

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

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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 elimination of harmful practices (SDG 5.3)

Donor partners



12 countries, 3 phases

Phase I: 2016-2019
Initial learning and implementation - mobilize



Phase II: 2020-2023
Expanding scalable models – increase support



Phase III: 2024-2030
National coverage – ownership for scale

United Nations agencies



Phase II: 6 Outcomes



Intensive support to marginalized girls

Enabling family and community environment

Strengthened systems

Addressing poverty drivers

Enabling laws and policies

Quality data and evidence

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**.

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.

Recommendations



1

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

2

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

3

Sustain and increase **programme effectiveness**, deepen **gender-transformative approach**

4

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

Recommendations



UNICEF/Nepal/Kumari/2022

5

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

6

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

7

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

8

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

Thank you.

