

Evaluation of phase II (2020–2023) of the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage

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UNICEF Executive Board – 2024 first regular session (6–8 February 2024)

Item 8: Evaluation of phase II (2020–2023) of the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage

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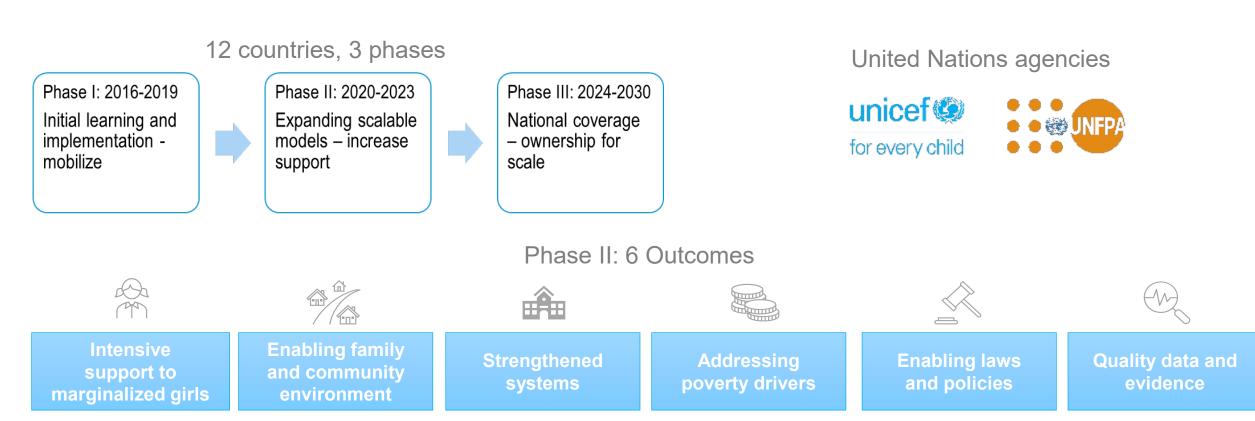
The Global Programme to End Child Marriage

Goal

Empower girls and prevent child marriage; contribute to the eliminiation of harmful practices (SDG 5.3)



Donor partners



Evaluation purpose, scope and approach

PURPOSE

Independently assess results in phase II (2020–2023), identify good practices and lessons learned, and inform design of phase III

SCOPE

12 programme countries, 4 regions, and headquarters; focus on: gender-transformative approach, principle of "leave no one behind", catalytic effect of the Programme

APPROACH

Joint, mixed-method



Key findings

The Programme theory of change is adapted to local contexts and policies. There is varied understanding of girls' empowerment among implementing partners.

Gender-transformative approach well defined and adopted across countries. Evidence on the status and quality of adoption is lacking.

The Programme targeting followed the principle of "leave no one behind", with exception of some subgroups of at-risk girls (disabled, married, urban...).

The Programme is having a catalytic effect, expanding the direct reach of its resources, partners and geographical areas of implementation.

The Programme achieved thematic convergence mobilizing different sectors and organizations. Geographical convergence between the two agencies was challenging at subnational level. The Programme triggered effective multisectoral strategies to strengthen capacities of adolescents, families, communities and institutions, less though with the social protection sector.

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Key findings

The Programme has been responsive to humanitarian, fragile and crisis contexts, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, but adaptation could be more agile.

There are clear efficiencies gained from the joint work of UNICEF and UNFPA, and room for improvement at subnational level.

Evidence generation, use and dissemination has improved significantly. But there is lack of evidence on what works in different programme contexts, especially at subnational and community levels. The Programme integrated interventions into institutions, thus contributing to sustainability of changes. National budgets committed are seldom executed, and partners' capacities are still weak.

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Recommendations

Contextualize the global theory of change for national and **subnational contexts** and for **specific populations**

Make the Programme **more agile and adaptive for humanitarian** and other complex contexts

Sustain and increase programme effectiveness, deepen gender-transformative approach

Make strategic use of Programme's acknowledged value to accelerate the elimination of child marriage globally

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Recommendations

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Strengthen **coordination and partner capacity**, improve resource mobilization and flexible use of funds

Generate more **evidence on what works in programme contexts** and utilize it

Integrate the Programme's work with the **social protection sector**

Elaborate **sustainability plans in each country**, jointly with implementing partners and counterparts

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Thank you.

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