

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: Summary (E/ICEF/2024/5)

Reference document: E/ICEF/2024/5

The Global Programme to End Child Marriage

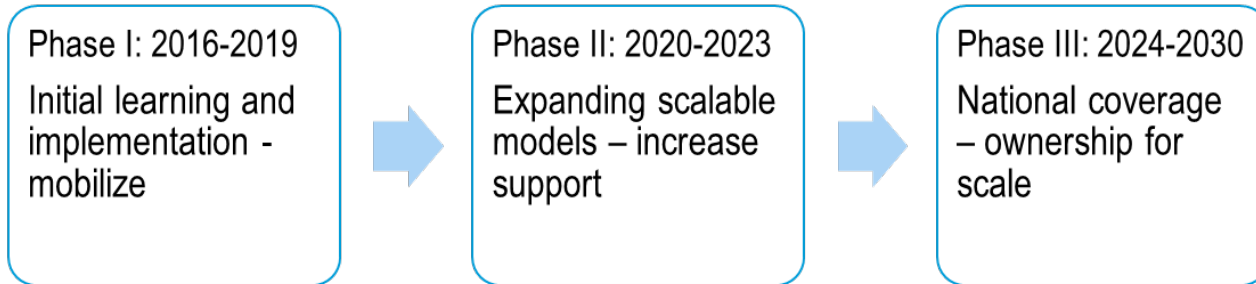
Goal

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

Donor partners



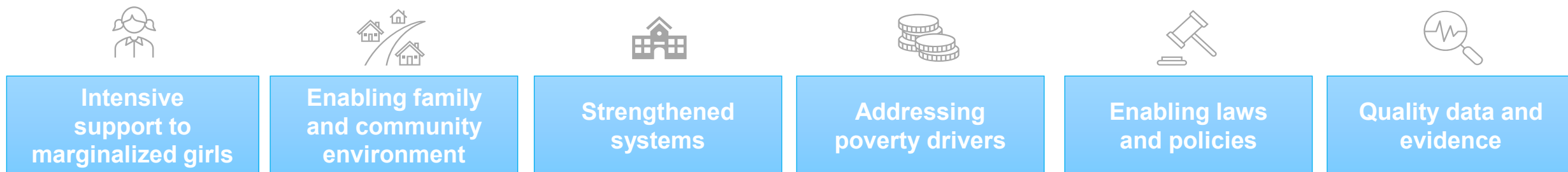
12 countries, 3 phases



United Nations agencies



Phase II: 6 Outcomes



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
- ❖ The programme **targeting** followed the principle of “**leave no one behind**”, despite **some subgroups of at-risk girls were not intentionally reached** (disabled, married, urban...)
- ❖ The programme achieved thematic convergence mobilizing different sectors and organizations. **Geographical convergence** between the two agencies at **subnational level was challenging**.
- ❖ **Gender-transformative approach** well defined and adopted across. Evidence on the status and quality of adoption is lacking.



Key findings

- ❖ The programme is having a **catalytic effect**, expanding the direct reach of its resources, partners and geographical areas of implementation.
- ❖ The programme triggered **effective multi-sectoral strategies** to strengthen institutional, community and family capacities on adolescents' health, empowerment, protection, education and gender-based violence services, **less though with the social protection sector**.
- ❖ The programme has been **responsive to humanitarian**, fragile and crisis contexts, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, but adaptation could be more agile.



Key findings

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ There are clear efficiencies gained from the joint work of the two agencies UNICEF and UNFPA, and room for improvement at subnational level.
- ❖ The programme integrated interventions into institutions, favoring 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**, mobilize resources & flexibilize 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

