

# Advancing gender quality and the leadership and well-being of adolescent girls


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2023 annual session (13–16 June 2023)  
Item 5: Annual report on the implementation of the  
UNICEF Gender Action Plan, 2022–2025  
Reference document: [E/ICEF/2023/15](#)


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for every child





# Context: Girls and women's rights are in crisis – especially for adolescent girls


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**25%**  in pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls suffering acute malnutrition in 12 hardest-hit countries
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**1.2b** girls and women suffer from iron and other vitamin deficiencies
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**12%** girls under 15 years fully protected against HPV
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**640m** girls and women married in childhood
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**90%** adolescent girls and young women in low-income countries offline
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Girls in conflict settings **2.5X** more likely to be out of school than girls in non-conflict settings



UNICEF/UN0820904/UNICEF Afghanistan

"I began to feel a deep voice in my heart. It wants to scream out – so loud – and I feel like something inside of me needs to escape."

Arezo, grade 11, has been out of school for more than a year in **Afghanistan**.

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# Transforming health systems: Maternal health-care results

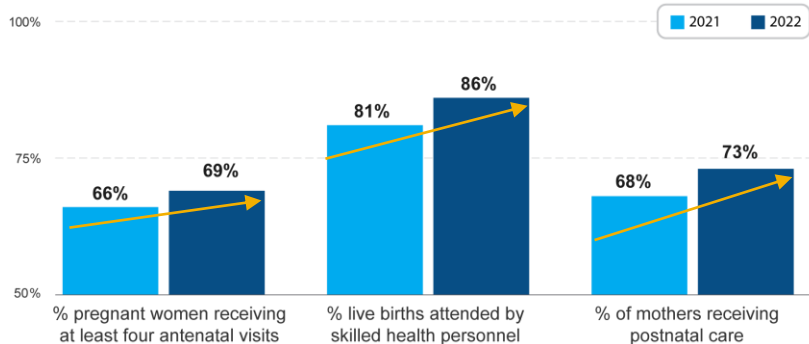


44.4m live births delivered in health facilities with UNICEF-supported programmes



1/3 more UNICEF-supported health facilities improved their quality of care

## Gains in maternal health care



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**Gender transformative programming strategies:** Maria is part of a UNICEF-supported training programme for community health workers in **Yemen**. In 2022, UNICEF supported over 3500 female community health workers to detect and treat health risks, benefiting >3.6m people.

# Transforming education systems: Education and skills results



**15.5 million more out-of-school girls** accessed education with UNICEF support as compared to 2021



**13.7M** children, about 50% girls, accessed education through digital platforms with UNICEF support

...But only **47%** of UNICEF-supported countries have gender-responsive education systems



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**Gender transformative programming strategies:** Amina, 17 years old, participates in a regional programme between UNICEF and Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Almaty that supports girls in **Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan** and **Uzbekistan** to learn new skills in science and technology, which has helped the girls to create and launch nanosatellites.



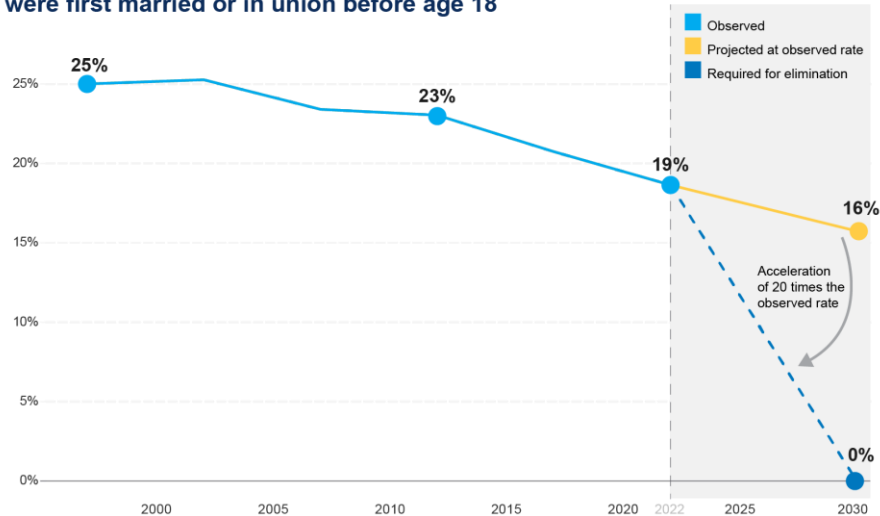
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The *STEMpodera* project in **Colombia** creates an enabling environment for girls to learn science and develop scientific solutions to significant problems in their communities.



## But there is more to be done...the world is not on track to end child marriage

Observed and projected percentage of women aged 20 to 24 years who were first married or in union before age 18




## Investments in adolescent girls are urgently needed





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Nantenin, 15 years old, is a member of the young leaders group in her community, who are fighting against female genital mutilation in **Guinea**. Through UNICEF support, they are educating their community to prevent the practice.

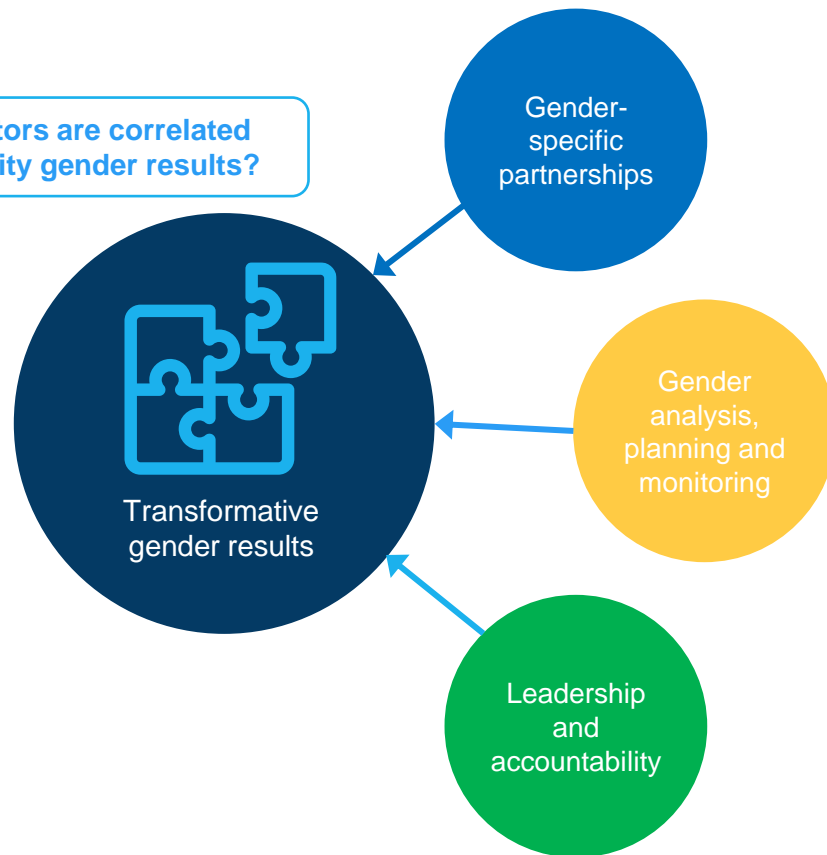
# Institutional results

 **88%** of United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality benchmarks met

 **Gender parity achieved: 49%** of UNICEF staff are female

 **33%** of programme expenses were gender-**integrated** and **6.2%\*** were gender-**transformative**

What factors are correlated with quality gender results?



\*18.7% if using the prior formula that included not only expenditures on gender-principal activities but also on gender-significant activities.



**Thank you for  
joining the  
conversation on  
gender equality  
with UNICEF.**

In Kupang, **Indonesia**, UNICEF is engaging male caregivers programmes to boost immunization and improve non-violent methods in the home. In 2022, UNICEF supported 11.8 million and caregivers in 81 countries on behaviour change and positive parenting.