

ZAMBIA

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

COUNTRY PROFILE
2022



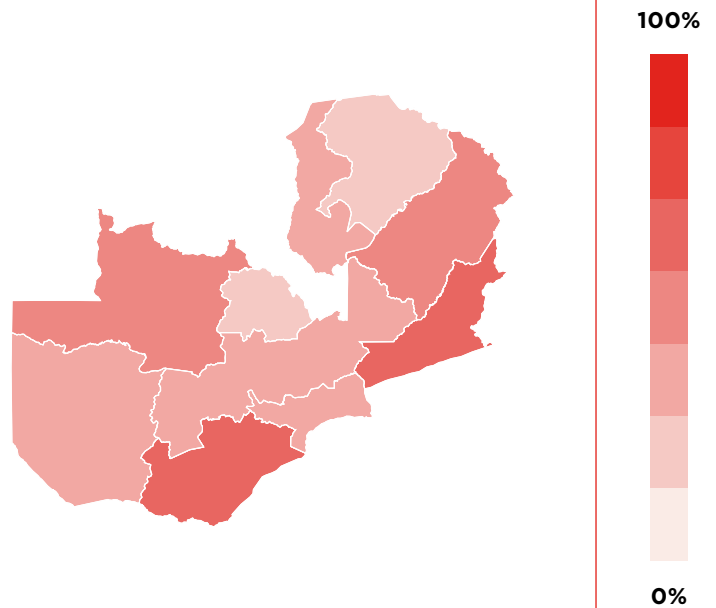
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“ Our effort in ending child marriage is to ensure that girls and boys are empowered with life-skills so that they can claim their sexual and reproductive rights and have options to child marriage.”

— Safe space mentor in Katete

ZAMBIA

FIGURE 1: Percentage of women aged 20 to 24 years who were first married or in union before age 18.



Note: This map is stylized and not to scale. It does not reflect a position by UNFPA or UNICEF on the legal status of any country or area or the delimitation of any frontiers.

The global context

Child marriage threatens the lives, the well-being and the futures of girls around the world. Globally, the prevalence of child marriage has declined by around 15 per cent since 2010. Nevertheless, COVID-19, climate change and conflict have had lasting effects on poverty, school dropout and inequality, triggering increases in child marriage. UNICEF estimates that the COVID-19 pandemic alone will have put more than 10 million additional girls at risk of child marriage by 2030.

Ending child marriage is a global priority:

93 governments have signed up to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 5.3 to end child, early and forced marriage, and 43 countries either have, or are working on, national action plans to end child marriage. Girls' education is a consistent protective factor against child marriage, with child marriage rates among girls who complete secondary school 66 per cent lower than among girls with no education, and 80 per cent lower among those who complete higher education. COVID-19 increased the number of school dropouts, thereby increasing the risk that girls who are out of school will not return. Girls who drop out of school are significantly more likely marry early, and 87 per cent of married adolescent girls are out of school.

Global advocacy and dialogue

In 2022, the international community made key commitments to end child marriage at global and regional forums. On 15 November 2022, the United Nations General Assembly Third Committee resolution on child, early and forced marriage,¹ led by Zambia and Canada, was adopted by consensus. A total of 125 Member States sponsored the resolution (compared to 114 co-sponsors the last time the resolution was put forward in 2020). Countries which sponsored the resolution for the first time included: Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mauritius, Nepal and Sri Lanka. Several of the countries have a high prevalence of child marriage — and, by sponsoring, demonstrated their political commitment to ending it. The resolution highlights the urgent need to reach the poorest and most marginalized girls and women—while calling upon the international community to increase its efforts to end child, early and forced marriage. It recognizes how global health threats, climate change, conflicts and forced displacement can have a particularly negative impact on women and girls and which, by extension, can also increase child, early and forced marriage. The resolution appreciates the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage and other

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-seventh Session, Third Committee agenda item 64(a) (A/C.3/77/L.19/Rev.1)*

similar global, regional, and national initiatives, encouraging coordinated and comprehensive approaches across sectors and at all levels.

In March 2022, the Global Programme and partners led a high-level side-event at the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), a session which culminated in the CSW66 Agreed Conclusions, calling for action to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of policies and programmes on climate change, and environmental and disaster-risk reduction. This session, “No Time to Lose: Child Marriage and the Triple Crisis”, enabled United Nations Member States and other stakeholders to improve their collective understanding of the effects of the triple crisis on child marriage, and what could be done in response.

Child marriage country context

There are 2 million child brides in Zambia, 429,400 of whom were married before the age of 15. The practice has become less common, with 29 per cent of all young women aged 20–24 married before turning 18, (5 per cent before turning 15) in 2018, compared with 47 per cent and 9 per cent, respectively, in 1993. However, this rate of progress will not be enough to eliminate child marriage by 2030 as set out in the SDGs. If the progress over the past decade continues at the same rate, child marriage prevalence will still be at 22 per cent by 2030, and at 16 per cent even if the rate doubles.



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Key highlights in 2022



95,000 adolescent girls participated in **life-skills or CSE** in programme areas.



10,713 adolescent girls were supported by the programme to enrol and/or remain in **primary or secondary school**.



More than **1 MILLION** individuals (boys, girls, women and men) were **reached by traditional and social media messaging** on child marriage, the rights of adolescent girls and gender equality.



More than **17,000** individuals (boys, girls, women and men) **participated in group education or dialogue sessions** on consequences of and alternatives to child marriage, the rights of adolescent girls and gender equality.



The **Children’s Code** was enacted. This **prohibits any facilitation of child marriage** as well as any cultural and religious practices that are detrimental to a child’s well-being.



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Overall programme performance

TABLE 1: Summary of output indicator performance (2022)

Indicator	Target	Result
Indicator 1111: Number of adolescent girls (aged 10–19) who actively participated in life-skills or CSE interventions in programme areas	18,120	94,616
Indicator 1121: Number of girls (aged 10–19) supported by the programme to enrol and/or remain in primary or secondary school	6,489	10,713
Indicator 1211: Number of boys and men actively participating in group education/dialogues that address harmful masculinities and gender norms	15,450	17,450
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	53,215	11,234
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	960,000	1,032,860
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	1,500	6,140
Indicator 1231: Number of CSOs newly mobilized in support of challenging social norms and promoting gender equality by the Global Programme (cumulative)	12	2
Indicator 2121: Number of primary/secondary/non-formal schools in programme areas providing quality gender-friendly education that meets minimum standards	50	189
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	621	1,279
Indicator 2211: Number of partnerships (both formal and informal) established to deliver adolescent-responsive social protection, poverty reduction and economic empowerment programmes and services	2	2
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)	5	5
Indicator 3121: Number of subnational plans with evidence informed interventions to address child marriage	6	6
Indicator 3211: Number of generated evidence and knowledge that focus on what works to end child marriage (cumulative)	3	1
Indicator 3212: Number of generated evidence and knowledge that apply a gender analysis (cumulative)	3	1
Indicator 3221: Number of south-to-south cooperation events (conferences, expert visits, peer consultations, study tours, communities of practice) supported	1	8

Providing intensive support to marginalized girls

In 2022, the Global Programme was expanded from the two pilot districts of Katete and Senanga to include four districts in the western and eastern provinces, namely Lundazi, Chama, Sesheke and Mwandia, with a focus on reaching the most vulnerable and marginalized adolescent girls, boys and their families. The new districts were selected based on data from the Zambia Demographic and Health Survey (ZDHS) 2018, district administrative data on education

and health, and traditional village registers. Variables considered included the rate of child marriage and teen pregnancy and transition levels from primary to secondary education. Safe space models were used to deliver the programme to girls and boys. Guidance and counselling teachers were trained to deliver targeted SRH information for adolescent girls and boys at risk of child marriage. Schools' life-skills curriculums were also strengthened, to focus on puberty, HIV prevention, gender equality, sexual and reproductive health, relationships and human rights. The overall goal for both the safe spaces and the interventions providing life-skills in schools

is to empower adolescent girls and boys to enjoy better sexual and reproductive health and to have better health outcomes which, in turn, will contribute to delayed sex and healthy relationships, and to ending teenage pregnancy and child marriage.

As a result, 94,616 adolescent girls at risk of child marriage were engaged through safe spaces with information and referrals on sexual reproductive health rights, life-skills, informal finance education, communication, decision-making, positive social and cultural traditional norms and practices, more than four times the number of girls who were targeted.

“ I have learned how to communicate with my parents and friends, as well how to prevent myself from unwanted pregnancy, before I joined safe spaces, I was not able to share personal information especially about my sexuality. After hearing my friends’ experiences, I can ask for advice without the fear of being laughed at and criticized.”

— Dorica Phiri of Katete

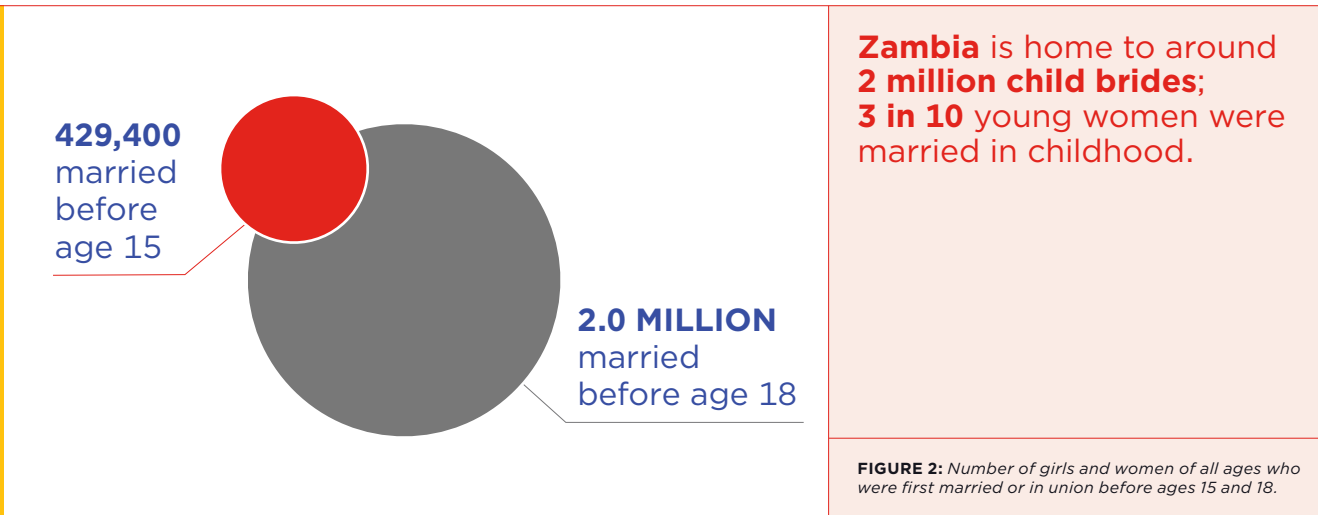
Additionally, 178 guidance and counselling teachers were trained in providing comprehensive sexual education to adolescent girls and boys in schools, and on school-related GBV/child safeguarding. This enabled the teachers to disseminate age-appropriate SRH information to adolescent girls and boys in 189 schools in the six programme target districts. They reached a total of 10,458 girls.

“ SRH not only plays an important role in preventing negative sexual and reproductive health among adolescents, but it also provides a platform to discuss human rights and gender to promote positive and non-violent relationships. Because of adolescent girls and boys participating in the guidance and counselling sessions and SRH through community-based outreach, 200 adolescent girls have avoided getting into child marriage as they report this case to the head teacher.”

— Judith Zimba, District Guidance and Counselling Coordinator for Lundazi district

A combination of strategies and approaches are used to ensure and accelerate learning for girls, including bursaries, transportation, alternative community education and digital learning. The support for girls’ formal and informal education is also supported by community case management for early identification and referral to education for girls who are out of school, safe spaces where CSE is provided, guidance and counselling services, access to career clubs and support for menstrual hygiene management.

Through the programme, 10,713 adolescent girls were enrolled in formal and informal education and helped to stay there. Of these girls, 3,748 in Katete and Senanga transitioned from primary to secondary education. Another 1,279 girls aged 10-19 years were identified through community



case management outreach services as being at risk of child marriage and they were helped to access Government bursaries for educational support, with their families linked to social cash transfers. Recognizing that girls struggle to regularly attend and stay in school if they do not have safe, hygienic sanitation pads and facilities which are essential for menstrual hygiene management, UNICEF supported the making of re-usable pads in 50 schools (25 schools in Senanga and 25 schools in Katete), through which 2,388 re-usable pads were made and distributed to 1,194 adolescent girls. Other activities included training 100 teachers and 500 PTA members on menstrual hygiene management, and 10 schools were equipped with gender-segregated sanitation facilities (five schools in Katete and five schools in Senanga). Menstrual hygiene management interventions also applied a gender-transformative approach by engaging 415 boys in the making of re-usable sanitary pads, and breaking the stigma and taboos around menstruation in the menstrual hygiene management school clubs where one third of the members are boys.

“ The topic I enjoyed from sexual and reproductive health is gender because it teaches us to be equal. Boys and girls can do the same things and I have learned that we must respect each other and that household chores have to be done by girls and boys.”

— Monde Wamulume, 14, student at Maziba Primary School in Senanga

Challenges, lessons learned and next steps

Resistance to providing adolescent boys and girls with comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) in schools remains a challenge in most of the communities where the programme is being implemented. Safe spaces have not adequately involved community members, families, and parents so that they can appreciate the importance of safe space and their aim of empowering girls and boys in ending child marriage and teen pregnancy. To mitigate this, the programme continued to use radio programmes to explain the importance of SRH and emphasis is placed on the age appropriateness of the CSE content.



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More girls are being enrolled and retained at secondary school level thanks to the free secondary school education policy implemented by the Government during the year, despite the limited number of classrooms and teachers. However, many parents are not able to meet other school requirements such as uniforms, books and shoes, as free education covers only tuition or fees.

In 2023, the programme and partners will streamline the work of community action groups to continue supporting families to access CDF and building their capacity to increase their advocacy role for the allocation of bursary fees for adolescent girls at risk of child marriage so as to support retention into education. The community action groups will also be supported to strengthen family access to economic opportunities under the CDF. The programme will focus on supporting schools to set up child safeguarding measures, including developing guidelines and orienting schools' heads and learners on child safeguarding and safe reporting. The capacity of stakeholders in the four new programme districts from 2022 on data and reporting using the KOBO tool will also be strengthened.

The programme will also prioritize integrating parenting classes for adolescents in schools by building consensus through community dialogues on the importance of addressing child marriage and teen pregnancy, including sexual reproductive health and rights.

Enhancing the family and community environment

“I think what we have seen is a positive response from the communities, the traditional leaders are involved, like I said they are putting sanctions, they are putting measures, they are educating their communities, they are not allowing what is not acceptable in those communities. For example, in eastern province, most traditional leaders will tell you that when a girl gets pregnant, the father is summoned together with the mother, and now we see parents fighting teen pregnancy themselves by having conversations with their children, so you can see that the communities are mobilizing to report on child marriages because now they understand.”

— Traditional leader

The programme made progress with increasing the engagement of boys and men in the six programme districts using gender-transformative and social and behaviour change approaches that promote healthy relationships, positive masculinities and gender equality. In 2022, 17,450 boys and men were reached by 154 trained coaches with gender-transformative messages focusing on promoting positive relations and gender equality.

The Coaching Boys into Men (CBIM) initiative used football to educate and raise awareness among adolescent boys and young men aged 10–24 years on issues surrounding sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence. This ensured that they develop into responsible men, especially in becoming non-violent partners and fathers. The CBIM is a 12-week programme to promote positive masculinities through sports, including dialogues on issues such as what it means to be a boy/man, who is a real boy, respecting girls and respecting oneself.

Voices from the Coaching Boys Into Men sessions

One of the session leaders in Katete’s Katuila community says: “Football matches help us bring boys from the community together. This gives us an opportunity to talk to boys about how to live in the community. We sensitize the boys on the dangers of child marriages and other GBV-related lessons which we get from the 12 conversation cards that we use. We believe this is an effective way to get the boys’ attention and inculcate good morals in them since they are always eager to listen to what the coach says.”

This is demonstrated by the experience of Nalumino Nathan. Nathan is in Grade 8 at Namaenya Primary School. He has participated in all the 12 CBIM sessions and notes that “under CBIM, I learned the importance of respecting a girl, as well as the significance and side effects of Internet. Before starting to attend CBIM sessions, I had less respect for girls until my coach spoke to me that both boys



and girls deserve equal respect. I still see a big number of friends that still do not respect girls. I want to be engaging them so that they too can do like I do.”

Another graduate of CBIM, Jonah Lui-Namabunga from Namabunga Secondary School of Lipuwe ward participated in all 12 and said, “Under CBIM, I learned of the respect that I need to accord the females in our communities. I learned that I should not be using insulting language to females. I have learned that I should desist from marrying early.”

“My name is Laitani Phiri, I am 39 years old. I come from Kafuma village, a coach in Kasambandola ward, Kambila CWAC. After getting trained in CBIM in 2021 with support from UNICEF, in 2022, I recruited 25 boys aged between 9-14 and 25 boys aged 15-18. Out of the 50 boys, 45 boys successfully graduated in all the 12 sessions. My experience coaching the boys into men was rewarding. From my group, 13 boys went back to school; all are at Kambila primary school. There have been some notable changes in the boys because 10 boys, who are about 17 years old, have delayed marrying, while other changes include respect for female teachers and participating in chores in their homes.”

“My name is Petersen Banda, I am 17 years old from Chinziri village. I was recruited into CBIM in 2022. I am in Grade 5 at Kambila Primary school. The group has helped me to stay in school and also to show respect to women and girls. I equally participate in chores at home that are perceived to be female chores. Apart from that, I also educate my friends even though others receive the information with mixed feelings since they think we are peers, while others learn and change their attitude towards women and girls. If I was not attending the sessions, probably by this time I would have stopped school and even have got married.”

The Global Programme engaged families, communities, traditional and religious leaders, and other influencers in dialogue and consensus-building on alternatives to child marriage (including education), the rights of adolescent girls, and gender equality. In 2022, open dialogues were organized, involving 11,234 adolescents, parents, and community members (720 boys, 1,650 girls, 6,401 women and 2,463 men) to address negative gender norms which exacerbate child marriage, teenage pregnancy and toxic masculinities.

According to the gender norms survey conducted by Zambia Institute for Policy, Analysis and Research one of the respondents from the focus group

discussion for female community members in Liangati ward, Senanga district, said: “discussions with parents and children on ending child marriage have been taking place in the community. People’s perceptions and attitudes towards child marriage have tremendously changed. Most parents are now more willing to keeping their children in school than forcing them into early-marriage.”

Challenges, lessons learned and next steps

Responsibilities for household chores such as cattle herding or farming are keeping boys and young men away from participating in CBIM sessions. Boys’ parents have not been made aware of the CBIM interventions that the boys participate in, which most of the time affects the boys’ participation as parents consider it as a waste of time or think that their boys are just playing football. As a result, the chores take precedence and boys are not allowed to participate as per the schedule. There is also inadequate follow-up support for the boys that have graduated from the CBIM sessions with other gender-transformative and alternative empowerment programmes to ensure that they transition as they delay marriage and implement the commitment from the knowledge and information acquired during the 12 CBIM sessions.

Strengthening systems

“I think addressing gender dynamics that perpetuate gender violence will make schools safer and improve the educational experience for all.”

— Doreen Phiri, District Guidance and Counselling Coordinator for Katete District

The Global Programme continued to strengthen community-based case management and statutory case management to strengthen the child protection system. This is to enable the delivery of coordinated, good quality programmes and services that meet the needs of adolescent girls and their families. In 2022, community case management was scaled up in four districts which had the highest rate of child marriage, teen pregnancy and a low transition from primary to secondary education. There are now six districts implementing case management for ending child marriage. Some 1,244 CWACs (community volunteers) were trained and equipped to deliver community case management interventions.

The programme continued to strengthen formal (primary and secondary) and non-formal schools to provide good quality, gender-responsive education for adolescent girls, including CSE. Some 391 teachers (154 female and 237 male) were trained on giving personal, social, educational and vocational guidance and counselling services with the aim of keeping adolescent girls and boys in school. In turn, the teachers reached a total of 54,410 adolescents (31,988 girls and 23,422 boys) in 189 schools.

“I feel confident to approach my guidance and counselling teacher whenever I have challenges at school or at home, for example when my parents are giving me too much work so that it affects my learning, I go to my guidance and counselling teacher who then talk to the head teacher, and they call my parent to come and discuss. This is helping a lot for me to remain in school. I like it because the manner the handle these cases without even my parents knowing that I reported the case.”

— Weluzani Phiri X, 16, of Kapoce Day Secondary School

The programme trained 50 staff in 35 health facilities to conduct school-based outreach services, delivering gender-transformative life-skills and SRH to 40,163 adolescent girls and boys, building their knowledge, skills and awareness on their rights, and connecting them to services.

Challenges, lessons learned and next steps

Health facility outreach activities to schools and communities are being used to increase girls' access to SRH services and information. However, the education system remains against allowing adolescent girls and boys to access family planning services as the education policy does not allow provision of these services in schools. The programme will continue to strengthen referrals from school to health services for accessing age-appropriate family planning services.

Building partnerships

The Ministry of Community Development and Social Services, with support from UNICEF, is implementing a cash plus nutrition pilot scheme. The 1,000 Days Social Cash Transfer (SCT) is targeted at making the SCT programme more sensitive to the nutrition needs of pregnant and breastfeeding women and children under 2 years old. During a period of review, the child protection section worked closely with the social policy and research section (SPnR) on a way of ensuring community care is integrated into the SCT plus programme. The initiative targets vulnerable families in four SCT districts, focusing on the implementation of community case management/community care. This initiative will ensure adolescent girls at risk of teen pregnancy and child marriage are prioritized in the programming through cash and care support to the family. The partnership has resulted in SPnR providing funding to strengthen the ministry's capacity to implement case management for the SCT. This has also resulted in a partnership with the Social Workers Association of Zambia to provide technical support in the SCT 1,000 days pilot districts. It has strengthened the association's capacity to implement a community case management approach, ensuring that vulnerable families are identified and linked to other protection services aside from cash transfers. This community approach complements addressing child malnutrition and families' gender dynamics. The partnership was expected to begin in the first



quarter of 2023. This will scale up interventions on addressing child marriage to four more districts through cross-sectoral programming.

Facilitating supportive laws and policies

“If a person wants to get married, as a headman, I have to see the birth certificate and compare it with the information in my village register to see whether the date of birth is corresponding with the age of the person on the birth certificate and the village register to ensure that the person being married is not a child. If the years are different and the age is below 18, I don't allow that marriage to proceed.”

— Arson Phiri Headman from the Kagoro Community of Katete

The Global Programme made steady progress towards supporting the Government to develop policies and legal instruments addressing child marriage. A key achievement was the Children's Code, enacted in August 2022. This 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 already married.

Furthermore, efforts were made to strengthen the prevention of, 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 for the Children Code to support social welfare officers to respond to cases of children at risk of significant harm, including guidance notes on addressing cases of VAC and GBV.

The National Volunteer Policy was endorsed by the Cabinet to support community volunteers who play a critical role in implementing child marriage interventions, together with the Social Workers Association of Zambia Law which was adopted by the Parliament in April 2022. Concentrated efforts were made jointly by UNICEF and the United Nations Population Fund (UNPFA) to ensure that technical and financial support provided



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during the review of the National Gender Policy and its implementation plan reflect Government commitment to address gender inequalities and girl empowerment with a gender-transformative lens.

UNICEF and UNPFA also contributed to a section on ending child marriage in the national gender policy, and in subsequent strategies to prioritize social protection, access to gender-sensitive sexual and reproductive health and rights and education for adolescent girls and boys. UNPFA provided technical and financial support to the Government to finalize and endorse the national advocacy strategy on advancing CSE in Zambia.

The Global Programme made steady progress to scale up from the two pilot districts of Senanga and Katete to the four districts of Lundazi, Chama, Sesheke and Mwandia in the western and eastern provinces. The six districts were supported to develop and implement district-specific multisectoral plans with an integrated package of education, health and social welfare services. Further efforts were made to support the districts to develop agreed indicators to track programme progress and achievement. The Global Programme also developed a Kobo tool to support data entry and to enable the use of district data to improve the quality of interventions.

The public policy maturity model

Elimination of harmful practices such as 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 to achieve this. Lessons from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development peer review process emphasize that the plans need:

- political commitment and policy statements
- policy coordination mechanisms
- systems for monitoring, analysis and reporting.

UNICEF has developed and tested a policy maturity model and tools for assessing public policies to end harmful practices and achieve SDG 5.3 by 2030 in 12 countries (Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Lebanon, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zambia).

The maturity model provides a framework for key national stakeholders to review and assess national policy approaches and systems for

- eliminating and preventing female genital mutilation (FGM) and child marriage
- identifying priorities or critical investments
- building consensus around the interventions.

The model is structured around six intermediate outcomes and different subdomains that are defined by distinct levels of maturity i.e., weak-building; average-enhancing; good-integrating; and excellent-mature (see Figure 4).

TABLE 2: Snippet of the policy maturity model

Intermediate Outcome	Sub-Domains	Score
Governance and 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	—
	E.2: Understanding and articulation of harmful practices system	✓
	E3: Modelling testing and scaling of harmful practices services	—
	E4: Availability of harmful practices services, case management and 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	—



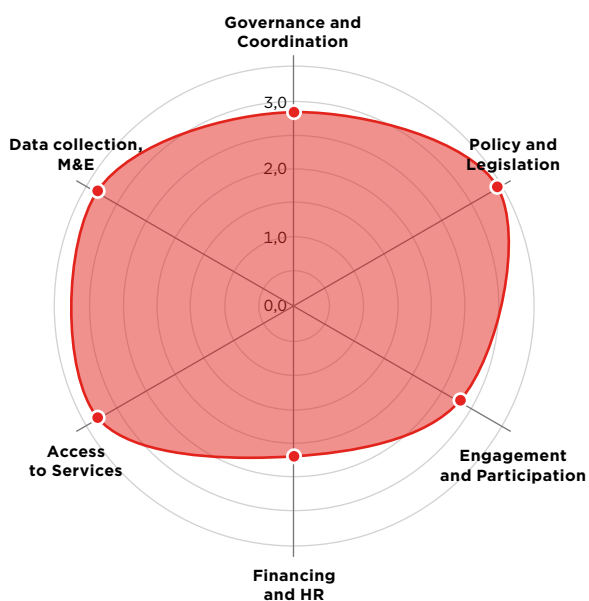
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The benchmarks for each level of maturity have been defined and require certain priorities, processes, and results to be achieved for each subdomain, and can be contextualized by country. Feedback from the testing emphasized the role of the model as:

- a useful advocacy tool
- something that builds Government accountability and action towards elimination of harmful practices
- a tool to review and track the implementation of a national action plan.

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 area where countries were rated the least, while governance and coordination (rating 2.7) were rated highly.

FIGURE 3: Policy maturity assessment for Zambia



Challenges, lessons learned and next steps

There are no mechanisms for cross-sectoral funding, which poses a challenge for other sectors in obtaining funds from district social welfare offices. This challenge was mitigated by allowing social welfare to coordinate

and disburse the expenditure on behalf of the other sectors, with health and education submitting requests for funding based on activities on the joint workplan.

Generating and applying data and evidence

The Global Programme provided capacity-building and technical support for the Zambia Institute for Policy Analysis and Research (ZIPAR) in order to generate and use evidence on what works to end child marriage. UNICEF and UNFPA helped ZIPAR in the design and implementation of data-collection (questionnaire and instrument design, training and ethics protocols, and fieldwork protocol) and data analysis (including methodology and interpretation of results).

Preliminary analysis revealed several outcomes.

- Community members have responded positively to the interventions, saying that traditional leaders had influenced the removal of harmful practices from traditional ceremonies.
- Traditional leaders continue to play an active role in preventing child marriages and teenage pregnancies, with chiefdoms continuing to implement punitive measures for parents involved in child marriages.
- Girls below the age of 18 that marry, mostly have husbands who are older than 18 (on average, five years older).
- These men were known to the girls prior to the marriage and most girls were consulted and consented to the marriages.
- Community members increasingly support girls' education as they believe it reduces child marriages and teenage pregnancies.
- Community members also believed that a family's future is made more secure by educating a girl, as girls always remember to look after their families.

In addition, districts were supported to reflect on data from health, education and social welfare systems on child marriage and teen pregnancy and to strengthen project-based data systems. Social welfare data systems are still weak and project-based data systems are also in need of ongoing capacity-building support.

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