↘ # Sustaining the Gains in the Polycrisis Era

end child marriage
A voice. A chance. A future.

ANNUAL
REPORT
2022

UNFPA-UNICEF
**GLOBAL PROGRAMME
TO END CHILD MARRIAGE**

UNFPA-UNICEF **Global Programme to End Child Marriage**
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CONTENTS

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ALM	Africa-Led Movement to End FGM/C
ALP	Alternative Learning Programme
ASHA	Accredited Social Health Activist
AU	African Union
BRAC	Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee
CBO	Community-Based organization
CEHRD	Centre for Education and Human Resource Development
CISP	International Committee for the Development of Peoples
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CRANK	Child Marriage Research to Action Network
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
CSO	Civil Society organization
CSW	Commission On the Status of Women
CYPF	Child and Youth Protection Foundation (Nigeria)
DHIMS	District Health Information Management System
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ELA	Empowerment and Livelihoods for Adolescents
EMIS	Education Information Management System
EU	European Union
FCDO	Foreign and Commonwealth Office
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FPCC	Faith for Positive Change for Children, Families and Communities
GAGE	Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
Global Programme	UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage
GPSU	Global Programme Support Unit
GRASSP	Gender-Responsive Age-Sensitive Social Protection
GTA	Gender-Transformative Accelerator
HACT	Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers
HRBA	Human Rights-Based Approach
ICDP	International Child Development Programme
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IFA	Impact Feasibility Assessment
INGO	International Non-Governmental organization

IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPU	Inter-Parliamentarian Union
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
LAS	League of Arab States
LGBTQI+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex
LTA	Long-Term Agreement
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MKUY	Mukhyamantri Kanya Utthan Yojana
MoRES	Monitoring Results for Equity System
NFHS	National Family Health Survey (of India)
NGO	Non-Governmental organization
OHCHR	United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
PASS	Promoting Adolescent Safe Spaces
PDAC	Community-Based Approach to Child Protection
PSA	Public Service Announcement
PSNP	Productive Safety Net Programme
REFLECT	Regenerated Freirean Literacy Through Empowering Community Techniques
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SACG	South Asia Coordination Group
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SBC	Social and Behaviour Change
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SEA	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SNNPR	Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Region (of Ethiopia)
SOGI	Sexual orientation and Gender Identity
SRGBV	School-Related Gender-Based Violence
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
SSEPD	Social Security & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities
STAR	Strategic Technical Assistance for Research
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
SWEDD	Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNDG	United Nations Development Group
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCWA	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	US Agency for International Development
WHO	World Health Organization
YPH	Youth Power Hub
ZIPAR	Zambia Institute for Policy Analysis and Research

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Trends in child marriage and programming context

Global context: Recent years have seen an increase in insecurity and humanitarian crises around the world. The COVID-19 pandemic had barely abated when the Russian invasion of Ukraine resulted not only in major suffering for the affected population but also in far-reaching economic effects around the world. The food and fuel crisis triggered by the conflict in the Ukraine affected populations in sub-Saharan Africa and aggravated existing pressures caused by climate change and instability. This convergence of shocks and stresses can be seen in the polycrisis affecting countries — and girls — in the Sahel, the Horn of Africa, the Middle East and South Asia.

Child marriage trends: The global prevalence of child marriage has dropped from 23 per cent to 19 per cent over the past 10 years. Child marriage has declined steadily in South Asia, but progress has been much slower in many other parts of the world or is even showing stagnation (such as in Latin America and the Caribbean). Global progress would need to be 20 times faster to eliminate child marriage by 2030. At the current pace, ending child marriage would not be achieved for another 300 years. Sub-Saharan Africa's share of the child marriage burden will grow over the coming decades as child marriage rates decline more slowly than in other regions and as demographic growth is increasingly concentrated in sub-Saharan Africa, while the rest of the world is rapidly ageing.

Challenges ahead: Ongoing and overlapping crises create risky conditions for girls through interrupted education and income shocks caused by public health crisis, protracted conflict or natural disasters, or several of these at once. It is estimated that there will be 10 million additional child brides are over the course of the 2020s due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For every tenfold increase in conflict deaths we see a 7 per cent increase in child marriage due to a heightened sense of insecurity, threats of sexual violence, infrastructure failures and other channels. For every 10 per cent increase in climate shocks (defined as deviations from standard rainfall, either flooding or drought) we see a 1 per cent increase in child marriage due to disrupted sources of income, food insecurity, strains on communal resources, and other channels. These compound challenges lead to intersecting forms of exclusion and discrimination affecting adolescent girls, amid twenty-first century megatrends such as migration, ageing, urbanization and new technologies.

Key accomplishments

Advancing gender-transformative approaches: The Global Programme stepped up efforts to roll out the Gender-Transformative Accelerator (GTA) tool in 2022. The GTA tool was developed to identify concrete actions to make country programmes more gender transformative and to accelerate gender-transformative results. The GTA tool encourages critical reflection and awareness to understand how programmes are addressing the unequal distribution of resources between genders, to consider how roles and responsibilities are allocated between different genders and identities, and to assess how power secures higher status and privilege for some people. To date, the GTA tool has been rolled out in seven Global Programme countries: Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Mozambique and Niger.

Adapting to the polycrisis: In the face of the complex emergencies in the Middle East, South Asia, the Horn of Africa and the Sahel, countries are adapting their programmes to respond to the specific needs of adolescent girls in contexts of insecurity and violence. In response to the growing protection needs among vulnerable women and children across the Horn of Africa, the Global Programme expanded community-based

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programmes to reduce the risks of violence, exploitation, abuse and child marriage, and provided services to help women and children recover after violence. In Burkina Faso, a country badly affected by conflict and insecurity in the Sahel, the Global Programme adapted by shifting implementation to areas of high concentrations of displaced people, working through community-based structures in security zones that were inaccessible to United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and used communication technologies to remain in contact with communities. These initiatives are just the beginning of efforts to develop hybrid approaches that bridge the divide between development and humanitarian programming.

Ensuring global and regional advocacy: Two key initiatives ensured that child marriage received added visibility and remained on the agenda of the global community. In September 2022, the governments of Canada and Zambia hosted a high-level event during the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly to discuss progress on ending child marriage and recommit to the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target of eliminating the practice by 2030. The event was supported by the Child Marriage Monitoring Mechanism (which is funded by the Global Programme) and targeted Member States with some of the highest burden of child marriage[1] to pledge increased government investments in evidence-based interventions to end child marriage and support already married girls. This event was followed in November 2022 by the United Nations General Assembly's Third Committee resolution to end child, early and forced marriage, led by the governments of Canada and Zambia and with 125 co-sponsors from around the world.

The Arab Girls' Summit was hosted in October 2022 by the National Council for Family Affairs of Jordan in cooperation with the League of Arab States (LAS), UNFPA Arab States Regional Office, UNICEF Regional Office in the Middle East and North Africa and Plan International Jordan during the year. The summit provided an opportunity for girls from 12 Arab countries to exchange views, network and participate in discussions with representatives of the LAS, United Nations agencies and international non-governmental organizations (INGOs).

Advancing global research: Improving data and evidence is central to accelerating action to end harmful practices such as child marriage and female genital mutilation. Yet high-quality evidence generation, synthesis and uptake can be complex and may have limited impact without structured support and coordination. The Strategic Technical Assistance for Research (STAR) Initiative to end harmful practices was established through the UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti, to provide high-quality research and analytical support to UNFPA and UNICEF country and regional offices. In addition, the Child Marriage Research to Action Network (CRANK) partnership arranged a three-day online convening to review the latest evidence on child marriage, highlight the importance of partnerships for effective research, and discuss funding modalities for monitoring, research and evaluation. The Spotlight Initiative supported evidence reviews to analyse the impact of the Empowerment and Livelihood for Adolescents Clubs in partnership with the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC), and the initiative on boyhood and child marriage implemented by the Global Programme in partnership with Equimundo (the Center for Masculinities and Social Justice).

Delivering programme results: Despite numerous crises and challenges, the Global Programme continued to deliver solid results at the country level with most output indicators exceeding targets (see Table 1). Country programmes continued to innovate and to adapt to changing conditions and demands of target populations, to ensure outreach and engagement.

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1   The governments of Bangladesh, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia and Nigeria, with supporting pledges from the governments of Canada, the United Kingdom and Zambia.

TABLE 1: *Summary of Global Programme output indicator performance (2022)*

Summary of Global Programme output indicator performance (2022)

Indicator	Target	Result	Percent achieved
Indicator 1111: Number of adolescent girls (aged 10–19) who actively participated in lifeskills or comprehensive sexuality education interventions in programme areas	**5,481,189**	**6,308,541**	**115%**
Indicator 1121: Number of girls (aged 10–19) supported by the programme to enrol and/or remain in primary or secondary school	**168,598**	**161,446**	**96%**
Indicator 1211: Number of boys and men actively participating in group education/dialogues that address harmful masculinities and gender norms	**1,207,275**	**4,074,080**	**337%**
Indicator 1221: Number of individuals (boys, girls, women and men) who participate in group education/dialogue sessions on consequences of and alternatives to child marriage, the rights of adolescent girls and gender equality	**16,079,118**	**16,127,351**	**92%**
Indicator 1222: Number of individuals (boys, girls, women and men) reached by mass media (traditional and social media) messaging on child marriage, the rights of adolescent girls and gender equality	**74,479,294**	**155,760,623**	**209%**
Indicator 1223: Number of local actors (e.g., traditional, religious and community leaders) with meaningful participation in dialogues and consensus-building to end child marriage	**167,313**	**825,677**	**493%**
Indicator 1231: Number of civil society organizations newly mobilized in support of challenging social norms and promoting gender equality by the Global Programme (cumulative)	**212**	**173**	**82%**
Indicator 2121: Number of primary/secondary/non-formal schools in programme areas providing quality gender-friendly education that meets minimum standards	**1,118**	**2,702**	**242%**
Indicator 2131: Number of service delivery points in programme areas providing quality adolescent-responsive services (health, child protection/gender-based violence) that meet minimum standards	**5,430**	**7,848**	**145%**
Indicator 2211: Number of partnerships (both formal and informal) established to deliver adolescent-responsive social protection, poverty reduction, and economic empowerment programmes and services (Cumulative)	**131**	**455**	**347%**
Indicator 3111: Number of policies or legal instruments addressing child marriage drafted, proposed or adopted at national and subnational level with Global Programme support (Cumulative)	**99**	**94**	**95%**
Indicator 3121: Number of subnational plans with evidence-informed interventions to address child marriage	**137**	**143**	**104%**
Indicator 3211: Number of generated evidence and knowledge that focus on what works to end child marriage (Cumulative)	**73**	**63**	**86%**
Indicator 3212: Number of generated evidence and knowledge that apply a gender analysis (Cumulative)	**74**	**62**	**84%**
Indicator 3221: Number of South-to-South cooperation (conferences, expert visits, peer consultations, study tours, communities of practice) supported	**13**	**28**	**208%**

Key lessons

Reaching the most marginalized adolescent girls through empowerment programmes: The Global Programme continued its efforts to empower the most marginalized adolescent girls through lifeskills, comprehensive sexuality education and asset-building programmes. This intensive support ensures that girls gain the skills, knowledge and assets needed to achieve bodily autonomy, decision-making power and safe transitions to adulthood.

Creative solutions to strengthen intersectoral linkages: The effectiveness of interventions to end child marriage can be greatly strengthened through linkages between different sectors and actors. Several countries developed new ways to strengthen such linkages. For example, the Ghana

programme strengthened referral pathways between health and education sectors through improved interoperability between education, health and protection information management systems.

Bridging the development-humanitarian divide: The continuing deterioration of the humanitarian situation in several Global Programme countries brought home the urgent need to develop practical solutions to the lack of integration and coordination between humanitarian and development approaches in relation to gender-based violence, menstrual health and child protection, and in the prevention of child marriage. Existing strategies need to be adapted and hybrid approaches must be developed to ensure the continuity of child marriage prevention activities among internally displaced communities.

More data and evidence to better understand the specific regional and local drivers and factors that contribute to child marriage: Contextualized, evidence-driven and granular approaches are needed to develop interventions that are adapted to specific contexts, regions and social groups to reach the most marginalized girls.

The centrality of social protection: Several countries involved in the Global Programme are shifting from a collection of separate cash transfer projects to a unified national social safety net that is part of an integrated social protection system, with increased coverage and a complex set of complementary services. Countries need adequate expertise and human resources to manage this transition and to develop strong 'cash plus' components to ensure that the social protection programmes contribute to a reduction in child marriage.

Development of a costed subnational action plan does not automatically translate into budgetary allocations and implementation: Sustained, evidence-informed advocacy and monitoring are required at district level to translate plans into concrete actions for marginalized adolescent girls. The programme needs to prioritize dedicated support and capacity-building on gender-transformative approaches.

Next steps and key programme focus

Institutionalizing gender-transformative programming: The Ghana programme will conduct a gender analysis of social and behaviour change communication interventions aimed at ending child marriage. The analysis will receive extended technical support from the STAR Initiative to ensure the quality and use of the research.

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Engaging men and boys and promoting positive masculinities: UNFPA and UNICEF in Ghana will develop a new set of documents for the promotion of positive masculinities for boys through the Promoting Adolescent Safe Spaces (PASS) programme. The package of materials will be based on the latest available evidence on engaging men and boys and will be rolled out to expand safe spaces for the most marginalized boys. The programme in Niger will conduct a study on positive masculinities in collaboration with the social and behaviour change section within UNICEF. The India programme will work with local groups and associations such as self-help groups, women's and farmers' cooperatives and faith-based organizations, to engage them as community-based counsellors and positive influencers for men and boys.

Expanding adolescent girls' empowerment: The Ethiopia programme will scale up lifeskills training for adolescent girls in remote areas through phone-based interactive voice response. In addition, the programme will develop a database of girls attending lifeskills education (in school and in the community), track their completion rate and assess the quality of the training. The Alternative Learning Programme (ALP) in Bangladesh will develop three different interventions for the most marginalized adolescent girls and young women: informal apprenticeships, entrepreneurship development, and centre-based skills training. This model will achieve full scalability in 2023.

Preventing sexual and gender-based violence: Ethiopia's education sector will finalize the revision of the code of conduct (CoC) for the prevention of and response to school-related gender-based violence (SRGBV). The CoC will be accompanied by training curricula for parents, community influencers, local administrations, school leadership and teachers. The Zambia programme will support schools to set up child safeguarding measures, including guidelines and orientation sessions for school principals, teachers and students. The programme in Bangladesh will build on the national dissemination of the sexual harassment prevention guidelines for secondary schools. The programme will create peer leader

groups in 210 secondary schools and orient them on sexual harassment. In Yemen, the programme will continue to build the capacities of workers addressing gender-based violence (GBV) in targeted districts and governorates to enable them to respond to the immediate needs of women and girls. The programme will further enhance legal aid for GBV survivors, the toll-free national hotline, complaint and feedback mechanisms, and ongoing community-level dialogues in targeted communities.

Continuing social and behaviour change (SBC) programming: In Mozambique, UNICEF will strengthen partnerships with matronas (traditional birth attendants) and traditional leaders at the community level to address harmful initiation rites. In Uganda, the programme will deepen the engagement with religious and cultural leaders as allies and promoters of gender equality and to address the risk factors of child marriage and other harmful practices.

Leaving no one behind: The India programme will adopt a contextualized and intersectional approach (addressing people that are non-binary, have a disability, and of different castes) to reach the most vulnerable adolescent girls and to enable them to continue their schooling and access social protection and other social services. Targeted interventions for married adolescent girls will be strengthened and scaled up. The programme will also support the Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities department to roll out a lifeskills education curriculum for students at more than 150 government-supported special schools in Odisha.

Ensuring adaptive, humanitarian programming: In Burkina Faso, the programme will strengthen the participation of youth-led and women-led organizations in humanitarian consultation frameworks. UNFPA in India will work with the Odisha State Disaster Management Authority and engage with youth collectives to support gender-responsive disaster risk reduction, including the prevention of GBV and child marriage. Further, the programme in Yemen will continue to implement interventions to support marginalized adolescent girls in a protracted humanitarian crisis.

RECENT TRENDS IN CHILD MARRIAGE

1.1 Effects of the polycrisis on adolescent girls and child marriage

In 2022, the world was rocked by a series of shocks and stresses: the third year of the most severe pandemic in a century; a major war in Europe engaging nuclear powers; the worst global energy crisis since the 1970s; the fastest global inflation this century; spiralling food insecurity; a record global debt burden with five sovereign defaults; and increasingly visible effects of climate change, including devastating floods in Pakistan and droughts in East Africa. The phenomenon has been described as a polycrisis: the presence of multiple near-simultaneous shocks, with strong interdependencies among them, taking place in an ever-more integrated world. The Russian invasion of Ukraine sparked a sharp spike in food and energy prices that roiled global markets and led to rising global hunger. Food and energy have also been the leading components of global inflation, triggering an aggressive rise in interest rates by the world's major central banks. Rising interest rates have driven up the value of the dollar against other currencies, hampering lower income countries' access to external financing and raising the burden of existing debts.[2]

> ↘ **BOX 1**
> **EIGHT TRENDS AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN IN THE COMING YEAR:**[3]
>
> 1. **The pandemic's harms will continue to be counted** — but reforms of health architecture and medical breakthroughs offer hope for children.
>
> 2. **Efforts to tame inflation will have unintended negative effects on child poverty and well-being** — requiring policy measures that protect investments for vulnerable families and children.
>
> 3. **Multiple factors will contribute to continued food and nutrition insecurity** — with increasing calls for greater climate adaptation and food systems reform to prevent food poverty in children.
>
> 4. **The worsening energy crisis may cause immediate harm to children** — but the focus on energy sustainability provides hope for a greener future.
>
> 5. **Unmet needs and underinvestment in children warrant reforms of financial flows to developing countries** — while renewed attention on climate finance and debt relief holds promise.
>
> 6. **Threats to democratic rights such as freedom of expression are expected to continue** — but social movements, including those led by young people and women, are likely to push back.
>
> 7. **Increasing factionalism will put further stress on multilateralism** — but efforts to address children's and young people's concerns may offer opportunities to find common ground.
>
> 8. **The Internet will continue to fragment and become less global, resulting in further disparities for children** — prompting a greater push for openness, fairness and inclusion.

The polycrisis has radically changed the context in which the Global Programme operates. The interplay of conflicts, climate shocks, humanitarian emergencies, and the persisting effects of COVID-19 are putting at risk the gains made in eliminating child marriage. The COVID-19 pandemic cut the estimated number of averted cases of child marriage since 2020 by one quarter; when conflict-related deaths increase tenfold, child marriage increases by 7 per cent; and a 10 per cent change in rainfall due to climate change is associated with a 1 per cent increase in the prevalence of child marriage.[4]

Globally, the context for the work of the Global Programme keeps getting more difficult. Today's multi-faceted, complex crises create difficult conditions for girls to gain access to basic services and protection concerns are high. However, there is renewed ambition towards 2030 and the Global Programme must remain focused on the most vulnerable girls and families in this context. This requires applying the principle of leaving no one behind to prioritize the poorest, out of school, pregnant, and already married girls and teenage

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2   UNICEF, *Prospects for Children in the Polycrisis. A 2023 global outlook*, 2023a, www.unicef.org/globalinsight/reports/prospects-children-polycrisis-2023-global-outlook
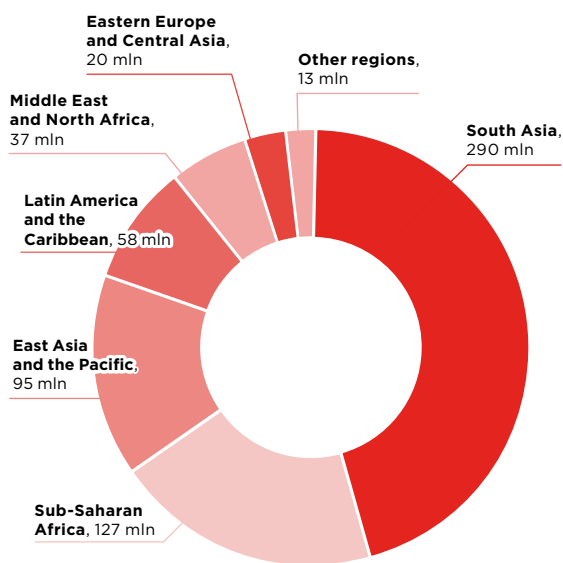
3   Ibid.

4   UNICEF, *Is an End to Child Marriage Within Reach? Latest trends and future prospects: May 2023 update*, 2023b, https://data.unicef.org/resources/is-an-end-to-child-marriage-within-reach/

mothers, as well as expanding opportunities for those at risk of child marriage, keeping adolescent girls in school, making sure they have economic opportunities, and ensuring girls experience healthier, safer, and more empowered life transitions.

1.2 Recent trends in child marriage

Worldwide, 640 million girls and women alive today were married in childhood. South Asia accounts for nearly half of the global total number of child brides (45 per cent), followed by sub-Saharan Africa (20 per cent), East Asia and the Pacific (15 per cent) and Latin America and the Caribbean (9 per cent) *(see Figure 1)*.

FIGURE 1: *Global distribution of the number of girls and women first married or in union before age 18, by region[5]*

Eastern Europe and Central Asia, 20 mln

Other regions, 13 mln

Middle East and North Africa, 37 mln

South Asia, 290 mln

Latin America and the Caribbean, 58 mln

East Asia and the Pacific, 95 mln

Sub-Saharan Africa, 127 mln

Note: Figures do not add up to the total due to rounding.

The burden (number) of child marriage is concentrated in five countries (not including China, due to its low prevalence levels): India, Brazil, Nigeria, Bangladesh and Ethiopia. India alone accounts for one third of the world's child brides. This share is equal to the next 10 countries combined, with the remaining, over 190 countries, accounting for the final third *(see Figure 2)*.

FIGURE 2: *Number of girls and women first married or in union before age 18, by country[6]*
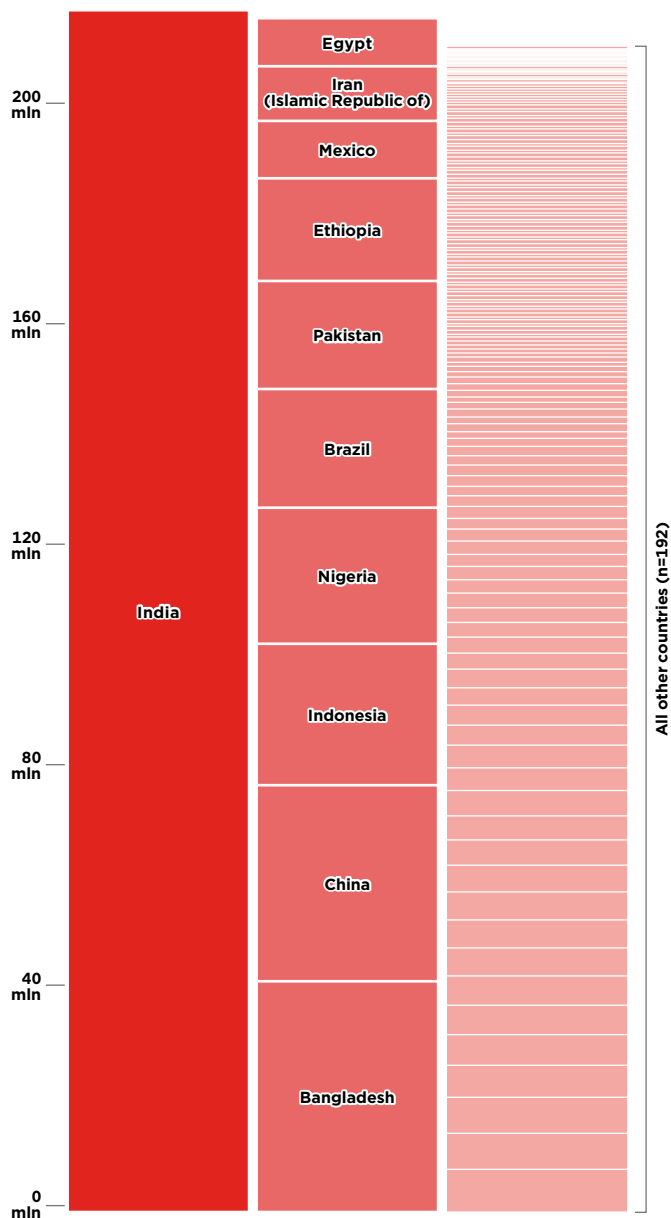
The Global Programme targets 12 countries which are home to almost half of the world's child brides (300 million), including India, Bangladesh and Ethiopia which are among the top 11 highest burden countries globally *(see Figure 3)*. The target countries of the Global Programme include countries with a high burden of child brides, those with a high prevalence of child marriage, and those with a combination of the two.

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5   Ibid.

6   Ibid.

FIGURE 3: *Global distribution of the number of girls and women of all ages who were first married or in union before age 18[7]*
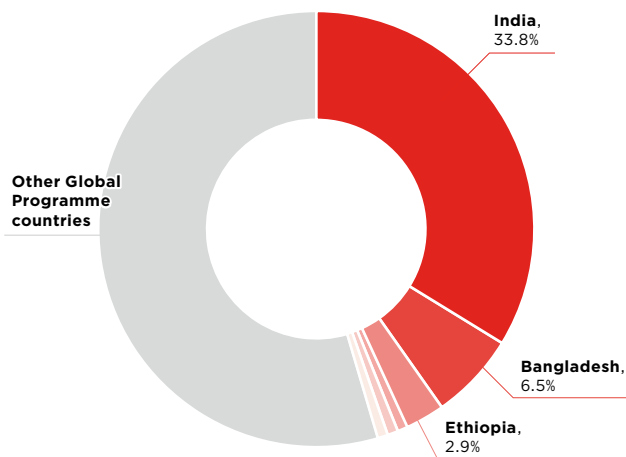
Child marriage is more common in rural areas, among poorer families, and among girls with the least education. Some geographic areas, including the Sahel, are home to especially high levels of child marriage that extend beyond national boundaries. In fragile countries[8], the percentage of women entering child marriage is nearly twice as high as the world average *(see Figure 4)*.

FIGURE 4: *Percentage of women aged 20 to 24 years who were first married or in union before age 18, worldwide and in countries with high levels of institutional and social fragility[9]*
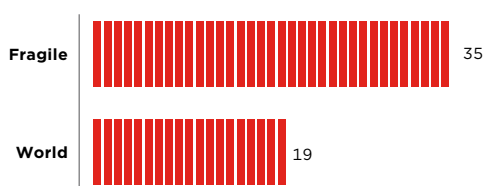
The global prevalence of child marriage has dropped from 23 per cent to 19 per cent in the last 10 years. One in five girls are still married in childhood and this number has been declining very slowly over time. While child marriage has declined steadily in South Asia, progress has been much slower in many other parts of the world *(see Figure 5)*. However, these regional clusters hide difference between countries where child marriage has declined and those where child marriage rates have stagnated.

The overall global decline in child marriage has not benefited all girls equally. Girls from the richest households represent three times as many averted cases of child marriage as girls from the poorest households. In sub-Saharan Africa the gap between the richest and the poorest quintiles has increased — with child marriage rates among the richest declining, while they are increasing among the poorest quintile *(see Figure 6)*. Phase III of the Global Programme will place greater emphasis on strategies that aim to reduce poverty.

In countries that achieved the greatest success in reducing child marriage, the trend has often been accompanied by improvements in economic development and poverty reduction; access to employment, particularly employment opportunities for women; and better educational attainment for girls. Lessons from high-achieving countries demonstrate that progress on multiple fronts is necessary to give girls viable alternatives to marriage. Education without employment opportunities can lead to a more educated cohort of girls who still marry in childhood. In the past, a large proportion of child brides had no education. Now, the prevalence rate has declined, but a larger share of girl brides have secondary education which is partly due to the lack of job opportunities, and partly due to low rates of female labour-market participation in some countries and regions (e.g., in India and the Middle East, etc.).[10]

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7   UNICEF global database, 2023.

8   According to the Revised Classification of Fragility and Conflict Situations for World Bank Group Engagement, fragile countries are defined as those with one or more of the following: (a) the weakest institutional and policy environment (as measured using a set of 16 criteria grouped into four clusters: economic management, structural policies, policies for social inclusion and equity, and public sector management and institutions), (b) the presence of a UN peacekeeping operation, since this reflects a decision by the international community that a significant investment is needed to maintain peace and stability, or (c) flight across borders of 2,000 or more per 100,000 population, who are internationally regarded as refugees in need of international protection, as this signals a major political or security crisis.

9   UNICEF, *Towards ending child marriage: Global trends and profiles of progress*, 2021, https://data.unicef.org/resources/towards-ending-child-marriage/

10   In India, for example, growing household wealth leads to a decline in women working outside of the home. In other words, middle class households are able to afford keeping women out of the workforce, while poorer households do not have that luxury.

FIGURE 5: *Percentage of women aged 20 to 24 years who were first married or in union before age 18, by region[11]*
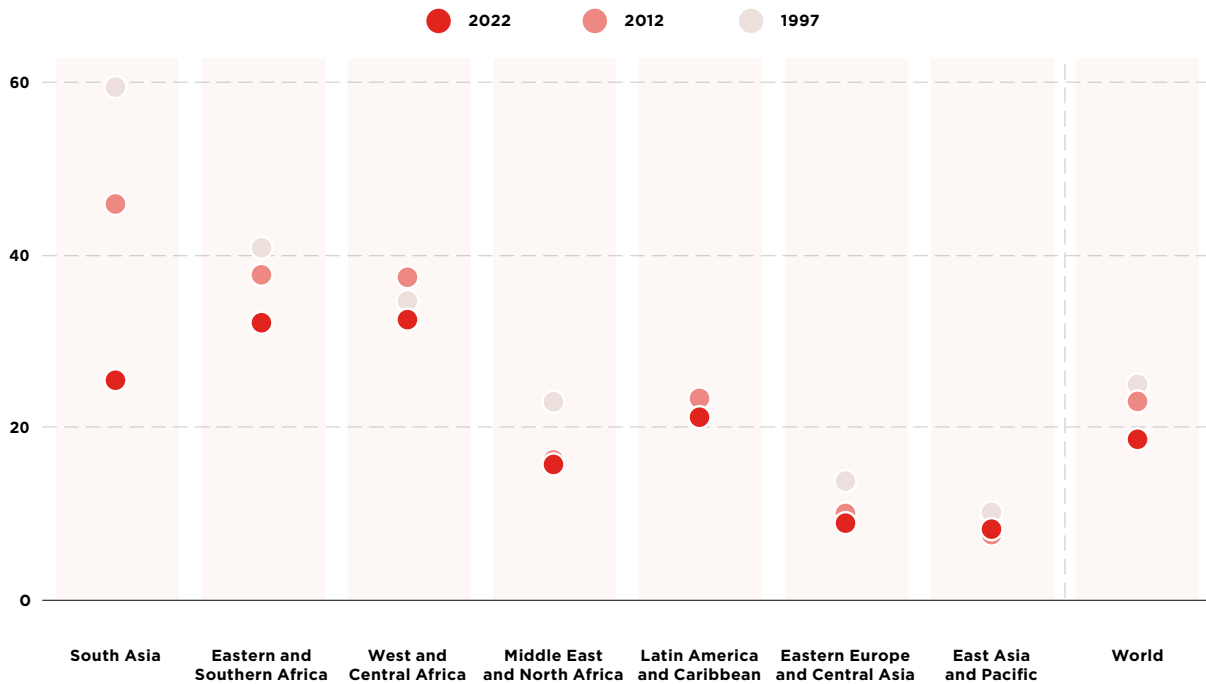
FIGURE 6: *Percentage of women aged 20 to 24 years who were first married or in union before age 18, by region and by wealth quintile[12]*
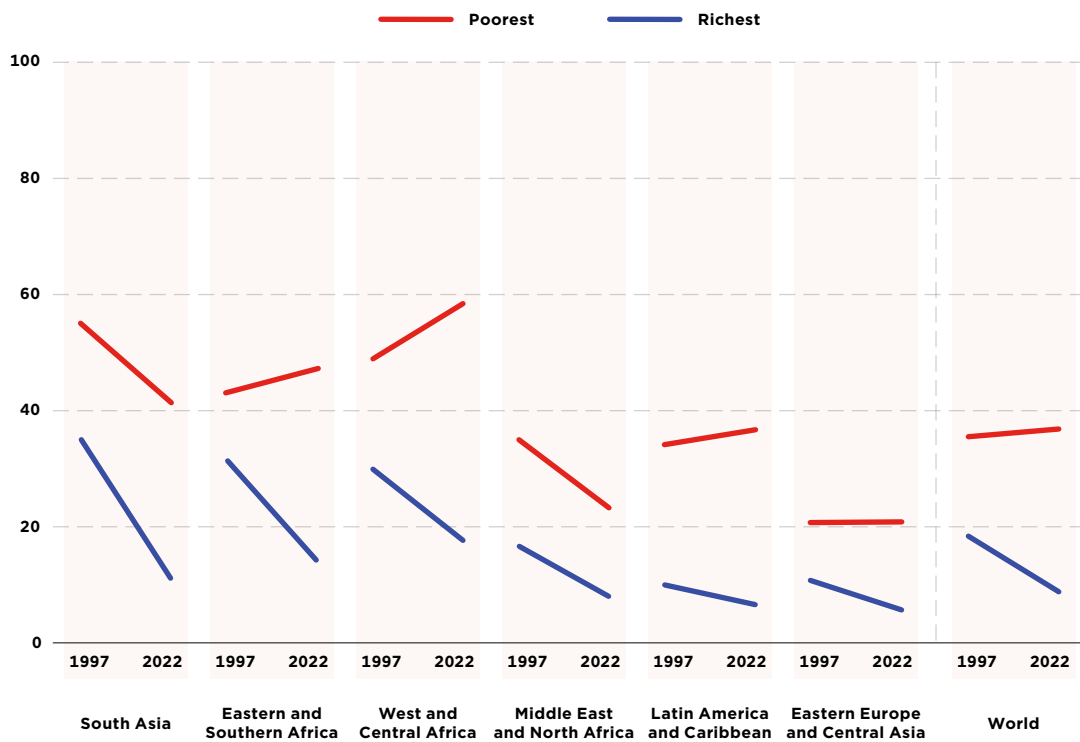
11   UNICEF, 2023b.

12   UNICEF, 2023b.

TABLE 2: *Different examples of progress[13]*

Large declines	Nearing elimination	Equitable progress
▪ Countries that began with a high prevalence of child marriage ▪ Generally, those are not on track to eliminate the practice by 2030 ▪ Large declines in prevalence in some cases also correspond to large numbers of child marriages averted	▪ Countries closer to the target of eliminating child marriage by 2030 ▪ Smaller absolute declines, both in prevalence and number ▪ Reaching elimination entails reaching the poorest	▪ Unlike the global trend, these countries show progress among the poorest that is at least as strong as progress among the richest — gaps are either staying the same, or shrinking
Examples: Bangladesh, Ethiopia, India and Indonesia	*Examples: Armenia, Maldives, Rwanda and Tunisia*	*Example: Eswatini*

Progress is possible in many different contexts — from countries with historically high levels of child marriage which can see large-scale reductions, to those with lower prevalence nearing elimination of the practice. However, many countries with large declines have not yet reached the poorest and equitable progress is rare.

Overall global progress would need to be 20 times faster to eliminate child marriage by 2030 *(see Figure 7)*. At the current pace, ending child marriage would not be achieved for another 300 years,

and 9 million girls would still be marrying in childhood in the year 2030. For the regional distribution of this harmful practice, the share of the child marriage burden in sub-Saharan Africa will grow as child marriage rates decline faster in other regions of the world and demographic growth is increasingly concentrated in sub-Saharan Africa, while the rest of the world continues to age *(see Figure 8)*.

FIGURE 7: *Observed and projected percentage of women aged 20 to 24 years who were first married or in union before age 18[14]*
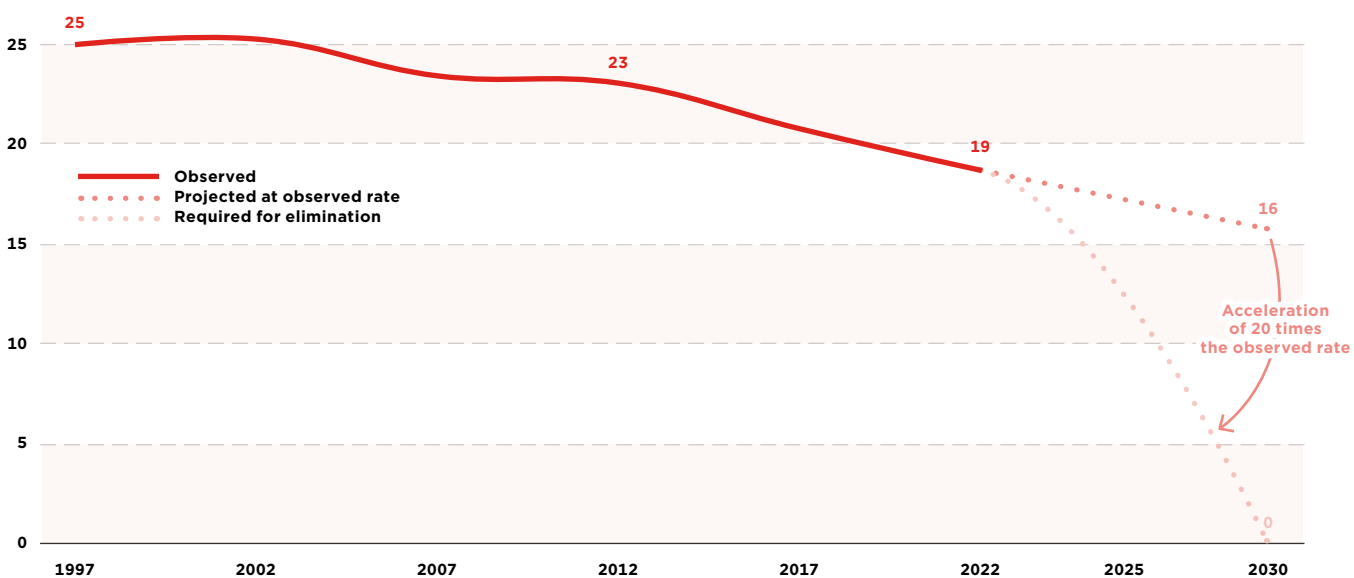
13   UNICEF, *Towards ending child marriage: Global trends and profiles of progress*, 2021.

14   UNICEF, 2023b.

Data show that we are nowhere near ending child marriage, and additional challenges lie ahead. Ongoing and overlapping crises create risky conditions for girls through interrupted education and income shocks caused by public health crises, protracted conflicts and natural disasters, or several of these at once. It is estimated that there will be 10 million additional child brides over the course of this decade due to the COVID-19 pandemic *(see Figure 8)* and, as noted above, data show how both conflicts and climate change increase the risk of child marriage.

FIGURE 8: *Projected number of girls under age 18 married per year, by region[15]*
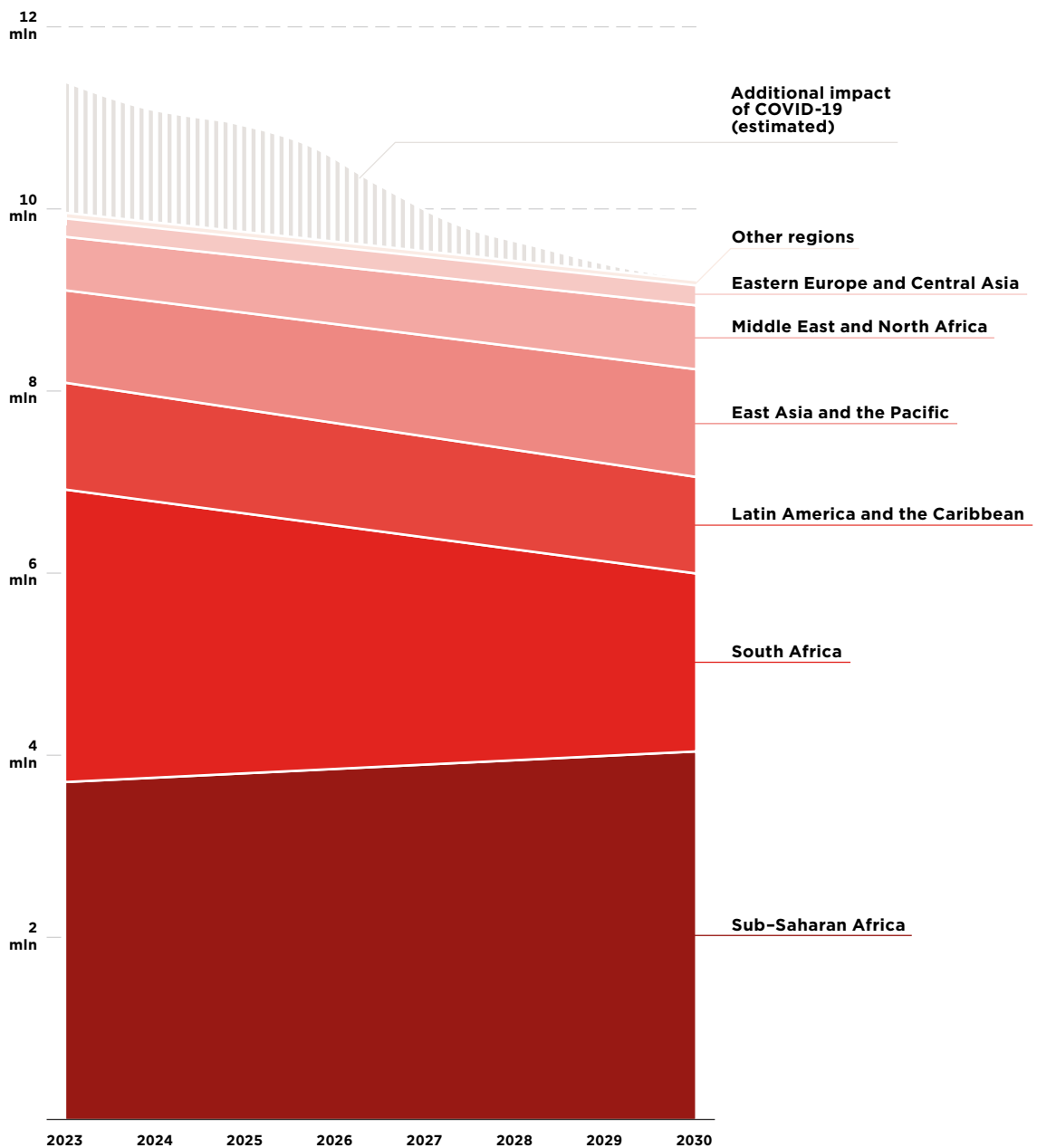
1.3 Motherhood in childhood

The recent UNFPA report on Motherhood in Childhood provides important data that complement the child marriage statistics.[16] The report examines trends in adolescent childbearing, focusing on the most vulnerable girls, such as child mothers, girls with repeat adolescent childbearing, and births that occur in dangerously quick succession. In using these new measures, the report uncovers the untold story of more than 50 years of adolescent childbearing in the world's low- and middle-income countries.

Each year, adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 years in low- and middle-income countries have an estimated 21 million pregnancies, nearly half of which — 10 million — are unintended. More than a quarter of those 21 million — an estimated 5.7 million — end in abortion, the majority of which occur in unsafe conditions.

Across the globe, there are encouraging signs of declining levels of motherhood in childhood (17 years and younger) and in adolescence (19 years and younger). Nevertheless, in many ways, the pace of decline has been alarmingly slow — often declining by only a few percentage points per decade — and has not kept pace with declines in total fertility.

> ↘ **BOX 2**
> **KEY FINDINGS ON MOTHERHOOD IN CHILDHOOD**
>
> **Timing**
>
> - Nearly one third of all women in low- and middle-income countries begin childbearing in adolescence (i.e., at age 19 years or younger).
>
> - Nearly half of first births among adolescents are of child mothers aged 17 years and younger, and 6 per cent are of child mothers aged 14 years and younger.
>
> **Quantity**
>
> - Additional childbearing in adolescence is common for child mothers. A girl with a first birth at the age of 14 years or younger has on average 2.2 births before she is 20 years of age. A girl with a first birth between the ages of 15 and 17 years has on average 1.5 births before she is 20.
>
> - Among girls with a first birth at 14 years of age or younger, nearly three quarters also have a second birth in adolescence, and 40 per cent of those with two births progress to a third birth before exiting adolescence.
>
> - Nearly half of girls with a first birth between the ages of 15 and 17 years have a second birth in adolescence, and 11 per cent of those with two births have a third birth in adolescence.
>
> - In line with child mothers' high rates of repeat births in adolescence, 50 per cent of all adolescent births are to girls who were 17 years or younger at the time of their first birth, while 8 per cent of all adolescent births are to girls who were 14 years or younger at the time of their first birth.
>
> **Spacing**
>
> - Once an adolescent girl becomes a mother, she has a one in five chance of experiencing another adolescent birth within two years. Such short birth intervals come with considerable health risks.
>
> - More than half of all repeat births in adolescence occur within 23 months of a previous birth.
>
> **Lifetime fertility**
>
> - Total fertility across the globe has fallen dramatically, but women who began childbearing in adolescence have had an average of 4.6 births by the time they are 40 years of age, while their peers who started childbearing after adolescence have had 3.4 births.
>
> - Adolescent births account for 16 per cent of all births.

This new data reveal that the issue is not just about whether a girl gives birth in adolescence, but if, when and how many births she experiences. Adolescent childbearing comprises three fundamental and interconnected fertility processes: (i) the timing of a first adolescent birth, (ii) the spacing between adolescent births, and (iii) the quantity or total number of births of each adolescent mother.

This multifaceted process is most immediately shaped by factors such as the age of menarche and sexual debut, the frequency of sexual activity, the patterns of marriage and union formation, and the use and effectiveness of contraception. The majority of first

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16 UNFPA, *Motherhood in Childhood: The Untold Story*, 2022, www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/MotherhoodInChildhood_report.pdf

births to girls aged 17 years and younger, in 54 developing countries with data, occur within marriage or cohabiting unions. Other determinants — such as girls' education — are also critical to the process and include gendered social, economic, cognitive and psychological factors at the individual, peer, family and community levels. Additionally, broader norms, values, inequalities, events, economic forces, and national laws, policies and priorities shape the adolescent fertility landscape.

With a fuller understanding of the timing, spacing and quantity of the adolescent childbearing process, policy and programming can better frame and target their approaches. Promising interventions include components of asset building for adolescent girls, support for families and parents, comprehensive sexuality education, health service provision, and community and policy engagement. More needs to be done to design, implement and evaluate programmes that target the youngest girls and those at risk of rapid and repeat adolescent births.

1.4 Recent evidence on child marriage interventions

The evidence base on child marriage has grown substantially over the past decade, and a number of systematic reviews have informed understandings of what works to prevent the practice and improve outcomes for girls.[17] This section synthesizes these reviews and additional high-quality evaluations to provide greater clarity on the effectiveness of specific interventions to prevent child marriage.

State of the evidence on child marriage

A systematic assessment of the global evidence on child marriage by Siddiqi and Greene[18] across two decades revealed that the issue of child

marriage has received more attention in recent years and our understandings of the practice have advanced significantly, particularly in the following research areas:

- **Prevalence and trends in child marriage**, at global, regional and national levels;

- **Determinants and correlates of child marriage**, including girls' education, family socioeconomic status, economic opportunities, urban/rural residence, age and gender-based power structures, fear/control/exploitation of adolescent sexuality, and insecurity; and

- **Consequences of child marriage**, including as they relate to sexual and reproductive health such as adolescent pregnancy and maternal morbidity, violence, social isolation, mental health, and economic costs.[19]

Still, there are selected areas where increased research attention is needed to inform action to end child marriage. These include:

- **More rigorous and long-term research on the effectiveness of child marriage interventions** through impact evaluations to expand the evidence base on what works;

- **Research on the measurement of social norm change** related to child marriage with the aim of providing greater conceptual clarity, consistent implementation across programming, and more complete and rigorous measurement of norms change work;

- **Implementation research** to generate lessons on delivering quality, equitable and cost-effective interventions at scale, such as through multisectoral programmes;

- **An intentional focus on neglected contexts facing a large burden of child marriage prevalence and limited evidence.** Much of the existing evidence is concentrated in particular countries in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, yet many countries with

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17 See for example: Malhotra, A. & Elnakib, S., '20 Years of the Evidence Base on What Works to Prevent Child Marriage: A Systematic Review', *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 68(5), 2021, pp. 847–862; Mathers, N., *How cash transfers contribute to ending child marriage: review and synthesis of the evidence* Girls Not Brides, 2021, www.researchgate.net/publication/359972704_How_Cash_Transfers_Can_Contribute_to_Ending_Child_Marriage_Review_and_synthesis_of_the_evidence; Peterman, A. & Fiala, N., *Rapid review and stocktaking of child marriage interventions research: Impact Feasibility Assessment for the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage*, 2022; Siddiqi, M. & Greene, M., 'Mapping the Field of Child Marriage: Evidence, Gaps, and Future Directions From a Large-Scale Systematic Scoping Review, 2000–2019', *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 70(3), 2022, pp. 9–16; The Centre for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA), *Adolescent Girls in India Choose a Better Future: An Impact Assessment*, 2001, http://genderlinks.org.za/wp-content/uploads/imported/articles/attachments/13177_file_blp_report.pdf
Although there is a valuable body of learning from programme documentation and evaluations globally, the focus of this chapter is on findings from 'reviews of reviews', i.e. evidence syntheses of studies that have been formally assessed as meeting particular research standards for quality.

18 Siddiqi & Greene, 2022.

19 Siddiqi & Greene, 2022; UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage, *Global Child Marriage Research Strategy*, 2021a, www.unicef.org/media/104126/file/Child-marriage-research-strategy-2021.pdf

high child marriage prevalence and large burdens of married girls have received very little research attention.[20] Priority should be placed on data and evidence from these settings, as well as from fragile contexts and humanitarian settings, including those experiencing climate change induced events such as droughts;[21]

- **Greater attention to those adolescent girls that are most at risk of child marriage or whose experiences are little understood**, such as girls with disabilities, girls who are divorced, married, separated, or widowed, adolescent mothers and younger adolescent girls;

- **Research on the effectiveness of efforts to reduce adolescent pregnancy on rates of child marriage**, particularly in contexts where premarital sexual debut is common, and pregnancy is a known driver of marriage for girls; and

- **Understanding the programmatic synergies across services directed towards adolescent girls**, such as sexual and reproductive health rights and information, education, GBV prevention and response, protection, economic security and other areas.

While there is a need to further strengthen and enrich the evidence base on interventions to prevent and respond to child marriage, the growing evidence base has confirmed that programmatic efforts can indeed delay marriage and improve outcomes for adolescent girls.

Types of interventions to address child marriage and improve outcomes for adolescent girls

A variety of approaches to preventing child marriage and addressing the needs of married adolescent girls have been employed over the past few decades. Table 3 classifies child marriage interventions based on the size and quality of the evidence base and documented impact. Interventions are classified into seven broad categories, reflecting common approaches used to address child marriage, while recognizing that some approaches may span more than one category.

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20   Siddiqi & Greene, 2022, point out, for example, that Central African Republic has the second highest prevalence of marriage globally (at 68%) but it ranks 46th in the volume of publications on the subject. Likewise, Chad ranks 3rd in global prevalence (at 67%) but 28th in publication volume; South Sudan ranks 8th (at 52%), and 64th in the number of publications.

21   UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage, 2021a.

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TABLE 3: *Intervention effectiveness for the prevention of child marriage*

Classification	Definition[22]	Intervention area	Systematic reviews informing classification decisions
Positive and consistent findings	At least two medium to high-quality impact evaluations, using randomized control trials and/or quasi-experimental designs have found statistically significant reductions in child marriage and/or mediating drivers. An intervention is deemed effective by high-quality meta-analyses and systematic reviews of findings from evaluations of multiple interventions.	1. **Income and economic strengthening** ▪ Cash transfers ▪ Vocational training ▪ Favourable job markets	Malhotra & Elnakib (2021); Mathers (2021)
		2. **Education and lifeskills delivered through schools and/or school-adjacent programmes** ▪ Cash and in-kind transfers for schooling ▪ Targeted and tailored life skills	Malhotra & Elnakib (2021); Mathers (2021)
		3. **Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)** ▪ Comprehensive sexuality education[23] ▪ Adolescent-responsive SRH services	Santhya & Jejeebhoy (2015); Bergstrom & Ozler (2021); Haberland & Rogow (2015)
Promising findings, and requires further rigorous evaluation	Cash transfers	4. **Gender and/or social norms change** ▪ Range of efforts (see below); programme components not easily disaggregated	Mehra et al. (2018)
	Vocational training	5. **Systems strengthening and multisectoral and multilevel approaches** ▪ Training to build the capacity of workforce across sectors	Rudgard et al. (2022)
Mixed findings, and requires further rigorous evaluation	Favourable job markets	6. **Girl-focused interventions** ▪ Safe spaces[24] to delay marriage and prevent violence against women and girls	Stark (2021) Malhotra & Elnakib (2021)
		7. **Laws and policies** ▪ Minimum age of marriage laws	Stark (2021) Malhotra & Elnakib (2021)

22 Classification determinations are adapted from Kerr-Wilson, A. et al., 'A rigorous global evidence review of interventions to prevent violence against women and girls', *What Works to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls Global Programme*, 2020: ii, iii, www.what-works.co.za/documents/publications/374-evidence-reviewfweb/file.

23 The example of Guatemala shows how a girl-centred programme working with CSE standards can reduce child marriage, all the studies included went through 6 RCTs, 1 study included RCT as sub-study and quasi-experimental studies. See Population Council Knowledge Commons, 'Delivering impact for adolescent girls: Emerging findings from Population Council research', 2018, https://knowledgecommons.popcouncil.org/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1459&context=departments_sbsr-pgy

24 Safe spaces programming often includes a combination of exposure to information, lifeskills, social networks, play, and in select cases, access to services. Although safe spaces are a common approach to support girls' empowerment, the evidence highlights that to address child marriage and/or violence against women and girls, more specifically, this intervention is not consistently effective when provided as a stand-alone approach. For example, an impact evaluation of the Adolescent Girls' Empowerment Program in Zambia found that the efforts that only target girls themselves are insufficient to improve education and fertility outcomes in the long term among those who are very vulnerable (Austrian, K. et al., 'The impact of the Adolescent Girls Empowerment Program (AGEP) on short and long term social, economic, education and fertility outcomes: a cluster randomized controlled trial in Zambia', *BMC Public Health*, 20(1), 2020, p. 349. Doi: 10.1186/s12889-020-08468-0. PMID: 32183783; PMCID: PMC7079524). That said, safe space programming can serve as an important component of a multi-pronged approach to addressing child marriage and improving outcomes for girls. Ensuring evidence-based design and implementation guidelines are applied to all intervention approaches described in this table, including safe spaces programming, is essential to ensure programmes are set up for success.

Approaches that have shown positive and consistent results in preventing child marriage and improving outcomes for girls fall into three main intervention areas: income and economic strengthening; education; and sexual and reproductive health and rights.

1 **INCOME AND ECONOMIC STRENGTHENING INTERVENTIONS** are those that are designed to alleviate poverty and make economic growth more inclusive, such as cash transfers, economic incentives or other forms of social assistance, and vocational training and skills development programmes. A global systematic review of interventions to prevent child marriage identified economic approaches as showing the most definitive pattern of success in preventing the practice.[25]

- **Cash transfers:** A review of 21 studies on the impact of cash transfers on child marriage found these programmes can alleviate several of the economic and social drivers of child marriage through distinctive pathways, such as improved household economic security and increased access to education. When tailored to context and delivered with additional services such as education, health or livelihood interventions — called 'cash plus' — cash transfers, such as through social protection programmes, can also contribute to girls' health and well-being, to their sense of agency, and to giving them a greater say in the decisions that affect them.[26] There is a corresponding, strong body of evidence that cash transfers can also decrease violence against women and girls; delay adolescent girls' sexual debut; and delay adolescent pregnancy.[27,28]

> **BOX 3**
>
> **IMPLEMENTATION CONSIDERATIONS FOR CASH TRANSFER PROGRAMMES**[29]
>
> - **Targeting**: Adopt targeting and enrolment strategies that ensure that families with the most at-risk girls have access to cash transfers and other forms of social assistance.
>
> - **Conditionality**: Where conditions are used, cash transfers conditional on girls' schooling need to be broad-based to include non-formal and vocational education, and should be non-punitive (soft conditionality) particularly for the poorest households who are most likely to struggle to meet conditions.
>
> - **Size and duration of transfer**: Cash transfers need to be sufficient to cover increasing living costs over a long enough period to prevent families from resorting to negative coping mechanisms due to economic insecurity. Households that receive transfers for longer periods such as through standing social protection or other sector programmes such as education and health have longer-term positive outcomes, such as women choosing to withdraw from hazardous jobs to prioritize childcare.
>
> - **'Plus'**: Consider adding complementary interventions and/or access to services ('plus' components) to mitigate related drivers of child marriage, including SRH, access to health services, skills training, case management, community engagement on social and gender norms, etc. Mozambique's novel 'cash and care' cash plus programme demonstrated that in a country where approximately 48 per cent of young women are married before 18, targeting households below the poverty line with cash, case management, and caregiver training may benefit both already married girls and those at risk; 24 per cent of recipients were young married mothers.[30] However, further research is needed on which plus components are most impactful for adolescent girls, how, and why.

25   Malhotra& Elnakib2021.

26   Mathers, 2021.

27   Kerr-Wilson et al., 2020; Handa, S., Halpern, C., Pettifor, A. & Thirumurthy, H., 'The Government of Kenya's Cash Transfer Program Reduces the Risk of Sexual Debut among Young People Age 15–25', PLoS One, 9(1), 2014; Hindin, M., Kalamar, A., Thompson, T. & Upadhyay, U., 'Interventions to prevent unintended and repeat pregnancy among young people in low and middle income countries: A systematic review of the published and gray literature', *Journal of Adolescent Health, 59*(3), 2016, pp. S8-S15; Gavrilovic et al., *Child Marriage and Ethiopia's Productive Safety Net Program: Analysis of protective pathways in the Amhara region*, 2020, www.unicef.org/ethiopia/media/6761/file/Final%20Report%20.pdf

28   Examples of programmes that have decreased the risk of child marriage include: Zomba Pilot Cash Transfer (Malawi — described further below); Productive Safety Net Program (Ethiopia); Adolescent Girls Initiative (Kenya); Female Secondary School Stipend (FSSP) (Bangladesh); and Kanyashree Prakalpa (India).

29   These points are derived from Mathers, 2021.

30   UNICEF, *24-Month Impact Evaluation of the Child Grant 0-2 Component in the Nampula Province in Mozambique*, 2022a, www.unicef.org/mozambique/media/4821/file/24-Month%20Impact%20Evaluation%20of%20the%20Child%20Grant%200-2%20Component%20in%20the%20Nampula%20Province%20in%20Mozambique.pdf

- **Deliver at scale and link with government systems**: Government-led cash transfers that are part of social protection systems offer the greatest potential for addressing key drivers of child marriage sustainably and at scale. This is particularly important for 'plus' components which are cross-sectoral. In Ethiopia, where 4 in 10 girls are married before 18, the national Productive Social Safety Nets Program was found to reduce child marriage through three primary pathways: relieving household economic pressure, increasing access to education and awareness on child marriage, and introducing social behaviour change communication to tackle gender and social norms.[31]

- **Monitoring and Evaluation**: Monitoring and evaluation are critical to ensuring that the programme is effective and that it is reaching its intended beneficiaries. Data should be collected on the number of girls enrolled in school, the number of girls who are married, and the impact of the programme on the economic well-being of families.

- **Favourable job markets:** Two studies on favourable job markets for women in India and Bangladesh showed very large positive effects on reducing child marriage.[32] These successes provide some indication that investment in economic opportunities for girls is important in delaying marriage, but so too may be the visible promise of economic opportunities for girls in early adulthood. Another 2001 cross-sectional comparative impact study of the Better Life Options Program,[33] which included a range of interventions involving vocational skills training and lifeskills development, found that the programme had made a significant positive impact on participants' economic empowerment, self-esteem and confidence, and autonomous decision-making, among other changes. Programme alumnae were found to have a later age at marriage, greater mobility and self-confidence, and higher levels of engagement in employment than their

peers who did not participate. The evaluation involved girls from three diverse settings, including peri-urban slums of Delhi, rural Madhya Pradesh and rural Gujarat.

- **Vocational training interventions:** Vocational training interventions are those that are designed to equip individuals with the skills and knowledge required to perform a specific job or occupation. Evidence on vocational training is promising and requires further research. Most evidence comes largely from RCTs in Bangladesh[34] and Uganda.[35] Interventions worked by simultaneously providing girls with two types of human capital: vocational skills to enable them to start small-scale income-generating activities and lifeskills to help them to make informed choices about sex, reproduction and marriage. Across these bundled interventions, there were dramatic reductions in child marriage (up to 62 per cent reduction), in adolescent pregnancy, and in the share of girls having sex unwillingly in the communities that received the programme versus those that did not (control).

2 **EDUCATION AND LIFESKILLS INTERVENTIONS** are those that are designed to increase access and/or quality and perceived value of schooling and training for girls, such as cash and in-kind transfers targeted at lifeskills and capacity development of teachers. Keeping girls in school, particularly at the secondary level, has demonstrated significant and lasting positive effects for adolescent girls including delaying marriage, delaying sexual debut and pregnancy; improved health behaviours, and an improved sense of self-efficacy and agency.

- **Supporting girls' schooling through cash and in-kind transfers has the clearest evidence of effectiveness of any evaluated programme to prevent child marriage:**[36] In one review, 8 out of 10 medium- to high-quality studies have shown positive results; in another, 19 programmes were found to have reduced the risk of child marriage

31 Gavrilovic et al., 2020.

32 Jensen, R., 'Do labour market opportunities affect young women's work and family decisions? Experimental evidence from India', *The Quarterly Journal of Economics, 127*(2), 2012, pp. 753–792; Heath, R. & Mobarak, A.M., 'Manufacturing growth and the lives of Bangladeshi women', *Journal of Development Economics, 115*, 2014, pp. 1–15.

33 The Centre for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA), 2001.

34 Heath & Mobarak, 2014.

35 Bandiera, O. et al., *Women's empowerment in action: Evidence from a randomized control trial in Africa*. World Bank, 2018, https://open-knowledge.worldbank.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/393e329a-d3c5-54a4-8d93-a21c09ed17f9/content

36 Malhotra& Elnakib, 2021.

or age at marriage among adolescent girls.[37] Evidence also shows positive effects on related outcomes, including delay in sexual debut; delay in pregnancy; and reduction in violence against women. These findings are derived from multiple contexts across South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.[38] For example, an evaluation of a cash transfer programme conditional on education in the Zomba district of Malawi was found to improve grade transitions and rates of primary school completion for girls.[39] These results led in turn to a reduced risk of marriage two years after the intervention ended. The evidence from this and several other school-focused cash transfer programmes suggests that intervention effects are durable even after leaving school.

- **Targeted life skills interventions:** These interventions have been found to be an effective pathway to delaying marriage in a wide-ranging evidence review.[40] Assessments of interventions that provided life skills, livelihoods and gender and rights training for girls have found positive effects. The effectiveness of targeted life skills training was demonstrated in a randomized controlled study of the BALIKA programme, an intervention designed to keep the most marginalized adolescent girls in school and reduce child marriage in Bangladesh. Tailored tutoring in English and math was provided to girls who were either doing poorly in school or who had dropped out. This support was complemented by skills building and life skills sessions that included, among other things, computer training and financial literacy. The study found that the programme led to significantly fewer child marriages among the intervention group, as compared to the control. It also found that girls in the intervention were significantly

more likely to have initiated the use of modern contraception before first birth, and to have developed more trusting relationships with their parents, which allowed them greater autonomy in their friendships and time use.[41]

3 SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS INTERVENTIONS comprise a range of strategies aimed at promoting safe and healthy sexual behaviour, such as comprehensive sexuality education, health and information services about prevention of pregnancy, HIV/AIDS and STI, GBV and information and access to contraceptive services.[42]

- **Comprehensive sexuality education (CSE):** CSE in and out of school is a curriculum-based process of teaching and learning about the cognitive, emotional, physical and social aspects of sexuality. It aims to equip children and young people with knowledge, skills, attitudes and values that will empower them to realize their health, well-being and dignity; understand consent, boundaries, and what constitutes a healthy and equitable relationship; 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.[43] CSE is typically delivered through a combination of classroom-based instruction, peer education, community outreach and through communications and advocacy in digital spaces. CSE can be effective in preventing child marriage through various pathways, including by delaying sexual debut; decreasing number of sexual partners; and increased use of contraception and family planning.[44] In many countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia, parents and other non-parental adults typically do not provide children with information or guidance

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37 Malhotra& Elnakib, 2021; Mathers, 2021.

38 For a detailed overview, see Mathers, 2021.

39 Baird, S., McIntosh, C. & Özler. B., 'When the money runs out: Do cash transfers have sustained effects on human capital accumulation?', *Journal of Development Economics, 140*, 2019, pp. 169–185.

40 Malhotra & Elnakib, 2021

41 Ainul, S. et al., *Keeping girls in schools to reduce child marriage in rural Bangladesh: Endline assessment*, 2022, Dhaka: Population Council; Malhotra& Elnakib, 2021.

42 UNFPA, *Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights: An Essential Element of Universal Health Coverage*, 2019, www.unfpa.org/featured-publication/sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-rights-essential-element-universal-health

43 UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women & WHO, *International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education*, 2018, www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/ITGSE.pdf

44 Santhya, K. G., & Jejeebhoy, S. J., 'Sexual and reproductive health and rights of adolescent girls: Evidence from low- and middle- income countries', *Global Public Health, 10*(2), 2015, pp. 189–221.

on sex, sexuality and related matters and disapprove of many aspects of CSE programmes.[45] There is a strong need to test and implement appropriate CSE interventions in diverse sociocultural contexts.

- **Adolescent sexual and reproductive health services (ASRH):** These encompass a range of health-care, education, and support services specifically designed to address the sexual and reproductive health needs of adolescents, typically between the ages of 10 and 19. There is promising evidence from a variety of settings that shows that interventions that are adolescent-responsive and tailored to young people's needs, including access to confidential counselling and high-quality contraceptives, can reduce unintended pregnancy among those seeking services.[46] Findings across contexts consistently demonstrate that multi-pronged approaches that combine both education and service provision to support ASRH are the most effective in the short and long term.[47] Particularly in contexts where pregnancy is a major driver of child marriage, ASRH interventions reaching sexually active, or soon to be sexually active adolescents have the potential to contribute to beneficial spillover effects.[48] Additionally, family planning interventions for married couples have proven effective at reducing pregnancies and improving marital happiness; these programmes could also support marital quality and the health and well-being of married girls.[49]

- **Approaches that have been found to be promising** but in need of more research fall into two additional intervention areas: systems strengthening, and gender norm change.

4 INTERVENTIONS TO CHANGE GENDER AND SOCIAL NORMS encompass a range of efforts to engage with institutions, communities,

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families and individuals to challenge harmful norms and promote gender equality, such as caregiver discussion groups, community dialogues, male engagement, and media and communication interventions. A significant body of literature points to a strong relationship between social and gender norms and child marriage.[50] Nevertheless, to date there has not been any systematic assessment of these types of interventions. A major challenge to doing so has been the lack of conceptual clarity among practitioners and decision makers working to address child marriage on precisely what norms are, how they relate to behaviours, which norms need to be changed (and

45 Ibid.

46 Bergstrom, K. & Özler, B., *Improving the Well-Being of Adolescent Girls in Developing Countries*. World Bank Development Research Group & Health, Nutrition and Population Global Practice. Policy research working paper 9827, 2021, https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/d6340e66-f894-5c64-9026-b09ef6a9434a/content; Salam, R. A. et al., 'Improving adolescent sexual and reproductive health: A systematic review of potential interventions', *Journal of Adolescent Health, 59*(4), 2016, pp. S11-S28.

47 Oringanje, C. et al., 'Interventions for preventing unintended pregnancies among adolescents', *Cochrane Database Syst Rev., 2*(2), 2016, CD005215. doi: 10.1002/14651858.CD005215.pub3.

48 Bergstrom & Özler, 2021.

49 Ibid.

50 See Malhotra & Elnakib, 2021.

according to who), the pathways of impact, and how programme effectiveness can be measured. The result is that programme evaluations are limited.

- One programme that has found positive effects is the multi-pronged 'Improving Sexual and Reproductive Health of Young People by increasing the Age at Marriage and Delaying the First Pregnancy' which was carried out from 2009 to 2013 in 18 sites across Bangladesh, India and Nepal. The randomized controlled trial (RCT) found that access to media messages that challenged gender norms had significantly decreased child marriage among adolescent girls in the programme.[51]

- The most convincing evidence of the effectiveness of gender norms programming is found when carefully combined with other approaches, such as economic inclusion, education and vocational training. Given their central role in many programmes to delay child marriage and support the health and well-being of adolescent girls, getting clarity on the effectiveness of gender norms programming is crucial.

5 **SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING INTERVENTIONS** are strategies and actions designed to improve the overall capacity, efficiency and effectiveness of policies, services and procedures across sectors, such as health, education and protection to achieve better outcomes and impact. Capacity-building, policy and regulatory reforms, and service delivery across sectors including social protection, education and health are examples of this approach.

- **Training to build the capacity of workforces across sectors:** There is limited evidence on how systems, inclusive of institutions and services, can be designed to be more responsive to the needs of adolescent girls, whether single, married, divorced or widowed. However, a 2020 evaluation of Ethiopia's Health Extension Programme between 2002 and 2013 established that adolescent girls who had received household support from the largely female health extension workers were found to have a reduced risk

of child marriage and teen pregnancy, higher levels of school attendance, and better literacy and numeracy.[52] Studies like this one show that system strengthening efforts can contribute to improved outcomes for girls' health and well-being.

- **Interventions that have mixed evidence of effectiveness** fall into two areas: laws and policies, and 'safe spaces' programmes that are implemented across a range of interventions in areas such as education, empowerment and gender norm change. The concentration of studies in this area is more limited.

6 **GIRL-FOCUSED INTERVENTIONS** are those that are designed to support girls to develop the skills and confidence to promote their rights, well-being and equality in a range of areas, including access to education, health care, economic opportunities and decision-making. Some programme examples include the provision of safe spaces, facilitated life skills sessions and savings start-ups for girls. Although it is classified here as a single intervention area, a focus on girls' empowerment is also a cross-cutting feature of other programmes designed to prevent child marriage and support adolescent girls' health and development more generally.

- One systematic review of 22 studies (1997–2016) found that the key mechanisms through which empowerment programmes operate are girls' schooling and reduced risk of pregnancy and childbearing.[53] Likewise, a randomized controlled study of Girls Empower in Liberia found that a gender-transformative mentoring and cash transfer intervention to promote adolescent well-being reduced child marriage, teen pregnancy and risky sexual behaviour. When a cash incentive tied to girls' participation in the programme sessions was included and offered to caregivers, these effects were even more positive: 12 months post-programme, girls who participated were found to have a 50 per cent or more reduction

51   Mehra, D. et al., 'Effectiveness of a community based intervention to delay early marriage, early pregnancy and improve school retention among adolescents in India', *BMC Public Health 18*, 2018, 732, https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-018-5586-3; Greene, M., Edmeades, J. & Siddiqi, M., *Addressing social norms to prevent child marriage and empower adolescent girls: A systematic review of the evidence*, 2023. Manuscript under review.

52   Rudgard, W. et al., 'Multiple Impacts of Ethiopia's Health Extension Program on Adolescent Health and Well-Being: A Quasi-Experimental Study', *Journal of Adolescent Health, 71*, 2022, pp. 303–316.

53   Chae, S. & Ngo, T., *The global state of evidence on interventions to prevent child marriage*. GIRL Center Research Brief No. 1. Population Council, 2017, https://knowledgecommons.popcouncil.org/departments_sbsr-pgy/533/

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in the likelihood of marriage and the number of sexual partners than their peers who did not participate.

- Despite these promising findings, select programmes that aim to address child marriage have mixed conclusions on effectiveness, highlighting the need for further investigation into the facilitators and barriers to the effective design and delivery of empowerment programmes through implementation research. An evaluation of the COMPASS programme (life skills and safe spaces for girls, plus family dialogues) for South Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia showed no effects on child marriage after 12 months (possibly because of the short time frame of the study and the significant challenges associated with living in a camp environment). A high-quality randomized controlled trial of the Kishori Kontha programme in Bangladesh found that

4.5 years after the intervention ended, girls who undertook the 6-month empowerment programme, which included safe spaces and peer educators, showed no change in marriage rates.[54]

7 INTERVENTIONS FOCUSED ON LAWS AND POLICIES such as reforms to raise the age of consent to marriage to 18 and associated efforts to ban or criminalize child marriage have achieved mixed results. Analysis has shown that girls in countries where there is an established legal minimum age of marriage, for marriage with parental consent and for the minimum age of sexual consent at 18 years or older, are 40 per cent less likely to be married before age 18 than girls in countries where these laws conflict.[55] A quasi-experimental study in Ethiopia found that the minimum-age-of-marriage law deterred marriage for girls.[56] However, recent evidence suggests that legislative changes such

54 Buchmann, N. et al., *Power vs Money: Alternative Approaches to Reducing Child Marriage in Bangladesh: A Randomized Control Trial*, 2018, www.povertyactionlab.org/sites/default/files/research-paper/Power-vs-Money-Working-Paper.pdf

55 UNICEF, 2021b.

56 McGavock, T., 'Here waits the bride? The effect of Ethiopia's child marriage law', *Journal of Development Economics*, 2021, 149.

as these are insufficient[57] in and of themselves to prevent child marriage, and in some cases may drive the practice underground. A study published early in 2023 measured the enforcement of laws against child marriage based on the actual distribution of ages at marriage in household survey data from more than 100 countries.[58] It found no evidence of sudden change or gap in the data around the legal age for marriage, which suggests that minimum-age-at-marriage laws alone are not enough to end child marriage. Child marriage laws and policies should be a part of a comprehensive legal and policy framework that addresses the root causes of child marriage including gender inequality, and cover a range of issues including support for those wishing to leave a marriage; property and inheritance, sexual and gender-based violence; child labour and abuse; trafficking; access to education, health care and social security; and mandatory birth and marriage registration.[59]

Conclusions: Where do we go from here?

Different interventions have been found to reduce child marriage across contexts. The largest body of consistent evidence is in relation to adolescent girls' education. Getting adolescent girls in school, especially secondary school, and supporting their learning are key pathways of change that are proven and are scalable. Cash and in-kind transfers to support families to be able to meet their basic needs, achieve economic security and stability, and to afford the direct and opportunity costs of education have shown to be effective in many different settings, as have target empowerment interventions such as life skills, comprehensive sexuality education

programmes and sexual and reproductive health services for adolescent girls. Likewise, interventions for favourable job markets and vocational training have demonstrated effectiveness in preventing child marriage and supporting adolescent girls' health and well-being.

There are encouraging signs that programmes to strengthen systems can reduce child marriage by more effectively meeting the holistic needs of adolescent girls. Interventions to change social norms, when contextualized and carefully combined with other types of interventions, also have the potential to challenge harmful attitudes and behaviours that may drive the practice in different settings. More research and analysis is needed in these areas to provide the insights needed to push this work forward, to better understand what makes interventions focused on laws and policies and on girl-focused interventions more effective. Furthermore, building an evidence bridge between interventions that reduce unintended pregnancy and those that prevent child marriage is a critical step towards supporting the well-being of more girls across the globe.

Solutions-oriented research can help us to generate the learning and evidence we require, but we need not sit back and wait to act. Now is the time to be strategic and to build on what we know works to prevent and respond to child marriage. Collaboration across sectors is essential to this endeavour, as is rigorous and consistent monitoring and evaluation of programmes to enable continued learning on what works to ensure meaningful and lasting improvements to girls' lives.

57   World Bank, Economic Impacts of Child Marriage. *Ethiopia Country Brief*, 2018, https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/360871525190466943/pdf/125882-BRI-P151842-PUBLIC-WorldBank-CountryBrief-Ethiopia-WebReady-v8.pdf

58   Collin, M. & Talbot, T., 'Are age of marriage laws enforced? Evidence from developing countries', *Journal of Development Economics*, 160, 2023.

59   Girls Not Brides (n.d.). Establish and implement laws and policies, www.girlsnotbrides.org/learning-resources/theory-change/establish-and-implement-laws-and-policies/

BOX 4

↘ **CHILD MARRIAGE RESEARCH FUNDING**

At the end of 2022, the Child Marriage Research to Action Network (the CRANK), a partnership between the Global Programme and Girls Not Brides, held its first online global research convening, bringing together researchers, practitioners, advocates and funders from around the world to take a fresh look at the latest evidence. The convening included conversations with the funding community on strategies, priorities, synergies and opportunities:[60]

- Funding for research stimulates funding for programmes. Research and learning need to be integrated into every intervention from the beginning, rather than implemented as a stand-alone effort requiring separate funding.

- There is appetite to fund solutions rather than diagnoses. Investment cases are strengthened by positive messaging around solutions — showing that change is possible — rather than a focus on the scale of the problem, including prevalence, drivers and consequences.

- Funding should be channelled towards learning. This includes learning on what works and what could be improved. Addressing child marriage requires a holistic approach, which is reflected in the diversity of approaches taken by community-based organizations (CBOs). Given their contextualized understanding, CBOs — and the girls and adolescents they work with — need to be included in defining what success looks like, and in the design and implementation of efforts to document impact and improve programme effectiveness.

- Funding inclusive research plays a part in reaching the most marginalized groups. Investments around child marriage are opportunities to support those who have been most marginalized. Evidence-based research into key populations — like those identifying as LGBTQIA+, and girls who are married, pregnant or mothers — is also crucial to raising funding for such initiatives.

- There is a new funding landscape, and a need to diversify the sources and recipients of funds. With global attention on climate, food security and social protection, we need to better integrate child marriage into these sectors to support the child marriage learning agenda. There is already some useful knowledge and learning around food security and how it can successfully be integrated into work on harmful practices.

- Creating spaces and forums to connect funders, practitioners, academics, activists and researchers is important. Such spaces help strengthen the links between sectors and thematic areas, agree joint agendas and accelerate progress.

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60 The CRANK, *A fresh lens on the child marriage research funding landscape: Conversations with the funding community on strategies, priorities, synergies and opportunities*. UNFPA–UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage and Girls Not Brides, 2022, www.girlsnotbrides.org/documents/1907/CRANK_brief_Child_marriage_research_funding_landscape.pdf

GLOBAL PROGRAMME ACHIEVEMENTS

2.1 Impact Feasibility Assessment

In 2022, the Global Programme commissioned an impact feasibility assessment (IFA) to identify areas where the Global Programme could make important contributions to global knowledge on effective approaches to end child marriage; and to determine how the Global Programme will be evaluated. The IFA consisted of four stages:

Stage 1: Rapid review and stocktaking of the most recent evidence on what works to reduce and prevent child marriage with a focus on Global Programme target countries, to identify reference points for further development of methodological approaches and gaps in the body of knowledge based on country setting or type of intervention.

Stage 2: Review of the Global Programme country contexts and an intervention mapping to prioritize settings and interventions that, if evaluated, would maximize learning, and impacts regarding effective programming to end child marriage.

Stage 3: Deeper examination of shortlisted promising interventions and development of robust designs for rigorous mixed-method impact evaluation.

Stage 4: Recommendations for the Global Programme and evaluation teams on conditions required to enable the proposed evaluation designs to come to fruition, such as indicative resources, planning, integration into the Global Programme evaluation and synergies with other parallel processes.

The IFA identified the following opportunities for the Global Programme to contribute to global knowledge in different countries:

- Contribute to regional evidence gaps — particularly in West and Central African countries (Burkina Faso, Ghana, Niger and Sierra Leone).

- Consider the potential to study systems-level interventions in countries with a 'high burden' of child marriage (e.g., Bangladesh, Ethiopia, India).

- Consider the strategic use of studies to change norms in settings with greater than 50 per cent prevalence of child marriage (e.g., Niger (76 per cent), Bangladesh (59 per cent), Mozambique (53 per cent), Burkina Faso (52 per cent)).

- Prioritize geographic hotspots (including cross-border) and highly vulnerable populations (e.g., rural, high poverty, low education) — where there is some evidence of child marriage increasing.

- Seek ways of informing how to address child marriage in humanitarian settings (e.g., post-disaster or climate shocks, in the Sahel or other settings) — or among refugee and displaced populations.

- Leverage opportunities in countries with high-quality administrative data and good research infrastructure (e.g., Bangladesh, India, Ethiopia, Ghana, Uganda, Zambia).

BOX 5

TYPES OF INTERVENTIONS AND EVALUATION CONTRIBUTION TO GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE

Interventions that offer higher gains for global knowledge

- Interventions that focus on learning, achievement and perceived post-school options for girls and young women, including labour-market interventions.

- Girl-level empowerment programmes which are able to 'unbundle' and attribute specific components of programmes.

- Interventions that evaluate key influencers' role in norm change (e.g., religious leaders, role models).

- Interventions that incorporate and evaluate men's and boys' role in norm change.

- Edutainment, radio, social media with targeted audiences (highly scalable and cost-effective).

- Health and protection services taking a systems-level approach with explicit child marriage objectives.

- Diverse forms of family economic support plus gender norm change components.

- Changes in family law and enforcement of legal mandates beyond age of marriage, including the role of birth and marriage registration.

Interventions that offer lower gains for global knowledge

- Interventions that focus on school enrolment and continuation (there is consensus that these interventions are largely effective).

- Cash transfers conditional on education or stipends for education (there is consensus that these programmes are largely effective in non-humanitarian contexts).

- Holistic girl empowerment programmes that cannot be unbundled (largely effective, but evidence gaps remain regarding contribution of separate components and implementation quality).
- Unscalable intensive community-level approaches (difficult to scale with high quality).
- Health and protection services without explicit child marriage objectives (largely ineffective).
- Age-of-marriage laws (necessary precondition but insufficient alone).

2.2 Advancing gender-transformative approaches

The Global Programme has committed to advance gender-transformative programming to end child marriage. Gender-transformative approaches aim to promote gender equality by:

- Fostering critical examination of inequalities and gender discriminatory norms, roles and relationships
- Recognizing and strengthening positive norms that support equality and an enabling environment, and

- Promoting the relative position of women, girls and marginalized groups and transforming the underlying social structures, policies and broadly held social norms that perpetuate and legitimize gender inequalities.

Gender-transformative approaches are actively promoting gender equality by creating conditions where women and girls have the freedom and capacity to make decisions about their own lives and have equal access to opportunities and resources. To achieve this transformational goal, the Global Programme uses a **five-pronged strategy**:

1. Development of technical and programmatic tools for country offices.
2. Capacity-building of staff and partners, knowledge management and cross-country learning.
3. Creation and roll-out of the gender-transformative accelerator tool designed as a rapid gender assessment, prioritization and action planning process.
4. In-depth technical assistance both virtual and in the field.
5. Investment in and support to youth-led, women-led or feminist civil society organizations.

61 UNFPA, UNICEF & UN Women, 2020.

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The **Gender-Transformative Accelerator (GTA) tool** was developed to identify concrete actions for country programmes to become more gender-transformative. The GTA tool encourages critical reflection and awareness to understand how programmes are addressing the unequal distribution of resources between genders, to consider how roles and responsibilities are allocated between different genders and identities, and to assess how power secures higher status and privilege for some people. The GTA is geared towards staff and partners who have already started their journey towards gender equality and require additional guidance and technical support. The GTA presents an opportunity to bring a cross-sectoral group of people together to identify programmes that could be leveraged to improve the position of adolescent girls in their families, communities and the society at large. The GTA process consists of a preparatory phase (online), followed by a three-day workshop (online or face-to-face) that involves interactive programmatic reflection, analysis of opportunities and action planning.

The GTA tool has been rolled out in seven Global Programme countries, namely Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Mozambique and Niger *(see more details in Box 6)*. The GTA tool has been positively accepted by country offices as an accessible, participatory and pedagogical instrument to understand, assess, plan and accelerate actions to end child marriage. The exercise is grounded in available data and evidence and in the expert knowledge of practitioners implementing the programme on the ground.

There is an increased demand to implement the tool in Global Programme countries and beyond, including by partners and sectors going beyond addressing child marriage. To date, the GTA tool has been implemented twice in Mozambique: once with multi-stakeholder partners convened by the Global Programme and a second time with the national coalition of civil society organizations working under the umbrella of Girls Not Brides. In addition to the Global Programme target countries, Nigeria and Tanzania rolled out the GTA tool in 2022 and Jordan and Palestine initiated the preparatory phase for a GTA roll-out in early 2023.

↘ **BOX 6**

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE GTA TOOL ROLL-OUT IN THE GLOBAL PROGRAMME COUNTRIES[62]

The GTA tool was piloted in seven countries between June 2021 and May 2022. The tool was adjusted in response to feedback after each round. Throughout all GTAs, it was clear that power relations are at the heart of gender inequalities and need further attention. Key takeaway lessons from each country are summarized below.

Bangladesh — The programme acknowledged that gender issues are context-specific and must be framed through a country-specific lens rather than a broader global perspective. Inequalities in power and privilege must be addressed by incorporating a gender-transformative lens in research, evaluation and structural mechanisms. Implementing a gender-transformative approach in the humanitarian context of the Cox's Bazar area (i.e., refugees from Myanmar) is particularly challenging. The country team committed to building pathways towards transformative change while simultaneously pushing for more long-term investments in education. There is also a need to go beyond connecting with parents of girls and boys who are part of programme interventions and to engage communities more broadly on gender norm change.

Burkina Faso — The team reflected on the sociopolitical context of the country while recognizing the impact of the three-year political transition as an opportunity to accelerate social and institutional changes for gender equality. The team also considered the security and humanitarian crises, including the effects of COVID-19 and a major food crisis, in determining actions that will accelerate a paradigm shift in power dynamics to halt child marriage in the country. The team reviewed the strengthening of existing programmes to reach the most vulnerable communities of young women and girls, while engaging men and boys in the promotion of gender equality. Major activities include the improvement of programme implementation strategies through the revision of training curricula, capacity strengthening of programme implementers and service providers, and sensitizing policymaking structures to commit to gender-transformative programming.

Ethiopia — The country team focused on the need to ensure inclusive and gender-transformative social protection, education and health services to address the dual challenges of poverty and conflict, both of which are grounded in power dynamics and are crucial drivers of child marriage. As a result of the

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62   For more information, see UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage, *A synthesis paper of the Gender-Transformative Accelerator*, 2022a, www.unicef.org/documents/gender-transformative-accelerator-tool

GTA process, staff recognized the importance of strengthening the capacities of the government work-force in health, justice and social service sectors, through the social analysis and action approach that addresses value clarification and internal biases.

Ghana — The workshop focused on identifying catalytic opportunities for shared action among the co-alition members within the Ghanaian context. Around 30 government and NGO partners across sectors and levels identified priority areas for further integrating gender-transformative approaches into programming in Ghana through the following dimensions: 1) adolescent girls' agency, skills and em-powerment; 2) engagement of men and boys; and 3) adolescent girl-responsive systems. Participants prioritized existing flagship programmes that can be scaled up, systems that can be strengthened and coalitions that can be built, particularly in the work with men and boys in promoting positive mas-culinities.

India — The GTA process enabled the country team to move from conceptual clarity to implementa-tion, building capacities on how to understand how power structures are manifested in inequalities and subjugate certain sections of the population, especially marginalized women and girls. One con-crete deliverable was the development of a gender-transformative approach checklist, which was used with curriculum developers to review curricula, technical guides and modules to ensure they are gen-der-transformative.

The GTA workshop in Ghana was held in September 2022, graced by the Honourable Lariba Zuweira Abudu, Minister Desig-nate for the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, with the active participation and engagement of technical staff from several institutions implementing the multisectoral National Action Plan to End Child Marriage convened by the Domestic Violence Secretariat, civil society organizations, UNFPA and UNICEF.

Mozambique — The Mozambique team had a 'eureka' moment when participants realized they could foster critical reflection about power dynamics and strengthen positive masculinities instead of just en-gaging men and boys to improve the lives of women and girls. The country team will review the manual for economic empowerment and accompanying entrepreneurship kits to expand employment oppor-tunities for girls to include areas that have been dominated by men and boys (electricians, plumbers, etc.). The team will also seek to create greater opportunities for girls to apply their knowledge in their communities to earn income.
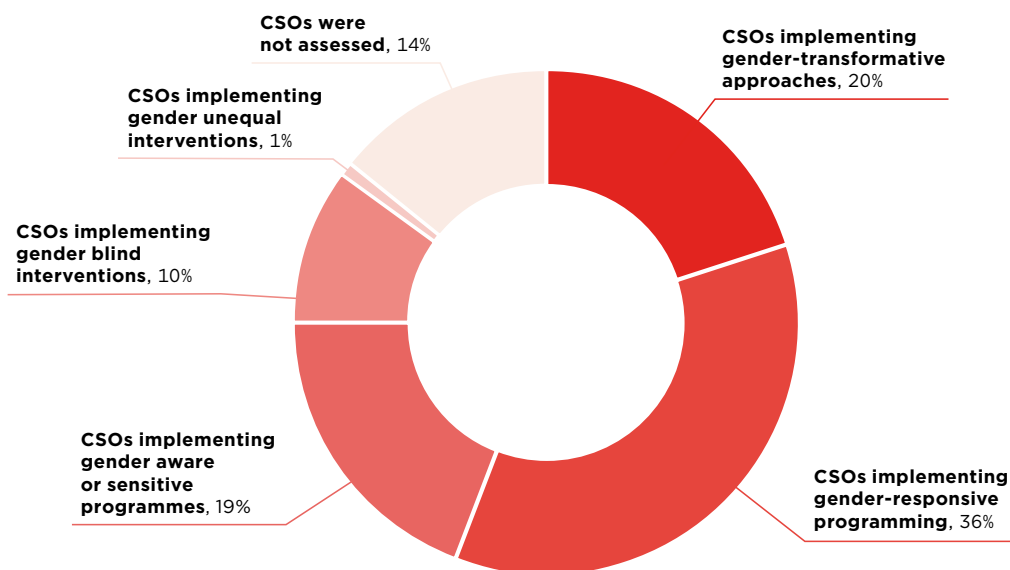
Niger — The programme reflected on the need for incremental but fundamental shifts in engaging men and boys towards more diverse and positive expressions of masculinity. The GTA process destig-matized power-sharing with women and adolescent girls in families and communities, by developing a common language among partners and clarifying gender norms and values among decision makers and people holding traditional positions of power. In addition, programme investments into expanding economic and health opportunities for girls and young women — in the form of vocational training, community health worker recruitment and training, and skills building programmes — were leveraged to increase the diversity of roles and opportunities, contributing to normative shifts in girls' agency. Combined with a review of existing school and out-of-school curricula for gender messages, these shifts could extend the programme's reach and sustainability for social norm change.

Investment in and support to youth-led, women-led and feminist civil society organizations

In 2022, the Global Programme partnered with 34 youth-led organizations, as well as 56 organizations identified as focusing on promoting girls' and women's rights. Recognizing the importance of partnerships for advancing gender-transformative programming, the Global Programme assessed the extent to which the civil society organizations (CSOs) that were

implementing partners of the programme in 2021 (134 CSOs from 10 countries) were implementing gender-transformative approaches *(see Figure 9)*. The assessment aimed to provide guidance to UNFPA and UNICEF on how to better identify and support opportunities to advance gender-transformative approaches within the Global Programme. The assessment recommended that partner CSOs should be systematically incorporated in the roll-out of the GTA tool, and their capacities to implement gender-transformative programming strengthened.

FIGURE 9: *Assessment of interventions of partner organizations, on the gender equality continuum*

CSOs were not assessed, 14%

CSOs implementing gender unequal interventions, 1%

CSOs implementing gender blind interventions, 10%

CSOs implementing gender aware or sensitive programmes, 19%

CSOs implementing gender-transformative approaches, 20%

CSOs implementing gender-responsive programming, 36%

The Global Programme is considering expanding efforts in supporting CSOs to reach their full gender-transformative potential. Structural support in the development of policies, guidance on team and leadership structures, as well as regular gender analyses and improvements to monitoring and evaluation tools will likely be of great value to the CSOs, particularly those that fall within the gender-blind and gender-sensitive categories. There is also scope for collaboration between CSOs, with those ranking more highly giving guidance to those working their way towards gender-transformative change.

However, investing in youth and feminist organizations includes more than direct support related to project implementation. Strengthening the movement is an important goal in itself to drive local and national change. Examples of a more holistic approach to movement building is the small-scale funding for advocacy in cooperation with the Spotlight Initiative in Ethiopia as well as collaboration with a national coalition of civil society in Mozambique (with Girls not Brides). Phase III will see a broadening of partnerships between the Global Programme and feminist and youth-led CSOs.

Generating evidence through a gender synchronous[63] lens to achieve transformative change

UNFPA, within the framework of Global Programme and with some resources from the Spotlight Initiative, documented two adolescent girl empowerment programmes and lessons learned from the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC)'s Empowerment and Livelihood for Adolescents Clubs and Equimundo's programme on boyhood and early, forced and child marriage and unions.

Over the past two decades, the development field has seen gains in effective programming for adolescent girls and young women, including through investments in evidence-based approaches such as the Empowerment and Livelihoods for Adolescents (ELA) programme initiated by BRAC in Africa. Lessons learned from the programme over the last 15 years include the fact that a multifaceted approach like ELA works but implementation quality can be easily compromised, the programme curriculum must be frequently evaluated and updated for a youth empowerment training programme to remain effective, and formal mechanisms for community engagement are necessary.[64]

Meanwhile, the evidence review by Equimundo and UNFPA[65] makes a clear case for including boys in efforts to promote gender equality and prevent child marriage. It presents concrete guidance on best practices, including references to existing tools and case studies. Relevant topics include how to discuss sensitive subjects such as SRHR, including sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI), as well as concrete guidance on implementing gender-transformative programming on child marriage. Examples of the latter point include, for instance, discussing when it is best to hold sex-segregated group discussions or mixed-sex group discussions; what gender synchronous programming looks like in the context of programmes responding to child marriage; how long implementation should last to achieve sustainable impact; and what profile facilitators should have for the programme to be effective.

Next steps to consolidate gender-transformative programming in Phase III

While pathways for transformative change can be laid within a short and medium time frame, sustained gender-transformative change is long-term. The following considerations are key in thinking through the next steps beyond continuing to roll out the GTA tool.

- Sustain deeper reflection on power as a critical domain to understand gender-transformative change through sustained gender capacity-building and systemic change.

- Embed gender-transformative programming into programme milestones, as opposed to parallel or one-off undertakings.

- Ensure the measurement and tracking of results across a long-term pathway. For instance, under the Global Programme, the technical note on gender-transformative approaches points to evidence that transformative change is possible, while cautioning that change can be long-term, often generational and needs sustained investments, with strong measures to track progress through monitoring and evaluation as well as research.

- Support evidence generation and documentation of what works and does not work, through for example the Global Programme research strategy and the CRANK, and together with other partners.

- Align the work of the Global Programme to support feminist CSOs.

- Expand the application of the GTA tool across and beyond the Global Programme countries.

- Adapt the tool to address other harmful practices like female genital mutilation, in collaboration with the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation.

- Adapt and translate the GTA into programmatic and evaluation tools and indicators to guide and track transformative processes.

- Address values clarification and attitudes transformation approaches with staff and partners to challenge biases and stereotyping.

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63 Gender synchronization means to work with men and women, boys and girls, in an intentional and mutually reinforcing way that challenges gender norms, catalyses the achievement of gender equality, and improves health. Read more: https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/UNFPA-Gender%20Equality%20Strategy2023.pdf

64 BRAC & UNFPA, 2023.

65 Equimundo & UNFPA, 2022.

2.3 Grounded in human rights

The Global Programme continued to embrace a human rights-based approach (HRBA) in 2022 across all interventions to ensure the fulfilment of human rights to protection, development, education, health (including SRHR) and a life free of violence, in development and humanitarian settings and at country, regional and global levels.

The HRBA to development is a conceptual framework for the process of sustainable development that is normatively based on international human rights standards and principles, and operationally directed to promoting and protecting human rights. Under the HRBA, the plans, policies and processes of development are anchored in a system of rights and corresponding obligations established by international law, including all civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights, and the right to development. HRBA requires human rights principles (equality and non-discrimination, participation, and accountability) to guide United Nations development cooperation, and focus on capacity development of both duty bearers (i.e., states) to meet their obligations as well as rights holders to claim their rights.[66]

Under the principle of participation, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in close collaboration with UNFPA's Representation Office in Geneva and the Government of the Netherlands, convened an **expert workshop on the impact of existing strategies and initiatives to address child, early and forced marriage** in Geneva and through hybrid participation online. UNFPA presented on the importance of supporting women's and girls' agency, the right to bodily autonomy and gender dynamics regarding sexual and reproductive health information and care in relation to forced marriage and women's decision-making. Partners for Law in Development, a Global Programme civil society partner, also delivered a presentation problematizing the concept of consent from a human rights perspective.

In follow-up to the expert workshop, OHCHR called for inputs to the elaboration of a report on the adverse impact of forced marriage on the enjoyment of all human rights by women and girls to be submitted to the Human Rights Council. A joint contribution made by UNFPA and UNICEF in South Asia as well as input by UNFPA headquarters were submitted,

highlighting the different drivers, nuances, data, evidence, and international standards to be considered for addressing the complexity of forced marriage, namely (a) the principle of the best interest of the child, (b) the principle of protection, and (c) the principle of evolving capacities of the child. The submissions stressed the need to clearly define the concept of forced marriage to avoid unintended consequences derived from legal reforms setting minimum ages of consent to marriage, which can affect the age of consent to health services and the age of consent to sexual relationships.

Leaving no one behind

As part of a HRBA, Global Programme countries continued their efforts to leave no one behind in the work to end child marriage and support already married girls.

The Bangladesh programme engaged 3,355 married adolescent girls from hard-to-reach areas with SRHR-focused life skills education and referrals to livelihood skills and opportunities. Married adolescent girls are often left out because they are less likely to be in school or engaged in any formal education, and they often have limited access to information and services due to family restrictions.

The geographical targeting of the Burkina Faso programme has been adjusted to consider areas heavily impacted by insecurity and areas hosting internally displaced persons, to strengthen actions to protect vulnerable and at-risk adolescent girls, without discrimination and based on basic human rights principles.

The Ethiopia programme continues to target hard-to-reach out-of-school girls with limited access to information, markets, income-generating activities and skill development opportunities. In collaboration with CARE Ethiopia and the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs, UNICEF has developed an evidence-based girls' empowerment programme and an implementation guide for hard-to-reach out-of-school adolescent girls. UNICEF, in collaboration with CARE and the ministry, is also testing Village Savings and Loan Associations among selected out-of-school adolescent girls' groups. The lessons from the pilot will inform future interventions for out-of-school girls. UNFPA is further providing the adolescent girls with income-generating activities through provision

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66 UNFPA, *Elevating Rights and Choices for All: Guidance Note for Applying a Human Rights Based Approach to Programming*, 2020, www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/2020_HRBA_guidance.pdf

of basic business development training, market reach and seed money. However, income-generating activities are expensive and reach few adolescent girls due to the limited budget available.

The Ghana programme targets the most deprived communities based on up-to-date socioeconomic data and the most vulnerable adolescent girls: pregnant adolescent girls, adolescent mothers, adolescent girls who have dropped out of school, and adolescent girls from poor families. The programme pays particular attention to head porters (Kayayei) and adolescent girls with disabilities.

BOX 7

THE CHANGE MAKER: A STORY OF SALMU, THE HEARING-IMPAIRED GIRL WHO GAINED HER CONFIDENCE AFTER ADMISSION INTO A SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOOL

© Geoffrey Buta

If I hadn't lost my hearing, I wouldn't be where I am now! It forced me to unearth my potential and to have a mentality that to succeed, I must be better than an average person.

Salmu is 16 years old and lives in Yoggu, a community in the Tolon District of the Northern Region of Ghana. She was born with a hearing impairment. Salmu is the second among three siblings in her family. As a child, she was ignored by her parents because she could not communicate due to her hearing impairment. As she got older, her family started to see that she had a strong passion to learn and go to school. So, she was enrolled in a nearby school for her pre-primary level education.

Though she was in school, her educational needs were not met, because the school was not equipped to meet the needs of children with disabilities. Her enrolment did not address her quest to learn as she could not communicate with her peers and teachers. Her interest started to dwindle, before she finally dropped out of school in third grade. Among the reasons for her dropout was the inability of her teachers to use sign language as a mode of instruction because they were not proficient in sign language. Furthermore, instructional materials in class were not visual to help her in her comprehension. Finally, it was impossible for her to follow and understand the lessons taught in the class, thus she dropped out.

Life outside school was lonely and Salmu became secluded. She found solace in spending each day doing daily household chores such as feeding domestic animals, cleaning, cooking and helping her parents on the farm. She developed her own sign language to communicate with her parents and siblings

at home. She was not able to communicate with others in her community because her way of communicating was only limited to her family members.

Fortunately, Salmu found a new life when she joined the Promoting Adolescent Safe Spaces (PASS) project, a safe space where adolescents, both in school and out of school, between the ages of 10 and 19 could interact and learn about issues related to adolescent sexual and reproductive health, life skills, mentorship and coaching, economic empowerment, child rights and social protection. The safe space in her community was run by NORSAAC, an NGO with funding from the Global Programme. Salmu joined the club at age 10 and was placed in the 10 to 14-years cohort. The girls on the project are taken through 31 contact hours of activities that help to empower them against child marriage and associated issues.

Responding with joy, Salmu said: "it was always exciting to have our meetings because the NORSAAC team was always friendly, and I felt no stigma during meetings, unlike going to community gatherings. I enjoy our meetings a lot because we are mostly engaged by officers from the Department of Social Welfare and Community Development who communicate with us through pictures, and these help us to understand what we are being taught."

Through the safe space programme, the mentor was able to identify Salmu's needs and drew the attention of NORSAAC to her disability. Using the case management and referral systems, NORSAAC joined efforts with the Department of Social Welfare and Community Development and the Special Education Unit of the Ghana Education Service in Tolon district, to ensure that Salmu was admitted to the Savelugu School for the Deaf. Ghana Health Service linked up with the Tolon National Health Insurance scheme to register Salmu onto the scheme. Salmu's new class teacher noted that: "hearing impairment is a sensory difference. It only becomes a disability when the educational and other state agencies don't have the required facilities and capacity to support such special needs children."

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Salmu is currently in second grade in the Savelugu School for the Deaf, and though older than the recommended age for that class, she is determined to learn. With the support of her teachers, she is able to perform basic numbers and put together letters and words. Salmu loves writing and has beautiful handwriting. She is fond of writing about and drawing the things around her both at home and in school. Salmu's aspiration is to become an artist and fashion designer so that she can communicate using her drawings. A visit to Salmu in school found her very happy and confident, confirming that with the right help, anyone in Salmu's place, from underserved and underprivileged communities, can also learn. She said: "it is never too late to be what you want to become, thank you for such a wonderful contribution to my life."

With these changes, Salmu is now able to socialize with friends and family with confidence during school holidays. Salmu now has a close friend who is her age and has a disability, but is in a higher grade, and they influence each other to stay motivated and be inspired for further learning.

Salmu dreams to continue her education to the highest level possible. She indicates that considering she started school late, she intends to put in more effort to make up for lost time and to catch up with her peers. She is passionate about drawing and when asked what she wanted to be in future, Salmu says: "I want to be an artist, so that I can communicate with everyone using pictures and also a fashion designer to make good fabric for the general public."

UNICEF India works with the Mahadalit communities in Bihar to reach the adolescent girls who are most vulnerable to dropping out of school and being married as children. Despite anti-discrimination laws, sanitation workers who empty septic tanks are highly marginalized. These workers belong to economically weak sections of the community, lack access to basic protective equipment and work under very dangerous conditions. Through the collectivization of women sanitation workers in Bihar, UNFPA (in partnership with Patna Municipal Corporation) seeks to ensure access to mechanized cleaning facilities and strengthen their rights as well as their access to services.

For inclusion into savings and loan groups and financial literacy training, the Mozambique programme focuses on adolescent girls who have been rescued from child marriages; who already have a child; or those who are heads of households and who care for their younger siblings after their parents have died.

The Nepal programme carried out vulnerability assessments to identify children and adolescents at risk of child marriage, as well as those who are already married, in a union, or separated. Based on the vulnerability assessment, groups of girls and boys are formed to engage in life skills training and other activities. Individual household/child plans are developed based on the vulnerability assessment to ensure holistic and long-term support for children and families. Vulnerable children and families are referred to services such as cash assistance,

family reintegration, psychosocial counselling, health, education, and legal registration services. The programme is being implemented in areas with a high prevalence of child marriage, with special emphasis on reaching out-of-school girls, those most at risk of child marriage, pregnant teenagers, and teenage mothers. Understanding the intersections of marginalization, efforts are made to reach adolescents from the Dalit caste (75 per cent of the girls participating in the programme are from this caste group), Muslim minorities (25 per cent of the girls), and, to a lesser extent, adolescent girls with disabilities. The Nepal programme also strengthened the environment to allow the most marginalized girls to be included as leaders and champions of change in their society. Many of the girls engaged in Rupantaran (the financial and social skills programme in the country) were appointed as local leaders, mentors or champions, making their voices heard through effective advocacy to end child marriage.

The Sierra Leone programme put in place strategies to ensure adolescent girls with disabilities are fully engaged and benefiting from safe spaces sessions. The use of tablets with pre-recorded lifeskills audio sessions in UNFPA-run safe spaces increases the inclusion of mentors and participants with disabilities, especially those who have dyslexia, visual impairments or trouble concentrating, as well as girls who are not very literate. UNFPA is also working with the Ministry of Social Welfare to adjust existing learning materials for adolescent girls with disabilities.

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UNICEF Zambia contributed to a review of the community-based case management assessment and identification forms, to include children with disabilities in the identification and assessment process. By including assessment questions on children with disabilities, front-line social welfare volunteers at the community level can identify children with disabilities and assess their protection needs and facilitate referrals to relevant services. The programme uses the KOBO data tool to track the number of girls and boys with disabilities who have received protection, health and education services in the targeted districts of the programme.

2.4 Addressing child marriage in humanitarian settings

Integrating child marriage prevention and response into humanitarian action is an imperative which should be seen as part of a life-saving response. This includes situating the work on ending child marriage within the Humanitarian Programme Cycle and applying humanitarian-development nexus approaches. It is possible to harness humanitarian crises as an opportunity to do better for girls who are at risk of child marriage or already married.

Complex emergencies continue to affect several parts of sub-Saharan Africa where Global Programme interventions are being implemented. Three consecutive failed rainy seasons have brought hunger, malnutrition and mass displacement to millions of people in the Horn of Africa. In the regions of Ethiopia worst affected by the drought, child marriage has on average more than doubled in the space of one year. The number of children at risk of dropping out of school across Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia, due to the impact of the crisis, has tripled within three months — leaving vast numbers of adolescent girls at greater danger of several child protection risks, including undergoing female genital mutilation (FGM) and being forced into marriage. The drought threatens to set Ethiopia back in its attempts to lower its levels of child marriage.[67]

In response to the growing protection needs among vulnerable women and children across the Horn of Africa, UNICEF expanded community-based programmes to reduce the risks of violence, exploitation, abuse and child marriage, and provided services to help women and children recover after violence. To improve the protection and empowerment of adolescent girls in emergency settings, UNICEF East and Southern Africa Regional Office initiated the development of a practical regional guidance framework for ending child marriage in humanitarian settings. The guidance framework will be based on an adolescent girl needs assessment in selected emergency contexts and include a toolkit to reach married and unmarried adolescent girls and respond to their needs to protect them from violence, and build their assets, confidence and leadership skills through mentoring and empowerment.

> **BOX 8**
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> **CASE STUDY: ETHIOPIA**
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> In response to the humanitarian situation caused by the drought and floods in Gambella, Oromia, Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples (SNNP), Afar, and Somali regions, the Ethiopia programme adapted its developmental approach to ending child marriage into a hybrid humanitarian-development approach. The programme focuses on four priority areas with a redesigned package of interventions, including: engagement with adolescent girls; community conversations; engaging religious leaders; and alliances with boys and men to end child marriage. For the first time, the programme delivered interventions in internally displaced persons (IDP) sites in the Somali region. To ensure the programme is adaptive, resilient and responsive to humanitarian needs, the Global Programme developed a version of the community conversation toolkit that is tailored for emergency contexts; broadened partnerships with the UNICEF child protection in emergencies section; carried out a trend analysis of child marriage incidences; and ensured the inclusion of a child marriage indicator in UNICEF's Humanitarian Action for Children. Moreover, the programme designed and tested interventions targeted for displaced communities, including a shortened lifeskill curriculum delivery via mobile phones, and a community dialogue guide tailored to emergency contexts. As a result of these initiatives, 221 girls from IDP sites (169 in Oromia, 31 in Somali and 21 in Afar) were enrolled in skill building activities.

67   UNICEF, *Child marriage on the rise in Horn of Africa as drought crisis intensifies*, 2022b, www.unicef.org/press-releases/child-marriage-rise-horn-africa-drought-crisis-intensifies

⊿ **BOX 9**
CASE STUDY: BURKINA FASO

Over the past four years, Burkina Faso has become one of the main staging grounds for the jihadist insurgency in the Sahel. The northern and eastern regions are most affected by the violence — these are precisely the areas with the highest rates of child marriage and the target areas for the UNFPA and UNICEF programme to end child marriage. By now, the fighting has spread across all regions of Burkina Faso. The violence has resulted in an unprecedented humanitarian emergency and massive population displacements.[68] Clashes between government forces and armed groups linked to ISIL and Al-Qaida have compromised the education and health systems and forced thousands to flee their homes. Violence has led to the displacement of more than 2.1 million people and left 4.9 million people in need of assistance by the end of 2022. Food insecurity and malnutrition remain at alarming levels, especially in areas affected by insecurity.[69] The government controls only 60 per cent of the national territory. As a sign of the political crisis, Burkina Faso has had two military coups in the space of eight months (in January and September 2022).[70]

Services for IDPs

In view of the continuing deterioration of the humanitarian situation, strategies are being adapted to continue prevention activities among internally displaced communities. In the urban centres, reproductive health and basic social services are assured, to the extent possible. Internally displaced children are registered and go back to school. To cope with the large number of additional students, humanitarian actors add buildings to existing schools and some areas are experimenting with double shifts or use radio to reach inaccessible areas. Some organizations are offering professional training for older adolescents (these tend to be small-scale interventions reaching limited numbers of adolescents).[71] To ensure programme continuity, the Global Programme is implementing activities with IDPs, including those from communities that have already committed to the abandonment of child marriage and FGM.

Child protection programme adaptations in the villages without service access

Depending on the ever-changing security situation, some zones may not be accessible all the time. This requires a high degree of flexibility among implementing agencies.[72] Some NGOs use health structures to provide a minimum of child protection services. Community facilitators continue to visit villages if it is considered safe. The Global Programme's community-based approach involves mentors and relays recruited from within communities to ensure continued access to services. Strengthening the technical and operational capacities of community actors is essential, not only to compensate for the lack of service providers in hard-to-reach areas, but also to stimulate social norms changes among the population. The programme has strengthened community feedback mechanisms (interactive broadcasts, community dialogues) to enable communities to request support from humanitarian actors.[73] Key GBV prevention messages have been integrated in humanitarian activities, including GBV awareness-raising, referral and data collection. Where mass campaigns are no longer feasible, communication approaches have been adapted for small groups.

Use of technology

To reach large populations, the Global Programme uses local media, including radio, and the platforms QG Jeunes[74] and U-Report to intensify key messages among young people. Two toll-free numbers have been activated for the reporting and referral of cases of violence against children, including child marriage. To collect data from areas with a high degree of security challenges, the programme uses mobile phones.

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68 UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage, Burkina Faso 2020 country profile, 2021b, www.unicef.org/media/111366/file/Child-marriage-country-profile-Burkina-Faso-2021.pdf

69 UNOCHA, *Plan de réponse humanitaire Burkina Faso. Addendum Aout 2022*, 2022, www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/bfa_hrp_addendum_2022.pdf

70 Child Frontiers and UNICEF, *Draft — Burkina Faso Child Marriage Strategy Note*, 2022, not published.

71 Interview with Pingdwinde dit Aimé Ouedraogo, UNICEF Child Protection Coordinator in Kaya, Centre Nord region.

72 Ibid.

73 UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage, *Burkina Faso 2021 country profile*, 2022b, www.unicef.org/media/128341/file/Country-profile-Burkina-Faso-2021.pdf

74 See: https://www.qgjeune.org/

2.5 Advocacy and influencing global and regional policy

Global advocacy efforts

Under the umbrella of the **Child Marriage Monitoring Mechanism**, supported by the Global Programme, the governments of Canada and Zambia hosted a high-level event during the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly, providing an opportunity for Member States to discuss progress on ending child marriage by reviewing the latest available data, and to recommit to the SDG target of eliminating the practice by 2030. The event took place at UNICEF House in New York and included high-level government officials from Zambia, Nigeria, the United Kingdom, Canada, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Belgium, as well as UNICEF's Executive Director. Event participants also included several representatives of the Child Marriage Monitoring Mechanism's Strategic Advisory Group, such as Girls Not Brides, Population Council and UNFPA. Through this event, participants developed a collective understanding of the magnitude of change required to eliminate child marriage by 2030; renewed their commitment to work towards ending this harmful practice; and made a new commitment to reconvene annually at the side-lines of the General Assembly to report on progress.[75] Following the event, four countries with some of the highest burdens of child marriage globally (Bangladesh, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia and Nigeria) pledged to accelerate investments in ending child marriage, through five evidence-based strategies, published in the Lancet,[76] with the Child Marriage Monitoring Mechanism and several of its Strategic Advisory Group members publishing a supporting statement to join these efforts.[77]

On 15 November 2022, the United Nations General Assembly's Third Committee adopted a **resolution to end child, early and forced marriage**, led by the governments of Canada and Zambia and with 125 co-sponsors from around the world, compared to 114 when the previous resolution was adopted in 2020, including some countries who co-sponsored the resolution for the first time, of which some are high child marriage prevalence countries. The resolution:

- Highlights the urgent need to reach the poorest and most marginalized girls and women — those who are the hardest to reach — while calling upon the international community to step up efforts to accelerate progress to end child, early and forced marriage, including for girls and women in vulnerable situations.

- Recognizes how global health threats, climate change, conflicts and related humanitarian emergencies and forced displacement have particularly negative impacts on women and girls, and by extension might drive child, early and forced marriage.

- Recognizes how social protection, quality education and health-care services, access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene, including menstrual hygiene, skills development and meaningful participation in decision-making are crucial for the empowerment of girls and to address child, early and forced marriage.

- Notes with concern the gender digital divide made more evident during COVID-19, when many services and education were delivered through technology.

- Urges States to address root causes of gender inequality, including negative social norms, and notes the necessity to work with men and boys, with families and communities, and with religious, traditional and community leaders.

- Appreciates the Global Programme and other global, regional and national initiatives to end child marriage, encouraging coordinated and comprehensive approaches across sectors and at all levels, by a multitude of actors.

The resolution also requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on progress towards ending child, early and forced marriage before the end of the General Assembly 78th session and decides for the General Assembly to consider the issue at its 79th session under the item entitled 'Promotion and protection of the rights of children'.

On 6 March 2022, the Government of Egypt, represented by the National Council for Women presented the Investment Framework for Girls in Egypt at a side

75 For more information on the event, please see Child Marriage Monitoring Mechanism, 'A Landmark Event: Child Marriage Monitoring Mechanism at the United Nations General Assembly', 2022, https://mailchi.mp/ecf728d58f3c/cmmmattheunga-7369661?e=f7f1ea9970

76 Indira, F. N., Luseba, G. N., Tesfaye, E. & Tallen, P. K., 'Towards a world with no child marriage: four countries pledge action', *Lancet, 401*(10378), 2023, pp. 712–713.

77 Child Marriage Monitoring Mechanism, Towards a world with no child marriage: four countries pledge action [CMMM Statement], 2023, https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Lancet-Call-to-Action-30Jan-final-to-publish-updated.pdf

event during **the 67th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women** (CSW) in cooperation with UNFPA and UNICEF. The session showcased Noura and Dawwie, two programmes driving the collective mobilization for girls' empowerment in Egypt. Both programmes gained the patronage of the First Lady of Egypt, Ms. Entissar El-Sisi, and were integrated in the flagship National Project for Development of the Egyptian Family. Dawwie, launched in 2019, is a multi-stakeholder initiative to promote social support for girls' empowerment and to advocate for coordinated efforts to enhance access to quality services, skills development, and opportunities to participate and be heard. Currently the Dawwie empowerment journey entails storytelling circles, intergenerational dialogue, community dialogue, digital learning, sport and referral mechanism to skills building, protection, health and nutrition services. The Noura Framework was launched in 2021 under the leadership of the National Council for Women, in partnership with UNFPA, as a girls' empowerment initiative, adapting a global best practice called the Girls Assets Building Framework to the Egyptian context. The Girls Assets Building Framework: Noura, is a tailored 40-week programme where girls, through a guided curriculum, are trained to build their social, health and economic assets. The programme empowers adolescent girls by providing them with health, social, economic and digital assets to make their own choices. It also works to create positive social and gender norms towards adolescent girls within their households and communities and strengthens systems to ensure quality and accessible services responsive to adolescent girls.

Regional advocacy in Africa

In 2022, the theme for the **Day of the African Child** — on 16 June — was 'Eliminating Harmful Practices Affecting Children: Progress on Policy and Practice Since 2013'. This provided an opportunity to further advocate on the need to assess the situation regarding child marriage across the continent and to highlight the urgency for accelerated action to address the practice. UNICEF developed and launched three data publications looking at child marriage and FGM in Africa, including regional child marriage deep-dives in East and Southern Africa and in West

and Central Africa. To present the data analysis, a global technical webinar was hosted on the Day of the African Child, attended by over 150 participants from over 50 countries. The statistical overview for East and Southern Africa was also circulated to the members of the African Union Child Rights Committee to inform advocacy with African Union member states and programming to end child marriage across the region. In addition, an advocacy event was arranged at UNICEF House in New York and online, attended by over 70 participants in-person, representing Member States representations to the United Nations, other UN agencies and CSOs, as well as members of the African diaspora, including children, some of whom performed with poems, dancing and singing to celebrate the day.

The **social service workforce** has a key role to play in the prevention of and response to child marriage. The experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic have shown the need for social service workers to be recognized as a front-line workforce. A regional mapping of the social service workforce in West and Central Africa was finalized in August 2022 and key recommendations were shared with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Efforts to strengthen the social service workforce in the region, including with respect to prevention and response to child marriage, will be defined in 2023 in consultation with ECOWAS.

Regional advocacy in the Arab States region

The **Arab Girls' Summit** was hosted by the National Council for Family Affairs of Jordan in cooperation with the League of Arab States (LAS), UNFPA Arab States Regional Office, UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office and Plan International Jordan. The summit aimed to promote gender equality and the empowerment of adolescent girls in Arab countries. The summit provided an opportunity for girls from 12 Arab countries to discuss, exchange views, network and participate in discussions with stakeholders from representatives of LAS, UN agencies and INGOs. Topics of discussion included health and well-being, learning and livelihoods, freedom from violence and access to justice, and participation and leadership.

During the year, UNFPA and UNICEF agreed on **regional priority actions with LAS Department of Family and Childhood**:

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- Strategic engagement between LAS and the Global Programme on the prevention of child marriage

- To jointly organize a Solutions Forum to discuss what works to end child marriage in the Arab States region

- Turn the recommendations from the Arab Girls' Summit into a road map for policy to action

- UNFPA and UNICEF to engage in regular policy dialogues with representatives of the LAS member states, ensure the availability of technical resources in Arabic, and capacity-building of the representatives of member states

- UNFPA to support a legal analysis of child marriage in the region and develop a policy paper

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During the year, phase 2 (2022–2024) of the Regional Accountability Framework was launched, repositioning the platform to respond to the impacts of social and economic crises, protracted conflict and instability on child marriage. To reflect this shift in focus, the platform was rebranded as the **Regional Action Forum to End Child Marriage in the Arab States/MENA region**. Objectives of the forum are i) programme coordination between regional organizations to end child marriage; ii) knowledge-sharing and strengthening action to prevent child marriage; and iii) joint advocacy related to the drivers of child marriage and the marginalization of married adolescent girls. The regional action forum now has 40 member organizations, including practitioners, UN agencies, NGOs, academic institutions, media and women-led organizations. As the forum expands its membership and mandate, it will coordinate with other regional mechanisms such as the Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group, the regional GBV in Emergencies Working Group and No Lost Generation.

Regional advocacy in Asia and the Pacific/South Asia

UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office, UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia, Plan International, World Vision, and the South Asia Initiative for Ending Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC) continued to coordinate the organization of the regional child marriage forum, planned for April 2023 in Nepal. The forum will review progress of the Regional Action Plan to End Child Marriage and inform future actions and advocacy. UNFPA and UNICEF (as part of the South Asia Coordination Group (SACG) to End Violence Against Children, with UNICEF leading its technical child marriage working group) envisioned

that the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) would take the lead at the forum, to advance the agenda of ending child marriage in the region. However, there was limited engagement by SAARC, possibly due to the sensitivity of the issue of child marriage and the challenge that the de facto authorities of Afghanistan are not being recognized by SAARC.[78] As a result, there have been challenges in making decisions related to the implementation of regional programmes or events.

2.6 Coordination with the European Union — UN Spotlight Initiative Africa Regional Programme

The Steering Committee for the Global Programme convened for two governance meetings in 2022, providing thought leadership on the current programming context, the vision for 2022 and 2023 and the resources needed to meet the vision. The Steering Committee also discussed the issue of intersectionality and inclusion of youth whose voices need to be heard, and the application of gender-transformative programming across not just the Global Programme target countries but all the Spotlight Initiative countries. In its second meeting for the year, the Steering Committee reviewed key programme achievements including those leveraged through the Spotlight Initiative and called for the mapping of countries and sectors where influence over implementation faced a challenge.

As part of the collaboration with Girls Not Brides under the Spotlight Initiative, a joint inception workshop was convened by Girls Not Brides to provide an orientation to lead CSO coalitions in Nigeria and Mozambique on gender-transformative approaches, including through the application of the GTA tool developed by the Global Programme. CSO coalitions led by the Child and Youth Protection Foundation CYPF (in Nigeria) and AMODEFA (in Mozambique) presented an overview of their mandate and work linked to the coalitions they lead, while Girls Not Brides and UNICEF provided an extensive orientation on gender equality, gender-transformative approaches and the GTA tool and its application in six countries.

The Spotlight Initiative Africa Regional Programme commissioned a research institution with expertise related to child marriage during the year, leading to the development of a methodology that analyses specific country situations to identify high-impact areas for investment to end child marriage. Targeting Global Programme countries, the activity aims to understand the child marriage trends, drivers and options for accelerating and amplifying efforts to end the practice. Exchanges and an extensive review of the literature has taken place for Burkina Faso and Malawi, the two 'pilot countries', and interviews and discussions were conducted with key informants and other stakeholders in the two countries. Based on the review, interviews and discussions, strategy notes for both countries have been developed, and also compiled in a strategy notebook that captures lessons from the two countries.

Under the auspices of the Spotlight Initiative in West and Central Africa, and building on work started in 2021, an independent assessment of the level of integration of national and sectoral policies and plans on ending child marriage into national and local budgets in six African countries in Eastern and Southern, and Western and Central Africa were finalized and published in 2022. Findings from the study show that while countries have legal, strategic and policy frameworks for efforts to reduce child marriage, these still require significant strengthening; e.g., none of the strategies is costed, and funding spent on child marriage is very limited. Concrete recommendations point to support needs to strengthen currently weak public financial management systems, strengthening the link between planning and budgeting capabilities of social sector ministries by ensuring the costs of ending child marriage plans are included in sector Medium Term Expenditure Frameworks, and strengthening the budget oversight and monitoring of parliament, supreme audit institution, and civil society during budget execution.

The regional programme has employed various information-sharing mechanisms and channels, including the websites and social media of the respective United Nations agencies engaged in the programme and partners (the African Union Commission, CSOs, the European Union, etc.) to promote the regional programme, and the communication is further amplified through Global Programme platforms.

Plans for 2023 under the Spotlight Initiative

Through the Africa regional programme, funding has been secured to expand the collaboration with the INGO CISP in 2023 to extend social and behaviour

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78   NGO partners from Afghanistan will be invited to the regional forum, but not the de facto authorities.

change training in Kenya (additional counties), South Sudan and Uganda, and to convert the training package into two short courses to be delivered to postgraduate students and practitioners from Eastern Africa in collaboration with the University of Nairobi.

UNICEF East and Southern Africa Regional Office will leverage CISP's 'Art for social change' methodology developed and implemented in Somalia and Kenya since 2014, with the aim of working with vulnerable groups, including women and girls, to promote more resilient, inclusive and peaceful communities. This approach focuses on barriers related to cultural and social norms, knowledge, connection, and sense of agency at individual and community levels and supports the creation and dissemination of products and messages that inspire change and lead to a potential transformation. The participation in art projects and activities is effective in creating social capital through increased interpersonal relationships, a stronger sense of belonging, renewed trust and cooperation.

2.7 Advancing global research

Improving data and evidence is central to accelerating action to end harmful practices such as child marriage and FGM. Yet high-quality evidence generation, synthesis and uptake can be complex and can have limited impact unless accompanied with structured support and coordination.

STAR Initiative: Through a partnership between the Global Programme, the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation and the UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti, the **Strategic Technical Assistance for Research (STAR) Initiative to end harmful practices** aims to strengthen evidence generation and learning within the two global, joint programmes. The initiative has three areas of focus: evidence generation, evidence synthesis and research dissemination and uptake. The STAR Initiative provides high-quality research and analytical support to UNFPA and UNICEF country and regional offices seeking technical support, leads evidence synthesis to identify and address prioritized evidence gaps, and promotes the use and uptake of evidence by policymakers, practitioners and researchers.

The STAR team offers in-depth methodological and subject matter expertise to country and regional offices in the following capacities:

- Strategic guidance on research gaps and priorities
- Technical literature reviews and analysis
- Study design (impact evaluations, intervention effectiveness, mixed methods, and more)
- Capacity strengthening workshops
- Guidelines and tools to inform research approaches and methods

CRANK: Another initiative continuing in 2022, to support coordination of the global child marriage research field, is the partnership between the Global Programme and Girls Not Brides, the **Child Marriage Research to Action Network (the CRANK)**. The CRANK was set up to limit duplication of evidence generation efforts, and to link researchers and academia with programme implementers and policymakers to ensure that research fills critical gaps and that findings are used to inform programmes and policies to end child marriage. A specific objective of the network is also to promote and highlight research conducted by universities and researchers based in Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and Asia, as well as community-based and youth-led research efforts. The CRANK convenes quarterly research meetings, on priority research themes, as well as producing research spotlights based on its online research tracker, which was relaunched as a global interactive platform during the year. In 2022, the CRANK arranged an online three-day convening, to further review the latest evidence on child marriage (through a review of new findings over the previous two years), to strengthen and to highlight the importance of partnerships for effective research, and to discuss funding modalities for monitoring, research and evaluations. With a network of close to 500 individuals across all regions globally, the research meetings convene an average of 90 participants from academia, governments and United Nations agencies, as well as CSOs — drawing on the large membership of Girls Not Brides.

PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE AGAINST THE RESULTS FRAMEWORK

3.1 Overall performance

> **"** During the COVID-19 lockdown in 2020 I met a man who convinced me to marry him. Since the situation at home was beyond me and my parents could not afford food, I was forced to get married.
>
> *— Lynette, Uganda*

The lingering effects of COVID-19, the impact of climate change, the crises in the Horn of Africa and in the Sahel, and the ongoing conflict in Yemen have increased the vulnerability of adolescent girls and their families. Adolescent girls in Burkina Faso, Niger and Ghana experienced an increased lack of empowerment opportunities and reduced access to care services due to the Sahel crisis and the rise in internally displaced persons and influx of refugees. Likewise, the effects of climate change and internal conflicts in Ethiopia and Mozambique have increased the risk of teenage pregnancies, school dropout and child marriage in programme areas.

Despite these challenges, country programmes continued to adapt programming approaches and implement resilient strategies to deliver increased results. The programme in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mozambique and Niger focused on strengthening resilient and shock-responsive systems; in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, and Uganda the programme supported multisectoral adolescent empowerment approaches linked to government programmes; and most countries achieved larger results by scaling up digital and other innovative engagement platforms.

TABLE 4: *Summary of Global Programme output indicator performance (2022)*

Summary of Global Programme output indicator performance (2022)

Indicator	Target	Result	Percent achieved
Indicator 1111: Number of adolescent girls (aged 10–19) who actively participated in lifeskills or comprehensive sexuality education interventions in programme areas	5,481,189	6,308,541	115%
Indicator 1121: Number of girls (aged 10–19) supported by the programme to enrol and/or remain in primary or secondary school	168,598	161,446	96%
Indicator 1211: Number of boys and men actively participating in group education/dialogues that address harmful masculinities and gender norms	1,207,275	4,074,080	337%
Indicator 1221: Number of individuals (boys, girls, women and men) who participate in group education/dialogue sessions on consequences of and alternatives to child marriage, the rights of adolescent girls and gender equality	16,079,118	16,127,351	92%
Indicator 1222: Number of individuals (boys, girls, women and men) reached by mass media (traditional and social media) messaging on child marriage, the rights of adolescent girls and gender equality	74,479,294	155,760,623	209%
Indicator 1223: Number of local actors (e.g., traditional, religious and community leaders) with meaningful participation in dialogues and consensus-building to end child marriage	167,313	825,677	493%
Indicator 1231: Number of civil society organizations newly mobilized in support of challenging social norms and promoting gender equality by the Global Programme (cumulative)	212	173	82%
Indicator 2121: Number of primary/secondary/non-formal schools in programme areas providing quality gender-friendly education that meets minimum standards	1,118	2,702	242%
Indicator 2131: Number of service delivery points in programme areas providing quality adolescent-responsive services (health, child protection/ gender-based violence) that meet minimum standards	5,430	7,848	145%
Indicator 2211: Number of partnerships (both formal and informal) established to deliver adolescent-responsive social protection, poverty reduction, and economic empowerment programmes and services (Cumulative)	131	455	347%
Indicator 3111: Number of policies or legal instruments addressing child marriage drafted, proposed or adopted at national and subnational level with Global Programme support (Cumulative)	99	94	95%
Indicator 3121: Number of subnational plans with evidence-informed interventions to address child marriage	137	143	104%
Indicator 3211: Number of generated evidence and knowledge that focus on what works to end child marriage (Cumulative)	73	63	86%
Indicator 3212: Number of generated evidence and knowledge that apply a gender analysis (Cumulative)	74	62	84%
Indicator 3221: Number of South-to-South cooperation (conferences, expert visits, peer consultations, study tours, communities of practice) supported	13	28	208%

3.2 Providing intensive support to marginalized girls

IMMEDIATE OUTCOME 1100: Enhanced knowledge, education and lifeskills, and attitudes of marginalized adolescent girls on matters such as their rights, relationships, sexual and reproductive health, and financial literacy, including in humanitarian contexts

TABLE 5: *Outcomes related to providing intensive support to marginalized girls*

Intermediate outcome indicators	2021 Targets	2021 Results	2022 Targets	2022 Results
Indicator 1101: Proportion of girls (10–24) who have comprehensive sexual and reproductive health knowledge	39%	50%	44%	54%
Indicator 1102: Proportion of girls who express increased sense of self-efficacy; who feel confident in their ability to negotiate and delay early marriage; who feel comfortable speaking without fear	43%	54%	50%	60%
Indicator 1103: Proportion of adolescent girls of lower secondary school age that are out of school	18%	32%	20%	27%

Over half (56 per cent) of girls aged between 10 and 24 reported increased comprehensive sexual and reproductive health knowledge, compared to 44 per cent in 2021. In Sierra Leone, the proportion of older adolescent girls, aged 15–19, who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care has increased from 33 per cent to 75 per cent. In Nepal, four out of five girls who completed the Rupantaran financial and social skills education programme demonstrated improved knowledge, skills and attitudes to make informed decisions about marriage, education, and sexual and reproductive health. However, only 32 per cent had comprehensive sexual and reproductive health knowledge.

The sense of self-efficacy, confidence to negotiate and delay marriage, and feeling comfortable to speak without fear increased among adolescent girls from 50 per cent in 2021 to 60 per cent in 2022. In Nepal, 64 per cent of 15–19-year-old girls and 24 per cent of 10–14-year-old girls who participated in the programme reported increased self-efficacy (to feel confident in their ability to negotiate and delay marriage, to feel comfortable speaking without fear). In Sierra Leone, close to half (49 per cent) of girls

surveyed in safe spaces reported an increased sense of self-efficacy, confidence in their ability to negotiate and delay marriage and speak without fear on issues affecting them. They also perceived that teenage pregnancies and child marriage had declined in their communities. However, an alarming 20 per cent of girls in Sierra Leone agreed that sometimes a boy has to force a girl to have sex if he loves her, and a similarly high and discouraging proportion of girls (15 per cent) thought that it was justifiable under certain circumstances for boys to beat girls.

The proportion of adolescent girls of lower secondary school age who are out of school decreased from 32 per cent in 2021 to 27 per cent in 2022. This positive trend result can be attributed to the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions, the end of prolonged school closures, and 'back to school' campaigns supported by the Global Programme and partners. India has the lowest proportion of girls of lower secondary school age who are out of school, with 7.9 per cent currently out of school. However, in crisis-affected countries the proportion of girls out of school has increased. In Burkina Faso, the out-of-school rates among girls of lower secondary school age increased from 24 per cent in 2020 to 31 per cent in 2022, while 60 per cent are currently out of school in Mozambique compared to 43 per cent in 2019.

> " Through the life skills training, as well as the group activities with other girls, I feel I have transformed into a new person. I realized my self-worth and have better self-esteem, and I now feel that I am a person that can achieve anything in life. I have overcome my stress, I am even less aggressive with my kids and have learnt to handle my problems wisely. My family has noticed the dramatic change in my character. Thank you for supporting girls like me and other girls with such training. I think it's very important for girls to realize their self-worth.
>
> — *Fatma, 17, internally displaced from Ibb, Yemen*

Output 1110: Underserved/ marginalized adolescent girls (aged 10–19) who are at risk of child marriage or who are pregnant, married, divorced or widowed are engaged in gender-transformative life skills and CSE programmes that build their knowledge, skills and awareness of their rights, and connect them to services

TABLE 6: *Number of adolescent girls (aged 10–19) who actively participated in lifeskills or CSE interventions in programme areas, disaggregated by age, marital status and disability*

INDICATOR 1111: Number of adolescent girls (aged 10-19) who actively participated in life skills or CSE interventions in programme areas, disaggregated by age and disability

Country	2019 Results	2020 Results	2021 Results	2022 Targets	2022 Results	Unmarried	Married	10–14 yr	15–19 yr	With disabilities	Girls reached using other funding streams	Boys reached within GP
Bangladesh	89,974	88,770	96,592	80,720	25,393	6,463	3,355	9,857	10,241	314	9,341	4,005
Burkina Faso	310,042	112,123	44,825	149,503	83,412	83,330	82	42,635	40,777	241	N/A	N/A
Ethiopia	261,244	152,782	49,449	108,926	145,415	120,356	25,059	71,262	74,153	409	N/A	N/A
Ghana	20,046	27,274	19,376	40,302	23,024	19,907	76	8,254	14,770	3	N/A	N/A
India	2,496,395	3,610,573	2,041,980	4,746,395	5,603,377	2,549,311	464	841,929	1,707,846	4,823	3,053,602	N/A
Mozambique	51,676	4,185	N/A	56,533	4500	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Nepal	4,175	3,533	75,062	35,000	57,011	8221	163	3,624	4,760	77	N/A	N/A
Niger	9,505	12,471	43,009	16,000	19,603	16,074	3,529	2,548	17,065	22	N/A	N/A
Sierra Leone	26,192	12,000	11,058	22,000	18,220	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	301	N/A	N/A
Uganda	135,690	74,335	200,407	203,690	204,181	183158	21000	78,218	125,963	23	N/A	N/A
Yemen	5,324	2,457	2,049	4,000	29,789	N/A	N/A	5,850	14,066	77	N/A	N/A
Zambia	3,447	5,923	6,108	18,120	94,616	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	3,413,710	4,106,426	2,589,915	5,481,189	6,308,541	2,986,820	53,728	1,064,177	2,009,641	6,290	3,062,943	4,005

The Global Programme continued to use multisectoral adolescent empowerment approaches linked to government programmes to build knowledge and lifeskills of girls through education and by linking them to protection services and employment opportunities. The programme institutionalized lifeskills education through the training of trainers in teacher training colleges, supported national education departments to develop and integrate lifeskills education into national school curricula, established and facilitated adolescent safe spaces in communities and schools, and established digital learning and engagement platforms.

Over 6.3 million adolescent girls were empowered with life skills and comprehensive sexuality education delivered through adolescent safe spaces in communities and schools during 2022. The increase in uptake of lifeskills and comprehensive sexuality education is attributed to schools reopening and the lifting of mobility restrictions imposed during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the support for multisectoral adolescent empowerment approaches with linkages to digital learning and engagement platforms implemented through government schemes.

The India programme worked with self-help groups[79], women-led and youth-led organizations, and grass-roots workers (including Aanganwadi workers) to identify adolescent girls at risk of child marriage in hard-to-reach areas and marginalized communities. The programme also used digital platforms such as the Advika app to link adolescents to life skills and career readiness opportunities.

The Ethiopia programme institutionalized lifeskills education in schools through training of trainers in teacher training colleges and master trainers for in-service teachers. In 2022, the programme reached 87,747 adolescent girls from 304 schools in the 29 woredas (districts) targeted by the programme. In addition, the programme established community safe spaces that reached 57,668 out-of-school adolescent girls. In Zambia, UNFPA and UNICEF expanded from two to six programme intervention districts and expanded the number of wards covered in the previous two focus districts. In addition, there was a shift in programming from health facility-based sexual and reproductive health education for adolescents to school- and community-based outreach, education and counselling.

In Bangladesh, through the alternative learning pathway model, UNICEF has been linking the most disadvantaged and vulnerable out-of-school adolescent girls with lifeskills education and employment opportunities. In 2022, UNICEF embarked on diversifying the alternative learning pathway model with a context-focused and ecosystem-based market approach. This intervention mainly depends on working with small local entrepreneurs who were severely impacted by COVID-19. UNICEF had to delay the model diversification which resulted in the programme not reaching the targeted 56,000 most marginalized adolescent girls. In Burkina Faso, the ongoing insecurity in parts of the country led to the closure of 6,253 primary and post-primary schools, reducing the ability of the programme to engage adolescents in those communities. Targeting out-of-school girls with meaningful empowerment interventions in the current situation is challenging with some of the programme partners. However, the programme is using community-based actors to implement activities within the villages with facilitated access to the most at-risk children.

Output 1120: Underserved/ marginalized adolescent girls supported to enrol and remain in formal and non-formal education, including through the transition from primary to secondary school

" Being a child mother has been a very hard thing for me to bear, which I wouldn't wish on any other girl. The father of my child, who is also a teenager, would beat me up every day. I am glad that I have the opportunity to return to school. As a peer advocate, I will use my experience as a teenage mother in school to encourage adolescents not to fall into the same trap that I did. In my community, I am encouraging fellow girls like me who have gotten pregnant and given birth, to go back to school.

— 17-year-old teenage mother and peer advocate in Abim district, Uganda

Overall, the Global Programme supported 161,446 adolescent girls to enrol and/or remain in school in 2022. Recovery from learning losses caused by the extended closures of schools due to COVID-19, coupled with the limited fiscal space many governments face to meet education needs as well as multiple other demands on government resources caused by insecurity and climate change, continue to undermine Global Programme efforts to prevent child marriages by keeping adolescent girls in schools. Many girls are dropping out of school because of sexual abuse, teenage pregnancies, and due to their parents' fear for the safety of girls on account of sexual violence in and around schools.

In Burkina Faso, the ongoing insecurity in six regions of the country targeted by the programme led to the closure of 6,253 primary and post-primary schools and deprived an estimated 523,194 girls of education. In Uganda, despite the massive 'Go Back and Stay in School' campaigns led by district education officers, the prolonged COVID-19 school closures

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79 Financial intermediary community committees comprising 12 to 25 local women between the ages of 18 and 50.

TABLE 7: *Number of girls (10–19) supported by the Global Programme to enrol and/or remain in primary or secondary school, disaggregated by age and marital status*

Country	2019 Results	2020 Results	2021 Results	INDICATOR 1121: Number of girls (10-19) supported by the programme to enroll and/or remain in primary or secondary school, disaggregated by age 2022					
				Targets	Results	Unmar-ried	Married	10–14 yr	15–19 yr
Bangladesh	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Burkina Faso	27,197	32,956	14,070	4,200	2,008	2,008	0	887	1,121
Ethiopia	58,580	N/A	7,413	44,200	33,674	25,336	8,338	13,365	20,309
Ghana	1,000	1,029	1,094	1,069	1,081			676	405
India	217,731	114,740	84,983	85,000	84,090	84,090		84,090	
Mozambique	1,576	1,226	384	2,040	1,113	944	169	776	337
Nepal	7,908	7,716	7,691	7,908	8,339	7,452	573	5,546	2,479
Niger	N/A	276	1,649	3,000	3,000	3,000	0	0	3,000
Sierra Leone	N/A	N/A	812	500	1,155	1,155	0	581	574
Uganda	23,108	183	14,144	13,692	13,880	10,243	3,637	4,632	9,248
Yemen	273	88	736	500	2,393	2,134	259	2,134	259
Zambia	N/A	2,264	989	6,489	10,713				
Total	**337,373**	**160,478**	**133,965**	**168,598**	**161,446**	**136,362**	**12,976**	**112,687**	**37,732**

Note: Targets were revised during 2022–2023 planning phase to adjust for the socioeconomic impact of the polycrisis.

resulted in school dropout, teenage pregnancy, child marriage, lack of interest in formal and non-formal education, and an unwillingness to return to school, especially for girls that had taken up income-earning opportunities. Despite the insecurity in Yemen, UNFPA exceeded its targets and provided 1,900 marginalized girls with non-formal literacy education. The girls included child marriage survivors, adolescent girls who never went to school, and girls affected by conflict and displacement. UNFPA supports the REFLECT (Regenerated Freirean Literacy through Empowering Community Techniques) approach that uses no textbooks and enables learners to develop their own learning materials by constructing maps of their village, matrices and diagrams that reflect their local reality and topics raised by girls themselves. In Zambia, the government's free primary and secondary school education policy launched in 2022 has offered unprecedented opportunities to thousands of girls to continue their education through to the secondary school level. In India, UNICEF developed a contextualized curriculum and interventions to reach adolescent girls from hard-to-reach and tribal districts in Jharkhand and Odisha states.

3.3 Enhancing the family and community environment

> ❝ I have realized that no work is man's work or a woman's work.
>
> *— Marufa Khatun, 18, married and living with her six family members in Bangladesh.*

> ❝ Many of us don't evaluate housework. But our wives work tirelessly all day to keep the family alive. Our wives share most of the family chores, from taking care of the children to teaching and cooking. So, we should recognize their work and treat them with respect, love and affection.
>
> *— Raihan Ali, 23, husband to Marufa*

TABLE 8: *Outcomes for enhancing the family and community environment*

Intermediate outcome indicators	2021 Targets	2021 Results	2022 Targets	2022 Results
Indicator 1201: Proportion of respondents who believe that all/most individuals in their community are marrying children before	43%	23%	38%	25%
Indicator 1202: Proportion of adult respondents who can identify sanctions (punishments) and benefits (rewards) associated with child marriage abandonment	51%	55%	55%	61%
Indicator 1203: Proportion of respondents (community, traditional and religious leaders) who are willing to introduce sanctions if someone does not practice child marriage	N/A	N/A	0%	49%
Indicator 1204: Proportion of respondents who think that marrying their daughter/ female household members before 18 is the best option	6%	13%	5%	11%

IMMEDIATE OUTCOME 1200: Adolescent boys, families, traditional and religious leaders, community groups, and other influencers demonstrate more gender-equitable attitudes and support for girls' rights

UNICEF headquarters and the East and Southern Africa Regional Office developed a social norms training package designed to enhance the capacity of programme staff from civil society and government partners as well as within UNFPA and UNICEF country offices. With a focus on harmful practices, in particular child marriage, FGM and sexual and gender-based violence, the in-person and online training modules introduce participants to the foundations and characteristics of well-designed social norms change programmes, as described in the UNICEF Social Norms Programming Guide **Everybody wants to belong**. The training takes the learner on an emotive, cognitive and content journey that covers the different dimensions of social norms, guidance on how to design norm-shifting interventions, approaches, and tools to measure social norms change. Over 200 programme staff of civil society partners, government, UNFPA and UNICEF, including local academia, have participated in the in-person training across five countries (Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Somalia and Uganda), and over 620 participants have taken the online course through the UNICEF Agora learning platform.

UNICEF Ethiopia and the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs in Ethiopia redesigned the community conversation toolkit based on the review of existing manuals on gender-transformative programming used by various organizations. The toolkit, tailored to both development and humanitarian situations, fosters intergenerational dialogue, cross-learning and consensus-building among adolescent girls, boys, women and men to address the underlying causes of child marriage and FGM based on a gender-transformative approach *(see Figure 10)*.

FIGURE 10: *Community conversations change pathway in Ethiopia*
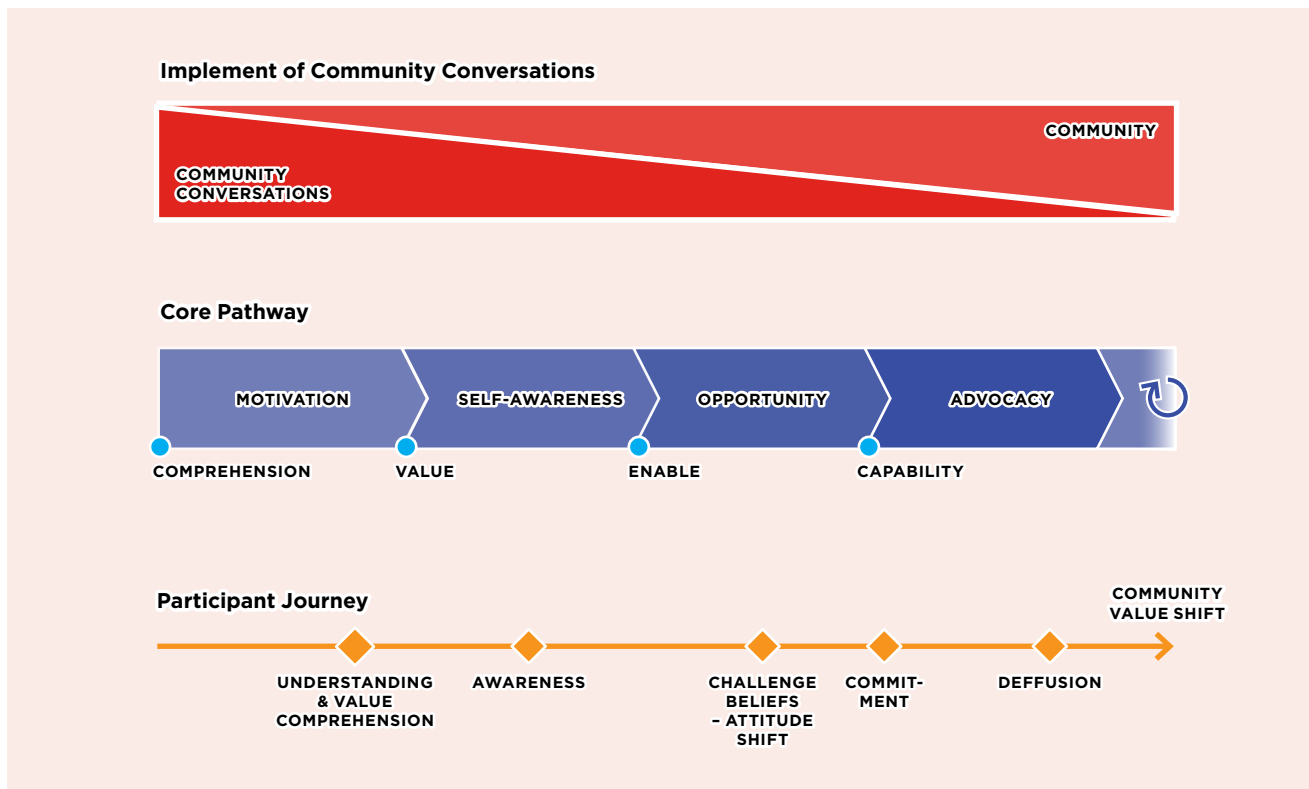
In responding to a 2021 evaluation that found that community engagement activities so far have mostly focused on top-down communication of generic messages instead of working with communities to identify and work on social and structural drivers of change, the UNICEF West and Central Africa Regional Office is developing a social and behaviour change (SBC) playbook for community-led approaches to designing SBC and social norms activities addressing child marriage and FGM. The greatest potential for the playbook is to demonstrate respectful, contextual approaches to discredit myths and address the underlying drivers of harmful behaviours. In developing the playbook, UNICEF is using a human-centred approach to foster empathy and interventions that build on positive behaviours and dispel myths that reproduce cycles of harm. The implementation of the tool consists of three steps: first, the reflection or relationship reset step that uses interactive methods that allow a community to react to or edit a presented scenario to avoid making assumptions or inadvertent judgments; second, the revelation or design with the community step that focuses on intergenerational and peer-to-peer discussions that allow and encourage women, men and adolescents to share their experiences in a safe environment, and introduce tools that map social networks to uncover opportunities that do not rely on prominent leaders alone; and third,

the revisit or test with the community, monitor change step that introduces interactive SBC tools that a community can use to facilitate conversations on their own, identify root causes and track positive practices, and revisit the community to practise using or iterating on offered tools that allow them to be flexible for resonance and sustainability.

The UNICEF regional office for South Asia commissioned an evaluation of the impact of COVID-19 on child marriage practices and determinants in Bangladesh, India and Nepal. The evaluation found that that restrictive social norms regarding gender are prevalent across programme areas in all three countries, and that perceptions of traditional male and female roles in the household contribute to child marriage. While the pandemic made it somewhat more acceptable for women to work in non-traditional forms of employment (i.e., cleaning, agricultural work, sewing), overall, restrictive gender norms that prescribe limited agency to girls remain entrenched across programme areas. COVID-19 had very little impact on social and cultural beliefs relating to notions of childhood and readiness for child marriage; notions that are heavily informed by entrenched norms relating to gender roles and underpinned by religious beliefs and laws. Fears surrounding premarital sexual activities of girls appear to have intensified during

COVID-19. This, along with the increased scrutiny of girls' behaviour due to male family members being more present at home, appears to have compounded this driver of child marriage. It also appears that dowry practices were compounded as a driver of child marriage during COVID-19, as young people were compelled to or chose to marry, as the reduction in dowry was seen as an opportunity for the family of the bride to marry daughters for a lower amount. Overall, the evaluation did not find that COVID-19 had a definitive impact on the caste system as a driver of child marriage; however, the increased access of children to those from different castes and backgrounds through the Internet and social media during COVID-19 may have driven pre-emptively arranged marriages in some cases.

In Bangladesh, a recent baseline study on knowledge, attitudes, practices and norms around harmful practices highlighted that only 50 per cent of community members know about the need to abandon harmful practices and less than 30 per cent of adolescents could mention three benefits of abandoning harmful child disciplining practices. An assessment of intergenerational couple dialogues revealed that married adolescent girls reported better communication between themselves and their husbands and in-laws about their aspirations following the intergenerational couple dialogues. Husbands were generally aware of and expressed support for their wives' career aspirations. Similarly, unmarried adolescent girls reported more positive communication between them and their parents and the parents expressed support for their daughters. However, male participants reported that they share household chores only when female family members are sick or not at home. Fathers-in-law reported no discussion with daughters-in-law about family planning. Alarmingly, participants said that intimate partner violence often occurs when wives make 'mistakes' or 'disobey' their husbands or mothers. However, some fathers believe husbands should be more patient with and listen to their wives. Adolescent boys from intergroup dialogues stated that neither they nor their family members believe in a gendered division of labour in household work. Respondents shared that they changed decision-making processes in the family following the dialogues. Now they ensure that female family members are involved in decision-making and that their opinions are being heard.

In Sierra Leone, a UNICEF study on social norms and behavioural drivers revealed that, although child marriage is generally condemned by the respondents, a considerable proportion of respondents believe that child marriage can have positive effects on both

the girls and the community. Almost 96 per cent of respondents agree that child marriage should be discontinued; 9 out of 10 respondents said that they would like to live in a community where girls below 18 do not have to marry; 86 per cent of respondents strongly agree that child marriage is a form of violence against children and over 80 per cent strongly disagree with the statement 'marriage is the best option for a girl'. However, 40 per cent of respondents think that marrying boys below age 18 affects boys and men in their community in a positive way, and a similar proportion (41 per cent) believe that this is also true for girls and women in their community. The advantages they most commonly see in girls marrying under 18 are a guarantee of chastity and purity (26 per cent); a way to ensure fertility (31 per cent); it protects girls (33 per cent); and girls over 18 who are not married are seen as a burden to their families (38 per cent). Among the respondents, 20 per cent hold conflicting views about child marriage, believing that it can have both good and bad outcomes.

In Mozambique, a similar UNICEF study on social norms and behavioural drivers revealed that many respondents lose confidence in their decision of abandoning child marriage due to social pressure and the daughter's attitude and decisions. More than 4 in 10 respondents lose confidence if some community members talk badly about their families (42 per cent), if they are called a bad parent (40 per cent) or if they are called less religious (41 per cent). A similar proportion lose confidence in their decision when they are not supported by their close social circle (42 per cent). Similarly, half the respondents lose confidence in their decision to not marry early based on the girl's behaviour, mainly when girls display interest in boys (49 per cent) and when the girl is at risk of getting pregnant (52 per cent). In the same way, perceptions of a girl's behaviour and some decisions also seem to have an influence on changing respondents' minds regarding child marriage, as they would lose confidence if the girl "is not good" or fails at school (51 per cent) or if the girl insists that she wants to get married (46 per cent).

In Yemen, another UNICEF study on social norms and behavioural drivers revealed that parents and caregivers are aware of the harmful consequences of child marriage, especially for girls, but they also perceive some advantages to marrying girls off early. A vast majority of respondents (81 per cent) acknowledge that marriage is not the best option for a girl under 18, which is consistent with almost half of caregivers believing child marriage has only negative consequences. Moreover, when asked about harmful consequences related to girls'

marriages, most respondents mentioned early pregnancy (73 per cent), capacity for child raising and nurturing (55 per cent), and health risks (54 per cent). Violence or harassment inside their homes and less education were also mentioned as negative consequences by one quarter of parents and caregivers. However, there are some reported beliefs, attitudes and aspirations shared by a plurality of respondents that push parents and caregivers to accept marrying off girls at an early age. A salient driver of child marriage seems to be its perceived advantage to provide protection (physical, social, moral and reputational) to a girl, according to 86

per cent of parents and caregivers. Even though both marriage and education are seen as providing protection to girls, more than half of the respondents (62 per cent) agreed that seizing the opportunity of a good marriage is more important than continuing a girl's education.

Output 1210: Boys and men are engaged in gender-transformative programmes (including CSE for boys) that promote healthy relationships and positive masculinities and gender equality

TABLE 9: *Number of boys and men actively participating in group education/dialogues that address harmful masculinities and gender norms*

Country	**INDICATOR 1211: Number of boys and men actively participating in group education/dialogues that address harmful masculinities and gender norms**						
	2019 Results	**2020 Results**	**2021 Results**	**2022**			
				Targets	**Results**	**Boys**	**Men**
Bangladesh	159,029	44,529	23,177	27,000	3,015	2,538	477
Burkina Faso	76,151	176,775	73,560	35,000	97,722	50,012	47,710
Ethiopia	37,481	178,501	41,031	36,788	72,435	35,960	36,475
Ghana	792	4,986	4,392	6,887	8,441	3,980	4,461
India	N/A	5,900,558	951,126	1,000,000	3,735,249	3,019,657	715,592
Mozambique	742	1,295	4,875	3,200	16,070	11,758	4,312
Nepal	4,100	432	1,262	11,500	11,158	4,424	6,734
Niger	N/A	6,296	16,130	16,000	15,165	3,754	11,411
Sierra Leone	N/A	5,276	4,870	10,750	18,662	13,089	5,573
Uganda	N/A	28,000	10,120	42,000	78,713	25,693	53,020
Yemen	1,000	604	8,638	2,700			
Zambia	N/A	4,325	8,946	15,450	17,450	15,884	1,566
Total	**159,029**	**6,351,577**	**1,148,127**	**1,207,275**	**4,074,080**	**3,186,749**	**887,331**

The Global Programme continued to focus on increasing knowledge and changing attitudes and behaviours through intergenerational and peer-to-peer dialogues on positive gender norms and through promoting positive masculinities and parenting practices. Overall, over four million boys and men were engaged and actively participated in dialogues that address harmful masculinities and gender norms during the year, almost four times the programme target.

In India, the use of multiple community platforms, including digital platforms, enabled the programme to engage more than 3.7 million boys and men in dialogues to address harmful practices. In 2022, a total of 65 women-led and youth-led organizations and 865 self-help groups were newly mobilized in support of challenging gender norms and promoting positive masculinities specifically targeting marginalized and hard-to-reach areas

including tribal and caste communities. In Burkina Faso, more than double the programme target of boys and men participated in dialogues on positive masculinities. The increased reach was enabled by the expansion of the programme in 1,458 new intervention villages, the revision of the adolescent club animation guide with a focus on adolescent capacity strengthening, the establishment of husbands' schools, and the continuation of the 'Thanks to Me' initiative that reflects every boy's commitment to protecting at least one girl from child marriage. In Mozambique, the programme scaled up the boys and young men mentorship approach by training an additional 240 mentors to facilitate intergenerational dialogues in more communities.

Output 1220: Families, communities, traditional and religious leaders, and other influencers are engaged in dialogue and consensus-building on alternatives to child marriage (including education), the rights of adolescent girls, and gender equality

The programme continued to scale up SBC change approaches by enhancing the capacities of partners in social and gender norms programming and facilitation of intergenerational and peer-to-peer dialogues. Overall, more than 16 million individuals in programme-targeted areas participated in dialogue sessions at the community level on addressing child marriage and gender inequality in their communities.

TABLE 10: *Number of individuals (boys, girls, women and men) who participate in group education/dialogue sessions on consequences of and alternatives to child marriage, the rights of adolescent girls, and gender equality (by sex)*

Country	**INDICATOR 1221: Number of individuals (boys, girls, women and men) who participate in group education/dialogue sessions on consequences of and alternatives to child marriage, the rights of adolescent girls, and gender equality, by sex**								
	2019 Results	**2020 Results**	**2021 Results**	**2022**					
				Targets	**Results**	**Girls**	**Boys**	**Women**	**Men**
Bangladesh	560,412	11,301,743	5,203,668	4,500,000	768,654	78,115	87,775	324,577	278,187
Burkina Faso	204,809	237,555	346,828	256,151	268,675	45,274	43,090	113,694	66,617
Ethiopia	471,890	484,696	504,626	740,090	613,989	114,573	97,942	198,357	203,117
Ghana	95,686	41,719	85,301	185,686	590,900	14,583	12,045	313,142	251,130
India	1,347,245	8,252,151	9,328,524	9,993,000	13,320,308	1,914,545	1,135,814	6,075,032	4,194,917
Mozambique	44,216	4,819	150,754	21,342	18,079	1,800	1,200	8,026	7,053
Nepal	4,256	8,014	46,229	55,000	48,617	7,716	10,028	14,631	16,242
Niger	80,709	17,852	73,943	81,320	94,870	45,620	6,164	21,615	21,471
Sierra Leone	580	15,927	112,009	31,750	39,754	20,349	15,521	939	2,945
Uganda	55,568	46,876	101,924	126,000	301,842	50,125	45,231	85,967	120,519
Yemen	28,564	17,529	11,392	35,564	50,429	20,157	17,183	8,890	4,199
Zambia	2,739	2,200	32,684	53,215	11,234	1,650	720	6,401	2,463
Total	**2,896,674**	**20,444,685**	**15,997,882**	**16,079,118**	**16,127,351**	**2,314,507**	**1,472,713**	**7,171,271**	**5,168,860**

The Ghana programme engaged adolescent boys, girls, women and men through safe spaces, community meetings, community information centres and radio stations to disseminate key messages. Other platforms such as 'Breaking the Silence Fora', intergenerational dialogues and radio shows were also used to communicate to individuals in the communities. In India, UNFPA and UNICEF supported the integration of ending child marriage interventions in the work with panchayats (local government bodies) to scale up community engagement and awareness-raising activities, to ensure villages

are child-friendly and promote women's rights. In Mozambique, community dialogues aimed to break the culture of silence that continues to hamper reporting and denunciation of acts of violence committed against children, including child marriage. However, new partnership contract agreements were delayed during the rolling out of UNICEF's new country programme and the programme was unable to expand to the 10 new planned programme areas and therefore unable to reach the target. In Bangladesh, the lingering effects of COVID-19 and expansion into new targeted areas continued to challenge the programme in scaling up face-to-face dialogues.

TABLE 11: *Number of individuals (boys, girls, women and men) reached by mass media (traditional and social media) messaging on child marriage, the rights of adolescent girls and gender equality*

Country	2019 Results	2020 Results	2021 Results	2022 Targets	2022 Results	2022 Girls	2022 Boys	2022 Women	2022 Men
Bangladesh	1,000,000	38,497,147	10,004,148	16,302,720	49,716,776	2,088,324	2,684,920	14,069,712	30,873,820
Burkina Faso	3,120,687	3,000,000	7,300,000	5,680,000	1,595,470	230,343	253,580	426,356	685,191
Ethiopia	1,131,326	2,063,000	1,026,690	3,063,000	2,180,428	90,270	160,480	694,684	1,234,994
Ghana	N/A	65,253	1,051,599	616,304	290,987	7,181	5,931	154,206	123,669
India	3,159,000	3,110,515	19,833,878	36,920,000	79,385,255	12,834,357	10,141,211	23,848,603	32,561,084
Mozambique	2,500,000	2,000,000	2,213,000	3,470,000	5,000,000				
Nepal	1,208,396	21,618	2,600,000	1,708,396	10,231,573	134,504	133,936	157,298	155,835
Niger	158,570	36,369	6,910,617	2,255,000	0	0	0	0	0
Sierra Leone	N/A	3,649,144	352,089	350,000	3,329,509	500	603	1,832,795	1,495,611
Uganda	1,485,744	338,060	3,005,000	3,116,374	2,997,765	245,300	732,364	863,459	1,156,642
Yemen	10,000	5,560	N/A	37,500					
Zambia	N/A	N/A	800,000	960,000	1,032,860				
Total	**13,773,723**	**78,438,433**	**55,097,021**	**74,479,294**	**155,760,623**	**15,630,779**	**14,113,025**	**42,047,113**	**68,286,846**

INDICATOR 1222: Number of individuals (boys, girls, women, and men) reached by mass media (traditional and social media) messaging on child marriage, the rights of adolescent girls, and gender equality

UNFPA and UNICEF amplified diverse voices in media and public discourse on child marriage, consent and adolescent autonomy. UNICEF's partnerships with community radio stations, local newspapers and TV stations reached millions of people with key messages, social and traditional media campaigns, television and radio talk shows, television miniseries, theatre plays, and community awareness programmes. Over 155 million individuals (boys, girls, women and men) were reached by mass media (traditional and social media) messaging on child marriage, the rights of adolescent girls and gender equality — twice the number that had been targeted by the programme in 2022.

In Sierra Leone, the programme supported youth-led groups trained in advocacy and communication to hold radio talk shows that reached an estimated listenership of 2.2 million people in Kambia, Pujehun and Koinadugu districts. Radio, television and social media activities on child marriage during the 16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women and Girls campaign, and the screening of the miniseries **'Vaillante'** in schools and district headquarter towns in Kambia, Pujehun and Koinadugu districts reached an estimated 1.1 million individuals at the community level. The Nepal programme, in partnership with Sancharika Samuha, ran a 'Proud to Give Birth to a Girl Child' campaign that reached over 10 million

people through social and traditional media to promote the value of girls and to reduce all forms of discrimination against girls. The campaign included radio and television talk shows to mark the 16 Days of Activism in collaboration with HamiDajuVai (also known as Nepali Brothers), a feminist organization specifically focused on men

and masculinity, and the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens. The Bangladesh programme reached an estimated audience of close to 50 million people through a number of channels to promote ending child marriage, including public service announcements, social media, the edutainment series 'Icchedana', U-Report and local radio programmes.

TABLE 12: *Number of local actors (e.g., traditional, religious and community leaders) with meaningful participation in dialogues and consensus-building to end child marriage*

Country	INDICATOR 1223: Number of local actors (e.g., traditional, religious and community leaders) with meaningful participation in dialogues and consensus-building to end child marriage					
	2020 Results	2021 Results	2022			
			Targets	Results	Female	Male
Bangladesh	13,510	23,409	35,000	15,036	5,734	9,302
Burkina Faso	9,978	6,428	6,000	5,920	2,501	3,419
Ethiopia	147,108	22,497	1,986	10,557	2,323	8,234
Ghana	1,200	2,116	882	4,216	2,267	1,949
India	16,745	67,634	117,745	776,580	515,366	261,214
Mozambique	157	663	200	268	46	222
Nepal	378	836	320	1,178	449	729
Niger	734	772	291	544	3	541
Sierra Leone	1,538	980	1,000	1,865	551	1,089
Uganda	1,623	37,602	2,245	3,373	23	3,350
Yemen	143	150	144	N/A	N/A	N/A
Zambia	141	90	1,500	6,140	2,100	4,040
Total	**193,255**	**163,177**	**167,313**	**825,677**	**531,363**	**294,089**

> ❝ There are no child marriages for underage girls if there are no men/boys willing to accept her as a wife. Often it is ignorance that leads to doing what is wrong. Coming here, I understand the dangers for girls being married very young. It can even kill them. I don't want that for my own daughters. How should I still accept it for the child of another family?
>
> — *Customary leader during an advocacy workshop, Kadiogo/Centre, Burkina Faso*

In 2022, the Global Programme provided support to 825,677 local actors (including traditional, religious and community leaders as well as the police, local authorities and community workers) aimed at strengthening their capacity to address child marriage, uphold the rights of girls and promote gender-equitable behaviours. Most country programmes, including in Ghana, India, Nepal and Zambia, used community structures and platforms like self-help groups and child protection committees to orient religious, traditional and community leaders and marriage hall owners on the consequences of child marriage and the need to end the practice.

In partnership with the African Union Commission, the Global Programme provided a platform for 30 youth advocates to consolidate youth voices directed at transforming harmful practices and behaviours. During the 3rd African Peer Review Mechanism held in July 2022 in Kampala, Uganda, the youth advocates highlighted the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and proposed solutions to decision makers to end harmful practices. The symposium prioritized youth mainstreaming as a critical element for building prosperous, secure and self-sustaining African economies. The Global Programme also worked with youth advocates in Africa to adapt the existing youth advocacy guide for the prevention and reduction of harmful practices. The adapted version of the guide will be used to empower and support young advocates and youth-led networks across Africa to gain a deeper understanding of and build capacities for advocacy, engaging with policymakers, researching advocacy issues, building networks, embarking on advocacy campaigns, and monitoring advocacy efforts to reduce and prevent harmful practices.

TABLE 13: *Number of CSOs newly mobilized in support of challenging social norms and promoting gender equality by the Global Programme (cumulative results)*

Country	**INDICATOR 1231: Number of CSOs newly mobilized in support of challenging social norms and promoting gender equality by the Global Programme**						
	2020 Results	**2021 Results**	**2022**				
			Targets	**Results**	**Women rights**	**Child rights**	**Youth-led**
Bangladesh	5	26	25	25	20	0	5
Burkina Faso	4	0	3	10	0	0	0
Ethiopia	1	1	41	31	0	0	0
Ghana	2	1	13	10	0	0	0
India	22	73	95	73	0	0	0
Mozambique	2	2	2	1	0	0	0
Nepal	5	1	3	1	0	0	0
Niger	1	0	2	5	0	0	0
Sierra Leone	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Uganda	4	0	14	14	0	0	0
Yemen	3	N/A	1	N/A	0	0	0
Zambia	30	18	12	2	0	0	0
Total	**79**	**122**	**212**	**173**	**20**	**0**	**5**

The Global Programme builds partnerships with civil society organizations and enhances their capacity to reach the most-at-risk and marginalized adolescents and their families in hard-to-reach areas and areas affected by insecurity. In 2022, the Global Programme countries mobilized 33 new CSOs bringing the total number to 173 CSOs supporting interventions to end child marriage. In countries such as Ethiopia and India, the Global Programme is increasingly using self-help and women's community groups to mobilize communities in support of challenging discriminatory social and gender norms and the practice of child marriage. Currently, 1,300 women development associations in Ethiopia and 930 self-help groups in India have been mobilized and capacitated to support the Global Programme's efforts to end child marriage and promote gender equality in their own communities. The programme in Burkina Faso and in Ghana mobilized new civil society organizations to support the programme to reach the most-at-risk and marginalized adolescents and their families in areas affected by the influx of refugees due to the Sahel crisis.

Recognizing the critical role of grassroot organizations, the Global Programme, in collaboration with the Spotlight Initiative Africa Regional Programme, provided small-scale funding to adolescent girl-led and women-led organizations to carry out policy advocacy, capacity-building and evidence-based reporting on ending child marriage. In 2022, 14 adolescent girl-led and women-led organizations in Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria and Zimbabwe were already developing proposals to advocate on efforts towards ending child marriage and FGM to influence positive change, including into government policy documents and guidelines. Over 14 CSOs committed to participate and started implementation in December 2022.

3.4 Enhancing sustainability of interventions by building resilient systems and expanding partnerships

> " I was 14, when I married a 60-year-old man. I didn't live a normal childhood like other girls of my age. In my husband's house I was frequently subjected to violence because I refused to obey him. I felt disgusted, I was scared, my mental state deteriorated so badly. I ran away from this hell and was admitted into a shelter where I felt secure, I received great support, from psychosocial sessions to being assigned a lawyer to help me get a divorce. My condition improved dramatically after the psychosocial support sessions, and after receiving my divorce papers. I am finally free and can complete my education, like girls of my age.
>
> *— Amal, a 15-year child marriage survivor, Ibb Governorate, Yemen*

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TABLE 14: *Intermediate outcome indicators on building resilient systems*

Intermediate outcome indicators	2021 Targets	2021 Results	2022 Targets	2022 Results
Indicator 2101: Proportion of adolescent girls of lower secondary school age who stayed away from school during the past month and past 12 months because they felt unsafe at, or on the way to/from school or online	80%	36%	75%	25%
Indicator 2102: Number of girls and boys in programme areas who accessed prevention and protection services	459,955	243,136	612,148	652,206

Note: Targets were revised during 2022–2023 planning phase to adjust for the socioeconomic impact of the polycrisis.

IMMEDIATE OUTCOME 2100: Increased capacity of education, health, child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) systems to deliver coordinated, quality programmes and services that meet the needs of adolescent girls and their families, including in humanitarian contexts

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Global Programme countries are enhancing access to quality and girl-friendly services through building the capacity of service providers in education, health and other services. The Global Programme systems strengthening approach is making contributions to adolescent girls' retention and progression in school as well as improvements in their physical and mental health and well-being through access to poverty reduction, empowerment programmes and psychosocial support services. For instance, in Ghana, the Global Programme and partners expanded the use of the social welfare information management system through online and in-person training of 2,095 service providers to facilitate timely identification and reliable data collection, reporting, referral and monitoring of the most deprived adolescent girls and their families. Through this support, 18,100 adolescent cases in need of social care and services were registered and referred for services in the 60 new areas where social service staff were trained. In addition, the training of 287 health workers and 330 health information officers in the Ghana Health Service's Safety Net electronic register (E-tracker) to improve adolescent health data capture and reporting resulted in the enrolment of 18,425 pregnant girls and adolescent mothers (350 between ages 10–14 years; 18,075 between ages 15–19 years) into the programme.

In Nepal, the proportion of adolescent girls of lower secondary school age who stayed away from school because they felt unsafe at or on the way to school or online increased from 9 per cent in 2021 to 26 per cent in 2022. As a response, the programme provided technical assistance to the Centre for Education and Human Resource Development (CEHRD) in developing a complaint response mechanism protocol implementation plan, visual complaint response mechanism and training materials, a training manual for gender focal points in schools, and monitoring tools for tracking the use of the complaint response mechanisms. Capacity-building activities targeting municipal officials and head teachers were carried out in 100 municipalities across the four Global Programme implementation provinces of Madhesh, Lumbini, Karnali and Sudurpaschim. A total of 1,187 service providers, including teachers, community psychosocial workers and front-line child protection workers, were trained to identify and support appropriate services for children, including referrals. Gender focal points have been appointed in 500 schools, and gender in emergencies networks have been established in these municipalities. The programme has also provided technical support to CEHRD in developing a five-year strategic plan for the federal, provincial and local level 'Girls and Inclusive Education' network.

Output 2120: Formal (primary and secondary) and non-formal schools supported to provide quality, gender-responsive education for adolescent girls, including comprehensive sexuality education
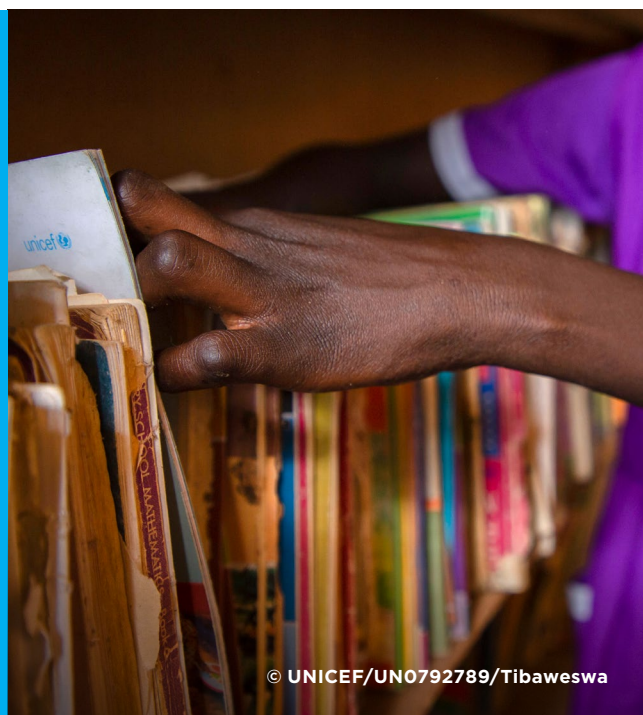
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" We have high [number of] cases of child marriages in Adjumani, with 176 girls married and another 60 girls being pregnant this year (2022) alone. They need to be empowered because adolescents face a lot of challenges such as sexual and domestic violence and emotional abuse. If we don't give them the skills they need to be assertive, confident and able to make informed decisions, we would have failed at our job.

— *Philip Akuku Kaya, Principal Education Officer, Adjumani district, Uganda*

In 2022, the Global Programme was able to provide support towards improving the delivery of gender-responsive education to more formal and non-formal schools following the pandemic fallout. More than twice the number of formal and non-formal schools (2,702 schools) received technical support compared to the programme target (1,118 schools). Despite the current gains, limited fiscal space, insecurity and extreme weather events are constraining improvements in delivery of quality gender-responsive education for adolescent girls.

TABLE 15: *Number of primary/secondary/non-formal schools in programme areas providing quality gender-friendly education that meets minimum standards*

Country	Indicator 2121: Number of primary/secondary/non-formal schools in programme areas providing quality gender-friendly education that meets minimum standards							
	2019 Results	2020 Results	2021 Results	2022				
				Targets	Results	Primary	Secondary	Non-formal
Bangladesh	96	N/A	144	200	144	0	144	0
Burkina Faso	351	N/A	0	50	1,004	673	230	101
Ethiopia	320	N/A	370	247	304	296	8	N/A
Ghana	N/A	3	7	17	7	N/A	7	N/A
India	10,313	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mozambique	150	160	102	100	109	0	109	0
Nepal	120	368	34	150	350	168	132	50
Niger	N/A	N/A	N/A	8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sierra Leone	N/A	N/A	N/A	45	44	44	N/A	N/A
Uganda	969	492	208	235	551	221	300	30
Yemen	N/A	N/A	N/A	16	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Zambia	52	58	0	50	189	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	**12,371**	**1,081**	**865**	**1,118**	**2,702**	**1,402**	**930**	**181**

The Government of Ghana, with support from the Global Programme, had planned to establish non-formal schools to scale up accelerated learning programmes for out-of-school children. However, the influx of refugees from conflict-affected Sahelian countries created government capacity constraints and led to the mobilization of existing capacities to respond to the emergency needs of communities hosting refugees.

In Mozambique, limited government capacity and fiscal space hampered efforts to coordinate the multisectoral mechanism for integrated assistance to girls and women who are survivors of gender-based violence. A UNICEF study on shelters revealed a shortage of qualified staff trained in a gender-responsive approach, high turnover rates, and low capacity levels among existing personnel. The government and partners have made great strides in training service providers in recent years, but the training focused mainly on operational aspects of service delivery, such as using a single form ('ficha única'), case management, and monitoring, rather than on how to support survivors with a gender-responsive approach and/or a children's rights-based approach.

Output 2130: Health (including sexual and reproductive health), gender-based violence (GBV) and child protection systems supported to implement guidelines, protocols and standards for adolescent-friendly and gender-responsive coordinated, quality services for unmarried, married, divorced and widowed adolescent girls, and adolescent girls who are pregnant or already have children

" Before this committee was set up, I received many complaints from female survivors of domestic violence or rape or from girls about to be given in marriage. With our awareness-raising activities and community meetings, we have virtually put an end to these practices. But that does not prevent us from continuing to watch over the well-being of the children and women in the village.

— *Ibro Issoufou, Village chief in Massalata, Tahoua region, Niger*

The Global Programme continues to strengthen health and child protection systems and services. In 2022 the programme supported 1,385 health and 6,463 child protection delivery points to improve the provision of quality adolescent-responsive prevention and protection services that meet acceptable standards. Through the support to governments, the Global Programme developed and adapted standards, protocols and guidelines according to the local context, provided training to service providers to enhance their capacity to deliver adolescent-responsive services, and ensured institutional accountability by supervising and assessing service delivery points to comply with standards.

UNFPA provided support to the Government of Bangladesh to establish 12 adolescent-friendly health service centres and in building the capacity of staff in comprehensive adolescent-friendly health services and data reporting in 12 districts. Overall,

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143,579 adolescents, including 93,614 girls, received services from adolescent-friendly health services centres during the year. Close to 11,000 adolescents accessed contraception and 87,019 received counselling and treatment for reproductive tract infections or sexually transmitted infections. In addition, the programme supported the establishment of several anti-sexual harassment committees, including their orientation on sexual harassment prevention guidelines and support to the implementation of sexual harassment prevention interventions in institutions and communities.

TABLE 16: *Number of service delivery points in programme areas providing quality adolescent-responsive services (health, child protection/GBV) that meet minimum standards*

Country	**INDICATOR 2131: Number of service delivery points in programme areas providing quality adolescent-responsive services (health, child protection/GBV) that meet minimum standards**						
	2019 Results	**2020 Results**	**2021 Results**	**2022**			
				Target	**Results**	**Health**	**Child protection / GBV**
Bangladesh	67	182	3,574	2,472	3,745	22	3,723
Burkina Faso	126	N/A	14	63	110	55	55
Ethiopia	529	358	670	730	797	116	681
Ghana	505	256	634	516	690	597	93
India	4,702	N/A	438	460	476	476	0
Mozambique	52	6	26	46	46	18	28
Nepal	5	124	106	132	264	8	256
Niger	159	N/A	N/A	8	10	0	10
Sierra Leone	N/A	N/A	14	16	16	4	12
Uganda	2,314	N/A	274	319	415	54	361
Yemen	83	33	N/A	47	0	N/A	N/A
Zambia	49	191	317	621	1,279	35	1,244
TOTAL	**8,591**	**1,150**	**6,067**	**5,430**	**7,848**	**1,385**	**6,463**

The Zambia programme continued to strengthen community-based and statutory case management to strengthen child protection systems to deliver services that meet the needs of adolescent girls and their families. Community case management was scaled up in four new districts (Lundazi, Chama, Sesheke and Mwandi) with the highest rates of child marriages, teenage pregnancies and school dropouts among adolescent girls of higher primary level. The programme supported the establishment of 1,244 Community Welfare Assistant Committees, and trained and equipped members to deliver on community case management interventions that reached a total of 13,706 adolescent girls and boys with child protection, health, education and social services through referrals and follow-up.

In Nepal, joint monitoring visits with health offices and municipal teams pre-certified eight adolescent-friendly service sites. In addition, adolescent-friendly information corners were established in six schools to facilitate referrals between schools and health facilities. Most adolescent-friendly service sites are not certified due to a lack of space in existing health facilities. Many health facilities only have two or three rooms, which are mostly used for other

services. Service providers and local government focal persons are not fully trained on adolescent sexual and reproductive health. To address this issue, the programme provided training to 65 health service providers on the 'Behavioural and Skill Focused Competency Based Five Days Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Training' package and will continue to work closely with health-care workers to improve their knowledge, skills and sensitivity, as well as their conceptual clarity and understanding of the certification process.

" My uncle took care of me after my parents got divorced. We had to move due to the war that was getting closer to our home. This worsened my life and my uncle, who was providing for me, decided to marry me off when I was eleven years old to an old man in his late thirties. I suffered from abuse throughout my marriage. I suffered from constant violence by my husband which caused me psychological problems as well as health problems. Whenever I talked to my uncle, he told me to endure it and not leave my husband's house. My marriage lasted five years and I had three daughters before my husband became ill and died. My life got more difficult as I didn't have anything to feed my children. I visited a UNFPA-supported safe space after my neighbour told me about the free services she received. I received a number of psychological sessions and I was given medication that helped me improve dramatically. I am now attending vocational training in the safe space as well as attending literacy classes.

— *Adolescent girl, Al-Hudaydah, Yemen*

Output 2210: Partnerships with governments, civil society organizations and other implementers supported to ensure that social protection, poverty reduction, and economic empowerment programmes and services are adolescent-friendly, gender-responsive and reaching the poorest adolescent girls and their families

The Global Programme created opportunities and multiple platforms for adolescent girls and their families to access social protection and economic empowerment programmes and services. In 2022, 402 new partnerships were created with civil society organizations and government schemes targeting the most advantaged girls and their families with interventions aimed at ending child marriage. As a result, the number of adolescent girls in programme areas benefiting from social protection, poverty reduction and economic empowerment programmes and services increased from 913,077 in 2021 to 6,332,780 in 2022.

TABLE 17: *Number of partnerships (both formal and informal) established to deliver adolescent-responsive social protection, poverty reduction, and economic empowerment programmes and services (cumulative)*

Country	INDICATOR 2211: Number of partnerships (both formal and informal) established to deliver adolescent-responsive social protection, poverty reduction, and economic empowerment programs and services (Cumulative)						
	2019 Results	2020 Results	2021 Results	2022			
				Target	Results	Formal	Informal
Bangladesh	4	8	1	3	10	4	6
Burkina Faso	3	1	3	10	10	7	3
Ethiopia	1	2	2	4	4	3	1
Ghana	3	6	8	16	19	15	4
India	3	26	30	66	384	287	97
Mozambique	1	N/A	1	4	4	0	4
Nepal	2	1	2	8	13	13	0
Niger	1	N/A	2	4	5	5	0
Sierra Leone	10	N/A	N/A	10	0	0	0
Uganda	4	3	4	4	4	4	0
Yemen	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0	0	0
Zambia	1	1	0	2	2	1	1
Total	**33**	**48**	**53**	**131**	**455**	**339**	**116**

In 2022, 384 new partnerships (287 formal, 97 informal) were established to deliver adolescent-responsive social protection, poverty reduction, and economic empowerment programmes and services, bringing the cumulative total to 455 partnerships established in Phase II of the programme. Most of the partnerships are with women's self-help groups that provide loans and cash transfers to deal with economic shocks and ensure that girls do not drop out of school or college. Women's self-help groups have also played a critical role in community monitoring of child marriages that resulted from economic distress caused by COVID-19, floods, and other extreme weather events. Partnerships with other CSOs and their networks helped reach adolescents and community members in marginalized communities with awareness and sensitization on girls' empowerment and child protection issues, including gender-based violence, child marriage and violence against children. Over four million girls at risk were identified and linked to social protection schemes on the prevention of child marriage, mental health and psychosocial support, and education support through partnerships established by the programme to extend prevention and care services.

In Sierra Leone, cross-sectoral collaboration for effective programming in social protection and vocational skills training has been delayed due to limited staffing capacity at country level for both agencies, which has resulted in prioritization of other key intervention areas and engagements. In Nepal, the established partnerships with women cooperatives has enabled to extend support to over 500 adolescent girls in livelihood and skills development training.

3.5 Addressing poverty

❝ My husband used to beat me and treat me cruelly because of his mental disorder. I lived a hard life full of abuse throughout my marriage, my husband then decided to divorce me due to poverty and deteriorating economic circumstances. I was very sick and my health condition worsened. I did not have money to seek medical help. However, I feel very fortunate: through an awareness-raising session in the neighbourhood, I knew about the UNFPA support services that they provide to women and girls, and through the case worker (after assessing my needs), I was given cash assistance to go to the hospital. I was also provided with medication and an additional amount of money so I can follow up the treatment plan with the doctor. My health has improved a lot, I now joined a literacy class. I was able to socialize with girls my age and learn new skills and even get trained on different handicrafts.

— *Reham, 16, divorced girl, Hajjah governorate, Yemen*

UNFPA and UNICEF continue to support and establish linkages with national social protection programmes and schemes through the development, design and dissemination of national guidelines and implementation of frameworks targeted at the most disadvantaged families and communities to address poverty and end child marriage. In Nepal, the Global Programme provided technical assistance to the government to review the provincial Beti Padao Beti Bachao social protection scheme that promotes girls' empowerment and the ending of child marriage. The programme supported the strengthening of policies on social protection by developing and disseminating policy briefs, organizing policy debates via television and social media channels, engaging with the private sector — particularly banking institutions — to promote financial literacy education among girls, and linking girls graduating from Rupantaran social and financial skills training with banking institutions for micro-enterprise development.

In India, UNICEF developed, designed and disseminated the national guidelines and implementation framework for the flagship social protection scheme,

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao. UNFPA and UNICEF mobilized local resource persons and resource centres to help communities access social protection programmes. A UNICEF household survey among adolescents in Assam tea communities shows considerable access to social protection, with two thirds of girls and boys accessing social protection schemes specifically targeted at adolescents. The programme partnership and engagement with self-help groups has enhanced linkages of vulnerable adolescents to social protection and adolescent empowerment schemes, ensuring sustainability and scalability of the interventions. In Gujarat state, self-help groups, teachers and front-line workers are being capacitated across 11 districts to create a protective and enabling environment for children and adolescents at the community level by linking adolescents, particularly girls in the vulnerable communities, with various social protection and other schemes and promoting adolescent protection and their rights in communities through gram sabhas, gram panchayats and in schools by developing adolescent empowerment action plans. In some states like Assam, Bihar, Gujarat and West Bengal, programmes to enhance financial literacy and support bank account opening are being supported through some self-help groups targeting adolescents and women. In Assam and West Bengal, the programme is working with the governments to remove conditional cash transfer restrictions especially for adolescent girls from vulnerable communities who are unable to return or attend school.

In Ethiopia, UNICEF supported the design and integration of social service sector indicators in the fifth phase of the national productive safety net programme. As a result, social services successfully linked beneficiary families with available social services and managed cases of child marriage and violence against children. UNICEF also supported the revision of the social and behaviour change module for social protection schemes to include key messages on child marriage.

In Ghana, with financial support from the Global Programme and complementary funding from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCDO) and USAID, UNICEF partnered with seven government ministries, departments, and agencies to implement a flagship programme of integrated social service, with the aim of facilitating linkages among service providers at decentralized level across social protection, child protection and health sectors. The Integrated Social Service programme leverages the national cash transfer programme, Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty, to facilitate access to cash plus interventions, including the registration and renewal of the free National Health Insurance Scheme cards.

3.6 Facilitating supportive laws and policies

> ❝ I have been working on the rights and empowerment of children for the last ten years, but through the Saksham Yuva Shakti programme, I got a great opportunity to reach thousands of people through awareness programmes in Shirur, Patoda and Ashti talukas of Beed district. At the same time, it was seen that not only the youth and the citizens of the village, but also the officials and employees at the village level do not have the information and knowledge about the serious consequences of child marriage and the child marriage law. Therefore, it is necessary to carry out legal training programmes along with such public awareness programmes to create widespread awareness of the law and the consequences of child marriage. I will always actively participate in such programmes and strive to empower youth.
>
> *— Samir Wazir Pathan, President Rural Development Center, Gomalwada District Shirur District, India*

TABLE 18: *Intermediate outcome indicators on facilitating supportive laws and policies*

Intermediate outcome indicators	2021 Targets	2021 Results	2022 Targets	2022 Results
Indicator 3101: Policy effort index, as measured by the strength of the child marriage national action plan on six dimensions (political support, policies, governance, human rights, accountability, access and participation, and evaluation)	65%	N/A	65%	62%
Indicator 3102: Expenditure on subnational action plan as a percentage of the subnational expenditure in programme areas	38%	10%	42%	10%

IMMEDIATE OUTCOME 3100: Enhanced capacity of governments to fund, coordinate and implement national and subnational action plans and systems to end child marriage

A focus on equity, engaging children, adolescents and families in hard-to-reach areas and marginalized communities is essential to reach the 'last mile', and a priority for ending child marriage. The Global Programme continues to advocate with governments to allocate public financial resources for the implementation of national policies and programmes at decentralized levels, including the funding of quality education, health and protection services for adolescent girls. Since the inception of the Global Programme, the number of countries globally implementing a costed national plan or strategy to end child marriage has increased from 7 in 2018 to 33 in 2022, and 15 of these countries have allocated public financial resources for the implementation of the costed action plans to ending child marriage. Of the 11 Global Programme focus countries with costed action plans to ending child marriage (all but Yemen), 8 have allocated public financial resources for their implementation.

Eliminating child marriage requires the integration of strategic approaches, processes, systems and information. UNFPA and UNICEF recognize the role national action plans play in strengthening policy coherence for the elimination of harmful practices. Policy coherence for the elimination of harmful practices requires building blocks and key components to be in place. Lessons from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development peer review process emphasize three critical building blocks (i.e., political commitment and policy statements; policy coordination mechanisms; and systems for monitoring, analysis and reporting) that need to be in place for effective building of policy coherence. Against this premise, UNICEF has developed and tested a maturity model and tools for assessment of public policies to end harmful practices in 12 countries (all Global Programme countries but Yemen, and also including Lebanon). The maturity model and assessment tools aim to provide well-articulated benchmarks to measure and monitor changes by level of maturity in a management and implementation of harmful practices policies and to provide a road map for improvement towards the achievement of the elimination of SDG target 5.3 by 2030. The maturity model provides a framework for key national stakeholders to review/

assess national policy approaches and systems for the elimination and prevention of FGM and child marriage, identify priorities or critical investments, and build consensus around the priority interventions. The maturity model is structured

around six intermediate outcomes (or building blocks) and different subdomains that are defined by distinct levels of maturity (i.e., Weak-Building; Average-Enhancing; Good-Integrating; and Excellent-Mature) as outlined in Figure 11.

FIGURE 11: *Scorecard on the maturity of public policies to end harmful practices*

Intermediate Outcome	Sub-Domains	Score
Governance & Coordination	**A1**: Political Commitment	✔
	A2: Coordination structures	✔
	A3: National Action Plans	✔
Policy and Legislation	**B.1**: Legislation, policies and implementation mechanisms	✔
Engagement and participation	**C1**: Independent complaint mechanism exists for children and women	✘
	C2: Civil Society Engagement, including women and children	✔
	C3: Community based mechanisms for Harmful practices prevention	—
Financing & HR	**D1**: Financing of harmful practices services	✔
	D2: National budget establishment	—
	D3: National Budget execution	—
	D4: National Budget amount	✘
	D5: National Budget monitoring and review	✘
	D6: Human Resources	✔
Access to Services	**E1**: Availability of Standard Operating Procedures and/or Protocols for harmful practices services	—
	E2: Understanding and articulation of harmful practices system	✔
	E3: Modelling testing and scaling of harmful practices services	—
	E4: Availability of harmful practices services, case management a nd referral systems	✔
Data collection, M&E	**F1**: Administrative data systems and monitoring to routinely generate data on FGM	—
	F2: Data security and governance	✘
	F3: Research and surveys	—

The benchmarks for each level of maturity have been defined and require certain priorities, processes and results to be achieved for each subdomain, and can be contextualized by country. Feedback from

the testing emphasized the role of the model as a useful advocacy tool; a model that builds government accountability and action towards the elimination of harmful practices; and a national action plan

implementation review and tracking tool. On average, overall country ratings on a 4-point scale ranged from 1.8 (weak-building in Bangladesh) to 3.0 (good-integrating in Zambia). Financing and human resources (rating 1.3) emerged as the functional area where countries were rated the lowest, while governance and coordination (rating 2.7) were rated highly.

The Global Programme, in partnership with the African Union Commission, completed a desk review to assess the status of child marriage legislation, policy environment and programmatic approaches in responding to child marriage in Africa. The review focused on evidence mapping and documentation of best practices, including the adoption and implementation of national and international marriage laws. The review notes that several African states are increasingly adopting regional and international instruments for the protection of child rights and to end child marriage. All African countries have ratified the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (1948), and most of them are signatories to the Convention on Consent to Marriage, and Minimum Age for Marriage, and Registration of Marriages (1962). Most of the regional and international protocols and charters require State Parties to establish a minimum marriage age by law and to ensure the registration

of marriages as it prohibits child marriage and the betrothal of boys and girls. To date, 44 countries have established the minimum age of marriage for girls at 18 years. The review indicates that despite the presence of the above-mentioned international and regional instruments, most African countries (especially countries in West Africa) do not have proper registration of marriages or have criminalized child marriage. It is evident that only very few African countries have a vital registration/ civil registration system. On the other hand, the Maputo Protocol in its Article 6(d) requires all signatory countries to register marriages. One of the reasons for low registration of marriages in Africa is that that in practice, legal authorities and the vital event registration system cannot enforce registration due to lack of legal backup. Registration of marriage is further complicated by the presence of plural legal contexts, where both civil legislation and customary or religious law are applicable simultaneously. This makes it difficult to properly criminalize child marriage and provide fair adjudication to victims. The review notes the role of digital transformation in increasing access to justice for girls at risk of child marriage. It is also worth mentioning that Uganda, Mozambique, Malawi and Nigeria have recently started integrating child marriage and GBV in their regular national data-collection efforts. These countries, including Niger, have started using gender data for monitoring

and assessment of the effectiveness of implementation of national, regional and international gender commitments.

The Global Programme, in partnership with the African Union, commissioned an assessment of the level of integration of national and sectoral policies on ending child marriage in government budgets of Chad, Ethiopia, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria and Zimbabwe. The regional synthesis is aimed at enhancing the capacities of programme staff and their government and civil society partners, to advocate for, influence and develop regional, national and subnational programmatic actions and budgets to end child marriage. The findings show a weak link between the making of policies and plans to guide national responses to harmful practices and their full implementation due to limited human, financial and technical resources. Furthermore, the analysis revealed low integration of national plans to end child marriage in government budgets, with governments allocating negligible amounts of 0.01–0.08 per cent of their GDPs (and between ≈0.12 per cent and ≈1.3 per cent of central government non-interest expenditure) to programmes that contribute to addressing child marriage. Child marriage-specific expenditure was only a very small share of relevant ministries' budgets; between ≈0.2 per cent and ≈0.6 per cent. As a share of countries' non-interest budgets, child marriage-specific allocations were between ≈0.01 per cent and ≈0.12 per cent. The study suggests, however, that child marriage relevance is sensitive to how programmes are targeted in context, and while a lot of expenditure programmes and projects may appear relevant on a superficial level, the detail of their design and targeting is what determines their actual relevance. The study could not find conclusive evidence on change in countries' prioritization of child marriage activities at the aggregate level. Where the study was able to assess growth in detailed spending, it was not possible to discern whether changes occurred because of child marriage being a priority, or because of other factors, such as COVID-19.

Regarding global sector budgets, in Chad and Mozambique, the COVID-19 budget adjustments had positive implications for spending on social security transfers, and for health, education and to some extent women affairs' ministry budgets, and less positive implications for spending on strengthening and implementing the legal framework for child marriage. Here, too, the study was not able to say to what extent child marriage expenditure was affected

specifically by these shifts because the study did not have access to detailed budgets or information on the specific use of sector budgets.

Development partner financing of child marriage expenditure is significant. The quantitative evidence supports a commonly held view by country respondents that development partner funding for child marriage is in multiples of countries' own funding (between ≈5 and 2.5 times country spending). The volume of development partner expenditure is also driven by large joint social sector programmes. As for countries' own spending, these programmes present opportunities to re-orient existing outlays to address child marriage more effectively, alongside sector-specific targets (such as poverty reduction or reduced maternal mortality). Countries' own allocations to child marriage are spent predominantly on personnel and office costs associated with child marriage activities. Development partners finance the non-overhead costs of activities, including recurring costs. While both sets of inputs are jointly necessary to implement child marriage interventions, the high share of development partner funding raises sustainability challenges for child marriage interventions, as well as coordination and efficiency challenges, as development partner funding is often disbursed to non-state implementers.

Overall, the study concludes that the establishment of child marriage strategies was a significant potential systemic anchor point for integrating child marriage into country budgets, but that child marriage strategy governance and child marriage capacity weaknesses coupled with broader budget and expenditure system barriers hampered the integration of child marriage into country and sector budgets.

> **Output 3110:** Capacity-building and technical support provided to government to enact, enforce and uphold laws and policies, in line with international human rights standards, aimed at preventing child marriage, protecting those at risk and addressing the needs of those affected

In 2022, 31 policies and legal instruments addressing child marriage were either drafted, proposed or adopted with the support of the Global Programme. Cumulatively, 94 policies and legal instruments addressing child marriage have been drafted, proposed or adopted with the support of the Global Programme compared to the target of 99 policies and legal instruments.

TABLE 19: *Number of policies or legal instruments addressing child marriage drafted, proposed, or adopted at national and subnational level with Global Programme support (cumulative)*

Country	2019 Results	2020 Results	2021 Results	2022 Target	2022 Results	2022 Drafted	2022 Proposed	2022 Adopted
Bangladesh	2	N/A	1	3	2	1	0	1
Burkina Faso	2	1	2	5	4	0	3	1
Ethiopia	2	N/A	2	2	2	0	2	1
Ghana	0	1	1	2	2	1	0	1
India	0	4	49	59	58	31	13	14
Mozambique	4	2	2	4	3	1	1	1
Nepal	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	1
Niger	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0
Sierra Leone	6	N/A	1	7	7	4	1	2
Uganda	2	0	1	9	9	5	2	2
Yemen	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Zambia	2	1	5	5	5	0	0	5
Total	**20**	**9**	**63**	**99**	**94**	**44**	**22**	**29**

Column header note: INDICATOR 3111: Number of policies or legal instruments addressing child marriage drafted, proposed, or adopted at national and sub-national level with Global Programme support (Cumulative).

In India, nine new policies and legal instruments were drafted with the support of UNFPA and UNICEF. With Global Programme support, the government proposed a bill to increase the minimum legal age of marriage of girls to 21 years. Notably in Odisha state, through UNICEF advocacy, the state department of law issued a circular to all temple authorities for mandatory verification of age for both parties before marriage. Following the circular of the state, the district administrations issued similar circulars which were displayed in more than 1,000 villages in 25 districts. State guidelines for declaring villages child marriage free were also developed, which brought more clarity on the process and mechanism for declaration of the village as child marriage free. UNFPA further provided technical inputs to the draft of the National Youth Policy to advance adolescent rights and empowerment and address harmful practices such as child marriage.

In Sierra Leone, the Global Programme supported efforts towards the completion of the final draft of the Child Rights Bill that was submitted to Parliament.

The Bill recommends abolishment of FGM among children and corporal punishment, minimum age of marriage to be set at 18 years for girls and repeals outdated child justice laws. A Social Work Bill (2022) that will provide the legal framework for the practice of social work in the country, ensuring licensing of social workers and adherence to a national code of ethics that will regulate the conduct of social workers and para social workers was also drafted with the programme support.

In Uganda, the Global Programme supported the development of the revised National Disability Policy, and its costed action plan. This policy addresses the plight of persons with disabilities, especially those caused by vulnerability and exclusion. The revised policy guides and informs stakeholders on the urgency for focused planning, evidence-based resource allocation, results-based implementation, and accountability in respect to the concerns of persons with disabilities, including marginalized adolescent girls who are vulnerable to child marriage and other harmful practices.

In Zambia, the Global Programme was instrumental in the development of the Children's Code that was enacted in August 2022. The Children's Code has incorporated international and regional human rights standards, including but not limited to prohibiting any facilitation of child marriage and strengthening the statutory response for children in need of care and protection, including children in child marriages. Furthermore, efforts were made to strengthen prevention and response to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect through the finalization of the national child safeguarding framework and the national child participation framework as well as aligning the Statutory Case Management Handbook to the Children Code to support social welfare officers to respond to cases of children at risk of significant harm. The handbook includes guidance notes on addressing cases of violence against children and GBV.

Output 3120: Capacity-building and technical support provided to government to implement a budgeted multisectoral gender-transformative plan on ending child marriage across ministries and departments at subnational levels

UNFPA and UNICEF continued to provide financial, technical and coordination support to ministries, departments and agencies at national and subnational levels with the required mandate to implement national and subnational action plans to end child marriage. In countries such as Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India and Niger, recommendations from the gender-transformative accelerator tool and the harmful practices policy maturity model have been adopted by the government and partners to improve national and subnational action plans and implementation processes. In Ghana, a two-year gender-transformative road map was developed and incorporated into the national operational and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan for 2023–2024. An indicator to assess how public policy management systems are responding to the needs of adolescent girls has been incorporated into the M&E plan for 2023–2024, and progress will be assessed using the harmful practices policy maturity model.

TABLE 20: *Number of subnational plans with evidence-informed interventions to address child marriage*

Country	INDICATOR 3121: Number of sub-national plans with evidence informed interventions to address child marriage		
	National Plan of Action	2021 subnational action plans	2022 subnational action plans
Bangladesh	Costed	0	0
Burkina Faso	Costed and financed	45	45
Ethiopia	Costed and financed	11	11
Ghana	Costed and Financed	35	35
India	Costed and financed	10	12
Mozambique	Renewing but interventions funded	6	10
Nepal	costed	2	9
Niger	Costed	N/A	N/A
Sierra Leone	Costed and financed	N/A	N/A
Uganda	Costed and financed	15	15
Yemen	N/A	N/A	N/A
Zambia	Costed and financed	2	6
Total		**126**	**143**

In 2022, the Global Programme in Uganda supported the launch of the second national strategy to end child marriage and teenage pregnancy 2022–2027. The strategy is a comprehensive framework that reflects the global and national commitments of the Government of Uganda to end child marriage and prevent teenage pregnancy.

The Zambia programme scaled up efforts to reach the most vulnerable and marginalized adolescent girls, boys, and their families by increasing the number of focus districts from two (Senanga and Katete) to an additional four districts in Western and Eastern provinces (Lundazi, Chama, Sesheke and Mwandi districts). The six districts were supported to develop and implement district-specific multisectoral plans with an integrated package of interventions comprising education, health and social welfare services. Further efforts were made to support the districts to develop district-level result frameworks with agreed indicators that are being used to track programme progress and achievement aligned to the Global Programme indicators. The Global Programme also developed a Kobo tool to support data entry and input and enable districts to use data for decision-making to improve the quality of interventions.

3.7 Building a new generation of data and evidence

In six countries, the Global Programme conducted quantitative research in 2022 to explore the drivers of child marriage across the domains of psychology, sociology and environment. The studies helped countries identify to what extent social and gender norms drive the practice as well as the role of other drivers such as self-efficacy, personal beliefs and structural issues. Equipped with this information, country offices are now reviewing their strategies to ensure that their programming addresses the drivers that have been uncovered by the research. Thanks to these quantitative studies, countries now have a baseline against which to monitor progress and shifts in drivers that influence child marriage. Countries will conduct follow-up studies in two years and reassess their programming strategies. A series of evidence briefs summarizing the key findings from each of the studies is being developed and the lessons from the implementation of this research will be shared widely across the Global Programme and beyond, as they shed light on how behavioural drivers can be identified for targeted programming and how these drivers can be measured.

Kenya and Ethiopia implemented similar studies during the year, using a social norms framework to identify the drivers of child marriage and FGM. The studies were based on the 'ACT M&E Framework' which categorizes drivers into what people know, feel, and do, social norms, outcome expectancies and reference groups, and context, including gender and power. In Ethiopia the study was conducted both among adult caregivers and among 10 to 15-year-olds and included control communities. In both Ethiopia and Kenya, the studies highlighted contextual nuances in the drivers of child marriage and FGM in different localities, and this knowledge is being used to shape behaviour change interventions.

UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office and the UNFPA Arab States Regional Office are part of a joint study led by UNESCWA, in collaboration with UN Women, to estimate the impact of child marriage in the Arab region. In Phase I, the study developed a report titled 'The cost of child marriage over the life cycle: evidence from Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, and Tunisia', on the costs of child marriage borne by women in the Arab region and consequently impacting on the next generation. Phase II of the study measured the economic costs of child marriage for 14 of the 22 Arab states. The reportaims to understand the multiple ways in which child marriage affects women at an individual level while having repercussions for their families and the state in the form of the loss of income (or GDP) for the Arab states. The report is currently being reviewed by representatives from the UN, CSOs and academia and will be launched and disseminated in 2023.

> **Output 3210:** Capacity-building and technical support provided to government and civil society organizations to generate and use quality data and evidence on what works to end child marriage and support married girls

Since the launch of Phase II of the Global Programme, UNICEF has developed and published widely statistical profiles for 81 countries across all UNICEF regions where child marriage is an issue. These country profiles present an overview of child marriage — detailing how common the practice is across the population, describing the characteristics of unions, providing insights into the lives of child brides across key domains of well-being and illustrating trends in the practice and whether the country is on track to reach the 2030 SDG target. These country profiles are being used in decision-making and widely cited in several publications issued by governments and civil society.

To ensure the sustainability of demand for and use of child marriage data, UNICEF conducted a global virtual training workshop on Harnessing the Power of Data to End Harmful Practices targeting UN staff and practitioners who work on child marriage and FGM programmes, including those who work in relevant line ministries, CSOs and other partner organizations. The objective of the workshop was to improve their capacity on the collection, analysis, interpretation and use of data related to child marriage and FGM. A total of 176 participants from all UNICEF regions completed the certification course. By the end of the course, participants were able to determine data needs and identify common data sources for child marriage and FGM analysis; describe and interpret basic statistical and analysis techniques; use key child marriage and FGM indicators to track outcomes and impact data; use data to shape national targets, identify populations to target, bring awareness through social media and the press, influence and monitor the impacts of changes in legislation; and generate data stories that communicate data for action. UNICEF is working on transforming the content of this course into a self-paced e-learning course. The course is in the process of being built

on the Agora platform, which is UNICEF's platform for e-learning and open to the public. The content is organized in eight self-paced modules estimated at three hours each. The instructional design includes lectures, course readings, interactive games and quizzes. Each module is designed to build knowledge towards key learning objectives, which are evaluated in an assessment test for each module. All participants who complete the course and pass the assessments will be awarded a course certificate to mark their achievement.

The Global Programme and UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti supported capacity-building of the Zambia Institute for Policy Analysis and Research through guided technical support session on conducting gender norms assessment of child marriage and adolescent pregnancy programmes. The guided support focused on designing questionnaires, methodology and protocols, and on analysis and interpretation of findings.

TABLE 21: *Number of evidence and knowledge products generated that focus on what works to end child marriage (cumulative)*

Country	2019 Results	2020 Results	2021 Results	2022 Target	2022 Results
Bangladesh	4	4	9	11	11
Burkina Faso	1	1	2	6	4
Ethiopia	3	0	5	8	6
Ghana	2	0	3	5	5
India	N/A	8	11	21	20
Mozambique	N/A	N/A	2	6	7
Nepal	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	1
Niger	2	1	N/A	2	1
Sierra Leone	2	0	1	5	3
Uganda	N/A	N/A	N/A	3	3
Yemen	N/A	N/A	1	1	1
Zambia	1	N/A	0	3	1
Total	**15**	**14**	**21**	**73**	**63**

INDICATOR 3211: Number of generated evidence and knowledge that focus on what works to end child marriage (cumulative)

In 2022, the Global Programme countries supported the generation of 42 evidence and data products on child marriage at the country level (against a target of 45). Cumulatively, 63 evidence and data products on child marriage have been generated by countries in Phase II (against a target of 73). The mobility and access restrictions imposed by the pandemic and conflicts impacted on the ability of countries to conduct community-based and household studies.

3.8 Challenges

The polycrisis is undoubtedly one of the biggest challenges facing the programme, governments, and other partners. The interacting crises in most countries, including environmental crises (climate change and the pandemic), economic crises (inflation and recession) and political crises (conflicts and insecurity) mean that services have been interrupted and a number of programme engagements and activities with partners scaled down or suspended. Some other notable challenges in programme implementation are listed below.

Addressing vulnerabilities and implementing preventive and care services

Most adolescent girls (unmarried and married) in the programme are from areas with the greatest deprivations in health, education, social protection, employment and information. For example, in Assam state of India, adolescent girls in urban slum areas and tea gardens face multiple deprivations as their families are constantly evicted without notice and at times forced to leave their dwellings due to flooding and fire breaks. The Global Programme established partnership with and supported grass-roots level organizations to track and offer outreach services to the most disadvantaged adolescent girls, including registering them in the alternative learning pathway programmes supported by the Global Programme. The grass-roots organizations have been able to establish a network and collaboration with other government and non-governmental organizations to extend economic empowerment support and livelihood services to the most disadvantaged adolescent girls and their families.

In Ethiopia, the displacement due to the drought and conflict caused many families to lose their household income and placed a strain on school-going girls and exposing them to child marriage, vulnerability to sex and child labour trafficking. At the onset of the crises the Global Programme provided direct economic support to school-going girls and their families. To sustain the support, the Global Programme has successfully linked and leveraged support for the adolescent girls and their families to the government's productive safety net programme. The capacity of community structures such as the community care coalitions and gender clubs has been strengthened through training and facilitation to mobilize community resources to support girls at risk of dropping out of school.

In some regions of Burkina Faso, schools were forced to close due to insecurity and adolescent girls were left vulnerable to child marriage, sexual violence and teenage pregnancies. The Global Programme partnered with grass-roots organizations which have mobilized families in secure communities to provide foster care to vulnerable adolescent girls running away from conflict areas, thus enabling the programme to continue provision of education through formal and non-formal education centres still in operation. The programme has also referred vulnerable adolescent girls and their families to social safety net and education support programmes that include the National Solidarity Fund, the Scholarship Endowments for the Education Quality Support Project, and the National Post-Primary and Secondary School Scholarship Programme.

Overcoming constrained access to adolescent-responsive services

In programme areas where communities face multiple deprivation due to the polycrisis, the most vulnerable adolescent girls are unable to access or use health, child protection and education services that are adolescent-responsive. In India, access to and use of services by adolescents has been constrained by the inadequate capacities and attitudes of service providers responsible for delivering adolescent-friendly and gender-responsive services. In addition, there is still a lack of adolescent-friendly and gender-responsive quality services for adolescent girls who are pregnant or already have children. UNFPA supported the capacity-building of 1,200 medical officers and 1,121 health department functionaries in providing adolescent-friendly health services and information. This enabled the creation of a cadre of state-level master trainers to build the capacities of district- and block-level medical officers to provide adolescent-friendly and gender-responsive services. The training also equipped medical officers with information on emerging issues such as mental health, cybersecurity and understanding of disabilities. 476 service delivery points were strengthened through UNFPA support to provide rights-based adolescent-friendly health services (including sexual and reproductive health services).

In Mozambique, the limited capacity and fiscal space of the government is hampering efforts to coordinate, from a gender-responsive perspective, the multisectoral mechanism for integrated assistance to girls and women who are survivors of GBV, including in schools. UNICEF is supporting the government to implement a national standardized and comprehensive multisectoral inclusive case management system with standardized tools and guidance, and a training programme will be rolled out at the household level to address the multidimensional vulnerabilities with special focus on the identification of cases of violence against child and child marriage, and provision of psychosocial support. The newly established programme partnership with the International Child Development Programme (ICDP) is also providing technical assistance to the health, women, and social action district service to support victims of violence and child marriage through an emergency fund that will provide psychosocial support and other services.

In Burkina Faso, political transition, insecurity, and economic and food crises have disrupted the full functionality of institutional structures that deliver protection and care services to adolescent girls. However, the establishment and capacity-building of community child monitoring protection units has ensured continuity in the provision of preventive and response services for girls who are victims or at risk of violence and harmful practices.

Pushback against adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights

Resistance to sexual and reproductive health services, education and information continues to be common in many Global Programme countries. In Bangladesh, the National Curriculum and Textbook Board considered it inappropriate to integrate the complete comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) modules in the revised school curriculum. Parents, teachers and community leaders are often hesitant to discuss sexual and reproductive health issues. Similar challenges were encountered in Ethiopia and Sierra Leone. People opposed to CSE launched a petition on social media against the roll-out of CSE in Sierra Leone, spreading misinformation and misconceptions. There is a risk that CSE is being politicized in the run-up to the general elections in 2023. In Uganda, the Global Programme launched life skill toolkits with embedded sexuality education using more acceptable language, which appeased the opposition to CSE to a large extent. To mitigate community resistance to CSE in Zambia, the programme continued to use radio programmes to explain the importance of SRH, while emphasizing the age-appropriateness of the CSE curricula. To alleviate the shortage of CSE teachers, the programme supported the training of 391 guidance and counselling teachers in 189 schools in the targeted districts to provide guidance and counselling services as well as CSE. Meanwhile, in India, existing

laws against child sexual abuse are being abused by parents to criminalize adolescent autonomy and sexuality (although most cases result in the acquittal of the adolescents).

Adolescent sexual and reproductive health services and supplies are also inadequate to meet the demand of adolescent girls in Sierra Leone. The lack of menstrual health facilities in schools forces girls to miss school, which can ultimately lead to dropout. The Global Programme provided girls in safe spaces with hygiene and sanitary packs, but demand exceeded available resources. While services are free in SRH hubs, STI drugs are not, which affects the health of adolescent girls. Further, the country lacks sufficient safe homes for GBV survivors and survivors in remote areas face transportation challenges in reaching hospitals, family support units and legal services.

Providing technical support and monitoring during crisis conditions

Child marriage is often used as response or coping mechanism to crisis for families and communities looking for the best possible means of protection for their daughters. The Sahel crisis spillover into Ghana has increased the vulnerability of adolescent girls and their families among both indigenous community members and migrant families. Adolescent girls in five regions (Greater Accra, Ashanti, Bono East, Upper East and North East) affected by the Sahel crisis have experienced a lack of opportunities, especially in vocational training. There have also been reported sexual abuses of adolescent girls in rural communities that are contributing to increases in teenage pregnancies and school dropout, with some girls fleeing their communities to work as marketplace porters ('kayayei') in urban areas. Recognizing the vulnerabilities, the Global Programme is providing technical support to government-led social protection schemes to extend and link vulnerable adolescent girls to livelihood opportunities including vocational training, health insurance and educational support.

In the northern parts of Bangladesh and India, the flooding due to torrential rains is affecting the livelihoods of families and increasing child marriage vulnerabilities for adolescent girls. The Global Programme has established partnerships with grass-roots organizations and self-help groups to extend financial loan systems to families and provide other social protection mechanisms implemented by the government to deal with economic shocks and ensure that adolescent girls are retained in school and colleges.

Accessing and adapting to technology

As the Global Programme continues to promote digital technology and the application of digital platforms to improve information access and skills training, the digital divide is still a major challenge in reaching the most vulnerable adolescent girls from marginalized communities with no access to technology and limited digital skills. In India, UNICEF is developing contextually sensitive and inclusive resources for adolescents and communities through short videos, toolkits, comic books and illustrations to address issues of the digital gender divide, as well as using community radios to promote engagements with adolescents and communities.

In Sierra Leone, the programme provided tablets to mentors of safe spaces in marginalized communities to test innovative teaching methods and the quick dissemination of learning materials developed by the government and partners. Mentors have reported increased attendance and focus during lessons in safe spaces because of the use of tablets, as sessions are more interesting and interactive. Safe space mentees have reported better understanding of the content, and noted that they learn more about the topics and focus better during lessons. Mentors and volunteers use the tablets to collect and share real-time data from the safe spaces. They have been trained on use and care of the tablets, how to collect data using Kobo Toolbox, how to use Gmail, and how to use the soft copy manuals and audio files to advance lifeskills sessions and their own capacity as trainers. Thus, the tablets are empowering them to use digital technology and helping to bridge the digital divide.

Addressing monitoring and evidence gaps to improve programme implementation

Reliable prevalence estimates of social norms are difficult to get due to an absence of standard behavioural surveys that cover multiple countries. The Global Programme, in partnership with IPSOS, tested new concepts and survey questions to ensure that they are understood as intended and accurately measure social norms related to child marriage. In 2022, validity results from the cognitive testing conducted in Lebanon, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Yemen and Zimbabwe were reviewed by a team of UNICEF data analytics, SBC experts and the global market research firm Ipsos to ascertain the strength and appropriateness of responses. Following the validation, UNICEF is reviewing the potential questions recommended for the MICS survey module on social norms.

Impact and outcome monitoring is not yet implemented as fully as monitoring of outputs. Though most countries have embraced qualitative measures within the programme to track social and behavioural changes, only a few countries have gathered data on outcome indicators due to limited capacity and resources to conduct studies to generate the data. The Strategic Technical Assistance for Research (STAR) Initiative is currently providing technical support and building capacity of countries by guiding them through the processes of developing terms of reference, methodology, data-collection tools, data analysis and interpretation, including issues related to ethical clearance. The STAR Initiative is also playing an oversight role by ensuring that research efforts do not duplicate each other, but that country programmes can leverage data collection with other sectors with resources. For example, in Zambia, child marriage social norms indicators were incorporated into the research funded by the UN Joint Programme on GBV-II.

Key programme partners in Ethiopia lack strong monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) systems to track progress in preventing harmful practices. To address this, the programme carried out a MEL system diagnosis to build technical and institutional capacity for a functioning MEL system. Other countries, including Ghana, are facing challenges in generating data on outcome- and impact-level indicators. Zambia has identified the need for a dedicated M&E and budget focal point to support both UNFPA and UNICEF in programme implementation.

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Limited priority of lifeskills education

Trying to make up for learning lost during the COVID-19 pandemic, many education systems are prioritizing the core curriculum (e.g., in India and Uganda) at the expense of lifeskills and sexuality education. In Sierra Leone, two thirds of adolescent girls do not complete the recommended 31 contact hours for the lifeskills sessions due to household chores.

Expensive to ensure full coverage of social protection programmes

UNICEF Ethiopia ended the provision of direct economic support to school-going girls because it was costly and not sustainable. Instead, the programme focuses on leveraging the national Productive Safety Net Programme for adolescent girls. Poverty reduction and social protection programmes

in Uganda do not have the necessary coverage and government leadership to reach adolescent girls at risk of child marriage. The expansion of the social cash transfer programme in Zambia is a positive development. However, it takes up the bulk of the time of District Social Welfare Office staff who are supposed to provide a range of other social work services. To address this challenge, UNICEF Zambia is putting together an investment case to advocate for doubling the District Social Welfare workforce.

Sustainability and quality while engaging men and boys

In many contexts, men and boys have economic priorities that prevent them from engaging in community dialogues. The crisis in Burkina Faso and Niger forces men and boys to migrate in search of better living conditions, while in Ethiopia, conflict and drought forced them to look for water and pasture for their livestock. In Yemen, men2men networks were considered sensitive and authorities discourage

gatherings that might foment political dissent. To increase engagement by men and boys, the Nepal programme shifted from mixed-gender groups to only men and boys and from discussing child marriage to focusing on toxic masculinity and how is it affecting men and boys. This strategy proved effective as the discussion was non-threatening and concentrated on the problems men and boys are facing. Several countries faced challenges in delivering consistent quality facilitation during engagement sessions with men and boys. In Sierra Leone, the weak capacity of community facilitators is making it challenging to deliver quality programmes. There is a need to build the capacity of community facilitators and to supervise them to progressively integrate the parenting programme into a wider range of delivery platforms, including health, early childhood development and schools, among others. The India programme had to invest more in building the technical expertise on positive masculinities among facilitators. In Zambia, the programme faced challenges of inadequate follow-up support for boys who had graduated from the 'Coaching Boys Into Men' session.

Reaching children with disabilities

The programme in Sierra Leone discovered that there was no dedicated strategy to engage children with disabilities in different interventions. To address gaps in data, UNICEF Zambia is planning to roll out a series of training sessions in 2023 to strengthen the identification of children with disabilities at the provincial, district and school level to base interventions on evidence.

Working with religious leaders

Deliberations of the Interreligious Council of Ethiopia[80] on the age of marriage are sensitive and require a lot of time and thorough consultations to build consensus. In Afar and Somali regions, religious leaders are advocating for the lowering of the age of marriage in the federal family law (18 years). Other contested issues include polygamy, rights of an adopted child, irregular unions and using DNA tests to determine paternity.

3.9 Lessons learned

Strengthening intersectoral linkages requires creative solutions

The programme partnerships with and support to grass-roots level organizations at the subdistrict level that track and offer outreach support to the most marginalized and vulnerable adolescent girls has facilitated their empowerment and retention in the programme. In Bangladesh, the programme has been able to play a catalytic role in communities by creating a platform to better coordinate between women's rights, feminist and youth-led organizations and subnational government structures. To ensure the sustainability of economic empowerment (livelihood skills and income-generation) activities, adolescent girls need support from a network of government and non-government services.

Improved integration of health, education and child protection services is critical for the prevention of child marriage and adolescent pregnancies

An analysis of the Education Information Management System (EMIS) and the District Health Information Management System (DHIMS) in Ghana indicated that most adolescent girls who received antenatal care at health facilities may not have received support to return to school. In response, the programme decided to strengthen referral pathways between health and education sectors through improved interoperability between the EMIS and DHIMS and other information management systems. In addition, the integration of child marriage and adolescent pregnancy components in the Safe School Initiative will be strengthened to protect adolescent girls at risk of or affected by child marriage. The health, education and social welfare systems in Zambia developed joint multisectoral workplans. This strengthened the working relationships between the three sectors and their ability to reach larger numbers of vulnerable and disadvantaged adolescent girls and boys with integrated programming and single messages.

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80 The members are the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church (EOC), the Ethiopian Islamic Affairs Supreme Council (EIASC), the Ethiopian Catholic Church (ECC), the Ethiopian Seventh Day Adventist Church (ESDAC), Evangelical Churches Fellowship of Ethiopia (ECFE), Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY), and the Ethiopian Kale Hiwot Church (EKHC).

A well-coordinated multisectoral approach at district level is particularly important, given the variety of social, cultural, religious and economic factors driving child marriage

In Zambia, health, education and social welfare each use their own geographical subdivisions. To overcome the lack of congruence, it was decided to use the education system's school zones to roll out services. One school zone has about 12 schools and 3 or 4 health facilities. Social welfare volunteers are attached to particular schools and to the health facilities that these schools are serviced by. This enabled intersectoral programme implementation at community level.

A system-wide approach to comprehensive sexuality education is required

The programme in Uganda integrated sexuality education into the new lower secondary curriculum, thereby facilitating the scaled-up implementation of sexuality education in schools. In addition, the implementation of the school re-entry guidelines for pregnant adolescent girls improved their chances of completing their education.

Practical solutions are needed to ensure continued service provision and prevention in humanitarian situations

The continuing deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Burkina Faso brought home the urgent need to develop practical solutions to the lack of integration and coordination between humanitarian and development approaches in relation to GBV and child protection, and the prevention of child marriage. Existing strategies need to be adapted to ensure the continuity of child marriage prevention activities among internally displaced communities. The COVID-19 pandemic and the Ebola epidemic in Uganda highlighted the huge gap in the delivery of quality adolescent-friendly sexual and reproductive health services to vulnerable adolescent girls. The programme advocated for the integration of adolescent-friendly services into health and child protection emergency preparedness and response plans to ensure the continuous provision of services and care for adolescent girls during public health emergencies. The formal child protection structures in Ethiopia collapsed with the onset of armed conflict and climate emergencies. To fill the gap, the Global

Programme worked closely with women- and youth-led organizations and other community groups to continue child marriage prevention and rescue interventions.

Strengthen linkages to improve and increase livelihood opportunities

The India programme strengthened linkages between adolescent girls' and women's economic empowerment initiatives, while the programme in Nepal linked out-of-school adolescent girls with neighbourhood women's cooperatives to promote economic empowerment. In Mozambique, the programme supported adolescent girls involved in similar businesses to form savings and loans groups to strengthen mutual support between the adolescents, including to borrow equipment or to jointly produce products for sale.

Teachers, school management, parent-teacher associations and other school- and community-based committees and clubs play a critical role in supporting adolescent girls and boys so they do not drop out of school

Gender club members and school managements in Ethiopia have been instrumental in identifying vulnerable individuals and providing psychosocial support, which resulted in the continued education of vulnerable adolescents. In Burkina Faso, teachers who were trained in tracking children who were not attending school were more likely to document prolonged absences of students, take the initiative in relation to protection services and thereby help prevent child marriages. There is a need for continued coordination between different school- and community-based structures and surveillance mechanisms to prevent school dropout.

Teacher training colleges are critical stakeholders for the programme to support the training of teachers in relation to the provision of quality, gender-responsive education for adolescent girls, including comprehensive sexuality education in school and non-school settings

The programme should increase its support for teacher training colleges to build the capacities of teachers and facilitate the sharing of experiences related to the prevention of child marriage, e.g., in Ethiopia.

To engage men and boys, it is critical to involve them in the development of manuals and implementation guidelines and to nurture an effective process for social and gender norms change

The Ethiopia programme developed a manual and implementation guide in a participatory and consultative manner to incorporate the opinions of men and boys committed to ending child marriage.

It is crucial to maintain contact with local political leaders and increase their accountability for the programme to reduce the risk of political interference

Mobilizing political leaders has been effective in persuading families to send their daughters to school in Nepal. Creating policies and procedures has been effective in eliminating conflicts of interest and interference from community or political leaders.

Ensuring engagement with community leaders

Local communities are more willing to accept interventions when they are delivered through respected and influential personalities from their own communities (e.g., as seen in Yemen). In Zambia, the involvement of traditional leadership is instrumental in enforcing bylaws on child marriage, community mobilization and initiation ceremonies.

More in-depth data are needed for better advocacy

An in-depth understanding is needed of the source of the resistance against the legislative reform of the family law. This evidence will be used to inform advocacy related to legislative reform in Ethiopia.

More data and evidence are needed to better understand the specific regional and local drivers and factors that contribute to child marriage

Contextualized, evidence-driven and granular approaches are needed to develop interventions that are adapted to specific contexts, regions and social groups to reach the most marginalized girls (e.g., in India and across sub-Saharan Africa). In Niger, the RapidPro platform for village-level data collection makes it possible to obtain statistical data even after the animators have left the village.

Balance between scale and leaving no one behind

A balance is needed between interventions that reach large numbers of adolescent girls at risk of child marriage (e.g., through education and health systems); sustained work with communities to challenge social norms and to influence the public discourse on child marriage; and more intensive interventions for the most marginalized girls and those left behind.

Strengthened capacity to advocate for and support national priorities and investments for addressing child marriage

Interventions to eliminate child marriage are not sustainable and effective in the long term if the government does not invest in ending child marriage and allocate substantial funds to reduce the dependence on the support from partners. In 2022, the Global Programme provided training to government and CSO staff in collecting and using data as one of the elements of a sustainable approach to strengthen their capacity to plan and advocate for increased investments in interventions that address child marriage. The Global Programme also supported the review, adaptations and development of national standards, protocols and guidelines to ensure they conform to global guidelines and instruments. Capacity strengthening of key partners and stakeholders was also institutionalized in training curricula and processes. For example, the tailored training manual on social norms programming has been incorporated in the pre-service training of institutions in Kenya and Uganda, and in the UNICEF Agora online learning platform.

Strengthened capacity of partners to integrate gender-transformative actions in responses to address child marriage

The Global Programme collaborated with Girls Not Brides to cascade the roll-out and capacity of CSO coalition members in the application of the global gender-transformative accelerator tool and assessments to improve programming. The capacity-building workshops allowed CSOs partners to discuss current approaches and reflect on the steps needed to move individually and jointly towards more gender-transformative approaches in programming and advocacy.

Strategic partnerships

The Global Programme and the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on the Elimination of FGM collaborated with the African Union Commission to develop the AU accountability framework that compels Member States to implement costed national action plans with budgetary allocations to eliminate harmful practices. The development of a costed subnational action plan does not automatically translate into budgetary allocations and implementation of the plan. The Global Programme is providing technical support and capacity-building to government departments

at the national level in the generation and use of data and evidence to advocate for increased investments in interventions to eliminate harmful practices, including analyses on expenditure tracking. Sustained evidence-informed advocacy and monitoring are also required at district level to translate national action plans into concrete actions for marginalized adolescent girls. The programme is providing dedicated support and capacity-building on gender-transformative approaches for subnational government institutions to design and implement evidence-informed subnational action plans.

3.10 Innovative approaches

Social and behaviour change

To strengthen competencies for multidisciplinary engagement in the elimination of child marriage and FGM across multisectoral departments of governments, the UN and other partners, the Global Programme and the Joint Programme on the Elimination of FGM developed a facilitator-led social norms programming and measurement training package. Under the leadership of the East and Southern Africa Regional Office, the training supports programme managers and implementers to apply social norms and measurement approaches to their programming of interventions and co-create national actions for social norms improvement that can be implemented collaboratively. Meanwhile, the West and Central Africa Regional Office

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is developing a toolkit for developing contextualized social and behaviour change strategies with communities to end child marriage and female genital mutilation in Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Mali and Niger. The toolkit will be tested and refined in collaboration with local CSOs and government partners to ensure that it can easily be contextualized by any country in the region.[81] The approach includes a capacity strengthening element, and provides countries with the necessary skills to implement the toolkit and design community-centred SBC activities on their own. The toolkit will also include indicators to track changes in key behavioural drivers and assess whether the changes are shifting in the right direction.

Utilizing technology

Responding to the growing demand for e-learning materials and the need to diversify the learning platform, the Nepal programme is converting the Rupantaran social and financial skills training package into a mobile learning app. The Rupantaran curriculum will be digitized, to have an efficient path to scale; to build a resilient system capable of continuing service delivery in emergency situations; and to deliver the programme with greater long-term cost efficiency. The Naubat Baja project in Rajasthan, India, is a cellular phone platform to promote ending child marriage. On giving a missed call to the number 7733959595, the user gets a call back with a 15-minute capsule of free infotainment, peppered with Hindi film songs and short stories and plays themed around social issues narrated through comedy or satire. There is news about employment opportunities, general knowledge facts and information about government welfare schemes aimed at the youth. Messages on child marriage, domestic violence, adolescent girls' health, menstrual hygiene, gender sensitization and financial awareness, are conveyed through dramas. The regularly updated programme is supervised by UNFPA representatives and produced by a professional content team of researchers and audio content makers in studios. The programme is popularized through social media, graffiti and awareness campaigns across the state by volunteers, community leaders, Panchayats, Anganwadis and ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) workers. The Naubat Baja project, conceived by UNFPA, is a joint initiative together with the Directorate of Women Empowerment in Rajasthan

and the Rural Electrification Corporation Foundation. Jeevan Ashram Sansthan (JAS), an NGO, is the implementing agency.[82]

Leveraging nutrition education

Nutrition is considered a key area of decision-making in Bangladesh. A school-based nutrition programme developed a training module on child marriage and girls' decision-making. The module assumes that girls who are able to make decisions regarding their own nutrition will gradually be able to influence other decisions affecting them, including marriage. Girls participating in the training found it useful to understand the linkages between malnutrition and child marriage which inspired them to convey this message to their peers, family and community.

3.11 Next steps and some priorities for the way forward

Advancing gender-transformative programming

The Ghana programme will conduct a gender analysis of social behaviour change communication interventions aimed at ending child marriage. The analysis was recommended by the evaluations of the Government of Ghana/UNICEF Child Protection Programme (2012–2019) and of the Multi-Country Evaluation of Community Engagement to End Child Marriage in Ghana (2016–2019). The analysis will receive extended technical support from the STAR Initiative.

Engaging men and boys and promoting positive masculinities

UNFPA and UNICEF in Ghana will develop a new set of documents for the promotion of positive masculinities for boys through the Promoting Adolescent Safe Spaces (PASS) programme. The package of materials will be based on the latest available evidence on engaging boys and men and will be rolled out to expand safe spaces for the most marginalized boys. The programme in Niger will conduct a study on positive masculinities in collaboration with the SBC

81   See UNICEF Vision for SBC, available at: https://www.sbcguidance.org/tool-detail-vision?recordId=recX3llXoCEfj4TQG

82   See *India: Naubat Baja: An Innovative Way to Fight Child Marriages*, 2022, https://tatsatchronicle.com/naubat-baja-an-innovative-way-to-fight-child-marriages/#:~:text=Naubat%20Baja%20(7733959595)%2C%20a,Covid%2D19%2C%20in%20Rajasthan; UNFPA India, 'I have a dream', 2022, https://india.unfpa.org/en/news/i-have-dream

section. The India programme will work with local groups and associations such as self-help groups, women and farmers cooperatives, and faith-based organizations to engage them as community-based counsellors and influencers for men and boys.

Expanding adolescent girls' empowerment

The Ethiopia programme will scale up lifeskills training for adolescent girls in remote areas through phone-based interactive voice response. The programme will also develop a database of girls attending out-of-school and school-based lifeskills education, as well as tracking their completion rate and assessing the quality of the lifeskills training. Another priority for the Ethiopia programme is the roll-out of the out-of-school-girls empowerment and implementation guide. In Ghana, the programme will provide bursary support (including stationery and sanitary pads, among other things) to 1,000 beneficiary girls who will be transitioning into senior high school. The Alternative Learning Programme (ALP) in Bangladesh will develop three different interventions for the most marginalized adolescent girls and young women: informal apprenticeships, entrepreneurship development, and centre-based skills training. The model will achieve full scalability in 2023.

Preventing sexual and gender-based violence

The education sector in Ethiopia will finalize the revisions of the code of conduct (CoC) for the prevention of and response to school-related GBV. The CoC will be accompanied by training curricula for parents, community influencers, local administration, school leadership and teachers. The Zambia programme will support schools to set up child safeguarding measures, including guidelines and orientation sessions for head teachers, teachers, and students. The programme in Bangladesh will build on the national dissemination of the Sexual Harassment Prevention Guidelines for secondary schools. The programme will create peer leader groups in 210 secondary schools and orient them on sexual harassment. Yemen will continue to build the capacities of GBV workers in targeted districts and governorates to enable them to respond to the immediate needs of women and girls. The programme will further enhance legal aid for GBV survivors, the toll-free national hotline, complaint and feedback mechanisms, and ongoing community-level dialogues in targeted communities.

Continuing SBC programming

In Mozambique, UNICEF will strengthen partnerships with matronas and traditional leaders at the community level to address harmful initiation rites. The programme in Uganda will deepen the engagement with religious and cultural leaders as allies and promoters of gender equality and to address the risk factors of child marriage and other harmful practices.

Leaving no one behind

The India programme will adopt a contextualized and intersectional approach (including non-binary, disability, caste) to reach the most vulnerable adolescent girls and to enable them to continue their schooling and access social protection and other social services. Targeted interventions for married adolescent girls will also be strengthened and scaled up. The programme will also support the Social Security & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD) department to roll out a lifeskills education curriculum for students at more than 150 government-supported special schools in Odisha.

Humanitarian programming

The programme in Burkina Faso will strengthen the participation of youth and women's organizations in humanitarian consultation frameworks. UNFPA in India will work with the Odisha State Disaster Management Authority and engage with youth collectives to support gender-responsive disaster risk reduction, including the prevention of GBV and child marriage.

Ensuring child safeguarding

In 2023, one priority area for the Zambia programme will be the focus on supporting schools to set up child safeguarding measures, including guidelines, orienting schools' head teachers and learners on child safeguarding and safe reporting. The capacity of stakeholders in the four additional districts on data and reporting using the Kobo tool will also be strengthened. A standardized package for guidance and counselling services in schools, that is integrated as one package to deliver CSE, child safeguarding and life skills, supported by the finalized mentorship package, will also be prioritized in 2023.

PROGRAMME GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

4.1 Joint programming, implementation and advocacy

Global Programme effectiveness and efficiency (enablers) measures taken to strengthen joint implementation and achieve better synergies among UNFPA and UNICEF

Joint advocacy

In Burkina Faso, UNFPA and UNICEF continued to collaborate on the revision of and advocacy for the adoption of the revised version of the Personal and Family Code which includes the raising of the age of marriage to 18 for girls and boys. In the Yemen, the two agencies mobilized different UN agencies (UNHCR, IOM) and INGOs for a task force that examines reporting on child marriage as a form of 'conflict-related sexual violence' and part of the six grave violations reported within grave violations reports. A concept note has been developed that defines child marriage when committed by military personnel.

Joint programming

Since 2019, the Promoting Adolescent Safe Spaces (PASS) programme in Ghana has been jointly delivered by UNFPA and UNICEF with two NGO partners (NORSAAC and INGH). The programme provides lifeskills and reproductive health education for the most marginalized adolescent girls through safe spaces to enhance their knowledge, skills and attitudes on matters such as their rights, relationships, sexual and reproductive health and financial literacy, and connect them to services. In Sierra Leone, the two agencies are working in districts with the highest prevalence of child marriage (Kambia, Koinadugu, Moyamba and Pujehun). To maximize coverage, UNFPA and UNICEF coordinate their work and they work in different chiefdoms and communities in these four districts. Adolescents enrolled in safe spaces receive information on the toll-free helpline for GBV survivors and, if necessary, are referred to UNFPA-supported One Stop Centres in each district. In Koinadugu, safe space mentees are referred to UNFPA-supported adolescent-friendly sexual and reproductive health hubs.

In Ghana, UNFPA and UNICEF partnered with the Domestic Violence Secretariat to organize a Gender-Transformative Accelerator (GTA) workshop

in Accra to develop a two-year GTA road map for the integration of gender-transformative approaches into programming. In India, the two agencies jointly invested in positive masculinity interventions in schools and communities. With technical support from the East and Southern Africa Regional Office and UNICEF Office of Research, the two agencies in Zambia collaborated with the Zambia Institute for Policy Analysis and Research (ZIPAR) to undertake a gender norms survey.

Joint monitoring and quality assurance

In Ethiopia, the two agencies provided technical support for the joint monitoring and review of the programmes at regional and woreda (district) levels. In Mozambique, UNFPA and UNICEF conducted a joint monitoring mission to Rapale district in Nampula Province to i) strengthen synergies and geographic convergence with similar programmes; ii) understand the impact and relevance of the interventions in the lives of programme participants; and iii) identify implementation challenges and recommendations to address them.

In Uganda, the Global Programme supported coordination structures (child well-being committees) to convene quarterly stakeholder consultations with relevant government departments and Global Programme implementing partners.

4.2 Partnerships

The Global Programme works through government programmes, systems and platforms, with civil society organizations and with media and academia: in 2022, the programme had a total of 276 implementing partners at regional and national level, as well as 48 other partners, for example for advocacy. Of the 276 implementing partners, 145 are civil society organizations or partnerships, of which 27 are youth-led and 46 are women's rights organizations.

Partnerships for capacity-building efforts

UNICEF in East and Southern Africa supported a regional partnership with CISP to roll out the regional social norms training package and to pre-test the converted version for Agora, UNICEF's online training platform. The regional office is also collaborating with the University of Nairobi to develop

short courses on social norms programming and measurement for government officials, CSOs and university graduates across Eastern Africa. This approach to capacity-building is offering a sustainable model that can be self-funded in the future.

The Spotlight Initiative-funded partnership with Girls Not Brides supports capacity-building of national coalitions and CSO members in gender-transformative approaches. In 2022, 3-day intensive workshops were organized with national coalition members in Nigeria and Mozambique, using the gender-transformative accelerator tool to discuss current approaches and reflect on steps to advance gender-transformative approaches in programming and advocacy. Using pilot grants, Nigeria began implementing some of the activities of the GTA road map. The GTA tool was adapted to the requirements of CSO implementation work. The GTA Country Report for Nigeria and the CSO Facilitation Guide for the GTA tool are due to be published in early 2023.

Partnerships with media

The Bangladesh programme partnered with Radio Shadhin and the online bdnews24 to broadcast messages and facilitate dialogues on issues related to the empowerment of girls. During the 16 Days of Activism, the media outlets broadcast dialogues with experts on the economic empowerment of girls, sexual harassment in educational institutions, investment in girls and the prevention of child marriage.

Partnerships with government platforms and agencies for scale

The Bangladesh programme partnered with the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education and the National Curriculum Development Board to develop sexual harassment prevention and response guidelines and a health curriculum that incorporates CSE elements for secondary schools. Both initiatives will guide all 33,000 secondary schools in Bangladesh to ensure that the curriculum is gender-transformative, and the school environment is safe and free from sexual harassment.

The Mozambique programme engaged with the Supreme Court to facilitate the roll-out of mobile courts in Zambezia Province for cases of child marriage and violence against children. The partnership with the Attorney's Office continues with a view to further strengthen coordination of service provision. The potential roll-out of mobile courts

in Nampula Province is still under consideration after an analysis of gaps with respect to service provision and accessibility in conflict-affected districts.

Partnerships for data collection and evidence generation

The Ethiopia programme partnered with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) to develop a joint concept note for the midterm review of the National Costed Road Map to end child marriage. The programme also partnered with GAGE to generate further evidence on adolescent and youth well-being, including child marriage, and to adjust interventions based on research findings.

Partnerships with parliamentarians and political leaders

UNFPA Ghana supported adolescent girls and boys for high-level policy advocacy through dialogues and mentoring sessions with 40 parliamentarians to highlight the issues affecting adolescents, such as child marriage, cohabitation, adolescent pregnancy and menstrual hygiene. As a result, the parliamentarians pledged to present the removal of the luxury tax on menstrual hygiene products in 2023.

The Uganda programme shifted its programme strategy to focus on advocacy and engagement with high-level stakeholders, including partnerships with the first lady of Uganda as a member of the Organization of African First Ladies against HIV/AIDS, the Vice President and the Prime Minister as three high-profile champions for adolescent girls.

Partnerships with religious leaders

UNFPA and UNICEF Ghana engaged 327 traditional and religious leaders in dialogues and training at national and regional levels to increase their knowledge and promote positive attitudes and practices for ending child marriage. The National Framework for Engaging Traditional and Religious Leaders for Gender Equality has been developed to standardize the engagement of the custodians of Ghana's traditional norms and practices to ensure they promote gender equality. UNFPA and UNICEF in East and Southern Africa continued to collaborate with the African Council of Religious Leaders to engage prominent faith leaders in the campaign to end child marriage and FGM and to expand the roll-out of the

Faith for Positive Change for Children, Families and Communities (FPCC) initiative in the region. FPCC is a global partnership between UNICEF, Religions for Peace, and the Joint Learning Initiative on Local Faith Communities, and academic partners. In 2022, the Global Programme supported FPCC training of trainers workshops in Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, South Sudan, Zambia and Zimbabwe. In April 2022, UNICEF East and Southern Africa Regional Office supported the African Council of Religious Leaders' virtual consultation on faith and culture. Over 130 religious leaders from East and Southern Africa committed to rallying their communities to end harmful practices affecting children by 2030.

Partnerships with youth organizations

The India programme collaborated with youth organizations and platforms like Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), National Cadet Corps (NCC), and National Social Service (NSS) to support the development of strategies for youth engagement and strengthened adolescent and youth empowerment. Youth groups have been instrumental in gathering the rights holders' voice and perceptions on gender-based stereotypes and amplifying key messages on breaking these stereotypes, preventing violence against girls, and other child protection priorities. In East and Southern Africa, the regional offices partnered with Y-ACT, a youth-led organization, to conduct an online capacity assessment of youth-led organizations in 14 countries. The assessment showed that most organizations had prior experience executing social accountability actions related to ending child marriage, but lacked organizational and financial management structures to manage their activities effectively.

Partnerships with other UN agencies

The Niger programme partners with UNDP and UN Women within the Spotlight Initiative to offer economic opportunities to girls who have escaped from marriage and to advocate with the Ombudsman of the Republic for legislation against GBV, including child marriage.

Partnerships with coalitions

UNFPA and UNICEF are members of the Salone Adolescent Girl Network, a coalition of over 150 local, national and international organizations working with and for adolescent girls in Sierra Leone. The network shares resources and evidence-based best practice and campaigns and catalyses collective voices with and on behalf of girls. UNFPA served as co-chair in 2022.[83]

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83 See more: https://www.facebook.com/SAGN232/

4.3 Visibility and communication

Global communications

The Global Programme aims to increase its reach through various communication activities, to spread awareness on the need to end child marriage and the work of the programme. Further, the communication aims to inspire audiences to engage with content shared and become allies in the efforts to end child marriage, including engagement with current and prospective donors to the programme.

The Global Programme web page on unicef.org had an increase in the number of page views, unique visitors and events (such as downloads) in 2022 compared to 2021, with a continued high average time spent on the page compared to the other pages on the website — indicating a high level of interest among the visitors to engage with the contents. The global publications published during the year also gained a lot of traction, with more than half of the visitors viewing document landing pages on child marriage coming from organic searches (such as through Google) — which testifies to the general interest in the issue of child marriage.

Numbers of social media followers continued to grow for both Instagram and Twitter during the year, with key advocacy moments used for stronger messaging around child marriage and gender equality, leading to average interactions per post and average engagement levels on Twitter increasing compared to 2021. The communications strategy for the programme also encourages partners to amplify messages on child marriage and the impact of the Global Programme, with donors, CSOs and other partners sharing success stories, key results and child marriage data produced by the programme throughout the year.

Regional communications

In East and Southern Africa, Y-Act successfully implemented communications campaigns on youth accountability for the Day of the African Child, International Youth Day, the International Day for Girls, and 16 Days of Activism. All campaigns were implemented in collaboration with the medical INGO Amref/Youth Power Hub and ALM (the Africa-Led Movement to end FGM/C), as well as UNFPA. These campaigns included Twitter caravans, forums, webinars, and an in-person workshop highlighting the role of youth in tracking the ICPD+25 commitments[84] and reducing harmful practices like FGM and child marriage in Africa. The Twitter space hosted during the 16 Days of Activism aimed to champion bodily autonomy, equity, economic freedom and the right to life in the face of increasing gender-based aggression on a global scale. This flagship Twitter space is titled 'Accountability 365: A global call for Generational Equality to End GBV' and offers a platform to discuss GBV, cyberbullying and mental health issues. The Twitter space was an engaging and immersive live audio conversation that provided a 'radio experience' to listeners.

The Youth Power Hub (YPH) also features a website segment called the Conversation Café: encouraging discussions among young champions about social accountability and monitoring of the ICPD+25 commitment and of ending harmful practices. YPH also acquired new pages to reflect the campaign's progress better, including on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook to improve content optimization and attract new followers. For example, during the August campaign, Facebook was the best-performing platform, reaching nearly 20,000 people.

In South Asia, UNFPA and UNICEF continued to highlight child marriage through their regional and country websites and social media platforms. Media relations at regional and national level were also developed and maintained in covering relevant activities which increased the visibility of the child marriage and the global programme in the region (see highlights of news coverage in the annex).

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84 The ICPD+25 was the Nairobi Summit of the International Conference on Population and Development held in November 2019, 25 years after the Cairo conference at which 129 governments adopted the ICPD programme of action.

BOX 10

CASE STUDY OF THE VAILLANTE MINISERIES

'Vaillante' is a fictional miniseries shedding light on the issue of child marriage in West and Central Africa, an innovative way of addressing something considered a sensitive topic in many settings and providing a positive and absorbing narrative for the fight against the practice in Africa. In 2022, 'Vaillante' continued to be screened at community focus group discussions and at film festivals around the world. The miniseries was screened across the West and Central Africa region, in collaboration with country offices and communication teams and attended by partners, governments and young people, e.g., in Benin, Niger, Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Ghana, as well as in Madagascar and the US.

In connection with International Women's Day and throughout the month of March, a partnership with Canal + allowed for the broadcast of all three episodes: Canal + in francophone sub-Saharan Africa alone has 6 million subscriber households, and offers a reach to nearly 120 million viewers globally. Further, in collaboration with Canal Olympia, the series was screened in several Canal Olympia Cinemas in Burkina Faso, Benin, Cameroon, Congo, Guinea, Senegal, Niger, Togo, Madagascar and Nigeria during August 2022, reaching wide audiences. In addition, Burkina Faso organized a 5-week youth-led mobile caravan across 6 regions during which 'Vaillante' was screened. During the first quarter of 2023, 'Vaillante' will be released in English and French on streaming 90 platforms in 50 countries, including iTunes, Google, Amazon, Microsoft, Proximus, FilmoTV, Universcine, Arte France, Canal VOD, Videofutu, and CVS in different markets worldwide.

As of May 2022, episode 1 of 'Vaillante' had been submitted to 25 film festivals, of which it had been accepted into 7 and it has won 3 film awards. The submission categories differ based on festival submission requirements but include feature film, short film and TV series categories. The festivals at which 'Vaillante' is an official selection include the following:

- African Women Arts & Film Festival, Tanzania (Narrative Feature)
- Aflemha Independent Film Festival, Egypt (Feature)
- The African Film Festival, Texas (Series)
- Women's International Film Festival, Nigeria (Short Film)
- Women of African Descent Film Festival, New York (Feature)
- Festival International de Cinema Vues D'Afrique, Canada (Feature)
- Realtime International Film Festival, Nigeria

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Further, some key communications results for the series since its launch in November 2021 until June 2023 include:

- The Vaillante web page on the UNICEF West and Central Africa website has been **visited** over **63,000 times**, with visitors from **101 different countries**
- Vaillante marketing content through UNICEF Africa social media accounts has reached over **17.2 million people**
- The official trailer has been viewed **591,000 times** on Facebook
- Vaillante has obtained over **1.8 million engagements** including over **1,500 comments** of a qualitative nature across Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube
- The combined 3 episodes of 'Vaillante' have now been **watched over 63,000 times** on YouTube alone

In parallel to community screenings, audience research in Benin, Mali and Sierra Leone was carried out in August and September 2022. Initially, 'Vaillante' was primarily launched digitally (on YouTube). However, based on the series' digital audience analysis, this mainly restricted the audience to male viewers (74 per cent), and viewers aged 25–34 (58 per cent) and 35–44 (30 per cent), despite younger people having better access to the Internet. The audience research was thus intended to understand how the series could be used as a conversation starter about child marriage and to get feedback from audiences currently outside the demographic reach. The research showed that the series could be used as a tool for implementing a collective change approach. Audiences shared concrete ideas for diffusion channels and target audiences in their respective settings, such as screenings in schools. They also recommended translation into local languages, and diffusion through radio adaptations. In Sierra Leone, for example, the research showed that among the 10 religious leaders and 10 young girls (aged 14–22) interviewed, 68 per cent discussed the series with friends and family after watching 'Vaillante', 25 per cent organized group discussions about child marriage and 7 per cent organized screenings of 'Vaillante' on their own.

In 2023, the child protection and communication regional teams of UNICEF, together with country offices, will continue to explore the most effective ways of using the series for public dialogue and action around child marriage, and how its impact on local action and potential change to reduce child marriage can be measured.

4.4 Knowledge management and exchange

Global knowledge management efforts

The knowledge management strategy for the Global Programme focuses on leading the sector forward; linking colleagues and partners working on child marriage and gender equality to each other; and fostering an environment for learning and for using data and evidence in our programmes to end child marriage.

The Global Programme supports knowledge-sharing and learning through global webinars, meetings and events, as well as global newsletters sent out to an ever-growing list of subscribers from across the globe. Webinars included three internal learning sessions: on gender-transformative approaches, specifically looking at skills to enhance girls' learning, livelihoods and empowerment; an open clinic to support reporting within the Global Programme; and a session on UNICEF's shift from communication for development (C4D) to social and behaviour change (SBC) and what this means for child protection programming. Further, a webinar in partnership with

WHO, Girls Not Brides and the Inter-Parliamentarian Union (IPU) was organized, bringing together close to 200 participants from 68 countries, mainly parliamentarians, for a discussion on parliamentarian actions and accountability to end child marriage. Webinars focusing on data and evidence included a launch of three data analyses on harmful practices in Africa linked to the Day of the African Child, three CRANK research meetings and a three-day online CRANK global convening focusing on emerging evidence, partnerships and funding to advance the child marriage research space.

To further encourage knowledge-sharing, the programme sent out 18 global newsletters during the year, including 8 research digests in partnership with the Joint Programme on the Elimination of FGM. During the third quarter of 2022, the format for the newsletters was updated to reflect best practices in the field of knowledge management and to respond to feedback from partners, leading to an increased open and engagement rate for the global emails. At the end of the year, the subscribers to the newsletters numbered 1,041 (compared to 957 in 2021) across 113 countries from all regions globally. These represent UNFPA and UNICEF staff, as well as government and civil society partners, academia and the private sector, among others.

Regional knowledge management efforts

The regional offices in South Asia/Asia and the Pacific made evidence, guidance and tools accessible to the country offices through 19 child protection e-bulletins and child marriage evidence series. The regional UNFPA and UNICEF child marriage knowledge platform on SharePoint were accessed for information by 306 users with 9,440 visits. This platform is a depository of over 450 resources related to child marriage in South Asia. Further, the regional offices organized a regional webinar for country office child marriage focal points to discuss the findings of the impact evaluation of 'Improving Adolescent Lives in South Asia'. This initiative aims at reducing child marriage and early pregnancies, while increasing adolescent participation in education in selected regions and districts in Afghanistan, India and Pakistan. The evaluation results include lessons for strengthening future programmes and for informing policy advocacy on child marriage, early pregnancy and school enrolment. A regional child marriage data profile was finalized and will be launched during the child marriage forum in early 2023. The profile presents the levels, burden, and disparities in child marriage across South Asia, the relationship between pregnancy and marriage, and key outcomes for child brides including with regard to their health, education, empowerment, experience of violence and employment.

In 2022 a cross-regional learning platform on ending child marriage was established for UNICEF and UNFPA country offices working on ending child marriage across East and Southern Africa and West and Central Africa. Under an institutional contract with Child Frontiers, a knowledge management strategy and learning platform was developed, focusing on newsletters and interactive webinars with country offices and partners. A first webinar was organized in 2022, with the majority of learning activities to take place in 2023.

UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office provided technical support to the Syria Country Office to conduct a scoping study to understand the extent of child marriage in Syria. The scoping study will inform the design of a strategic approach for the country office tailored to the specific needs of girls and boys in Syria who are at risk of early and forced marriage.

UNFPA and UNICEF in Sudan were supported to conduct a two-day training on gender-transformative approaches for programming on harmful practices with national partners.

The objectives of the training were to lay the foundations by unpacking the concept of gender-transformative approaches; share Sudan's experience on the different gender-transformative approaches to address harmful practices; and identify the priorities, strengths and needs for further technical assistance or support. UNFPA in the Arab States also started the roll-out of the GTA tool in Palestine in coordination with UNFPA Technical Division in Headquarters. Further countries are being identified for the roll-out of the tool based on identified interests at the joint UNFPA-UNICEF meeting in Luxor in 2022.

4.5 Impact beyond the Global Programme

Arab States/Middle East and North Africa

UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office and UNFPA Arab States Regional Office jointly convened a regional meeting in Luxor, Egypt on 'Accelerating efforts to end harmful practices in Arab States/Middle East and North Africa' in 2022. The meeting was attended by UNFPA and UNICEF staff from 12 country offices (Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen), regional offices, headquarters and key stakeholders, including government partners, academics, CSOs, religious leaders and young people. The meeting provided an opportunity to jointly develop and strengthen strategic multisectoral and gender-transformative approaches to address harmful practices in the region; specifically, to:

- Understand the global research agenda for harmful practices and ensuring programming approaches in the region are evidence-based

- Strengthen monitoring and evaluation and evidence building for country-specific interventions to prevent and respond to harmful practices

- Provide an engaging platform for country, regional and global sharing of learnings, approaches and resources

- Strengthen the coordination between UNFPA and UNICEF country offices, within the two global joint programmes (on child marriage and FGM) and beyond where harmful practices persist.

West and Central Africa

UNICEF West and Central Africa Regional Office's efforts to eliminate child marriage go beyond the four Global Programme countries and cover a total of 15 countries engaged in programming (Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mali, Niger and Sierra Leone) or as active observers (Benin, Ghana, Nigeria, Central African Republic, Chad, Cameroon and Mauritania). The structure of the UNICEF key results for children encourages multisectoral work relating to child marriage, with a particular focus on education, social protection, health, social and behaviour change, communication and advocacy.

Given the complexity of challenges across countries in West and Central Africa and the need to significantly accelerate efforts to prevent child marriage, the regional office is supporting countries to increase the scale and impact of programming, e.g. by leveraging social protection to address poverty as a key driver; developing behaviourally informed, contextualized SBC strategies with communities; supporting the measurement of social norms change related to child marriage; and supporting country offices with evidence generation and data analysis to inform programming in the region. For this purpose, three institutional contracts were signed in 2022 to: (a) support multiple country offices to develop contextualized child marriage strategies (Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Sierra Leone); (b) co-develop an SBC toolkit to engage with communities on child marriage and FGM (Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria); and (c) to support the operationalization of the ACT framework to measure social norms change related to child marriage and FGM (Guinea, Mali, Sierra Leone). To improve the quality and increase the reach of programming, each means of support is intended to be contextualized to specific country situations, be they development, fragility, or humanitarian (COVID-19, conflict, climate change and rising costs of living, etc.).

Latin America and the Caribbean

The Global Programme supported the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region through knowledge management and technical assistance.

The headquarters team supported a technical process of developing a regional framework on ending child marriage for the LAC region, as well as providing programmatic support to six country offices for the implementation of UNFPA's Spain-supported project on ending child marriage, covering Guatemala, El Salvador, Peru, Dominican Republic, Bolivia and Colombia.

In 2022, in partnership with UNFPA Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office, the Global Programme translated 16 technical notes into Spanish and disseminated the content through five webinars, focusing on: human rights-based approaches and gender-transformative approaches; what does it mean for girls' agency and empowerment programming?; community-based approaches to gender norm change; institutional systems and multisectoral services responsive to adolescent girls; and legal and policy reforms necessary to end child marriage. The webinars were attended by, in total, almost 2,000 practitioners from over 20 LAC countries, representing governments (39 per cent), civil society organizations (22 per cent) and international organizations (19 per cent).

The Global Programme also provided in-depth technical assistance to the Peru country office on gender-transformative programming; the Bolivia country office on gender and social norms change; and the Mexico country office through an in-person mission to the state of Guerrero to promote the elimination of child marriage affecting the most marginalized indigenous girls in partnership with the State Commission of Human Rights and the State Parliament.

4.6 Resource mobilization and expenditure

Donor support for the Global Programme decreased by 43 per cent from US$36.7 million in 2021 to US$20.9 million in 2022. Major contributions from 2019 to 2023 came from the Netherlands (30 per cent), Norway (25 per cent) and Canada (21 per cent) as shown in Table 22 and Figure 12.

TABLE 22: *Contributions received by the Global Programme in Phase II by year (in US$)*

Donor	Total Contributions received to Global Programme valid in Phase II in US$	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Belgium	9,132,616	4,483,325	2,355,713	2,293,578	N/A	N/A
Canada	23,398,560	3,793,627	3,782,148	15,822,785	N/A	N/A
European Commission	724,638	724,638	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
European Commission (Spotlight Initiative)	3,416,000	N/A	2,000,000	1,416,000	N/A	N/A
Italy	1,711,093	N/A	597,372	596,659	517,063	N/A
Netherlands	33,556,947	7,700,770	8,225,617	8,323,424	9,307,135	N/A
Norway	27,798,003	N/A	13,870,574	6,782,384	7,145,044	N/A
United Kingdom	8,258,832	N/A	N/A	N/A	3,926,702	4,332,130
Zonta International	3,465,000	N/A	1,980,000	1,485,000	N/A	N/A
Total	**111,461,687**	**16,702,360**	**32,811,423**	**36,719,830**	**20,895,945**	**4,332,130**

FIGURE 12: *Contributions received for Phase II of the Global Programme (2019-2023)*
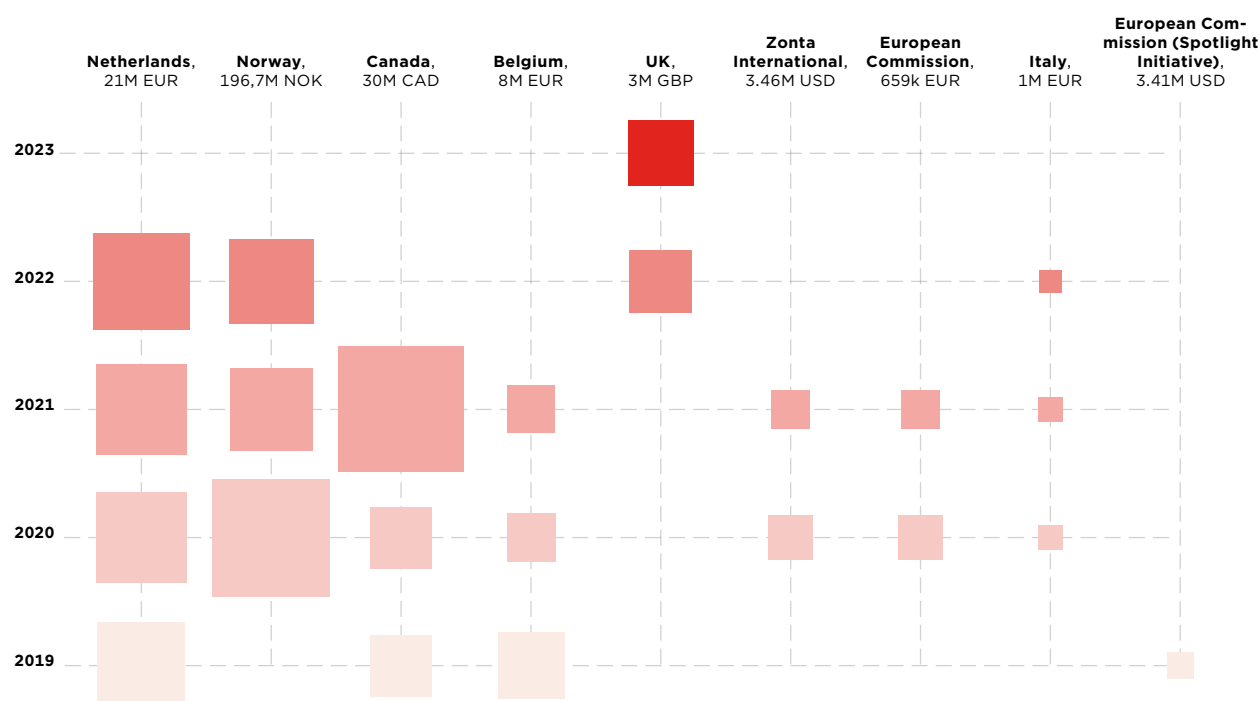
A total of US$34.3 million was budgeted and US$26.1 million was allocated for the Global Programme in 2022. Of this amount, US$18.5 million (71 per cent) was allocated to 12 country offices for implementation of programme activities to end child marriage, while US$2.7 million (10 per cent) was allocated to four regional offices and US$4.8 million (19 per cent) to UNFPA and UNICEF headquarters, as detailed in Table 23.

Total programme expenditure in 2022 amounted to US$23.3 million, with an overall expenditure rate of 89 per cent. Most funds were utilized by country offices (82 per cent) while 17 per cent was spent by headquarters (11 per cent) and regional offices (7 per cent). Among the country offices, India had the highest expenditures at US$3.46 million, followed by Ethiopia (US$2.98 million) and Bangladesh (US$2.1 m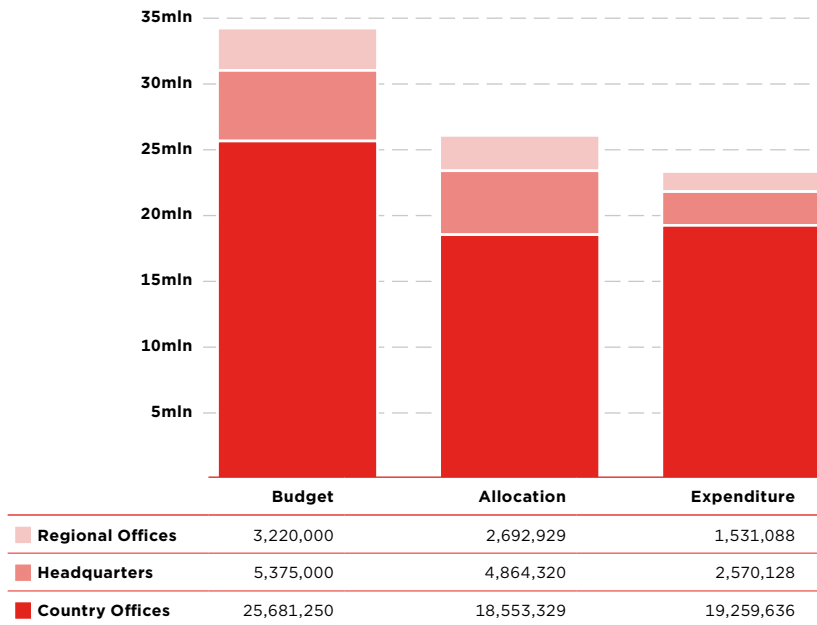illion). The over-expenditures by some country offices, namely Ethiopia, India, Zambia, Sierra Leone, Nepal and Mozambique can be attributed to carry-over of the funds which were allocated to country offices in 2021 but were not fully spent during the year due to disruptions because of the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, several country offices generated savings from procurement and implementation activities based on a value-for-money approach as highlighted in Section 4.7.

TABLE 23: *Allocation, expenditures, and expenditure rate for 2022 (in US$)*

UNFPA–UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage Allocation & Expenditure in 2022

Business Area	TOTAL			UNFPA			UNICEF		
	Allocation	Expenditure	Expenditure Rate	Allocation	Expenditure	Expenditure Rate	Allocation	Expenditure	Expenditure Rate
Bangladesh	2,665,000	2,090,191	78%	1,165,000	1,280,743	110%	1,500,000	809,447	54%
Burkin Faso	1,700,000	1,333,021	78%	700,000	714,816	102%	1,000,000	618,205	62%
Ethiopia	2,065,000	2,977,719	144%	565,000	1,316,785	233%	1,500,000	1,660,934	111%
Ghana	1,530,000	1,365,385	89%	730,000	591,446	81%	800,000	773,940	97%
India	2,515,000	3,463,453	138%	715,000	1,002,119	140%	1,800,000	2,461,334	137%
Mozambique	955,000	998,333	105%	455,000	580,998	128%	500,000	417,335	83%
Nepal	1,130,000	1,228,366	109%	430,000	714,146	166%	700,000	514,221	73%
Niger	2,188,329	1,626,621	74%	875,332	765,551	87%	1,312,997	861,070	66%
Sierra Leone	820,000	1,040,113	127%	220,000	558,485	254%	600,000	481,629	80%
Uganda	1,290,000	1,234,715	96%	690,000	620,819	90%	600,000	613,896	102%
Yemen	685,000	610,232	89%	435,000	419,985	97%	250,000	190,247	76%
Zambia	1,010,000	1,291,486	128%	610,000	566,654	93%	400,000	724,832	181%
COUNTRY OFFICE SUB–TOTAL	**18,553,329**	**19,259,636**	**104%**	**7,590,332**	**9,132,545**	**120%**	**10,962,997**	**10,127,091**	**92%**
Asia-Pacific regional office	693,735	344,484	50%	443,735	109,567	25%	250,000	234,917	94%
Middle East – North Africa regional office	725,588	474,775	65%	325,588	235,352	72%	400,000	239,424	60%
Eastern nd Southern Africa regional office	773,606	468,011	60%	323,606	102,636	32%	450,000	365,375	81%
Western and Central Africa regional office	500,000	243,816	49%	100,000	N/A	0%	400,000	243,816	61%
REGIONAL OFFICE SUB–TOTAL	**2,692,929**	**1,531,088**	**57%**	**1,192,929**	**447,555**	**38%**	**1,500,000**	**1,083,533**	**72%**
Headquarters programme budget	2,498,027	905,506	36%	1,500,000	238,771	16%	998,027	666,735	67%
Indipendent evaluation	400,000	46,200	12%	100,000	N/A	0%	300,000	46,200	15%
Global Programme Support Unit (HR)	1,966,293	1,618,422	82%	816,293	621,950	76%	1,150,000	996,473	87%
HEADQUARTER SUB–TOTAL	**4,864,320**	**2,570,128**	**53%**	**2,416,293**	**860,720**	**36%**	**2,448,027**	**1,709,408**	**70%**
TOTAL (PROGRAMMABLE)	26,110,578	23,360,851	89%	11,199,554	10,440,820	93%	14,911,924	12,920,031	87%

FIGURE 13: *Overall budget, allocation and expenditures in 2022 (in US$)*

	Budget	Allocation	Expenditure
Regional Offices	3,220,000	2,692,929	1,531,088
Headquarters	5,375,000	4,864,320	2,570,128
Country Offices	25,681,250	18,553,329	19,259,636

As shown in Figure 14, three categories accounted for most country office expenditures in 2022: US$7.2 million (38 per cent) were utilized for transfers and grants to counterparts; US$5 million (26 per cent) for general operating and other direct costs and US$3.2 million (17 per cent) for contractual services. Four other categories accounted for 19 per cent of total expenditures.

FIGURE 14: *Expenditures by country office and donor statement category (%)*
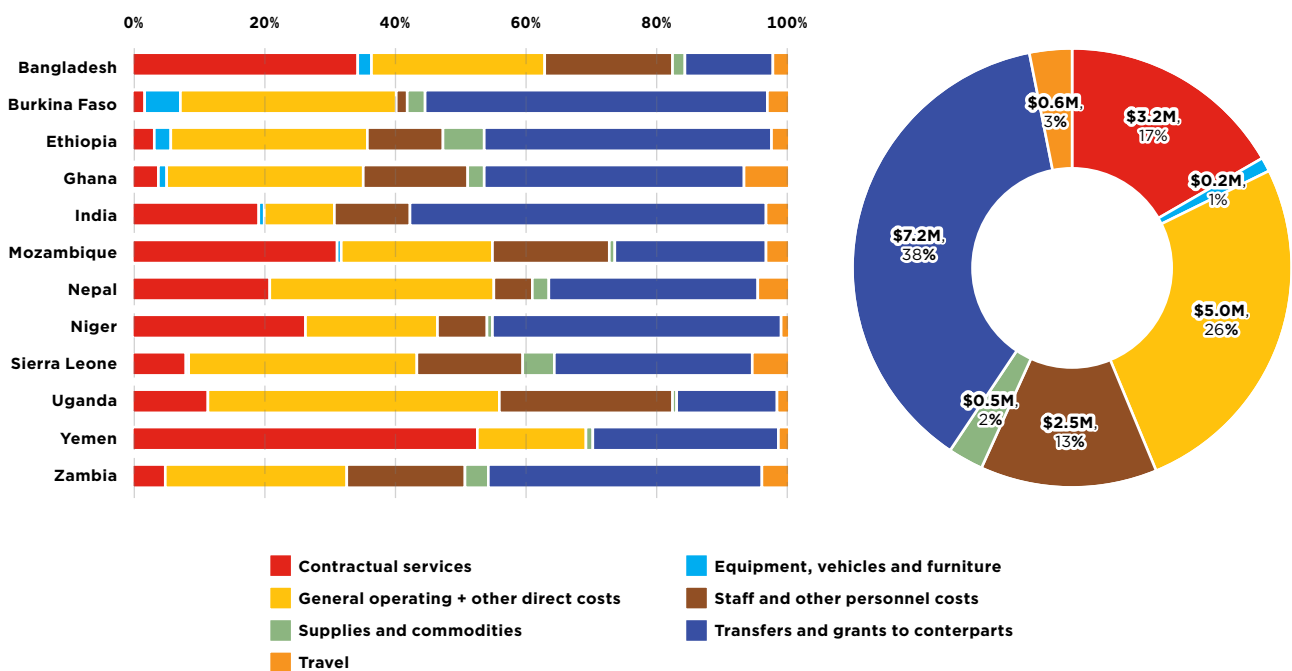
In 2022, 72 per cent of expenditures by regional offices and headquarters went to staff and other personnel costs (50 per cent) and contractual services (22 per cent). Another 28 per cent consisted of general operating and other direct costs (14 per cent), travel (10 per cent), transfers and grants to counterparts (3 per cent), and equipment and supplies (1 per cent).

FIGURE 15: *Expenditures by regional office and headquarters and by donor statement categories (%)*
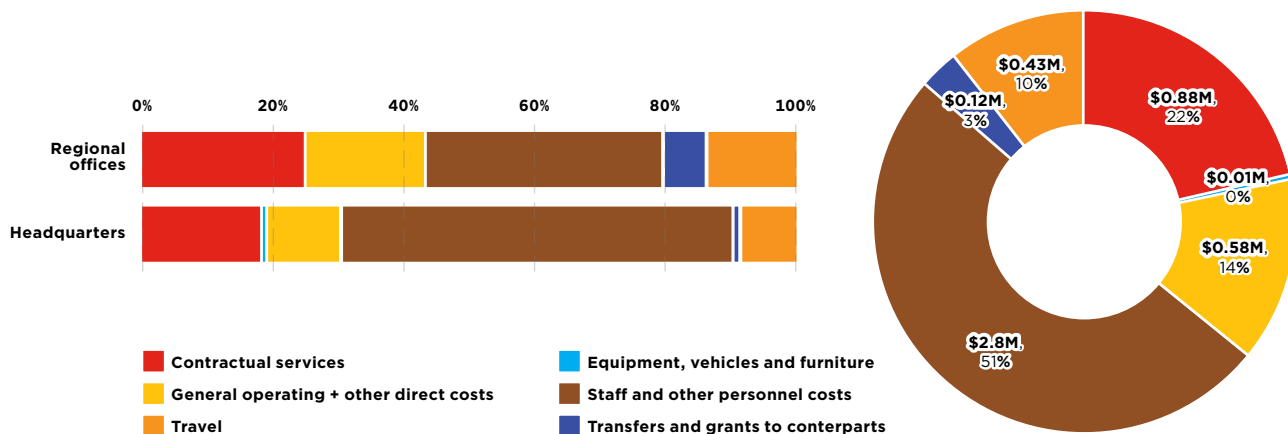

Figure 16 gives an overview of Global Programme expenditures by outcome. The largest share of total Global Programme expenditures was reported under 'Outcome 1100: Intensive support to the most marginalized girls' at US$9.7 million (42 per cent) in 2022, increasing by US$3.9 million (14 per cent) from US$5.8 million (28 per cent) in 2021. This was followed by 'Outcome 1200: Family and community environment' at US$3.6 million (15 per cent), 'Outcome 2100: System strengthening' at US$2.9 million (12 per cent) and 'Outcome 3200: Data and evidence' at US$2 million (9 per cent). Human resources also had a greater share of total expenditures at the global level with an overall expenditure of US$3.2 million (14 per cent).

FIGURE 16: *Global Programme expenditure by outcome (% and value in million US$)*
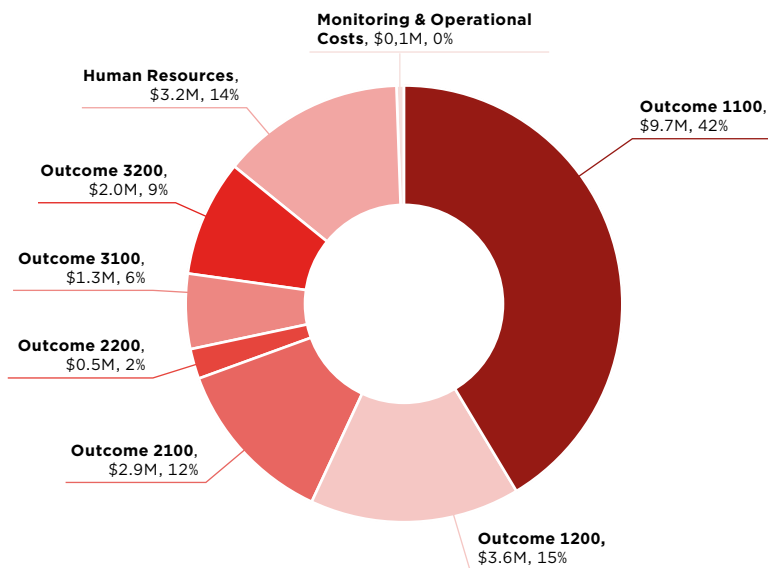
A brief overview of the expenditures by country offices per outcome in 2022 is provided in Figure 17. Total expenditures under 'Outcome 1100: Intensive support to the most marginalized girls' represented the largest share of total expenditures by country offices at US$8.6 million (50 per cent), increasing from $5.8 million (37 per cent) in 2021. 'Outcome 1200: Family and community environment' and 'Outcome 2100: System strengthening' were the second and third largest focus areas of total annual expenditures at US$3.3 million (19 per cent) and US$2.8 million (16 per cent), respectively.

In 2022, India led the ranking of country offices with the highest expenditures for activities under 'Outcome 1100: Intensive support to the most marginalized girls' at US$1.5 million or 48 per cent of total country office expenditures, followed by Ethiopia at US$1.4 million (40 per cent) and Bangladesh at US$1.3 million (71 per cent). Meanwhile, 'Outcome 1200: Family and community environment' was reported as the largest share of total expenditures by Mozambique at 32 per cent and Uganda at 38 per cent. Yemen had the largest share of total expenditures at 69 per cent under 'Outcome 2100: System strengthening' whereas Zambia had the largest share of total expenditures at 32 per cent under 'Outcome 3100: Law and policies'.

FIGURE 17: *Expenditure by country office and output area (% and in million US$)*
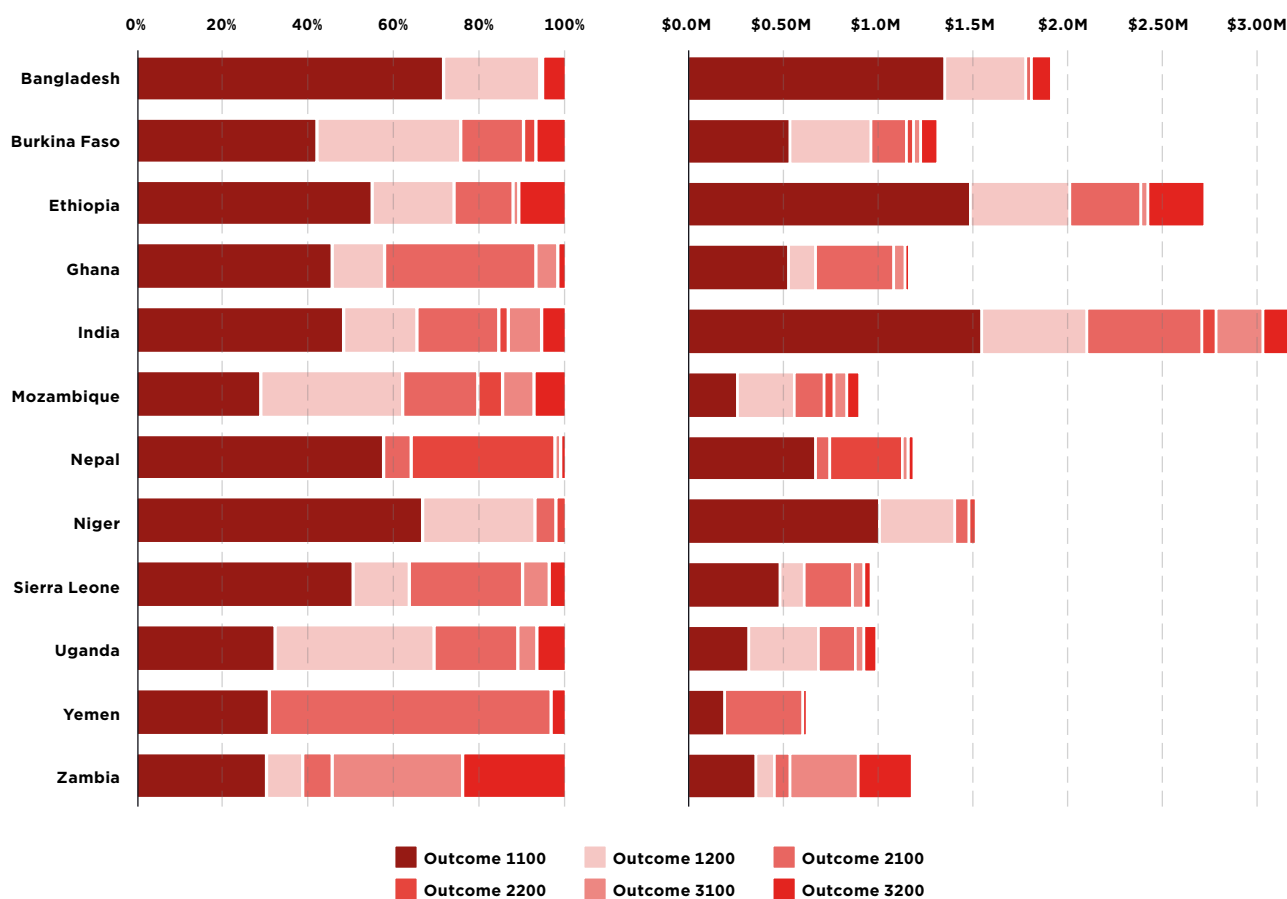
The share of the total expenditures by country offices per output area was aligned with the expenditures by outcomes detailed above. While 'Outcome 1100: Intensive support to the most marginalized girls' had the greatest share of total expenditures by country offices, the report shows that 'Output 1110: Lifeskills for adolescent girls' remained the largest area of total expenditures at 47 per cent in 2022, compared to 35 per cent in 2021. 'Output 2130: Support for sexual and reproductive health' and 'Output 1220: Engagement of families and communities' were other significant areas with the second and third largest share of total expenditures at 12 per cent and 11 per cent, respectively. Other output areas together accounted for 30 per cent of total expenditures.

FIGURE 18: *Share of total country office expenditure by output area (in million US$)*
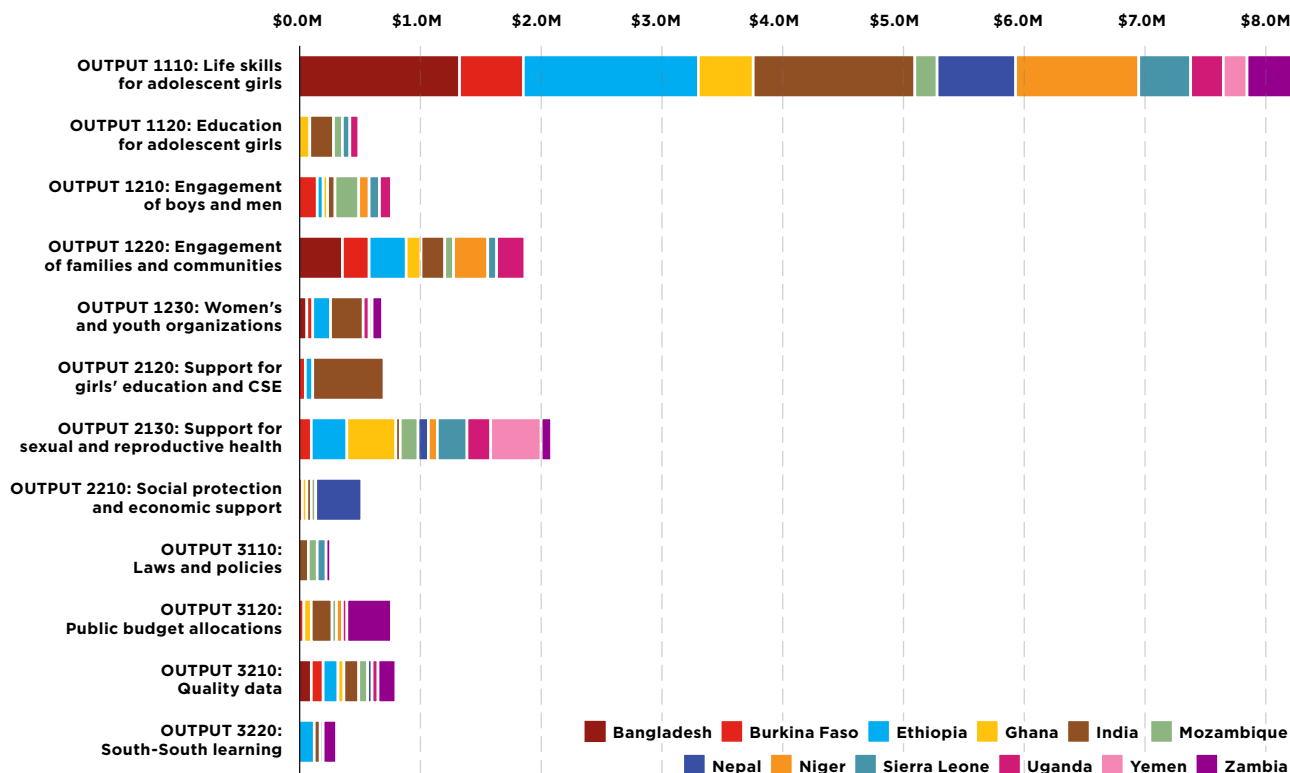
4.7 Value for money

The Global Programme continued to ensure value for money during the year, as highlighted below through select country office examples.

Economy

> ↘ **98 per cent** of UNICEF services procured through competitive contracts (target = 95 per cent)
>
> ↘ **46 per cent** of programme goods and services procured through long-term agreements (target = 50 per cent)

Competitive processes were applied for 98 per cent of UNICEF services contracts across the Global Programme in 2022. The use of long-term agreements (LTAs) for procurement of programme goods and services within the Global Programme increased from 42 per cent in 2021 to 46 per cent in 2022. More than 50 per cent of LTAs were used for procurement of contracts in Zambia (100 per cent), Yemen (67 per cent), India (63 per cent), Bangladesh (57 per cent), Ethiopia and Nepal (both 50 per cent).

Global and local LTAs were used for various services for the programme in Ethiopia, including ThinkPlace for development of a manual — though it was selected through a competitive process for the first phase of the assignment. The engagement of Population Media Centre by both UNICEF and UNFPA has reduced production costs and leveraged existing data. Likewise, UNICEF and UNFPA engaged Johns Hopkins University with joint financing and one bidding process that reduced the time required for procurement and contract management.

For the launch and implementation of the national campaign to end child marriage and teenage in Uganda, UNFPA and UNICEF conducted joint planning and budget including use of the same CSOs and vendors. A joint communication strategy was developed using the same procurement process managed by UNFPA. The procurement for contract and technical assistance for the implementation of the

strategy was led by UNICEF with UNFPA support, including drafting the terms of reference, reviewing and shortlisting potential contractors.

↘ **72 per cent** of programme partnership agreements signed with local NGOs (target = 50 per cent)

The Global Programme has seen an increase in the proportion of programme partnership agreements signed with local NGOs from 59 per cent in 2021 to 72 per cent in 2022. All programme cooperation agreements (PCAs) were signed with local NGOs in Ghana and India whereas more than 50 per cent of PCAs were engaged with local NGOs in Nepal (92 per cent), Burkina Faso (89 per cent), Mozambique (89 per cent), Yemen (83 per cent), Bangladesh (75 per cent) and Uganda (67 per cent). Further, UNICEF India leveraged more than US$178 million from governmental state-level flagship programmes to scale up interventions for adolescent empowerment.

UNFPA and UNICEF in Nepal have been collaborating with other organizations at all levels of government to assist the government in addressing child marriage. The collaborative effort saved time and money,

for example through the use of the same survey for assessing the impact of the programme, and the same training packages for reaching adolescents, parents and religious leaders. A systematic effort was made to leverage public finance allocation, use local expertise and skills, and emphasize government partnership and cost-sharing to the greatest extent possible. Advocating for increased government investment, costing strategies, and budget allocation tracking has continued, with a focus on strengthening legal and other policy frameworks to support adolescent rights. Community-level interventions were created in such a way that they can be implemented at a low cost while ensuring long-term results. UNFPA and UNICEF have used their respective comparative advantages to optimize programme results while lowering overall costs associated with establishing separate programme components.

Efficiency

↘ **37 per cent** of UNICEF partnerships through integrated programming activities with Education, Nutrition, Health and WASH sectors (target = 30 per cent)

In 2022, 37 per cent of UNICEF partnerships were in the form of integrated programming activities with the Education, Nutrition, Health and WASH sectors. The Global Programme in Zambia provided funds directly to the implementing districts through a single system instead of previously used multiple sectoral transfers separately for health, education and social welfare. The use of master trainers from a pool of practitioners for transfer of knowledge and skills minimized the number of headquarters staff involved in capacity-building at local levels and training sessions were conducted at community level instead of hotels and lodges, reducing the costs of training and programme delivery.

In India, reaching out to the community through existing structures such as Self-Help Groups (SHGs), National Service Scheme (NSS), Nehru Youth Centers (NYKS), Hindustan Scouts and Guides (HSG), Scientific Analysis Group (SAG), PURNA platforms have ensured better reach and scalability of the programme in many states, with lower costs. Similarly, partnerships with multiple government departments, Women and Child Development (WCD), School Education, Police, Mission for Elimination of Poverty in Municipal Areas (MEPMA), State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR) and CSO networks were cost-

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effective. Integration of child marriage interventions into NSS and NYKS platforms also reduces costs due to their independent presence in all districts in states like Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

The Agal Vilakku campaign, as well as Ilam Thalir Illam, was funded entirely by the state of Tamil Nadu in India, and reached more than 26,000 school-going adolescent girls aged 14–17 with key messages on child marriage and lifeskills. The India programme supported 4,313 girls by linking them to social protection schemes; 8,500 adolescent girls were supported to re-enrol in school, and 11,440 girls were linked with Shiksha Setu distance learning scheme. Meanwhile, the Nepal programme was able to influence local government plans and budgets to prioritize interventions addressing child marriage, adolescent girl empowerment, girls' education, gender-based violence, and child protection.

> ↘ **10 per cent** ratio of overhead costs to programme expenditure (target = 15 per cent)

Several activities in Mozambique have been implemented with a principle of not 'reinventing the wheel' but instead reusing material/resources already developed and human resources trained under other similar projects or by other partners, or where applicable, co-funding activities to ensure maximum reach and impact, and effective use of resources. For example, the reality check study of secondary impacts of COVID-19 in the lives of adolescent girls and young women was co-funded by the Global Programme and Rapariga Biz, since the study covered the same provinces and affected girls so its findings were relevant to both programmes.

As a recipient country of the Global Programme, the Joint Programme on the Elimination of FGM and the Spotlight Initiative, Uganda has leveraged technical and financial support and commitments from recipient United Nations agencies, government and implementing partners which has contributed to the reach and scale of interventions ensuring the achievement of quality outcomes for adolescent girls including in hard-to-reach communities. The training of the implementing partners (government at national and subnational levels, CSO partners) of the five UN agencies (UNICEF, UN Women, UNFPA, UNDP and UNHCR) on SBC led by UNICEF contributed

to reduction in cost of inputs and resources used for the training which was channelled to other programme activities.

> ↘ **100 per cent** budget implementation rate (target = 95 per cent)

Overall budget implementation rates across the Global Programme countries were above the set benchmark of 95 per cent. The budget implementation rate in Burkina Faso decreased from 101 per cent in 2021 to 78 per cent in 2022 following an effort to ensure harmonization of the costs of interventions, depending on the internal policy of each organization, as part of the implementation of projects with partners. The use of the same partners for community-based interventions to end child marriage and FGM in Burkina Faso has generated cost savings that enabled the programme to expand its geographical coverage.

UNICEF Mozambique was using the Vodacom mobile network to host apps and to substantially reduce implementation costs. Likewise, UNICEF Nepal has begun to turn the Rupantaran package into a digital app, thereby increasing programme reach, sustainability and efficiency, and reducing the costs of programme delivery. UNICEF Yemen embedded interventions to end child marriage into the child protection and GBV programme, thereby reducing fixed costs.

Savings were achieved in Niger by co-financing certain important activities, including the evaluation of the strategic plan, field visits, and support for the participation of partners in international and regional meetings, reducing the budget implementation rate from 138 per cent in 2021 to 74 per cent in 2022. In the context of harmonized approach to cash transfers (HACT), as the evaluation of state and non-state partners is one of the conditions for working with a partner, a pooling of efforts was made that allows one agency to share evaluation reports with the other to save time and resources.

Effectiveness

> ↘ **35 per cent** of joint activities implemented with effective coordination between agencies (target = 50 per cent)

Leveraging each agency's comparative advantage, UNFPA and UNICEF continued to work in a collaborative manner and to maximize results for adolescent girls in Ghana through the Global Programme. Coordination among the two agencies as well as government and CSO partners further improved to ensure efficient use of resources, make synergies, amplify messages and avoid duplication. It can help include joint delivery of programmatic interventions in convergence areas, learning and knowledge exchange, and strengthen effective partnerships with various ministries and departments across sectors based on areas of each agency's technical expertise.

Both UNFPA and UNICEF in India joined forces to ensure time and cost-efficient planning and preparatory work for the Global Programme Steering Committee field visit in 2022; e.g., the same vendor was engaged by both agencies for the purposes of designing the background documents and all the planning was done as a joint team with regional offices and headquarters.

In Mozambique, UNFPA and UNICEF have a robust collaboration and jointly coordinate and participate actively in respective initiatives and events related to child marriage to maximize the use of resources; e.g., the two multisectoral workshops for coordination and launching of the International Child Development Programme (ICDP) and trainings at both central and provincial level for UNFPA and UNICEF implementing partners in the area of masculinities and men's engagement.

36 per cent of localities with joint programme action (target = 35 per cent)

Through joint advocacy and collaboration, the Global Programme in Nepal has been instrumental in advancing the ending of child marriage agenda at all levels of government. All provincial governments have prioritized the abolition of child marriage in their annual budgets. Furthermore, the Rupantaran social and financial skills package is being used by other development organizations and local governments as part of their ending child marriage and empowering adolescent girls programme, allowing more girls to be reached.

In Sierra Leone, UNFPA and UNICEF regularly organized joint planning, review and technical meetings with key partners and undertook joint monitoring

visits. The team went on a week-long finding mission in December 2022 to key districts to assess and cross-check partner activities to inform upcoming programme activities. Apart from facilitating sessions and dialogues in their respective safe spaces and communities, mentors were able to conduct outreaches to new communities, hence reaching more girls and community members with information and dialogue sessions.

The Global Programme in Bangladesh mobilized 22 grass-roots-level women- and youth-led organizations who worked widely in their communities, and invested in capacity-building of the grass-roots organizations. These organizations in turn incorporated the technical issues on addressing child marriage in all their interventions, which reached a total of 7,684 community members, including proving income-generating activities training to more than 200 adolescent girls.

The Uganda programme enhanced its results by taking advantage of cultural events such as the Sebei and Karamoja annual cultural events that mobilize different social networks. Leveraging these platforms also provided opportunities to establish contact with large groups of marginalized adolescents and build consensus on entry points for subsequent interventions, including referral to protection and SRHR services.

98 per cent of technical assistance (missions, workshops, calls) rated satisfactory by the country offices (target = 100 per cent)

Effectiveness was prioritized through various quality improvement initiatives in Ethiopia, such as standardizing working manuals, providing capacity-building training to the workforce, close follow-up and supporting activities at different levels. Implementing comprehensive programmes and employing different strategies were among the methods used to increase programme effectiveness.

In Niger, annual adjustments were made for greater efficiency in interventions within the programme, for example to reach more adolescent girls in villages. This made it possible to increase the number of adolescent girls reached by interventions without a substantial increase in costs and with the sponsorship strategy of neighbouring villages, to allow more villages to be reached without a large financial impact.

The use of training of trainers and cascading of training in Ethiopia, such as lifeskills education both by the Bureau of Women and Children Affairs for out-of-school girls and by the education sector for in-school girls, helped reach more girls at limited cost. As a result, the achievement for this indicator was 109 per cent. The religious leaders' engagement target was also exceeded as the collaboration with faith-based organizations was enhanced and they were supported to use their platforms to reach more leaders as well as followers.

> ↘ **98 per cent** of technical assistance requests (missions, workshops, calls) fulfilled by Headquarters and Regional Office (target = 100 per cent)

UNICEF East and Southern Africa Regional Office in collaboration with UNICEF West and Central Africa Regional Office under the umbrella of the Spotlight Initiative Africa Regional Programme and the Global Programme have recruited Child Frontiers (a UNICEF LTA holder) to develop a methodology for analysing country situations and identifying the highest-impact areas for investment when it comes to child marriage and to support efforts for accelerating and amplifying efforts to end child marriage, through pragmatic, evidence-based and contextually appropriate adjustments in analysis, strategies and approaches.

Equity

> ↘ **94 per cent** of direct programme localities with child marriage prevalence in the 50th percentile and above of the country average (target = 90 per cent)

The principles that guided UNFPA and UNICEF in Burkina Faso in the programming and implementation process were inclusion and participation, with a particular interest in the most vulnerable people, especially those displaced by the security crisis that the country has faced for several years. The programme had a perpetual adjustment to consider the specific needs and interests of the different categories of populations affected by the security crisis, who have been forced to move to other localities. The targeting of communities in the regions, and adolescents for their accompaniment through safe spaces, was done according to the criterion of vulnerability. For adolescents, in addition

to this criterion, the risk of child marriage was also considered. This process was participatory involving leaders, families and influencers in these communities. A new strategy using community-based organizations to support institutional partners and the use of mentors and facilitators living in targeted communities, including community relays trained on the issue, has made it possible to continue the action in highly affected municipalities in the northern regions, East and Centre-North.

Equity is a key value in informing the programming and targeting of the programme in Ethiopia. Pastoralist communities in Afar and Somali regions are disadvantaged in multiple ways and have a high prevalence of child marriage. The programme prioritizes out-of-school adolescent girls as the primary target group and capacitates them with various interventions, including providing skills training and legal literacy and establishing and strengthening their platforms. The programme made a proactive effort to reach girls in IDP settings to be part of the skill building training via phone, using interactive voice recording in collaboration with VIAMO information services. As a result, 221 girls from IDP sites were targeted and participated in the training in 2022.

The Global Programme in Ghana has made deliberate efforts to ensure its programme interventions reach vulnerable adolescent girls and their families from the most marginalized groups and in hard-to-reach communities. For instance, the joint Promoting Adolescents Safe Spaces (PASS) programme targets a cohort of 4,300 most marginalized adolescent girls every year, including out-of-school adolescent girls, in regions with a high prevalence of child marriage, to empower them with a series of lifeskills and reproductive health education sessions in safe spaces.

In India, services to vulnerable girls and their families in West Bengal were extended by leveraging the government's 'Duare Sarkar' campaign aimed at provisioning social protection schemes under a single umbrella. UNICEF India provided technical support to ensure that the most marginalized girls had access to cash transfers, lifeskills and protective services. As a result, 71,431 adolescents from minorities, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other vulnerable groups received scholarships to continue their higher education in 12 intervention districts, thus ensuring equity. In Andhra Pradesh, UNFPA was focusing on adolescent girls who are at greatest risk of child marriage, and is targeting adolescents from religious minorities in Bihar (Madrasa intervention), adolescents from tribal

communities in Odisha through the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Research and Training Institute (SCSTRTI) and adolescents with disabilities through the Social Security & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Department (SSEPD).

The Bangladesh programme established adolescent girls' clubs in the Geneva camp, the largest Bihari camp in Dhaka. The camp accommodates 5,000 Bihari families who have been stranded in Bangladesh since 1971, who are without legal status, have limited access to education and other basic services, and who are excluded from mainstream society due to extreme poverty and discrimination. Adolescent girls are not able to leave the camp and experience regular life. The clubs are a lifeline for adolescent girls and provide much-needed SRHR knowledge and skills.

The Nepal programme primarily targets adolescent girls who are confronted with social and cultural barriers. The programme is being implemented in marginalized Dalit communities, among religious minorities from hard-to-reach geographical areas, and is targeting girls who are out of school. The programme has also begun to reach out to girls with disabilities, but the numbers reached are still low. Similarly, the Niger programme, as well as other countries (e.g., Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zambia), are targeting the most marginalized adolescent girls, including those living in remote areas, those out of school and at risk of child marriage, including girls

living in areas affected by armed conflict. Special attention is given to adolescent girls with disabilities with the introduction of disaggregated data to monitor the effective inclusion of this group. Based on disability training provided by the Mozambique programme, ICDP staff were working closely with organizations of persons with disabilities to include children with disabilities who are survivors of child marriage and sexual violence.

Cost effectiveness

This section presents some data on the cost effectiveness of the Global Programme based on financial and output indicator data. Figure 19 shows the trends in the performance of three key output indicators. Intensive support to marginalized adolescent girls increased consistently, except during the COVID-19 pandemic year of 2021. In 2022, the Global Programme reached almost 6.5 million adolescent girls. Community engagement showed strong growth during the first four years before plateauing at around 15 million people reached at the community level per year. Efforts to strengthen systems also demonstrated healthy growth in the early years of the programme before facing a severe setback during the COVID-19 pandemic. The situation has begun to improve but has still not reached the pre-pandemic number of health, education and protection systems strengthened.

FIGURE 19: *Global Programme trends in output indicator performance*
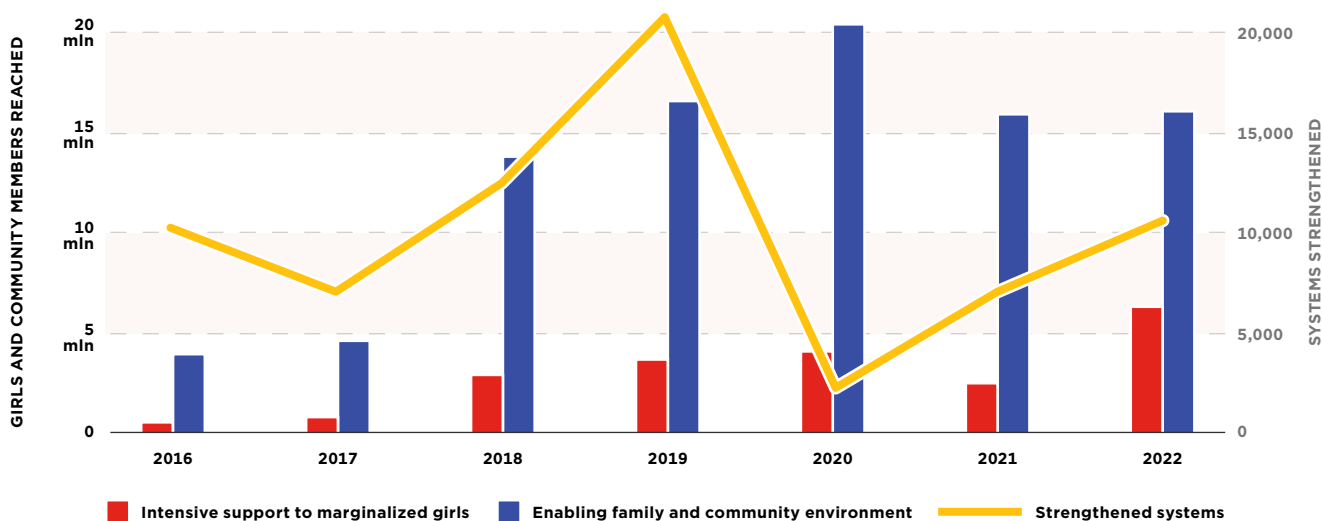
Figure 20 shows the corresponding expenditure figures for outcomes: intensive support to marginalized girls (outcome 1), enabling family and community environment (outcome 2), and strengthened systems (outcome 3). Expenditures for intensive support to marginalized girls increased sharply since 2020 and reached US$13.3 million in 2022. Expenditures for strengthening system and an enabling family and community environment have each remained stable at around US$3.3 million per annum.

FIGURE 20: *Global Programme expenditures by outcome area*
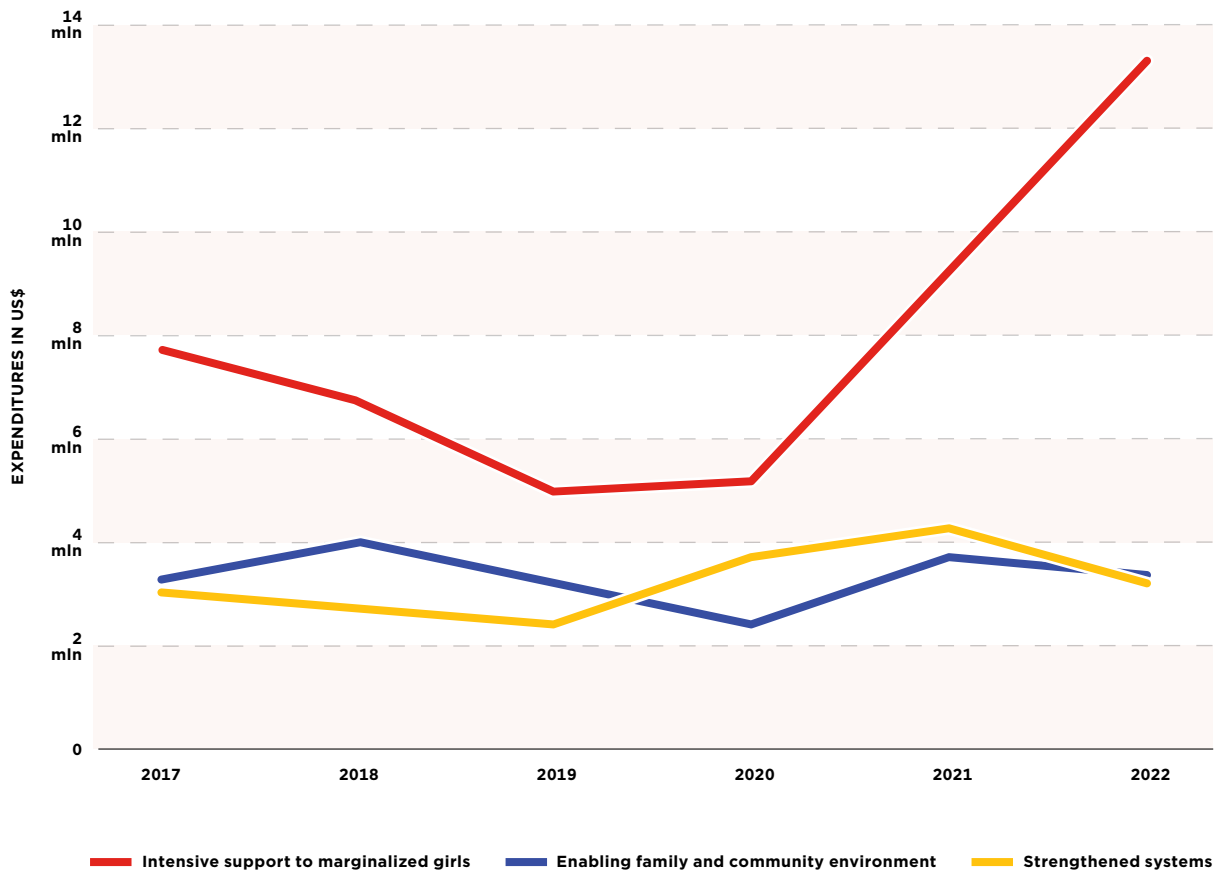
Return on investment and value for money

At around US$20 million per year, the Global Programme represents excellent value for money and offers donors high returns for their investments. Figure 21 presents total programmable expenditures per year.

A look at programme results and expenditures by outcome area over time shows how the cost per beneficiary has declined over time. Figure 22 shows that cost per adolescent girl stabilized after the first two years of programming and now fluctuates between US$2 and US$3 per year.

FIGURE 21: *Total programmable Global Programme expenditure in US$*

FIGURE 22: *Number of adolescent girls reached and cost per beneficiary*

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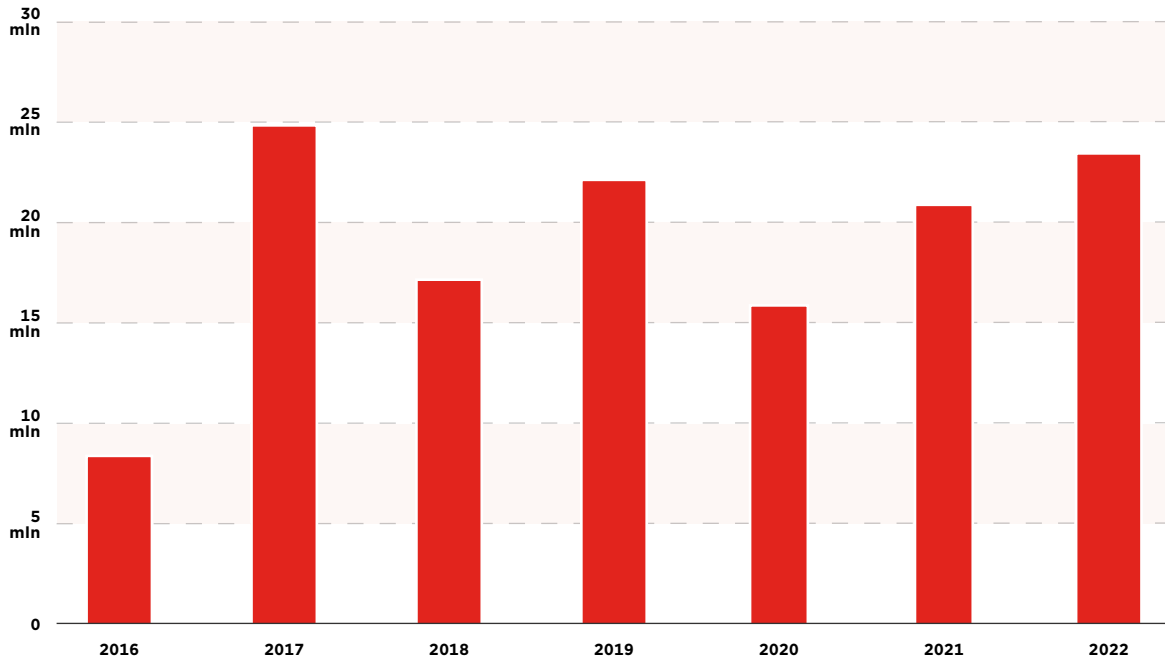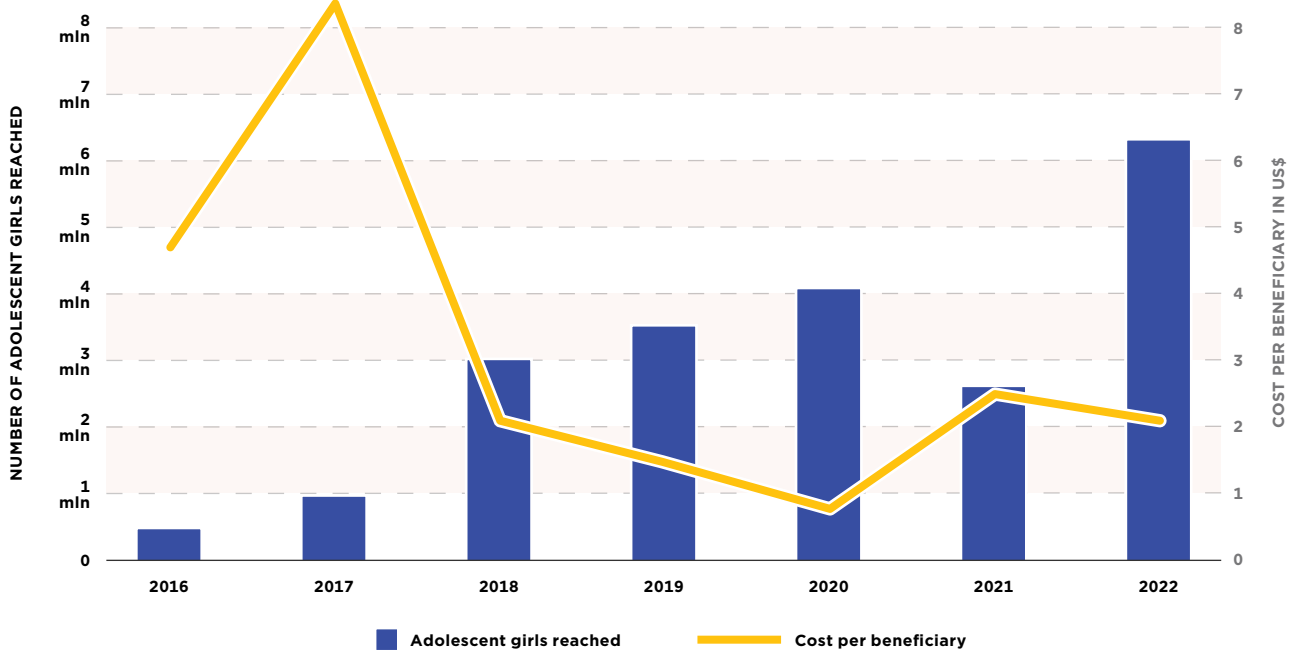Baird, S., McIntosh, C. & Özler. B., 'When the money runs out: Do cash transfers have sustained effects on human capital accumulation?', *Journal of Development Economics, 140*, 2019, pp. 169–185.

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ANNEX

Annex 1: Global Programme results framework

Last updated May 31, 2023

Indicator	Means of verification	Periodicity	Baseline		Milestone 2020	Milestone 2021	Milestone 2022	Milestone 2023
IMPACT: Adolescent girls, including the most marginalized, in countries targeted by the Global Programme fully enjoy their childhood free from the risk of marriage; they experience healthier, safer and more empowered life transitions, including making choices about their education, sexuality, relationships, marriage and childbearing.								
5301	Proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married or in a union before age 18	DHS; MICS; Household survey	3–5 years	**TARGET**	41.1%	37.3%	36.4%	35.3%	34.3%
				ACHIEVED		**41.5%**	**39.4%**		
				Baseline time frame =CY2010–2021 Average rate computed N=12 countries with current survey data					
5302	Proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married or in a union before age 15	DHS; MICS; Household survey	3–5 years	**TARGET**	11.9%	10.3%	10.1%	9.1%	8.8%
				ACHIEVED		**11.9%**	**11.0%**		
				Baseline time frame =CY2010–2021 Average rate computed N=12 countries with current survey data					
INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME 1000: Adolescent girls at risk of and affected by child marriage are effectively making their own informed decisions and choices regarding marriage, education, sexual and reproductive health								
1001	Proportion of girls aged 15–24 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health careY	DHS; MICS; Household survey	2–3 years	**TARGET**	36.8%	39.2%	42.3%	45.4%	49.1%
				ACHIEVED		**38.9%**	**41.2%**	**41.2%**	
				Baseline time frame =CY2010–2021 Average rate computed N=9 countries with current survey data					
1002	Proportion of respondents who think that children should have the final say in deciding when to get marriedY	DHS; MICS; Household survey	2–3 years	**TARGET**	32.3%	33.9%	39.1%	41.3%	47.4%
				ACHIEVED			**46.7%**	**40.9%**	
				Baseline time frame =CY2010–2021 Average rate computed N=5 countries with current survey data					

Indicator		Means of verification	Periodicity	Baseline		Milestone 2020	Milestone 2021	Milestone 2022	Milestone 2023
1003	Proportion of respondents who feel confident in their ability to choose not to marry their daughter before they turn 18 despite the social pressureY	DHS; MICS; Household survey	2–3 years	TARGET	55.0%	57.7%	60.3%	63.0%	66.0%
				ACHIEVED			33.5%	66.4%	
				Baseline time frame =CY2010–2021 Average rate computed N=5 countries with current survey data					
1004	Proportion of girls and boys aged 15–19 who consider a husband to be justified in hitting or beating his wife for at least one of the specified reasons, i.e., if his wife burns the food, argues with him, goes out without telling him, neglects the child Y	DHS; MICS; Household survey	2–3 years	TARGET	38.4%	31.7%	30.0%	28.3%	26.5%
				ACHIEVED		37.7%	37.5%	37.5%	
				Baseline time frame =CY2010–2021 Average rate computed N=11 countries with current survey data					
1005	Adolescent birth rateY	DHS; MICS; Household survey	2–3 years	TARGET	92	92	91	90	88
				ACHIEVED		90	90	90	
				Baseline time frame =CY2010–2021 Average rate computed N=11 countries with current survey data					

IMMEDIATE OUTCOME 1100: Enhanced knowledge, education and lifeskills, and attitudes of marginalized adolescent girls on matters such as their rights, relationships, sexual and reproductive health, and financial literacy, including in humanitarian contexts

Indicator		Means of verification	Periodicity	Baseline		Milestone 2020	Milestone 2021	Milestone 2022	Milestone 2023
1101	Proportion of girls (10–24) who have comprehensive sexual and reproductive health knowledge	Survey of girls	2–3 years	TARGET	35.7%	38.6%	39.1%	44.3%	47.3%
				ACHIEVED			49.5%	53.5%	
				Baseline time frame =CY2010–2021 Average rate computed N=5 countries with current survey data					
1102	Proportion of girls who express increased sense of self-efficacy; who feel confident in their ability to negotiate and delay early marriage; who feel comfortable speaking without fear Y	DHS; MICS; Household survey	3–5 years	TARGET	37.7%	36%	42.8%	46.5%	51.5%
				ACHIEVED			53.6%	60.2%	
				Baseline time frame =CY2010–2021 Average rate computed N=5 countries with current survey data					
1103	Proportion of adolescent girls of lower secondary school age that are out of school	DHS; MICS; Household survey	3–5 years	TARGET	30.8%	22.5%	18.1%	19.6%	18.0%
				ACHIEVED			32.0%	26.7%	
				Baseline time frame =CY2010–2021 Average rate computed N=1 countries with current survey data					

Indicator	Means of verification	Periodicity	Baseline		Milestone 2020	Milestone 2021	Milestone 2022	Milestone 2023
OUTPUT 1110: Underserved/ marginalized adolescent girls (aged 10–19) who are at risk of child marriage or who are pregnant, married, divorced or widowed are engaged in gender-transformative life skills and CSE programmes that build their knowledge, skills, awareness of their rights, and connect them to services.								
1111 Number of adolescent girls (aged 10–19) who actively participated in life skills or CSE interventions in programme areas	Programme records and relevant administrative data	Annual	**TARGET**	3,408,567	3,978,626	4,068,171	5,481,189	5,525,849
			ACHIEVED		**4,106,426**	**2,589,915**	**6,308,541**	
			Baseline time frame =CY2019 N=12 countries					
OUTPUT 1120: Underserved/marginalized adolescent girls supported to enrol and remain in formal and non-formal education, including through the transition from primary to secondary school								
1121 Number of girls (10–19) supported by the programme to enrol and/or remain in primary or secondary school	Programme records and relevant administrative data	Annual	**TARGET**	337,373	354,084	422,573	168,598	177,442
			ACHIEVED		**160,478**	**135,746**	**161,446**	
			Baseline time frame =CY2019 N=11 countries					
IMMEDIATE OUTCOME 1200: Adolescent boys, families, traditional and religious leaders, community groups, and other influencers demonstrate more gender-equitable attitudes and support for girls' rights								
1201 Proportion of respondents who believe that all/ most individuals in their community are marrying children before 18Y	Household survey	2–3 years	**TARGET**	52.9%	45%	45%	37.5%	20.0%
			ACHIEVED			**23%**	**24.6%**	
			Baseline time frame =CY2010–2021 Average rate computed N=5 countries with current survey data					
1202 Proportion of adult respondents who can identify sanctions (punishments) and benefits (rewards) associated with child marriage abandonmentY	DHS; MICS; Household survey	2–3 years	**TARGET**	44%	47.9%	51.2%	54.5%	57.9%
			ACHIEVED			**55%**	**60.6%**	
			Baseline time frame =CY2010–2021 Average rate computed N=5 countries with current survey data					
1203 Proportion of respondents (community, traditional and religious leaders) who are willing to introduce sanctions if someone does not practice child marriage	Household survey	2–3 years	**TARGET**	TBD	TBD	TBD	50.0%	50%
			ACHIEVED				**48.8%**	
			Baseline time frame =CY2010–2021 Average rate computed N=0 countries with current survey data					
1204 Proportion of respondents who think that marrying their daughter/ female household members before 18 is the best optionY	Household survey	2–3 years	**TARGET**	8.0%	7.0%	6.0&	5%	4%
			ACHIEVED			**13.0%**	**10.6%**	
			Baseline time frame =CY2010–2021 Average rate computed N=5 countries with current survey data					

Indicator		Means of verification	Periodicity	Baseline		Milestone 2020	Milestone 2021	Milestone 2022	Milestone 2023
OUTPUT 1210: Boys and men are engaged in gender-transformative programmes (including CSE for boys) that promote healthy relationships and positive masculinities and gender equality									
1211	Number of boys and men actively participating in group education/ dialogues that address harmful masculinities and gender norms	Programme records	Annual	**TARGET**	341,201	399,287	1,233,427	1,207,175	1,143,835
				ACHIEVED		6,351,577	1,148,127	4,074,080	
				Baseline time frame =CY2019 N=11 countries					
OUTPUT 1210: Boys and men are engaged in gender-transformative programmes (including CSE for boys) that promote healthy relationships and positive masculinities and gender equality									
1221	Number of individuals (boys, girls, women and men) who participate in group education/ dialogue sessions on consequences of and alternatives to child marriage, the rights of adolescent girls, and gender equality	Programme records	Annual	**TARGET**	2,896,674	2,941,474	15,268,603	16,079,118	17,373,581
				ACHIEVED		**20,431,081**	**15,997,882**	**16,127,351**	
				Baseline time frame =CY2019 N=12 countries					
1222	Number of individuals (boys, girls, women, and men) reached by mass media (traditional and social media) messaging on child marriage, the rights of adolescent girls, and gender equality	Programme records	Annual	**TARGET**	13,773,723	18,605,951	70,093,613	74,479,294	75,814,233
				ACHIEVED		**52,786,666**	**55,097,021**	**155,760,623**	
				Baseline time frame =CY2019 N=12 countries					
1223	Number of local actors (e.g., traditional, religious and community leaders) with meaningful participation in dialogues and consensus-building to end child marriage	Programme records	Annual	**TARGET**	5,749	33,407	61,745	167,313	266,787
				ACHIEVED		**193,255**	**163,177**	**825,677**	
				Baseline time frame =CY2019 N=12 countries					
OUTPUT 1230: Women's organizations and youth-led organizations are included and supported to mobilize the voices of the marginalized (particularly girls), challenge harmful social norms, and promote gender equality									
1231	Number of CSOs newly mobilized in support of challenging social norms and promoting gender equality by the Global Programme	Programme records	Annual	**TARGET**	144	263	214	212	209
				ACHIEVED		**79**	**122**	**173**	
				Baseline time frame =CY2019 N=12 countries					
INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME 2000: Relevant sectoral systems and institutions effectively respond to the needs of adolescent girls and their families in targeted Global Programme areas									
2001	Proportion of girls and young women of reproductive age (aged 15–19 years) who have their family planning need met with a modern contraceptive method	DHS; MICS; Household survey	3–5 years	**TARGET**	40%	50%	54%	56%	60%
				ACHIEVED					
				Baseline time frame =CY2010–2021 Average rate computed N=11 countries with current survey data					

Indicator		Means of verification	Periodicity	Baseline		Milestone 2020	Milestone 2021	Milestone 2022	Milestone 2023
2002	**Girls' transition rate from primary to lower secondary school Y**	DHS; MICS; Household survey	3–5 years	**TARGET**	74%	79%	78%	80%	81%
				ACHIEVED					
				Baseline time frame =CY2010–2021 Average rate computed N=4 countries with current survey data					

IMMEDIATE OUTCOME 2100: Increased capacity of education, health, child protection and GBV systems to deliver coordinated, quality programmes and services that meet the needs of adolescent girls and their families, including in humanitarian contexts.

2101	Proportion of adolescent girls of lower secondary school age who stayed away from school during the past month and past 12 months because they felt unsafe at, or on the way to/from school or online	Education management information data	2–3 years	**TARGET**	82%	81%	80%	79%	78%
				ACHIEVED			36%	25%	
				Baseline time frame =CY2010–2021 Average rate computed N=5 countries with current survey data					
2102	Number of girls and boys in programme areas who accessed prevention and protection services	Programme records, survey of girls	2–3 years	**TARGET**	500,66	352,328	459,955	612,148	761,312
				ACHIEVED			243,136	652,206	
				Baseline time frame =CY2010–2021 Average rate computed N=5 countries with current survey data					

OUTPUT 2120: Formal (primary and secondary) and non-formal schools supported to provide quality, gender-responsive education for adolescent girls, including comprehensive sexuality education.

2121	Number of primary/ secondary/ non-formal schools in programme areas providing quality gender-friendly education that meets minimum standards	Programme records	Annual	**TARGET**	1,698	626	882	1,118	993
				ACHIEVED		1,081	865	2,702	
				Baseline time frame =CY2019 N=9 countries					

OUTPUT 2130: Health (including sexual and reproductive health), GBV and child protection systems supported to implement guidelines, protocols and standards for adolescent-friendly and gender-responsive coordinated, quality services for unmarried, married, divorced and widowed adolescent girls, adolescent girls who are pregnant or already have children.

2131	Number of service delivery points in programme areas providing quality adolescent-responsive services (health, child protection/GBV) that meet minimum standards	Programme records	Annual	**TARGET**	3,299	1,879	5,046	5,43	6,039
				ACHIEVED		1,144	6,067	7.848	
				Baseline time frame =CY2019 N=10 countries					

IMMEDIATE OUTCOME 2200: Increased capacity of national and sub-national social protection, poverty reduction, and economic empowerment programmes and services to respond to the needs of the poorest adolescent girls and their families, including in humanitarian contexts

2201	Number of girls (10–19) benefiting from social protection, poverty reduction, and economic empowerment programmes	Programme records	Annual	**TARGET**	902,8	2,919,961	4,938,640	6,956,132	8,974,224
				ACHIEVED			913,077	6,332,780	
				Baseline time frame =CY2010–2021 Average rate computed N=8 countries with current survey data					

Indicator	Means of verification	Periodicity	Baseline		Milestone 2020	Milestone 2021	Milestone 2022	Milestone 2023
OUTPUT 2210: Partnerships with governments, civil society organizations and other implementers supported to ensure that social protection, poverty reduction, and economic empowerment programmes and services are adolescent-friendly, gender-responsive and reaching the poorest adolescent girls and their families.								
2211 Number of partnerships (both formal and informal) established to deliver adolescent-responsive social protection, poverty reduction, and economic empowerment programmes and services	Programme records	Annual	**TARGET**		31	36	59	131	188
			ACHIEVED			**48**	**61**	**455**	
			Baseline time frame =CY2019 N=9 countries						
INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME 3000: Enhanced legal and political response to prevent child marriage and to support pregnant, married, divorced or widowed adolescent girls.								
3001 Proportion of complaints on child marriage decided by justice (and informal justice) systems. Y	Programme records, survey of girls	Annual	**TARGET**		30%	33%	35%	36%	38%
			ACHIEVED						
			Baseline time frame =CY2010–2021 Average rate computed N=9 countries with current survey data						
IMMEDIATE OUTCOME 3100: Enhanced capacity of governments to fund, coordinate and implement national, and subnational action plans and systems to end child marriage								
3101 Policy effort index, as measured by the strength of the child marriage national action plan on six dimensions (political support, policies, governance, human rights, accountability, access and participation, and evaluation)	Policy assessment checklist	Annual	**TARGET**			65%	65%	65%	65%
			ACHIEVED					**62%**	
			Baseline time frame =CY2010–2021 Average rate computed N=11 countries with current survey data						
3102 Expenditure on subnational action plan as a percentage of the subnational expenditure in programme areas.	Budget reviews, Expenditure tracking surveys	Annual	**TARGET**		20%	34%	38%	42%	45%
			ACHIEVED				**10%**	**10%**	
			Baseline time frame =CY2010–2021 Average rate computed N=2 countries with current survey data						
OUTPUT 3110: Capacity-building and technical support provided to government to enact, enforce and uphold laws and policies, in line with international human rights standards, aimed at preventing child marriage, protecting those at risk and addressing the needs of those affected								
3111 Number of policies or legal instruments addressing child marriage drafted, proposed, or adopted at national and subnational level with Global Programme support.	Annual reviews of policies and laws	Annual	**TARGET**		34	57	62	99	105
			ACHIEVED	Cumulative		**10**	**72**	**94**	
			Baseline time frame =CY2019 N=9 countries						

Indicator		Means of verification	Periodicity	Baseline		Milestone 2020	Milestone 2021	Milestone 2022	Milestone 2023
OUTPUT 3120: Capacity-building and technical support provided to government to implement a budgeted multi-sectoral gender-transformative plan on ending child marriage across ministries and departments at subnational levels.									
3121	Number of subnational plans with evidence-informed interventions to address child marriage	Subnational policy document reviews	Annual	**TARGET**	59	82	126	137	149
				ACHIEVED		**52**	**57**	**143**	
				Baseline time frame =CY2019 N=10 countries					
IMMEDIATE OUTCOME 3200: Increased capacity of governments and non-government organizations, to generate, disseminate and use quality and timely evidence to inform policy and programme design, track progress and document lessons									
3201	Number of evidence and knowledge addressing child marriage which have been used in policy decisions, programme design and advocacy	Programme records and policy documents	Annual	**TARGET**	20	40	34	70	90
				ACHIEVED	Cumulative	**18**	**29**	**51**	
				Baseline time frame =CY2010–2021 Average rate computed N=8 countries with current survey data					
OUTPUT 3210: Capacity-building and technical support provided to government and civil society organizations to generate and use quality data and evidence on what works to end child marriage and support married girls									
3211	Number of generated evidence and knowledge that focus on what works to end child marriage	Programme records	Annual	**TARGET**	19	38	37	73	93
				ACHIEVED	Cumulative	**17**	**34**	**63**	
				Baseline time frame =CY2019 N=11 countries					
3212	Number of generated evidence and knowledge that apply a gender analysis	Programme records	Annual	**TARGET**	11	32	40	72	84
				ACHIEVED	Cumulative	**18**	**34**	**64**	
				Baseline time frame =CY2019 N=7 countries					
OUTPUT 3220: Regional and global coordination and support provided to facilitate south-to-south collaboration and cross-learning across GP countries and with initiatives in other countries.									
3221	Number of South-to-South cooperation (conference, expert visits, peer consultation, study tours, communities of practice) supported	Programme records	Annual	**TARGET**	5	11	13	13	17
				ACHIEVED		**4**	**3**	**28**	
				Baseline time frame =CY2019 N=11 countries					
ENABLER 4100: Efficient and effective management of partnerships and resources enables achievement of results									
4101	Proportion of programme goods and services procured through long-term agreements (LTAs)	Programme records	Annual	**TARGET**	25%	39%	39%	45%	40%
				ACHIEVED		**32%**	**42%**	**67%**	
				Average rate computed N=12 countries with current survey data					
4102	Proportion of programme partnership agreements signed with local NGOs	Programme records	Annual	**TARGET**	54%	72%	67%	58%	49%
				ACHIEVED		**74%**	**59%**	**59%**	
				Average rate computed N=12 countries with current survey data					

Indicator		Means of verification	Periodicity	Baseline		Milestone 2020	Milestone 2021	Milestone 2022	Milestone 2023
4103	Ratio of overhead costs to programme expenditure	Programme records	Annual	**TARGET**	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%
				ACHIEVED		**13.8%**	**11%**	**15%**	
				Average rate computed N=12 countries with current survey data					
4104	Budget implementation rate	Programme records	Annual	**TARGET**	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%
				ACHIEVED		**86%**	**107%**	**87%**	
				Average rate computed N=12 countries with current survey data					
4105	Proportion of joint activities implemented with effective coordination between agencies	Programme records	Annual	**TARGET**		20%	28%	50%	51%
				ACHIEVED		**40%**	**38%**	**53%**	
				Average rate computed N=12 countries with current survey data					
4106	Proportion of localities with joint programme action	Programme records	Annual	**TARGET**	35%	41%	42%	49%	50%
				ACHIEVED		**9%**	**41%**	**48%**	
				Average rate computed N=12 countries with current survey data					
4107	Proportion of direct programme localities with child marriage prevalence in the 50th percentile and above of the country average	Programme records	Annual	**TARGET**	84%	91%	92%	98%	98%
				ACHIEVED		**100%**	**97%**	**99%**	
				Average rate computed N=12 countries with current survey data					
ENABLER 4200: Country offices and implementing partners have strengthened capacities to support implementation of interventions to end child marriage									
4201	Proportion of technical assistance (missions, workshops, calls) rated as satisfactory by the country offices	Programme records	Annual	**TARGET**		100%	100%	100%	100%
				ACHIEVED		**100%**	**81%**	**98%**	
				Average rate computed N=12 countries with current survey data					
4202	Proportion of technical assistance requests (missions, workshops, calls) fulfilled by Headquarters and Region Office	Programme records	Annual	**TARGET**		100%	100%	100%	100%
				ACHIEVED		**100%**	**100%**	**98%**	
				Average rate computed N=12 countries with current survey data					
ENABLER 4300: Programme mobilizes resources in support of child marriage interventions									
4301	New revenue ($,000) mobilized broken down by:	Programme records	Annual	**TARGET**	3,793,626.71	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
				ACHIEVED		**5,992,581.5**	**25,770,642.66**	**22,078,441**	

Annex 2: Risk matrix for the Global Programme

Risk	Probability	Impact	Mitigation	May 31, 2023 update
A. COUNTRY RISKS (POLITICAL, SECURITY CLIMATE AND HUMANITARIAN CRISIS)				
1. Political will of Member States, including commitment to legal and legislative change and financial investments, is lacking, thereby hampering positive change.	**Low**	**Medium**	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 alliances and external funds, which tend to enhance government accountability. The programme will support the roll-out and implementation of the AU Accountability framework and related monitoring mechanism that are developed with the programme support to strengthen advocacy and commitment of member states in implementing legislative frameworks to eliminate harmful practices	Risk Rating: Low 1. Joint UNFPA-UNICEF advocacy strengthens country strategies for launch, implementation and budgeting of National Action Plans for ending child marriage. 2. Lessons learned from countries who have launched and budgeted plans (Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India (12 states), Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zambia) shared with countries in the Global Programme and beyond. 3. Continued engagement with regional economic communities such as the African Union (AU), the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and ECOWAS through mechanisms such as the African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage for enhanced 'influence' at country level. 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. 5. Joint advocacy through civil society organization networks such as Girls not Brides (activated at global level and implemented at country level) to hold governments accountable.
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.	**Low to Medium**	**Medium**	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 multi-sectoral 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.	Risk Rating: Low 1. Continued engagement with regional economic communities such as the AU, SADC and ECOWAS through mechanisms such as the AU Campaign to End Child Marriage for enhanced 'influence' at country level. 2. Evidence-informed advocacy with targeted sectors in all Global programme countries except Yemen.

Risk	Probability	Impact	Mitigation	May 31, 2023 update
3. Climate and Humanitarian crises (e.g., new and emerging infectious diseases such as COVID19[85] affecting GP headquarters, region and country offices (India, Jordan, Nepal, Senegal, South Africa, Thailand, USA), Ebola virus outbreak in Uganda and Sierra Leone, earthquake in Nepal, drought and conflict in Ethiopia, conflict in Yemen, Rohingya crisis in Bangladesh, tropical cyclone in Bangladesh, India and Mozambique, Sahel crisis in Burkina Faso and Niger and Sahel crisis spillover in Ghana) hamper or completely restrict implementation.	**Medium**	**High**	Headquarters, Region and Country offices of both UNFPA and UNICEF prioritize disaster preparedness, and temporarily shift to emergency response in affected regions and countries – which tends to usually include 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 end child marriage programme activities will be reactivated in affected regions and countries as early as possible including during the reconstruction phase.	Risk Rating: Low 1. UNFPA and UNICEF continuously monitor the emergency situation in the Global Programme countries. 2. UNFPA and UNICEF Headquarters and the regional offices in the Middle East and North Africa/Arab States, Western and Central Africa, and East and Southern Africa consistently monitor the emergency situation in Yemen, India, Jordan, Nepal, Senegal, South Africa, Thailand, USA, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Niger, Mozambique and Bangladesh through sitreps.
4. The programme does not reach the most-at-risk/vulnerable girls.	**Low to Medium**	**Low**	UNICEF applies 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 planned impact. UNFPA uses population data to conduct age, gender, and geographically disaggregated analysis to estimate 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.	Risk Rating: Low 1. Strategic focus of the programme continues to aim to reach for the most vulnerable girls through MoRES and population data analysis.

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85 *Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report-48*, WHO, www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200308-sitrep-48-covid-19.pdf?sfvrsn=16f7ccef_4

Risk	Probability	Impact	Mitigation	May 31, 2023 update
5. Inadequate coordination between development partners working on ending child marriage results in duplication of efforts.	**Low to Medium**	**Low**	Working jointly with multiple donors (Canada, the European Commission, Belgium, Norway, Zonta, Netherlands, Italy and the United Kingdom) through the Global Programme is already demonstrably mitigating this risk. In addition, phase II 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 ending child marriage strategy is aligned with national priorities, and supporting a unification of civil society efforts, in order to avoid duplication.	Risk Rating: Low 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, civil society organizations and governments. 2. Active engagement in networks such as Girls not Brides, including participation in their annual global meeting. 3. Active engagement and support for the implementation of the Spotlight Initiative to eliminate violence against women and girls. 4. Child Marriage Research to Action Network (CRANK) established in partnership with Girls Not Brides to strengthen knowledge-sharing and capacity of partners, including connecting African researchers and practitioners to global dialogue
6. Inadequate coordination between UNFPA and UNICEF.	**Low**	**Medium**	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.	Risk Rating: Low 1. Enhanced coordination between UNFPA and UNICEF through one Global Programme Coordinator, joint communication and joint projects in similar geographic areas.
B. DEVELOPMENT/DELIVERY RISKS				
1. Inadequate capacity of government partners, civil society or UNFPA/UNICEF staff lowers effectiveness, efficiency, relevance etc.	**Medium**	**Medium**	The Global Programme has 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 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 be able to track the programme's effectiveness at the intermediate and immediate outcome as well as output levels which will provide useful benchmarks for assessing progress.	Risk Rating: Medium 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. 2. Office of Evaluation conducts a self-assessment to strengthen accountability by providing the Global Programme with timely evidence on the status of implementation of adapted strategies during a crisis, such as COVID-19.

Risk	Probability	Impact	Mitigation	May 31, 2023 update
C. PARTNER RISKS				
1. Inadequate capacity of government partners, civil society or UNFPA/UNICEF staff lowers effectiveness, efficiency, relevance etc.	**Low to Medium**	**Low to Medium**	One of the key assumptions underlying the Global Programme is the existence 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.	Risk Rating: Medium 1. GPSU and regional offices focus on provision of technical support to enhance country capacity through sharing information, tools and technical guidelines on knowledge management platforms; webinars; communities of practices (e.g., UNICEF yammer); emails; monthly newsletter; country visits; annual consultations; and engagement of consultants. 2. Country offices provide support and training of implementing partners on financial management, implementation of the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) and reporting. 3. Country offices facilitate quarterly and annual reviews of implementation including monitoring of budget and south-south exchanges.
D. FINANCIAL RISKS				
1. The Global Programme does not attract enough funding to deliver results at scale due to changes in partner priorities or other reasons.	**Medium**	**Medium to High**	The option of working jointly with other donors through the Global Programme will go a long way to mitigate this risk. In addition, phase II ensures programmatic resources are complementary and reach areas of greatest need. Further, the Global Programme has focused only on 12 countries.	Risk Rating: Medium 1. GPSU is implementing a resource mobilization strategy, actively identifying and meeting partners to raise resources. 2. GPSU is implementing a communication and visibility strategy, including an advocacy calendar to enhance visibility of the Global Programme. 3. Strategic relationships with donors fostered through regular meetings to review country situations and programme progress. 4. Relationships with UNFPA and UNICEF National Committees sustained through visits, teleconferences and regular country updates.

Risk	Probability	Impact	Mitigation	May 31, 2023 update
E. REPUTATIONAL RISKS				
1. Risk of cultural sensitivity of the topic, risk of conservative backlash from within the communities.	**Low**	**Low to Medium**	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 end child marriage programmes in many countries already, demonstrating that it is indeed possible to avoid any reputational risks to the agencies or development partners.	Risk Rating: Low 1. Agencies are implementing in a culturally sensitive manner at country level.
2. Risk of human rights violations of government partners, civil society or UNFPA/UNICEF staff either directly, or through action (or omissions) or through business relationships or supply chain.	**Low**	**Medium**	The Global Programme works within the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. The Global Programme uses the human rights-based approach to child marriage programming at regional, national and global level.	Risk Rating: Low 1. 1. UNICEF is implementing the procedures for a child safeguarding framework in all countries. The framework is supported with the 2016 Child Safeguarding Policy. 2. 2. UNICEF is implementing the framework for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) in all countries that covers some issues that the Child Safeguarding framework is not covering. 3. 3. Consistent with the UNDG's guidelines for Common Country Assessment and the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (previously UNDAF), all UNFPA and UNICEF country offices undertake independent, impartial and collective assessment and analysis of a country situation to examine progress, gaps, opportunities and bottlenecks as regards to human rights principles (equality and non-discrimination, participation, accountability) to guide planning and implementation of UN development activities.

Risk	Probability	Impact	Mitigation	May 31, 2023 update
F. FIDUCIARY RISKS				
1. Risk that funds are not used for the intended purposes; do not achieve value for money; and/or are not properly accounted for.	**Low**	**Medium to High**	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 will serve as the first point of contact in headquarters for fiduciary matters. It oversees the implementation of the fiduciary aspects of the UNDG policies on joint funding mechanisms and discusses any required departures from the standard Memorandum of Understanding, Letters of Agreements and Steering Committee Terms of Reference. UNICEF has developed a detailed anti-fraud strategy addressing fraud at all levels and has designated the Deputy Representative, Operations and Regional Chiefs of Operations as focal points at the country and regional offices, respectively. Fraud risk Management efforts are ongoing including reporting cases as and when they are brought to light. As part of these efforts and to enhance awareness, Staff have been trained on the anti-fraud strategy in addition to the online mandatory fraud awareness training. Similar online training was also developed through the UN inter-agency collaboration and translated into various key languages. Every allegation of fraud is fully investigated, and if substantiated, the donor is informed, efforts put in motion for loss recovery, and any implicated implementing partner barred from future engagement with UNICEF. These efforts, including the rigorous risk management through HACT processes enhance fraud awareness in UNICEF funded projects and are expected to reduce incidents of fraudulent activities through prevention, deterrence and detection. The rigorous anti-fraud measures mentioned above target all fraud cases reported in all projects. UNICEF reports annually to the Executive Board on all fraud and corruption cases; see link below for the full 2020 report.	Risk Rating: Low 1. Programme countries continuously apply assurance activities through audit firms to support undertaking of spot checks, audits and microassessments. 2. Exploring alternative solutions to direct cash transfer to partners to avoid fraud or misuse to the extent possible. 3. UNFPA's and UNICEF's anti-fraud and whistle-blower protection policies shared with partners, consultants and contractors as appropriate.

Risk	Probability	Impact	Mitigation	May 31, 2023 update
			2021-ABL3-OIAI_annual_report-EN-ODS.pdf (unicef.org)	
			UNICEF has a whistle-blower protection policy which is internal and not publicly available. UNICEF's Ethics Office, responsible for administering the policy, and UNICEF's Office of Internal Audit and Investigations, responsible for investigating complaints of retaliation, both report publicly to UNICEF's Executive Board. The Policy and contact details of the Ethics Office are prominently posted in several locations on UNICEF's intranet, and the Ethics Office regularly engages in outreach	

Risk	Probability	Impact	Mitigation	May 31, 2023 update
			2021-ABL3-OIAI_annual_report-EN-ODS.pdf (unicef.org)	
			UNICEF has a whistle-blower protection policy which is internal and not publicly available. UNICEF's Ethics Office, responsible	

Annex 3: Communication links

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marriage
A voice. A chance. A future.

UNFPA-UNICEF
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partner in development

Canada

Co-funded by
the European Union

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs
and International Cooperation

Norad

UKaid
from the British people

ZONTA
INTERNATIONAL
EMPOWERING WOMEN

UNFPA

unicef
for every child