2017 ANNUAL REPORT

COUNTRY PROFILES

UNFPA-UNICEF
GLOBAL PROGRAMME
TO ACCELERATE
ACTION TO END
CHILD MARRIAGE

Canada

European Commission

Government of the Netherlands

UK aid
from the British people

unicef

UNFPA

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COUNTRY PROFILE

BANGLADESH

22
PER CENT OF WOMEN
AGED 20—24 WERE
FIRST MARRIED OR
IN UNION BEFORE
AGE 15
(DHS 2014)

59
PER CENT OF WOMEN
AGED 20—24 WERE
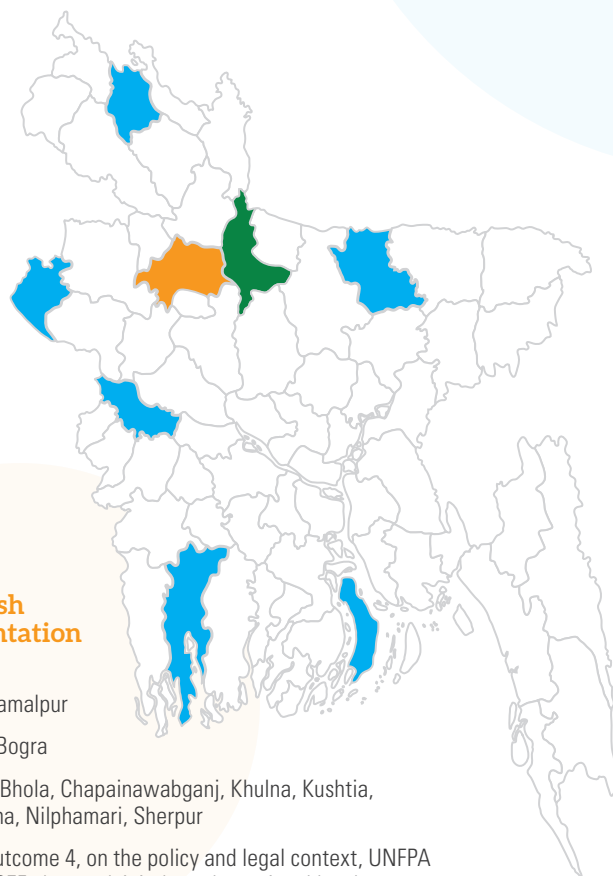FIRST MARRIED OR
IN UNION BEFORE
AGE 18
(DHS 2014)

FIGURE 1:
Bangladesh implementation areas

● JOINT: Jamalpur

● UNFPA: Bogra

● UNICEF: Bhola, Chapainawabganj, Khulna, Kushtia, Netrakona, Nilphamari, Sherpur

◉ Under Outcome 4, on the policy and legal context, UNFPA and UNICEF also work jointly at the national level.

CURRENT CHILD MARRIAGE LEVELS, TRENDS AND DEMOGRAPHIC INFO	• Bangladesh has the highest prevalence of child marriage in South Asia, including of girls under 15. • Child marriage has begun to decline, but not fast enough to eliminate the practice by 2030, the target set out in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). • Estimated population of adolescent girls aged 10—19 (in 2015): 15,923,000.[1] • Estimated population of young women aged 20—24 (in 2015): 7,508,000.[2]
FERTILITY RATE	• As in other South Asian countries, the overall fertility rate is lower than in Sub-Saharan Africa. However, the adolescent birth rate is significantly higher than that of India. • Total fertility rate[3]: 2.22 births per woman (in 2015).[4] • Adolescent birth rate (number of births per 1,000 adolescent girls aged 15—19): 78 (in 2016).[5] • Percentage of women aged 15—19 who have begun childbearing: 31% (DHS 2014).
MAJOR CHALLENGES (SOCIAL NORMS, POVERTY, GOVERNANCE, ETC.)	• Compared to most sub-Saharan African countries, Bangladesh's social indicators are relatively good. Even when comparing them with those of South Asia, Bangladesh has had some notable successes in terms of health and education, despite higher poverty levels than India, for example. • The main obstacles are deep-seated social, gender and religious norms that contribute to continued high prevalence of child marriage. • The central government is under pressure from conservative religious groups and has not provided the same proactive leadership that has allowed the country to reduce child mortality and improve girls' education.
PRIORITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES	• Overcoming the political barriers to more decisive actions against child marriage continue to be a priority. • Efforts are being increased to mobilize local leaders and influencers to promote change. • Bangladesh has major opportunities to bring about change through large-scale partnerships, such as the education sector-wide approach (SWAp) and with the World Bank.

1   United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision, DVD Edition.
2   United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision, DVD Edition.
3   Average number of children a woman would have by the end of her reproductive period if her experience followed the currently prevalent age-specific fertility rates.
4   United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision, DVD Edition.
5   United Nations Statistics Division (2018). SDG Database, https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database

KEY RESULTS BY OUTCOME AREA

Outcome 1: Empowering adolescent girls

STRATEGY

- The country programme supported the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA) with its plan to establish adolescent clubs throughout the country and continued to implement life skills education for girls. The life skills sessions cover empowerment training, menstrual hygiene management (MHM) promotion and knowledge on sexual and reproductive health (SRH).

- In some conservative societies, such as Bhola, where adolescent girls are not allowed to sit together with adolescent boys at the community level due to religious practices, the Global Programme has contributed to a gender-transformative agenda by facilitating the interactive sharing of ideas between boys and girls through mixed adolescent safe spaces that provide life skills to both sexes.

- The programme has increased its focus on girls' secondary education by addressing issues on:
  - » capacity building of the secondary education system to implement skill based education for adolescents;
  - » strengthening sub-national systems and schools to remove bottlenecks and barriers to reduce dropouts and to increase cycle completion;
  - » an alternative learning programme for out-of-school adolescents.

RESULTS

TABLE 1: Bangladesh Outcome 1   🟩 ABOVE 95%   🟨 90-95%   🟧 60-80%   🟥 BELOW 60%   ⬜ NOT APPLICABLE

INDICATOR	BASELINE	MILESTONES				
			2016		2017	
	2015	PLANNED	ACTUAL	PLANNED	ACTUAL	SCORECARD
Output Indicator 1.1 Number of adolescent girls (aged 10–19) in programme areas actively participating in at least one targeted intervention	16,169	100,000	93,166	101,500	87,024	🟨
Output Indicator 1.2 Number of adolescent girls in programme areas supported to access and remain in primary or lower-secondary school or non-formal education	16,169	9,000	37,371	NA	NA	NA

- The 2017 results show progress in activities, but do not, however, meet annual targets for girls' empowerment with life skills education, because resources were used to provide life skills training to 21,756 boys (20 per cent) in Bhola as outlined in the strategy above.

- No regular education programme support was planned during the programme period because most of the support consisted in conducting operational research on keeping girls in secondary school.

Outcome 2: Social and behaviour change communication to influence gender and social norms

STRATEGY

- The country programme considers that the at-scale national multimedia communication campaigns on adolescent issues supported in 2017 are key in reinforcing the public focus on child marriage prevention for the next two years and beyond.

- The programme is creating change champions using participatory dialogue on issues related to child marriage. These dialogues are held weekly with local elected leaders and key community influencers who can play important roles in changing community perceptions.

RESULTS

TABLE 2: Bangladesh Outcome 2   🟩 ABOVE 95%   🟨 90-95%   🟧 60-80%   🟥 BELOW 60%   ⬜ NOT APPLICABLE

INDICATOR	BASELINE	MILESTONES				
			2016		2017	
	2015	PLANNED	ACTUAL	PLANNED	ACTUAL	SCORECARD
Output Indicator 2.1 Number of individuals in programme areas who regularly participate in dialogues promoting gender-equitable norms including delaying child marriage	722,491	1,003,000	1,013,419	165,400	429,420	🟩

- The programme supported the launch of the Government of Bangladesh's multimedia campaign on ending child marriage with the theme, 'Raise the Beat for Ending Child Marriage'. The campaign package included five Public Service Announcements (PSAs) for television and radio, posters, outdoor media, an entertainment education (EE) docudrama and a drama serial. The PSAs alone engaged more than 15 million people, most of whom adolescents, through the programme's social media platforms and have been aired on 13 TV stations, 18 radio stations, local satellite channels and information centres. The Global Programme Support Unit provided technical support for better estimating the media audience.

BANGLADESH CONTINUED

Outcome 3: Strengthening prevention and protection systems

STRATEGY

- The Bangladesh country programme has increasingly shifted focus on systems strengthening by ensuring that interventions supported by the Global Programme are integrated within the Government's own plans, particularly the MoWCA and the Ministries of Social Welfare and Youth and Sports.

- This approach has also been adopted in the capacity building of health service providers on adolescent-friendly health services in the Global Programme's target districts and in other sectors.
- Girl-focused strategies are embedded in systems strengthening work through Country Office support to adolescent girl clubs through national systems.

RESULTS

TABLE 3: **Bangladesh Outcome 3**

| | | ABOVE 95% | | 90-95% | | 60-80% | | BELOW 60% | | NOT APPLICABLE |

INDICATOR	BASELINE	MILESTONES				SCORECARD
		2016		2017		
	2015	PLANNED	ACTUAL	PLANNED	ACTUAL	
Output Indicator 3.1 Number of service delivery points in programme areas implementing guidelines for adolescent girl-friendly health or protection services	NA	100	89	50	134	
Output Indicator 3.2 Number of non-formal/primary/secondary schools implementing interventions to improve the quality of education for adolescent girls	7	47	620	70	72	

- By providing support to cascade training provided by trainers, the country programme was able to reach more facilities in the implementation of guidelines for adolescent girl-friendly health or protection services.
- The strengthening of education systems is combined with the provision of gender-friendly water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

facilities, including: MHM provision; hygiene promotion sessions in schools; training of teachers, members of School Management Committees and School Brigades on hygiene promotion; and operation and maintenance of school WASH facilities and information to government partners on the need to provide financial resources for their operation maintenance.

Outcome 4: Strengthening the legislative and policy frameworks

STRATEGY

- UNFPA and UNICEF carry out joint national advocacy as 'One UN Voice' to the Government.

RESULTS

- UNFPA and UNICEF, together with other development partners and civil society, advocated with the Government of Bangladesh to finalize the Child Marriage Restraint Act (CMRA) of 2017 and to exclude the Special Provision that allows for marriage of children below the age of 18 under specific circumstances. While this Special Provision is included in the revised Act, in all other aspects, it is more robust than the Act of 1929. The programme continued to support MoWCA to develop the rules of the CMRA, so that the Special Provision can only be used under exceptional circumstances, subsequent to a rigorous process of vetting by local officials and the court.

- The final draft of the National Plan of Action (NAP) to End Child Marriage was completed and submitted to MoWCA. The Ministry circulated the draft NAP to other Ministries for their comments and input before finalization, and the final draft of the NAP is under review by the Inter-Ministerial Committee. As soon as the NAP is endorsed by MoWCA and the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework is developed with support from UNICEF, UNFPA will conduct the costing exercise of the NAP.
- A costed National Adolescent Health Strategy was launched in 2017 with support from the programme.

Outcome 5: Strengthening data and evidence base

STRATEGY

- The capacities of national and sub-national local governments are strengthened in real-time monitoring and changes in the normative aspects of child marriage practices are tracked.
- Partnerships are created in research and collecting data, and joint monitoring visits are carried out with implementing partners.

RESULTS

- The programme, in coordination with the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division of the Ministry of Planning, and the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, developed a module on normative beliefs and attitudes driving child marriage that will be applied to 64 Districts of the country. This module will provide district-level information on the perceived drivers of child marriage by the communities, the impacts of child marriage on continuing education and adolescent health, the level of the community's acceptability of child marriage and reporting of child marriages in the community.
- The programme also contributed towards evidence generation by publishing the study, 'Context of Child Marriage and its Implications in Bangladesh'. The study provides in-depth insight into the causes and consequences of child marriage in Bangladesh, and makes concrete recommendations for ending it. The findings show that, since child marriage is influenced by a multiplicity of causes, a multi-dimensional approach is needed to prevent child marriage in Bangladesh and to minimize its negative consequences. More specifically, concerted efforts are needed from all levels – individual, community, institutional, state and policy – to impact the context of child marriage in the country. The findings were shared and discussed with locally elected representatives to create community awareness and to encourage key influencers to speak out about the consequences of child marriage.
- The programme, together with the Population Council, completed a baseline survey and a detailed community assessment in the Global Programme target areas. The baseline study generated data for a set of indicators from the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage (GPECM) results framework, against which change can be measured. Two policy briefs were produced from the findings, which will be used to advocate for eliminating child marriage with parliamentarians in the Bangladesh National Parliament through the Sub-Committee on Eliminating Child Marriage. The similarities in findings between the baseline survey and the national study on child marriage corroborates the importance of working with adolescent girls and engaging the community to change social norms and perceptions on what constitutes a child.
- The programme supported baseline research with the BRAC University among adolescents and their parents to assess the impact of the media campaign, 'Raise the Beat for Ending Child Marriage', on social norms and behaviours on child marriage and related adolescent issues over the campaign period. The baseline was conducted in three selected districts, based on child marriage prevalence.
- Additionally, a joint budget scoping analysis was undertaken with the Ministry of Finance and the MoWCA on ending child marriage in Bangladesh. The study used FY2010/11–2015 budget allocation and expenditure data of development programmes for all ministries, departments and agencies, as well as non-development operations for seven key ministries to identify child marriage relevant

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expenditures. The 'Scoping Analysis of Budget Allocations for Ending Child Marriage' identified seven development programmes and 57 projects that were publicly funded in Bangladesh. Safety net programmes, adolescent health and secondary education for girls are the main focus of these investments. In contrast, very little funding was allocated to community awareness raising and protection from gender-based violence (GBV). Given that GBV is a key determinant of child marriage in Bangladesh, it is important to address this gap in public financing. The Bangladesh scoping study aimed at seeking opportunities for leveraging and is a good example of systematically assessing platforms for their potential for leverage and scale-up of successful interventions to end child marriage. This scoping study is a first step towards a full baseline assessment of government expenditures related to ending child marriage and will assist line ministries and other stakeholders in ascertaining the relevance of budget commitments and releases, and in discussing ways to improve their programme and policies to contribute to overall child marriage objectives.

Additional information

- Press release from UNICEF on the national multimedia campaign: www.unicef.org/bangladesh/media_10371.html
- Four videos, showing different aspects of child marriage and how to say 'no' to the practice, from the national multimedia campaign: www.youtube.com/watch?v=KNV0pkBjg3U; www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kgye-Dcwrgs; www.youtube.com/watch?v=FbFYctQ4mCk; and www.youtube.com/watch?v=8HxvmJU4iws
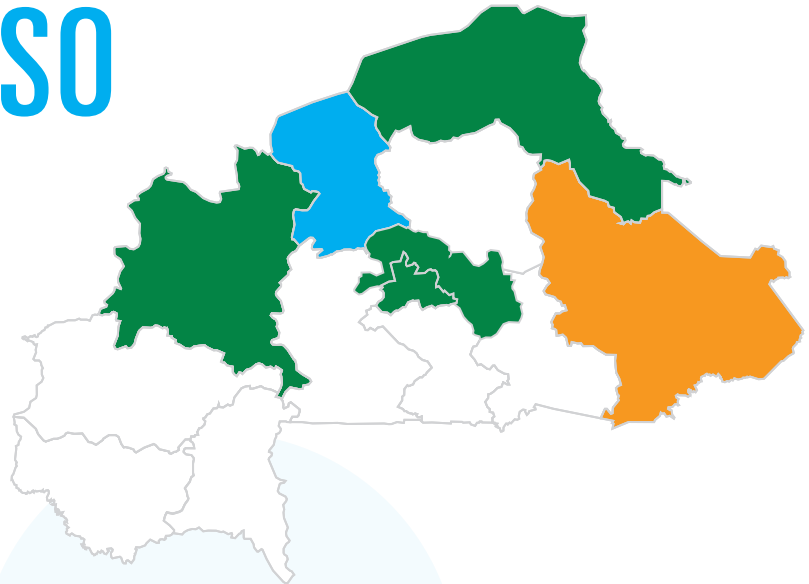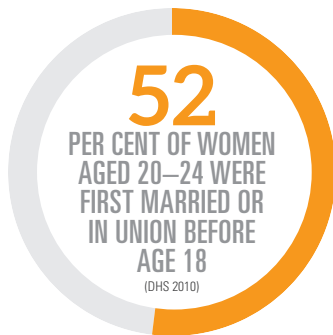
BURKINA FASO

10

PER CENT OF WOMEN
AGED 20—24 WERE
FIRST MARRIED OR
IN UNION BEFORE
AGE 15
(DHS 2010)

52

PER CENT OF WOMEN
AGED 20—24 WERE
FIRST MARRIED OR
IN UNION BEFORE
AGE 18
(DHS 2010)

FIGURE 2:
Burkina Faso implementation areas

● JOINT: Boucle du Mouhoun, Centre, Plateau Central, Sahel

● UNFPA: East

● UNICEF: North

◉ Under Outcome 4, on the policy and legal context, UNFPA and UNICEF also work jointly at the national level.

CURRENT CHILD MARRIAGE LEVELS, TRENDS AND DEMOGRAPHIC INFO	• Child marriage prevalence is high and there is no evidence of change over the last ten years with data (2000-2010). • Estimated population of adolescent girls aged 10—19 (in 2015): 2,113,000.[6] • Estimated population of young women aged 20—24 (in 2015): 810,000.[7]
FERTILITY RATE	• Similarly to the high child marriage prevalence, overall fertility rate and the adolescent birth rate are also high. • Total fertility rate[8]: 5.65 births per woman (in 2015).[9] • Adolescent birth rate (number of births per 1,000 adolescent girls aged 15—19): 129 (in 2014).[10] • Percentage of women aged 15—19 who have begun childbearing: 24% (DHS 2010).
MAJOR CHALLENGES (SOCIAL NORMS, POVERTY, GOVERNANCE, ETC.)	• Poverty rates are high and social indicators are weak, which points to a weak economy and a lack of public investments in social services. Rapid population growth aggravates the situation and stretches public resources beyond capacities. • Social, gender and religious norms are strong factors in maintaining child marriage and in limiting the autonomy and decision-making power of adolescent girls. • Although the central government has been supportive of efforts to prohibit and prevent child marriage, it has not necessarily been reflected at the local government and the community level.
PRIORITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES	• Continued high-level government support for ending child marriage is a major opportunity. • The programme is continuing to identify new ways to overcome the multiple challenges related to conservative attitudes, deep-rooted social norms, multi-dimensional poverty and resistant local leadership, in particular through partnerships with large-scale investments in education and health programmes.

6   United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision, DVD Edition.
7   United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision, DVD Edition.
8   Average number of children a woman would have by the end of her reproductive period if her experience followed the currently prevalent age-specific fertility rates.
9   United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision, DVD Edition.
10   United Nations Statistics Division (2018). SDG Database, https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database

KEY RESULTS BY OUTCOME AREA

Outcome 1: Empowering adolescent girls

STRATEGY

- In 2017, the country programme team analysed the continued risks of child marriage for out-of-school adolescent girls and noted limitations in the number of post-primary schools, especially in rural areas, constraining commuting across long distances and worsening security in the bordering areas of the Sahel region.
- To address this gap, UNICEF and UNFPA have continued to carry out high-level advocacy for the effective implementation of the free

education measures for vulnerable girls. They have also supported the establishment of second-chance schools for over-age girls identified as out-of-school.
- The country programme is working with male adolescents to develop their knowledge on male engagement against child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM), and on responsible masculinity.

RESULTS

TABLE 4: Burkina Faso Outcome 1

🟩 ABOVE 95%   🟨 90-95%   🟧 60-80%   🟥 BELOW 60%   ⬜ NOT APPLICABLE

INDICATOR	BASELINE	MILESTONES				
		2016		2017		
	2015	PLANNED	ACTUAL	PLANNED	ACTUAL	SCORECARD
Output Indicator 1.1 Number of adolescent girls (aged 10–19) in programme areas actively participating in at least one targeted intervention	7,637	11,250	14,977	35,080	34,907	🟩
Output Indicator 1.2 Number of adolescent girls in programme areas supported to access and remain in primary or lower-secondary school or non-formal education	937	1,100	1,105	12,297	12,124	🟩

- The 2017 results show progress in activities and in meeting of annual targets, with efforts being made towards the implementation of multisectoral interventions. For example, the multisector community coordination platform for the elimination of child marriage in the East Region is providing girls with life skills training and family planning counselling and services through UNFPA.
- Life skills sessions were provided to adolescent girls through adolescent clubs in the Sahel and Plateau Central regions, covering child marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM), sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and menstrual hygiene management (MHM) themes over a period of four months.

- 29,779 adolescent boys developed their knowledge on male engagement against FGM and child marriage, and on responsible masculinity.
- As part of fostering linkages with the education sector, the programme supported the Ministry of Education by establishing accelerated learning centres for out-of-school children aged 9–12 in the Sahel region. The majority of these centres will be integrated in the formal education system, while the others will continue with pre-professional training courses.
- Adolescent girls were reached with cash and in-kind transfers, and were provided with educational grants or bicycles to support their continued education through the Global Programme.

Outcome 2: Social and behaviour change communication to influence gender and social norms

STRATEGY

- Lobbying and advocacy are conducted at the national and local levels to enhance commitment to ending child marriage among leaders, including building partnerships with the National Coalition for the Abandonment of Child Marriage (CONAMEB) to support advocacy and capacity-building initiatives.

- Participatory dialogue is used through door-to-door communication, and public and radio debates on child marriage, as well as cine-fora and theatre in order to raise awareness among the communities on violence against women, child marriage, human rights and women's empowerment.

BURKINO FASO CONTINUED

RESULTS
TABLE 5: Burkina Faso Outcome 2

ABOVE 95%   90-95%   60-80%   BELOW 60%   NOT APPLICABLE

| INDICATOR | BASELINE | MILESTONES | | | | |
| | | 2016 | | 2017 | | |
	2015	PLANNED	ACTUAL	PLANNED	ACTUAL	SCORECARD
Output Indicator 2.1 Number of individuals in programme areas who regularly participate in dialogues promoting gender-equitable norms including delaying child marriage	19,600	28,000	28,400	760,900	822,337	

- Community dialogue, media campaigns and empowerment activities led to public declarations for the abandonment of child marriage in 600 villages. The programme also supported these villages in establishing functional committees in support of public declarations through continued social dialogue with families. In a related intervention, parents and adolescents from the East and Sahel regions received information through innovative education talks on child marriage and the practice of FGM to enable behavioural change in favour of women's rights.
- The partnership built with the National Coalition for the Abandonment of Child Marriage (CONAMEB) led to the training of national journalists on child marriage and an advocacy event with the new President of the National Assembly led by the First Lady.

Outcome 3: Strengthening prevention and protection systems

STRATEGY

- The country programme is supporting legal and justice systems related to gender-based violence (GBV) through a case management approach to improve the tracking of results of GBV legal and justice systems strengthening.
- The programme continued policy and advocacy dialogue with the highest decision makers, including the First Lady, ministers and parliamentarians, to promote the scaling up of teaching modules on child marriage, sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and FGM in primary and secondary schools.
- The programme supported the strengthening of technical skills of child protection actors as trainers on social norms and human rights, front line social workers on ending child marriage and community empowerment and female and male mentors on education and support for adolescents.
- The Ministry of Education decided to train all primary school teachers of the country, through the state budget, on the Quality Child-Friendly School (QCFS) approach originally piloted by UNICEF. With support of the programme, the Ministry of Education introduced three teacher training modules on reproductive health, child marriage and FGM as part of the curriculum reform in order to promote girls' education in the school curriculum.

RESULTS
TABLE 6: Burkina Faso Outcome 3

ABOVE 95%   90-95%   60-80%   BELOW 60%   NOT APPLICABLE

| INDICATOR | BASELINE | MILESTONES | | | | |
| | | 2016 | | 2017 | | |
	2015	PLANNED	ACTUAL	PLANNED	ACTUAL	SCORECARD
Output Indicator 3.1 Number of service delivery points in programme areas implementing guidelines for adolescent girl-friendly health or protection services	47	54	54	54	54	
Output Indicator 3.2 Number of non-formal/primary/ secondary schools implementing interventions to improve the quality of education for adolescent girls	151	300	301	370	386	

- 6,600 posters, 400 image boxes and 3,000 booklets (five volumes) were distributed to service delivery points, primarily care supply structures (including health facilities, youth centres, medical school infirmaries and infirmaries of vocational training centres) and teenage clubs in the health districts of Diapaga, Nouna and Dori. The picture boxes and posters allow service providers to efficiently carry out awareness sessions on themes related to reproductive health, including adolescent-friendly health.
- 273 unmarried teenage girls participating in adolescent club activities received counselling on menstruation hygiene management (MHM), the menstrual calendar and how to avoid unwanted pregnancies. In addition, 155 married adolescents started using modern contraceptive methods to protect against unwanted pregnancies.
- While the UNICEF water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programme was upgrading toilet facilities in schools and providing girls with menstrual and hygiene management (MHM) counselling and services, the programme provided support in the training of 43,000 primary school teachers on the Quality Child-Friendly School approach, which included modules on reproductive health, child marriage and FGM.
- The programme supported the strengthening of community protection structures through technical skills training of child protection actors as trainers on social norms and human rights.

Outcome 4: Strengthening the legislative and policy frameworks

STRATEGY

- The country programme provided technical and financial support to the Government, including co-financing the related workshops as well as advocating for the adoption and resource mobilization for the implementation of the national strategy and its costed National Action Plan (NAP).

- The Burkina Faso country programme continues to leverage commitment at the highest levels in government and civil society, including, but not limited to, the First Lady, the Prime Minister, the President of the National Assembly, non-governmental organization (NGO) leaders and members of women's and girls' associations.

RESULTS

- The synergy of action between the Government, UNICEF, UNFPA and the Children's Parliament has strengthened the commitment of the highest authorities of the country to eliminate child marriage in Burkina Faso. The Global Programme advocated for the adoption and enforcement of a draft Code of Child Protection and a Code of Persons and Family, both of which will contribute to raising the official legal marriage age for girls from 17 to 18. The codes were finalized in 2017 with technical and financial support from UNICEF, and are under review by the Parliament.

- The programme collaborated with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the National Democratic Institute to provide capacity strengthening of parliamentarians and heads of institutions on gender and child rights-based budgeting.

Outcome 5: Strengthening data and evidence base

STRATEGY

- One focus area is the global programme's evidence-based advocacy and policy dialogue on the enforcement of the law on compulsory education.

RESULTS

- Using complementary funds, UNICEF invested in reducing the knowledge gap on adolescents by supporting a thematic analysis on determinants of early pregnancy, in collaboration with the National Institute of Statistics and Demography. The analysis confirmed the vulnerability and multiple deprivations faced by adolescents, particularly by girls in poor households in rural areas. The study also revealed the precarious nature of sexuality among adolescents, since 37 per cent of girls and 21 per cent of boys aged 15–19 are sexually active and only 31 per cent had knowledge on HIV prevention. They are also exposed to different forms of violence and other risk behaviours such as smoking and drug use. Nationally, 18.5 per cent of adolescent girls were pregnant or had a child prior to 19 years old; 21.3 per cent in rural areas and 20.9 per cent among those living in poor households.

Additional information

- Burkina Faso Innovates video: http://onubf.org/mariage-des-enfants-le-burkina-innove
- Facebook post by the President of Burkina Faso on the first session of the Multisectoral Platform for the Prevention and Elimination of Child Marriage in Burkina Faso, convened by the First Lady: www.facebook.com/Presidence.bf/posts/802839696564969

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COUNTRY PROFILE

ETHIOPIA

14
PER CENT OF WOMEN
AGED 20–24 WERE
FIRST MARRIED OR
IN UNION BEFORE
AGE 15
(DHS 2016)

40
PER CENT OF WOMEN
AGED 20–24 WERE
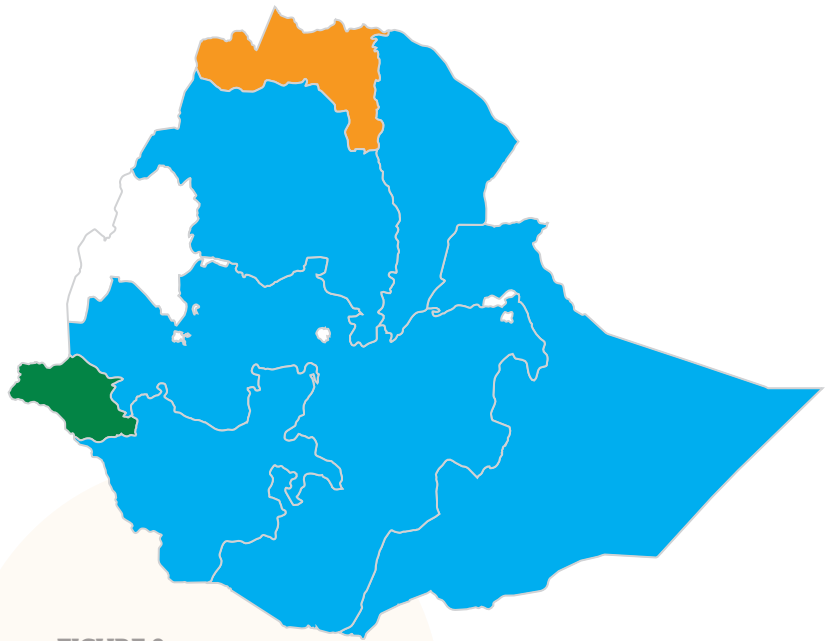FIRST MARRIED OR
IN UNION BEFORE
AGE 18
(DHS 2016)

FIGURE 3:
Ethiopia implementation areas

● JOINT: Gambella

● UNFPA: Tigray

● UNICEF: Afar, Amhara, Gambella, Oromia, SNNP, Somali

◉ Where there is geographical overlap, UNICEF focuses on the social mobilization and law enforcement components of the programme and UNFPA focuses on sexual and reproductive health and safe space services.

CURRENT CHILD MARRIAGE LEVELS, TRENDS AND DEMOGRAPHIC INFO	• While Ethiopia's child marriage prevalence is still relatively high, the rate of decline over the past ten years has been the fastest among the African countries included in the Global Programme. • Ethiopia is a highly diverse country and child marriage prevalence differ greatly between regions (e.g. Amhara, Gambella, Somali). • Estimated population of adolescent girls aged 10–19 (in 2015): 12,267,000.[11] • Estimated population of young women aged 20–24 (in 2015): 4,815,000.[12]
FERTILITY RATE	• Fertility rates and adolescent birth rates remain high, but not as high as for some other sub-Saharan countries. There are wide variations in fertility rates across the country. • Total fertility rate[13]: 4.63 births per woman (in 2015).[14] • Adolescent birth rate (number of births per 1,000 adolescent girls aged 15–19): 80 (in 2014).[15] • Percentage of women aged 15–19 who have begun childbearing: 13% (DHS 2016).
MAJOR CHALLENGES (SOCIAL NORMS, POVERTY, GOVERNANCE, ETC.)	• Poverty remains widespread and the lack of access to health and education services remains a major challenge for the government and for aid agencies. • Social, gender and religious norms differ greatly between regions and ethnic groups. The Overseas Development Institute (ODI) research presents examples from different parts of Ethiopia: in parts of Amhara, girls have relatively good access to education and health services, and enjoy growing autonomy; in contrast, the situation in Afar is much less positive, both in terms of access to education and decision-making power. In parts of Gambella, adolescent girls have complete freedom to choose when and whom to marry, but they face a widespread lack of education and health services. • Adolescent girls face a high degree of inequality in access to services. It is a challenge to deliver social services, including programmes to promote the change of social norms, given the diversity of the country and the logistical challenges of reaching communities and adolescent girls in remote mountainous areas with poor infrastructure.
PRIORITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES	• The geographic, ethnic, religious and cultural diversity of Ethiopia calls for context-specific interventions tailored to the specific challenges that adolescent girls face. • The Government has been supportive of efforts to end child marriage. This commitment must now translate into an investment of public resources to implement the National Action Plan (NAP). • In some parts of Ethiopia, local authorities have applied the law to prevent child marriage.

KEY RESULTS BY OUTCOME AREA

Outcome 1: Empowering adolescent girls

STRATEGY

- In 2017, the Ethiopia country programme undertook two internal missions that led to further reflections and decisions on shifts in strategy in the Global Programme: a deep dive monitoring mission of senior managers, and a joint mission with headquarters and the Regional Global Programme team, which involved discussions with high-level government counterparts.

- One of the key decisions made was the country programme's exit from direct economic support to girls and their families, since this approach cannot be scaled up, and focus on opportunities for leveraging large-scale, national social protection schemes, such the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP), which significantly overlaps with the Global Programme's implementation districts.

- Another strategy is focusing on improving the quality of services through a review of manuals, guidelines and implementation modality, and leveraging with the UNICEF's Learning and Development Programme that provides comprehensive capacity building of the *woreda*/district to build the technical and institutional capacity of schools.

RESULTS

TABLE 7: Ethiopia Outcome 1   ABOVE 95%   90-95%   60-80%   BELOW 60%   NOT APPLICABLE

| INDICATOR | BASELINE | MILESTONES | | | | |
| | | 2016 | | 2017 | | |
	2015	PLANNED	ACTUAL	PLANNED	ACTUAL	SCORECARD
Output Indicator 1.1 Number of adolescent girls (aged 10–19) in programme areas actively participating in at least one targeted intervention	82,400	18,124	51,239	187,660	75,733	(red)
Output Indicator 1.2 Number of adolescent girls in programme areas supported to access and remain in primary or lower-secondary school or non-formal education	4,460	5,684	5,415	4,010	3,112	(yellow)

- The 2017 Outcome 1 results show limited progress in meeting of annual targets for the following reasons:

  » The Global Programme Support Unit (GPSU) released an Indicator Index as guidance for output indicators in February 2017, when Ethiopia had finalized its target setting. Particularly for Output indicator 1.1 on life skills training, the Indicator Index recommended the provision of life skills for a minimum exposure of 31 hours. This is based on the recommendation from the Global Partnership for Youth Employment supported by the World Bank and the review of recommendations from impact evaluations of similar interventions in some of the Global Programme countries. Ethiopia had set targets based on a three-month life skills programme that did not comply with the minimum exposure of 31 hours. The programme had to extend the duration of the programme, which resulted in the enrolment of a lower-than-expected number of new girls in the programme.

  » Ethiopia shifted focus during the implementation period to assist more girls in remote areas with education support through scholarships. However, due to the high costs of supporting their families with incentives of keeping girls in schools, the planned investments could not reach the number of girls initially targeted in the annual work plan.

- While the programme also supported boys through legal awareness sessions and life skills training in schools to change their attitudes to support and defend adolescent girls, unmarried and married adolescent girls were reached through safe spaces with weekly life skills sessions, which included literacy, communications and SRH skills, among others. As a result, adolescent girls are influencing their families' decisions to cancel marriage arrangements and securing family support for their education.

- Unmarried and married girls at risk of dropping out of school were provided with education materials and dignity kits[16] to ensure that they complete their education. Further, these girls have been participating alongside their peers in gender clubs in the schools, where the students have been provided information on child marriage and gender-based violence (GBV). Girls involved in the gender clubs are also referred to health facilities for information on sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and available services.

Additional information

- Human interest story: Girls' Club Rescues Girls from Child Marriage in Rural Ethiopia: https://unicefethiopia.org/2017/10/26/girls-club-rescues-girls-from-child-marriage-in-rural-ethiopia

11 United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision, DVD Edition.
12 United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision, DVD Edition.
13 Average number of children a woman would have by the end of her reproductive period if her experience followed the currently prevalent age-specific fertility rates.
14 United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision, DVD Edition.
15 United Nations Statistics Division (2018). SDG Database, https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database
16 Dignity kits contain hygiene and sanitary items, as well as other items explicitly tailored towards the local needs of women and girls of reproductive age in particular communities.

ETHIOPIA CONTINUED

Outcome 2: Social and behaviour change communication to influence gender and social norms

STRATEGY

- The country programme used participatory community dialogue as the main platform to implement its community mobilization strategy, facilitated by trained facilitators.
- The programme also used media campaigns to raise public awareness on the harms and legal implications of child marriage,

as well as the available preventative and response services. The media campaigns were structured in a way that is participatory and interactive by organizing panel discussions, conveying short succinct messages, airing discussions with experts and influencers, and arranging calling services for feedback from the community.

RESULTS

TABLE 8: Ethiopia Outcome 2

ABOVE 95%   90-95%   60-80%   BELOW 60%   NOT APPLICABLE

| INDICATOR | BASELINE | MILESTONES | | | | |
| | | 2016 | | 2017 | | |
	2015	PLANNED	ACTUAL	PLANNED	ACTUAL	SCORECARD
Output Indicator 2.1 Number of individuals in programme areas who regularly participate in dialogues promoting gender-equitable norms including delaying child marriage	14,400	104,800	31,400	140,889	600,586	

- During the implementation period, Ethiopia shifted to more cost-effective methods that included media campaigns through radio, TV and multi-media plays to reach larger numbers of community members with social behaviour change messages. The 2017 results exceeded annual targets since media campaign reach was not included in the original annual targets.

- A 17-week media campaign in six regions reached community members with messages on the harms and legal implications of child marriage, as well as information on available preventive and response services. The campaign media was implemented by Fanna Broadcasting and the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs (MoWCA) in collaboration with UNICEF's Communication Section. It highlighted the key roles of different actors, such as religious and other community leaders, service providers, policymakers and community members, including girls. The interactive campaign organized panel discussions, conveyed short messages, aired discussions with experts and influencers, and arranged call-in services for feedback from the community. The aim of the campaign was to raise public awareness on the harms and legal implications of child marriage through interactive

and participatory approaches, as well as to publicize available preventive and response services. The campaign ran from mid-October 2017 to mid-February 2018.

- Community members, including boys, girls, men, women, gatekeepers and influencers such as religious, clan and traditional leaders, participated in bi-weekly community dialogue over the course of the year, facilitated by trained facilitators. The participatory dialogue assessed and reflected on the situation for women and girls as an entry point to discuss harmful practices. The sessions covered how gender inequalities and harmful traditional practices reinforce each other, and the consequences for girls, families and society at large.

- During the reporting period, 8,778 cases of child marriage were identified in four regions (Afar, Amhara, Oromia and SNNP). These cases were reported to law enforcement bodies by those targeted by the programme, including girls, community bodies and the school community. Since 2016, the number of cases of child marriage identified and reported has significantly increased. This can partly be attributed to the Global Programme's social mobilization, legal literacy and school-based interventions.

Outcome 3: Strengthening prevention and protection systems

STRATEGY

- Ethiopia focused on the training of trainers to build the capacity of service providers to provide adolescent-friendly services. The strategy is to scale up the implementation of guidelines for adolescent girl-friendly health and protection services at targeted service delivery points. In addition, it emerged from the Ethiopia programme that there is a need for strengthening the implementing partners' system for administrative data collection, analysis and utilization based on the data flow exercise of case management

services undertaken, including case tracking, reporting and referrals of child marriage cases.

- The programme is focused on improving the quality of services through the review of manuals, guidelines and implementation modality, and on leveraging with the UNICEF's Learning and Development Programme that provides comprehensive capacity building of technical and institutional schools in the *woreda*/districts.

RESULTS
TABLE 9: Ethiopia Outcome 3

ABOVE 95%   90-95%   60-80%   BELOW 60%   NOT APPLICABLE

INDICATOR	BASELINE	MILESTONES				
		2016		2017		
	2015	PLANNED	ACTUAL	PLANNED	ACTUAL	SCORECARD
Output Indicator 3.1 Number of service delivery points in programme areas implementing guidelines for adolescent girl-friendly health or protection services	242	877	885	962	1,021	
Output Indicator 3.2 Number of non-formal/primary/ secondary schools implementing interventions to improve the quality of education for adolescent girls	200	713	455	725	460	

- The shift towards leveraging with the Learning and Development Programme required major investments to help ensure that *woreda*-level education offices have the institutional capacity to fully sustain the provision of quality and timely support to every school. Considering the resource limitations and the investments that this new approach required, the country programme, in consultation with the implementing partners, reduced the number of the targeted schools to 460 during the implementation period.
- Most importantly, the programme strengthened capacities in primary, lower secondary, secondary and alternative basic education schools, such as training of teachers on gender-responsive pedagogy and analysis of learning outcomes using a gender perspective, and strengthening school-related gender-based violence systems in the targeted regions of Afar, Amhara, Oromia and Somali.
- The programme supported child protection service delivery points at different levels with the development and implementation of guidelines and training to improve adolescent-friendly protection services.
- The programme provided health centres in Gambella and Tigray with equipment and materials as well as with training and capacity building on adolescent girl-friendly, qualitative health services through government guidelines and protocols. In addition, gender clubs were linked to the health centres to increase demand for the services.

Outcome 4: Strengthening the legislative and policy frameworks

STRATEGY
- The programme provided financial and technical support to the development of the country's costed roadmap to end child marriage.

RESULTS
- The development of a costed roadmap to end child marriage progressed significantly in 2017 as the core package of interventions to be included and costed was developed and endorsed after a review carried out by UNICEF. The initiative is expected to serve as a baseline for tracking the Government's commitment to increase budget allocations by ten percent in relevant sectors.
- Moreover, the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA) convened workshops in January 2018 for the development of a federal plan with specific regional and city administration plans. The plans are expected to be complete and ready for validation by March 2018.
- Building on the Government's priority to end child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM) by 2025, the Kola Temben District in Tigray has shown a strong commitment to eliminate these two harmful traditional practices. Kola Temben is one of the initially selected districts for implementation of the Global Programme and the *woreda* has not recorded any case of child marriage over the last three years. Furthermore, the dropout rate among female students has been reduced to almost zero. Building on these successes the Kola Temben District is ready to scale up the successes of the three districts to the remaining 25 districts to completely end child marriage.

Outcome 5: Strengthening data and evidence base

STRATEGY
- The country programme built on joint collaboration between UNFPA and UNICEF and other agencies to effectively influence the national agenda through evidence building on what works to end child marriage and FGM, including providing decision makers with the latest data and evidence to help understand the Ethiopia context.

RESULTS
- An evidence review on what works to end child marriage and FGM was conducted, which contributed to identifying the core package of interventions to guide the development of the costed national roadmap.
- Analysis by the UNICEF HQ Data and Analytics team of the Ethiopia Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) 2016 data is underway. The analysis will help the programme to understand the changes that have taken place within the last ten years across regions to inform future decisions for programme and policy investment. Initial findings of the secondary data analysis of the DHS data have shown that Ethiopia has managed to significantly reduce both child marriage and FGM among the younger cohort over the last decade.
- The Ethiopia Overseas Development Institute (ODI) studies on 'what works in child marriage' and on 'hotspots and drivers' informed programming decisions.
- A baseline survey was completed in Amhara region as well as an analysis of gender norms and cultural dynamics of communities (for internal use only).
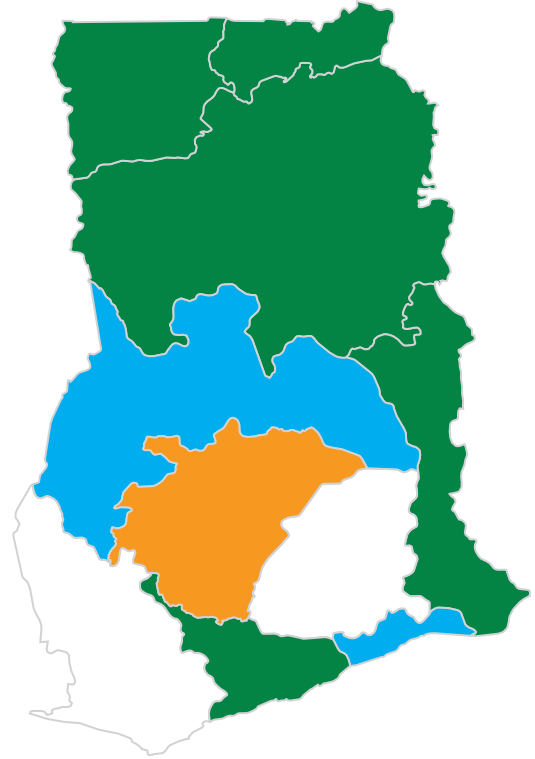
COUNTRY PROFILE

GHANA

5
PER CENT OF WOMEN
AGED 20—24 WERE
FIRST MARRIED OR
IN UNION BEFORE
AGE 15
(DHS 2014)

21
PER CENT OF WOMEN
AGED 20—24 WERE
FIRST MARRIED OR
IN UNION BEFORE
AGE 18
(DHS 2014)

FIGURE 4:
Ghana implementation areas

- ● JOINT: Central, Eastern, Northern, Upper East, Upper West, Volta, Western
- ● UNFPA: Ashanti
- ● UNICEF: Brong Ahafo, Greater Accra

CURRENT CHILD MARRIAGE LEVELS, TRENDS AND DEMOGRAPHIC INFO	• The prevalence of child marriage is the lowest of all the countries included in the Global Programme, however, compared globally, levels are not low but around the global average. Over the past ten years the country has seen a decline in the prevalence, slightly stronger than the global level of progress. • However, there are big disparities between the south, where child marriage prevalence is relatively low, and northern Ghana, where child marriage rates are higher. Moreover, child marriage prevalence in northern Ghana shows no level of change over the past ten years. • Estimated population of adolescent girls aged 10—19 (in 2015): 2,939,000.[17] • Estimated population of young women aged 20—24 (in 2015): 1,258,000.[18]
FERTILITY RATE	• The overall fertility rate and the adolescent birth rate are lower than those of other Sub-Saharan Africa countries included in the Global Programme. • Total fertility rate[19]: 4.18 births per woman (in 2015).[20] • Adolescent birth rate (number of annual births per 1,000 adolescent girls aged 15—19): 76 (in 2013).[21] • Percentage of women aged 15—19 who have begun childbearing: 14% (DHS 2014).
MAJOR CHALLENGES (SOCIAL NORMS, POVERTY, GOVERNANCE, ETC.)	• The International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW) study on child marriage and adolescent fertility in West and Central Africa highlights the presence of two different types of child marriage. Type 1 is characterized by strong social norms and strong limitations on the autonomy of adolescent girls. This type is prevalent across the Sahelian countries. Type 2 can be found in coastal West Africa, where adolescent girls have greater freedom to make their own decisions. These findings suggest that since Ghana stretches across these two cultural-geographic areas, type 1 is to be found in the northern, Sahelian zone, while type 2 is to be found in the southern, coastal area. • Programming must reflect these differences, giving special emphasis to social norm change in the northern areas and focusing on enhanced opportunities and service access in both the north and the south of the country.
PRIORITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES	• The approval of the National Action Plan (NAP) to end child marriage and of the adolescent pregnancy strategy are major achievements. The next step is to ensure that the plan and the strategy are fully funded and implemented. • Ghana's relatively good indicators and government capacities should help in further accelerating the reduction in child marriage. • Partnering with the Girls Iron Folate Tablet Supplementation (GIFTS) adolescent nutrition programme and leveraging additional bilateral donor support are major opportunities for strengthening the prevention of child marriage.

17   United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision, DVD Edition.
18   United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision, DVD Edition.
19   Average number of children a woman would have by the end of her reproductive period if her experience followed the currently prevalent age-specific fertility rates.
20   United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision, DVD Edition.
21   United Nations Statistics Division (2018). SDG Database, https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database

KEY RESULTS BY OUTCOME AREA

Outcome 1: Empowering adolescent girls

STRATEGY

- The Ghana programme reached in- and out-of-school girls aged 10–19 with life skills. Mixed strategies were used by different implementing partners, for example sexual and reproductive health (SRH) information and life planning skills and information on GBV and child marriage through safe spaces. Vulnerable girls, such as those out-of-school, received tailored sessions including on legal literacy, livelihood skills, financial literacy and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) themes. Three business and SRH centres were set up to serve as centres for enterprise development where girls can produce and market their products, which also offer SRH services to the visiting adolescent girls.

- Given the importance of supporting the rights of girls, boys were reached indirectly with SRH information and services during outreach programmes in order to address sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in market centres, where many vulnerable, out-of-school girls have become victims of SGBV.

RESULTS

TABLE 10: Ghana Outcome 1

🟩 ABOVE 95%   🟨 90-95%   🟧 60-80%   🟥 BELOW 60%   ⬜ NOT APPLICABLE

| INDICATOR | BASELINE | MILESTONES | | | | |
| | | 2016 | | 2017 | | |
	2015	PLANNED	ACTUAL	PLANNED	ACTUAL	SCORECARD
Output Indicator 1.1 Number of adolescent girls (aged 10–19) in programme areas actively participating in at least one targeted intervention	27,479	39,650	85,990	28,560	16,931	🟥
Output Indicator 1.2 Number of adolescent girls in programme areas supported to access and remain in primary or lower-secondary school or non-formal education	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

- The 2017 Outcome 1 results show limited progress in meeting of annual targets. With the implementation of the convergence approach across the joint programme and the integration of complementary funds, there was a shift in programming where some interventions initially planned for the Global Programme were funded through complementary funding. In Ghana, the Better Life for Girls programme funded by the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) provided education support to girls in the Global Programme areas.

GHANA CONTINUED

Outcome 2: Social and behaviour change communication to influence gender and social norms

STRATEGY

- The programme supports community and school-based engagements on addressing child marriage led by implementing partners, targeting adolescent girls and boys, families, community members, and traditional and religious leaders in six regions and 13 districts of Ghana. The Child Marriage Advocacy Toolkit developed by UNFPA was used for engaging and raising awareness of the community. The toolkit provides guidance for mobilizing support for ending child marriage in the communities.

- The programme supported different avenues for undertaking participatory and structured dialogues in community *durbars*, household gatherings, mosques, churches and school clubs. The purpose of the community engagement is to share information and knowledge on the negative consequences of child marriage and teenage pregnancy. Community dialogue increased awareness on legal provisions against child marriage and other GBV issues, and stimulated community engagements and inter-generational dialogue on child protection, gender-equitable norms, and investments in adolescent girls as well as on supporting girls' education.

RESULTS

TABLE 11: Ghana Outcome 2

🟩 ABOVE 95%   🟨 90-95%   🟧 60-80%   🟥 BELOW 60%   ⬜ NOT APPLICABLE

INDICATOR	BASELINE	MILESTONES				
		2016		2017		
	2015	PLANNED	ACTUAL	PLANNED	ACTUAL	SCORECARD
Output Indicator 2.1 Number of individuals in programme areas who regularly participate in dialogues promoting gender-equitable norms including delaying child marriage	72,569	151,270	2,401,120	51,049	51,329	🟩

- The Ghana programme supported high-level policy dialogue with religious and traditional leaders at the national level. At least 90 public declarations were issued by religious and traditional leaders, condemning child marriage and teenage pregnancy, and supporting girls' education and development.

- Some communities formed committees to oversee the prevention of child marriage and SGBV and to support reporting and referral of cases. The strategies and tools developed for community engagements provide an opportunity for participants to reflect and discuss in a non-judgmental and non-prescriptive manner some of the deeply-rooted social and gender norms, practices and stereotypes prevalent in their contexts.

- In a public advocacy event, the Ghana National Association of Teachers in the Central and Volta Regions issued statements that they would work with their male members to prevent incidents where teachers impregnate their students, as well as to collaborate with the Ghana Education Service (GES) to ensure appropriate sanctions for cases of violations.

- The programme collaborated with member organizations from the Media, Communication and Advocacy Network (MCAN) to report on issues affecting adolescent girls, including child marriage, with the aim of highlighting the need to invest in adolescent girls in order to reap the demographic dividend. The national media continues to show enhanced coverage on issues of child marriage, teen-pregnancy and other SGBV-related issues, including sexual abuse, sexual violence and rape. This coverage is helping to facilitate public advocacy and engagement with prosecution of some cases currently ongoing.

- The social media campaign 'Ghanaians Against Child Abuse (GACA)' was launched by the Government of Ghana in November 2017 with support from UNICEF. A range of communication tools and channels including social media (#iamgaca), TV and radio were used to engage people and communities, and encourage them to stand up against child abuse in Ghana. In 2017, followers have been mobilized on Facebook and billboards with key child protection messages were placed in various locations across seven regions in Ghana. Mobile theatre on child protection including adolescent and gender equality issues was initiated in two districts in each of the seven planned regions. More than 180 people pledged to protect girls and boys in Ghana through the www.iamgaca.org website.

Outcome 3: Strengthening prevention and protection systems

STRATEGY

- The country programme developed guidelines for Adolescent and Youth-Friendly Health Services through consultations with stakeholders in order to standardize adolescent and youth-friendly health services in the country. During 2017, healthcare facilities were provided training on adolescent-friendly health services. An e-learning module was developed and is currently being tested. This will enable more service providers to access the training remotely.

- In partnership with the Department of Community Development of the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MoLGRD) and the University of Development Studies (UDS), the programme supported the development of content on gender, SGBV and adolescent protection to be included in the National Child Protection Certificate Course (to be offered by UDS starting in 2018). It also supported content development of the Child Protection Community engagement toolkit, which is currently scaled up as the main community engagement tool used by community social welfare officers as well as civil society organization (CSO) frontline workers on child protection community engagements, including on child marriage.

- In the education sector and as part of institutionalizing child marriage issues in the comprehensive sexuality education (CSE), a child marriage leaflet was produced and integrated into the Youth Leadership and Skill Training Institute's CSE manual as an addendum to facilitate child marriage discussions and teaching.

- In the 2018 and 2019 implementation period, the country programme is expected to target supply-side interventions aimed at gender- responsive policy frameworks, curricula and learning, supporting teachers as change agents, creating safe schools and strengthening school-community linkages. A key factor contributing to a supply-side focus in programming includes the acknowledgement of ongoing demand-side financing interventions by the Government and other development partners. Also, the likelihood of the identified supply-side interventions supporting girls to remain in school and complete junior high is higher since enrolment rates among girls are already high in lower secondary education in Ghana.

RESULTS

TABLE 12: Ghana Outcome 3

| ABOVE 95% | 90-95% | 60-80% | BELOW 60% | NOT APPLICABLE |

INDICATOR	BASELINE	MILESTONES				SCORECARD
		2016		2017		
	2015	PLANNED	ACTUAL	PLANNED	ACTUAL	
Output Indicator 3.1 Number of service delivery points in programme areas implementing guidelines for adolescent girl-friendly health or protection services	NA	30	45	200	322	
Output Indicator 3.2 Number of non-formal/primary/secondary schools implementing interventions to improve the quality of education for adolescent girls	NA	2	1	NA	NA	NA

- To ensure sustainability, the Global Programme continued to capitalize on entry points and opportunities for capacity building in adolescent girl-responsive service delivery across child and family welfare, health, education and social protection sectors.

- Ghana focused on the training of trainers to build the capacity of service providers to provide adolescent-friendly services. The strategy is to scale up the implementation of guidelines for adolescent girl-friendly health and protection services at targeted service delivery points.

- At the national and regional levels, the capacity of the Ghana Police Service and the Judicial Services of Ghana continued to be strengthened to implement the different steps of the child-friendly policing approach through the implementation of Ghana Police Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for child offenders, victims and witnesses of violence and abuse. The SOPs provide context-relevant and legislation-aligned procedures for handling all children and apply to all police officers. Training programmes were rolled out for the staff working in key justice sector institutions and have reached over 5,500 personnel. Anecdotal evidence suggests that trained police officers are now more aware of their role in dealing with children at police stations.

- The national coordination capacity of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) under the new Strategic Framework implementation process was enhanced, contributing to increased coherence, visibility and accountability of efforts by cross-sectoral partners. In addition, the capacity of staff and structures of relevant departments and agencies that work on adolescent girls' issues were strengthened, including the health and education services and the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit (DOVVSU) of the Police Service.

GHANA CONTINUED

Outcome 4: Strengthening the legislative and policy frameworks

STRATEGY

- The country programme continues to provide technical and financial support to the MoGCSP to facilitate dialogue with local government systems and to ensure ownership of the national strategic plan. Local government systems are being supported to develop sub-national action plans as part of the implementation of the national strategic plan.

RESULTS

- The programme supported the following national policy initiatives, which all contributed to strengthen the enabling policy environment for the implementation of the Global Programme: the launch by the MoGCSP of the first National Strategic Framework on Ending Child Marriage (2017–2026) in May 2017; an Operational Plan and Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (2017–2018), which prioritizes key areas of intervention and activities across relevant ministries and implementation partners; the finalization of the National 5–Year Adolescent Pregnancy Strategy in 2017; and the launch of the Government's 'Free Senior High School Policy'.

- The programme supported the development of the Gender in Education policy document for pre-tertiary schools, which aims at addressing a range of barriers to the achievement of equality between boys and girls at all levels of education, and at establishing strategies for their removal.

- The programme supported the MoGCSP in the first national cross-sectoral meeting in reviewing the implementation of the Strategic Framework's Operational Plan and to update key intervention areas for the 2018 period.

- Child marriage and adolescent girl development continued to feature as a top political priority of the new Government of Ghana. The President, who is currently also the African Union Gender Champion, expressed his Government's commitment to address child marriage and support girls' education in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in various national and international fora.

Outcome 5: Strengthening data and evidence base

STRATEGY AND RESULTS

- UNFPA supported the DOVVSU to set up an SGBV Database System. It is a centralized system that captures data and analyses and stores them. It comprises a data collection and analytics tool with a client-side data analytics module to harmonize data collection on SGBV across the country. In addition, the system facilitates SGBV programming, response and prevention as well as evidence-based advocacy with enhanced trend analysis of SGBV incidents across regions. The system is currently functional at the national and 11 regional offices as well as eight divisional and district offices of DOVVSU to collect credible institutional data on SGBV indicators including child marriage.

- UNICEF commissioned an external formative assessment of strategies and approaches supported during the 2014–2016 period for the prevention of and response to child marriages, in partnership with the Government and civil society. The assessment used a mixed quantitative and qualitative methodology. 226 individuals from communities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the Government of Ghana, United Nations agencies and the donor community participated as respondents in the assessment. The findings from the external assessment have critically highlighted lessons learned, successful approaches, current gaps and recommendations for programme improvement. Lessons learned have been included in the Global Programme annual work plans for 2018–2019 and are supporting programmatic design in two complementary funded programmes such as the KOICA-funded Adolescent Girls Programme implemented by UNICEF (2017–2019) and the upcoming UNFPA-UNICEF Adolescent Girl Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights Programme funded by Canada (currently being finalized). Further, UNICEF presented findings and lessons learned from the assessment in the December 2017 Ending Child Marriage National Stakeholders Forum organized by the MoGCSP to ensure that past and current lessons learned inform sectoral dialogue, advocacy and programming across all relevant cross-sectoral stakeholders in the country. The Assessment Report is currently being disseminated widely.

- An analysis of over 200 stories collected from targeted communities that were provided with the Child Marriage Advocacy Toolkit was completed in 2017. These stories were collected using the Most Significant Change technique and covered various child protection topics. The results indicate an increase in knowledge of the communities on child protection issues that were covered by the Programme, in particular, the highlighted issues of teenage pregnancy and child marriage. Attitudes and practices have, however, not seen the same quantum of change.

- A case study on girls who dropped out of school due to pregnancy was carried out to provide inputs for the development of an education sector response to address pregnancy and schooling. The major findings include the fact that most girls who become pregnant and do not return to school end up in marriage. Child marriage, especially among school girls in Ghana, is often a direct consequence of pregnancy. These findings would suggest that, in the context of Ghana, it is important to prevent teen pregnancy as well as to prevent pregnant adolescent girls and adolescent mothers from dropping out of school.

- In comparison with a baseline survey carried out by UNICEF and the Government in 2013, a rapid assessment of attitudes, beliefs and practices related to child protection showed that fewer adults and children accept child marriage/cohabitation for girls and boys. However, marriage/cohabitation for girls is still more accepted than for boys.

Additional information

- Ghanaians Against Child Abuse (GACA): www.iamgaca.org
- Menstrual Hygiene Management – Be Amazing! Period: www.menstrualhygienegh.org
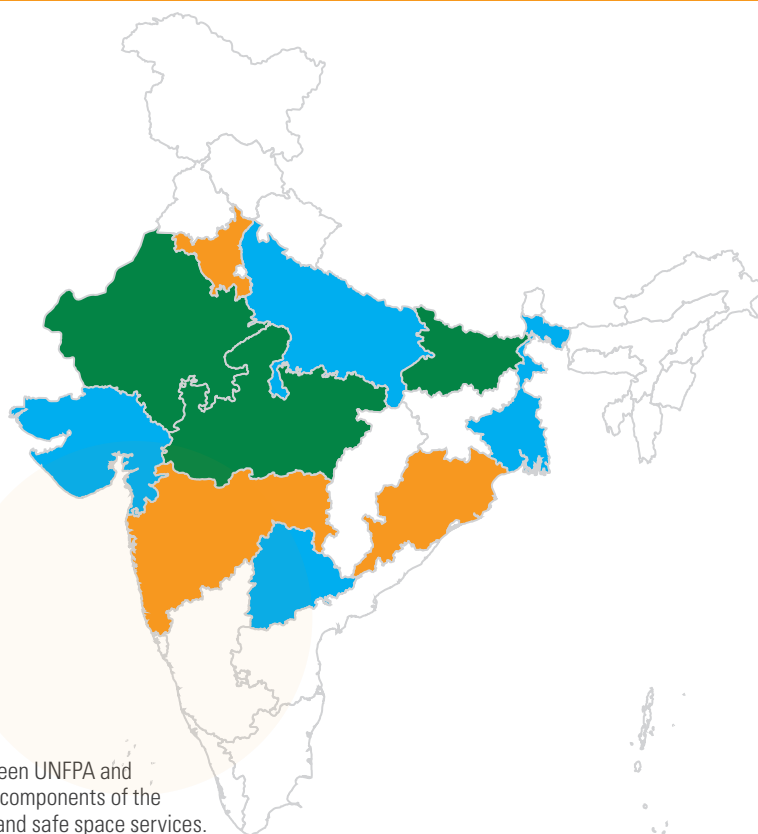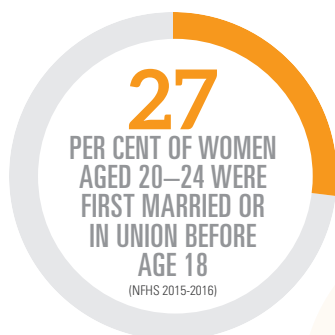
COUNTRY PROFILE

INDIA

7
PER CENT OF WOMEN
AGED 20—24 WERE
FIRST MARRIED OR
IN UNION BEFORE
AGE 15
(NFHS 2015-2016)

27
PER CENT OF WOMEN
AGED 20—24 WERE
FIRST MARRIED OR
IN UNION BEFORE
AGE 18
(NFHS 2015-2016)

FIGURE 5:
India implementation areas

- 🟢 JOINT: Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan
- 🟠 UNFPA: Haryana,
- 🔵 UNICEF: Gujarat, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal
- ◉ The country programme enjoys strong technical collaboration between UNFPA and UNICEF with convergent programming in three states.enforcement components of the programme and UNFPA focuses on sexual and reproductive health and safe space services.

CURRENT CHILD MARRIAGE LEVELS, TRENDS AND DEMOGRAPHIC INFO	• After decades of high prevalence of child marriage, the levels are beginning to decline more rapidly, particularly within the past decade. • Child marriage prevalence is generally much higher in the northern belt from Rajasthan to West Bengal, while child marriage prevalence is quite low in the south, as well as in the north-east and north-west. • Estimated population of adolescent girls aged 10–19 (in 2015): 118,259,000.[22] • Estimated population of young women aged 20—24 (in 2015): 56,132,000.[23]
FERTILITY RATE	• Fertility rates and adolescent birth rates are much lower than in sub-Saharan Africa countries with comparable child marriage prevalence levels. The lower fertility rates are potentially a result of socio-economic development and of strong family planning programmes since the 1970s. • Total fertility rate[24]: 2.44 births per woman (in 2015).[25] • Adolescent birth rate (number of annual births per 1,000 adolescent girls aged 15–19): 28 (in 2013).[26] • Percentage of women aged 15–19 who have begun childbearing: 8% (DHS 2015–2016).
MAJOR CHALLENGES (SOCIAL NORMS, POVERTY, GOVERNANCE, ETC.)	• While more efforts are certainly needed to reduce poverty and inequality, and to increase education in India, the major challenges related to child marriage are the social norms that surround it, such as boy preference, dowry, caste endogamy, the low status and lack of autonomy of women and girls, and arranged marriage, among others. Although it has been extremely difficult to change these social norms (despite legislation, economic growth and education), there have been some encouraging signs in relation to attitudes to child marriage. • A related challenge is the lack of political support for the change in child marriage, especially at the local level by local caste leaders, but also by elected officials who often support mass weddings (including of underage girls) to garner votes.
PRIORITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES	• The momentum has been building to take decisive action in states with high child marriage prevalence. State governments have shown significant commitments to implement state action plans. Given the size and diversity of India, there is a need to take a state-specific approach. • In addition, large-scale government programmes are being harnessed to change social norms and to provide services for adolescent girls, including education, social protection and adolescent empowerment programmes that reach many tens of millions of girls. The Indian Government has considerable resources and capacities, which, if applied effectively, are able to bring about significant social change.

22 United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision, DVD Edition.
23 United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision, DVD Edition.
24 Average number of children a woman would have by the end of her reproductive period if her experience followed the currently prevalent age-specific fertility rates.
25 United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision, DVD Edition.
26 United Nations Statistics Division (2018). SDG Database, https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database

INDIA CONTINUED

KEY RESULTS BY OUTCOME AREA

Outcome 1: Empowering adolescent girls

STRATEGY

- The India country programme's core strategy was based on lessons learned drawn from programme interventions in 2016–2017. UNFPA and UNICEF continued to support large-scale programmes that reach out to adolescent girls in schools and communities with a targeted approach of integrating life skills and improving access to services. The two agencies also facilitated multisectoral convergence at the state and district level through engagement with the state governments, district administrations and civil society organizations (CSOs). The scope of this plan included institutionalization of child marriage programmes into existing systems and services for scalability and sustainability.

- The India country programme engaged with partners at all levels to integrate life skills in schools and institutions providing vocational education to girls and boys. The programme has supported the development of a life skills framework and an action plan to support transition to secondary education that will be integrated into the education curriculum and pedagogy for age 3–19 in all the states of India. UNFPA has worked with the National Council for Education Research and Training (NCERT) to integrate life skills education across government schools and is also working with select state governments to ensure that life skills are integrated into state board schools. UNICEF will support and capacitate the state governments and institutions to roll out the action plan together with civil society organizations (CSOs).

- The country programme leveraged large-scale programmes including: the National Adolescent Health programme (RKSK) to improve access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) for young girls and boys; the national scheme for adolescent girls' empowerment (SABLA) to strengthen the nutrition and non-nutrition components of outreach to adolescent girls; and the flagship scheme Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) to enhance the perceived value of girls in the society.

RESULTS

TABLE 13: India Outcome 1

ABOVE 95%　　90-95%　　60-80%　　BELOW 60%　　NOT APPLICABLE

INDICATOR	BASELINE	MILESTONES				
		2016		2017		
	2015	PLANNED	ACTUAL	PLANNED	ACTUAL	SCORECARD
Output Indicator 1.1 Number of adolescent girls (aged 10–19) in programme areas actively participating in at least one targeted intervention	15,000	155,900	161,789	570,000	628,902	
Output Indicator 1.2 Number of adolescent girls in programme areas supported to access and remain in primary or lower-secondary school or non-formal education	3,800	3,800	125,000	NA	NA	NA

- UNICEF and UNFPA together carried out life skills interventions for adolescent girls and boys, both married and unmarried, most of whom belong to marginalized, underserved communities, e.g. scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and religious minorities. The interventions include: supporting girls' collectives and clubs to offer them a peer network and a safe space; supporting peer groups that bring together boys and girls for monthly discussions on various issues; forming Child Rights Clubs in schools; providing residential hostels for girls and providing them with life skills training; and building the capacities of adolescent girls and boys on life skills, gender, children rights, health and nutrition. The life skills education includes sessions on: recognizing self and others; having a positive self-image; communicating effectively; establishing and maintaining positive and responsible relationships; understanding and challenging discrimination, violence and harmful practices such as child marriage; and understanding sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR); and financial literacy.

- The programme supported pilot demonstrations of life skills education in upper primary and secondary schools in the state of Madhya Pradesh. Based on the results from these pilot demonstrations, the state government planned to scale up life skills education across all upper primary and secondary schools under the State Board of Education. This would increase outreach of the life skills education to over four million adolescent girls and boys enrolled in schools.

- In Odisha, the programme continued to provide technical support to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes Development Department to expand life skills education across all tribal residential schools, which reached girls from tribal communities.

- The programme supports girls' enrolment and retention in schools and in education support programmes through the open school system in West Bengal and Telangana, and supports girls' enrolment and retention in primary and lower secondary school by encouraging solutions that improve access, for example, to transportation such as bicycle schemes and by providing escorts for girls. Further, the Global Programme is working with Village Child Protection Committees and School Management Committees to prevent dropout and to raise awareness in communities and through home visits to identify girls at risk of dropping out to ensure their continuance or re-enrolment. The Global Programme is also supporting families with girls at risk of marriage or of dropping out of school by linking and referring them to governmental social protection schemes.

Outcome 2: Social and behaviour change communication to influence gender and social norms

STRATEGY

- The programme reached parents and community members with wide-ranging communication and advocacy packages, including interactive audio-visuals, tools and media campaigns to build knowledge and skills, and to promote intergenerational dialogue between parents and adolescents. Additionally, activities such as community rallies and pledges facilitated engagement with religious and caste leaders to influence social and gender norms that enhance the value of girls. The programme also organized events to facilitate the creation of role models to motivate individuals and households to support school enrolment and the transition of girls to secondary school, ensure girls' safety and security as well as girls' access to transport services.

- The promising models of adolescents as agents of change are being scaled up, and the voices of young people are being amplified beyond their communities through multi-media initiatives to give them greater visibility and influence to engage larger numbers of adolescents. UNFPA and UNICEF India have a niche role in convening critical stakeholders around a platform that addresses multiple deprivations and supports adolescent girls and boys to build life skills, and to improve access to health, education and nutrition services. Positioning UNFPA and UNICEF in the critical transition to secondary school of millions of girls and boys aged 14–17 who are left behind, is a priority for the two agencies.

RESULTS

TABLE 14: India Outcome 2

ABOVE 95%   90-95%   60-80%   BELOW 60%   NOT APPLICABLE

| INDICATOR | BASELINE | MILESTONES | | | | |
| | | 2016 | | 2017 | | |
	2015	PLANNED	ACTUAL	PLANNED	ACTUAL	SCORECARD
Output Indicator 2.1 Number of individuals in programme areas who regularly participate in dialogues promoting gender-equitable norms including delaying child marriage	87,000	140,000	140,000	200,000	1,466,077	

- During the implementation period, India shifted to more cost-effective methods that included media campaigns through community theatre and drama to reach larger numbers of community members with social behaviour change messages. The estimated reach through midi-media activities was not included initially in the 2017 annual targets. This explains the seven-fold increase in the number of individuals reached for this output indicator.

- The programme also engaged families and community members, including men and boys, frontline worker representatives from the Panchayat, school teachers and hostel wardens in community-based dialogue; combined with film screenings and street theatres with local folk songs.

- In the state of Uttar Pradesh, the joint programme collaborated with Mahila Samakhya to roll out a convergent initiative to end child marriage. This initiative was linked with other government programmes for adolescent girl empowerment such as Asha Jyoti Kendra, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP), Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK), National Service Scheme (NSS) and Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK). Mahila Samakhya's strong grassroots cadre of women reached out to community members and trained key stakeholders on adolescent issues and the perceived value of girls in the society, and on ending child marriage. Key influencers have been identified for taking action to end child marriage in 20 districts.

- The programme generated political will and administrative commitment by three state governments to scale up multisectoral interventions to end child marriage. Each state had to explore the existing scope and opportunities to effectively leverage the communication framework for achieving the state goals. With support from UNICEF, the state of Bihar launched the first-ever, large scale and multi-agency initiative to end child marriage, reaching government officials as well as community members through sustained media and community mobilization.

Outcome 3: Strengthening prevention and protection systems

STRATEGY

- Special focus is being given to driving multisectoral convergence in partnership with state governments and district administrations to improve access to services for young girls. This is based on the understanding that steering structural and social norm change in contexts where child marriage is widely prevalent, and where the transition for positive change has begun, needs to be supported by expanding girls' access to education, health, life skills and other opportunities (vocational) that help widen life-options for girls beyond early marriage.

- The country programme is supporting the formation of community-level protective mechanisms such as Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs); block and village child-level Child Protection Committees (CPCs) and parents have also been oriented to support the delaying of their children's marriage. Interventions with other departments such as Health and Education have been undertaken to support the holistic development of adolescents. Adolescent girls' and boys' groups have been formed, and

- members have been trained on gender, child rights and life skills. Capacity has also been strengthened among Women and Child Development (WCD) officials, including Child Marriage Prohibition Officers and Protection Officers of District Child Protection Units, officials from relevant line ministries and departments, and frontline workers.

- An institutionalization approach involves a review of state-specific models for systems strengthening that can be scaled up by ensuring: (i) the commitment of State Governments and key influencers through costed and resourced State Plans with advocacy, SBCC, robust M&E systems and implementation at the district level together with adolescent participation; (ii) adequate capacity and skills of the Government and key stakeholders to promote and deliver quality services and prevention programmes; and (iii) adequate capacity and skills of community structures to engage adolescent girls, boys, parents and community influencers for ending child marriage.

INDIA CONTINUED

RESULTS

TABLE 15: India Outcome 3

■ ABOVE 95%   ■ 90-95%   ■ 60-80%   ■ BELOW 60%   ▢ NOT APPLICABLE

| INDICATOR | BASELINE | MILESTONES | | | | |
| | | 2016 | | 2017 | | |
	2015	PLANNED	ACTUAL	PLANNED	ACTUAL	SCORECARD
Output Indicator 3.1 Number of service delivery points in programme areas implementing guidelines for adolescent girl-friendly health or protection services	NA	5	3,673	750	785	
Output Indicator 3.2 Number of non-formal/primary/ secondary schools implementing interventions to improve the quality of education for adolescent girls	NA	NA	1,627	750	1,185	

- Child Protection Committees (CPCs) were trained on child protection and child rights in Gujarat and met on a monthly basis to resolve child protection issues in the villages. CPCs are used as service delivery points in the Wanaparthy district for delivering adolescent girl-friendly health services, and villages in Bihar formed CPCs where not previously present and strengthened existing ones.

- The Global Programme provided national and state level technical and programmatic support to the implementation of the Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK) scheme, by providing technical inputs to the revised RKSK initiative focusing on strengthening the operational guidelines as well as the communication strategy. Targeted support to the implementation of the adolescent health programme was provided by UNICEF health teams and UNFPA in all Global Programme supported states. UNFPA also carried out an assessment of adolescent-friendly health clinics in selected states. The assessment contributed to the designing of the next phase of the RKSK programme.

- The Global Programme supported primary, upper primary, secondary and higher secondary schools in Gujarat, secondary and senior secondary schools in Rajasthan, schools in West Bengal, primary, upper primary and high schools in Telangana, and primary and secondary schools in Bihar to provide quality education for adolescent girls.

- To support adolescent girls' access to quality education in Telangana, adolescent girls' and boys' collectives are emerging as local Child Monitoring Groups, focusing on the issues of dropouts and school attendance, and on the improvement of school facilities for children. School Management Committees are also strengthened to effectively monitor the implementation of mid-day meals in schools, teacher regularity and functioning of school toilets and water facilities; and teachers are trained to ensure that school dropouts are reduced and that child marriages are prevented.

- To improve the quality of education in West Bengal, teachers were trained, curricula developed and monitored, and adolescent clubs were created and strengthened in schools. In addition, girls acquired knowledge on menstrual hygiene management (MHM).

Outcome 4: Strengthening the legislative and policy frameworks

STRATEGY AND RESULTS

- In the last 25 years, India has experienced a decline in child marriage by more than one-third, stemming from an increase in girls' education, proactive government and implementing partners' investment in adolescent girls and strong public messaging around the harms and illegality of child marriage.

- UNICEF and UNFPA are specifically supporting national and state-level governments through advocacy, and review and reshaping of state action plans to end child marriage, and at the district level for the actual implementation and operationalization of these plans. Advocacy of both agencies at the national, state and district levels has led to: significantly raising the profile and general knowledge of adolescent issues and enhancing convergence across the sectors; increasing accountability and ownership of the government at national, state and district levels; building the capacity of the state and district governments and partners in reviewing, planning, coordinating, monitoring and implementing government programmes and schemes; and building strategic partnerships with relevant Ministries including Women and Child Development, Health and Family Welfare, Education, and Skills Development and Entrepreneurship, as well as the World Bank, civil society organizations (CSOs) and key influencers such as parliamentarians, celebrities and the media.

- The coordinated action for addressing child marriage in the focus states by the country programme has led to significant results, which included the support to the state government of Rajasthan in developing and launching the state action plan and a large-scale advocacy campaign, 'Saajha Abhiyan' on ending child marriage. The Rajasthan multisectoral action plan on ending child marriage puts in place strong convergence and review mechanisms to ensure that relevant sectors such as health, education, social empowerment, *panchayat raj*[27] and rural development commit to short-, medium-and long-term efforts to address child marriage. Following its launch, the initiative has reached over 430 *panchayats* across four districts, with an estimated outreach to 100,000 adolescent girls and boys, 150,850 community members, and 200 district and block officials.

- The state of Bihar developed a costed and resourced action plan to address multiple deprivations experienced by adolescent girls, with the programme's support.

- In the state of Uttar Pradesh, an action plan is being drafted. In 2017, the state launched a large-scale community platform linked to local governance to end child marriage and VAC. The Chief Minister has launched the Value of Girls initiative, and the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) released a strategy document for girls including adolescent girls' empowerment and ending child marriage. With the programme's support, the Department of Women and Child Development (DWCD) in collaboration with the Mahila Samakhya programme (meaning

27 In India, the Panchayati Raj now functions as a system of governance in which gram *panchayats* are the basic units of local administration. The system has three levels: Gram Panchayat (village level), Mandal Parishad or Block Samiti or Panchayat Samiti (block level), and Zila Parishad (district level).

education for women's equality) rolled out a convergent initiative to end child marriage directly in 1,119 *Gram Panchayats*[28] of seven districts. The initiative has linked up with other government programmes on girls' and adolescent empowerment, such as the Asha Jyoti Kendra, BBBP, RKSK, National Service Scheme (NSS) and Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK), to create mass momentum to end child marriage.

- West Bengal has a state plan of action for children, which includes child marriage.

- In Gujarat, a drafted state plan of action, which is currently being reviewed, includes a component on child marriage.
- In Telangana, discussions on a state action plan for ending child marriage have started, and the process of drafting will be initiated in 2018.
- The state of Bihar has launched the Adolescent Cell housed in the offices of the Women Development Corporation (WDC), which will work towards adolescent development and empowerment in the state and build convergent approaches to addressing adolescent issues.

Outcome 5: Strengthening data and evidence base

STRATEGY AND RESULTS

- The India programme, together with J-PAL, conducted an analysis of global social protection programmes to: learn and identify interventions that contribute to reducing child marriage and that enable the transition to post-primary education and work; and refine cash transfer programmes for adolescents at the state level for a greater equity focus.

- The programme also supported an assessment of the adolescent education programme, implemented by the National Council for Education Research and Training (NCERT), covering 100 schools and over 5,700 students, as part of the regional assessment of school-based sexuality education programmes jointly commissioned by UNFPA, UNICEF and UNESCO. The assessment found that most principals, teachers and students recommended that life skills education should be made mandatory and initiated earlier in upper primary grades (ages 11–13) rather than in secondary schools (ages 14–16). The findings suggest modest programme results in terms of improving knowledge and attitudes on different thematic areas covered under the programme.

- On behalf of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the programme carried out an appraisal of selected adolescent-friendly health clinics and use of services under the National Adolescent Health Programme (Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram) across four states. The assessment contributed to the design of the next phase of the programme with increased focus on establishing dedicated counsellors for adolescents and investing in their capacity building.

- UNICEF India established an M&E system for several districts (including those funded by the Global Programme) to generate more detailed output data, track progress over time, annually review experiences and lessons learned, and measure outcomes through an impact evaluation.

- There was also an additional study: 'Measuring Child Marriage from Census and Large Scale Data Systems in India' and an evaluation of UNFPA Support to the Prevention, Response to and Elimination of Gender-Based Violence, and Harmful Practices 2012–2017 conducted. Through this evaluation, UNFPA learned that successful in-house communication is focused on addressing specific audiences, while mass communication is best achieved by supporting partners. Interviews with government workers suggest that the use of new data on child marriage has led to substantial changes at the state level

in a relatively short time, although there are economic trends affecting the reduction in child marriage that must be considered.

- The study 'Supporting Adolescent Transition to Adulthood: What Works and What Doesn't' shows that cash transfers can help compensate for the costs of education and delay marriage by addressing the economic constraints that prevent adolescents and their families from making optimal decisions. It is important that cash transfers are based on an in-depth understanding of the local context and the specific needs of adolescent girls. This is an interesting example of cash transfers that have shown to be effective in parts of India in changing aspirations of parents for their daughters and in reducing child marriage, especially when combined with other interventions to change attitudes and promote girls' education. Cash transfers to parents would not be the right strategy where adolescent girls have greater decision-making power. In those contexts, economic interventions should be tailored more towards creating livelihood opportunities for adolescent girls (and boys) than to their parents.

Additional information

- Human Interest Story – Sonamoni Ghosh: https://twitter.com/UNICEFIndia/status/923805632209342464
- Human Interest Story – Sanatan: https://twitter.com/UNICEFIndia/status/923438418532724736
- Game on POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offence) Act: https://drive.google.com/open?id=1fhe_OSpo7V7jTcMAcoASYyNcB4wx12iX

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28 A *Gram Panchayat* is the cornerstone of a local self-government organization in India of the Panchayatiraj system at the village or small town level.

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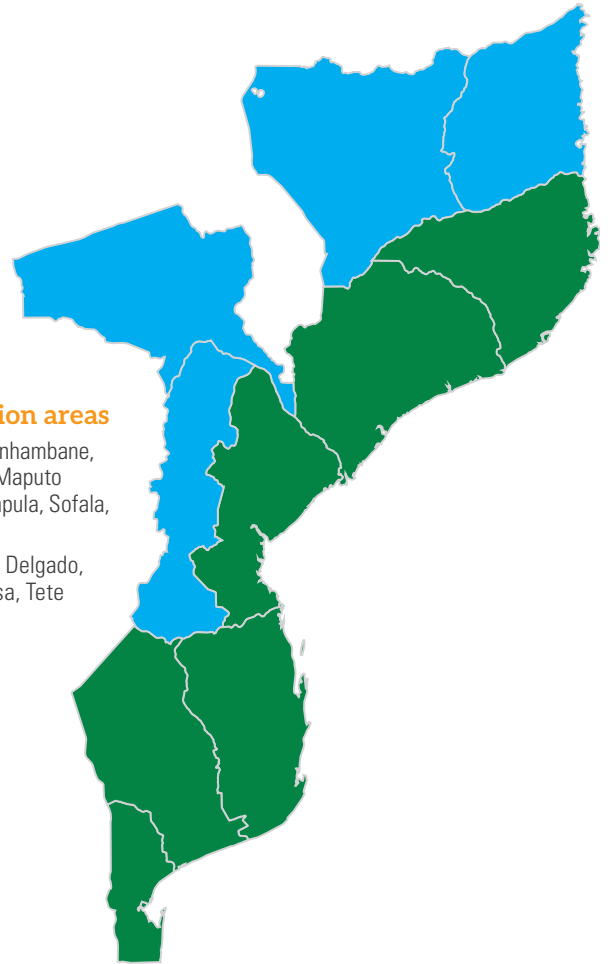
COUNTRY PROFILE

MOZAMBIQUE

14
PER CENT OF WOMEN
AGED 20–24 WERE
FIRST MARRIED OR
IN UNION BEFORE
AGE 15
(DHS 2011)

48
PER CENT OF WOMEN
AGED 20–24 WERE
FIRST MARRIED OR
IN UNION BEFORE
AGE 18
(DHS 2011)

FIGURE 6:
Mozambique implementation areas

- JOINT: Gaza, Inhambane, Maputo City, Maputo Province, Nampula, Sofala, Zambezia
- UNICEF: Cabo Delgado, Manica, Niassa, Tete

CURRENT CHILD MARRIAGE LEVELS, TRENDS AND DEMOGRAPHIC INFO	• Among the African countries in the Global Programme, the child marriage prevalence in Mozambique is the highest with the exception of the Sahelian countries of Burkina Faso and Niger. There is no evidence of decline in the practice in recent decades. • Child marriage prevalence varies greatly across the country, with much higher levels in the north and lower levels in the south. • Estimated population of adolescent girls aged 10–19 (in 2015): 3,327,000.[29] • Estimated population of young women aged 20–24 (in 2015): 1,256,000.[30]
FERTILITY RATE	• In line with the high child marriage prevalence, fertility and adolescent birth rates are also among the highest in Africa. • Total fertility rate[31]: 5.45 births per woman (in 2015).[32] • Adolescent birth rate (number of annual births per 1,000 adolescent girls aged 15–19): 167 (in 2010).[33] • Percentage of women aged 15–19 who have begun childbearing: 38% (DHS 2011).
MAJOR CHALLENGES (SOCIAL NORMS, POVERTY, GOVERNANCE, ETC.)	• Poverty and social indicators are as poor as those of the Sahelian countries, which rank at the bottom of the 12 countries included in the Global Programme. • Mozambique is suffering from a wide range of economic, environmental, political and security problems. • Poor governance and very limited government capacity and resources are other major challenges. • Initiation rites linked to puberty have been identified as another driver behind the high child marriage prevalence.
PRIORITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES	• In the face of these multiple challenges, the Government developed and approved a National Action Plan (NAP) to end child marriage. • The programme has invested a great deal in media and communication campaigns to raise awareness and to change behaviours. This must now be complemented by large-scale coordinated initiatives to improve access to services and opportunities for adolescent girls, especially in areas with the highest child marriage prevalence.

29 United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision, DVD Edition.
30 United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision, DVD Edition.
31 Average number of children a woman would have by the end of her reproductive period if her experience followed the currently prevalent age-specific fertility rates.
32 United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision, DVD Edition.
33 United Nations Statistics Division (2018). SDG Database, https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database

KEY RESULTS BY OUTCOME AREA

Outcome 1: Empowering adolescent girls

STRATEGY

- The Global Programme promotes joint planning and strategizing to make optimal use of different perspectives and experiences. The programme reaches girls and strengthens their skills through mentorships, supporting their health by providing adolescent sexual and reproductive health (ASRH) services (UNFPA) and promoting their behavioural change through communication (UNICEF). The country programme has demonstrated an increase in reach of adolescent girls through life skills interventions. A key strength area is increased linkages for girls to access sexual and reproductive health (SRH), education and child protection services.

- The programme continued to pursue ways of engaging and empowering adolescent girls and their mentors with life skills and knowledge using technological innovations. The initiative of the Rapariga Biz programme trained peer mentors and is being implemented with support from the programme in partnership with UNESCO and UN Women in the regions of Zambezi and Nampula.

The SMS Biz (U-Report) equipped mentors with mobile access to an SMS-based peer counselling service that supports continuous training and answers their most pressing questions and concerns. As an additional follow-up, SMS BIZ tests the knowledge of Rapariga mentors on previous training topics through polls with the goal of reinforcing learning and identifying knowledge gaps to focus on in future training sessions.

- The mentors used their newly acquired knowledge and skills to implement the mentorship programme, undertaking mentorship sessions with adolescent girls. About 25 per cent of these girls have completed the entire mentorship cycle, while those entered the mentorship towards the end of the year will continue their mentorship cycle in 2018. The mentorship approach provides adolescent girls with information on their rights and on SRH, and contributed to building their social and human assets in order to reduce their vulnerabilities and expand their opportunities, as well as provided them with a social network of adolescent girls.

RESULTS

TABLE 16: Mozambique Outcome 1   ABOVE 95%   90-95%   60-80%   BELOW 60%   NOT APPLICABLE

| INDICATOR | BASELINE | MILESTONES | | | | SCORECARD |
| | | 2016 | | 2017 | | |
	2015	PLANNED	ACTUAL	PLANNED	ACTUAL	
Output Indicator 1.1 Number of adolescent girls (aged 10–19) in programme areas actively participating in at least one targeted intervention	7,318	2,682	16,200	6,482	21,579	
Output Indicator 1.2 Number of adolescent girls in programme areas supported to access and remain in primary or lower-secondary school or non-formal education	264	264	NA	2,350	2,358	

- Mozambique used the cost-effective U-Report digital platform to provide health information to adolescent girls and boys. The U-Report health information campaign was adapted to include a comprehensive set of sexuality education topics. The innovative Rapariga BIZ and U-Report that empower girls with life skills and knowledge enabled scaling up of the programme reach of adolescent girls especially in hard-to-reach areas. The strengthened monitoring systems have enabled capture of the number of adolescent girls reached.

- However, while U-Report uses international guidance to craft accurate messages, it can never be a replacement for a Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) programme in or out-of-school that is designed to lead to changes in behaviour, attitudes and values.

- The girls were also supported by their mentors, with referrals

to youth-friendly services if needed. As a result, some of them started using a family planning method. The programme also contributed towards the enrolment and retention in education of some of the mentored adolescent girls and supported girls to demand their civic rights: some of the mentored girls accessed birth registration services, obtained an identity document and some of them joined the youth movement in the form of youth or sport groups.

- Furthermore, the programme provided financial support to girls for school fees for secondary school (primary education is free), school uniforms and school materials at the beginning of the school year. Adolescent out-of-school girls participating in the mentorship programme were specifically mapped and targeted to support their re-enrolment in education in collaboration with the Ministry of Education.

MOZAMBIQUE CONTINUED

Outcome 2: Social and behaviour change communication to influence gender and social norms

STRATEGY

- In 2017, the country programme emphasized sharpening the focus on, and the messaging and targeting of social norms change communication. The programme continues to maintain a focus on Communication for Development (C4D) interventions, having finalized a formative assessment and a C4D strategy in the year.

- In the same communities where the mentorship programme was implemented, community dialogues were held with community gatekeepers (e.g. religious leaders and *madrinhas* (grandmothers) of initiation rites). Community-led initiatives have recorded additional individuals involved in dialogue to end child marriage. These dialogues create support platforms for the participation of girls in the mentorship programme.

RESULTS

TABLE 17: Mozambique Outcome 2

ABOVE 95%   90-95%   60-80%   BELOW 60%   NOT APPLICABLE

| INDICATOR | BASELINE | MILESTONES | | | | SCORECARD |
| | | 2016 | | 2017 | | |
	2015	PLANNED	ACTUAL	PLANNED	ACTUAL	
Output Indicator 2.1 Number of individuals in programme areas who regularly participate in dialogues promoting gender-equitable norms including delaying child marriage	21,945	80,000	73,759	2,292,000	822,522	

- The following parameters were taken into consideration during the estimation of actual reach of the mass media TV and radio campaigns: radio or TV coverage; listenership/viewership rates; duration of exposure; and estimated adult population aged 15 years and above in programme targeted areas. However, these parameters were not taken into consideration during the 2017 target setting. Thus, the 2017 Outcome 2 results show limited progress in meeting of annual targets.

- The entertainment-education (EE) radio drama Ouro Negro became a transmedia (technique of telling a single story across multiple platforms) initiative, comprising a long-running EE radio drama on issues related to adolescents, weekly live radio shows in local languages, stories adapted for community theatre performances and social media presence. In addition, seventy radio stations broadcasted 84 new episodes at no cost. Since March 2017, Ouro Negro live programmes have been produced weekly by all 12 provincial and local broadcasters and by 20 community radios in Zambezia and Nampula. During the weekly, 30-minute show, community members can share their personal behaviour change and positive deviance stories related to the issues covered by the Ouro Negro radio drama on air. Ouro Negro reached an estimated 1–1.5 million listeners of which 32 per cent were regular listeners.

- In a related intervention, the programme supported the engagement of children and adolescents through adolescent media programmes and debates on issues of their own concern. In addition, outreach and media campaigns to register adolescents in the SMS-based counselling platform SMS BIZ/U-Report reached adolescents and young people who were engaged and counselled on SRH, HIV and child marriage.

- With the support of the Global Programme, adolescents are increasingly aware of their right to participation, as demonstrated by the VI National Child Parliament, supported in August 2017. The platform engaged children and adolescents in different sessions. Additionally, the Mozambican Children's Parliament from the 11 provinces, representing children across the country, called on the Mozambican authorities to take urgent action against child marriage at the end of the High Level National Seminar to Prevent and Address Child Marriage and Adolescent Pregnancy organized by the Office of the First Lady. Community leaders, teachers and religious leaders were also engaged as key influencers to support community-based activities.

- Through the partnership with the Interfaith Council of Religions (COREM) and the NGO PIRCOM, religious leaders were trained in five provinces in the use of a multisectoral training package developed with the Ministry of Health (MoH), including sessions dedicated to child marriage prevention.

Outcome 3: Strengthening prevention and protection systems

STRATEGY

- Mozambique focused on training of trainers to build capacity of service providers in adolescent-friendly services. The strategy is scaling up the implementation of guidelines for adolescent girl-friendly health and protection services in the targeted service delivery points in programme areas.

RESULTS

TABLE 18: Mozambique Outcome 3   ■ ABOVE 95%   ■ 90-95%   ■ 60-80%   ■ BELOW 60%   □ NOT APPLICABLE

INDICATOR	BASELINE	MILESTONES				
		2016		2017		
	2015	PLANNED	ACTUAL	PLANNED	ACTUAL	SCORECARD
Output Indicator 3.1 Number of service delivery points in programme areas implementing guidelines for adolescent girl-friendly health or protection services	655	NA	102	610	705	
Output Indicator 3.2 Number of non-formal/primary/secondary schools implementing interventions to improve the quality of education for adolescent girls	NA	100	100	117	191	

- The programme strengthened protection services for girls by supporting the Government in expanding the network of child protection community committees (CPCCs), developing case management capacity and creating linkages to statutory child protection services.

- The programme supported provincial health systems through the Provincial Directorates of Health. This was made possible through the capacity strengthening of health facilities at the community and school levels through mobile brigades.

- The country programme supported the establishment and strengthening of CPCCs to respond to children's needs for protection services and to enhance knowledge about legislation around child marriage. CPCC members were trained to conduct community-based case management, to refer cases to statutory services where needed and to provide basic psychosocial support. As a result, the CCPCs identified, assessed and referred 71,133 children. During the year, the programme also trained and gave operational support to Serviços Distritais de Saúde Mulher e Acçao Social (District Services for Women's Health and Social Action) staff and district social workers on case management and social welfare to conduct monitoring visits.

- The Global Programme trained police staff, persons within the judiciary, prosecutors and legal aid providers. The organization Women and Law in Southern Africa (WLSA) also developed a child marriage manual, which is being used by various partners. In a related area, a Justice Caravan, led by legal aid lawyers to expand legal aid service availability to the most disadvantaged people, reached almost 60,000 people in 14 districts in the Central and Northern regions.

- Given the importance of girls' school attendance, the programme has supported an enabling environment through support to school-related gender-based violence (SRGBV) interventions, training of school councils, and a reporting and referral mechanism. The country programme is keen to support quality and learning, and will track the findings of an ongoing longitudinal study on school dropout to inform systems strengthening interventions.

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MOZAMBIQUE CONTINUED

Outcome 4: Strengthening the legislative and policy frameworks

STRATEGY AND RESULTS

- In Mozambique, the Global Programme advocacy efforts led to the review of Decree 39 on the protection of girls against violence in schools. Through this effort, the global programme collaborated with the Ministry of Education and the Police Department in support of family and minors' victims of violence to scale up the implementation of the adolescent-friendly guidelines in schools. The global programme was also able to support the integration of gender issues into provincial plans and the dissemination of the gender strategy.

- A national strategy and a costed action plan were approved by the Council of Ministers. An operational plan was developed by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action (MoGCSA), with support from UNICEF, as an annual working document. A coordination mechanism was set up, which is to be operational in 2018.

Outcome 5: Strengthening data and evidence base

STRATEGY AND RESULTS

- Mozambique has developed more ambitious monitoring systems. The country has an electronic monitoring system using Palm Pilots and a midpoint assessment.

- The Global Programme conducted formative research on child marriage in Mozambique. The research facilitated the revision of the country's Theory of Change and a convergence strategy for UNICEF and UNFPA, and provided opportunities for finetuning interventions and adding new ones, mainly at the community level. According to the research, in addition to poverty, deeply-rooted discriminatory gender norms, which dictate that girls and young women must be submissive towards boys, men and the elders, are main drivers of child marriage. In regions with a high incidence of child marriage, traditional ideas of the role of women are influenced by family values, teaching provided during initiation rites and other socio-cultural aspects. Young girls must undergo initiation rites to prepare them for marriage according to the social norms regarding the appropriate time (not necessarily age) to marry. These persistent norms and traditions leave the girls with little agency over their own life choices. The findings are being used to develop a customized community dialogue methodology to promote social change to be implemented in four selected convergence districts. It also helped to develop and finalize the C4D strategy to prevent and reduce child marriage in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action (MGCAS).

- The study, 'Understanding the Nutritional Behaviours of Adolescent Girls in Nampula Province', generated the following findings: adolescent girls have limited agency and decision-making permission within their parents' households; adolescent girls' decision-making power increases when they are at or close to school; and in urban settings TV soap operas seem to be the best channels for influencing attitudes and behaviours.

- The country programme also supported qualitative research to identify factors that contribute to regular listening habits of the radio drama Ouro Negro.

Additional information

- Mozambique: Invest in Girls - Guarantee the Future (UNFPA Facebook post on the National Girls Conference in October 2017): www.facebook.com/notes/unfpa-mo%C3%A7ambique/mozambique-invest-in-girls-guarantee-the-future/134894350550751

- UNICEF News on the National Girls Conference (with music video by the Global Goals on Girls' Fight for Freedom from the International Day of the Girl): www.unicef.org.mz/quelimane-vai-acolher-conferencia-nacional-da-rapariga-com-300-participantes

- Mozambique: A Growing Movement for Girls: mozambique.unfpa.org/en/news/mozambique-growing-movement-girls

- Human Interest Stories (UNICEF Facebook posts): www.facebook.com/unicef.mozambique/posts/1322875457797387, www.facebook.com/unicef.mozambique/posts/1472191452865786

- Radio helped me out of my early marriage (UNICEF News): www.unicef.org.mz/a-radio-ajudou-me-a-sair-do-meu-casamento-prematuro/

- The story of my early marriage (UNICEF News): www.unicef.org.mz/a-historia-do-meu-casamento-prematuro/

- First lady calls for collective action to combat premature marriages in Mozambique (UNICEF News): www.unicef.org.mz/primeira-dama-pede-uma-accao-colectiva-para-combater-os-casamentos-prematuros-em-mocambique
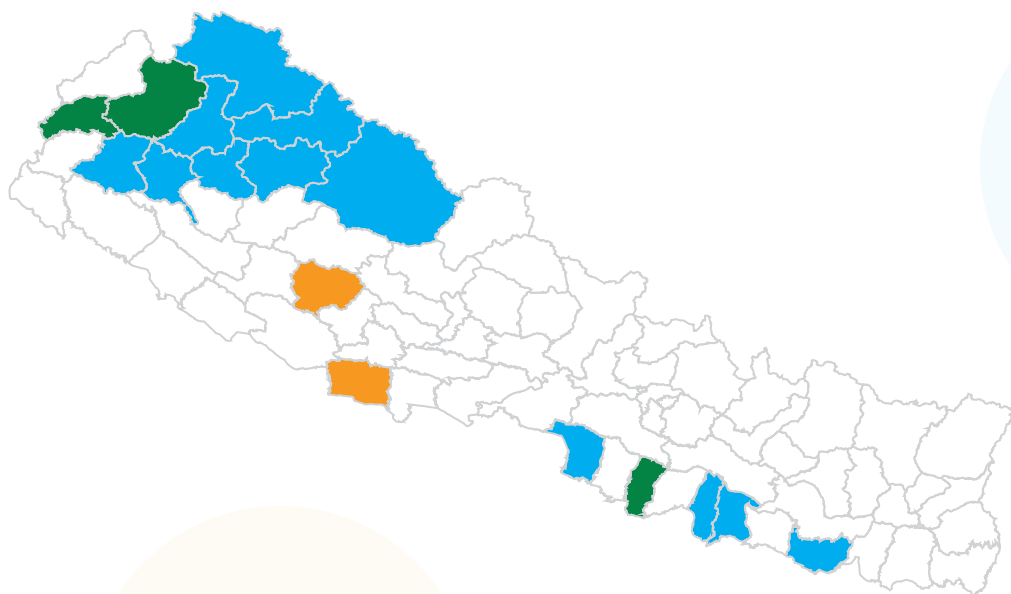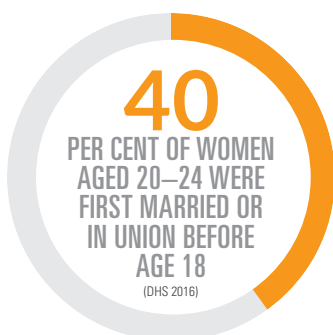
COUNTRY PROFILE

NEPAL

7

PER CENT OF WOMEN AGED 20–24 WERE FIRST MARRIED OR IN UNION BEFORE AGE 15

(DHS 2016)

40

PER CENT OF WOMEN AGED 20–24 WERE FIRST MARRIED OR IN UNION BEFORE AGE 18

(DHS 2016)

FIGURE 7:
Nepal implementation areas

● JOINT: Baitadi, Bajhang, Rautahat

● UNFPA: Kapilbastu, Rolpa

● UNICEF: Achham, Bajura, Dhanusha, Dolpa, Doti, Humla, Jumla, Kaliko , Mahottari, Mugu, Parsa, Rautaha, Saptari

CURRENT CHILD MARRIAGE LEVELS, TRENDS AND DEMOGRAPHIC INFO	• Child marriage remains high in Nepal, but the decline over the past ten years gives some hope. • Nepal is a diverse country and child marriage prevalence differ across the country. • Estimated population of adolescent girls aged 10–19 (in 2015): 3,250,000.[34] • Estimated population of young women aged 20–24 (in 2015): 1,428,000.[35]
FERTILITY RATE	• The national fertility rate is low and close to the replacement level, but the adolescent birth rate is still relatively high by South Asian standards. • Total fertility rate[36]: 2.32 births per woman (in 2015).[37] • Adolescent birth rate (number of annual births per 1,000 adolescent girls aged 15–19): 88 (in 2015).[38] • Percentage of women aged 15–19 who have begun childbearing: 17% (DHS 2016).
MAJOR CHALLENGES (SOCIAL NORMS, POVERTY, GOVERNANCE, ETC.)	• Poverty, lack of opportunities, social and gender norms are all challenges. • Programme delivery have to face poor infrastructure and access difficulties. • Governance has been weak for decades. The recent shift to a decentralized system offers new opportunities but also additional challenges, at least in the short to medium term.
PRIORITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES	• A national plan of action (NAP) has been approved and costed. • Major opportunities are the leveraging of large-scale programmes, such as the Girls Access to Education programme and the Multisectoral Nutrition Plan. • The large number of development programmes in Nepal offers a wide range of leveraging opportunities. Another strength of Nepal is the presence of thousands of girls' clubs set up by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) across the country.

34 United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision, DVD Edition.
35 United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision, DVD Edition.
36 Average number of children a woman would have by the end of her reproductive period if her experience followed the currently prevalent age-specific fertility rates.
37 United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision, DVD Edition.
38 United Nations Statistics Division (2018). SDG Database, https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database

NEPAL CONTINUED

KEY RESULTS BY OUTCOME AREA

Outcome 1: Empowering adolescent girls

STRATEGY

- Adolescent girls who are at risk of marriage, such as those out of school and those in disadvantaged districts, are the targets of the 6–9 month Rupantaran Adolescent Empowerment Programme, a social and financial skills training programme. In order to promote greater access to adolescent sexual and reproductive health (ASRH) services, Rupantaran links with local schools and organizes regular visits to health centres that have been certified as adolescent-friendly. The visits allow girls to meet with doctors and nurses in a friendly environment and to be oriented on available services.

- Using the same training and orientation tools by the two agencies, in particular the jointly developed Rupantaran package, is cost-effective and has ensured that the messaging on child marriage is consistent across implementation areas.

- The programme has developed models for scaling up the Rupantaran life skills package. The life skills package is gradually being integrated into the in-school education curriculum. Starting in 2018, efforts will be made to integrate life skills into existing delivery platforms to reach large numbers of girls and community members.

RESULTS

TABLE 19: Nepal Outcome 1

ABOVE 95% 90-95% 60-80% BELOW 60% NOT APPLICABLE

INDICATOR	BASELINE	MILESTONES				
		2016		2017		
	2015	PLANNED	ACTUAL	PLANNED	ACTUAL	SCORECARD
Output Indicator 1.1 Number of adolescent girls (aged 10–19) in programme areas actively participating in at least one targeted intervention	6,047	5,050	7,566	3,840	9,666	
Output Indicator 1.2 Number of adolescent girls in programme areas supported to access and remain in primary or lower-secondary school or non-formal education	NA	NA	9,804	1,500	2,621	

- The gradual integration of the life skills package into the formal school education enabled the programme to reach more adolescent girls with life skills training in addition to countering violence in schools. In addition, the country programme used the cost-effective U-Report digital platform to provide health information to adolescent girls and boys in- and out-of-school.

- Through the Girls' Access to Education (GATE) programme, out-of-school girls are provided with training to equip them with numeracy and literacy skills. The goal is to mainstream the girls back into the formal education system. For female students, various kinds of afterschool activities are organized, such as peer-led homework groups, learning camps, life skills camps, quiz contests and other

sports activities, which promote their inclusion and participation as well as boost their learning. A weekly two-hour session on various life skills related to adolescence, SRH, nutrition, and income-generating alternatives is also delivered by trained young champions.

- The programme provides in-kind support to girls from poor families and marginalized girls who are at risk of dropping out of school. Girls from some districts receive cash bursaries or support for education materials and school uniforms to enable them to (re)enrol or to remain in school.

Outcome 2: Social and behaviour change communication to influence gender and social norms

STRATEGY

- Community dialogue on child marriage and gender-equitable norms were conducted with parents and guardians of girls enrolled in the life skills programme. To overcome resistance against the life skills programme, sessions were held to explain the purpose and scope of the life skills package to the adults. This strategy was effective in improving access of girls in the life skills sessions.

- The programme conducted training with religious leaders on child

rights, child marriage and gender. The trained religious leaders then mobilized their communities by delivering messages on child marriage during religious services in order to convince the communities to denounce child marriage.

- The country programme developed public service announcements (PSAs) on child marriage for radio in local languages, which were broadcast in five implementation districts.

RESULTS

TABLE 20: Nepal Outcome 2

ABOVE 95%   90-95%   60-80%   BELOW 60%   NOT APPLICABLE

INDICATOR	BASELINE	MILESTONES				
		2016		2017		
	2015	PLANNED	ACTUAL	PLANNED	ACTUAL	SCORECARD
Output Indicator 2.1 Number of individuals in programme areas who regularly participate in dialogues promoting gender-equitable norms including delaying child marriage	12,955	20,520	20,032	8,787	208,083	

- Initially, the number of young people engaged through the U-Report digital platform had not been included in the targets set for indicator 2.1. The youth reach in programme-targeted areas using the U-Report platform and estimated media coverage contributed to the 2017 results.
- During the implementation period, Nepal shifted to cost-effective methods that included using of media campaigns through radio, TVs and midi-media plays to reach more community members with social behaviour change messaging.
- Countries supporting media campaigns improved methods for estimating audience sizes. Nepal received technical support from the Global Programme Support Unit for methods to measure media audiences that take into account media reach (as estimated from official sources), frequency of exposure and targeted audience estimates.
- In coordination with the Ministry of Women Children and Social Welfare, on the occasion of the International Day of the Girl Child, a web series with four episodes was designed, produced and aired weekly through October. The series was based on the theme of the International Day of the Girl Child 2017: "The Power of the Adolescent Girl: Vision for 2030". The short videos depicted typical scenarios on child marriage in Nepal – often with a dramatic twist – and aimed to show different resolutions to the challenges faced by young people.

Outcome 3: Strengthening prevention and protection systems

STRATEGY

- In 2017, the country programme's continued advocacy efforts and technical assistance resulted into the incorporation of a dedicated module on ending child marriage as a harmful practice in the revised national training curriculum for government personnel and the integration of initiatives on ending child marriage into the annual work plan of the Government's gender-based violence prevention and response programme (Department of Women and Children).
- The programme provided technical support to the Central Child Welfare Board in developing a resource book (programming guide) on child protection at local levels in line with the legal mandate on child protection, pursuant to the Local Government Operation Act 2017. The resource book highlights key interventions to address child marriage at the local government level within the framework of the National Strategy to End Child Marriage.
- The programme provided financial support to the National Health Training Centre to conduct a five-day competency-based training on adolescent health to service providers, which improved their capacity to deliver adolescent health and counselling services. Technical and financial support was also provided towards the Revision of the "Quality Improvement and Certification Tool for Adolescent-Friendly Health Service".
- Technical support was provided to health facilities to establish and offer Adolescent-Friendly Services (AFS).

RESULTS

TABLE 21: Nepal Outcome 3

ABOVE 95%   90-95%   60-80%   BELOW 60%   NOT APPLICABLE

INDICATOR	BASELINE	MILESTONES				
		2016		2017		
	2015	PLANNED	ACTUAL	PLANNED	ACTUAL	SCORECARD
Output Indicator 3.1 Number of service delivery points in programme areas implementing guidelines for adolescent girl-friendly health or protection services	4	6	317	127	89	
Output Indicator 3.2 Number of non-formal/primary/ secondary schools implementing interventions to improve the quality of education for adolescent girls	NA	NA	257	140	360	

- In the health sector, as a result of the financial support that was provided towards the revision of the certification tool for AFHS and the national training curriculum for Government personnel, the support to targeted health facilities to establish AFHS was reduced. Thus, the 2017 results show limited progress in achieving annual targets for output indicator 3.1.
- In the child protection sector, the programme supported training and capacity building of Women and Children Office staff on legal awareness and early intervention on child marriage through the mobilization of Women's Cooperatives and Gender-Based Violence Watch Groups. It strengthened the capacity of law enforcement bodies through training of police personnel from Women and Children Service Directorates and Centres on GBV, which included child marriage, in order to provide child-friendly, gender-sensitive services.
- The programme supported the strengthening of gender focal points at district education offices, which subsequently leveraged support and engaged schools in implementing adolescent-friendly environments. In addition to the implementation of the guidelines and GBV referral and response mechanisms, schools were mobilized to set up complaints and suggestion boxes to address GBV and bullying.

NEPAL CONTINUED

Outcome 4: Strengthening the legislative and policy frameworks

STRATEGY

- A key highlight of the Nepal programme is the continued technical and advocacy role in the operationalizing of the National Strategy on Ending Child Marriage, launched in 2016. Through the programme's advocacy role, interventions have been integrated and resourced on harmful traditional practices including child marriage for implementing the Multisectoral Nutrition Plan (MSNP) for 2018–2022.

RESULTS

- With the active participation of the civil society organizations (CSOs) under the network of Girls Not Brides (GnB) Nepal, the programme supported the development of the M&E framework and costing of the National Action Plan (NAP) on ending child marriage.
- The Nepal programme established a national framework and coordination mechanism for addressing child marriage. With the National Strategy on Ending Child Marriage in place, advocacy

has been strengthened for integrating actions to respond to child marriage through sectoral programmes.

- The programme, in coordination with District Development Committees (DDCs) in the programme areas, supported the development of district action plans to end child marriage.

Outcome 5: Strengthening data and evidence base

STRATEGY AND RESULTS

- The programme strengthened mechanisms to monitor the outcomes of Rupantaran, the comprehensive girl-focused life skills programme that fosters linkage with community-level support and referrals to sexual reproductive health services, with data entry in the software to monitor the outcomes of the life skills training Rupantaran for adolescents and parents/guardians. A standardized questionnaire with profile information and assessment questions on knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding relevant issues covered through the life skills curriculum is administered on the first day of the session and is re-administered after completion of the Rupantaran sessions. Among the girls who attended the life skills sessions, overall knowledge and attitudes improved by 10.53 percentage points and knowledge and attitudes on gender and social norms improved by 13.51 percentage points.
- A baseline study, 'Situation Assessment of Child Marriage in Selected Five Intervention Districts of Nepal', was conducted and its final report is available. The study was initiated with the aim to: examine the status of child marriage in the programme districts; establish baseline values of output, outcome and impact indicators; understand the knowledge, attitudes, and behaviour of

stakeholders in combating child marriage; and prepare a profile of the target population.

- With the aim of documenting evidence, lessons learned and good practices, the programme conducted a knowledge management exercise to assess the effectiveness of selected interventions to improve adolescents' lives, well-being and self-empowerment.
- A key area of programme focus is improving girls' school retention and learning outcomes, which commenced in 2016 and to be continued through mid-2018 to be followed by a rigorous assessment of its effectiveness and impact. The programme's future direction will be decided based on findings of this assessment as well as funding opportunities.
- 'A Profile of Adolescent Girls in Nepal', which is an analysis of MICS 2014 data, showed that over 90 per cent of adolescents surveyed were able to read and write. However, the percentage of adolescents currently attending school drops dramatically after the age of 16. This was especially true in regard to adolescent girls who were significantly less likely to complete secondary education than boys.

Additional information

- Samakon Web Series on Ending Early Child Marriage (four parts):
  www.youtube.com/watch?v=vOHFyBRkA0w
  www.youtube.com/watch?v=K200fTARMOo
  www.youtube.com/watch?v=uV_Ktn_Cruk
  www.youtube.com/watch?v=7O9UTGINokg
- Rolpa girls play volleyball against child marriage (UNFPA News):
  http://nepal.unfpa.org/en/news/rolpa-girls-play-volleyball-against-child-marriage

- Girls bat and bowl against child marriage in Kapilvastu (UNFPA News):
  http://nepal.unfpa.org/en/news/girls-bat-and-bowl-against-child-marriage-kapilvastu
- Using cricket as a means to advocate against child marriage and violence against women and girls (UNFPA News):
  http://nepal.unfpa.org/en/news/using-cricket-means-advocate-against-child-marriage-and-violence-against-women-and-girls

COUNTRY PROFILE

NIGER

28
PER CENT OF WOMEN
AGED 20—24 WERE
FIRST MARRIED OR
IN UNION BEFORE
AGE 15
(DHS 2012)

76
PER CENT OF WOMEN
AGED 20—24 WERE
FIRST MARRIED OR
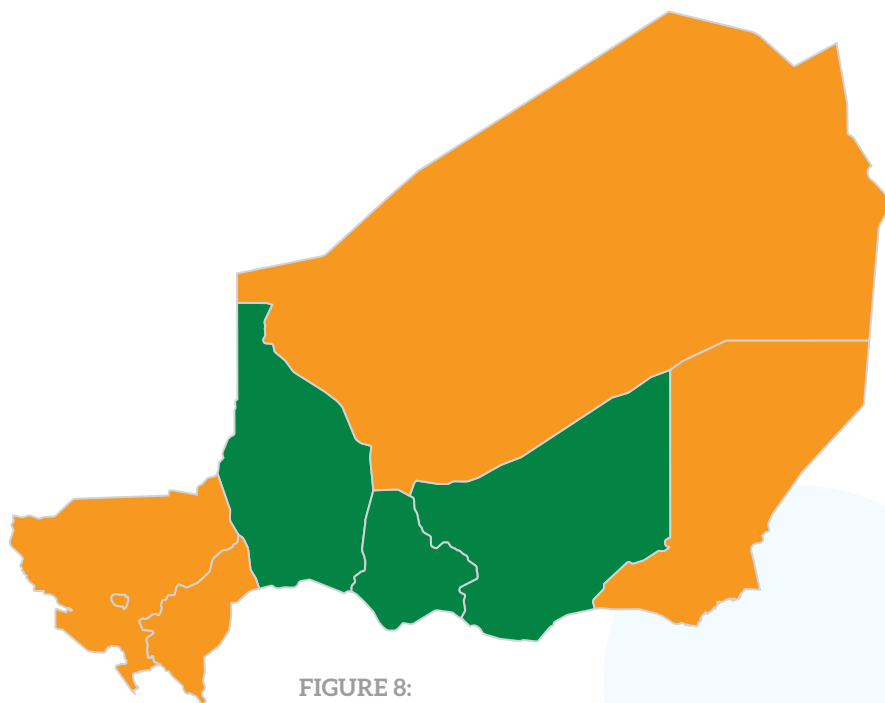IN UNION BEFORE
AGE 18
(DHS 2012)

FIGURE 8:
Niger implementation areas
- JOINT: Maradi, Tahoua, Zinder
- UNFPA: Agadez, Diffa, Dosso, Niamey, Tillaberi

CURRENT CHILD MARRIAGE LEVELS, TRENDS AND DEMOGRAPHIC INFO	• Niger has the highest prevalence of child marriage in the world, and there has been no decline in recent years. • Estimated population of adolescent girls aged 10—19 (in 2015): 2,334,000.[39] • Estimated population of young women aged 20—24 (in 2015): 810,000.[40]
FERTILITY RATE	• The fertility rate and the adolescent birth rate are among the highest in the world. • Total fertility rate[41]: 7.40 births per woman (in 2015).[42] • Adolescent birth rate (number of annual births per 1,000 adolescent girls aged 15—19): 146 (in 2015).[43] • Percentage of women aged 15—19 who have begun childbearing: 40% (DHS 2012).
MAJOR CHALLENGES (SOCIAL NORMS, POVERTY, GOVERNANCE, ETC.)	• Niger presents a considerable challenge among the 12 Global Programme countries. Challenges include: conservative social and gender norms; the lack of autonomy and decision-making power of adolescent girls; very low access to health and education services; and low literacy rates among women and girls. • Poverty, environmental crises and political insecurity add to the persistent development challenges. • Niger does not have a national action plan (NAP), and the Government must tread carefully so as not to upset and provoke conservative religious groups. • The high fertility rate translates in one of the highest population growth rates, which eliminates any economic growth and overwhelms social spending in education and health services.
PRIORITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES	• The current investments in ending child marriage are in their initial stage. In the absence of an NAP, there is no national political platform to coordinate efforts to end child marriage. • Leveraging greater investments in health and education are clearly needed, but the challenges are considerable. • These social investments must be matched by efforts to change social and gender norms, which, to date, have proven to be highly resistant to change.

39 United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision, DVD Edition.
40 United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision, DVD Edition.
41 Average number of children a woman would have by the end of her reproductive period if her experience followed the currently prevalent age-specific fertility rates.
42 United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision, DVD Edition.
43 United Nations Statistics Division (2018). SDG Database, https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database

NIGER CONTINUED

Outcome 1: Empowering adolescent girls

STRATEGY

- The country programme's key programme strategy is to support the transition of girls from primary to secondary school through a multisectoral approach. In early 2017, based on an internal review of the previous cycles of the Adolescent Initiative programme (Illimin) and recommendation of field missions, the content of the Illimin modular sessions was re-adapted to include adolescent girl nutrition in collaboration with WFP. The Illimin programme supports girl-focused life skills programmes in support of education and learning, livelihood and decision-making outcomes.

- The Illimin programme supported safe spaces and provided training to adolescent girls on life skills, sexual and reproductive health, personal hygiene, GBV and financial literacy. Life skills interventions support girls' school attendance and alternative choices, and creates referral linkages to sexual and reproductive health services such as family planning. Throughout the course, mentors and literacy workers raise out-of-school girls' awareness on the benefits of formal education, and those who express the desire for formal education are assisted with registration and return to formal school.

RESULTS

TABLE 22: Niger Outcome 1   ■ ABOVE 95%   ■ 90-95%   ■ 60-80%   ■ BELOW 60%   □ NOT APPLICABLE

INDICATOR	BASELINE	MILESTONES				SCORECARD
		2016		2017		
	2015	PLANNED	ACTUAL	PLANNED	ACTUAL	
Output Indicator 1.1 Number of adolescent girls (aged 10–19) in programme areas actively participating in at least one targeted intervention	11,642	23,702	21,885	13,500	17,000	
Output Indicator 1.2 Number of adolescent girls in programme areas supported to access and remain in primary or lower-secondary school or non-formal education	714	45,465	19,088	38,300	43,245	

- The country programme provided support to Local School Action Plans aimed at supporting girls' education. As a result, more adolescent girls were provided with life skills education in schools. This is reflected in the 2017 results that exceeded the annual targets.

- An analysis of the supported actions for girls' education in Niger is currently underway to guide further planning to identify the most effective approach to support girls' education in the programme.

- The Illimin programme, which provided weekly functional literacy to out-of-school adolescent girls using literacy workers, resulted in additional adolescent girls benefitting from education support from the programme, and therefore enabling the programme to exceed its annual targets for output indicator 1.2.

- Additional girls were supported to return to school by the Village Child Protection Committees strengthened by the programme.

Outcome 2: Social and behaviour change communication to influence gender and social norms

STRATEGY

- The country programme continues to strengthen synergy between life skills programmes and community engagement, under Illimin, including the involvement of parents and families and linking them to services such as the provision of contraceptives through community-based distribution.

- The country programme supported mentor-led home visits organized by mentors. These visits ensure adolescent girls' participation in the Illimin programme and serve as a framework for addressing adolescent issues with their families, including early marriage and violence. This experience shows that communities are ready to change social norm-based practices once they have access to information on children's needs, development stages and rights in general, and on the detrimental consequences of child marriage on girls and their children, and are given an opportunity to participate in inter-generational and inter-gender open discussions on the issue.

- In 2017, Niger shifted to cost-effective methods that included using of media campaigns through radio, TVs and midi-media plays to reach more community members with social behaviour change messaging.

- The country programme established a partnership with the national radio, 'Voix du Sahel', which led to financial savings in the production and broadcast of media campaigns on ending child marriage. The partnership included the re-broadcasting of the radio soap opera, 'Haské Maganin Duhu' (The Light Chases the Darkness) by nine private radio stations at reduced broadcast fees.

- The country programme partnered with the Associate of Traditional Chiefs of Niger and the Islamic Association of Niger to implement the model village concept. A model village is one where at least 45 per cent of the girls are enrolled in school, 90 per cent of children under two are vaccinated and 80 per cent of children under two are registered in the civil registry. The partnership reached 337 villages during the reporting period through interventions designed to promote attitudes and behaviours favourable to the realization of child's rights.

- The country programme supported training of community dialogue facilitators and religious leaders to mobilize communities twice a month on girls' education, prevention of child marriage, immunization, peacebuilding and social cohesion. This allowed a greater participation of women and young girls during village assemblies and community dialogue – and complements girl-focused interventions supported by the country programme under Illimin.

RESULTS

TABLE 23: Niger Outcome 2

■ ABOVE 95%   ■ 90-95%   ■ 60-80%   ■ BELOW 60%   ☐ NOT APPLICABLE

| INDICATOR | BASELINE | MILESTONES | | | | |
| | | 2016 | | 2017 | | |
	2015	PLANNED	ACTUAL	PLANNED	ACTUAL	SCORECARD
Output Indicator 2.1 Number of individuals in programme areas who regularly participate in dialogues promoting gender-equitable norms including delaying child marriage	52,250	75,645	95,623	127,840	193,020	

- In addition to the increased reach of more villages or communities through the established partnership with the Association of Traditional Chiefs of Niger and the Islamic Association of Niger, the improved tracking of results from mass media activities enabled the programme to exceed its annual targets for 2017.
- Through community dialogue and engagement, 150 villages made public declarations for the abandonment of child marriage. These villages are located in three regions (Maradi, Tahoua and Zinder) with a high prevalence of child marriage. Some villages planted a white flag on the trees at the entrance of their villages and others posted signs to demonstrate their abandonment of the practice.

Outcome 3: Strengthening prevention and protection systems

STRATEGY

- The programme focused on the training of trainers to build capacity of service providers in adolescent-friendly services. The strategy is scaling up the implementation of guidelines for adolescent girl-friendly protection services in the targeted service delivery points in programme areas.
- The Niger programme continued to reinforce community-based child protection mechanisms that are effective in addressing social norms. The programme supported the Government in expanding the network of Village Child Protection Committees to promote positive practices in its targeted communities.

- The programme supported the development and implementation of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response. The SOPs detail the minimum procedures to be followed both for the prevention and the response to GBV, specifying in particular the organizations and/or community groups that will be responsible for the actions carried out in the four main sectors of intervention: health, psychosocial support, legal/justice and security.

RESULTS

TABLE 24: Niger Outcome 3

■ ABOVE 95%   ■ 90-95%   ■ 60-80%   ■ BELOW 60%   ☐ NOT APPLICABLE

| INDICATOR | BASELINE | MILESTONES | | | | |
| | | 2016 | | 2017 | | |
	2015	PLANNED	ACTUAL	PLANNED	ACTUAL	SCORECARD
Output Indicator 3.1 Number of service delivery points in programme areas implementing guidelines for adolescent girl-friendly health or protection services	NA	222	116	278	324	
Output Indicator 3.2 Number of non-formal/primary/secondary schools implementing interventions to improve the quality of education for adolescent girls	NA	148	148	NA	NA	NA

- The focus of the programme on the training of trainers and support to training of service providers were effective in ensuring that service delivery points implemented guidelines for adolescent-friendly services. The cascaded training enabled the programme to exceed its annual targets for 2017.
- Education sessions by the Village Child Protection Committees were able to prevent 229 cases of child marriage through direct mediation with parents and assisted 490 girls in returning to school.

NIGER CONTINUED

Outcome 4: Strengthening the legislative and policy frameworks

STRATEGY AND RESULTS

- The programme supported a roundtable meeting on girls' education, which resulted in the consensual signing of ten commitments by the Government, cooperating partners, civil society and traditional, religious and community leaders. This led to the adoption by the Government of a decree on the protection of girls in school to guarantee access and retention until the age of 16.
- The programme's engagement and advocacy resulted in a government commitment to develop a national action plan (NAP) to end child marriage. A multi-stakeholder multisector Child Marriage

Coordination National Committee was established to support the Government in developing the NAP to end child marriage.

- The programme provided technical resources through the recruitment of consultants to support the Government in the development of the NAP on ending child marriage.
- The programme also provided technical support for the finalization and dissemination of the National Strategic Plan on Adolescent and Youth Health 2017–2021, and the National Gender Policy and Action Plan.

Outcome 5: Strengthening data and evidence base

STRATEGY AND RESULT

- UNFPA and UNICEF supported the Government in establishing a platform, 'Towards the End of Child Marriage in Niger', which brings together 15 organizations in Niger to convene monthly, and share and use data and information on child marriage issues, harmonize partners' key messages and combine partners'

strengths to advocate for a better legislation in favour of adolescent's rights. This platform has succeeded in galvanizing the national committee and the coordination of partners' messages for the International Day of the Girl Child's campaign, and bringing the theme of child marriage to the forefront.
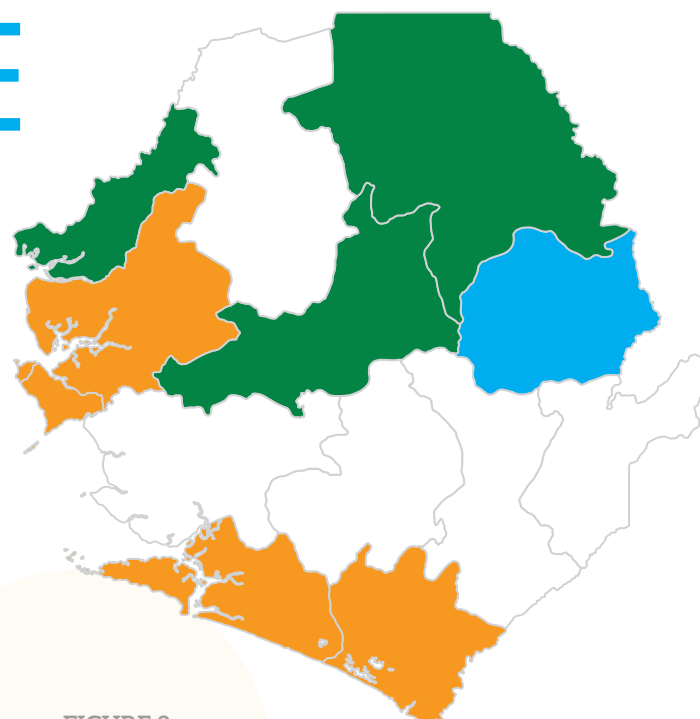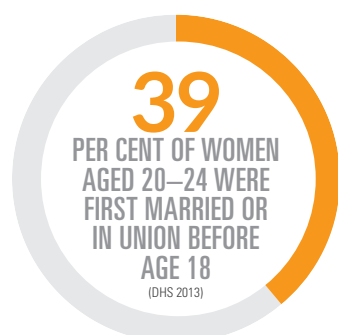
COUNTRY PROFILE

SIERRA LEONE

13
PER CENT OF WOMEN
AGED 20–24 WERE
FIRST MARRIED OR
IN UNION BEFORE
AGE 15
(DHS 2013)

39
PER CENT OF WOMEN
AGED 20–24 WERE
FIRST MARRIED OR
IN UNION BEFORE
AGE 18
(DHS 2013)

FIGURE 9:
Sierra Leone implementation areas
- ● JOINT: Kambia, Koinadugu, Tonkolili
- ● UNFPA: Bonthe, Port Loko, Pujehun, Western Area Rural
- ● UNICEF: Kono

CURRENT CHILD MARRIAGE LEVELS, TRENDS AND DEMOGRAPHIC INFO	• Sierra Leone's child marriage prevalence remains relatively high, but recent declines have been encouraging. • Estimated population of adolescent girls aged 10–19 (in 2015): 859,000.[44] • Estimated population of young women aged 20–24 (in 2015): 337,000.[45]
FERTILITY RATE	• The national fertility rate and the adolescent birth rate are still high. • Total fertility rate[46]: 4.84 births per woman (in 2015).[47] • Adolescent birth rate (number of annual births per 1,000 adolescent girls aged 15–19): 125 (in 2012).[48] • Percentage of women aged 15–19 who have begun childbearing: 28% (DHS 2013).
MAJOR CHALLENGES (SOCIAL NORMS, POVERTY, GOVERNANCE, ETC.)	• Poverty, lack of access to education and health services, and limited opportunities are major challenges. • The Government continues to face major capacity and resource challenges. • The conflicting legislation relating to the age of marriage must be harmonized. • Social norms have shown some signs of change due to the decline of power structures, rural-urban migration and an increase in the autonomy of adolescent girls.
PRIORITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES	• Sierra Leone has a National Action Plan (NAP) and several Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with paramount chiefs, which reflects a willingness of national and local government leaders to tackle child marriage. • The NAP must now be implemented and become a platform for leveraging large-scale programmes to provide access to health and education services, and to livelihood opportunities for adolescent girls.

44 United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision, DVD Edition.

45 United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision, DVD Edition.

46 Average number of children a woman would have by the end of her reproductive period if her experience followed the currently prevalent age-specific fertility rates.

47 United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision, DVD Edition.

48 United Nations Statistics Division (2018). SDG Database, https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database

SIERRA LEONE CONTINUED

Outcome 1: Empowering adolescent girls

STRATEGY

- The programme established and maintained safe spaces for adolescent girls, where trained mentors provided the girls with life skills, leadership, decision-making, sexual reproductive health (SRH), livelihood and economic empowerment training.
- The programme supported the development and maintenance of a real-time mobile platform, U-Report, where adolescents (32 per cent female) were provided an opportunity to voice their opinions on issues affecting adolescents and young people. The platform

was used by the programme to empower and provide information on issues related to SRH, justice and social protection.
- Through the community mapping of vulnerable girls (i.e. girls who are at risk of being married, already married, living with one parent, orphaned or out of school), the programme provided financial and material support to girls at risk of dropping out of school to stay in school and to those who had already dropped out to return to school.

RESULTS

TABLE 25: Sierra Leone Outcome 1   🟩 ABOVE 95%   🟨 90-95%   🟧 60-80%   🟥 BELOW 60%   ⬜ NOT APPLICABLE

INDICATOR	BASELINE	MILESTONES				
		2016		2017		
	2015	PLANNED	ACTUAL	PLANNED	ACTUAL	SCORECARD
Output Indicator 1.1 Number of adolescent girls (aged 10–19) in programme areas actively participating in at least one targeted intervention	23,331	3,000	4,398	4,200	12,381	🟩
Output Indicator 1.2 Number of adolescent girls in programme areas supported to access and remain in primary or lower-secondary school or non-formal education	7,011	4,000	7,608	1,500	1,188	🟨

- Sierra Leone used the cost-effective U-Report digital platform to empower and provide health information to adolescent girls and boys, leading to significant increases in reported results for the programme against the annual targets. The U-Report health information campaign was adapted to include a comprehensive set of sexuality education topics. Adolescent girls exposed to prolonged health information campaigns through the U-Report were included as part of the reported results. While the U-Report uses international guidance to craft accurate messages, it can

never be a replacement for a comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) programme in or out-of-school that is designed to lead to changes in behaviour, attitudes and values.
- Sierra Leone had initially planned to provide more girls in remote areas with education support through scholarships. However, due to challenges of keeping girls in schools, the programmes provided incentives to their families in the form of direct material support to girls, thus reducing the programme's education support.

Outcome 2: Social and behaviour change communication to influence gender and social norms

STRATEGY

- The programme collaborated with the Inter-Religious Council to support families and communities to understand religious perceptions and harmful practices and their impact on families. The Inter-Religious Council has a constituency of over 15,000 families with essential family practice programmes.
- The programme supported the Office of the First Lady in developing a five-minute documentary video that highlights the country's efforts towards ending child marriage and gained political

and regional commitment during the High-Level Meeting in Dakar, co-hosted by the First Ladies of Sierra Leone and Senegal.
- 20 radio phone-in programmes on child marriage and adolescent pregnancy were produced to provide the public with the opportunity of listening to local authorities and experts talk about child marriage, prevention and service availability, and allowed community members to sound their concerns and challenges on the issues.

RESULTS

TABLE 26: Sierra Leone Outcome 2

🟩 ABOVE 95%   🟨 90-95%   🟧 60-80%   🟥 BELOW 60%   ⬜ NOT APPLICABLE

INDICATOR	BASELINE	MILESTONES				
		2016		2017		
	2015	PLANNED	ACTUAL	PLANNED	ACTUAL	SCORECARD
Output Indicator 2.1 Number of individuals in programme areas who regularly participate in dialogues promoting gender-equitable norms including delaying child marriage	18,000	12,000	13,485	5,000	15,963	🟩

- Initially, the number of youths engaged through the U-Report digital platform dialogue were not included in the targets set for this indicator. The U-Report and results of the rapid assessment of

the radio phone-in campaign using the U-Report campaign were included in the output indicator 2.1 for 2017 and therefore enabling the programme to exceed its annual target.

Outcome 3: Strengthening prevention and protection systems

STRATEGY

- The country programme has continued to focus on the quality of care in health facilities to ensure adolescent-friendly services. Areas of capacity strengthening focus on the orientation and coaching of health care workers.
- The programme supported training of health care workers in adolescent and youth-friendly services in two districts. Community health centres and community health posts in intervention areas were renovated to include separate and confidential space for the provision of services to adolescents and youth. Upgraded facilities

now contain a separate waiting room for adolescents.
- The programme worked with the village development committees (VDCs) to coordinate all community structures that include child welfare committees (CWCs), mothers' clubs, mother-to-mother support groups and paramount chiefs. Paramount chiefs and their communities developed and are implementing community action plans, which resulted in increased awareness on violence, identification and referral of cases of abuse to services providers, and monitoring and following up on incidences for timely redress.

RESULTS

TABLE 27: Sierra Leone Outcome 3

🟩 ABOVE 95%   🟨 90-95%   🟧 60-80%   🟥 BELOW 60%   ⬜ NOT APPLICABLE

INDICATOR	BASELINE	MILESTONES				
		2016		2017		
	2015	PLANNED	ACTUAL	PLANNED	ACTUAL	SCORECARD
Output Indicator 3.1 Number of service delivery points in programme areas implementing guidelines for adolescent girl-friendly health or protection services	NA	NA	21	12	11	🟨
Output Indicator 3.2 Number of non-formal/primary/secondary schools implementing interventions to improve the quality of education for adolescent girls	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

- Following a field supervision visit, the Sierra Leone programme shifted planned activities to include training of health service providers. The programme, therefore, was unable to meet its

annual target of planned renovation and upgrading of community health centres and health posts to provide adolescent-friendly services.

SIERRA LEONE CONTINUED

Outcome 4: Strengthening the legislative and policy frameworks

STRATEGY AND RESULTS

- Garnering the full support of government counterparts has been a challenge in terms of ensuring government ownership of the process. This is in part due to the fact that child marriage is an issue that cuts across ministries, many of which are not allocating resources to tackle the problem. In 2016, the Government developed a costed national strategy to reduce teenage pregnancy and to end child marriage. However, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs instead demanded two separate national strategies. This led to a plan for developing a new strategy for ending child marriage in 2018, which only changed in December 2017 following the dismissal of the Minister, thus allowing the two strategies to be combined once again.

- As a result of the programme's continued advocacy and engagement with the Government, the draft national strategy for the reduction of adolescent pregnancy and child marriage was submitted for presidential approval and endorsement before its launch and implementation.

- The programme supported the Law Reform Commission in conducting a validation exercise of the existing laws. A set of recommendations have been developed, aimed at the harmonization of the 2007 Child Rights Act and the Registration of Customary Marriage Act and Divorce Act, which conflict with other laws in terms of the minimum legal age of marriage.

- The programme intensified efforts to engage paramount chiefs and local chiefs in 120 communities in the six programme districts to commit to ending child marriage. Six Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) on ending child marriage were signed between the programme and the paramount and local chiefs, which resulted in the development and implementation of community action plans in all the communities targeted by the programme. Since the development of community action plans, awareness on violence in the targeted communities has increased, cases of abuse were identified and referred to services providers, and cases are being followed up and monitored for timely redress.

Outcome 5: Strengthening data and evidence base

STRATEGY AND RESULT

- The U-Report has served as a forum for projecting adolescent voices and enabled to assess perceptions on topical issues. Two polls were conducted in 2017, on 8 March and 16 June, on violence against women and children, and specifically on child marriage; the resulting data have been used to initiate television and radio panel discussions.

- The programme supported a secondary analysis of the 2015 Census data on child marriage. The analysis was conducted to support and provide much needed data to monitor progress towards attaining ending child marriage in Sierra Leone. This report assessed child marriage in Sierra Leone using the 2015 Census data and the 2008 and 2013 Sierra Leone Demographic and Health Surveys to assess trends over a five-year period in order to examine the prevalence of child marriage and its associated proxy factors. The study will provide much needed data to monitor progress towards ending child marriage in Sierra Leone and to document and better understand the proximal and distal determinants of child marriage.

- The programme provided support in convening workshops to prepare Sierra Leone's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adaptation report. The SDGs were integrated into the 2016 National Budget and have been aligned with the Eight Pillars of Sierra Leone's third-generation poverty reduction strategy paper. A draft set of SDG indicators specific to Sierra Leone has been formulated. The SDGs will be included within the existing framework for implementing the national development plan: the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP III) or the Agenda for Prosperity (A4P).

Additional information

- Human interest story: www.unicef.org/infobycountry/sierraleone_100861.html
- UNICEF-UNFPA video for the High-Level Meeting: http://sierraleone.unfpa.org/en/video/ending-child-marriage-sierra-leone

COUNTRY PROFILE

UGANDA

7
PER CENT OF WOMEN AGED 20–24 WERE FIRST MARRIED OR IN UNION BEFORE AGE 15
(DHS 2016)

34
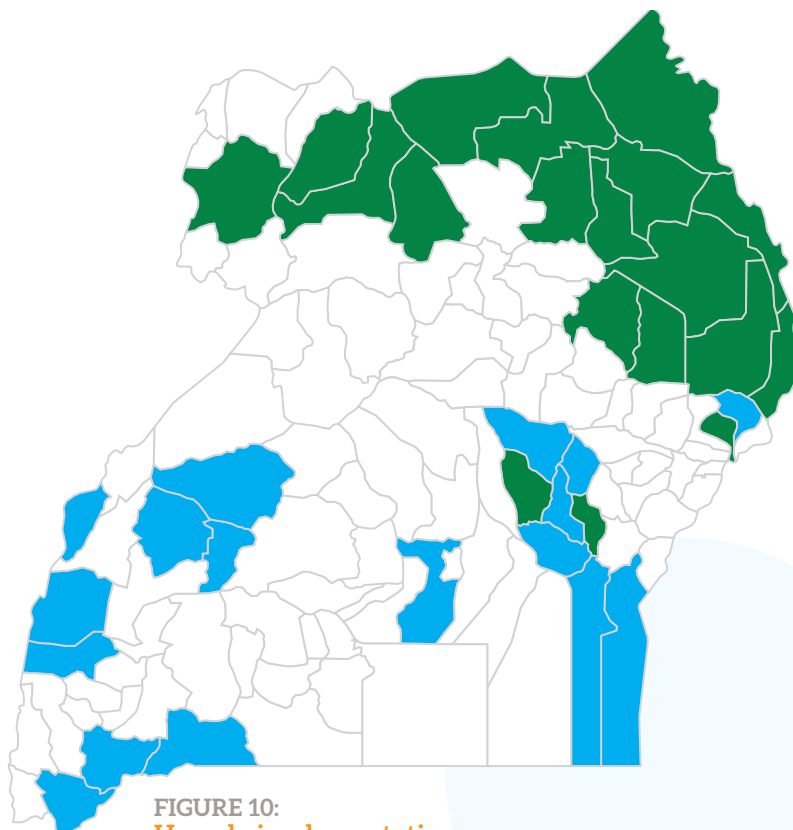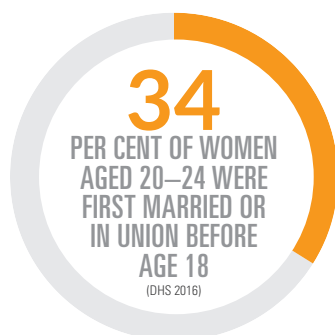PER CENT OF WOMEN AGED 20–24 WERE FIRST MARRIED OR IN UNION BEFORE AGE 18
(DHS 2016)

FIGURE 10:
Uganda implementation areas

● JOINT: Abim, Adjumani, Agago, Amudat, Amuria, Amuru, Arua, Gulu, Iganga, Kaabong, Kamuli, Kapchorwa, Katakwi, Kitgum, Kotido, Lamwo, Moroto, Nakapiripirit, Napak

● UNICEF: Bundibugyo, Buyende, Isingiro, Jinja, Kabale, Kagadi, Kakumiro, Kaliro, Kasese, Kibaale, Kween, Kyegegwa, Kyenjojo, Luuka, Mayuge, Namayingo, Ntungamo, Rubanda, Rubirizi, Wakiso

CURRENT CHILD MARRIAGE LEVELS, TRENDS AND DEMOGRAPHIC INFO	• Uganda's child marriage prevalence remains relatively high, but shows sign of declining. • Estimated population of adolescent girls aged 10–19 (in 2015): 4,936,000.[49] • Estimated population of young women aged 20–24 (in 2015): 1,849,000.[50]
FERTILITY RATE	• The national fertility rate and the adolescent birth rate remain relatively high. • Total fertility rate[51]: 5.91 births per woman (in 2015).[52] • Adolescent birth rate (number of annual births per 1,000 adolescent girls aged 15–19): 140 (in 2013).[53] • Percentage of women aged 15–19 who have begun childbearing: 25% (DHS 2016).
MAJOR CHALLENGES (SOCIAL NORMS, POVERTY, GOVERNANCE, ETC.)	• While Uganda has achieved some progress in education, poverty remains widespread and reproductive health access and indicators are worse than comparable countries.
PRIORITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES	• A National Action Plan (NAP) on ending child marriage is being implemented. • Additional bilateral funds have been leveraged for the programme. • Large-scale partnerships are needed to leverage much greater resources and capacities to provide services and opportunities for adolescent girls.

49 United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision, DVD Edition.

50 United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision, DVD Edition.

51 Average number of children a woman would have by the end of her reproductive period if her experience followed the currently prevalent age-specific fertility rates.

52 United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision, DVD Edition.

53 United Nations Statistics Division (2018). SDG Database, https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database

UGANDA CONTINUED

Outcome 1: Empowering adolescent girls

STRATEGY

- The Uganda country programme has prioritized Outcome 1 because it reaches adolescent girls at scale and increases their access to services including integrated SHR (family planning, antenatal care, skilled birth attendance, HIV/AIDS and treatment of sexually transmitted infections) and protection services.

- The programme, through life skills and financial literacy training, provided adolescent girls with necessary skills, competencies and information to enhance their capacity to express their opinions and engage duty bearers and decision makers and to provide them with what they need to thrive and live to their full potential.

- The Uganda country programme graduated the first cohort of girls who had been registered in the Empowerment and Livelihood for Adolescents (ELA) programme since the inception of the Global Programme. The ELA programme provides opportunities to girls through mentorship, life skills training and microfinance.

- The programme scaled up the reach of girls with services through Go-Back-to-School campaigns, school and peer clubs, and door-to-door services in communities, aimed at reaching child mothers and pregnant girls at risk of child marriage. The programme rescued girls from child marriage, which enabled their return to school.

RESULTS

TABLE 28: Uganda Outcome 1

| ABOVE 95% | 90-95% | 60-80% | BELOW 60% | NOT APPLICABLE |

INDICATOR	BASELINE	MILESTONES				
		2016		2017		
	2015	PLANNED	ACTUAL	PLANNED	ACTUAL	SCORECARD
Output Indicator 1.1 Number of adolescent girls (aged 10–19) in programme areas actively participating in at least one targeted intervention	2,516	28,733	71,892	16,865	24,515	
Output Indicator 1.2 Number of adolescent girls in programme areas supported to access and remain in primary or lower-secondary school or non-formal education	NA	8,100	6,286	5,180	2,568	

- Uganda used the cost-effective U-Report digital platform to provide health information to adolescent girls as well as boys which is based on the comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) curriculum. Girls provided health information through the U-Report were included in the 2017 results, thus exceeding the annual targets.

- The programme was not able to meet its annual targets for Output 1.2 due to a shift in programming where education support was leveraged with complementary funds from the Better Life for Girls programme funded by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).

Outcome 2: Social and behaviour change communication to influence gender and social norms

STRATEGY

- The Global Programme leveraged resources with other partners to engage boys and men in the communities in interventions aimed at changing norms. Male community champions were identified and were provided with the necessary knowledge and key skills to engage communities in ending child marriage. Their training focused on key life skills, building of self-esteem, communication skills, gender-sensitivity, gender-based violence (GBV) as well as the development of action plans. Feedback from participants at the end of the training evaluation included recommendations to also include family planning, financial management, drug abuse, human rights and sports in future training.

RESULTS
TABLE 29: Uganda Outcome 2

■ ABOVE 95%   ■ 90-95%   ■ 60-80%   ■ BELOW 60%   □ NOT APPLICABLE

INDICATOR	BASELINE	MILESTONES				SCORECARD
		2016		2017		
	2015	PLANNED	ACTUAL	PLANNED	ACTUAL	
Output Indicator 2.1 Number of individuals in programme areas who regularly participate in dialogues promoting gender-equitable norms including delaying child marriage	2,250	8,435	24,206	20,180	104,797	

- During the implementation period, Uganda shifted to cost-effective methods that included using of media campaigns through radio, TVs and midi-media plays to reach more community members with social behaviour change messaging. The 2017 results include youth engaged through the U-Report digital platform dialogue and media campaigns that were not part of the 2017 annual targets set for this indicator.

- In Uganda, the issue of child marriage has been increasingly newsworthy, signifying change in attitudes and practices among many different audiences, including the media, religious, cultural and traditional leaders, political leaders and the general public. During the year, there were at least 16,000 mentions of child marriage on the radio and television, and in social and print media.

- Child marriage is now a standing agenda item for discussion in child protection coordination mechanisms in the 40 districts supported by UNICEF. Over 8,848 district-level coordination mechanisms have included child marriage as an agenda item for discussion.

- The programme was bolstered by support from the reigning ruler of the Busoga Kingdom, a region with some of the highest prevalence levels of child marriage in the country, who issued a directive banning all marriages involving children in the Kingdom. A total of 7,894 parents, community, political and cultural/traditional leaders made these declarations. As a result, more cases of child marriage are being reported, and parents are being arrested and prosecuted. This is a highly sensitive issue. As efforts to prevent child marriage are gaining traction, some child marriages are being conducted in secret.

Outcome 3: Strengthening prevention and protection systems

STRATEGY

- The country programme is augmenting support under Outcome 3 through complementary programmes. For instance, there are ongoing initiatives under the UN Joint Programme of Support on AIDS (JUPSA) and the US Government-funded priorities of the DREAMS project, as well as other programmes in the health sector that address adolescent girl-responsive interventions.

- The programme supported the development and implementation of community-based referral to facilitate all girls at risk of child marriage and teenage pregnancy, married girls and child mothers' access to preventive care, treatment, and support services including family planning, antenatal care, postnatal care, facility-based delivery, sexually transmitted infections' screening including HIV/AIDS, legal and protection services. Through the community-based referral system, girls from ELA clubs were referred to various sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and police services. These included for sexually transmitted infections; cases of domestic violence referred to police, family planning, antenatal care services, cases related to forced marriage and cases of rape/defilement. Cases of child torture and child neglect were referred to probation officers and the child/family protection unit of the police.

RESULTS
TABLE 30: Uganda Outcome 3

■ ABOVE 95%   ■ 90-95%   ■ 60-80%   ■ BELOW 60%   □ NOT APPLICABLE

INDICATOR	BASELINE	MILESTONES				SCORECARD
		2016		2017		
	2015	PLANNED	ACTUAL	PLANNED	ACTUAL	
Output Indicator 3.1 Number of service delivery points in programme areas implementing guidelines for adolescent girl-friendly health or protection services	15	40	NA	741	943	
Output Indicator 3.2 Number of non-formal/primary/secondary schools implementing interventions to improve the quality of education for adolescent girls	NA	100	687	625	32	

- Based on shifts in programming due to leveraging of education support with other funded programmes, the programme annual targets for 2017 were not met. However, 306 of the 625 Global Programme targeted schools were supported through complementary funds from Irish Aid to improve quality of education for adolescent girls, and 219 schools were supported through the Global Partnership for Education that also complements the Global Programme.

- The shift in programming enabled it to focus support on improving health and protection service delivery, which is reflected in the 2017 results that exceeded annual targets.

UGANDA CONTINUED

Outcome 4: Strengthening the legislative and policy frameworks

STRATEGY AND RESULTS

- With support from the programme, the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development led relevant line ministries (i.e. Ministries of Health, Education, Justice) through the process of developing and validating the Multisectoral Framework for Adolescent Girls. The framework is a key advocacy and accountability instrument aligned to the Government of Uganda Vision 2040, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The framework covers nine key outcome areas (HIV/AIDS; teenage pregnancy and maternal health; violence against children; alcohol and substance abuse; education enrolment and retention; education achievement; child marriage; child participation; economic empowerment). The framework allows to focus on and coordinate ongoing interventions for

adolescents implemented through the various sectors at the district level and to improve measurement of results. It is accompanied by a comprehensive Communication for Development (C4D) strategy to guide girl empowerment interventions and to address negative social norms and parental care practices towards girls.

- The programme supported the Ministry of Health (MoH) to initiate the revision process of the adolescent health strategy. A draft strategy is in place and will be finalized in 2018.

- The programme also supported the Ministry of Education and Sports in developing the National Sexuality Education Framework. The framework has been validated and approved, and will guide school-based and non-school based sexuality education in the country.

Outcome 5: Strengthening data and evidence base

STRATEGY AND RESULT

- The programme, in collaboration with the Uganda Bureau of Statistics, undertook an analysis of the 2014 Census on the status of young people in Uganda. The monograph provides data, among other things, on child marriage and teenage pregnancy, and associated key factors. The data has already informed the development of a policy supported by the Global Programme on Uganda's young people entitled; Young People: The One Investment the Country Cannot Afford to Ignore. The monograph has brought to attention the urgent need to invest in Uganda's adolescent girls to ensure access to education, health and employment opportunities.

- The Country Office also conducted an additional study on 'Adolescent Health Risk Behaviours in Uganda'.

Additional information

- Tourism Uganda (@tourismuganda) published on their Twitter: Alur King Philip Olarker Rauni III speaking at #heforshe launch; vows to fight against child marriages & teen pregnancy in his kingdom: https://twitter.com/Tourismuganda/status/897467830756667392

COUNTRY PROFILE
YEMEN

9
PER CENT OF WOMEN AGED 20–24 WERE FIRST MARRIED OR IN UNION BEFORE AGE 15
(DHS 2013)

32
PER CENT OF WOMEN AGED 20–24 WERE FIRST MARRIED OR IN UNION BEFORE AGE 18
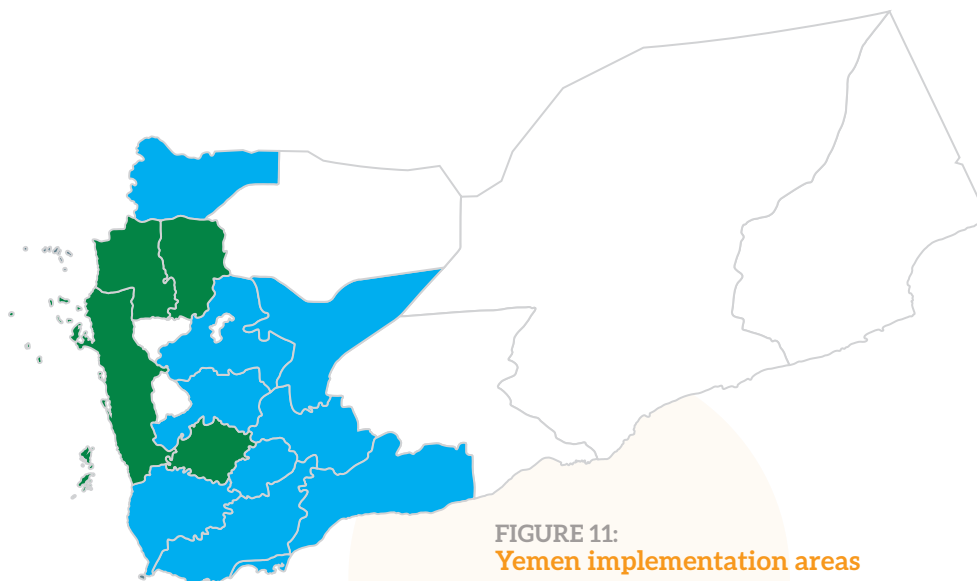(DHS 2013)

FIGURE 11:
Yemen implementation areas

● JOINT: Al Hudaydah, Amran, Hajjah ,Ibb

● UNICEF: Abyan, Aden, Al Bayda, Al Dhale'e, Dhamar, Lahj, Marib, Sa'ada, Sana'a, Taiz

CURRENT CHILD MARRIAGE LEVELS, TRENDS AND DEMOGRAPHIC INFO	• Yemen has witnessed a strong rate of decline in child marriage prevalence over the last decade, but levels remain among the highest in the Middle East and North Africa region. • Estimated population of adolescent girls aged 10–19 (in 2015): 3,088,000.[54] • Estimated population of young women aged 20–24 (in 2015): 1,425,000.[55]
FERTILITY RATE	• The national fertility rate and the adolescent birth rate remain relatively high. • Total fertility rate[56]: 4.40 births per woman (in 2015).[57] • Adolescent birth rate (number of annual births per 1,000 adolescent girls aged 15–19): 67 (in 2012).[58] • Percentage of women aged 15–19 who have begun childbearing: 11% (DHS 2013).
MAJOR CHALLENGES (SOCIAL NORMS, POVERTY, GOVERNANCE, ETC.)	• While Yemen's civil war continues, the programme operates as a humanitarian programme. The Government is virtually non-existent, and there have been no efforts made towards drafting a national action plan. • Yemen has no minimum age for marriage. Given the lack of legislative structures, the Programme has not made any progress regarding legal reforms or national policies for reducing child marriage. • Community members have been reluctant to participate in the Global Programme-supported activities due to security concerns. • As a result of the ongoing civil war, there is anecdotal evidence that suggests that child marriage prevalence is increasing.
PRIORITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES	• To ensure access to education for adolescent girls, the programme agreed on a partnership with the education sector. This partnership must now be implemented.

54 United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision, DVD Edition.
55 United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision, DVD Edition.
56 Average number of children a woman would have by the end of her reproductive period if her experience followed the currently prevalent age-specific fertility rates.
57 United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision, DVD Edition.
58 United Nations Statistics Division (2018). SDG Database, https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database

YEMEN CONTINUED

KEY RESULTS BY OUTCOME AREA

Outcome 1: Empowering adolescent girls

STRATEGY

- The programme reached adolescent girls with life skills training, information and services for psychosocial support. In addition to the training, they were also provided with medical andlegal services, safe shelter and cash support, including dignity kits[59].

- In addition to referring adolescent girls to access education support through linkages with other partners established by the programme, it directly provided some of the adolescent girls with business start-up packages as an alternative to resorting to child marriage, which is a negative coping mechanism when out of school.

RESULTS

TABLE 31: Yemen Outcome 1   ■ ABOVE 95% ■ 90-95% ■ 60-80% ■ BELOW 60% □ NOT APPLICABLE

| INDICATOR | BASELINE | MILESTONES | | | | |
| | | 2016 | | 2017 | | |
	2015	PLANNED	ACTUAL	PLANNED	ACTUAL	SCORECARD
Output Indicator 1.1 Number of adolescent girls (aged 10–19) in programme areas actively participating in at least one targeted intervention	NA	19,350	3,660	5,500	5,569	
Output Indicator 1.2 Number of adolescent girls in programme areas supported to access and remain in primary or lower-secondary school or non-formal education	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Outcome 2: Social and behaviour change communication to influence gender and social norms

STRATEGY

- The country programme has developed and implemented culturally sensitive standard messages. The programme worked to engage key stakeholders who can play significant roles in child marriage prevention and response, including by targeting women and girls, men and boys, community and religious leaders, host governments and the private sector. Many of these programmes already cultivate broad partnerships, mobilize communities to shift norms and address the unique needs of married children—all key principles for fostering transformative change to end child marriage.

- The programme scaled up the use of interactive theatre performances in 26 districts in four governorates. The performances provide opportunities for the communities to

interact and participate in solutions on issues of child marriage and gender-based violence (GBV). Feedback surveys with the audiences indicate a significant shift in behaviours after attending the performances.

- Awareness- and knowledge-raising sessions were provided to different groups in the community, including community leaders and religious imams. Individuals were reached with information on child protection-related issues including early and child marriage as well as on the benefits of delaying marriage and of keeping girls in school during adolescence.

RESULTS

TABLE 32: Yemen Outcome 2   ■ ABOVE 95% ■ 90-95% ■ 60-80% ■ BELOW 60% □ NOT APPLICABLE

| INDICATOR | BASELINE | MILESTONES | | | | |
| | | 2016 | | 2017 | | |
	2015	PLANNED	ACTUAL	PLANNED	ACTUAL	SCORECARD
Output Indicator 2.1 Number of individuals in programme areas who regularly participate in dialogues promoting gender-equitable norms including delaying child marriage	NA	15,500	278,080	276,000	65,804	

- Delays by implementing partners to start media campaign activities on time resulted in poor performance on this output indicator against the annual targets.

59 Dignity kits contain hygiene and sanitary items, as well as other items explicitly tailored towards the local needs of women and girls of reproductive age in particular communities

Outcome 3: Strengthening prevention and protection systems

STRATEGY

- Given the ongoing civil war in Yemen, the country programme has not been able to work with health, child protection or education systems to strengthen the capacity of the systems to provide services for adolescent girls.

RESULTS

TABLE 33: Yemen Outcome 3

■ ABOVE 95%   ■ 90-95%   ■ 60-80%   ■ BELOW 60%   ☐ NOT APPLICABLE

INDICATOR	BASELINE	MILESTONES				SCORECARD
		2016		2017		
	2015	PLANNED	ACTUAL	PLANNED	ACTUAL	SCORECARD
Output Indicator 3.1 Number of service delivery points in programme areas implementing guidelines for adolescent girl-friendly health or protection services	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Output Indicator 3.2 Number of non-formal/primary/secondary schools implementing interventions to improve the quality of education for adolescent girls	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Outcome 4: Strengthening the legislative and policy frameworks

STRATEGY AND RESULTS

- Given the lack of legislative structures in Yemen, the programme has not made any progress regarding legal reforms or national policies in favour of the reduction of child marriage.

Outcome 5: Strengthening data and evidence base

STRATEGY AND RESULTS

- Yemen conducted an impact evaluation of the interactive community theatre activities.
- Implementation experience from 2017 informed the country programme on strengthening harmonization of the UNFPA and UNICEF life skills package, consistent with the Life Skills and Citizenship Education (LSCE) guidelines developed for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region; reviewing the quality of existing awareness raising/behaviour change interventions, and jointly developing and implementing an evidence, results-based communication strategy in delaying child marriage of young girls.

Additional information

- Women Union of Yemen in Hodeidah video on Child Marriage: www.youtube.com/watch?v=6bslxJ6HPrQ&feature=youtu.be
- Women Union of Hodeidah Yemen in Hodeidah launches awareness program on the dangers of early marriage (video): www.youtube.com/watch?v=UU2W1TVvM-I&feature=youtu.be
- Women Union of Hodeidah Yemen in Hodeidah awareness session on child marriage: https://youtu.be/hnwDynUW3_g

- Success stories for the interactive theatre on child marriage where the Women Union of Yemen could get community leaders, teachers and local authorities sign agreement to not allow child marriage and advocate for the prevention of child marriage: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/15Pu4hnOxkdQQ06vuk954PYABSGgGy-n9

COUNTRY PROFILE

ZAMBIA

6
PER CENT OF WOMEN
AGED 20—24 WERE
FIRST MARRIED OR
IN UNION BEFORE
AGE 15
(DHS 2013-2014)

31
PER CENT OF WOMEN
AGED 20—24 WERE
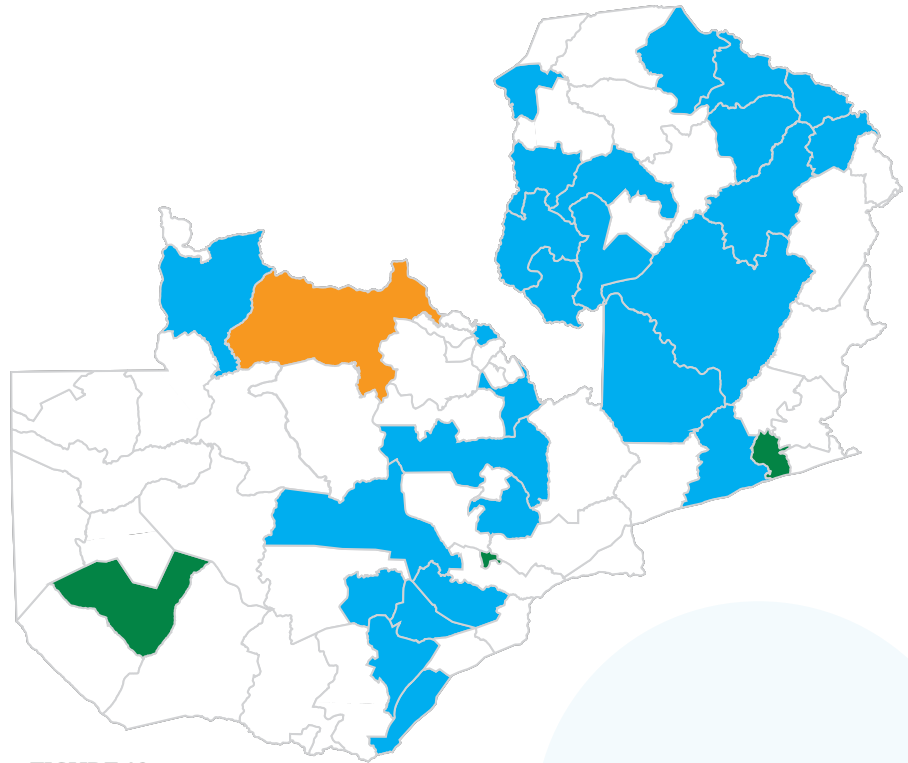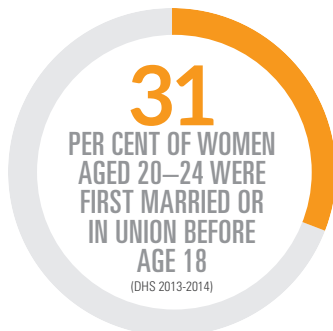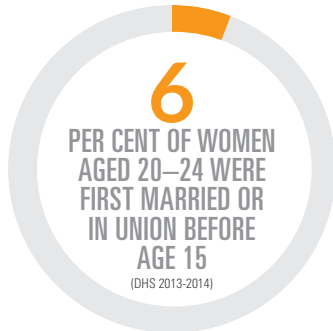FIRST MARRIED OR
IN UNION BEFORE
AGE 18
(DHS 2013-2014)

FIGURE 12:
Zambia implementation areas

- JOINT: Katete, Lusaka, Senanga
- UNFPA: Solwezi
- UNICEF: Chinsali, Chisamba, Choma, Isoka, Kapiri Mposhi, Luwingo, Mansa, Masaiti, Mazabuka, Mbala, Milenge, Monze, Mpika, Mpulungu, Mufulira, Mumbwa, Mungwi, Mwense, Mwinilunga, Nakonde, Namwala, Nchelenge, Petauke, Samfya, Senanga, Serenje, Shiwang'andu, Sinazongwe

CURRENT CHILD MARRIAGE LEVELS, TRENDS AND DEMOGRAPHIC INFO	• The prevalence of child marriage is in the lower range for the sub-Saharan countries included in the Global Programme, though, overall it is not low. The decline in child marriage has been accelerating. • Estimated population of adolescent girls aged 10—19 (in 2015): 1,971,000.[60] • Estimated population of young women aged 20—24 (in 2015): 750,000.[61]
FERTILITY RATE	• The fertility rate and adolescent birth rates remain relatively high. • Total fertility rate[62]: 5.20 births per woman (in 2015).[63] • Adolescent birth rate (number of annual births per 1,000 adolescent girls aged 15—19): 141 (in 2012).[64] • Percentage of women aged 15—19 who have begun childbearing: 29% (DHS 2013—2014).
MAJOR CHALLENGES (SOCIAL NORMS, POVERTY, GOVERNANCE, ETC.)	• Zambia's social and economic indicators are relatively good compared to the other 12 Global Programme countries. • Programme implementation was delayed in order to build ownership by district and national partners and align the programme with national strategic priorities.
PRIORITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES	• The Government has adopted a National Action Plan (NAP), which will now guide programme implementation. • The main focus of the NAP implementation is to reach adolescent girls in two model districts and to ensure their access to education.

60 United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision, DVD Edition.

61 United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision, DVD Edition.

62 Average number of children a woman would have by the end of her reproductive period if her experience followed the currently prevalent age-specific fertility rates.

63 United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision, DVD Edition.

64 United Nations Statistics Division (2018). SDG Database, https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database

KEY RESULTS BY OUTCOME AREA

Outcome 1: Empowering adolescent girls

STRATEGY

- The country programme directly supported adolescent girls from both urban and rural areas to attend safe spaces where they were provided with life skills.
- In addition to life skills training, adolescent girls with babies attending safe spaces were linked and reached with parenting education messages through the Early Childhood Development

education project to enable them to adequately support their children's development in the early years.
- The country programme partnered with the Office of the First Lady and the private sector to enhance mechanisms to allow girls to complete their secondary education and join tertiary education.

RESULTS

TABLE 34: Zambia Outcome 1   ■ ABOVE 95%   ■ 90-95%   ■ 60-80%   ■ BELOW 60%   ☐ NOT APPLICABLE

INDICATOR	BASELINE	MILESTONES				
		2016		2017		
	2015	PLANNED	ACTUAL	PLANNED	ACTUAL	SCORECARD
Output Indicator 1.1 Number of adolescent girls (aged 10–19) in programme areas actively participating in at least one targeted intervention	4,299	3,680	2,778	5,790	9,851	
Output Indicator 1.2 Number of adolescent girls in programme areas supported to access and remain in primary or lower-secondary school or non-formal education	NA	900	NA	NA	NA	NA

- Zambia used the cost-effective U-Report digital platform to provide health information to adolescent girls and boys. The U-Report health information prolonged campaign reach was included in the 2017 report, resulting into the exceeding of annual targets.

Outcome 2: Social and behaviour change communication to influence gender and social norms

STRATEGY

- The country programme supported the development and implementation of the national communication and advocacy strategy on ending child marriage. The strategy provides nationwide guidance for all stakeholders on strategic communications and advocacy interventions to address child marriage.
- The programme conducted a workshop with the House of Chiefs to share best practices of community engagement and community

dialogue as the approach to use instead of the punitive one used by traditional leaders. The aim of this approach was to gain their commitment and support on various child marriage related topics, such as GBV, teenage pregnancy and keeping children in school. Action plans for following up the interventions in their provinces were developed at the end of the workshop.

RESULTS

TABLE 35: Zambia Outcome 2   ■ ABOVE 95%   ■ 90-95%   ■ 60-80%   ■ BELOW 60%   ☐ NOT APPLICABLE

INDICATOR	BASELINE	MILESTONES				
		2016		2017		
	2015	PLANNED	ACTUAL	PLANNED	ACTUAL	SCORECARD
Output Indicator 2.1 Number of individuals in programme areas who regularly participate in dialogues promoting gender-equitable norms including delaying child marriage	2,454	2,453	910	3,076	974	

- There have been delays in the finalization of the development of the multisectoral district action plans to end child marriage. Until the end of the implementation period, only two of the six targeted districts had completed development and started pilots of interventions in the multisectoral district action plans. Due to these delays, the programme did not meet its 2017 annual targets.

ZAMBIA CONTINUED

Outcome 3: Strengthening prevention and protection systems

STRATEGY

• In 2017, the Zambia programme focused on strengthening multisectoral district action planning to support the implementation of the National Action Plan (NAP) with systems strengthening interventions.

RESULTS

TABLE 36: Zambia Outcome 3   ■ ABOVE 95%   ■ 90-95%   ■ 60-80%   ■ BELOW 60%   ☐ NOT APPLICABLE

INDICATOR	BASELINE	MILESTONES				
		2016		2017		
	2015	PLANNED	ACTUAL	PLANNED	ACTUAL	SCORECARD
Output Indicator 3.1 Number of service delivery points in programme areas implementing guidelines for adolescent girl-friendly health or protection services	5	80	27	74	64	
Output Indicator 3.2 Number of non-formal/primary/ secondary schools implementing interventions to improve the quality of education for adolescent girls	424	500	714	100	133	

• The delay in completing the development of the multisectoral district action plans disrupted planned support for strengthening health and protection systems. The programme was however able to support upgrading of child protection service delivery points in two districts that had completed the development of multisectoral district action plans to provide adolescent-friendly services.

Outcome 4: Strengthening the legislative and policy frameworks

STRATEGY

• The Global Programme is playing a strong leveraging role in generating a multisectoral response at national and sub-national levels. The programme priorities for the year focused on supporting a favourable policy environment that facilitates reaching adolescent girls at scale, creation of linkages to education support schemes through high level strategic engagements as well as referring girls to institutions that can provide complementary prevention and care support.

RESULTS

• The costed National Action Plan (NAP) was finalized and launched by the Minister of Gender in December 2017. The NAP is multisectoral and will guide the comprehensive and integrated response to child marriage. The NAP is the implementation plan of the National Strategy to End Child Marriage which was launched in 2016.

• The NAP launch was bolstered with the launch of the Adolescent Health Strategy 2017–2021 by the MoH. This gives policy guidelines on how the Government and partners should work together towards securing the health status of adolescents.

• The programme provided technical and financial resources towards the development of multisectoral action plans to address drivers of child marriage in two of the six districts that had been targeted as pilot districts in the NAP. The district multisectoral action plans were developed to provide access to adolescent girls to quality education, adolescent-friendly sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services, social and child protection services, recreation and vocational training and employment opportunities. The linkages between these sectors are critical to ensure that all adolescent girls have access to all the services they need.

Outcome 5: Strengthening data and evidence base

STRATEGY AND RESULTS

- In support of the implementation of the NAP, the country programme developed three policy briefs: 'Adolescent Pregnancy in Zambia', 'Child Marriage in Zambia' and 'Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights in Zambia'.

- A secondary analysis on child marriage highlighted that the dual system of legal marriages and customary marriages causes problems. Legislative work is needed to integrate statutory and customary marriage into a single form of marriage contract.

- The strategy development process helped the Global Programme in partnership with the United Nations Education Science and Culture Organization (UNESCO), the Ministries of Gender, and of Chiefs and Traditional Affairs and the media to engage traditional healers in drafting and delivering a communiqué to the Government, during the NAP launch, which calls for building more boarding facilities for girls and making sexual and reproductive health services easily accessible for young people.

- A roundtable meeting was organized for Government Ministers representing the 15 Ministries on the 'Every Child Ministries Consortium'. This advocacy meeting aimed at having a shared narrative of child marriage informed by evidence and by the unique edge that each Ministry has in addressing child marriage. At this meeting, Government Ministers acknowledged that child marriage is a multifaceted issue that requires the contribution of each of the Ministries.

Additional information

- Government, Ecobank, UNFPA Collaborate to #InvestInGirls (UNFPA News): http://zambia.unfpa.org/en/news/government-ecobank-unfpa-collaborate-investingirls

- Spouses of Zambian Traditional Leaders Commit to Safeguarding the Health and Well-being of Adolescent Girls (UNFPA News): http://zambia.unfpa.org/en/news/spouses-zambian-traditional-leaders-commit-safeguarding-health-and-well-bieng-adolescent-girls

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THE PREVALENCE OF CHILD MARRIAGE IS DECREASING GLOBALLY, WITH SEVERAL COUNTRIES SEEING SIGNIFICANT REDUCTIONS IN RECENT YEARS. HOWEVER, TO END THE PRACTICE BY 2030 PROGRESS MUST BE SIGNIFICANTLY ACCELERATED.

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

COUNTRY PROFILES

UNFPA-UNICEF GLOBAL PROGRAMME TO ACCELERATE ACTION TO END CHILD MARRIAGE

Canada

European Commission

Government of the Netherlands

UKaid
from the British people

unicef

UNFPA