UNFPA-UNICEF
**GLOBAL PROGRAMME
TO END CHILD MARRIAGE**

ACT NOW:
Accelerating gender equality by eliminating child marriage in a pandemic

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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PROGRAMME SUMMARY

Programme/project name	UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage
Donors	Governments of Belgium, Canada, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, and the United Kingdom, the European Commission and Zonta International
Contributions to Global Programme valid in Phase II	UNICEF and UNFPA: EUR 8,000,000 from Belgium CAD 30,000,000 from Canada US$ 646,840 from Italy EUR 30,000,000 from the Netherlands NOK 276,700,000 from Norway US$ 1,485,000 from Zonta International EUR 6,375,062 from the European Commission EUR 7,500,000 from the European Commission (Spotlight Initiative)
Global Programme funds used to date	Phase I UNICEF: US$ 51,421,765.47 as at 31 December 2019 UNFPA: US$ 32,413,294 as at 31 December 2019 Phase II UNICEF: US$ 8,640,253.09 from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020 UNFPA: US$ 5,287,586 from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020
Balance forwarded to 2021-2023	UNICEF: US$ 14,823,639.36 as at 31 December 2020 UNFPA: US$ 15,117, 139 as at 31 December 2020
Duration of grants	UNICEF SC160258 pass-through: 15 March 2016 to 31 December 2023 SC160614 EU: 24 November 2016 to 23 September 2020 UNFPA UCJ18 UNICEF to UNFPA: 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2023
Report type	Progress – Headquarters
	Regional offices of South Asia, West and Central Africa, Eastern and Southern Africa, and Middle East and North Africa Country offices of Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Niger, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Uganda, Zambia, and Yemen
Reporting period	1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020
Report due date	31 May 2021
Report prepared on	31 May 2021
Relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) targets and UNICEF and UNFPA Strategic Plan priorities	SDG 5.3: Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
	UNICEF Strategic Plan Outcome P6: Increased national capacity to provide access to child protection systems that prevent and respond to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect. Output P6.b.4 Countries (of those with child marriage prevalence is 25% or higher) with national strategies or plans on child marriage with a budget.
	UNFPA Strategic Plan Output 6: Young people, in particular adolescent girls, have the skills and capabilities to make informed choices about their sexual and reproductive health and rights, and well-being Output 9: Strengthened policy, legal and accountability frameworks to advance gender equality and empower women and girls to exercise their reproductive rights and to be protected from violence and harmful practices Output 12: Strengthened response to eliminate harmful practices, including child, early and forced marriage, female genital mutilation and son preference

Focus population	Adolescent girls at risk of and affected by child marriage Adolescent boys, families, traditional and religious leaders, community groups, and other influencers Sectoral systems and institutions (education, health, child protection, gender-based violence, social protection) Government and civil society organizations, regional and global institutions
Programme partners	In the 12 focus countries, the Global Programme works with governments at both national and subnational levels, regional bodies engaged in relevant initiatives, academic institutions, international and national non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, religious communities, faith-based organizations, the private sector and the media
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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACRL	African Council of Religious Leaders
AIDS	Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
CAG	Community action group
CBO	Community-based organization
COVID-19	Novel Coronavirus disease 2019
CRANK	Child Marriage Research to Action Network
CSO	Civil society organization
EAC	East African Community
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
FGM	Female genital mutilation
GBVIMS	Gender-Based Violence Information Management System
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
IHME	Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation
ILO	International Labour Organization
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys
MIS	Management information system
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
PSNP	Productive Safety Net Program
RAHU	Reach a Hand Uganda
REPSSI	Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative
SAA	Social Analysis and Action
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SACG	South Asia Coordinating Group on Action against Violence against Children
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SAEP	Standardized Adolescent Empowerment Package
SAIEVAC	South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SOGI	Sexual orientations and gender identities
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Country Framework
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
WBCPCR	West Bengal Commission for the Protection of Child Rights
WHO	World Health Organization

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Trends in child marriage

In the last decade, the marriages of some 25 million girls have been averted thanks to the decline in the prevalence of child marriage globally from nearly 1 in 4 to 1 in 5 girls being married before their 18th birthday. However, this remarkable accomplishment is now under threat. COVID-19 has upended the lives of children, adolescents and families across the globe, and adversely affected programmes to end child marriage. An additional 10 million girls are at risk of becoming child brides before the end of the decade, child marriages that otherwise might have been averted.[1] One year into the pandemic, urgent action is needed to prevent and mitigate the toll of COVID-19 on children, adolescents, and their families.

> The COVID-19 pandemic is raising the risk of child marriage through five main pathways:
>
> 1. interrupted education
> 2. economic and food insecurity
> 3. disruptions to programmes and services
> 4. adolescent pregnancy, and
> 5. death of a parent or primary caretaker

Most child marriages due to COVID-19 are expected to occur in the near term among older girls. However, the impact of the pandemic is likely to be felt for at least another decade, also raising the risk of child marriage for girls who are now young. Effective programming measures, such as getting girls back to school, ensuring access to social protection programmes and access to health and protection, applied at scale, may delay girls' age at first marriage and lower the risk of marrying in childhood. Such measures could reduce the additional number of child brides by half, bringing the total impact of COVID-19 down to 5 million additional child brides.

Key accomplishments

Building on the achievements of Phase I (2016-2019), Phase II of the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage (the Global Programme) was launched in 2020 with an emphasis on gender-transformative approaches and human rights-based programming, strengthened global partnerships and a clearly defined learning agenda. As a result, the Global Programme has reaffirmed its global convening role, including by ensuring that child marriage remains prominent on the intergovernmental agenda especially in the critical period of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Notably, in 2020, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a new resolution on child, early and forced marriage.[2] The resolution was co-led by Canada and Zambia and co-sponsored by 114 countries and: (a) highlights concerning trends in child, early and forced marriages emerging in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic (underpinned by early estimates produced by UNFPA on the potential impact of the pandemic on child marriage); (b) recognizes child, early and forced marriages as an abuse of human rights and a major obstacle to the fulfilment of women's and girls' potential by putting an end to their education, resulting in health complications and putting them at higher risk of encountering discrimination and violence throughout their lives; (c) underscores that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these effects; and (d) calls upon the international community to take concrete action to maintain and accelerate progress to end child, early and forced marriages, including the Global Programme to End Child Marriage.

In 2020, the Global Programme partnered with the African Union and the European Union to launch the regional component of the Spotlight Initiative for Africa. This three-year partnership focuses on eliminating all

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1   UNICEF, 2021, *COVID-19: A threat to progress against child marriage,* https://data.unicef.org/resources/covid-19-a-threat-to-progress-against-child-marriage/.

2   United Nations General Assembly, 16 December 2020, *A/RES/75/167: Child, early and forced marriage,* https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/75/167.

violence against women and girls with a contribution of US$ 8.54 million. The partnership further expands the Global Programme's influence in Africa in five countries (Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria and Zimbabwe) and focuses on three outcomes in relation to child marriage: legislation and policies, quality and reliable data, and support to civil society organizations (CSOs), community-based organizations (CBOs) and women's movements.

In a joint initiative with Girls Not Brides, the Global Programme launched the Child Marriage Research to Action Network (the CRANK).[3] The platform is aimed at supporting a better coordinated and harmonized global research agenda on child marriage, and to encourage the uptake of research by policy makers and practitioners. The platform brings child marriage researchers, practitioners and policy makers together every three months to share and discuss the latest evidence on priority learning topics. The CRANK is part of the Global Programme's overall research strategy for Phase II and focuses on knowledge production and use of knowledge within the Global Programme and beyond.

During the early onset of the pandemic, UNICEF produced a video series featuring 16 adolescent girls from 9 countries. The Coping with COVID-19 videos[4] were disseminated in five episodes on UNICEF's global social media channels and on a dedicated webpage. From the launch in July 2020 until September, over 6.3 million views were recorded, and the webpage of the series was the most visited page of all on UNICEF's website. The series gained a lot of attention and was aired on national TV in Niger and Madagascar, published on the Amazon Prime streaming platform in the United States and the United Kingdom, featured in The Lancet: Child and Adolescent Health, and taken up by WaterBear, a streaming platform for social good. The series was also nominated for a Shorty Awards in the category 'user created content'.

The Global Programme adapted to COVID-19 realities in 2020. The limitations on interpersonal contact as a result of pandemic control measures prompted the programme to embrace digital and other innovative solutions that did not require direct face-to-face interactions. Hence, the Global Programme increased digital engagement, promoted behaviour change through online modalities, advocated to include child marriage programming in essential services (for continued outreach and availability) and enhanced support to mental health and psychosocial support. Where possible, the programme

continued empowerment sessions with adolescent girls and community dialogues and adapted them to COVID-19 guidelines by holding the sessions in smaller groups, in outdoor settings and with the provision of personal protective equipment. The programmatic pivot towards digital solutions had the effect that some programme results far exceeded the targets for the year, as evidenced by the following results:

- **Over 4.1 million adolescent girls** participated in life skills and comprehensive sexuality education interventions during the year
- **Over 160,000 adolescent girls** were supported to enrol and/or remain in primary or secondary school
- **Over 6.3 million boys and men** were reached with messages addressing harmful masculinities and gender norms
- **1,150 service delivery points** were supported to provide girl-responsive services. However, the number of girls accessing services directly supported by the Global Programme decreased by half from previous years, from 1.6 million to 800,000

The Global Programme has made significant progress in conceptualizing and incorporating gender-transformative programming into planning, implementation and measurement of Phase II. It has:

- Conceptualized and incorporated gender-related structural and normative drivers, and gender-transformative approaches in the programme document for Phase II, and the global and national theories of change
- Developed and rolled-out technical guidance and support in the form of webinars, sharing evidence and programmatic learnings, 'open clinics' to respond to specific country needs, mid-year reviews of progress in implementation and action-oriented technical notes on gender-transformative programming across the socio-ecological framework
- Built staff capacity through the programme GenderPro and initiated the design of an e-course on gender-transformative programming with a focus on harmful practices to be rolled out in 2021, and
- Formulated a dedicated country technical assistance strategy in the form of gender programmatic reviews, analysis and planning

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3   For more information, see Girls Not Brides and UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage, *Child Marriage Research to Action Network*, https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/learning-resources/child-marriage-research-action-network/.

4   UNICEF, 2020, *Coping with COVID-19: A pandemic through a girl's eyes*, https://www.unicef.org/coronavirus/coping-with-covid-19.

Sustained gender-transformative change will take a long time to achieve, is often generational, and needs sustained investments over time.

Despite the progress to date, sustained gender-transformative change will take a long time to achieve, is often generational, and needs sustained investments over time. While COVID-19 has reversed gender equality gains, increased marginalization and vulnerability of adolescent girls, boys, and communities – the Global Programme has continued to support pathways for transformative change. Going forward, the Global Programme will systematize COVID-19 adaptations to capitalise on efficiency gains offered by digital and online programme delivery modalities, while enhancing attention to quality and measurement. The programme will deepen efforts to work with men and boys to promote positive masculinities, support young people to express their views and having their voices heard, and further investment in marginalized and vulnerable population groups, including adolescents with disabilities, pregnant and married girls and adolescent mothers.

Key lessons

Flexibility and rapid adaptation: The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need for greater programmatic flexibility so as to adapt interventions to rapidly evolving situations. Innovation and rapid adaptation of programmes targeted at adolescent girls have allowed programmes to continue in many countries.

Going digital: In response to the COVID-19 restrictions, countries and regional offices moved to digital platforms to implement activities, meetings and learning events. In response to school closures and community mobility restrictions, digital and multimedia mechanisms have been effective in reaching and engaging adolescent girls. Digital adaptation of out-of-school comprehensive sexuality education activities helped to prevent gender-based violence, child marriage and adolescent pregnancy during lockdowns.

Bridging the digital divide using low-tech: In most programme areas, internet penetration and availability of multimedia channels are very low, so the programme had to use low-teach means, such as community radios,

loudspeakers and public address systems to communicate with adolescents and communities. There is a need to provide diverse platforms to engage adolescent girls and communities and to facilitate two-way communication.

Continuity of services: The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of building resilience and ensure programme continuity. Child helplines played an important role in continued service provision during the pandemic. Standard operating procedures and quality service provision manuals were revised to provide guidance to frontline workers during emergencies. Regular updating of information on gender-based services helped to ensure that gaps were filled, and services were available to those in need. It is worth noting that the resourcefulness and resilience of survivors can have a greater impact on the lives of survivors than the provision of services.

Adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights: Evidence from some countries indicate that efforts to prevent child marriage need to be balanced with initiatives that promote adolescent sexual and bodily autonomy and agency. Adolescent-friendly services today are not sufficiently responsive to sexual and gender-based violence, inclusion of disability and other equity-focused areas. Accordingly, training manuals for peer educators and health workers have to be revised and their topics and scope have to be broadened.

Community surveillance: Community-based surveillance mechanisms, including door-to-door visits, are vital to engage out-of-school girls and ensure they receive immediate support when they are at risk of child marriage. There is an increased need for community protection and surveillance systems to ensure that adolescents at risk of violence are identified, protected, referred and linked to adolescent-friendly services. There is also a need to strengthen community response mechanisms by providing support for temporary shelters for adolescents who run away from home to escape child marriage, and by providing social workers to engage with parents for reconciliation and re-unification with their children.

Child protection: Poor parenting and a lack of psychosocial support to parents and families has been identified as a driver of violence against children and child marriage. There is a need to increase investments in programmes that build the capacities, skills and knowledge of parents on how to nurture children and protect them from harmful practices such as child marriage.

Social protection and safety net programmes: Programmes addressing poverty have to be strengthened and expanded to enable vulnerable families to cope with economic distress. Large-scale social protection schemes require additional investments in complementary interventions to transform gender discriminatory norms that perpetuate harmful practices such as child marriage.

Gender norms as key drivers in humanitarian settings: Shifting discriminatory gender norms requires sustained investments in interventions across the socio-ecology, with deep and nuanced participatory community-based reflections. A key learning on child marriage in humanitarian settings in South Asia is that the underlying, deep-seated drivers of child marriage that have been identified in existing research do not fundamentally change during crises.

Next steps and key priorities

Adopting data-driven gender-transformative approaches: The programme is developing a 'Gender-Transformative Accelerator' tool to support capacity building of implementing partners in gender-transformative approaches. The Gender-Transformative Accelerator tool will identify drivers and bottlenecks and explores opportunities for developing a roadmap of actions through assessment of interventions across the gender continuum.

Adapting life skills frameworks to different contexts: The programme will adapt life skills education approaches to include mental health and psychosocial support to adolescents and families. The programme will also review country-specific life skills training frameworks and curricula to include new skills adapted to digital and multimedia platforms.

Engaging men and boys and promoting positive masculinities: The programme will strengthen the engagement with boys and men to address harmful masculinities by reviewing and rolling out a toolkit to support the design of strategic programming approaches on engaging men and boys in different contexts. The programme will accelerate the implementation of boys' clubs and improve integrated interventions between girls' and boys' clubs.

Adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights: Countries continue to roll out guidelines and school curricula on comprehensive sexuality education. The programme will continue to provide technical support to governments on integrating mental health and psychosocial support counselling as part of the sexuality education curriculum in schools and in out-of-school interventions.

Optimizing partnerships for social protection: The programme will expand partnerships with development partners and other United Nations agencies to strengthen social protection systems that address the needs of adolescent girls and their families. The programme will commission surveys that track public finance and expenditures; generate and disseminate knowledge on best practices in designing social protection schemes; and roll out toolkits to improve social protection schemes.

Advancing research in what works to end child marriage: Using established research platforms, the programme will focus research on new evidence on what works to end child marriage and on norm changes. The programme will encourage partners to utilize existing evidence to improve their programmes.

Promoting girls' voices and rights: The programme will launch a 'girl out of time' awareness-to-action campaign that will feature a young bride in the hourglass with each grain of sand flowing down representing the hopes and dreams of a girl who will never rise to her potential because she was forced into child marriage. The campaign will connect girls globally to have their voices heard through the programme's communication platforms, Twitter chats, video series and Instagram live.

Building strategic partnerships: Leveraging resources with the Spotlight Initiative, the programme will increase and strengthen partnerships with civil society organizations to end child marriage. The programme will make dedicated efforts to promote and strengthen CSOs with feminist and gender equality objectives within the overarching framing of gender-transformative programming across different country and regional offices. New CSOs will be provided technical and institutional support in the scaling up of successful approaches that address the needs of girls as well as access to information and new evidence to support the advocacy and awareness raising campaigns.

" Getting to zero may prove difficult, yet I have no doubt it is achievable. After all, some harmful practices have persisted over centuries. Yet change will—and must—come.

Dr. Natalia Kanem, Executive Director, UNFPA

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" COVID-19 has made an already difficult situation for millions of girls even worse. Shuttered schools, isolation from friends and support networks, and rising poverty have added fuel to a fire the world was already struggling to put out. But we can and we must extinguish child marriage.

Henrietta H. Fore, Executive Director, UNICEF

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RECENT TRENDS
IN CHILD MARRIAGE

1.1 Effects of COVID-19 on adolescent girls and child marriage

Over the last two decades, child marriage has declined significantly. Globally, over the past decade, the proportion of young women who were married as children decreased by 15 per cent, from nearly 1 in 4 to 1 in 5 (*see figure 1*). This means, that over the last ten years, the marriages of some 25 million girls have been averted (*see figure 2*).[5]

FIGURE 1. Percentage of women aged 20 to 24 years who were first married or in union before age 18
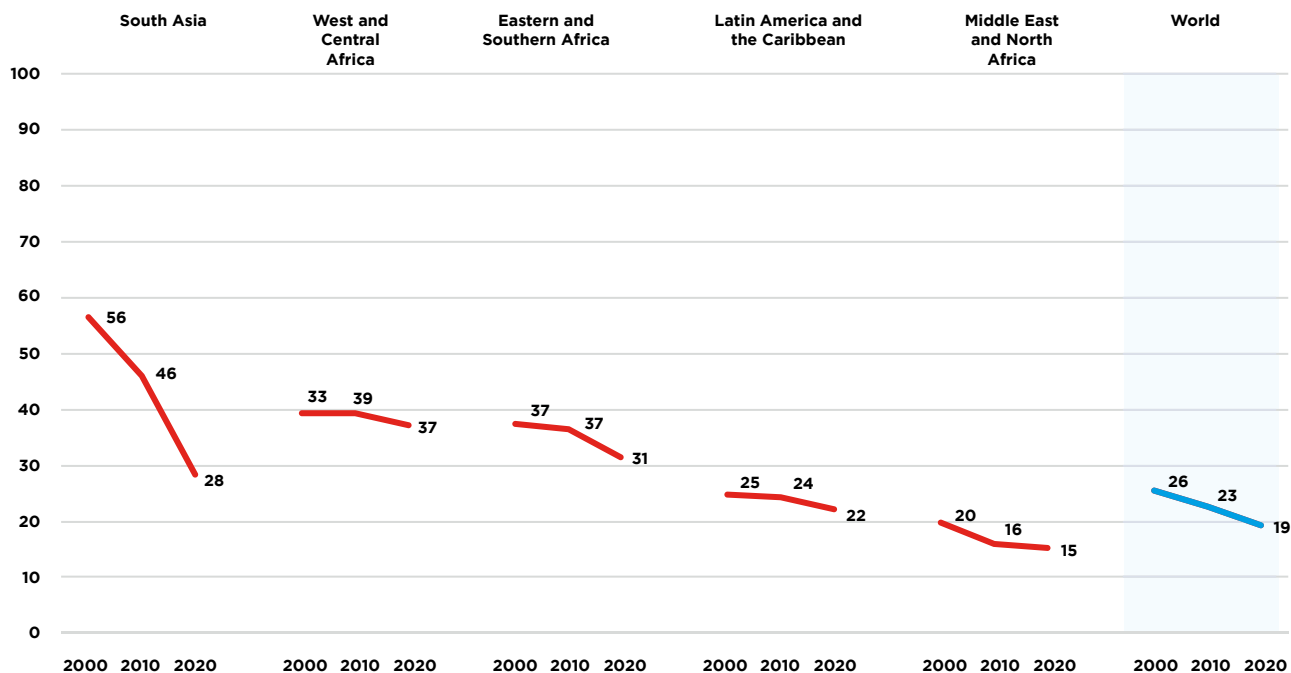
FIGURE 2. Global decline in the number of child marriages from 2011 to 2020

CHILD MARRIAGES AVERTED
25 MILLION

OBSERVED NUMBER OF CHILD BRIDES
110 MILLION

2011   2012   2013   2013   2015   2016   2017   2018   2019   2020
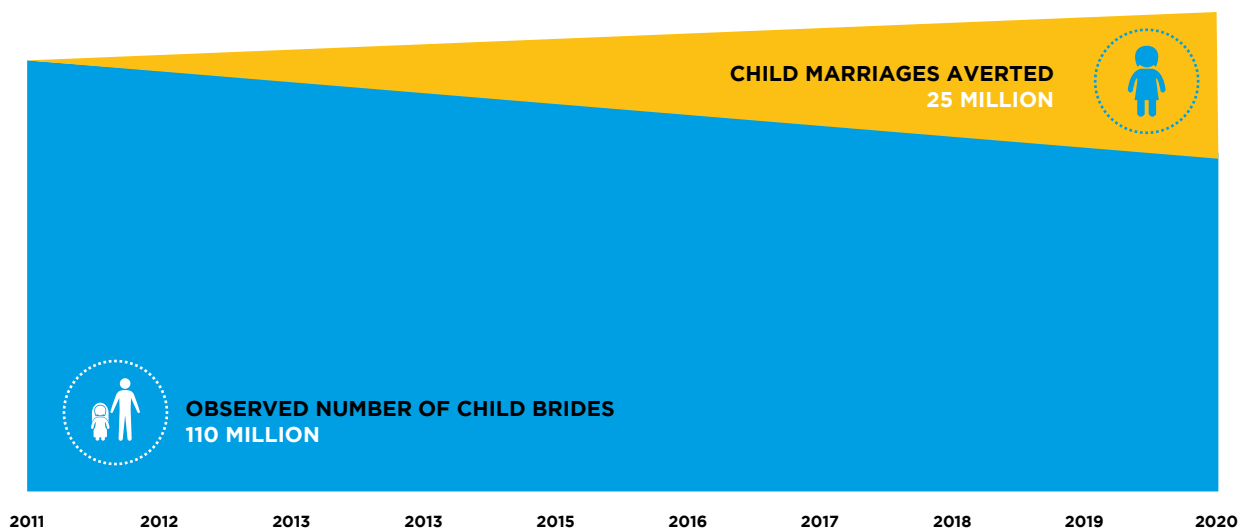
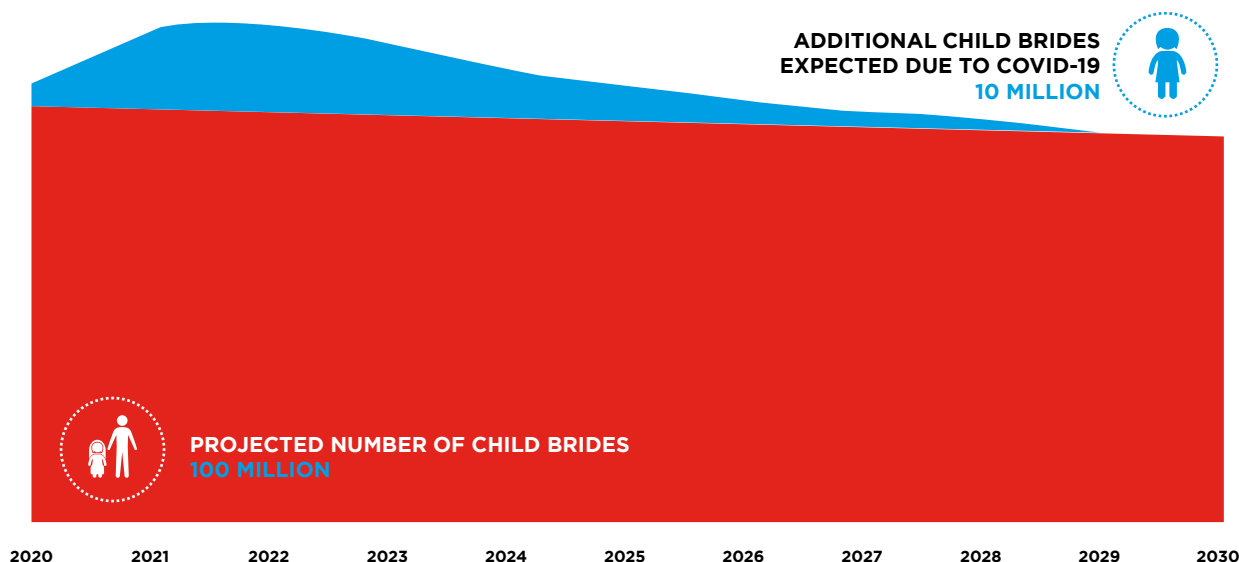
5   UNICEF, 2018, Child marriage: Latest trends and future prospects, https://data.unicef.org/resources/child-marriage-latest-trends-and-future-prospects/.

This remarkable accomplishment is now under threat. COVID-19 has upended the lives of children and families across the globe and adversely affected programmes to end child marriage. UNICEF foresee an additional 10 million girls at risk of becoming child brides before the end of the decade that otherwise might have been averted (*see figure 3*).[6]

FIGURE 3. Projected number of child brides between 2020 and 2030

ADDITIONAL CHILD BRIDES EXPECTED DUE TO COVID-19
10 MILLION

PROJECTED NUMBER OF CHILD BRIDES
100 MILLION

2020   2021   2022   2023   2024   2025   2026   2027   2028   2029   2030

Most child marriages due to COVID-19 are expected to occur in the near term among older girls. However, the impact of the pandemic is likely to be felt for at least another decade, also raising the risk of child marriage for girls who are now young. Because marriage fundamentally alters the course of a girl's life, the full effect of the pandemic on human development will play out over a generation.

The risk of child marriage increases through various pathways, including economic shocks, school closures and interruptions in services. Economic insecurity can lead to child marriage as a way to relieve financial pressure on a family. This is consistent with the notion of child marriage as a coping mechanism in humanitarian settings in times of economic fragility and uncertainty, including conflicts, food crises and disasters. The evidence is also clear that education is a protective factor against child marriage. Families tend to make decisions about a girl's education and marriage in parallel. Thus, school closures triggered by COVID-19 may, in effect, increase vulnerability to discontinue education and promote marriage. The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted school systems globally and widened educational inequalities by shrinking educational opportunities for many vulnerable children and adolescents such as those living in poor or remote rural areas, girls, refugees, those with disabilities and those who are forcibly displaced. As health care workers struggle to keep ahead of the pandemic, other 'nonessential' services have been disrupted in many countries. These include sexual and reproductive health services, which have a direct impact on adolescent pregnancy and marriage. Awareness campaigns and community dialogues on the harmful effects of child marriage have also been curtailed, creating a dangerous vacuum.

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6   UNICEF, 2021, *COVID-19: A threat to progress against child marriage,* https://data.unicef.org/resources/covid-19-a-threat-to-progress-against-child-marriage/.

Pathways through which COVID-19 increases the risk of child marriage

The COVID-19 pandemic is raising the risk of child marriage through five main pathways:
1. interrupted education
2. economic and food insecurity
3. disruptions to programmes and services
4. adolescent pregnancy, and
5. death of a parent or primary caretaker

While these five factors are likely to affect child marriage in all settings, additional contextual factors may also play a role. Such factors include the overall prevalence of child marriage, the amount and direction of resource transfers related to marriage (bride wealth, dowry), discriminatory gender and social norms, gender-based violence and child maltreatment, the availability of social protection and poverty alleviation programmes and the presence of conflicts, forced migration and displacement.[7]

Impact of COVID-19 on adolescent girls and gender equality

School closures due to COVID-19 have left over a billion students out of school, disrupting daily life, educational attainment and learning outcomes. Girls may drop out of school entirely or be less likely to re-enrol when schools reopen. Even before the pandemic struck, nearly 1 in 4 girls aged 15-19 globally were not in education, employment or training, compared with 1 in 10 boys.[8] An estimated 16 million girls globally will never set foot in a classroom, and women account for two-thirds of the 750 million adults without basic literacy skills.[9]

Girls between 5 and 14 years old spend 40 per cent more time (160 million more hours a day) on unpaid household chores and care work than boys their age, which compromises their education and learning.[10] School closures due to COVID-19 can also affect how children use their time. Girls may spend more time at home and unsupervised, which could increase

their exposure to sexual activity, sexual violence and unwanted pregnancy. Less time in school may also cause families to perceive lower returns to girls' education.

A disproportionate number of girls will simply not return to education. School closures could drive 20 million more secondary school-aged girls out of school after the pandemic has passed.[11] Crises such as COVID-19 heighten and compound gender norms that constrain girls' school attendance, risk of child marriage, early pregnancy, gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and child labour. No matter where a girl lives, she is at risk of encountering violence in every space, including in the classroom.

Physical distancing requirements, business closures and travel restrictions associated with COVID-19 have all led to a reduction in economic activity, the loss of livelihoods and an increase in household poverty. The resulting economic and food insecurity may limit the ability of parents to provide for their children. Households tend to respond to economic and food insecurity in two ways: cutting spending (such as education costs) and cutting household size. Both can lead to child marriage. In fact, child marriage can be a boon to a household's income in communities where a bride wealth is paid by the groom's family to the bride's family (e.g., in the Middle East and in Africa). Conversely, in South Asia the bride's family commonly pays a dowry to the family of the groom. A UNICEF case study on child marriage during the COVID-19 pandemic noted that reduced dowry demands due to the lockdown were cited as a cause for child marriage, and accordingly, a family from Dakshin Dinajpur in West Bengal state of India viewed the pandemic period as a window of opportunity to get their underage daughter married off.[12]

Worsening household income may also cause some adolescents living in especially difficult circumstances to view child marriage as the best option available to them. In half of child marriage cases reviewed in the West Bengal case study, families cited economic hardship faced due to the lockdown as a reason for marrying off their underage daughters. Cases of girls running away with their partners due to loss of livelihoods by their families were frequently noted in

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7   Ibid.

8   UNICEF, UN Women and Plan International, 2020, *A New Era for Girls: Taking Stock of 25 Years of Progress,* https://www.unicef.org/reports/new-era-for-girls-2020.

9   UNESCO, n.d., *Education and gender equality*, https://en.unesco.org/themes/education-and-gender-equality.

10   UNICEF, 2016, *Harnessing the Power of Data for Girls: Taking stock and looking ahead to 2030,* https://www.unicef.org/documents/harnessing-power-data-girls-taking-stock-and-looking-ahead-2030.

11   Malala Fund, 2020, *Girls' Education and COVID-19,* https://downloads.ctfassets.net/0oan5gk9rgbh/6TMYLYAcUpjhQpXLDgmdIa/3e1c12d8d827985ef2b4e815a3a6da1f/COVID19_GirlsEducation_corrected_071420.pdf.

12   UNICEF, 2020, *Child marriage in lockdown 2020: An analysis of child marriage cases prevented in select district of West Bengal,* unpublished.

the study. In worst-case scenarios, poverty could force girls to resort to transactional sex as a risk-coping mechanism, which could lead to increased vulnerability to sexual exploitation, unplanned pregnancy and arranged marriage.[13]

Reduced access to services is another constraint faced by girls during the pandemic (*see chapter 3 for examples*). Pandemic-related travel restrictions and social distancing can make it difficult for girls and women to access health care, along with programmes and services that aim to protect them from child marriage as well as sexual and gender-based violence. Disruptions in such services can create difficulties in accessing modern contraception, resulting in unintended pregnancy and subsequent child marriage. During lockdown, girls and women may also face barriers to engaging with the formal justice system, which can be used as a last-ditch effort to block an illegal marriage. At the same time, the pandemic can inhibit enforcement of the legal minimum age at marriage.[14]

The death of a parent or primary caretaker can also increase the likelihood that a female orphan will be married off, since family members may find it hard to support her. This is not considered a major pathway, however, since death from COVID-19 is most common among older individuals, often among grandparents rather than parents.

The overall impact of these five pathways on child marriage depends on the extent to which restrictions on movement and economic activity, school closures and physical distancing rules are enforced. It also depends on the fragility or resilience of a country's economy and the availability of social protection programmes.

Quantifying the impact of COVID-19 along the five main pathways[15]

Interrupted education
- School closures increase the child marriage risk by 25 per cent per year
- Closures result in a loss of 0.6 learning adjusted years of schooling per child
- Some girls (2 per cent) will never return to school, and will continue to face a higher marriage risk throughout childhood

Economic and food insecurity
- In countries where bride wealth is common, loss of household income increases the probability of child marriage by 3 per cent
- In countries where dowry is common, the impact ranges from a decreased risk of 4 per cent to an increased risk of 1 per cent

Disruptions to programmes and services
- Delayed programmes to prevent child marriage are estimated to result in a one-year loss of gains from such programmes
- Increase in post-traumatic stress symptoms in 28-34 per cent and fear in 20 per cent of individuals in lockdown[16]
- Family planning service disruptions are estimated to result in 1.4 million unintended pregnancies in women and girls

Adolescent pregnancy
- The increased risk of child marriage due to pregnancy is accounted for through the impact of school closure and dropout

Death of a parent or primary caretaker
- Death of a parent or a primary caretaker is expected to have little direct impact on the risk of child marriage, largely due to the relative rarity of death among age groups that are most likely to be parents

13   Molotsky, A., 2019, Income Shocks and Partnership Formation: Evidence from Malawi, *Studies in Family Planning, 50*(3), pp. 219-242; Save the Children, World Vision International, Plan International and UNICEF, 2015, *Children's Ebola Recovery Assessment: Sierra Leone,* https://www.savethechildren.org/content/dam/global/reports/emergency-humanitarian-response/ebola-rec-sierraleone.pdf; UNICEF, 2021, *COVID-19: A threat to progress against child marriage,* https://data.unicef.org/resources/covid-19-a-threat-to-progress-against-child-marriage/.

14   UNFPA, 2021, *Studies show severe toll of COVID-19 on sexual and reproductive health, rights around the world,* www.unfpa.org/news/studies-show-severe-toll-covid-19-sexual-and-reproductive-health-rights-around-world.

15   For more information, see UNFPA, with contributions from Avenir Health, Johns Hopkins University and Victoria University, 2020, *Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Family Planning and Ending Gender-based Violence, Female Genital Mutilation and Child Marriage,* https://www.unfpa.org/resources/impact-covid-19-pandemic-family-planning-and-ending-gender-based-violence-female-genital.

16   Fegert, J., Vitiello, B., Plener, P. L., and Clemens, V., 2020, Challenges and burden of the Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic for child and adolescent mental health: A narrative review to highlight clinical and research needs in the acute phase and the long return to normality, *Child Adolescent Psychiatry Mental Health, 14,* doi: 10.1186/s13034-020-00329-3.

More than one year into the pandemic, urgent action is needed to mitigate or perhaps even prevent the toll of COVID-19 on children, adolescents and their families.

Effective programming measures, applied at scale, could delay the age at first marriage and lower the risk of marrying in childhood.

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Urgent action to prevent and mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on adolescent girls

More than one year into the pandemic, urgent action is needed to mitigate or perhaps even prevent the toll of COVID-19 on children, adolescents and their families. Effective programming measures, applied at scale, could delay the age at first marriage and lower the risk of marrying in childhood. Such measures could reduce the additional number of child brides by half, bringing the total impact of COVID-19 down to 5 million additional child brides.[17] Some of the interventions and investments needed that are being prioritized in the 2021 country work plans of the Global Programme include:

- Working towards getting girls back to school and enabling them to learn through distance education and virtual, adolescent-friendly methods through TV and radio
- Providing gender-responsive social protection schemes, including cash and in-kind transfers to prevent families from turning to child marriage as a negative coping strategy
- Ensuring the continued provision of sexual and reproductive health services and information to adolescents and services that prevent and respond to gender-based violence
- Providing mental health and psychosocial support for adolescents and their caregivers
- Ensuring social welfare support and referrals for adolescents who are quarantined, hospitalized or left without a care provider
- Using mass media, community radio, and social media to stimulate dialogue and equipping adolescents, parents and communities with the knowledge and skills to delay marriage
- Creating safe online opportunities for adolescents to share their experiences and concerns, communicate with their peers and access sources of support
- Investing in learning about what is happening during the crisis in order to draw important lessons to inform efforts to end child marriage during the pandemic and beyond

- Using pre-COVID-19 data to predict the impact of the crisis on child marriage in the near future.[18] Such projections can be made by examining existing patterns and demographics of child marriage as well as historical information on the effects of educational disruption, economic shocks and programme efficacy on this harmful practice. These estimates can bring into focus the need for a COVID-19 response strategy that extends beyond health and prioritizes a broader set of rights
- Ensuring we leave no one behind in our efforts to end child marriage, programmes will pay particular attention to the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable adolescents. And as with all crises, girls and women most severely impacted in many areas

The Global Programme continues to advocate for a leave no one behind programming approach, with a focus on intersectional deprivations and exclusion based on income, geography, sex, ethnicity, religion, age and others. The programme's implementing partners run open platforms where every adolescent girl in need of life skills training and comprehensive sexuality education and services is able to access and participate freely without any discrimination. While the Global Programme does not yet support targeted interventions for adolescents with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities (SOGI), a few countries (e.g., India) have worked on ensuring that policy and programme planning discussions include CSOs and activists that work on SOGI issues.[19]

1.2 The cost of ending child marriage

Globally, nearly 650 million women and girls alive today became brides before they reached the age of 18, with an additional 12 million girls expected to be married every subsequent year.[20] In 2020, UNFPA developed a methodology for estimating the cost of ending child marriage in 68 countries that are home to about 90 per cent of the current global burden of child marriage.[21]

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17   UNICEF, 2021, *COVID-19: A threat to progress against child marriage,* https://data.unicef.org/resources/covid-19-a-threat-to-progress-against-child-marriage.

18   The actual number of girls who have been married since the beginning of the crisis is unknown, since most marriages are not registered. Moreover, many girls live with a partner in an informal union.

19   See for example Partners for Law in Development and Tulir, 2020, *Adolescent Sexuality and the Law: Southern Region consultation,* https://bit.ly/3iTWjvn.

20   UNICEF, 2018, *Child marriage: Latest trends and future prospects,* https://data.unicef.org/resources/child-marriage-latest-trends-and-future-prospects/.

21   For the purposes of the UNFPA study, ending child marriage is defined as lowering the rate of child marriage below five per cent in the 68 target countries. UNFPA, 2020, *Cost of Ending Child Marriage,* www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/Costing_of_Transformative_Results_Chapter_4_-_Cost_of_Ending_Child_Marriage.pdf.

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Key findings
- US$ 35 billion: The total cost of ending child marriage for the 68 countries modelled over the period 2020 to 2030
- US$ 10.9 billion: The amount of official development assistance that will be spent in the 68 countries in the coming decade on interventions to end child marriage[22]
- US$ 24.1 billion: The additional investment required to end child marriage by 2030 in the 68 countries
- US$ 600: The cost required to avert one case of child marriage

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Donors are presently projected to provide US$ 10.9 billion between 2020 and 2030 to reduce child marriage, with a substantial amount of this contribution related specifically to investments in secondary education. However, the total cost of ending child marriage for the 68 countries modelled over the 2020 to 2030 period is estimated to require an additional US$ 24.1 billion, beyond the projected amount from donors. If this investment is realized, approximately 58 million child marriages will be averted over this period at an average, non-discounted cost of US$ 600 for each averted marriage.

The benefits of ending child marriage extend well beyond those directly addressing immediate human rights, health and other direct effects of child marriage. The increased educational outcomes generated by ending child marriage will provide girls with the opportunity to get jobs in the formal economy or make a more productive contribution to the household enterprise if they continue to work in the informal sector.

1.3 Recent evidence on child marriage drivers

A recent meta-analysis, commissioned by the Global Programme,[23] indicates that research on child marriage in the last twenty years has generated a robust and varied evidence base, covering important insights on prevalence and measurement, determinants, correlates and context, consequences and interventions. Research in sub-Saharan Africa has been expanded during this timeframe, balancing the previous research focus on South Asia.

The meta-analysis confirms that there is overwhelming evidence around three basic commonalities that underlie and are embedded in the practice of child marriage across settings:

1. **Gender and sexuality**: Deeply rooted social norms around gender and sexuality are most widely cited as the primary contextual factor underpinning child marriage in almost every setting and manifest in different forms: as protection of girls' 'chastity' and 'honour'; as proving fertility and legitimizing premarital sexual activity and pregnancy; or as transactional sex leading to a marital arrangement
2. **Gender and economics**: Fifty per cent of all studies, and 80 per cent since 2011, postulate a relationship between economic factors and child marriage across settings. Three paths are highlighted in the economic link to child marriage: the first being poverty and parents' desire for one less mouth to feed, especially in times of crisis and conflict; more limited research documents a second path wherein wealthier parents show interest in marrying daughters early for a display of status; and a third route is marriage transactions, linking lower dowries to younger brides in South Asia and larger bride prices to younger girls in Africa
3. **Gender roles and opportunities**: Research also universally documents the importance of marriage and motherhood as desired roles for girls and as the primary paths to adulthood, especially in the absence of meaningful alternatives through education and employment. The negative relationship between education and child marriage is very well documented, increasingly showing that it is secondary rather than just primary schooling that makes a critical difference. In contrast, the link between child marriage and paid employment options for young women is much less well documented

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22   This estimate of donor funding that addresses child and early marriage 2020–2030 was developed by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation.

23   Malhotra, A. and Elnakib, S., 2020, *Twenty Years of the Evidence Base on What Works to Prevent Child Marriage: A Systematic Review, Journal of Adolescent Health, 68*, pp. 847-867; UNFPA and UNICEF, 2021, *Evolution in the Evidence Base on Child Marriage 2000–2019*, www.unicef.org/documents/evolution-evidence-base-child-marriage-2000-2019.

GLOBAL PROGRAMME ACHIEVEMENTS

2.1 Launch of Phase II of the Global Programme

The year 2020 marked the launch of Phase II of the Global Programme with a revised theory of change and five mutually reinforcing strategies with a decisive emphasis on gender-transformative change, human rights-based approaches, strengthened global partnerships and a more ambitious research strategy.

Global Programme Phase II: Five strategies to end child marriage

1. **Create and expand opportunities for the empowerment of adolescent girls:** Increase scale and reach of child marriage programmes, especially for the most marginalized, leveraging, coordinating and complementing other government-, United Nations- and civil society-led initiatives in line with national action plans

2. **Promote a supportive and gender equal environment:** Create dialogue and raise awareness of gender inequalities and their negative consequences for all society and the economy, and work with local champions and influencers at all levels including in households, communities, local institutions (including schools and health centres) and at all levels of government to address them

3. **Strengthen governance to prevent child marriage:** Foster an enabling legal and policy environment, government leadership, financing and accountability, inclusive of voices of civil society, youth-led organizations and women's rights organizations, researchers, media, traditional and religious leaders and other influencers for effective actions to end child marriage

4. **Enhance sustainability and impact of child marriage programmes:** Support contextually relevant programmes and strategies at national and local levels

5. **Build partnerships:** Leverage additional resources and co-investments for preventing and responding to child marriage in Global Programme areas

Phase II of the Global Programme was officially launched on 11 March 2020. In the lead-up to the launch, the Global Programme developed a visual identity, including a new logo, to strengthen communication around the programme and the issue of child marriage globally. Although a physical event to launch Phase II was planned for the sideline of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in New York in March, it had to be cancelled due to restrictions imposed to limit the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, so the Global Programme quickly pivoted to an online approach for the launch. To ensure that the moment for recommitments to end child marriage by the two United Nations agencies, the countries where the programme is being implemented and the donors of the programme did not pass unnoticed, high-level representatives of the various entities made public commitments through social media platforms. On Twitter alone, during 7-13 March, 5,000 tweets were posted with the hashtag #EndChildMarriage, by 3,800 Twitter users, reaching a total of 58.1 million unique users with their messaging.[24] Further, UNICEF issued a press release to showcase the programme and the launch of Phase II, its results to date and its aims going forward, with UNFPA publishing a corresponding partner update.[25] The news was also taken up by several development news outlets, such as the United Nations News and others.[26]

2.2 Gender-transformative approaches: A priority even in a pandemic

The Global Programme has embraced gender-transformative programming as a core strategy to implement Phase II of the programme through a human rights-based and a 'leave no one behind' approach. This is founded on the recognition that child marriage is driven by deep-rooted gender discriminatory norms, power relations and structures, thus underlining the importance of addressing gender determinants to make a meaningful and sustained impact over time. This means squarely investing in gender-transformative adolescent girl-focused interventions, within an enabling environment, in a socio-ecology in which boys, men, women, systems and policy makers support transformative change to prevent and mitigate child marriage.

Gender-transformative approaches aim to address underlying root causes of gender inequality.

24   For all results from the launch, see UNFPA and UNICEF, 2021, *Thank you for joining us in launching Phase II of the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage*, https://mailchi.mp/cc614d4979d5/thank-you-launch-of-the-unfpa-unicef-global-programme-to-end-child-marriage-phase-ii.

25   UNICEF, 2020, *UNICEF and UNFPA renew multi-country initiative to protect millions of girls from child marriage*, www.unicef.org/press-releases/unicef-and-unfpa-renew-multi-country-initiative-protect-millions-girls-child.

26   See for example Development Aid, 2020, *UNICEF and UNFPA renew multi-country initiative to protect millions of girls from child marriage*, https://www.developmentaid.org/#!/news-stream/post/60751/unicef-and-unfpa-renew-multi-country-initiative-to-protect-millions-of-girls-from-child-marriage; Europa Press, 2020, *UNICEF denuncia que doce millones de niñas siguen siendo obligadas a casarse cada año*, https://www.europapress.es/internacional/noticia-unicef-denuncia-doce-millones-ninas-siguen-siendo-obligadas-casarse-cada-ano-20200311065350.html; KFF, 2020, *UNFPA, UNICEF Renew Global Program To End Child Marriage Through 2023*, https://www.kff.org/news-summary/unfpa-unicef-renew-global-program-to-end-child-marriage-through-2023/; United Nations, 2020, *UN programme to help spare millions from child marriage, extended to 2023*, https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/03/1059141.
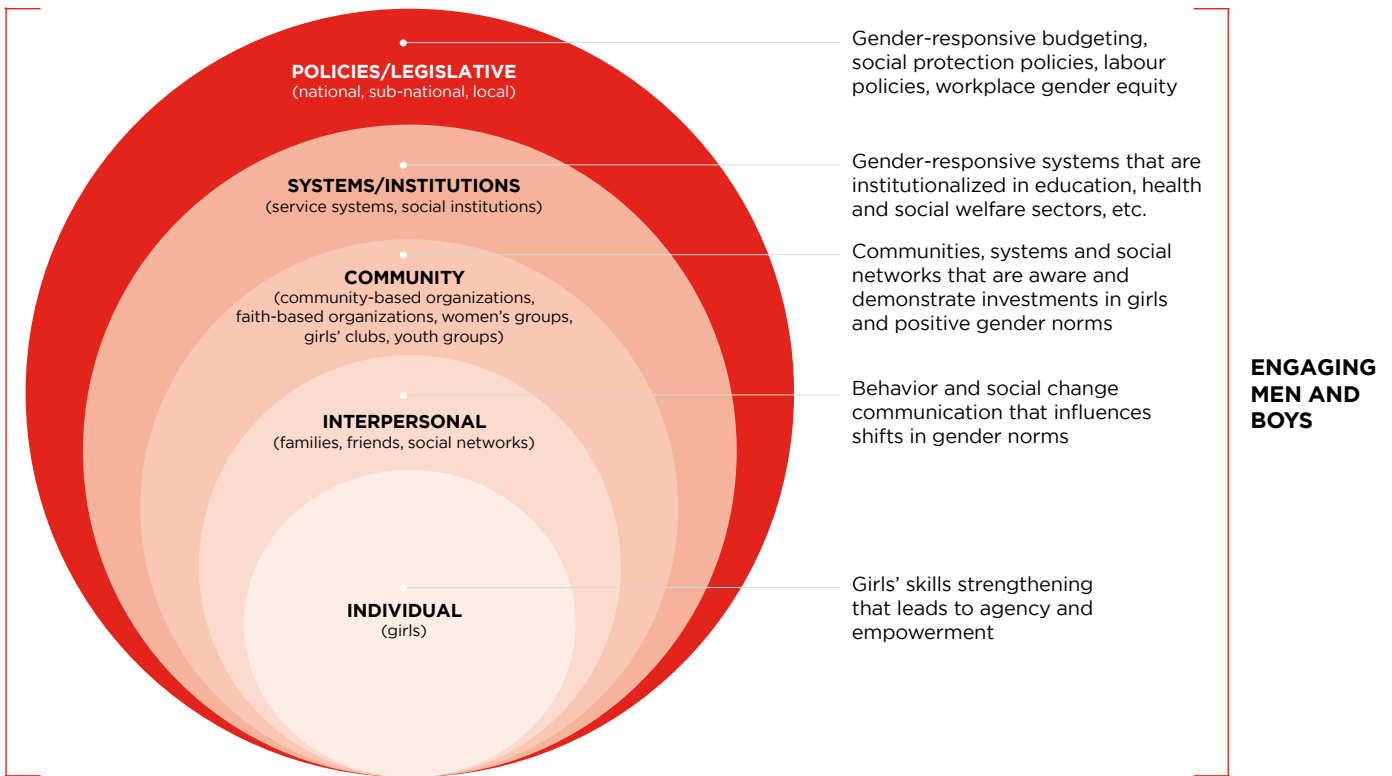
A transformative approach promotes gender equality by:

- Fostering critical examination of inequalities and gender roles, norms and dynamics
- Recognizing and strengthening positive norms that support equality and an enabling environment
- Promoting the relative position of women, girls, and marginalized groups, and
- Transforming the underlying social structures, policies, systems and broadly held social and gender norms that perpetuate and legitimize gender inequalities

Gender-transformative change is long-term, often generational, and needs sustained investments over time.

Evidence points to the need for complementary investments in macro-level policy, meso- and micro-level systems and community-level change for structural change in beliefs, norms, systems and institutions (*see figure 4 for the socio-ecological model and opportunities for gender-transformative programming*). In 2020, the Global Programme established the foundations to advance a gender-transformative agenda to end child marriage, which requires further capacity strengthening in operationalization and measurement work at national and sub-national levels.
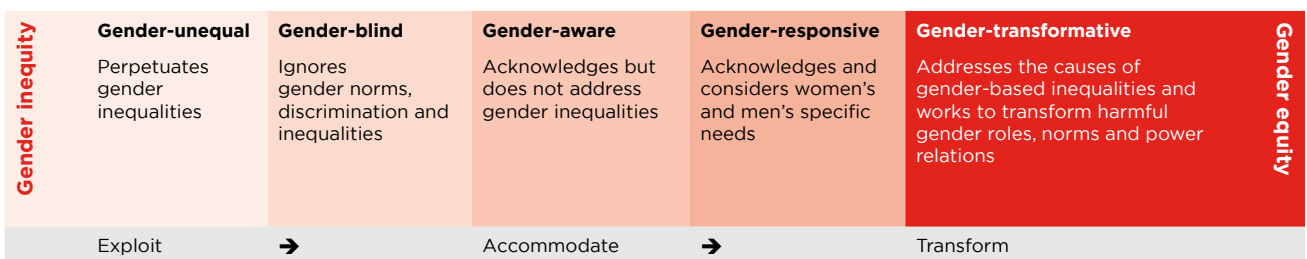
FIGURE 4. The socio-ecological model and opportunities for gender-transformative programming

POLICIES/LEGISLATIVE
(national, sub-national, local)

Gender-responsive budgeting, social protection policies, labour policies, workplace gender equity

SYSTEMS/INSTITUTIONS
(service systems, social institutions)

Gender-responsive systems that are institutionalized in education, health and social welfare sectors, etc.

COMMUNITY
(community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, women's groups, girls' clubs, youth groups)

Communities, systems and social networks that are aware and demonstrate investments in girls and positive gender norms

INTERPERSONAL
(families, friends, social networks)

Behavior and social change communication that influences shifts in gender norms

INDIVIDUAL
(girls)

Girls' skills strengthening that leads to agency and empowerment

ENGAGING MEN AND BOYS

Currently, country implementation of the programme covers a broad range of interventions. Some are 'gender-aware' or 'gender-sensitive', while others border on 'gender-responsive' and 'gender-transformative'.

The Global Programme recognizes the need to support pathways of transformative change along the 'gender equity continuum' (*see figure 5*) as an entry point to strengthen programme interventions.

FIGURE 5. The gender equity continuum

Gender inequity	Gender-unequal	Gender-blind	Gender-aware	Gender-responsive	Gender-transformative	Gender equity
	Perpetuates gender inequalities	Ignores gender norms, discrimination and inequalities	Acknowledges but does not address gender inequalities	Acknowledges and considers women's and men's specific needs	Addresses the causes of gender-based inequalities and works to transform harmful gender roles, norms and power relations	
	Exploit	➔	Accommodate	➔	Transform	

In 2020, while COVID-19 resulted in a reversal of gender equality and increased marginalization and vulnerability of adolescent girls, boys and communities, the Global Programme continued to support pathways for transformative change. For instance, the Global Programme's community support driven interventions ensured continuity of behaviour change messaging and social mobilization interventions on discriminatory gender norms. Similarly, interventions with adolescent girls continued to provide a lifeline of support to girls through life skills or support for adolescent girls' school attendance, thereby providing relevant pathways to transformative results through asset-building and opportunities for gender norm change.

Pathways to gender-transformative change with some promising examples

Individual level: Strengthening girls' skills improving agency and empowerment
- In Bangladesh, an online platform was used to act as a virtual safe space for adolescent girls to access life skills training, sexual and reproductive health information and services in a way that is safe, culturally appropriate and accessible to adolescent girls, particularly those facing high levels of marginalization, such as girls with disabilities and married girls. Of the 1,695 adolescent clubs that provided asset-building and COVID-19 messaging, close to 90,000 adolescent girls used the virtual safe space platform. For the physical safe space meetings adolescent club members gathered in smaller groups in open-air settings while maintaining social distancing rules [Gender-responsive]
- In Nepal, the Global Programme conducted a rapid assessment on the impact of COVID-19 in the Rupantaran financial and social skills programme, leading to adaptations to radio broadcasting that prioritized themes such as mental health and online safety, while ensuring a gender lens in all episodes of the now radio programme to spark discussions about gender norms and rethink and challenge prevalent power dynamics underpinning child marriage and gender discrimination in Nepal among the listeners [Gender-transformative, while noting that the programme also supports enabling interventions with parents, teachers and communities]

Interpersonal level: Behaviour and social change communication that influences shifts in gender norms
- In Mozambique, under the leadership of UNFPA, the mentorship manual and implementation guide targeting boys and young men with sexual and reproductive health and rights, HIV and gender-based violence information, life skills and information on gender equality and positive masculinities were developed and piloted in one selected district in Zambezia and Nampula provinces, with 6 mentors and 100 boys and young men participating. This intervention responded to external evaluations of the 'Rapariga Biz' empowerment programme recommending strengthening gender-transformative approaches by implementing gender synchronic programming through mentorship models for both girls and boys to build more just and equitable communities in the target districts [Gender-transformative]

Community level: Communities, systems and social networks that are aware and demonstrate investments in girls and positive gender norms
- In Ethiopia, in order to effectively engage boys and men, the Global Programme, in partnership with CARE International, implemented a social analysis and action (SAA) intervention which was designed to engage community members to challenge and change social and gender norms that negatively impact the lives of adolescent girls. The tool also allows for internal reflections on gender biases. The SAA intervention provided community members with opportunities to discuss alternative ways of thinking and behaving and increased their understanding of how some beliefs, attitudes and norms may have negative effects on health and wellbeing [Gender-transformative]

Systems/institutional level: Gender responsive systems that are institutionalized in education, health, and social welfare sectors, etc.
- When Burkina Faso reopened schools after three months of lockdown, the Global Programme facilitated the return of 32,956 adolescent girls to school through mobilization and by providing essential school materials [Gender-responsive]
- In Zambia, following six months of school closures due to COVID-19, most school-aged girls were unable to return to school due to lack of educational materials, including sanitary products. To prevent child marriage and adolescent pregnancies, the Global Programme worked with community action groups (CAGs) to enable 2,264 girls to return to primary school by providing school materials and re-usable sanitary pads [Gender-responsive]

- In Nepal, the Global Programme has supported the establishment of adolescent-friendly information corners in schools in programme areas. 44 health service sites were supported to deliver adolescent-friendly services following pre-certification criteria in coordination with the Health Facility Management Committee. Materials such as information booklets, posters, comic books and a TV screen were provided to these health service sites to comply with the set standards. With the objective of familiarizing adolescents with the services provided by the adolescent-friendly information corners and to ease barriers between adolescents and service providers site visits to the corners have taken place for over 50 per cent of the girls participating in the Rupantaran programme [Gender-responsive]

Generating data and evidence
- In an effort to strengthen gender-transformative approaches in large scale schemes, the Global Programme in India developed a technical note on 'Cash Plus for Adolescent Girl Empowerment Schemes in India'. The technical note outlines the limitations of schemes in addressing adolescent girl empowerment outcomes, including child marriage prevention and recommends evidence-based strategies through 'cash plus' interventions for gender-transformative change [Gender-responsive, with the vision to implement gender-transformative schemes]

Policy/legislative level: Gender-responsive budgeting, social protection policies, labour policies, workplace gender equity
- In Nepal, UNFPA and UNICEF continued providing sustained advocacy, technical and programmatic support for the implementation of the National Strategy on Ending Child Marriage, which has contributed towards a decline in national child marriage prevalence. In 2020, the Global Programme advocated for resources and support for action from local governments to implement activities to end child marriage through the onset of the pandemic. 51 municipalities have now allocated funds to support the implementation of the Rupantaran programme in their communities. On average Rs. 250,000, equivalent to US$ 2,500, was allocated by each municipality, making a total approximate contribution of US$ 100,000 [gender-responsive/-transformative, when investments are directed at adolescent-girl centred programme interventions in an enabling environment]

In 2020, while COVID-19 resulted in a reversal of gender equality and increased marginalization and vulnerability of adolescent girls, boys and communities, the Global Programme continued to support pathways for transformative change.

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Systematic approach to integrating gender-transformative programming into planning, implementation and measurement of Phase II

During the first year of Phase II implementation, the Global Programme supported the following strategies to advance gender-transformative results: technical guidance, staff capacity building, dedicated country technical assistance strategy from 2021, and monitoring gender-transformative indicators.

Technical guidance: The Global Programme developed seven technical notes on gender-transformative programming across the socio-ecological framework (*see section 4.4 on knowledge management and exchange for additional details*). The technical notes provide practical guidance for country programmes on reviewing and adjusting their interventions and strategies towards greater gender-transformative change during Phase II. In addition, the headquarters team organized a number of interactive webinars, 'open clinics' and mid-year reviews on pivoting so as to factor COVID-19 into the response to support country programmes.

Staff capacity building: In partnership with the Global Women's Institute at Georgetown University, UNFPA and UNICEF staff were trained through 'GenderPro', using a mix of online and face-to-face training sessions.[27] In addition, an online course on gender-transformative programming with a focus on harmful practices has been developed and will be launched in 2021.

Dedicated country technical assistance strategy (from 2021): The headquarters team designed a systematic approach to technical support through a three-pronged strategy, building on existing efforts: gender programmatic reviews and tailored training followed by documentation and dissemination of learning. The first set of gender reviews will be completed in 2021, covering Ethiopia, India, Niger, Burkina Faso and Mozambique.

Monitoring gender-transformative change: In line with the indicators in the Phase II results framework, the Global Programme began tracking and monitoring progress made at country level on gender-transformative change. Some countries reported initial achievements despite monitoring activities being hampered by travel and communication challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Global Programme will build on gender sensitive and responsive pathways, while recognizing transformative change is a long-term outcome.

STATEMENTS FROM GENDERPRO GRADUATES

"We have done well with integrating a gender-transformative approach in the programme design of Phase II, with GenderPro I am able to understand the 'how' to implement and track accountability."

Zemzem Shikur, Social Mobilization and Development Specialist, Ethiopia

"GenderPro has helped me to understand what intersectionality means and how to programme for those 'left behind' under the Global Programme."

Salmey Bebert, Child Protection Specialist, Niger

"The Nepal programme is delivering Rupantaran, a popular transformative package that we are institutionalizing in government and non-governmental systems. GenderPro has made me reflect on what is not working."

Apekchya Rana Khatri, Harmful Practices Expert, Nepal

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27   GenderPro, The Global Women's Institute, n.d., *Capacity Building Programme*, https://genderpro.gwu.edu/capacity-building-programme. For more information on the GenderPro course see UNFPA and UNICEF, 2021, *Capacity development for gender-transformative pro-gramming*, https://us19.campaign-archive.com/?u=dd1c3c629da2cf3d8050f4336&id=a2c117366b.

2.3 Grounded in human rights

The Global Programme applies a human rights-based approach to programming to protect, respect and fulfil human rights for all in accordance with the core components of equality and non-discrimination, quality for accessing services and accountability.[28] The following are examples of how this approach:

Reduces gaps in equity and equality: In 2020, the Global Programme supported interventions that provided adolescent girls, especially the most underserved and marginalized, with sexual and reproductive health information, life skills and education they need to claim their rights. In Ghana, the situation for the 'Kayayei', or female street porters, was directly targeted wherein they were provided with dignity kits and most of them were provided shelter and transportation back home during the pandemic. In Burkina Faso, 200 adolescent girls and their families, who were particularly affected by the insecurity of the situation in the country as well as COVID-19, received support in the form of a cash transfer to strengthen their autonomy and resilience. In India, the programme partnered with state governments and CSOs to extend social protection services to the most marginalized girls and their families and monitor their wellbeing. The regional offices for East and Southern Africa worked with country offices to re-programme their child marriage programmes in the COVID-19 context to ensure the continued delivery of services and that interventions reached the most negatively impacted during the pandemic. In nine focus countries, the Global Programme also partnered with the World Bank and other partners to collect data on the socio-economic effects of COVID-19 and used the evidence to strengthen its advocacy efforts. The programme also rolled out a technical note on leaving no one behind and monitoring tools to support the collection and reporting of disaggregated data for the identification and targeting of marginalized groups.

Relies on broad participation: The programme ensured meaningful participation by engaging girls, women, boys and men in dialogues that address harmful masculinities and gender norms and promoted youth-led platforms challenging social and gender norms around child marriage. The programme supported UNICEF's partnership with the African Council of Religious Leaders to equip multi-faith actors in six East African countries, including Uganda and Zambia,

to prevent, address and respond to cases of violence against children (including child marriage and female genital mutilation) during the pandemic.

Empowers both duty bearers and rights holders: The programme provided psychosocial support services to teachers, adolescent club facilitators and mentors in order to mitigate the secondary impacts of COVID-19 and build community resilience. During the pandemic, the programme also supported interventions to equip service providers, including nurses, teachers, psychosocial counsellors, child protection officers and police officers with information and skills on preventing and protecting girls against child marriage, COVID-19 and gender-based violence.

Is culturally sensitive: In Zambia, the programme engaged religious and traditional leaders in reviewing curriculum on age-appropriate sexuality education to ensure the rights of young people. In India, UNFPA adapted comprehensive sexuality education content through short films and multimedia digital packages for nearly 300,000 indigenous girls and boys in tribal residential schools presented in vernacular languages. In Yemen, where norms surrounding child marriage are very strong in the communities, the programme engaged community leaders, parents, men and boys through awareness raising activities on child marriage and the rights of girls that used culturally acceptable language and terminology.

Contributes to a climate conducive to human rights: The Global Programme convened national workshops in Burkina Faso to build consensus and advocate for the adoption of the revised Code for Persons and Family that raises the age of marriage to 18 for girls in line with international human rights frameworks. Further, UNFPA East and Southern Africa Regional Office worked with countries to integrate sexual and reproductive health and rights and gender issues within the Universal Periodic Review and in other human rights mechanisms through the development and roll-out of a series of virtual training modules on human rights. In Uganda, the programme promoted the human rights of girls through supporting the revision of the national guidelines on the prevention and management of adolescent pregnancy in school settings to include a provision for the re-entry of child mothers in schools. Thus, ensuring girls' right to education and knowledge are protected and respected in accordance with Universal Periodic Review recommendations.

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28   UNFPA, 2020, *Elevating Rights and Choices for All: Guidance Note for Applying a Human Rights Based Approach to Programming,* www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/2020_HRBA_guidance.pdf.

2.4 Addressing child marriage in humanitarian settings

One of the goals of Phase II of the Global Programme was to better articulate approaches to addressing child marriage in humanitarian settings, including for the Global Programme. Towards this end, the programme organized a global consultation in Jordan on the subject, right before the COVID-19 pandemic was declared. Bringing together United Nations, civil society and academic actors, the meeting took stock of existing initiatives and programmes, guidance and tools, and evidence on child marriage in humanitarian settings at global, regional and country levels. This was done within the humanitarian and development sectors wherein opportunities were identified to strengthen the response to child marriage in existing humanitarian mechanisms (both for programming and accountability) as well as to strengthen the linkages between programming in development settings and humanitarian settings. In addition, the consultation mapped a way forward for integrating actions to prevent and respond to child marriage in humanitarian settings in Phase II of the Global Programme and to support global, regional and national action in this area.

As a result, the Global Programme identified three priority areas of contribution, as laid out in the factsheet 'Preventing and responding to child marriage in humanitarian settings: The Global Programme approach'.[29] These are evidence and data generation, preparedness, prevention and resilience building and reinforcing programming responses during emergencies and protracted crises.

To help operationalize these priorities, the Global Programme, in consultation with humanitarian actors, developed a technical guide that sets out to identify a strategic approach for UNFPA, UNICEF and partners to prevent and respond to child marriage in humanitarian settings in different stages of crises.[30] It provides guidance to UNFPA and UNICEF country offices on how to prepare for and respond to child marriage in humanitarian settings, recognizing the current humanitarian architecture's strategies as well as development context responses to preventing child marriage and mitigating its effects on girls. It also identifies how to improve synergies between

actions taken in different settings, including at the humanitarian–development nexus. It draws on existing evidence and programme learning related to child marriage in both development and humanitarian settings.

2.5 Advocacy and influencing global policy

Child marriage remains prominent on the intergovernmental agenda, with significant contributions from the Global Programme. The United Nations Secretary General's 2020 report on child, early and forced marriage[31] presents an overview of progress made towards ending child, early and forced marriage worldwide. It highlights developments at the international and regional levels; legislative measures, policies and action plans; empowerment of girls; protective services; and research, all of which the Global Programme contributed significantly to. It recognizes promising efforts towards preventing child, early and forced marriage and protecting married girls in all regions of the world. The report also calls attention to several critical issues including discriminatory legal provisions and exceptions, informal unions and the situation for married girls.

Another notable engagement of the Global Programme within the global human rights arena was on the United Nations General Assembly resolution to end child, early and forced marriage adopted at the end of 2020 and co-led by the governments of Canada and Zambia. The resolution, which received the support of a total of 114 co-sponsoring Member States from around the world, highlights concerning trends in child, early and forced marriage emerging in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic – underpinned by early estimates produced by UNFPA on the potential impact of the pandemic on child marriage. It recognizes child, early and forced marriage as an abuse of human rights and a major obstacle to the fulfilment of women's and girls' potential by putting an end to their education. Such abuses of human rights have been shown to result in health complications and put the women and girls at higher risk of encountering discrimination and violence throughout their lives. It underscores that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these effects and calls upon the international community to take concrete action to maintain and accelerate progress to end child, early and forced marriage.[32]

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29   UNFPA and UNICEF, 2020, *Preventing and Responding to Child Marriage in Humanitarian Settings: The Global Programme approach,* www.unicef.org/documents/preventing-and-responding-child-marriage-humanitarian-settings-global-programme-approach.

30   UNFPA and UNICEF, 2020, *Addressing Child Marriage in Humanitarian Settings: Technical guide,* www.unicef.org/documents/addressing-child-marriage-humanitarian-settings.

31   United Nations, 2020, *Issue of child, early and forced marriage: Report of the Secretary-General,* https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3883396?ln=en.

32   Global Affairs Canada, 2020, *Canada and Zambia lead on UN resolution to end child, early and forced marriage,* www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/11/canada-and-zambia-lead-on-un-resolution-to-end-child-early-and-forced-marriage.html; United Nations General Assembly, 16 December 2020, *A/RES/75/167: Child, early and forced marriage,* https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/75/167.

UNFPA's flagship report, State of World Population, focused on harmful practices in 2020 and garnered significant attention for the need to end child marriage. 'Against My Will: Defying the practices that harm women and girls and undermine equality'[33] underscored that armed with knowledge, backed by international human rights agreements and buoyed by new commitments by governments and civil society we have the power to defy the forces that perpetuate harm and to realize a world where every woman and girl is free to chart her own future.

UNFPA and UNICEF are also actively contributing to the Generation Equality Forum, a global acceleration platform for gender equality, arranged as a follow-up 25 years after the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action for gender equality.[34] UNFPA is leading the action coalition on championing bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health and rights, while UNICEF is leading the work of the coalition on technology and innovation for gender equality.[35] Specific proposals and demands from these action coalitions include:

Championing bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health and rights
Vision:
- Women and girls in all their diversity are empowered to exercise their sexual and reproductive health and rights and make autonomous decisions about their bodies free from coercion, violence and discrimination
- Individuals enjoy available, accessible, acceptable and high-quality sexual and reproductive health and rights information, education and services
- Civil society, feminists and youth-led organizations and movements are strengthened to advance sexual and reproductive health and rights
- More governments protect, promote, fulfil and invest in sexual and reproductive health and rights, including as part of universal health coverage

Priority actions:
- Increase delivery of comprehensive sexuality education in- and out-of-school
- Eliminate barriers to contraception
- Increase knowledge of rights and changed gender roles and eliminate stereotypes and discrimination

Narrowing the gender digital divide with and for girls
Launch bolder actions with and for the diversity of girls to equitably use and create digital technologies, given the gender digital divide
- Promote the key advocacy narrative that education and adolescent girls' needs and opportunities as well amplify in communications adolescent girls' voices and solutions.[36]
- Links to the Global Programme:
  - Digital access and learning/ skills can be the great equalizer in education that will unlock transformational change on a global scale. The Global Programme will strengthen digital technologies for addressing learning and education outcomes disrupted by COVID-19 within the context of life skills interventions implemented in all the 12 countries and through efforts to support girls' school attendance and retention e.g., 'Learning Passport'[37] utilizing the education sector
  - Strengthen use of digital technology in child protection and sexual and reproductive health services e.g., use of U-report, SMS for promoting information, education and communication and referral services

33   UNFPA, 2020, *State of the World Population: Against My Will*, www.unfpa.org/swop-2020.

34   For more information see Generation Equality Forum, n.d. *Accelerating Progress for Gender Equality*, https://forum.generationequality.org/.

35   Generation Equality Forum, n.d., *Action Coalitions*, https://forum.generationequality.org/action-coalitions; UNFPA, 2020, *What's next? Generation Equality and Bodily Autonomy,* www.unfpa.org/events/whats-next-generation-equality-and-bodily-autonomy; UNICEF, 2020, *UNICEF for Generation Equality,* www.unicef.org/documents/unicef-generation-equality.

36   UNICEF's advocacy efforts build on its grounded work in addressing the digital divide in education and skills through a portfolio on 'S4G: girl-centered skills development, a Learning Agenda' and in amplifying the Voices and Solutions of adolescent girls and young women through digital technologies, see: www.unicef.org/documents/unicef-generation-equality.

37   UNICEF, 2020, *UNICEF and Microsoft launch global learning platform to help address COVID-19 education crisis*, www.unicef.org/press-releases/unicef-and-microsoft-launch-global-learning-platform-help-address-covid-19-education.

2.6 Coordination with other United Nations initiatives

The Global Programme provides an example of how the United Nations can work together at global, regional and country level to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 5.3 which aims to eliminate all harmful practices, including child marriage and female genital mutilation.

The Global Programme also ensures alignment to other initiatives and programmes to end child marriage, including the Spotlight Initiative. The Spotlight Initiative is a global, multi-year partnership between the European Union and the United Nations to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls by 2030. The Spotlight Initiative aims to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, with a particular focus on domestic and family violence, sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices, femicide, trafficking in human beings and sexual and economic exploitation.

 United Nations partners leverage the initiative to advocate for what an investment in gender equality can achieve and the need for donors to continue and scale up funding for gender equality and sexual reproductive health and rights across the United Nations system. UNFPA and UNICEF are among four United Nations agencies core to the initiative. In addition to the other

core agencies UNDP and UN Women, the initiative is expected to engage additional United Nations agencies, CSOs and partners at regional and country levels in the implementation. In Africa the initiative has two components: a country-level component covering eight countries (Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Uganda and Zimbabwe); and a regional component. The regional component of the Spotlight Initiative for Africa, officially launched in October 2020, serves as a bridge between the global and the country levels — leveraging the unique knowledge of the countries in the region and regional specificities and dynamics.

Programmes and activities addressing child marriage for the regional component of the Spotlight Initiative for Africa are implemented under the framework of the Global Programme. This three-year partnership, with an initial contribution of US$ 8.54 million, further expands the Global Programme's influence in Africa in five countries (Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria and Zimbabwe) to focus on three outcomes: legislation and policies, quality and reliable data, and support to CSOs including community-based organizations and women's movements. The regional component of the Spotlight Initiative for Africa, through the Global Programme implementation framework, is also leveraging existing continent-wide initiatives such as the African Union campaign to end child marriage to deliver on the activities listed in *table 1*.

TABLE 1. African Union campaign on ending child marriage: programme activities and partnerships

Programme activities	Partnerships
• Accountability framework to monitor national level commitments and action, including peer-review mechanisms and high-level review meetings • Drafting new/strengthening existing legislation around child marriage • Enhanced advocacy through high-level panels at strategic forums, e.g., the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, the United Nations General Assembly and European Union forums • Strengthen capacities of national statistical officers by developing and rolling out training on how to produce and report on child marriage prevalence data • Support the roll-out of the African Union campaign to end child marriage, including coordination, implementation and monitoring • Joint technical assistance and monitoring together with the African Union Commission • South-to-South interactions to promote exchange of knowledge, evidence and best practices	• African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage • African Committee of Experts on the Rights Welfare of the Child • The Special Rapporteur and the African Union Goodwill Ambassador on Ending Child Marriage • Regional economic communities (Economic Community of West African States [ECOWAS], East African Community [EAC], Southern Africa Development Community [SADC]) • Regional civil society organizations, women's rights and youth-led organizations

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In November 2020, the Global Programme collaborated with the African Union campaign to end child marriage and the African Union Commission Youth Division and the Department of Social Affairs to organize an ideation workshop, a social media campaign and an intergenerational dialogue with duty bearers. These events and activities aimed to enhance the role of young people through a continental initiative in ending child marriage. The events supported innovative regional youth-led initiatives to amplify young women's and girls' engagement in policy dialogue and initiatives ending child marriage and harmful practices. A total of 200 young people participated in these events virtually, with the aim of enhancing awareness and advocacy on the interconnected driving forces of child marriage and the identification of scalable solutions for the prevention, elimination and response to child marriage.

Expanding the Global Programme's contribution to ending child marriage in Latin America and the Caribbean Region

Child marriage is a global issue, and the Latin American and Caribbean region has seen little to no progress in reducing the prevalence over the past 25 years. To fulfil its truly global function, the Global Programme continued to expand its influence by coordinating with regional and country offices of UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women in Latin America and the Caribbean under the joint regional initiative to end child marriage and early unions by: a) sharing knowledge and technical tools, b) providing technical assistance to country offices, c) working on joint communication and visibility, d) strengthening partnerships to end child marriage and e) advancing regional and global advocacy. The regional initiative and partners achieved important advocacy outcomes during the XIV Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.[38] UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women and Aliadas (a multi-stakeholder platform of partners and allies) advocated with data and evidence to raise awareness, mobilize support and put the issue on the regional agenda. In the resulting Santiago Commitment, governments in the region agreed to promote legislation, policies, action plans and programmes to prevent and address 'forced marriage and cohabitation imposed on girls and adolescents'. With projections indicating the region having the second highest rate of child marriage by 2030, the Santiago Commitment is a new instrument to move from commitments to actions and accountability. In a joint op-ed, the Regional Directors of the three agencies emphasised the urgency to work together to generate political, social and economic commitments.[39]

The joint regional programme also successfully incorporated a child marriage indicator in the Latin America and the Caribbean Gender Equality Observatory of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the primary body for monitoring progress on the SDGs in the region. In addition, the Global Programme in coordination with regional offices, supported the development of national action plans to end child marriage in Belize and the Dominican Republic. The programme also collaborated with the UNFPA Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office and Girls Not Brides in the region to adapt a manual on youth participation to end child marriage to the region (to be published in Spanish, English and Portuguese). The manual aims to boost meaningful youth engagement and participation to end child marriage and early unions by embracing an intersectional approach.

The support to the Latin America and the Caribbean offices by the Global Programme takes the form of technical assistance (no financial assistance) and has been discussed in the Global Programme Steering Committee under the overall ask to the Global Programme Support Unit to expand the programme's impact beyond the 12 programme focus countries. Global Programme staff work primarily with regional advisors in the Latin America and Caribbean region (funded by core resources of UNFPA and UNICEF) to bring Latin American and Caribbean countries into the fold. UNFPA and UNICEF staff as well as their government and CSO partners are included in Global Programme mailing lists, receive newsletters and technical notes, are invited to and have participated in global webinars and open clinics and represented at global high-level events. The Global Programme also contributed to trainings on addressing child marriage in the region organized by regional advisors (including countries part of the Spotlight Initiative as well as beyond). Further, Global Programme technical documents, including the global theory of change and technical notes, are being translated into Spanish to make them more widely available. Finally, the Global Programme has reinforced technical partnerships and capacity building with CSOs in the region through regional colleagues.

2.7 Advancing global research

In the last 20 years, research on child marriage prevalence, causes and effects has seen tremendous expansion in the geographies and subpopulations covered, the documentation of trends, the range of data sources tapped and the standardization and regularity of the measures used.[40] However, the evidence base on the evaluation and implementation science of child marriage interventions remains limited. The Global Programme is working to address these limitations through its newly developed research strategy.[41] The strategy aims to ensure that quality evidence can inform national and subnational policies and programmes and improve their effectiveness in preventing child marriage

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38   United Nations, 2020, *XIV Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean*, https://conferenciamujer.cepal.org/14/en.

39   El País, 2020, *El matrimonio infantil sigue negando oportunidades a las niñas de América Latina y el Caribe*, https://elpais.com/elpais/2020/01/28/planeta_futuro/1580210751_841277.html.

40   UNFPA and UNICEF, 2021, *Evolution in the Evidence Base on Child Marriage 2000–2019*, www.unicef.org/documents/evolution-evidence-base-child-marriage-2000-2019.

41   UNFPA and UNICEF, 2021, *Child Marriage Research Strategy: For Phase II of the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage*, https://www.unicef.org/documents/child-marriage-research-strategy.

and supporting married girls in scalable, sustainable, rights-based and gender-transformative ways. The strategy also supports the Global Programme's aims of making enhanced contributions to the global knowledge base as a global good. Finally, the strategy supports improved accountability for results in the Global Programme, particularly at the outcome and impact levels.

The Global Programme also made progress towards ensuring research and evidence coordination and uptake beyond the programme. UNFPA, UNICEF and Girls Not Brides have launched the Child Marriage Research to Action Network (the CRANK) with the objectives of providing a platform for a better coordinated and harmonized global research agenda on child marriage and for encouraging the uptake of research by policy makers and practitioners. The CRANK brings child marriage researchers, practitioners, and policy makers together every three months to share and discuss the latest evidence on priority learning topics. It is also a knowledge management mechanism to track ongoing and upcoming research by the network members, monitor patterns and identify gaps.

In 2020, a meta-review commissioned by the Global Programme was finalized, covering 386 articles from 2000 to 2019 to shed light on what approaches work, especially at scale and sustainably, to prevent child marriage in low- and middle-income countries. The meta-analysis identified only seven mappings of programme implementation, which provide a limited understanding of the scope, range, challenges, scale or sustainability of the hundreds of child marriage programmes that are being implemented in low- and middle-income countries, most of which are not formally evaluated.[42]

Nevertheless, a few takeaways have emerged. Compared to programmes in the early 2000s, current child marriage programmes have a more specific focus on child marriage, especially in the context of national action plans. Their approach remains comprehensive, and as they are mostly operated by non-governmental organizations rather than governments, they are small in scale and face significant implementation challenges on costs, capacity, scale-up and sustainability. Equally, there is emerging evidence that even heroic multi-sectoral coordination efforts on the ground have met with major challenges. Single component interventions were much more likely to be at scale and sustainable than multicomponent interventions. Interventions that support girls' schooling through cash or in-kind transfers

show the clearest pattern of success in preventing child marriage. Asset or cash transfers conditional on delaying marriage show mixed success depending on context, and unconditional cash transfers intended for poverty mitigation show no impacts on age at marriage. The enhancement of girls' own human capital as a compelling pathway to delaying marriage is supported by a high share of positive results among the few studies that have assessed an exclusive focus on life skills, livelihoods and gender rights training for girls. Targeted life skills and livelihoods training and favourable job markets show consistent positive results in delaying marriage.

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42   UNFPA and UNICEF, 2021, *Evolution in the Evidence Base on Child Marriage 2000–2019*, www.unicef.org/documents/evolution-evidence-base-child-marriage-2000-2019.

This new evidence has implications for child marriage programming. The results suggest that actors working on child marriage need to more proactively strategize partnerships with large scale school-related cash transfer programmes, identify scalable school- and community-based platforms for female-centred life skills and training and influence employment focused gender-responsive macro-economic policy initiatives to fully harness the potential of these initiatives to address child marriage at scale. The success of demand side interventions to promote girls' schooling through cash and in-kind support begs the question of the potential positive effects of supply side interventions for girls' schooling, such as large government initiatives increasing the number of secondary schools; improving transportation options for girls to get to school; expanding the number of female teachers; or improving the quality and skillset of girls' education.

Taking the agenda forward, it is equally important to assess the common structural factors that reduce or eliminate child marriage. To this end, aggregate-level trend analyses are needed on the relationship between macro-level demographic, economic, educational and employment shifts and shifts in child marriage. These analyses are essential to enable actors working on ending child marriage to leverage the vast majority of policies and large-scale programmes and resource investments that have so far been beyond its purview and reach. Assessing the macro- and meso-levels factors that can lead to large-scale change is also essential for the child marriage community to generate research not just for advocacy, but for a more concerted focus on sustainable implementation.

Based on research and learning from the first phase of the programme, a number of changes were made to the design of the Global Programme for Phase II. These included an emphasis on gender-transformative approaches, simultaneous action on social norms and discriminatory structures, addressing poverty drivers, and sharpening the focus on child marriage in humanitarian settings. In order to apply the latest evidence to programming at a country level, the Global Programme developed a number of technical notes, notably on life skills, girls' empowerment and gender-transformative programming. Despite setbacks created by the COVID-19 pandemic, most countries were able to place increased focus on advancing gender-transformative interventions that empower girls through life skills training and education, encourage critical reflection in communities and among men and boys on harmful norms and masculinities and link to social protection initiatives.

During the year, UNFPA and UNICEF in partnership with the University of California San Diego, conducted four research studies on the drivers of child marriage and published a research compendium of findings and recommendations for implementation and to strengthen the understanding of drivers of child marriage among country offices as well as other programmers, researchers and organizations working on ending child marriage. In addition, six webinars were conducted with implementing partners during the year to disseminate and discuss various research findings and their implications for the Global Programme.

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PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE AGAINST THE RESULTS FRAMEWORK

TABLE 2. Key lessons and results

Key lessons in 2020	Translated into results
COVID-19 created an urgent need for flexibility and innovation including in mentoring and counselling – through e.g. smaller groups, outdoor spaces, radio and mobile-based outreach	Over **4.1 million adolescent girls** participated in life skills and comprehensive sexuality education interventions
Digital engagement can help scale the transmission of messaging, essential information and life skills mentoring to girls, boys and communities – quality assurance is critical for truly equipping girls with skills and support, and for sustained norm change	**Over 6.3 million boys and men** reached with messages around harmful masculinities and gender norms
Education as a protective factor against child marriage was heavily disrupted – more investment is needed in maintaining access and quality during crises	**Over 160,000 adolescent girls** were supported to enrol and/or remain in primary or secondary school
Access to and uptake of services became more challenging precisely when gender-based violence, child protection and health needs became more acute – health and protection services must be seen as and included in essential services	**1,150 service delivery points** were supported to provide girl-responsive services. However, number of girls accessing services directly supported by the Global Programme decreased by half from previous years, from 1.6 million to 800,000

This chapter presents Global Programme results under the three intermediate and six immediate outcomes of the programme, followed by sections on challenges, lessons and innovations (including COVID-19 adaptations) and next steps across outcome areas. The chapter reflects on how the Global Programme adapted to the realities created by the COVID-19 pandemic throughout 2020. The limitations on in-person meetings as a result of pandemic control measures prompted the programme to embrace digital and other solutions that did not require direct face-to-face interactions. The programme partnered with local groups and leveraged resources to ensure that marginalized groups were still reached. The programmatic pivot towards digital solutions had the effect that some programme results far exceeded the targets for the year.

TABLE 3. Global Programme intermediate outcomes

Three intermediate outcomes[43]

1000 Adolescent girls at risk of and affected by child marriage are effectively making their own informed decisions and choices regarding marriage, education and sexual and reproductive health	**2000** Relevant sectoral systems and institutions effectively respond to the needs of adolescent girls and their families in targeted Global Programme areas	**3000** Enhanced legal and political response to prevent child marriage and to support pregnant, married, divorced or widowed adolescent girls

TABLE 4. Global Programme immediate outcomes

Six immediate outcomes

1100 **Intensive support to the most** marginalized girls Enhanced knowledge, education and life skills, and attitudes of marginalized girls including in humanitarian contexts, on matters such as their rights, relationships, sexual and reproductive health and financial literacy	**1200** **Family and community environment** Adolescent boys, families, traditional and religious leaders, community groups and other influencers demonstrate more gender-equitable attitudes and support for girls' rights	**2100** **System strengthening** Increased capacity of education, health, gender-based violence and child protection systems to deliver coordinated, quality programmes and services that are responsive to the needs of adolescent girls and their families, including in humanitarian contexts	**2200** **Poverty drivers** Increased capacity of national and sub-national social protection, poverty reduction and economic empowerment programmes and services to respond to the needs of the poorest adolescent girls and their families, including in humanitarian contexts	**3100** **Laws and policies** Enhanced capacity of governments to coordinate and implement national and sub-national action plans and systems to end child marriage	**3200** **Data and evidence** Increased capacity of governments and civil society organizations to generate, disseminate and use quality and timely evidence to inform policy and programme design, track progress and document lessons

43   For the full results framework, see UNFPA and UNICEF, 2019, *Global Programme Phase II Results Framework*, www.unicef.org/media/65346/file.

Output-level data is generated through routine monitoring and shared annually, while outcome-level reporting relies on various surveys and other sources of data and is done at periodic intervals. The programme monitoring mechanisms track and report both results that can be attributed to the Global Programme as well as results that are leveraged by the programme.

This report highlights leveraged activities and results of the Spotlight Initiative along with leveraged social protection schemes that are implemented by partners. The sub-sections on life skills training, education support, evidence generation and systems strengthening, only report results directly attributable to the Global Programme.

TABLE 5. Output indicator performances

Summary of output indicator performance (2020)

Indicator	Target	Result	Per cent achieved
Indicator 1111: Number of adolescent girls (aged 10-19) who actively participated in life skills or comprehensive sexuality education interventions in programme areas	3,978,626	4,106,426	103%
Indicator 1121: Number of girls (aged 10-19) supported by the programme to enrol and/or remain in primary or secondary school	381,542	160,478	42%
Indicator 1211: Number of boys and men actively participating in group education/dialogues that address harmful masculinities and gender norms	399,287	6,351,577	1,591%
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	2,941,474	20,444,685	695%
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	18,605,951	78,438,433	280%
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	32,907	193,255	587%
Indicator 1231: Number of civil society organizations newly mobilized in support of challenging social norms and promoting gender equality by the Global Programme	261	79	19%
Indicator 2121: Number of primary/secondary/non-formal schools in programme areas providing quality gender-friendly education that meets minimum standards	626	1,081	177%
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	2,529	1,150	48%
Indicator 2211: Number of partnerships (both formal and informal) established to deliver adolescent-responsive social protection, poverty reduction, and economic empowerment programmes and services	36	48	133%
Indicator 3111: Number of policies or legal instruments addressing child marriage drafted, proposed or adopted at national and sub-national level with Global Programme support	50	10	20%
Indicator 3211: Number of generated evidence and knowledge that focus on what works to end child marriage	38	14	37%
Indicator 3212: Number of generated evidence and knowledge that apply a gender analysis	21	4	19%
Indicator 3221: Number of South-to-South cooperation (conferences, expert visits, peer consultations, study tours, communities of practice) supported	10	7	70%

Some main points to note regarding programme performance in 2020, given the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Lockdowns and school closures had negative effects on programme implementation
- Country-level results frequently deviated sharply from targets in this unpredictable year
- Activities based on mass media were relatively less affected by the pandemic, and these could be maintained and expanded in most Global Programme countries
- Community-level work with adolescent girls, boys and men and dialogues with communities and leaders showed mixed results. Some countries were able to adapt to the pandemic and switch from face-to-face to digital platforms and radio, while other countries with poorer digital infrastructure were less successful in adapting community-level work during the pandemic
- The digital divide was apparent at multiple levels: between countries; between urban, rural and remote areas; between better-off and poorer households; and in terms of the digital gender divide between girls and boys. For example, in some contexts, adolescent girls have less access to mobile phones, radios and TVs than their brothers, which affects the possibility of their ability to participate in digital activities including online learning
- In some countries and regions, the pandemic offered opportunities to step up advocacy, since policy makers were traveling less and became more accessible
- While many planned studies and research initiatives were delayed, the Global Programme supported a significant number of studies and knowledge products related to COVID-19. Research partners showed flexibility in adapting their research methods to online and distance modalities
- COVID-19 brought into focus the intersectionality between gender-based violence, mental health and adolescent empowerment. This area requires informed programme design in the coming years

Intermediate outcome 1000: Adolescent girls at risk of and affected by child marriage are effectively making their own informed decisions and choices regarding marriage, education, sexual and reproductive health

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Despite COVID-19 restrictions, the Global Programme continued to reach adolescent girls with information, skills and support networks to enable them to make effective choices about their lives, understand their rights and express their opinions. To a large extent, life skills interventions offered a lifeline of communication to adolescent girls unable to attend school. Focusing on changing harmful masculinities, attitudes towards girls and gender roles, the programme was able to raise awareness and understanding in communities and among parents, men and boys, traditional and religious leaders and other 'gate keepers' about the harmful effects of child marriage and gender inequality through critical messaging during COVID-19.

Intermediate outcome 1000 focuses specifically on married and unmarried girls. Accordingly, the data collection and reporting tools for the relevant indicators were designed to record disaggregated data by age and marital status. However, countries did not report output data disaggregated by marital status. The programme will address this and other data and monitoring challenges in 2021 in a consultation with country offices.

3.1 Providing intensive support to marginalized girls

> *Close to 4.3 million adolescent girls were reached with life skills, comprehensive sexuality education, education support and services to prevent child marriage in 2020.*

The Global Programme used multiple approaches to create and expand opportunities for adolescent girls' knowledge, skills, education and training and limit the constraints to economic empowerment that compel girls and their families to choose child marriage and early childbearing.

Life skills and comprehensive sexuality education

Multiple approaches were used to reach out to adolescent girls: face-to-face life skills education in community settings before the pandemic or where COVID-19 restrictions were less restrictive/eased; digital platforms with adapted life skills training and comprehensive sexuality education curriculum; and multi-media channels such as radio and television.

TABLE 6. Indicator 1111

Country	Indicator 1111: Number of adolescent girls (aged 10-19) who actively participated in life skills or comprehensive sexuality education interventions in programme areas, disaggregated by age and disability									
						2020				
	2015	**2016 Result**	**2017 Result**	**2018 Result**	**2019 Result**	**Target**	**Result**	**10-14 years**	**15-19 years**	**With disabilities**
Bangladesh	16,169	93,166	87,024	87,024	89,974	209,086	88,770	30,230	58,540	3,633
Burkina Faso	7,637	14,977	34,907	58,341	310,042	156,529	112,123	49,835	62,288	151
Ethiopia	82,400	51,239	75,733	97,924	261,244	93,373	152,782	61,113	91,669	
Ghana	27,479	85,990	16,931	9,067	20,046	32,987	27,274	12,273	15,001	36
India	15,000	161,789	628,902	2,285,980	2,496,395	3,246,395	3,610,573	1,552,546	2,058,027	
Mozambique	14,636	16,200	127,714	221,234	51,676	14,616	4,185	2,205	1,980	
Nepal	6,047	7,566	9,666	8,297	4,175	28,000	3,533	2,123	1,410	
Niger	11,642	21,885	17,000	66,688	9,505	9,940	12,471	3,453	9,018	105
Sierra Leone	23,331	4,398	12,381	14,738	26,192	25,000	12,000	6,243	5,757	119
Uganda	2,516	71,892	24,515	114,429	135,690	155,690	74,335	45,032	29,303	
Yemen	NA	3,660	5,569	5,197	5,324	1,170	2,457	1,115	1,342	49
Zambia	4,299	2,778	9,851	3,575	3,447	5,840	5,923	3,923	2,000	121
Total	211,156	535,540	1,050,193	2,972,494	3,413,710	3,978,626	4,106,426	1,770,091	2,336,335	4,214

Country examples

The programme in Niger used a surveillance approach of door-to-door outreach visits to prevent child marriages and to recruit new adolescent girls to community clubs during the year. While taking into account COVID-19 prevention measures, 11,271 adolescent girls were recruited, received life skills training and sexual and reproductive health information. This included 5,679 girls recruited from the door-to-door outreach activities in 97 new villages, led by 194 adolescent leaders who raised awareness on child marriage among their peers. Supervised by qualified community facilitators, the adolescent leaders represent village girls in child protection committees where they ensure that girls' interests are taken into account. The door-to-door approach makes it possible to reach otherwise 'invisible' girls, in particular girls with disabilities, those who have had a child out of wedlock and those who cannot, due to their workload, attend life skills sessions.

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Global Programme in Ethiopia quickly reached out to the programme in Nepal to learn how the Rupantaran social and financial skills package for adolescents was adapted for radio. As a result, Ethiopia was also able to

turn its life skills training curriculum into radio sessions that were broadcasted to targeted programme areas. The radio sessions supplemented the downsized adolescent clubs in the communities to ensure continuity and reach of adolescent girls with health information and life skills education.

In India, UNICEF established the UNILEARN online career guidance portal in 12 states targeted by the programme. UNILEARN supports the transition to work for in- and out-of-school adolescent girls and provides information on employment opportunities and social protection support programmes. In addition, UNFPA launched an online platform facilitated by 8,700 doctors and nurses to provide sexual and reproductive health information and services to adolescent girls in four states and adapted comprehensive sexuality education for indigenous girls and boys from tribal residential schools in Odisha. In addition to youth-facilitated life skills education sessions in communities and schools, more than 3.6 million adolescent girls actively participated in asset-building and sexuality education sessions in the country.

The regional offices of the Middle East and North Africa and the Arab States supported Yemen and other country offices in the region to ensure enhanced programme focus on empowering and supporting adolescent girls at risk of and affected by child marriage through life skills and health and rights information. Through virtual meetings, webinars with CSOs, practitioners and academics and through inputs to workplans, the two agencies supported country offices in strengthening community dialogue, parenting and community awareness interventions and advocacy with governments to ensure a protective and enabling family and community environment for girls' empowerment.

Formal and non-formal education support

2020 results for support to girls' education were affected negatively by the COVID-19 pandemic. The widespread and long-term closures of schools in all countries (timeframe varying) had a particularly detrimental impact on the school attendance of girls and on efforts to get girls back to school. Despite the challenging environment, in some countries, the Global Programme was able to support continued education of adolescent girls using remote learning platforms and provision of education support tools aimed at ensuring girls return to school once they reopen.

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Despite the challenging environment, in some countries, the Global Programme was able to support continued education of adolescent girls using remote learning platforms and provision of education support tools aimed at ensuring girls return to school once they reopen.

TABLE 7. Indicator 1121

Country	Indicator 1121: Number of girls (aged 10-19) supported by the programme to enrol and/or remain in primary or secondary school, disaggregated by age								
	2015	2016 Result	2017 Result	2018 Result	2019 Result	2020			
						Target	Result	10-14 years	15-19 years
Burkina Faso	937	1,105	12,124	28,958	27,197	7,752	32,956		32,956
Ethiopia	4,460	5,415	3,112	73,771	58,580	38,121			
Ghana					1,000	1,017	1,029	1,003	26
India	3,800	131,888			217,731	265,731	114,740	49,338	65,402
Mozambique	264		2,358	2,532	1,576	1,756	1,226		1,226
Nepal		9,804	2,621	7,493	7,908	9,908	7,716	7,639	77
Niger	714	19,088	43,245			4,500	276	201	75
Sierra Leone	7,011	7,608	1,188	160		250			
Uganda		6,286	2,568	8,744	23,108	22,886	183	146	37
Yemen					273		88	16	72
Zambia						2,163	2,264	827	1,438
Total	**33,355**	**218,565**	**67,216**	**121,658**	**337,373**	**381,542**	**160,478**	**59,169**	**101,309**

Country examples

In Nepal, a total of 7,716 adolescent girls enrolled in non-formal education programmes were due to graduate in June 2020. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the nationwide lockdown, the classes had to be suspended. Once local administrations allow schools and non-formal centres to reopen, the girls will receive intensive support to complete the course with the target of mainstreaming at least 60 per cent of the girls into formal schools.

In Zambia, following six months of school closures due to COVID-19, the majority of school-aged girls were unable to return to school due to lack of education materials, including sanitary products. To prevent child marriages and adolescent pregnancies, the Global Programme worked with community action groups to enable 2,264 girls to return to primary school by providing school materials and re-usable sanitary pads. A survey conducted during the school closure showed that less than 20 per cent of children in the country accessed technology-based distance learning (e-learning or through TV or radio), with the majority relying on paper-based take-home assignments and textbooks. Only 8 per cent of the surveyed children agreed that they could learn from home as well as or better than at school.

Further, half of the surveyed teachers never contacted their students during school closures and 29 per cent of the schools (143 out of surveyed 500 schools) reported new cases of pregnancies among students, which is a major risk factor for dropout and child marriage.

3.2 Enhancing the family and community environment

Over 6.3 million boys and men have engaged in group education or dialogues that address harmful masculinities and gender norms.

While being mindful of the effectiveness of sustained, interactive, face-to-face community-based dialogues and COVID-19 restrictions, the Global Programme ensured continuity of behaviour change messaging on positive gender and social norms. The programme made extensive use of multi-media channels and online platforms to create opportunities for individuals to actively challenge harmful norms and promote healthy relationships, positive masculinities and gender equality in 2020. Where still possible, the programme continued to engaged community members through in-person dialogues and training.

Engagement with boys and men

Gender-sensitive or gender-responsive approaches to engaging with duty bearers, communities, and adolescents continued in all twelve Global Programme countries using various platforms to leverage government programmes as well as introducing additional means of engaging with men and boys. Given the restrictions on mobility and face-to-face engagement during the COVID-19 pandemic in many countries, the extensive use of traditional and social media and other online platforms increased engagement in conversations and messaging with men and boys.

TABLE 8. Indicator 1211

Country	Indicator 1211: Number of boys and men actively participating in group education/dialogues that address harmful masculinities and gender norms					
	2019	2020				
		Target	Result	15-19 years	20-24 years	>25 years
Bangladesh	159,029	260,029	44,529	12,416	23,057	9,056
Burkina Faso	76,151	35,000	176,775	61,871	70,710	44,194
Ethiopia	37,481	26,199	178,501		17,420	161,081
Ghana	792	3,149	4,986	2,144	1,845	997
India			5,900,558	2,072,647	3,827,911	
Mozambique	742	3,000	1,295	527	743	25
Nepal	4,100	16,500	432	122	159	151
Niger		8,940	6,296		826	5,470
Sierra Leone		10,750	5,276	2,826	2,450	
Uganda		30,000	28,000	175		27,825
Yemen	1,000	570	604	302	302	
Zambia		5,150	4,325	2,495	1,771	59
Total	**159,029**	**3,399,287**	**6,351,577**	**2,155,525**	**3,947,194**	**248,858**

Country examples

In Burkina Faso, the programme reached over 175,000 boys and men, including through 34 *'écoles de maris'* (husbands' schools) to support positive masculinities and behavioural changes in their communities. An initiative called 'grâce à nous' (thanks to us) was created to train boys and men in the husbands' schools on issues of positive masculinities and their role in protecting girls from child marriage and female genital mutilation.

In India, the use of integrated digital platforms that promote two-way communication provided an opportunity to engage men and boys in understanding social norms and masculinity constructed through patriarchal ideas.

Once COVID-19 restrictions were eased in Sierra Leone, the programme trained 60 male advocacy peer educators to engage men and boys in districts with high child marriage prevalence to shift their attitudes and address child marriage. The involvement of the male advocacy peer educators and of boys and men in the programme has increased the engagement and commitment of communities, has contributed to reduced vulnerability of girls and will help girls continue their education.

Dialogues with families and community members

Targeted social and behaviour change campaigns integrated with COVID-19 messaging were scaled up in 2020 using multi-media channels and online platforms to engage with duty bearers and rights holders.

TABLE 9. Indicator 1221

Country	2016 Result	2017 Result	2018 Result	2019 Result	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, by sex					
					2020					
					Target	Result	Girls	Boys	Women	Men
Bangladesh	13,419		317,952	560,412	594,037	11,301,743	128,640	355,927	3,339,999	7,477,177
Burkina Faso	10,900	72,337	209,866	204,809	156,151	237,555	41,327	35,222	88,599	72,407
Ethiopia		197,281	170,548	471,890	504,922	484,696	34,859	17,420	271,336	161,081
Ghana	1,120	1,684	1,468	95,686	125,686	41,719	9,187	8,004	12,623	11,905
India			293,000	1,347,245	1,293,000	8,252,151	1,672,540	2,687,019	1,639,596	2,252,996
Mozambique	5,759	96,618	9,307	44,216	46,216	4,819	1,446	1,295		
Nepal	10,032	3,896	10,144	4,256	25,000	8,014	1,223	1,184	4,035	1,572
Niger	31,341	50,220	273,640	80,709	66,680	17,852	5,592	824	5,966	5,470
Sierra Leone	13,485	15,963	26,308	580	3,375	15,927	7,483	8,444		
Uganda	24,206	104,797	375,611	55,568	90,000	46,876	1,301	1,198	21,132	23,245
Yemen	11,198	15,809	5,938	28,564	28,668	17,529	8,838	929	6,733	1,029
Zambia	910	974	31,357	2,739	7,739	2,200			900	1,300
Total	122,370	559,579	1,725,139	2,896,674	2,941,474	20,444,685	1,919,795	3,121,197	5,392,405	10,009,210

Country examples

In Burkina Faso, the programme carried out community outreach activities reaching 237,555 men, women, boys and girls in 2020. These activities culminated in ceremonies to publicly declare the abandonment of child marriage in 630 new villages. Monitoring units were set up in the villages to support the social movement against child marriage. The revitalization of monitoring units served as a basis for the involvement of community leaders in the promotion of social standards favourable to the rights of the child. These leaders include customary and religious leaders, women's leaders, members of village development committees and municipal councillors.

In Nepal, a total of 8,014 parents were reached through the Rupantaran parents' package, which was adapted into a radio programme due to COVID-19. Ten radio episodes targeting parents were developed through a consultative process and were aired through community radio in programme municipalities. A total of 195 parents participated in the after-session survey to measure the outcomes of the radio programme. The majority (74 per cent) were able to identify the benefits associated with the abandonment of child marriage and were aware

of the harmful effects of marrying children before the age of 18. However, only a small proportion (7 per cent) were able to identify the legal sanctions in cases of child marriage.

In Uganda, through digital platforms such as U-Report, over 46,000 community members received information about alternatives beyond child marriage for adolescent girls, especially for those who got pregnant during COVID-19 lockdowns. The programme also supported the youth-led organization Reach a Hand Uganda (RAHU) to raise awareness among adolescent girls and duty bearers on comprehensive sexuality education. Throughout the COVID-19 lockdown, RAHU ran a media campaign and several online conferences and webinars on comprehensive sexuality education. This activism influenced inter-ministerial dialogues which resulted in a Ministry of Education circular to permit pregnant girls to continue to attend school.

Mass media campaigns on ending child marriage

Targeted social and behaviour change campaigns integrated with COVID-19 messaging were scaled up in 2020 using multi-media channels and online platforms to engage with duty bearers and rights holders.

TABLE 10. Indicator 1222

Country	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									
	2016 Results	2017 Result	2018 Result	2019 Result	2020					
					Target	Result	Girls	Boys	Women	Men
Bangladesh	1,000,000	429,420	500,000	1,000,000	8,000,000	38,497,147	230,982	1,077,920	11,318,162	25,870,083
Burkina Faso	17,500	750,000	1,027,014	3,120,687	1,527,014	3,000,000	1,190,953	682,070	766,167	360,810
Ethiopia	31,400	403,305	400,000	1,131,326	1,165,266	2,063,000	81,774	143,376	661,626	1,176,224
Ghana	2,400,000	49,645	752,342		758,864	65,253	8,461	7,694	26,504	22,594
India	140,000	1,466,077	3,215,271	3,159,000	4,215,271	3,110,515	1,036,252	481,132	636,640	956,491
Mozambique	68,000	725,904	5,847,671	2,500,000	1,700,000	2,000,000	440,000	340,000	700,000	520,000
Nepal	10,000	204,187	200,000	1,208,396	100,000	21,618	8,582	4,915	5,521	2,600
Niger	64,282	142,800	175,871	158,570	204,687	36,369			17,328	19,041
Sierra Leone			3,200		300,000	3,649,144			1,361,078	2,288,066
Uganda				1,485,744	329,849	338,060	20,284	23,664	155,507	138,605
Yemen	266,882	49,995	65,405	10,000	5,000	5,560	1,056	1,501	1,056	1,946
Zambia					300,000					
Total	**3,998,064**	**4,221,333**	**12,186,774**	**13,773,723**	**18,605,951**	**78,438,433**	**12,475,975**	**7,479,861**	**21,153,813**	**37,328,784**

Country examples

In Bangladesh, the '#Raisethebeat4ECM' communications campaign broadcast public service announcements (PSAs) through TV and social media to foster public opposition to child marriage, reaching over 147 million people during the year. The adolescent-focused entertainment-education drama series 'Icchedana' (On the Wings of Wishes) complemented the campaign with cross-sector behavioural and norms messages. Season II of the drama series was broadcasted on four TV channels and social media in 2020, reaching more than 67 million people during the year.

In Burkina Faso, adolescents and young people took part in caravans organized by Smarty, a famous Burkinabe singer, to champion the abandonment of child marriage under UNICEF's 'Don't Call Me Madam' campaign.[44] A UNICEF study confirmed the key role of the media in building social consensus in favour of the abandonment of child marriage. According to the study, 69 per cent of people in five regions of the country were aware of the legal age of marriage for a girl compared to 46 per cent for a boy. The proportions are higher among those who know of the harmful consequences of child marriage (85 per cent) and those who refuse to marry their child before the age of 18 (81 per cent).

In Nepal, the programme supported PSAs on harmful practices and COVID-19 in partnership with multiple organizations. The PSAs were informed by the findings of a rapid assessment on child marriage during COVID-19 and broadcasted in local languages. These campaigns contributed to an increased reporting of child marriage cases. In 2020, 64 cases of child marriage were registered with the police compared to 31 cases in 2019, and 443 cases of potential child marriage (before the marriages took place) were reported through the child helpline compared to 285 cases in 2019.

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44 Le Faso, 2019, *« Ne m'appelez pas Madame » : Une campagne contre le mariage d'enfants*, https://lefaso.net/spip.php?article88376.

Engagement with local actors and influencers

TABLE 11. Indicator 1223

Country	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			
	Target	**Result**	**Female**	**Male**
Bangladesh	26,722	13,510	3,110	10,400
Burkina Faso	300	9,978	5,218	4,760
Ethiopia	1,276	147,108	74,354	72,754
Ghana	530	1,200	568	632
India	1,350	16,745	5,514	11,231
Mozambique	200	157	47	110
Nepal	180	378	93	285
Niger	215	734	292	442
Sierra Leone	50	1,538	282	1,256
Uganda	1,540	1,623	1,011	612
Yemen	44	143	54	89
Zambia	500	141	16	125
Total	**32,907**	**193,255**	**90,549**	**102,686**

Country examples

In Ethiopia, despite COVID-19 restrictions, the programme engaged religious and other community leaders across the six target regions leading to a renewed commitment to ending child marriage. Religious leaders committed to requesting age verification before blessing marriage arrangements which contributed to the cancellation of child marriages and strengthens referrals to health facilities and law enforcement agencies.

In target districts, families, traditional and community leaders and other influencers have demonstrated more gender-equitable attitudes and support for girls' rights.

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In Sierra Leone, the programme engaged religious leaders in intergenerational dialogue sessions led by the Inter-Religious Council that promotes positive social norms while deconstructing negative gender norms. Working with pastors and imams, key messages on child marriage were reviewed and contextualized so that they are relevant and appropriate in their respective religious contexts which can be further disseminated in their communities and congregations.

In Yemen, changes in behaviour toward child marriage and gender equality are still not perceptible on a large scale. However, in target districts, families, traditional and community leaders and other influencers have demonstrated more gender-equitable attitudes and support for girls' rights. The number of community leaders who take actions to prevent child marriages has increased. Although changes remain confined to the community level, social norms and behaviour change interventions have contributed to the prevention of hundreds of child marriages.

Mobilizing women's rights and youth-led organizations

The programme made targeted efforts to enter into new partnerships with feminist and women-led CSOs committed to advancing gender equality. The programme provided technical and institutional support to the new CSO partners, shared information on new evidence to support their advocacy efforts and strengthened their capacity to scale up successful approaches that address the needs of girls.

TABLE 12. Indicator 1231

Country	Indicator 1231: Number of civil society organizations newly mobilized in support of challenging social norms and promoting gender equality by the Global Programme				
	Target	Result	Women's rights	Children's rights	Youth-led
Bangladesh		5	1	2	2
Burkina Faso	2	4		4	
Ethiopia	8	1	1		
Ghana	3	2	2		
India	135	22	4	15	2
Mozambique		2	2		
Nepal	15	5		2	3
Niger	85	1			1
Sierra Leone					
Uganda	3	4	3	1	
Yemen		3	1	1	1
Zambia	10	30	23		7
Total	**261**	**79**	**37**	**25**	**17**

Country examples

In Ghana, UNFPA partnered with the Purim African Youth Development Platform and the International Federation of Women Lawyers to train a cohort of 85 adolescent paralegals in two districts in two regions to educate and sensitize their community members on issues of sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices. The paralegals undertook various community sensitization activities during the 16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women and Girls (from November 25th). Some of them were also panellists on the Global Programme-supported TV programme Girlz Girlz Power Talk Show.[45]

45　Girlz Girlz Power Talk Show, n.d., *Girlz Girlz Power Talk Show Facebook feed*, www.facebook.com/pg/girlzgirlzpowertalkshow/posts/.

In Mozambique, UNFPA partnered with the Community Development Foundation and the Nucleus of Feminist Associations of Zambezia in mobilizing influential actors at the community level in challenging harmful social norms and promoting gender equality. Influential actors participated in dialogues addressing child marriage, girls' and young women's sexual reproductive health and rights.

The UNICEF East and Southern Africa Regional Office partnered with the Spotlight Initiative and the African Council of Religious Leaders (ACRL) to engage with members of the Inter-Faith Councils at national level to address incorrect interpretations of the sacred scriptures in relation to child marriage. The regional office collaborated with Religions for Peace-ACRL and the

Joint Learning Initiative for Faith and Local Communities to produce new guidance on how to engage religious leaders on violence against children, child marriage and female genital mutilation in times of COVID-19. A series of six regional webinars were organized with religious leaders from six countries (Kenya, Malawi, South Sudan, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe) on different topics, including COVID-19 prevention, adaptation of religious gatherings to the COVID-19 situation and on how to prevent, address and respond to violence against children (including child marriage and female genital mutilation) cases in times of COVID-19. Some immediate results from these webinars include awareness and uptake of the new guidance as well as the establishment of a community of practice.

Intermediate outcome 2000: Relevant sectoral systems and institutions effectively respond to the needs of adolescent girls and their families in targeted Global Programme areas

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In 2020, as part of the system strengthening approach of the Global Programme, UNFPA and UNICEF equipped education, health, child protection and gender-based violence service providers with knowledge and skills to provide gender-responsive girl-friendly services. The capacity building approach was used to successfully anchor and institutionalize toolkits and approaches to address some of the key issues related to harmful gender norms and social practices. UNFPA and UNICEF also strengthened collaboration and partnerships with national governments, regional and local administrations and CSOs to successfully leverage social protection programmes to benefit vulnerable girls and their families.

Main considerations under this intermediate outcome area include:

• The Global Programme's work with education, health, child protection and other service providers suffered from the closure of schools and the focus of other social services on the pandemic response
• Though remote service provision (such as child helplines) proved effective, delivering services through remote modalities was challenging, especially in terms of safeguarding the confidentiality of beneficiaries while maintaining their sense of safety and trust in the system
• Ensuring gender-responsive interventions was constrained by access as well as demands for immediate needs. While the Global Programme continued to strengthen institutional capacities at scale, gender-responsive, and even more so transformative, services were constrained

• During emergencies there is an increased need for community protection and surveillance systems to ensure that adolescents at risk of violence are identified, protected, referred and linked to adolescent-friendly services
• Mental health and psychosocial support are being recognized as a new area of intervention that needs to be addressed further for adolescent development

3.3 STRENGTHENING SYSTEMS

2,529 service delivery points in health, education and child protection sectors have improved their services for adolescent girls

Education

TABLE 13. Indicator 2121

Country	Indicator 2121: Number of primary/secondary/non-formal schools in programme areas providing quality gender-friendly education that meets minimum standards								
	2015	2016 Result	2017 Result	2018 Result	2019 Result	2020			
						Target	Result	Primary	Secondary
Bangladesh	7	620	72	114	96	50			
Burkina Faso	151	301	386	305	351	43			
Ethiopia	200	455	460	987	320	66			
Ghana		1				5	3		3
Mozambique		100	191	55	150	150	160	160	
Nepal		257	360	550	120	31	368	121	247
Uganda		687	32	759	969	215	492	394	98
Zambia	424	744	113	80	52	50	58	57	1
Total	**782**	**4,940**	**2,799**	**6,270**	**12,371**	**626**	**1,081**	**732**	**349**

Country examples

In Bangladesh, the programme facilitated coordination between different ministries to establish a system to provide students with a package of nutrition services in secondary schools, colleges and madrasas (religious schools). The programme also supported the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education to provide safe water, sanitation and hygiene and menstrual health management to 73 secondary schools. Such cross-sectoral education interventions ensure that girls are healthy, safe and ready to learn.

UNICEF Ghana collaborated with the Ministry of Education to promote the 'Guidelines on the Prevention of Pregnancy and Re-Entry [into schools] for Young Mothers After Childbirth' and the prevention of gender-based violence through a back-to-school campaign. This activity promoted the safe return of

pregnant schoolgirls and young mothers when schools re-opened in January 2021. UNFPA on the other hand collaborated with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection to implement the national adolescent pregnancy strategy. The outbreak of the pandemic and the increase in time children are spending online also coincided with the establishment of the Child Protection Digital Forensic Laboratory which aims to prevent and respond to online child abuse.[46]

In Mozambique, the programme worked on the prevention of gender-based violence in schools and child marriage by training school council members and school focal points for gender and health. Training topics focused on the creation of circles of interest at schools to ensure the implementation of extracurricular activities and children's participation in preventing violence and child marriage.

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46   GhanaWeb, 2020, *First Model Child Protection Digital Forensic Lab inaugurated*, www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/First-Model-Child-Protection-Digital-Forensic-Lab-inaugurated-1047742.

In Nepal, the programme partnered with the Centre for Education and Human Resource Development to promote girls' education and end gender-based violence in schools. A girls' education network was formed in three municipalities and network members were oriented on girls' education, gender equality and social inclusion and the purpose and functions of the networks. Additionally, 69 schoolteachers were trained on the complaint response mechanism and on providing psychosocial first aid.

The Global Programme in Uganda provided financial and technical support to the Ministry of Education to advance gender equality and improve girls' education. The programme revised the 'Guidelines on the Prevention and Management of Teenage Pregnancy in School Settings'; the 'National Guidelines for Implementation of Roles and Responsibilities of Senior Male and Senior Female Teachers'; the 'National Guidelines for Formation, Management and Strengthening of School Clubs' and the 'Menstrual Health Management Guidelines for Schools'. During the year, 492 schools were supported to meet at least two of the key elements for quality prevention of and response to violence against children in schools.

In Zambia, continued efforts to strengthen the capacity of community action groups (CAGs) resulted in the re-entry of 72 girls to school after pregnancy and marriage. CAGs work closely with schools and communities to identify learners that have dropped out of school. Schools are supported with grants for CAGs to conduct income generating activities which are used to improve the environment for girls.

Health, child protection and gender-based violence services

TABLE 14. Indicator 2131

Country	Indicator 2131: Number of service delivery points in programme areas providing quality adolescent-responsive services (health, child protection and gender-based violence [GBV]) that meet minimum standards								
	2015	2016 Result	2017 Result	2018 Result	2019 Result	2020			
						Target	Result	Health	Child protection/GBV
Bangladesh		89	134	119	67	572	182	60	122
Burkina Faso	47	54	54	89	126	120			
Ethiopia	242	885	1,021	659	529	543	358	70	288
Ghana		45	322	371	505	274	256	256	
Mozambique	655	102	705	69	52	15	6		6
Nepal	4	91	89	97	5	55	124	44	80
Sierra Leone		21	11	95		10			
Uganda	15		943	733	2,314	900			
Yemen				272	83	16	33		33
Zambia	5	27	64	26	49	24	191	51	140
Total	**968**	**5,103**	**4,452**	**6,121**	**8,591**	**2,529**	**1,150**	**481**	**514**

Country examples

In Ethiopia, capacity building support was provided to 288 service delivery points including technical training, review and exchange sessions and sharing of materials which can serve as additional references.

This enhanced the capacity of prevention and protection services delivered by the Bureau of Women, Children and Youth, the Regional Attorney Generals, police and courts. During the year, more than 152,782 girls and 17,420 boys accessed services at the service delivery points.

As part of the system strengthening approach of the Global Programme, UNFPA and UNICEF equipped education, health, child protection and gender-based violence service providers with knowledge and skills to provide gender-responsive girl-friendly services.

In Bangladesh, more than 17,000 adolescents were supported with counselling through the Alapon helpline. Recognizing that adolescents need face-to-face support, UNFPA ensured there were trained service providers at more than 600 service delivery points to provide adolescent-friendly sexual and reproductive health services, which served more than 13,000 adolescents including young married girls who needed family planning services during the pandemic.

The Global Programme in Nepal supported the revision of the national adolescent sexual and reproductive health training package during the year, with an added focus on building the skills and improving behaviours of health service providers. A total of 51,669 (25,268 male and 26,401 female) adolescents utilized adolescent sexual and reproductive health services from five districts, showing a 7 per cent increase in service utilization. The programme also enhanced the skills and knowledge of 301 justice and security authority personnel on justice for children, including data management and diversion, to strengthen their capacity to provide quality services that are child- and gender-sensitive. As a result, a total of 13,939 cases related to women and children were registered with the police in 2020, exceeding the annual target by 47 per cent.

In Uganda, the Global Programme supported the provision of guidelines for the standardization and improvement of the adolescent quality service provision and coverage in the health and child protection sectors. In the health sector, several guidelines were revised to include adolescent specific output areas on HIV/AIDS, nutrition and gender-based violence. The programme further supported civil society partners and district local governments to provide critical child protection services to children affected by emergencies including floods, displacement and the COVID-19 pandemic. 35,681 children received psychosocial support while 30,798 COVID-19 affected children and their parents received mental health and psychosocial services. In addition, 2,142 unaccompanied children in refugee and flood contexts benefitted from alternative care, and 2,049 children affected by the secondary effects of COVID-19 benefitted from social care and support services.

In Yemen, capacity building to social workers on gender-based violence and child protection case management improved cross-sectoral referral mechanisms. As a result, 3,365 adolescent girls were provided with multi-sectoral services, including health, psychosocial and legal support.

The programme in Zambia supported the capacity building of 89 health workers in five districts, reaching a total of 67 health facilitates. The capacity building focused on running newly established adolescent-friendly spaces at the health facilities as well as on continued functionality of previously established ones. In addition, 348 peer educators were engaged to provide adolescent girl-friendly services. The programme also supported the improvement of the health information management system to ensure accurate reporting of child marriages and teenage pregnancies and evidence-based programming at both national and sub-national levels.

The strengthening of remote service provision by child helplines in East and Southern Africa proved to be very effective during the COVID-19 pandemic. In many countries in the region, sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence services continued to be delivered through alternative approaches in partnership with youth networks for outreach, civil society organizations for continued delivery particularly for gender-based violence responses and with health centres to ensure that sexual and reproductive health services were delivered in line with established COVID-19 safety protocols.

3.4 Addressing poverty

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused economic deprivation, especially among the most marginalized adolescent girls and their families. This is expected to have contributed to increased violence and exploitation of children while schools remained closed in most countries. To curb this trend, the Global Programme established partnerships with governments and other organizations to expand social protection programmes and economic support services for vulnerable and marginalized girls and their families.

TABLE 15. Indicator 2211

Country	Indicator 2211: Number of partnerships (both formal and informal) established to deliver adolescent-responsive social protection, poverty reduction, and economic empowerment programs and services				
	Baseline	**Target**	**Result**	**Formal**	**Informal**
Bangladesh	4	1	8	2	6
Burkina Faso	3	4	1	1	
Ethiopia	1	2	2	1	1
Ghana	3	4	6	4	2
India	3	5	26	26	
Nepal	2	5	1	1	
Sierra Leone	10	10			
Uganda	4	4	3	3	
Zambia	1	1	1	1	
Total	**33**	**36**	**48**	**39**	**9**

Country examples

In Burkina Faso, the Global Programme partnered with the General Directorate of the Family and Child Affairs to pilot a social protection initiative for adolescent girls and their families at risk of child marriage in areas highly affected by insecurity. This pilot programme served as a framework for understanding the new vulnerabilities of children affected by the crisis, raising awareness among internally displaced populations and host communities about the abandonment of child marriage, child protection and the adoption of child rights-friendly social practices. It was also used to implement cash transfers for 200 teenage girls heavily affected by insecurity and at risk of child marriage.

In Ghana, the programme worked with the Integrated Social Service (ISS) model to provide technical and financial support to social welfare, social protection and health sectors to enhance service delivery for vulnerable families in 60 metropolitan and district assemblies. The ISS model involves testing specific delivery mechanisms for social protection programmes and social welfare services.

In India, the programme partnered with 26 civil society organizations to create linkages with government-supported social protection programmes to extend services to vulnerable girls and their families. UNFPA and UNICEF provided technical support for the design, implementation and monitoring of social protection schemes to ensure that the most marginalized girls had access to education, skills building, cash transfers and career opportunities. Over 10 million adolescent girls are estimated to have benefitted from these schemes as a result of the programme support and linkages created with partners.

Following the successful advocacy with the World Bank in Niger on child marriage as a critical development issue, the country programme received US$ 11 million from the World Bank to support the national scale-up of prevention mechanisms at community level. An agreement is currently being developed with the World Bank to explore the potential of a similar initiative in Burkina Faso and Mali.

The Global Programme has established partnerships with governments and other organizations to expand social protection programmes and economic support services for vulnerable and marginalized girls and their families.

Technical Note on Cash Plus for Adolescent Girl Empowerment Schemes in India
- Cash transfer schemes, with a long history in India, have benefitted adolescent girls and households in a number of areas, including in mitigating income deprivations and contributed to school attendance and in delaying marriage
- Results have been mixed in achieving sustained adolescent girl empowerment and gender equality
- Adolescent girl empowerment is embedded in deep-seated and structural unequal gender norms that require gender-transformative strategies through the socio-ecological model
- 'Cash Plus' is the combination of cash transfers with one or more types of complementary support or linkages that may be introduced as integrated or external components through explicit referral linkages. While it can have positive impacts on children and their families, more research is needed to understand the impact on secondary outcomes such as gender equality. However, some elements of effective gender-transformative programming with strong evidence exist that can be implemented while supporting evidence generation, e.g., gender-transformative life skills and engagement of boys and men in promoting positive masculinity
- The COVID-19 pandemic will likely push or compromise 'Plus' components due to limitations in service delivery and immediate cash and in-kind needs of adolescent girls and their families. Programmes should continue to advocate for 'Plus' components while being accommodating to flexibilities needed in timing and disbursement of cash transfer schemes
- Supporting evidence-based work through research and establishing robust monitoring and evaluation systems with a strong gender-transformative lens can strengthen programming and advocacy work on 'Cash Plus' interventions

Intermediate outcome 3000: **Enhanced legal and political response to prevent child marriage and to support pregnant, married, divorced or widowed adolescent girls.**

An analysis of longitudinal data on child marriage policies published in 2020 by the World Policy Analysis Center found that the rate of child marriage reduced by an average of six per cent in countries that enforced child marriage laws. The same study found that child marriage laws, combined with advocacy efforts surrounding their enactment, foster improvements in gender-equitable attitudes. [47] This is consistent with the hypothesis that gender egalitarian laws positively impact norms regarding women's equality and empowerment at the national and sub-national level.[48]

The Global Programme is supporting the generation of new evidence and communication of key findings and is forging alliances with civil society organizations, donors and governments to advocate for evidence-based policies at national, regional and global levels. However, due to COVID-19 restrictions many planned studies had to be delayed or cancelled.

3.5 Facilitating supportive laws and policies

Several countries and sub-national administrative units enacted rulings that allow adolescent girls who are pregnant, married or have children to continue their education. While much more needs to be done, these initial steps send important signals that more gender-equitable policies are achievable.

TABLE 16. Indicator 3111

Country	Indicator 3111: Number of policies or legal instruments addressing child marriage drafted, proposed, or adopted at national and sub-national level with Global Programme support					
	Baseline	Target	Result	Drafted	Proposed	Adopted
Bangladesh	2	3				
Burkina Faso	2	3	1		1	
Ethiopia	2	1	1		1	
Ghana	3	1	1			1
India	10	5	4	3		1
Mozambique	4	16	2	1		1
Nepal	2	2				
Sierra Leone	6	6				
Uganda	2	17				
Zambia	2	3	1	1		
Total	**33**	**50**	**10**	**5**	**1**	**3**

47   Omidakhsh, N. and Heymann, J., 2020, Improved child marriage laws and its association with changing attitudes and experiences of intimate partner violence: a comparative multi-national study, *Journal of global health, 10*(1).

48   Advancing Learning and Innovation on Gender Norms (ALIGN) and Overseas Development Institute (ODI), 2020, *Gender, Power and Progress: How norms change,* www.alignplatform.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/align_-_gender_power_and_progress-singles-digital.pdf.

TABLE 17. Indicator 3121

| Country | Indicator 3121: Number of sub-national plans with evidence informed interventions to address child marriage | |
	National plan of action	Number of sub-national action plans
Bangladesh	Costed	
Burkina Faso	Costed and financed	45
Ethiopia	Costed and financed	11
Ghana	Costed and financed	8
India	Costed and financed	10
Mozambique	Costed and financed	6
Nepal	Costed	2
Niger	Costed	
Sierra Leone	Costed and financed	
Uganda	Costed and financed	15
Yemen		
Zambia	Costed and financed	2
Total		**99**

Country examples

The United Nations in Zambia jointly developed a draft conceptual document for a proposed Presidential Initiative on Ending Child Marriage. The aim of the Presidential Initiative is to leverage the role of the President in his capacity as the African Union Champion for ending child marriage and design a robust initiative that increases the scale, scope and speed of interventions to ensure Zambia meets its target of reducing child marriage by 40 per cent by the end of 2021.

In Burkina Faso, the programme supported the government to convene an annual session of the coordination platform for the national strategy for the prevention and elimination of child marriage. In the session, stakeholders were able to adopt the draft 2021-2026 national strategy on child marriage, which was developed with the support of the Global Programme. The session also developed an operational budget for the implementation of the strategy once it has been launched.

In Ghana, the Global Programme continued to support the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection to coordinate the national plan on ending child marriage. The 2020-2021 operational and monitoring and evaluation plan of the National Strategic Framework on Ending Child Marriage (2017-2026) was finalized, disseminated and discussed at national and regional levels with participation of at least 457 cross-sectoral stakeholders during the year.[49] The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection also continued to allocate three per cent of its recurrent budget to ending child marriage coordination functions.[50]

In Niger, the Global Programme supported the mid-term review of the 2019-2021 National Strategic Plan, with the participation of all stakeholders. The review confirmed the effective actions that bring about change. At the same time however, the review highlighted persistent challenges with initiatives to strengthen girls' empowerment and the lack of coordination of community actors. The review supported actions aimed at keeping girls in school and creating job opportunities; creating the conditions to strengthen intergenerational dialogue; harmonizing all modules related to efforts to end child marriage and compiling an inventory of best practices for scale up.

49 Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection of Ghana and UNICEF, 2020, *National Operational, Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (2020-2021), Part of the Ghana National Strategic Framework to End Child Marriage 2017-2026,* www.unicef.org/ghana/reports/national-operational-monitoring-and-evaluation-plan.

50 Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection of Ghana, 2020, *Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) for 2020-2023,* https://mofep.gov.gh/sites/default/files/pbb-estimates/2020/2020-PBB-MOGCSP.pdf.

The Global Programme is supporting the Government of Sierra Leone to conduct a mid-term evaluation of the implementation of the national strategy for the reduction of adolescent pregnancy and child marriage. Results of the evaluation will provide a deeper understanding of the implementation progress, good practices that could be replicated and challenges being faced. Similarly, support is being provided to the Government of Mozambique to conduct a final evaluation of the 2016-2019 national strategy to end child marriage. The results of the evaluation will inform the development of the new national strategy to end child marriage.

Uganda was one of the first countries in the Global Programme to conduct a mid-term evaluation of its national strategy to end child marriage and teenage pregnancy. The report highlights the role of peer pressure in contributing to child marriage and adolescent pregnancies, hence recommends a greater focus on resilience building activities to empower adolescents and enable them to withstand peer pressure. Based on the mid-term evaluation of the national strategy to end child marriage in Uganda, the Global Programme supported advocacy papers which led to the inclusion of a target of reducing child marriage prevalence to 14 per cent by 2025 in Uganda's third National Development Plan. The government also approved and launched the Child Policy that provides a framework within which all child protection work has to be undertaken.

UNFPA in the Arab States region, in collaboration with the League of Arab States, organized a forum on 'Empowering Girls'. The forum aimed at raising the issues of empowering women and girls and the advancement of their conditions at all levels. The forum hosted governmental representatives from 13 Arab member states, representatives of CSOs, United Nations agencies and adolescent girls.

The West and Central Africa regional offices collaborated with Plan International on a cross-border study on child marriage and female genital mutilation. The study will inform the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) regional action plan to tackle cross-border movements to avoid national enforcement of laws related to harmful practices. High-level advocacy with ECOWAS also resulted in a landmark statement by the President of the ECOWAS Commission to address sexual and gender-based violence (with child marriage as a priority action) in the ECOWAS region. The statement led to ECOWAS Member States approving an integrated action plan to address sexual and gender-based violence (including child marriage) and the establishment of a Regional Network on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence to coordinate and galvanize the interventions of stakeholders to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence and child marriage. [51]

3.6 Data and evidence

TABLE 18. Indicator 3211

Country	Indicator 3211: Number of generated evidence and knowledge products that focus on what works to end child marriage		
	Baseline	**Target**	**Result**
Bangladesh	4	7	4
Burkina Faso	1	2	1
Ethiopia	3	4	
Ghana	2	6	
India	3	4	8
Mozambique		2	
Nepal	1	2	
Niger	2	4	1
Sierra Leone	2	5	
Zambia	1	2	
Total	**19**	**38**	**14**

51   UNICEF, 2020, *COVID-19: ECOWAS Ministers Recommend Zero Tolerance to Sexual and Gender-based Violence,* https://www.unicef.org/wca/press-releases/covid-19-ecowas-ministers-recommend-zero-tolerance-sexual-and-gender-based-violence.

TABLE 19. Indicator 3212

Country	Indicator 3212: Number of generated evidence and knowledge that apply a gender analysis		
	Baseline	**Target**	**Result**
Burkina Faso	1	2	2
Ethiopia	3	4	
Ghana	1	4	
India	4	1	2
Nepal	1	4	
Sierra Leone	2	5	
Zambia	1	2	
Total	**12**	**22**	**4**

TABLE 20. Indicator 3221

Country	Indicator 3221: Number of South-to-South cooperation (conferences, expert visits, peer consultations, study tours, communities of practice) supported		
	Baseline	**Target**	**Result**
Bangladesh		4	1
Ethiopia		3	3
Ghana	1		1
India	3	3	1
Nepal			1
Total	**4**	**10**	**7**

Country examples

The Global Programme in Ghana supported the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection to establish a one-stop-shop database and information portal on child marriage. The system readily offers information on child marriage, sexual and gender-based violence and their related issues in an open-source application at the press of a button. The goal is to have a centralized system to improve dissemination of information, enhance data security, minimize the risk of data loss and ensure that data is accurate, complete, authentic and reliable.

In Ethiopia, the programme partnered with the UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti on a study on 'Child Marriage and Ethiopia's Productive Safety Net Programme: Analysis of protective pathways in the Amhara region'. The findings indicate that economic channels of support are effective at reducing financial pressures on families to marry off girls and in improving girls' education opportunities. However, income-strengthening measures must be accompanied by

complementary efforts, including girls' empowerment, awareness-raising and legal measures to transform deep-rooted social and gender norms and attitudes that perpetuate the harmful practice of child marriage.

In Zambia, the programme provided technical support to the Canadian High Commission to conduct research on the role of social workers in preventing and responding to child marriage. The document was reviewed with all stakeholders working on ending child marriage and will be used to guide the development of statutory case management guidance notes for child marriage cases.

Through the UNICEF cross-regional social and behaviour change initiative, the UNICEF regional office for East and Southern Africa signed a contract with IPSOS and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine to conduct behavioural surveys on harmful practices in nine countries, including Mozambique, across Africa and the Middle East. Countries will benefit from an in-depth assessment of the social, behavioural and gender norms-related drivers of harmful practices and

establish monitoring baselines by measuring each of these drivers. Study tools were adapted to the specific needs of participating countries and institutional review board applications were submitted. Due to COVID-19, significant delays have been faced in terms of institutional review board approvals. In addition, technical support has been provided to Ethiopia to develop terms of reference and recruit an institution responsible for social and behaviour change and social norms measurement, through a baseline, midline and end-line in programme intervention areas between 2020 and 2023. Technical support has been provided by the regional offices in all stages of the recruitment, and additionally, the regional office has adapted a U-Report poll on child marriage from Uganda, which has been shared with all country offices in the regions to collect insights on how COVID-19 has potentially impacted the child marriage rate in the region.

The UNICEF regional office for the Middle East and North Africa, in collaboration with the UNFPA Arab States Regional Office, initiated a regional analysis of factors contributing to changes in rates of child marriage during COVID-19, and to capture the impact of the pandemic on child marriage programming in the region. The study documents good practices and programmatic interventions being implemented to curb the impact of COVID-19 on child marriage. The analysis takes an overall regional lens with case studies from six countries: Egypt, Sudan, Yemen, Jordan, Morocco and Djibouti.[52] Meanwhile, the regional offices for West and Central Africa supported 15 country offices in the region to conduct rapid assessments to analyse the direct and indirect impact of COVID-19 on child marriage and adapt their programmes accordingly. The 15 countries engaged in a joint initiative with Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and UN Women to produce real time data on the impact of COVID-19 on gender, including on child marriage. A desk review on the impact on COVID-19 on child marriage was also conducted in partnership with the ECOWAS Gender Centre, Plan International and World Vision in the 15 ECOWAS member states. While field visits were not possible due to travel restrictions, sharing of lessons learned and support to countries were conducted through virtual meetings and exchanges.

The regional offices for the Middle East and North Africa and for the Arab States, in collaboration with Johns Hopkins University and Women's Refugee

Commission, also completed a study during the year on child marriage in humanitarian settings.[53] The study aims at measuring the prevalence of child marriage in humanitarian settings in the Middle East and North Africa region, explore the drivers of child marriage within these communities and develop recommendations to inform programme design and implementation. Further, the two regional offices in South Asia, which is a region prone to frequent natural and human-induced disasters, also noted the need for understanding the impact on child marriage in humanitarian situations as it is critical for the development of effective strategies to protect children from child marriage across the humanitarian and development nexus. Hence, the two regional offices commissioned the study 'Child Marriage in Humanitarian Settings in South Asia' investigating two recent humanitarian situations, in particular (a) the conflict-affected Rohingya refugee population that fled from Myanmar to Bangladesh, and (b) communities affected by the 2015 earthquake in Nepal. The study analysed similarities and differences across the contexts in order to capture context specific knowledge about these two settings and to understand what might be generalized to child marriage in humanitarian settings more broadly. An important inclusion in this study was an analysis of child grooms as Nepal is one of the top 10 countries globally for prevalence of child marriage among boys. The study also confirmed a link between social media and the rise of self-initiated marriages in South Asia. The findings will be used to inform policy and programme interventions in Bangladesh and Nepal as well as providing insight into child marriage in humanitarian contexts more broadly to stimulate policy response and influence further research. The programme also finalized 'A practitioner's guide to the ethical conduct of research on child marriage in humanitarian settings' which provides a framework for decision-making, considering whether and how to conduct research on child marriage in humanitarian settings.

To strengthen evidence-based programming, the UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office is further undertaking a multi-region study on drivers of violence, including child marriage. The goal of this study is to understand the drivers of violence, including gender norms and power dynamics of decision making. The results of the study will be used to adapt and revise approaches for community engagement and gender-transformative programming. The tools and approaches will also serve to establish a baseline by

52   UNFPA Arab States Regional Office and UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office, 2021, *Child marriage in the context of COVID-19,* https://arabstates.unfpa.org/en/publications/child-marriage-context-covid-19.

53   UNFPA Arab States Regional Office, UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office, Johns Hopkins University and Women's Refugee Commission, 2020, *Child Marriage in Humanitarian Settings in the Arab States Region*, www.womensrefugeecommission.org/research-resources/child-marriage-humanitarian-settings-arab-states-region/.

which programme interventions with specific focus on social norms and behaviour can be measured for impact.

The UNICEF Data and Analytics team led the development of a statistical study titled 'Understanding the Relationship between Child Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation' in 2020. This publication provides a statistical overview of child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM) co-occurrence and programmatic insights. The study found that while the two practices may share common roots in gender norms that devalue girls and prize virginity and 'purity', these norms do not always manifest in child marriage or FGM. And while the practices do intersect, many girls experience only one or the other of these harmful practices. To get a better sense of the linkages between the two harmful practices, the regional office for the Middle East and North Africa also conducted a mapping of faith-based organizations working on female genital mutilation and child marriage in the region.

In addition, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women in the Middle East and North Africa region collaborated to develop a background paper on estimating the cost of child marriage in the Arab States region and the feasibility of undertaking cost estimates of child marriage.[54] This will help to better understand how to engage countries in developing a multi-pronged approach to combatting this harmful practice. Based on this background paper, United Nations agencies will jointly engage in the first ever costing exercise of child marriage in the Arab region.

The regional offices for South Asia and Asia and the Pacific, in partnership with the International Labour Office (ILO), also commissioned a paper on the intersection between child marriage and child labour which was released in early 2021 and which will inform policy discourse on child marriage and child labour in the region. The paper on child marriage and other harmful practices completed in 2019 and released in 2020 has also helped to identify the specific ways in which gender norms and structural inequalities perpetuate child marriage in the South Asia context and informs gender policy design and strategies at both country and regional levels.

The regional offices for South Asia and Asia and the Pacific finally produced a baseline report on the use of evidence in Phase II of the Global Programme.

The study establishes to what extent evidence is being used in programming, design and delivery, advocacy and monitoring and evaluation by UNFPA and UNICEF country offices during the first six months of Phase II. It developed a set of core indicators and tools for measuring the use of evidence in the Global Programme that can be replicated at the mid-term and at the end of the phase. The mixed results from the baseline study reiterated the need for an increased focus on monitoring, oversight and supporting country offices in their use of evidence, including the importance of using evidence about what works (not what was done) and what evidence is relevant (not out of date).

3.7 Challenges

School closures: The widespread closure of schools to control the spread of COVID-19, not only had many negative effects on adolescent girls, but it also disrupted programme activities across Global Programme countries. For example, due to the nationwide COVID-19 lockdown and travel and movement restrictions in Nepal, activities could not be conducted as planned, leading to gaps in completing the social and financial skills curriculum, with all classes of the Rupantaran programme suspended. In Uganda and Zambia, all school-based interventions, such as adolescent clubs, were cancelled. This meant that adolescents' access to protection, reproductive health and other services became more challenging. In Ghana, the school closures also halted the training of teachers, the distribution of supplies to schools and direct interventions targeting the most vulnerable girls.

Interruption of services: Across Global Programme countries, COVID-19 control measures led to the interruption of education, health and protection services. In India and Uganda, the social service workforce was reassigned to focus on the prevention of COVID-19, resulting in the suspension of child protective services. In India, at adolescent-friendly facilities, professional staff were withdrawn and replaced by volunteers, which compromised the quality of services adolescents are receiving during the pandemic. The temporary closure of the Ugandan SAUTI child helpline deprived girls of a facility for reporting child marriages and violence and to ask for help. While Global Programme partners ensured continued access to sexual and reproductive health services, many girls still had limited or no access to essential and life-saving sexual and reproductive health services in Uganda. The COVID-19 pandemic

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54   United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women, 2020, *Estimating the cost of child marriage in the Arab region: Background paper on the feasibility of undertaking a costing study*, www.unescwa.org/publications/estimating-cost-child-marriage-arab-region.

further made it difficult for health workers in Zambia and India to provide technical support or monitor progress of the activities, since physical verification was made impossible by the pandemic.

Weak linkages to social protection and economic empowerment: While the demand of adolescents in Burkina Faso is high for vocational training, the supply and diversity of such services is limited. This hampers the scaling up of economic empowerment services for adolescents in the country. In Ghana, referrals to other services are the weakest link within the Safety Net Programme.[55] The Global Programme has initiated an assessment of key challenges, gaps, best practices and opportunities to strengthen this area. In India, convergence for social protection continues to be a challenge with various departments, multiple schemes and inadequate focus on 'cash plus' components in most states. In the Middle East and North Africa there are significant gaps in knowledge and regional good practices in the area of cash transfers in humanitarian settings, specifically for scholarships and continuing education of girls.

Insecurity: In addition to COVID-19, countries were confronted with additional threats. The security crisis in Burkina Faso has resulted in massive displacement and reduced the capacity of households to meet the basic needs of children, which is potentially an aggravating factor in marriages in the most affected communities. The northern part of Mozambique and parts of Niger were also affected by armed conflict, where insecurity, marked by killings and abductions of civilian populations, compromised the carrying out of community activities. In Ghana, armed robberies in some communities in Bole District affected the scheduled home visits to those communities. Security forces were engaged in the implementation of activities in such cases.

Restrictions of face-to-face activities: In many countries, face-to-face community mobilization and awareness raising efforts were halted due to restrictions in movement and physical distancing measures. In Ethiopia, restrictions caused a temporary suspension of community dialogues at the onset of the pandemic. In Mozambique, all education and community engagement activities were suspended or postponed. In Zambia, face-to-face community dialogues could only take place in the fourth quarter of the year when restrictions on public gatherings were lifted. While the Global Programme was able to maintain community outreach through media and social mobilization interventions,

COVID-19 restrictions inhibited deeper engagement and reflection on gender norms as they require evidence gathering and consultation at field level. In Uganda, interventions on social and gender norms change slowed down during the year. In Yemen, the Men2Men network activities, where men are engaged on social and gender norms, could not take place and many planned events had to be cancelled during the year. In Sierra Leone, this affected a symposium on child marriage. In South Asia the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) child marriage regional forum was postponed. In Mozambique, mentorship sessions in safe spaces were suspended. Some mentors were able to continue to engage with their mentees through individual mentorship sessions via door-to-door visits, phone calls or individual meetings. Yet, these informal mentorship sessions were sporadic and not aligned with the regular mentorship cycles.

Digital divide: As governments and agencies scrambled to shift services online, the digital divide became apparent in differences in access to digital technologies and connectivity between urban and rural areas, rich and poor households and between boys and girls. In India, efforts to shift to online means of communication highlighted the digital divide, which prevented reaching the most marginalized communities. Hence, in the state of Odisha, nearly 300,000 adolescent girls and boys in tribal residential schools were deprived of comprehensive sexuality education sessions. Efforts to deliver online outreach programmes by the government faced challenges due to poor connectivity and the lack of smartphone use among teachers and students in the remote tribal districts.

The widening gender digital divide and physical access restrictions severely constrained service utilization, including education, protection and sexual reproductive health services. At the household level, boys are often given priority to access and use already limited information and communication technology resources. Digitally marginalized adolescents with little access to technology were left out.

Constraints to transforming gender norms and structures: The onset of COVID-19 underlined increased vulnerability and marginalization of adolescent girls and their families. It has also led to the reversal of gender equality gains. While the Global Programme continued to reach adolescent girls, boys, families and communities with the vision of transformative change, constraints to deeper engagement, mentoring of adolescent girls at scale, adolescent-responsive services

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55   Ghana Health Service, 2018, *Safety Net Programme*, www.adolescenthealthgh.org/safetynet.html.

and sustained community-based behaviour change engagement had limited progress in implementing gender responsive and transformative interventions. The Global Programme is cognizant of the constraints in facilitating deeper, interactive community engagement (including mentorship approaches) and, COVID-19 permitting, will aim to assess opportunities to strengthen face-to-face interactions, combined with multi-media campaigns.

Resistance to adolescent sexuality and poor access to adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights: Several programme countries faced continued challenges and resistance to adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights. Demand for adolescent-friendly health services remains weak in Bangladesh and needs further collaboration with schools and adolescent clubs. An accreditation system has been initiated to improve the quality of government-run adolescent health services. In Ghana, the lack of coordinated sexual and gender-based violence services such as shelters, free medical care and legal aid as well as weak law enforcement continue to hamper holistic protection services for victims and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices including child marriage. Mozambique lacks temporary shelters for victims of child marriage or at-risk girls who refuse to be married. In Zambia, the acceptance of providing age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education remains contentious and limits the ability of the health sector to provide adolescent sexual and reproductive health services. This highlights the need to continue to engage with the faith-based community and leaders on the needs and rights of adolescents.

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Difficulties of ensuring inclusion of girls with disabilities and diversities: Despite guidance and tools on including disability as an aspect of vulnerability, this remains a challenge. For example, in India, implementing partners did not provide disaggregation on girls with disability in their reports in 2020. Going forward, efforts will be made to integrate these aspects and to be able to collect disaggregated data. The Global Programme will continue to promote an intersectional and inclusive approach to working with marginalized adolescent girls including across diverse identities, respectful of national contexts and guided by local offices.

Challenges with legislation: Several countries are facing challenges with child marriage laws. In India, a proposal to raise the age of sexual consent risks reinforcing the taboo on extramarital sex, to curb girls' and women's agency and undermine their sexual and reproductive health and rights. Mozambique needs to increase the dissemination of the law to prevent and combat premature unions and to strengthen the structures and mechanisms to assist victims. The lack of harmonization of laws regarding the legal age for marriage is a challenge in Uganda, where most children still lack a birth certificate. In Zambia, the long delay in finalizing the Children's Code and the lack of progress on the Marriage Bill exacerbated the confusion in addressing child marriage.

Delays in research: Across Global Programme countries, studies requiring field-level data collection were suspended, delayed or postponed in 2020. This affected, for example, the completion of the child marriage in humanitarian settings study in the Middle East and the study on the determinants of child marriage in West Africa. In some cases, research agencies were able to use alternative research methods such as phone-based interviews. However, this was not always an option, as in the case of the Mozambique IPSOS social norms baseline study given the complexity and sensitivity of the subject matter. In West Africa, the research challenges led to a partnership with other United Nations agencies to further collect data on the impact of COVID-19.

Mobility restrictions hindering monitoring: The lack of mobility impacted the monitoring of activities in all Global Programme countries. Gathering surveillance information on imminent child marriages was a challenge in Mozambique. Due to the suspension of field visits, the Uganda programme relied on community-reports, which could not be verified. The Nepal programme developed the 'KOBO tool' for monitoring with outreach workers. If this platform proves efficient and effective, it will be used throughout the programme period. In India there have been delays in data collection, management information system (MIS) updating and maintaining monitoring

and evaluation systems at government level. This has slowed down the work of a comprehensive MIS in various government systems making it difficult for systems to reflect data. Technical assistance was offered to support and strengthen MIS efforts. The travel restrictions compelled the regional offices for South Asia to monitor, provide technical support for and foster cross country learning through online platforms.

3.8 Lessons and innovations, including COVID-19 adaptations

Flexibility and rapid adaptation: The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need for greater programmatic flexibility in order to adapt interventions to rapidly evolving situations. Innovation and rapid adaptation of programmes targeted at adolescent girls have allowed programmes to continue in many countries. In Niger, the pandemic was an opportunity to raise awareness among government officials, the development community and targeted communities about the need to develop solutions for data management, explore partnerships with the private sector for continued education services and build capacities in emergency response and knowledge management. Several country programmes reduced the size of community groups, as well as girls' empowerment sessions, to comply with COVID-19 restrictions. In Bangladesh, the in-person communication and community dialogues were held in smaller groups in open spaces. Printed communication materials were also developed to support self-paced remote learning. In Niger, groups were reduced from thirty to ten participants. In Zambia, safe spaces continued to provide services and outreach to adolescent girls by reducing the number of participants per session and by providing personal protective equipment and hygiene supplies. UNFPA provided dignity kits to support the hygiene and safety needs of girls as well as radio sets to ensure participation in virtual programmes.

Going digital: In response to the COVID-19 restrictions countries and regional offices moved to digital platforms to implement activities, meetings and learning events. In response to the school closures, Bangladesh developed online mechanisms to reach adolescent girls by phone and social media. Girls who did not own their own mobile phones were encouraged to share phones with family members. Much of the adolescent engagement activities in Uganda were also moved online. There is a need to provide diverse platforms for adolescent engagement going beyond community radio. In Mozambique, the programme provided psychosocial support via phone to mentors. Since not all 4,800 mentors have phones, they either need to be provided with a phone, or alternative ways of reaching all mentors have to be

set up. Bangladesh conducted a U-Report poll through the mobile platform to assess violence against children. The results of the poll were used to adjust multimedia communication and social mobilisation.

The switch to online communication in India made it easier to communicate with government officials for capacity development and advocacy. In Mozambique, UNICEF procured laptops and modems and provided training in online conferencing to key implementing partners as well as government in order to ensure continuity of services and monitor activities even if remotely. In Ghana, to further promote online safety as part of the Safe to Learn campaign and Ghana's Safe School Initiative, financial and technical support was provided to the Ministry of Education to develop a Digital Literacy Package with a focus on online safety including the drafting of the safe school and safeguarding policy.

Bridging the digital divide using low-tech means:
A rapid assessment to understand of the impact of the pandemic on girls in Nepal informed programme adaptations and integrated psychosocial support and emergency relief information into radio sessions. Moving from face-to-face to radio sessions with a check back on adolescents and parents offered a feasible solution with a wider reach. During the year, the programme in Nepal reached 23,000 girls by adapting the delivery mechanism to radio, while face-to-face engagement was limited to only 5,829 girls. The delivery of the Rupantaran programme through radio was complemented by quizzes and phone calls to strengthen interaction with adolescent girls. Outreach workers have the contact details of all girls enrolled in the programme, which proved essential to keep in contact with the girls and their parents. To avoid face-to-face meetings, the programme in Bangladesh engaged people on COVID-19 response initiatives through community radio, loudspeakers and public address systems. In Ghana, most partners adopted a combination of mass media channels (TV, radio) and door-to-door approaches to reach targeted audiences. The programme in Zambia used radio programmes to ensure continued outreach to communities during the pandemic. To provide education during school closures in Zambia, UNICEF, in partnership with i-School, supported the development and broadcasting of an eight-week series of lessons through national and community radio.

Continuity of services: The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of building resilience and ensure programme continuity. Child helplines in the East and Southern Africa region played an important role in continued service provision during the pandemic. Standard operating procedures and quality service provision manuals were revised to provide guidance

to the frontline workers during emergencies. In Yemen, coordination among service providers helped to ensure the continuity of services. Regular updating of information on gender-based services helped to ensure that gaps were filled and that services were available to those in need. Another key lesson was that sometimes the resourcefulness and resilience of survivors can have greater impact on the lives of survivors than the provision of services. The West and Central Africa regional offices developed contextualized COVID-19 guidelines to mainstream gender-based violence and child marriage during the pandemic and produced an action plan to scale up child marriage programmes in the region.

Education: In Mozambique, messages on the prevention of violence against children were integrated into distance learning activities. The programme in Mozambique built the capacity of education officials and school council members to prevent violence and child marriage as part of the back-to-school campaign. In India, Zambia and Ethiopia adaptations of out-of-school comprehensive sexuality education activities were conducted to prevent gender-based violence, child marriage and adolescent pregnancy during lockdowns.

Adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights:
A learning from Zambia shows that adolescent-friendly services are, today, not sufficiently responsive to sexual and gender-based violence, inclusion of disability and other equity-focused areas. The training manual for peer educators and health workers must be revised to extend the scope of topics and ensure quality assurance of training. Evidence from India indicated that efforts to prevent child marriage need to be balanced with initiatives that promote adolescent sexual and bodily autonomy and agency. In Uganda, the Global Programme combined efforts with other joint programmes (on gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS) to partner with a private transport motorcycle company, the Safe Boda association, to distribute over one million free condoms targeting young urban people most impacted by the lockdown measures. In addition, the programme developrd an e-personal health shop to support young people, girls and women to seek and order sexual and reproductive health information and services online, resulting in over 22,000 orders, 40 per cent being emergency contraception by girls aged 13-19 years.

Community surveillance: Community-based surveillance mechanisms in Ethiopia continued community-level discussions through village-to-village and house-to-house visits. The mechanisms were vital to engage out-of-school girls and ensure they receive immediate support when they are at risk of child marriage. The programme in Uganda learned that during emergencies there is an increased need for community protection

and surveillance systems to ensure that adolescents at risk of violence are identified, protected, referred and linked to adolescent-friendly services. There is also a need to strengthen community response mechanisms by providing support for temporary shelters for adolescents who run away from home to escape child marriage and by providing social workers who can engage with parents for reconciliation and re-unification with their children. In Ghana, UNICEF provided masks, gloves and other personal protective equipment items to enable social workers to continue to provide services safely.

Protection: In partnership with the non-governmental organization Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative (REPSSI) and with support from UNICEF, the Government of Mozambique developed a training package on case management services and psychosocial support for families and children, which was designed to be delivered residentially or remotely. The psychosocial support manual for teachers incorporates modules for violence against children and gender-based violence response in times of COVID-19. Poor parenting has been identified in Uganda as a major driver of violence against children and child marriage. Hence, there is a need to increase investment in programmes that build the capacities, skills and knowledge of parents on how to nurture children and protect them from harmful practices such as child marriage.

Social protection and safety net programmes: Programmes addressing poverty have to be strengthened and expanded to enable vulnerable families to cope with economic distress. Large scale social protection schemes require additional investments in complementary interventions to transform gender-discriminatory norms that perpetuate harmful practices such as child marriage. The 'cash plus' model has become even more critical now as a means to deal with the effects of the COVID-19 crisis (for example in India and Yemen). To keep adolescent girls engaged in empowerment initiatives in Bangladesh, the programme has to provide practical livelihood skills along with comprehensive sexuality education, along with 'plus' interventions.

Gender norms as key drivers in humanitarian settings: A key learning point on child marriage in humanitarian settings in South Asia is that the underlying, deep-seated drivers of child marriage that have been identified in existing research do not fundamentally change during crises. There were several factors that interacted to sustain or moderate the practice of child marriage in both refugee and natural disaster settings, including social norms that perpetuate gender and racial inequality, economic insecurity, protective and supportive policy environment and education. This point

confirmed that boys were also affected by child marriage in humanitarian contexts. Shifting discriminatory gender norms requires sustained investments in interventions across the socio-ecology with deep and nuanced participatory community-based reflections.

Legislation and policy making: The work in Bangladesh has demonstrated the effectiveness and importance of strengthening the capacities of parliamentarians to support the elimination of child marriage in their constituencies, advocate for policy implementation and enhance political and administrative accountability.

Partnerships: By leveraging the joint United Nations programmes on gender-based violence and on female genital mutilation as well as the Spotlight Initiative, the programme in Uganda was able to reach a wider audience and improve coordination and advocacy on a national level.

3.9 Next steps and priorities for the way forward

Gender-transformative programming: In 2021, the Global Programme's headquarters' Gender-Transformative Programming Technical Assistance strategy will work towards supporting and strengthening the implementation of gender-transformative programming at national and sub-national levels. It will do so by undertaking gender reviews, tailored training and by creating public goods (e.g., tools and resources) that can support country programming and platforms for knowledge sharing and peer support among Global Programme countries and beyond. Several countries within the programme will undertake gender reviews building on existing gender assessments to strengthen gender-responsive and transformative programme strategies.

Adolescent empowerment: In Bangladesh, the programme will roll out the Standardized Adolescent Empowerment Package (SAEP) in all the divisions and will support adolescents with market-driven livelihood skills and job placements. The programme in Mozambique will train education actors in the use of the new guide for the implementation of life skills activities. In Zambia, where school clubs will be prioritized, life skills education will be rolled out in primary schools and career and livelihood skills clubs will be operationalized in secondary schools. Programmes in India will leverage technologies to engage with young people and enhance their access to services, including solutions that help bridge the digital divide.

Engaging men and boys and promoting positive masculinities: The regional offices in the Middle

East and North Africa and the Arab States region will strengthen the engagement with boys and men to address harmful masculinities. In Ethiopia, the engagement of men and boys is expected to strengthen the gender-transformative dimension of the programme. In Sierra Leone, the programme will accelerate the implementation of boys' clubs and improve integrated interventions between girls' and boys' clubs.

Local authorities and religious leaders: In Niger, the Illimin girls' empowerment programme will continue to target the most marginalized girls while deepening the impact of interventions. The programme will place greater emphasis on the involvement of traditional and municipal authorities, strengthen human resources, and strengthen partnerships with town halls. The India programme will advocate the government to assign dedicated human resources for adolescent empowerment programmes and services at sub-district levels. The UNFPA Arab States Regional Office, in partnership with UNICEF, will involve religious leaders in initiatives to change social norms related to child marriage. In Ethiopia, the programme will engage faith-based institutions in Programme Cooperation Agreements to strengthen their engagement in ending child marriage.

Violence against children and gender-based violence: The social and behaviour change communication programme in Bangladesh will continue to integrate topics and messages related to violence against children and women, extend its reach of marginalized adolescent girls and address issues of adolescents with disability. The Mozambique programme will support the Ministry of Education in developing the violence against children reporting and referral operational plan and train gender and school health focal points in the use of the violence against children reporting and referral mechanisms. The Zambia programme will roll out 13 radio programmes on the prevention of school-related gender-based violence and train teachers in the code of ethics. Ethiopia will continue to institutionalize the delivery of capacity-building for service providers in collaboration with the violence against children programme.

Adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights: The Bangladesh programme will provide technical assistance to the government to scale up adolescent-friendly health services in all 64 districts and provide support for integrating mental health and psychosocial counselling services. In Uganda, the programme will implement comprehensive sexuality education for adolescents in- and out-of-school. In Zambia, the programme will continue advocating for implementing comprehensive sexuality education in schools while promoting consensus building among actors.

Social protection: The Middle East and North Africa region will explore the adaptation of guidance on cash transfers in humanitarian settings to target girls at risk of child marriage and increase school attendance. In Bangladesh, the programme will continue supporting the Department of Women Affairs to provide quality economic empowerment programmes for vulnerable adolescent girls and their families. In Ethiopia, the programme will influence the design of phase 5 of the social protection programme, the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP), and ensure the inclusion of gender-responsive and transformative interventions to prevent gender-based violence and harmful practices such as child marriage as part of the next phase of PSNP. In India, the programme will strengthen linkages with the State Skill Mission to promote livelihood skills for adolescent girls.

Leveraging public resources: The programme in Ethiopia is planning to track public finance and expenditures with support from the regional office of UNICEF. This will inform and strengthen the evidence base for advocacy for increased allocations of public resources and an accountability framework. India will build partnerships with existing CSOs at the community level to leverage resources from district administrations to strengthen the programme. In Mozambique, UNFPA initiated a Youth Partners Group to serve as a platform for strategic advisory and multi-sector coordination to harness the demographic dividend and maximize investments in the 'youth agenda'. The Regional Offices for East and Southern Africa finalised Guidelines for Developing Child Protection Budget Briefs in 2020. This resource was jointly developed by the child protection and social policy teams and benefited from field testing in Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia. The guidelines are designed to support countries in analysing public budget expenditures on harmful practices, including child marriage. Going forward, countries will be supported in the preparation of budget briefs on child marriage to support advocating governments to allocate public resources to interventions aimed at ending child marriage.

At-scale programming: In Ethiopia, the programme will continue to generate evidence to influence the design of large-scale programmes. In Zambia, the programme will organize an annual review meeting will all ten provincial planners to mobilise key government officials in scaling up efforts to end child marriage and expand accountability for results across the government. India will support innovative community interventions and leverage large-scale programmes that organize and empower women to address the intersections between child marriage and violence and the gendered impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In Bangladesh, the Global Programme will work on a monitoring and evaluation framework and costing of the national action plan on ending child marriage, through a long-term institutional contract with London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Marginalized populations: In Zambia, the programme will revise the peer educator and health worker manual to further promote gender equality and inclusion of adolescents with disabilities and the provision of adolescent-friendly services. The programme in India will strengthen support for the state action plan to end child marriage in Odisha and support 1730 residential schools to promote a student-friendly environment and strengthen the life skills education programme for about 8000 adolescents with disabilities. In Burkina Faso, the programme will strengthen support for families in displaced and host communities to better protect children from child marriage, sexual abuse and exploitation.

Legislation: In India, the programme will advocate on issues of age of consent, issues of girls confined to child-care institutions when rescued for consensual elopement or marriage, the efficacy of the working of social and behaviour change communication on the prevention of child marriage and 'cash plus'. In Sierra Leone, the programme will continue high-level advocacy for the enactment of a bill on the prohibition of child marriage.

Research: The Bangladesh programme will conduct a quantitative study on subnational trends in child marriage using all available Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS). The programme in Nepal will conduct a study on self-initiated child marriage and will also consider the impacts of COVID-19 on child marriage trends. The India programme will initiate a longitudinal study on the impact of socio-economic stress on households and on family-level decisions related to child and early marriage.

The regional offices for East and Southern Africa will continue to support the social and gender norms change agenda of the countries part of the social and behaviour change baseline study. UNICEF will develop and test a social norms training package and identify a non-governmental organization partner to start the roll-out of the capacity development initiative in the region.

The Bangladesh programme will develop guidelines for the design of new survey tools based on a review of gender biases in existing surveys (e.g., MICS, ECBSS). Ethiopia will prioritise administrative data gathering and analysis by supporting the development of monitoring and evaluation guidelines tailored to partners at different levels and by providing training and mentorship to roll out the system.

The regional offices in the Middle East and North Africa will commission a regional analysis on the linkages between child marriage and female genital mutilation. UNFPA East and Southern Africa Regional Office will conduct research and develop programmatic guidance on climate change, child marriage and gender. The India programme will commission research on the dynamics and tensions between adolescent sexuality, autonomy and their protection.

Strategic partnerships: The regional offices for East and Southern Africa will continue to strengthen the partnership with the African Council of Religious Leaders (ACRL) and the Inter-Faith Councils, at the national level, to address incorrect interpretations of the sacred scriptures on child marriage. Mozambique will hold bi-monthly meetings between the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action, UNFPA and UNICEF to provide the ministry with technical assistance for their overall leadership and coordination of the implementation of the national strategy on child marriage. Nepal will strengthen strategic partnerships and coalitions with women's rights groups and men's and boys' groups to advance gender-transformative approaches. In addition, Nepal will explore strategic partnerships with the private sector to promote girls' education and gender equity as well as expand partnerships with other United Nations agencies that have experience of addressing poverty drivers, such as UNDP and UN Women. Niger will strengthen and expand existing 'communities of champions' to advocate for girls' rights. In Mozambique, both UNFPA and UNICEF are developing their next Country Programmes and are contributing to the development of the United Nations Sustainable Development Country Framework (UNSDCF). This is an opportunity to include child marriage as a key issue in the United Nations country assistance framework.

Visibility and communication: UNFPA and UNICEF East and Southern Africa will host a regional event to celebrate five years of the Global Programme in the region. This will include documenting and sharing good practices, human interest stories, videos, photos and other media to showcase the results and impact of the Global Programme. Further, UNFPA will host a symposium on menstrual health management in the region. In Mozambique, UNFPA will organize quarterly technical webinars on child marriage to share knowledge and advocate for gender equity. Themes for the webinars include masculinity and child marriage, effects of COVID-19 on child marriage, child marriage in humanitarian contexts, social and gender norms associated with child marriage and mental health of adolescent girls affected by teenage pregnancy and child marriage among others.

PROGRAMME GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Enabling indicator 4000: Global Programme effectiveness and efficiency (enablers) measures taken to strengthen joint implementation and achieve better synergies among UNFPA and UNICEF.

4.1 Joint programming

During the year, the Global Programme continued to leverage the comparative advantages of UNFPA and UNICEF to achieve better synergies for increased impact. In both the Middle East and North Africa region and the South Asia region, the regional offices jointly commissioned studies on child marriage in humanitarian settings. To amplify the launch of the studies, senior representatives for the regional offices in the Middle East and North Africa region participated in a panel discussion to highlight key challenges and policy recommendations to prevent child marriage in humanitarian settings. In South Asia, the regional directors for both UNFPA and UNICEF jointly published an op-ed, featured in news outlets in both Bangladesh and Nepal, to put light on the issue. Further, in Nepal, the rapid assessment for girls enrolled in the life skills programme was jointly conceptualized by UNFPA and UNICEF, involving field office staff and all implementing partners. Support to provincial governments to develop a provincial strategy based on the assessment was led by UNFPA in one province, with technical support from UNICEF, and led by UNICEF, with technical support from UNFPA, in the other. The monitoring mechanism for the programme was also jointly conceptualized and implemented.

In both Ghana and Yemen, the two agencies work together to ensure a common approach to girls' empowerment. In Ghana, the use of common approaches for the delivery of structured information and services to a common cohort of adolescent girls through the safe space concept in geographical convergence areas has enhanced the consistency in the minimum package of information and services delivered to girls. In Yemen, the two agencies jointly coordinated a review of the life skills manual in 2020 to adapt it for different learning paths, for girls and boys, and to make the curriculum more gender-transformative. Further, in Sierra Leone, the two agencies jointly developed content for an SMS campaign on gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health during the pandemic, to ensure common messaging.

UNFPA and UNICEF conduct joint advocacy in most of the Global Programme countries on issues related to child marriage. In India, in the state of Odisha, UNFPA and UNICEF jointly advocated with the Minister of Women and Child Development to place greater emphasis on child marriage and the empowerment of adolescent girls. In Mozambique, UNFPA and UNICEF

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provided technical assistance to the government for the evaluation of the National Strategy to End Child Marriage (2016-2019). The findings of the evaluation will be used to revise the strategy going forward. Also in Sierra Leone, UNFPA and UNICEF jointly supported the National Secretariat for the Reduction of Teenage Pregnancy to conduct a mid-term review of the implementation of the National Strategy for the Reduction of Adolescent Pregnancy and Child Marriage. The two agencies also supported the Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs to expand the child protection case management system PRIMERO to include gender-based violence (called GBVIMS+). In Uganda, at a national level, both agencies coordinated, engaged with and advocated through the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development to ensure that child marriage is adequately addressed within broader government initiatives, and that government plans promote gender equality and are gender transformative. Further, both agencies worked with the Ministry of Education and Sports in 2020 to revise the guidelines for pregnancies among students. As a result, adolescent girls who have been given birth are now allowed to resume their education.

The programme also continues to enhance geographical convergence to ensure girls and communities are reached with a complementary set of interventions.

In Uganda, geographical convergence increased from 13 to 15 districts in which UNFPA and UNICEF worked together in 2020. In Zambia, the Global Programme continues to focus on Katete and Senanga districts with joint implementation in six wards of the districts. In addition to the focused implementation in these wards, support to adolescent sexual and reproductive health services covered all health facilities across both districts and during the year the support to the

education sector was also scaled up to five additional wards. In Niger, UNFPA and UNICEF work together at the national level and on select community initiatives. Joint work will be further strengthened with the implementation of the Spotlight Initiative. Activities under Spotlight (implemented by UNDP and UN Women) will cover 60 municipalities with five villages per municipality, with the Global Programme targeting other villages in the same municipalities.

Enabling indicator 4100: Efficient and effective management of partnerships and resources enables achievement of results.

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4.2 Partnerships

After a drop in partnerships in 2019, the total number of partnerships increased again in 2020, to 304 (*see figure 6*), with 290 of these being implementing partners. Note that the Global Programme's aim to support scalable solutions to child marriage, including those reaching marginalized populations, influences the numbers and types of partners engaged. Rather than simply expanding the number of partners, the goal is to ensure that chosen partners are well-supported in their actions, including being informed of global evidence, improving the quality of programming, measuring results for accountability and risk management and assurance.

The number of partnerships is heavily driven by India (with 126 partners), with the median number of partnerships for country offices being 14 (*see figure 7*).

For regional offices the average number of partners is 6, which includes regional intergovernmental bodies, academic institutions, international non-governmental organizations and other United Nations agencies. Overall, the programme mostly works with CSOs and government bodies in the implementation of activities (*see figure 8*). The government bodies cut across the sectors of education, health, information and communication, protection and justice, social protection, gender and youth, etc. showing the multi-sectorality of the programme. In terms of CSO partners, 85 of 130 organizations have a specific focus on one or more of women's, children's and youth rights. In addition, 18 organizations that the programme is working with are youth-led.

FIGURE 6. Number of Global Programme partnerships
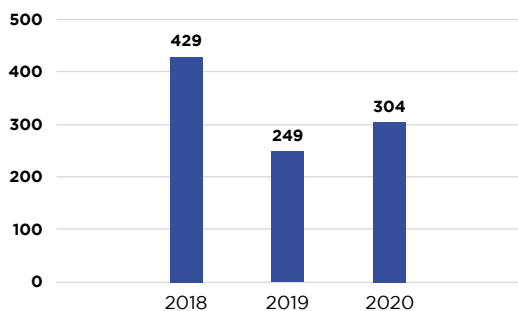
FIGURE 8. Type of partners in 2020

- Government bodies
- Civil society organization
- International/regional/ national partnership
- Media
- Academic institutions
- United Nations Agencies
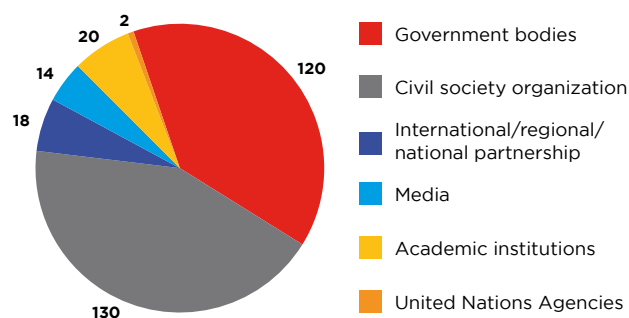
FIGURE 7. Number of partnerships by country in 2020

Bangladesh	35
Burkina Faso	14
Ethiopia	12
Ghana	17
India	126
Mozambique	8
Nepal	17
Niger	6
Sierra Leone	14
Uganda	16
Yemen	6
Zambia	9
ESARO	14
MENARO/ASRO	3
ROSA/APRO	2
WCARO	5
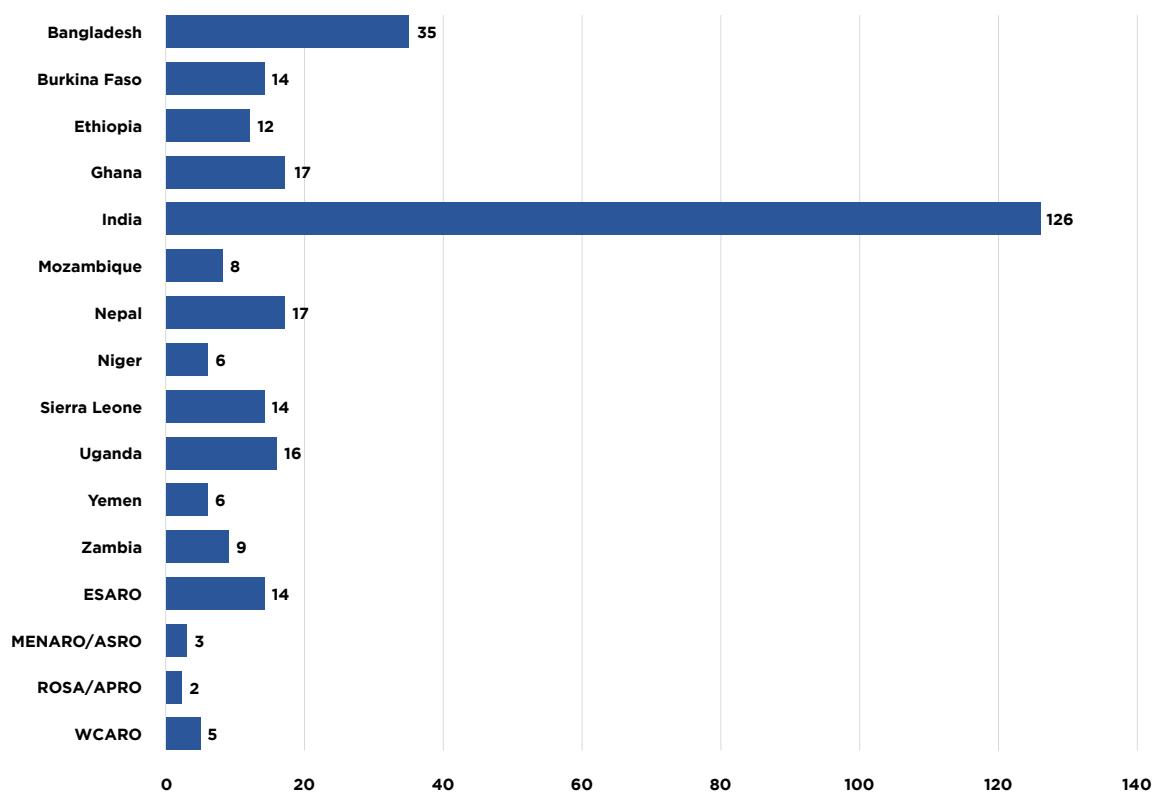
TABLE 21. Partnerships by type of partner

Type of partner	Implementing partners	Other partners
Government bodies	113	7
Civil society organizations	127	3
International/ regional/ national partnerships	15	3
Media	14	0
Academic institutions	20	0
United Nations agencies	1	1
Total	**290**	**14**

As an example, in East and Southern Africa, the regional programme cooperation agreement between UNICEF and Child Helpline International played an instrumental role to ensure service continuity during the pandemic. The regional offices of UNFPA and UNICEF also partnered with the African Council of Religious Leaders (ACRL) to engage with Inter-Faith Councils at the national level to challenge incorrect interpretations of the sacred scriptures of child marriage. In collaboration with UNICEF headquarters, Religions for Peace-ACRL and the Joint Learning Initiative for Faith and Local Communities, new guidance was produced on engaging and communicating with religious leaders on violence against children, child marriage and female genital mutilation in the time of COVID-19. The two regional offices aligned their partnerships with the African Union, regional economic communities (SADC and EAC) and with parliamentary fora to the priorities of the Spotlight Initiative regional programme for Africa.

The Global Programme remains focused on strengthening and coordinating systems, services as well as community-based organizations, including those led by women and young people. By strengthening the ability of existing systems to better serve adolescent girls and by empowering community organizations, more ownership is transferred to local stakeholders as more girls and their families receive the essential support and services to help delay child marriage.

4.3 Visibility and communication

The Global Programme continued to use online platforms to raise awareness on child marriage and inform the public about the programme in 2020. The programme has dedicated webpages on both UNFPA's and UNICEF's global websites as well as social media accounts on Twitter and Instagram. The aims of the Global Programme social media accounts are to leverage social platform communities to spread awareness of the Global Programme, inspire audiences to engage with and share content published across channels and engage with potential donors and partners to lay the groundwork for future solicitation of funds or in-kind support for the Global Programme. Targeting key stakeholders such as policy makers, socially-minded youth and persons in countries where child marriage is prevalent, the accounts continued to grow in terms of following and engagement in 2020. Overall, the Global Programme had a digital following of

close to 15,000 people during the year.[56] This represents an increase of 47% in followers on Twitter and an 115% increase in followers on Instagram. The following of the Global Programme is highly engaged and interactions per 1,000 followers show the programme's success in creating content that is relevant and speaks to the intended audiences.

An important aspect of the Global Programme's communication platforms is to enable adolescent girls to have their voices heard and to reach larger audiences. In April, the programme arranged a Twitter chat to hear from individuals and organizations across the world about the impact of COVID-19 on adolescent girls, child marriage and interventions to support girls. In total, 411 users generated 896 tweets during the one-hour chat with a total of 4.2 million impressions of the tweets.

UNICEF also produced a video series featuring 16 adolescent girls from 9 countries. The Coping with COVID-19 videos were disseminated over five episodes on UNICEF's global social media channels and on a dedicated webpage.[57] From the launch in July 2020 until September over 6.3 million views were recorded, and the webpage of the series was the most visited page on UNICEF's website with an average time spent on the page of over 20 minutes (whereas the average across the platform is around 2-3 minutes per page). The series gained a lot of attention and was aired on national TV in Niger and Madagascar, while also being featured in The Lancet: Child and Adolescent Health and taken up by WaterBear; a streaming platform for social good. The series was also nominated for a Shorty Awards in the category 'user created content' and made available on Amazon Prime in the United States and in the United Kingdom. In 2021, UNICEF is looking at producing a second season of the series, going back to some of the girls to hear how their lives have changed during COVID-19 and how they see their futures now.

The Global Programme hosted two Instagram live sessions during the year to connect with Girls Not Brides and a member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child to discuss what they hear from the field in terms of child marriage during the pandemic. The programme also supported the publishing of two blogs on the UNICEF Connect platform to keep the focus on adolescent girls and the need to prevent and respond to child marriage during the pandemic.

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56   1,503 followers on Instagram, 4,270 followers on Twitter and 9,085 unique visitors on the page through UNICEF's website during the year. Traffic to UNFPA's website is not counted for.

57   UNICEF, 2020, *Coping with COVID-19: A pandemic through a girl's eyes,* www.unicef.org/coronavirus/coping-with-covid-19.

"We live in a world where girls are set up to not succeed and with COVID-19, girls are feeling even more hopeless. Moving forward, we have to say we believe in girls and acknowledge their vulnerabilities to reimagine a better future."

Idil Ira, a young activist from Turkey

In addition to technical webinars and clinics, as well as high-level advocacy events, the programme hosted an event to provide participants with an opportunity to reset, reimagine and recommit to a world without child marriage. The event brought together 88 participants who shared the need to give girls hope, to ensure they have a platform to speak up from and that all girls must have the education and skills to move towards a bright future.

During the year, the UNFPA Arab States Regional Office invested in the ideation and planning of Mariam, a regional digital ambassador, as an entry point to address child marriage in the region by creating a digital dialogue with adolescent girls as well as an advocacy tool to empower young girls. Mariam will be used for advocacy initiatives related to ending harmful practices that perpetuate gender inequality, with the launch conducted on the International Day of the Girl in 2020.[58]

The UNFPA regional office for Asia and the Pacific hosted a virtual regional dialogue on child marriage on the occasion of the launch of the State of the World Population (SWOP) report on harmful practices in 2020.[59] Also, in East and Southern Africa, a virtual launch event for the launch of the SWOP report was arranged during the year, led by UNFPA.[60] The two regional offices in the region also published, in collaboration with UN Women, a joint op-ed by the three regional directors on adolescents' rights during the year. At a country level, the launch of the SWOP report was utilized as a moment to highlight the issue of child marriage. For example in Mozambique, the SWOP report launch focused on child marriage and took place through a webinar with

participation of Graça Machel, the Minister of Gender, the Ambassador of Sweden, a parliamentarian, a social activist and a Rapariga Biz mentor with more than 100 people live streaming the event online.[61]

Several offices ran communication campaigns to leverage key moments such as the 16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women and Girls. In Ethiopia, as part of the 16 Days campaign, UNFPA organized a high-level panel discussion with religious leaders and policy makers on the role of faith-based organizations to prevent gender-based violence and harmful practices. The panel discussion shared challenges, best practices and solutions related to the elimination of harmful practices in local communities. A short documentary film was produced for the event to create awareness about the role of faith-based organizations in the fight against gender-based violence and harmful practices. UNICEF posted messages on social media about the secondary impact of COVID-19 on girls and the potential increase of child marriages during the year, with calls to action on the International Women's Day, the International Day of the Girl and during the 16 Days of Activism. In Ghana, UNICEF ran different campaigns on the empowerment of adolescent girls, prevention of violence, prevention of teenage pregnancies and ending child marriage in 2020. Meanwhile, UNFPA produced branded sanitary towels in support of girls in safe spaces and launched them at a national stakeholders review on ending child marriage, using the platform to advocate for the Ministry of Finance to allocate more resources to the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection and other relevant partners to provide sanitary towels to adolescent girls.

58   UNFPA Arab States Regional Office, 2020, *A Decade of Action: Adolescent girls' power!,* https://arabstates.unfpa.org/en/news/decade-action-adolescent-girls-power.

59   UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office, 2020, *SWOP Report overview and child marriage discussion,* www.youtube.com/watch?v=U-1v7E2pgUhk.

60   UNFPA East and Southern Africa Regional Office, 2020, *Defy the Practice! Take a stand today to help end child marriage and FGM,* https://esaro.unfpa.org/en/news/defy-practice-take-stand-today-help-end-child-marriage-and-fgm.

61   UNFPA Mozambique, 2020, *Mesa Redonda Virtual: Soluções para Acabar com o Casamento Prematuro,* www.youtube.com/watch?v=-jOXVLIbuGIU&feature=youtu.be.

The Global Programme also received news coverage during the year and published numerous articles and stories on child marriage online and on social media. For a list of some of the coverage, please refer to the annex.

4.4 Knowledge management and exchange

The Global Programme continues to be driven by its knowledge management strategy to learn from evidence and experience, link colleagues and partners and lead the field in ending child marriage. To this end, the Global Programme Support Unit in New York focused on developing technical notes and guidance to support programming to end child marriage. These notes included guidance on implementing gender-transformative approaches across the socio-ecological model, strengthening policies and laws to prevent child marriage, ensuring convergent programming across sectors and on how to scale up interventions for increased impact. In total, 11 technical notes and 3 factsheets were developed during 2020, with both UNFPA and UNICEF also publishing technical notes on how to pivot child marriage programming to respond to COVID-19. To support the roll-out of the technical notes and ensure their use, in 2021, the Global Programme will host a series of open clinics for staff in the programme and partners to allow for a discussion around key concepts, recommendations and their application in different contexts.

Technical notes and factsheets on ending child marriage (from 2019-2021)
1. Child marriage and the law
2. Factsheet on civil society engagement in the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage
3. Leaving no one behind
4. Preventing and responding to child marriage in humanitarian settings: The Global Programme approach
5. Seven steps to strengthening legislation, policy and public financing to end child marriage
6. Technical note on adolescent girl-responsive systems
7. Technical note on adolescent girls' empowerment
8. Technical note on life skills programmes to empower adolescent girls
9. Technical note on convergent programming
10. Technical note on ensuring value for money in the Global Programme to End Child Marriage
11. Technical note on gender norms
12. Technical note on partnering with men and boys to end child marriage
13. Technical note on scaling up efforts to end child marriage: The Global Programme approach
14. Ten reasons to invest in the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage
15. Technical note on COVID-19 and harmful practices (UNICEF)
16. Equality for girls in crisis: Adapting child marriage and adolescent girls' programming during COVID-19 pandemic (UNFPA)
17. Learning beyond the classroom: Adapting comprehensive sexuality education programming during the COVID-19 pandemic (UNFPA)
18. Adapting to COVID-19: Pivoting the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage to respond to the pandemic
19. COVID-19: Digital and remote approaches in eliminating female genital mutilation and child marriage (UNICEF)
20. Battling the perfect storm: Adapting programmes to end child marriage to the pandemic and beyond (UNICEF)

A key focus for the regional offices in South Asia and Asia and the Pacific in 2020 was the implementation of the region-specific knowledge management strategy, which was finalized based on a review of the use of evidence in programming and knowledge management tools. A review of the implementation of knowledge management related to child marriage was completed in the first half of 2020. The review assessed the current state of knowledge dissemination from the regional offices to country offices, particularly looking at the usefulness of current dissemination methods, e.g., child marriage evidence series, an online portal, webinars and face-to-face learning. The review guides ongoing improvement of these methods.

The Global Programme continues to be driven by its knowledge management strategy to learn from evidence and experience, link colleagues and partners and lead the field in ending child marriage.

To support countries to pivot their programming during COVID-19, the regional offices for South Asia and Asia and the Pacific regularly updated information sheets and consolidated resources and tools on child marriage and COVID-19, which was shared with country teams to support adaptation of programming to the pandemic. In West and Central Africa, the regional offices developed contextualized COVID-19 guidelines to mainstream gender-based violence and child marriage into interventions during the pandemic and developed an action plan to scale up child marriage programmes in the region. In the East and Southern Africa region, a regional brief on 'Child Marriage and COVID-19: Disruptions, alternative approaches and building programme resilience' was developed and disseminated providing an analysis of disruptions to child marriage programmes in Global Programme countries and describing the approaches taken by country offices and partners to overcome these challenges.

The Global Programme Support Unit arranged external webinars to share the latest evidence, good examples from programming and lessons learnt across Global Programme offices. The topics of the webinars covered budget advocacy for public financing, partnering with men and boys to end harmful practices and monitoring child marriage during the COVID-19 pandemic. UNICEF further led on three webinars focusing on recent data and evidence on child marriage looking at overlaps between child marriage and female genital mutilation, child marriage in the Sahel region and evidence on social and behaviour change to end child marriage. On average, the webinars had 366 registrants and 141 attendees from 45 countries. All external webinars recorded good feedback from participants with an average rating of 4.7/5 and positive comments around content and topics covered, panellists and their presentations and overall format and management of the webinars. A common piece of feedback was the request to provide even more space for questions and answers and open discussions which is something that the upcoming open clinics in 2021 will allow for. In the South Asia region, the two regional offices convened or participated in regional meetings to exchange knowledge and experience between countries implementing the Global Programme, as well as with other countries in the region, particularly Pakistan and Afghanistan, while maintaining partnerships with regional bodies such as the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC) and the South Asia Coordinating Group on Action against Violence against Children (SACG) for coordination and sharing of new knowledge.

The Global Programme continued to send out monthly newsletters[62] to showcase highlights from the programme, share learning and good examples of programming and present recent research linked to child marriage. Each newsletter focuses on a specific theme, with issues in 2020 covering e.g. child marriage in humanitarian settings, COVID-19, engaging adolescents, education and sexual and reproductive health and rights. To complement the newsletter, the programme, in collaboration with the joint UNFPA-UNICEF programme on the elimination of female genital mutilation, also began to send out monthly research digests with all the latest published research and evidence on child marriage and female genital mutilation. The outreach of the newsletter and the research digest continues to grow from 578 subscribers at the end of 2019 to 822 by the end of 2020, a 42 per cent increase, and the readers are located in over 100 countries globally. In addition to the regular newsletters and research digests, the programme also sent out key updates to its network, including on the launch of Phase II of the programme, a half-year update with a compilation of the latest resources published, an update after the United Nations General Assembly in September and an end-of-year update to close out 2020. Combined with an improved approach to promoting events, this allowed for greater dissemination of key messages and engagement with existing and new stakeholders. In South Asia, the regional offices sent out a total of eight child marriage evidence series to the country teams in the region to highlight new evidence in the region and beyond.

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62   See the Global Programme newsletter and research digest archive here: https://us19.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=dd1c-3c629da2cf3d8050f4336&id=6fd73d61df

The programme also published two meeting reports from global consultations on advancing the evidence base about child marriage (arranged together with WHO and Girls Not Brides in 2019) and on child marriage in humanitarian settings respectively, as well as published a report on Phase I of the programme with corresponding country profiles.

The Global Programme Support Unit continued to enhance its internal platforms for linking staff working on the programme to each other and improving knowledge management and sharing. The internal SharePoint holds a reference library of the latest studies and reports on child marriage and related themes, programming and monitoring tools and guides, communication products and mailing lists of focal points for easy reference. In terms of regional collaboration, a joint online knowledge platform on child marriage for the South Asia region was improved with new features based on a review in the first half of the year and continued to be updated with more than 250 documents related to South Asia and child marriage now in the repository.

Three internal clinics were hosted for Global Programme staff to connect and share experiences and information. The three clinics focused on the pivoting of approaches and challenges encountered during the COVID-19 pandemic, the indicator guidance for the new Phase II results framework and on the results reporting template. To strengthen learning and knowledge sharing in the programme an onboarding package with key resources related to the programme was developed and shared with all new staff. A template for exit interviews with departing staff was also developed to ensure capture of tacit knowledge from colleagues moving to new roles or leaving the agencies. The programme continues to have a community of practice on the Yammer platform where key information and updates are shared and there is a possibility to have more informal discussions around child marriage and the programme across countries and regions.

An institutional consultancy was launched in the East and Southern Africa region, under the auspices of the Spotlight Initiative regional programme for Africa to develop a new social norms training package on harmful practices based on the new global and regional guidance documents Everybody Wants to Belong and the ACT Framework. Further, based on consultations with child helpline members in the region, and with support from Child Helpline International and the Child Helpline Internal Guide, Standard Operational Procedures were updated to ensure the standards were adapted to COVID-19. An eLearning training module for child helplines in the region on data collection and use of data for advocacy purposes was also developed to support country-level helplines.

Regional technical assistance

East and Southern Africa: The UNFPA and UNICEF regional offices provided technical assistance and programme oversight to Ethiopia, Mozambique, Uganda and Zambia country offices to implement recommendations from the Global Programme Evaluation Management Response as well as to adhere to the Global Programme Phase II programme document and indicator guidance. Furthermore, country offices were supported to adjust programme interventions to ensure programme continuity during the pandemic.

Middle East and North Africa: The regional offices provided remote technical support to Yemen and other country offices in the region and convened regional webinars to discuss common issues to discuss how to strategically integrate child marriage messaging and programming in COVID-19 response plans. UNICEF also provided technical inputs to the national action plan to prevent and mitigate child marriage in Lebanon and suggestions for the development of a costed and resourced action plan. Further, UNICEF collaborated with the Jordan country office to map UNICEF and UNFPA engagement in parenting support interventions in the region. The results of the mapping will be used to improve parenting programmes in Yemen and other targeted countries. UNFPA integrated a chapter on harmful practices, including child marriage, in the Y-PEER training of trainers manual for young people in the region. The manual will be used to train young members of the Y-Peer network on youth initiatives to prevent harmful practices within communities.

South Asia: UNFPA and UNICEF jointly provided technical advice and capacity development support, monitoring of country level implementation and facilitation of South-South and country to country experience sharing. Virtual technical support included the consolidation of the latest resources and tools to adapt to the pandemic and documentation of lessons learned. All but one of the regional meetings were conducted virtually during the year.

West and Central Africa: Technical assistance included support on terms of references, research agendas, partnerships and programme revisions. Support was provided to each country office to review its workplan with regard to the COVID-19 challenges and/or opportunities. Additional support covered the review of national legislation, policy and strategy development, increased capacity building to collect and report data on child marriage, programme monitoring and implementation.

TABLE 21. Impact beyond the 12 Global Programme countries

Country and region	Type of engagement	Product
Brazil	Visibility and knowledge sharing with academics affiliated to the 'Agenda Jovem' of FioCruz Foundation to address actions on ending child marriage through evidence-based interventions	UNFPA supported a public event held on International Youth Day by providing an overview of the situation, challenges and promising practices to end child marriage from a sexual and reproductive health perspective
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Technical assistance on development of a multiprovince programme on addressing child marriage	Proposal for a multiyear, multiprovince programme on addressing child marriage aligned with the Global Programme theory of change
Guatemala	Technical support provided by Global Programme Support Unit and regional colleagues	UNFPA's Action for Adolescent Girls initiative funded by the United Nations Foundation
Latin America and the Caribbean	• South-South Exchange: Global Programme Support Unit organized a technical consultation and an exchange of experiences with the aim of encouraging Latin America and the Caribbean countries to adopt and implement the Global Programme approach and strategies to end child marriage • Technical assistance, knowledge management and advocacy and visibility provided by Global Programme Support Unit to Latin America and the Caribbean countries in partnership with regional offices • Partnerships and technical assistance provided by Global Programme Support Unit in partnership with Girls Not Brides • Knowledge management and capacity building supported by Global Programme Support Unit and regional offices	• The joint inter-agency initiative of UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women, under the auspices of the Ford Foundation and the Summit Foundation, held a regional event 'Accelerate Actions to End Child Marriage and Early Unions in Latin America and the Caribbean' from 9 to 11 October 2017. A joint inter-agency programme (UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women) was launched for a Region Free of Child Marriage and Early Unions in Latin America and the Caribbean, focusing initially on five countries: Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico and Dominican Republic • The Global Programme increased technical support and knowledge sharing with Latin America and the Caribbean countries by including them in webinars, featuring in the publication catalogue, newsletter and giving access to the programme documents developed at the global level. In addition, the Global Programme has supported advocacy efforts like side events on child marriage and unions undertaken by Latin America and the Caribbean regional offices at the global level during the Commission on the Status of Women and during the regional multi-stakeholder meeting held in Panama aimed at creating a regional platform to end child marriage in Latin America and the Caribbean • Supported the adaptation of the Girls Not Brides manual on youth participation to end child marriage for Latin America and the Caribbean countries, including translation into Spanish and Portuguese, a consultancy to piloting the manual in a participatory workshop with young female leaders, and getting recommendations to enhance the tool for the region • Supported the International Colloquium on Gender and Masculinities in Costa Rica presenting the importance of engaging men and boys to end child marriage, and during the First Global Forum on Non-Formal Education in Brazil with a focus on empowering adolescent girls in non-formal education to end child marriage in partnership with World Scouting • Assisted technically with inputs to the regional research on child marriage and early unions conducted by UNFPA regional office in partnership with Plan International • Co-facilitated a regional training to UNFPA youth and gender focal points on adolescent girls-centred programming, protective asset-building approach and the global vision to ending child marriage • Supported the creation of Aliadas, a multi-stakeholder platform to end child marriage in the Latin America and Caribbean region, which includes civil society organizations, feminist movements, youth organizations, international organizations and United Nations agencies • The Global Programme Support Unit supported the translation of the Global Programme theory of change into Spanish as a public good to inform country programming
Spotlight Initiative (Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Uganda, Zimbabwe)	• Technical guidance and knowledge sharing	• Provided technical guidance in Spotlight inter-agency consultations and sharing of Global Programme strategies, e.g., in life skills and gender based social norms programming

Enabling indicator 4300: Programme mobilizes resources in support of child marriage interventions.

4.5 Resource mobilization and expenditure

The COVID-19 crisis has highlighted the fragmentation in the health, education, child protection and social protection systems in the programme countries. The debt levels that the majority of programme countries will face as they finally move on from the pandemic will likely result in austerity policies that may have further negative impacts on the health, education, child protection and social protection systems that benefit adolescent girls and their families. Overcoming the severe economic and social impacts of COVID-19 will require increased capacity to mobilize and invest resources to address the risks and vulnerabilities adolescent girls are facing in the programme countries.

Prior to the pandemic, the Global Programme had successfully mobilized resources from governments and private donors to meet most of the Phase II programme requirements. However, as countries begin to prepare for the post-pandemic period, and as the Global Programme continues to work with governments and other partners to assess the immediate needs of adolescent girls in order to prevent child marriages, additional resources will be required to fund key aspects of the programme that are effective in preventing child marriage (e.g., social protection, education and health services).

FIGURE 9. Global Programme expenditure in 2020

- Outcome 1100
- Outcome 1200
- Outcome 2100
- Outcome 2200
- Outcome 3100
- Outcome 3200
- Human resources
- Indirect support
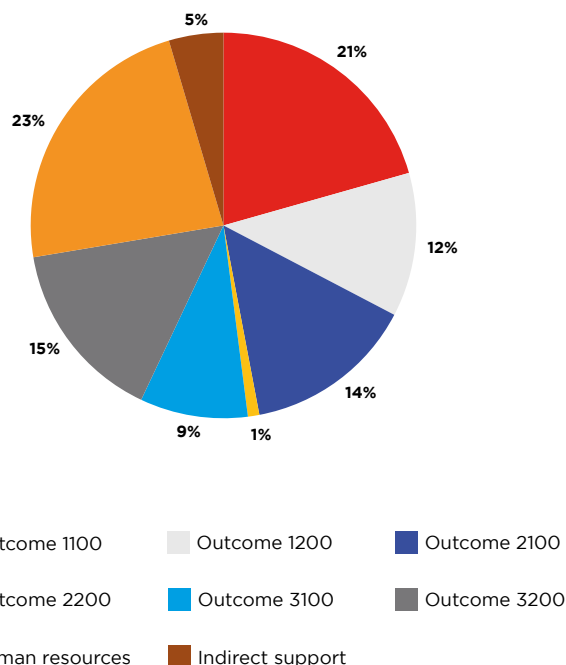
FIGURE 10. Expenditure by country (US$)

- Outcome 1100
- Outcome 1200
- Outcome 2100
- Outcome 2200
- Outcome 3100
- Outcome 3200
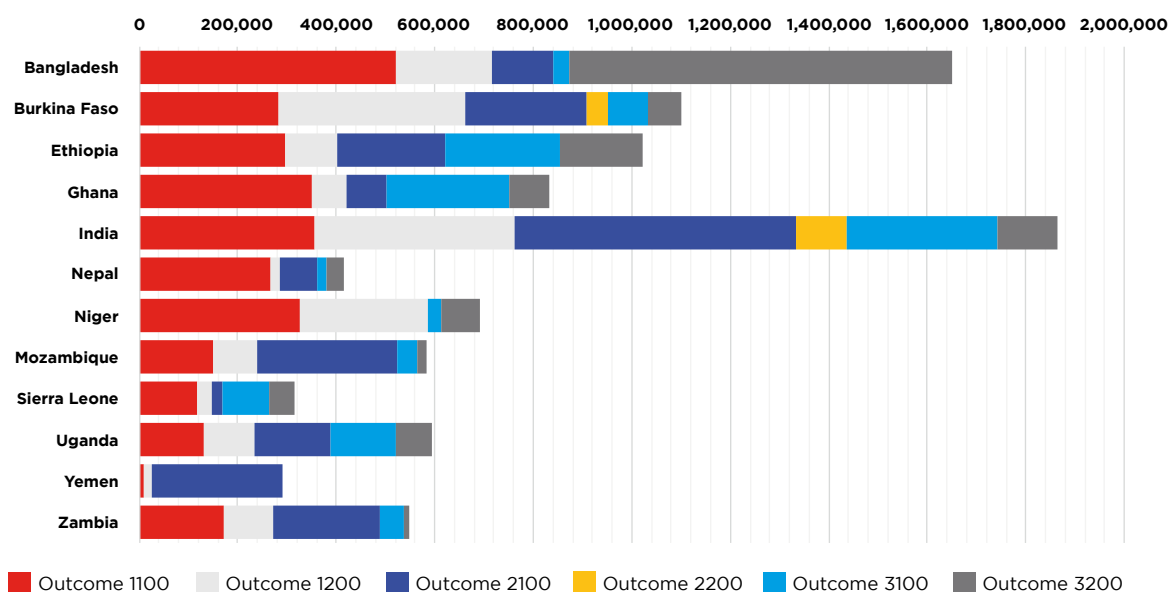
FIGURE 11. Country expenditure by outcome (per cent)

Legend: Outcome 1100 | Outcome 1200 | Outcome 2100 | Outcome 2200 | Outcome 3100 | Outcome 3200
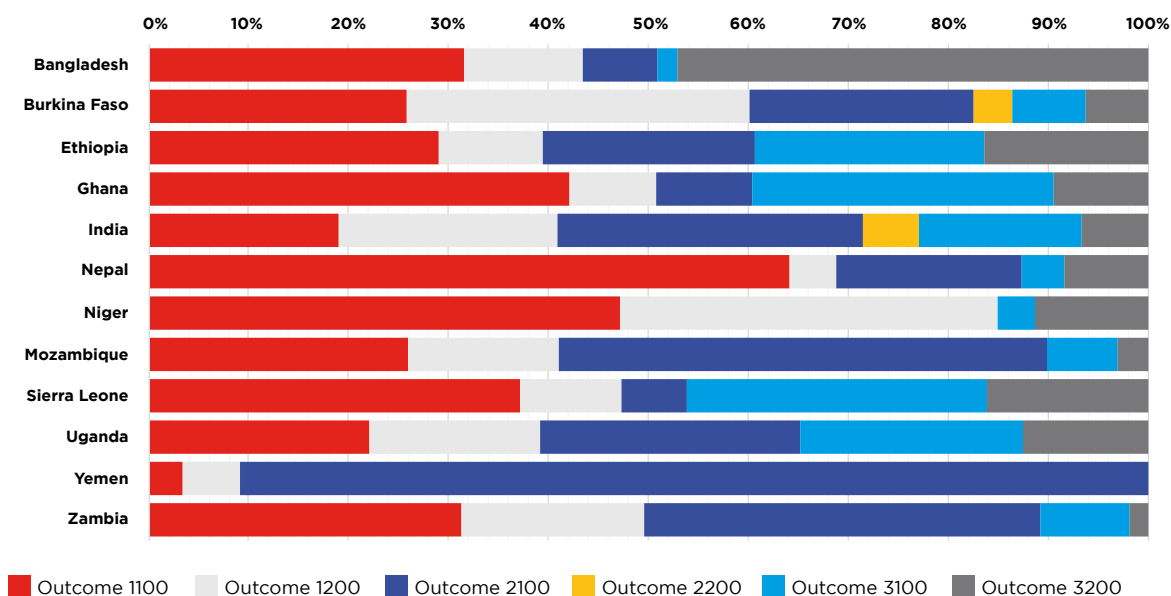
4.6 Value for money

The Global Programme continued to ensure value for money during the year as showcased in examples from Burkina Faso and Ethiopia.

The complementary interventions of UNFPA and UNICEF in Burkina Faso have been further deepened through four joint initiatives: sessions of the multi-sector platform, revision of the facilitators' guide incorporating the key prevention messages of COVID-19, advocacy for the adoption of the revised Family and Persons Code and support for the action and lobbying group, GALOP, an association mainly composed of the wives of senior officials and chaired by the First Lady. In view of the transition to a larger scale the two agencies regularly analyse the areas of intervention for optimal geographical convergence and joint delivery so as to take advantage of each agency's comparative advantages over the targets set for achieving results and delivering a consolidated package of services.

In Ethiopia, UNFPA and UNICEF are coordinating efforts for efficient and effective programme delivery as well as increased value for money. This coordination includes the joint managing of the social and behaviour change baseline-midline-end line surveys, including in the region where UNFPA intervenes. Managing three surveys as one, rather than separate survey initiatives, has resulted in a minimum saving of US$ 75,000. Staff time in managing the procurement process is also considered as a substantial saving, though not accounted for in monetary terms. Similarly, the engagement of both agencies with the Population Media Centre as a PCA partner, with joint consultations since the beginning, has resulted in the saving of US$ 50,000. This has allowed the budget to be used for other new initiatives, such as the engagement with VIAMO. In addition, UNFPA expanded implementation to the Amhara region under the Global Programme, which increased the number of regions where the two agencies converge.

ANNEX

Global Programme selected media and news coverage

Global	
La pandemia a través de los ojos de las niñas adolescentes	https://elpais.com/elpais/2020/09/01/planeta_futuro/1598973106_842144.html?prm=enviar_email
South Asia	
As humanitarian crises escalate, so does child marriage	https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/news/humanitarian-crises-escalate-so-does-child-marriage-1975277
Child marriage: Time to reverse the trend	https://thehimalayantimes.com/opinion/child-marriage-time-to-reverse-the-trend/
Burkina Faso	
Child welfare: UNICEF launches advocacy campaign with 100 traditional leaders	https://www.burkina24.com/2019/09/24/bien-etre-des-enfants-lunicef-lance-une-campagne-de-plaidoyer-avec-100-chefs-coutumiers/
India	
UNICEF, WBCPCR celebrate girls with gender equality song	https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/unicef-wbcpcr-celebrate-girls-with-gender-equality-song/articleshow/78581127.cms

Stories of change

Bangladesh	
Safeguarding girls during times of crises	https://bangladesh.unfpa.org/en/news/safeguarding-girls-during-times-crises
Including the excluded amidst COVID-19	https://bangladesh.unfpa.org/en/news/including-excluded-amidst-covid-19
Pandemic-induced poverty pushing up child marriage	https://www.unicef.org/bangladesh/en/stories/pandemic-induced-poverty-pushing-child-marriage
Pandemic-induced poverty pushing up child marriage	https://www.unicef.org/rosa/stories/pandemic-induced-poverty-pushing-child-marriage
Knowledge as a tool for empowerment for Rohingya refugee women and girls	https://www.unicef.org/bangladesh/en/stories/knowledge-tool-empowerment-rohingya-refugee-women-and-girls
Knowledge as a tool for empowerment for Rohingya refugee women and girls	https://www.unicef.org/rosa/stories/knowledge-tool-empowerment-rohingya-refugee-women-and-girls
Ethiopia	
Finding new ways to raise awareness on the dangers of FGM and Child Marriage during COVID-19	https://www.unicef.org/ethiopia/stories/finding-new-ways-raise-awareness-dangers-fgm-and-child-marriage-during-covid-19
Improving Female Teacher Skills and Participation to enhance girls access to quality education	https://www.unicef.org/ethiopia/stories/improving-female-teacher-skills-and-participation-enhance-girls-access-quality-education
Ending child marriage by empowering girls	https://www.unicef.org/ethiopia/stories/ending-child-marriage-empowering-girls
Ghana	
Using Wawa Aba to Reduce Teenage Pregnancy in Bortianor	https://ghana.unfpa.org/en/news/using-wawa-aba-reduce-teenage-pregnancy-bortianor
Together, we are empowering adolescent girls in Ghana	https://www.unicef.org/ghana/together-we-are-empowering-adolescent-girls-ghana

India

Innovative learning programme brings back joy to tribal students in Odisha	https://www.unicef.org/india/stories/innovative-learning-programme-brings-back-joy-tribal-students-odisha
Innovative learning programme brings back joy to tribal students in Odisha	https://www.unicef.org/rosa/stories/innovative-learning-programme-brings-back-joy-tribal-students-odisha
Innovative learning programme brings back joy to tribal students in Odisha	https://www.unicef.org/india/stories/innovative-learning-programme-brings-back-joy-tribal-students-odisha-0
Her stories: How girls in India are turning to education instead of child marriage	https://india.unfpa.org/en/news/her-stories-how-girls-india-are-turning-education-instead-child-marriage-0
Her stories: How girls in India are turning to education instead of child marriage	https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/news/her-stories-how-girls-india-are-turning-education-instead-child-marriage

Mozambique

Girls and Young Women are Agents of Change in the COVID-19 response in Mozambique	https://mozambique.unfpa.org/en/news/girls-and-young-women-are-agents-change-covid-19-response-mozambique
Lifesaving information, just a text message away	https://www.unicef.org/mozambique/en/stories/lifesaving-information-just-text-message-away
Staying close while maintaining distance: peer mentoring during COVID-19 pandemic	https://www.unicef.org/mozambique/en/stories/staying-close-while-maintaining-distance-peer-mentoring-during-covid-19-pandemic
Peer-to-peer mentoring helps girls understand their rights in Mozambique	https://www.unicef.org/mozambique/en/stories/peer-peer-mentoring-helps-girls-understand-their-rights-mozambique

Nepal

In Nepal, adolescent girls band together, showing communities 'she counts'	https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/news/nepal-adolescent-girls-band-together-showing-communities-%E2%80%98she-counts%E2%80%99
In Nepal, adolescent girls band together, showing communities 'she counts'	https://nepal.unfpa.org/en/news/adolescent-girls-band-together-showing-communities-%E2%80%98she-counts%E2%80%99
The courage to say no	https://www.unicef.org/nepal/stories/courage-say-no
Girl who stopped her child marriage at 17 is a change agent for others	https://nepal.unfpa.org/en/news/girl-who-stopped-her-child-marriage-17-change-agent-others
Adolescent girls band together, showing communities 'she counts'	https://nepal.unfpa.org/en/news/adolescent-girls-band-together-showing-communities-%E2%80%98she-counts%E2%80%99
A village on the rise	https://www.unicef.org/nepal/stories/village-rise
Transformation is possible	https://www.unicef.org/nepal/stories/transformation-possible
Ending child marriage: Chandani	https://www.facebook.com/unicefnepal/videos/501494600828542
#GenerationEquality: Meet Mantoriya	https://www.facebook.com/unicefnepal/videos/141709880468652

Niger

Le combat du Sarkin Adar contre le mariage des enfants	https://niger.unfpa.org/fr/news/le-combat-du-sarkin-adar-contre-le-mariage-des-enfants
Friends against child marriage	https://www.unicef.org/niger/stories/friends-against-child-marriage
'I like the idea of getting married one day, but not yet'	https://www.unicef.org/niger/stories/i-idea-getting-married-one-day-not-yet
Sierra Leone	
Ensuring adolescent girls continue their education amid the COVID-19 pandemic	https://sierraleone.unfpa.org/en/news/ensuring-adolescent-girls-continue-their-education-amid-covid-19-pandemic

Uganda

Women safe spaces: A refuge for women and girls exposed to violence	https://uganda.unfpa.org/en/news/women-safe-spaces-refuge-women-and-girls-exposed-violence
ELA Clubs: Inspiring adolescent girls in rural Uganda to live their dreams	https://uganda.unfpa.org/en/news/ela-clubs-inspiring-adolescent-girls-rural-uganda-live-their-dreams
Teenaged peer educators revive the use of community clubs to address issues affecting adolescents	https://www.unicef.org/uganda/stories/teenaged-peer-educators-revive-use-community-clubs-address-issues-affecting-adolescents
A 15-year-old girl escapes child marriage	https://www.unicef.org/uganda/stories/15-year-old-girl-escapes-child-marriage

How champion parents keep adolescent boys and girls in school	https://www.unicef.org/uganda/stories/how-champion-parents-keep-adolescent-boys-and-girls-school
'At home, there is not enough time to revise class notes'	https://www.unicef.org/uganda/stories/home-there-not-enough-time-revise-class-notes
Uganda-Kenya cross-border partnership rescues girls from female genital mutilation during COVID-19	https://www.unicef.org/uganda/stories/uganda-kenya-cross-border-partnership-rescues-girls-female-genital-mutilation-during-covid
Sharon gets a 'second chance' to return home and at school after early pregnancy	https://www.unicef.org/uganda/stories/sharon-gets-second-chance-return-home-and-school-after-early-pregnancy
Irene Limio hopes to inspire other girls by returning to school after giving birth	https://www.unicef.org/uganda/stories/irene-limio-hopes-inspire-other-girls-returning-school-after-giving-birth
The tale of how two teenage mothers went back to school	https://www.unicef.org/uganda/stories/tale-how-two-teenage-mothers-went-back-school
Mentorship clubs help girls in Adjumani return to class	https://www.unicef.org/uganda/stories/mentorship-clubs-help-girls-adjumani-return-class
Adjumani a model district in curbing violence against children	https://www.unicef.org/uganda/stories/adjumani-model-district-curbing-violence-against-children
Menstruating girls in Adjumani can now finish school as UNICEF community barazas yield fruit	https://www.unicef.org/uganda/stories/menstruating-girls-adjumani-can-now-finish-school-unicef-community-barazas-yield-fruit
Yemen	
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**GLOBAL PROGRAMME
TO END CHILD MARRIAGE**

ACT NOW:
Accelerating gender equality by eliminating child marriage in a pandemic

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