #ICPD25] is to ensure #ZeroGenderBasedViolence including Female Genital Mutilation and Child Marriage”</a>
Global	<a href="#">Every year, millions of girls around the world are forced into #childmarriage. But when girls are empowered, they can speak out against it.</a>
Bangladesh	<a href="#">It's on all of us to #EndChildMarriage</a>
Bangladesh	<a href="#">Ending Child Marriage - Bus</a>
Burkina Faso	<a href="#">“I am not a good. I am not for sale”</a>
Burkina Faso	<a href="#">Ne m'appelez pas madame</a>
Ghana	<a href="#">Keeping girls in schools will help to prevent child marriages. When girls do better, we all do better</a>
Ghana	<a href="#">Girlz Girlz Power Talk Show - Leadership &amp; Mentorship</a>
India	<a href="#">Santoshi is amazing!</a>
India	<a href="#">Vijay Rupani, Chief Minister #Gujarat shares a strong message on the need to end early marriage and empower girls</a>
India	<a href="#">“Educated girls understand the world better and can take better care of themselves”</a>
India	<a href="#">Sagarika Raika from Odisha speaks out against child marriage</a>
Nepal	<a href="#">Combating child marriage in Nepal</a>
Niger	<a href="#">Roumanatou stood up against child marriage</a>
Niger	<a href="#">Vidéo Participative: Bassira</a>
Niger	<a href="#">Video participative réalisée par les filles</a>
Niger	<a href="#">Vidéo participative: le processus (version longue)</a>
Niger	<a href="#">Vidéo participative: le processus</a>
Niger	<a href="#">Vidéo participative: Hassana</a>
Uganda	<a href="#">Magic hair dressing skill gives Lena hope after rape and marriage</a>
Uganda	<a href="#">14-year-old rescued from early marriage, finds hope in education: Faída's story</a>
Uganda	<a href="#">Child marriage affects boys too: Asiku's story</a>

## Global Programme results framework

Indicator	Means of verification	Periodicity	Baseline		Milestone 2016	Milestone 2017	Milestone 2018	Milestone 2019	Milestone 2020
<b>IMPACT 1: Reduction in prevalence of child marriage</b>									
Impact 1 Indicator: Percentage of women aged 20–24 who were married/in union before the age of 18	Country DHS or MICS questionnaires	Every 3–5 years	TARGET	43.5%	34.2%	32.7%	30.2%	27.7%	24.8%
			ACHIEVED		41.4%	41.2%	41.2%	38.8%	
			Baseline timeframe = CY2006–2014 Average prevalence rate computed						
<b>OUTCOME 1: Adolescent girls at risk of and affected by child marriage are better able to express and exercise their choices</b>									
<b>OUTCOME 1.1 Indicator:</b> Proportion of adolescent girls in programme areas demonstrating increased knowledge and skills	Pre-and post or community household surveys	1–3 years	PLANNED	n/a	n/a	37.8%	40.3%	42.8%	45.3%
			ACHIEVED		35.3%	50.6%	64.9%		
			Baseline timeframe = CY2016–2017 N = 8 countries with survey data						
<b>OUTCOME 1.2 Indicator:</b> Girls' retention rate at primary or lower-secondary school/ Girls' transition rate from primary to lower-secondary school in programme areas	Education information management systems	Annual	Girls' retention rate at primary school						
			PLANNED	n/a	n/a	55%	58%	59%	60%
			ACHIEVED		53%				
			Baseline timeframe = CY2016 N = 4 countries						
			Girls' transition rate from primary to lower secondary school						
			PLANNED	n/a	n/a	61%	63%	80%	85%
			ACHIEVED		59.8%	77.3%	75.5%		
Baseline timeframe = CY2016 N = 7 countries									
<b>Output 1.1: Adolescent girls (aged 10–19) are actively participating in a targeted programme (life skills, health information, economic empowerment, social protection)</b>									
<b>Output Indicator 1.1:</b> Number of adolescent girls (aged 10–19) in programme areas actively participating in at least one targeted intervention	Implementing partner/ NGO records and relevant administrative data	Annual	PLANNED	211,156	411,121	1,122,495	1,398,559	3,493,927	n/a
			ACHIEVED		535,540	1,050,193	2,972,494	3,413,710	
			Baseline timeframe = CY2015 N = 12 countries						



Output 1.2: Adolescent girls are supported to enrol and remain in formal and non-formal education, including through the transition from primary to secondary education									
<b>Output Indicator 1.2:</b> Number of adolescent girls in programme areas supported to access and remain in primary or lower secondary school or non-formal education	Implementing partner/ NGO records and relevant administrative data	Annual	PLANNED	33,355	199,249	65,137	61,590	378,823	n/a
			ACHIEVED		218,249	67,216	121,658	337,373	
			Baseline timeframe = CY2015 N = 12 countries						
OUTCOME 2: Households demonstrate positive attitudes and behaviours toward investing in and supporting adolescent girls									
<b>OUTCOME 2 Indicator:</b> Number and proportion of individuals in programme areas that hold gender equitable attitudes	Community household surveys	1-3 years	PLANNED	Not applicable	n/a	27.8%	30.3%	32.8%	35.2%
			ACHIEVED		25.2%		41.5%	47.7%	
			Baseline timeframe = CY2016-2017 N = 9 countries with survey data						
OUTPUT 2.1: Households are increasingly aware of the benefits of investing in adolescent girls and ending child marriage									
<b>Output Indicator 2.1:</b> Number of individuals in programme areas who regularly participate in dialogues promoting gender equitable norms including delaying child marriage	Implementing partner/ NGO records	Annual	PLANNED	1,026,268	1,641,623	4,051,121	4,641,463	15,535,227	n/a
			ACHIEVED		4,120,434	4,780,912	13,911,913	16,670,397	
			Baseline timeframe = CY2015 N = 11 countries						
OUTCOME 3: Relevant sectoral systems deliver quality and cost-effective services to meet the needs of adolescent girls									
<b>OUTCOME 3.1 Indicator:</b> Number and proportion of adolescent girls in programme areas that have utilized health or protection services	Community household surveys/pre and post surveys	1-3 years	Proportion of adolescent girls that have utilized health or protection services						
			PLANNED	Not applicable	n/a	37%	39.1%	41.6%	44.1%
			ACHIEVED		36.6%		43.3%	53.1%	
	Implementing partner/ NGO records and relevant administrative data		Number of adolescent girls that have utilized health or protection services						
			PLANNED	1,638,998	n/a	n/a	1,816,127	2,553,261	2,601,677
			ACHIEVED			1,638,998	1,889,034	2,453,031	
Baseline timeframe = CY2017 N = 9 countries									

<b>OUTCOME 3.2 Indicator:</b> Percentage point difference in exam-pass rates between boys and girls	National examination boards administrative data	Annual	PLANNED	+4.4	+3.4	+2.4	+1.4	+0.5	0.0
			ACHIEVED		+1.7	+2.8	+2.3		
			Baseline timeframe = CY2015 N = 6 countries						
<b>OUTCOME 3.2 Indicator:</b> Gender parity for completion in primary education	Education information management systems	Annual	PLANNED	Not applicable	n/a	0.96	0.98	1.00	1.03
			ACHIEVED		0.95		1.03		
			Baseline timeframe = CY2016 N = 4 countries						
<b>OUTPUT 3.1: Health and protection systems supported to implement guidelines, protocols, and standards for adolescent girl-friendly health and protection services</b>									
<b>Output Indicator 3.1:</b> Number and proportion of service delivery points in programme areas implementing guidelines for adolescent girl-friendly health and protection services	Implementing partner/ NGO records and relevant administrative data	Annual	PLANNED	968	1,414	3,858	4,957	8,315	n/a
			ACHIEVED		5,329	4,452	6,121	8,591	
			Baseline timeframe = CY2015 N = 6 countries						
<b>OUTPUT 3.2: Non-formal/primary/secondary schools supported to improve quality of education for adolescent girls</b>									
<b>Output Indicator 3.2:</b> Number of non-formal/ primary/secondary schools implementing interventions to improve the quality of education for adolescent girls	Implementing partner/ NGO records and relevant administrative data	Annual	PLANNED	782	1,910	2,897	4,379	7,043	n/a
			ACHIEVED		4,940	2,799	6,270	12,371	
			Baseline timeframe = CY2015 N = 4 countries						
<b>OUTCOME 4: National laws, policy frameworks and mechanisms to protect and promote adolescent girls' rights are in line with international standards and are properly resourced</b>									
<b>OUTCOME 4 Indicator:</b> Whether country has resources allocated to decreasing child marriage in at least two ministries within a national action plan or another clearly defined policy/planning mechanism	Review of institutional budgets, budget framework papers and other policy documents, minutes of national meeting	Annual	PLANNED	2	n/a	3	4	5	8
			ACHIEVED		2	3	5	7	
			Baseline timeframe = CY2015 N = 11 countries (excluding Yemen)						



OUTPUT 4.1: Country has costed national action plan (NAP) or development plan on ending child marriage across more than one ministry									
<b>Output Indicator 4.1:</b> Whether country has developed a costed national action plan/ development plan on ending child marriage across more than one ministry	Review of NAPs Reports from country offices	Annual	PLANNED	2	7	11	11	11	n/a
			ACHIEVED		3	9	11	11	
			Baseline timeframe = CY2015 N = 11 countries (excluding Yemen)						
OUTCOME 5: Government(s) and partners within and across countries support the generation and use of robust data and evidence to inform policy and programming, track progress and document lessons									
<b>OUTCOME 5 Indicator:</b> Whether country uses robust data and evidence on child marriage to inform policy and programming	Assessment based on quality of evidence checklist Country offices reports	Annual	PLANNED	n/a	n/a	10	11	12	12
			ACHIEVED			8	10	11	
			Baseline timeframe = CY2017 N = 12 countries						
OUTPUT 5.1: Country-specific, high-quality data and evidence generated and shared on what works at scale to accelerate ending child marriage									
<b>Output Indicator 5.1:</b> Whether country collects and share high-quality data and evidence on what works at scale to accelerate ending child marriage	Annual country reports/ Implementing partner reports	Annual	Number of knowledge products on child marriage developed and disseminated						
			PLANNED	n/a	13	19	33	21	n/a
			ACHIEVED		34	52	35	36	
			Number of countries that collect and share high-quality data and evidence on what works at scale to accelerate ending child marriage						
			PLANNED	9	10	8	12	12	n/a
			ACHIEVED		8	10	10	7	
Baseline timeframe = CY2015 N = 12 countries									

