

**UNFPA-UNICEF
Global Programme
to Accelerate
Action to End
Child Marriage**

PROGRESS REPORT 2016

June 2017



The UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage is generously supported by the Governments of Canada, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the European Union.

Canada 



Government of the Netherlands



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List of Acronyms

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
C4D	communication for development
CSO	civil society organization
DHS	Demographic Health Survey
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
FGM/C	female genital mutilation/cutting
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
M&E	monitoring and evaluation

NGO	non-governmental organization
PSA	public service announcement
SADC	Southern Africa Development Cooperation
SAIEVAC	South Asian Initiative to End Violence against Children
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund

Programme Summary

Programme/ Project Name	UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme To Accelerate Action To End Child Marriage
Donor	Government of Netherlands, United Kingdom, European Commission
Programme Budget Allotment Reference	UNICEF: SC140940, SC160258, SC160614
	UNFPA: UCJ18
Total contributions to Global Programme	Global Programme (UNICEF and UNFPA): GBP 4.4 million (US\$5,939,016.00) received in 2016 out of GBP 22.5 million committed EUR 2 million (US\$2,173,913.00) received in 2016 out of EUR 6 million committed UNICEF: EUR 15 million (US\$16,856,683.00) received (since 2014) out of EUR 20 million committed UNFPA: GBP 2.5 million (US\$3,727,406) received in 2015 for the inception phase of the Global Programme CAD 20 million (US\$14,598,540) received in 2015 for a separate programme aligned with the Global Programme
Amounts by agency	UNICEF: US\$ 21,078,610.47 ¹ UNFPA: US\$2,351,850 (UK) ²
Funds used to date	UNICEF: US\$ 7,490,468.83 UNFPA: US\$ 1,027,937
Unspent Balance	UNICEF: US\$ 13,588,141.64 UNFPA: US\$1,323,913
Duration of Grant	UNICEF: SC140940: December 2014–December 2018 SC160258: March 2016–December 2019 SC160614: November 2016- November 2019 UNFPA: UCJ18: March 2016 – Dec 2019

Report Type	Progress – Global Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office, Middle East and Northern Africa Regional Office, Regional Office for South Asia, West and Central Africa Regional Office, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Yemen and Zambia
Reporting period	January 2016- December 2016
Report Due Date	May 31, 2017
Relevant SDG Targets and UNICEF & UNFPA Strategic Plan Priorities	SDGs 5.3: Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation UNICEF Strategic Plan: Outcome P6: Increased national capacity to provide access to child protection systems that prevent and respond to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect Output P6.b.4: Countries (of those with child marriage prevalence of 25 per cent or higher) with national strategies or plans on child marriage with a budget UNFPA Strategic Plan Outcome 2: Increased priority on adolescents, especially on very young adolescent girls, in national development policies and programmes, particularly increased availability of comprehensive sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health Output 8: Increased capacity of partners to design and implement comprehensive programmes to reach marginalized adolescent girls, including those at risk of child marriage
Geographic Focus area	Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Yemen and Zambia

Focus Population	Adolescent girl(s) (aged 10–19) reached by direct interventions (primarily life skills programmes) Household or community members/ leaders (e.g., through regular and repeated participation in community dialogues) Adolescent girls reached through quality services (health, education, social protection, child protection, etc.) as a direct result of investments in system strengthening
Programme Partners	In the 12 focus countries, the Global Programme works with governments at both national and subnational levels, regional bodies engaged in relevant initiatives (African Union and the South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children), academic institutions, international and national non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, religious communities, faith-based organizations, the private sector and the media.
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1 Financial estimates of programmable amounts as per Donor Statement by Activity (Uncertified) from 1 December 2014 to 31 December 2016 in US dollars. Amounts in this report are provisional. Official amounts are provided in the Certified Statement of Account. Programmable amounts equal funds received minus indirect support cost 8 per cent.

2 Financial estimates of total amounts as per Annual Interim Donor Report from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016. Amounts in this report are provisional. Official amounts are provided in the Certified Financial Statements.

With significant support from partners and donors, UNICEF and UNFPA launched a joint effort in 12 countries: The Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage.



Executive Summary

Child marriage is a global problem, spanning continents and cultures. Worldwide, almost 750 million women and girls alive today were married before their eighteenth birthday. Recognizing that children are not able to fully and freely consent to marriage, child marriage is a violation of human rights, and puts girls at risk for early pregnancy and associated health dangers, dropping out of school and spousal violence. A growing body of research has investigated the drivers and causes of child marriage, identifying, among myriad factors, poverty and shocks as important to incidence rates. These persistently high rates of child marriage and the understanding of its nature as a human rights violation increased focus on the issue, leading to defined support to study and work to end child marriage by governments, multilateral organizations and civil society organizations (CSOs). In particular, the United Nations moved to adopt the elimination of child marriage as part of its gender equality goal within the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) framework, under Target 5.3 on harmful practices. With these goals in mind, UNICEF and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) secured funding and support to put in place joint efforts to combat child marriage: the Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage, the first official year of which is reported on here.

The Global Programme

With significant support from partners and donors, UNICEF and UNFPA launched a joint effort in 12 countries³: The Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child

Marriage (the Global Programme). The Global Programme aims to ensure that all girls fully enjoy their childhood free from the risk of marriage, and that they experience healthier, safer and more empowered life transitions in control of their own destiny, including making choices and decisions about relationship formation/marriage and childbearing. The theory of change for the Global Programme relies on leveraging existing infrastructure, to build the capacity of regional partners, increase government commitments and target whole communities for attitudinal change to sustainably alter intergenerational transmission of child marriage behaviours. In addition, UNFPA and UNICEF have adopted a rights-based approach to programming and seek to apply a gender lens to work towards gender equality. These goals are apparent in the work to promote the sexual and reproductive health and rights of girls, and are also reflected in promoting the leadership and capacity of national partners to support those rights-based approaches. Ultimately, programming aims to be girl-focused and sustainable, aiming for normative change in behaviour, attitudes and governance through multi-sectorial initiatives.

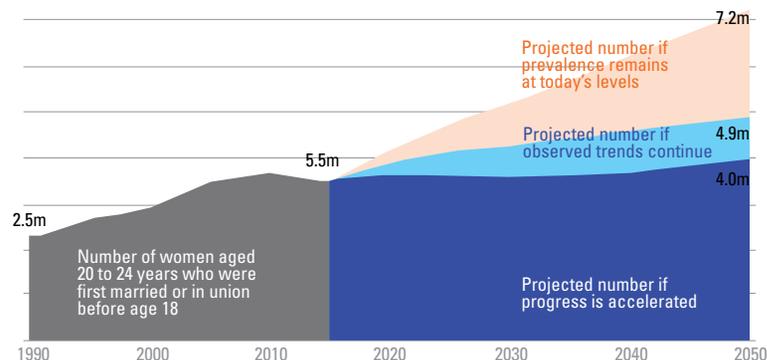
The work of the Global Programme covers four regions: Eastern and Southern Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, South Asia, and West and Central Africa. While sub-Saharan Africa still has some of the highest rates of child marriage, South Asia is home to the largest numbers of child brides. Population growth in each of these regions means that more and more girls are at risk, making the work of the Global Programme even more important in the coming years.

³ Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Yemen and Zambia

FIGURE 1: GLOBAL PROGRAMME COUNTRIES IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

A growing population means that the number of child brides would more than double if the prevalence of child marriage remains at today's levels.

Number of women aged 20 to 24 years who were first married or in union before age 18, observed and projected, Global Programme countries in Eastern and Southern Africa.

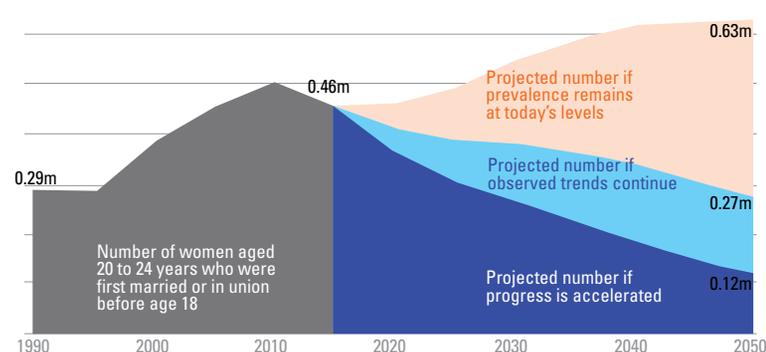


NOTE: Analysis is limited to countries in the Global Programme and are not representative of Eastern and Southern Africa as a whole.

FIGURE 2: GLOBAL PROGRAMME COUNTRIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTHERN AFRICA

Sustained progress in reducing the prevalence of child marriage would be enough to offset the expected population growth and reduce the number of child brides.

Number of women aged 20 to 24 years who were first married or in union before age 18, observed and projected, Yemen.

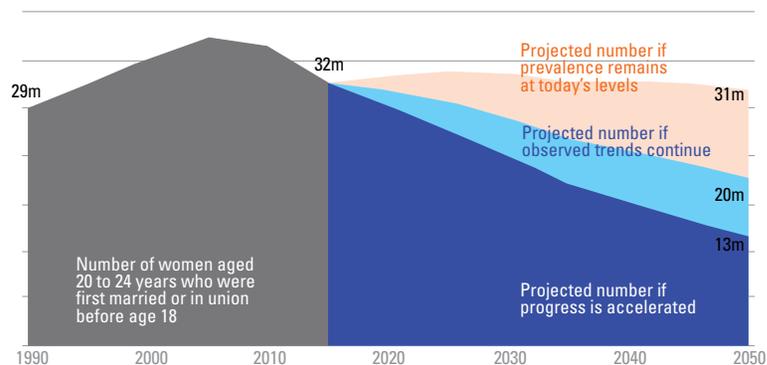


NOTE: Results are not representative of Middle East and North Africa region as Yemen is the only Global Programme country in the region.

FIGURE 3: GLOBAL PROGRAMME COUNTRIES IN SOUTH ASIA

A continued decline in prevalence plus the projected steady population size would result in fewer child brides in South Asia.

Number of women aged 20 to 24 years who were first married or in union before age 18, observed and projected, Global Programme countries in South Asia.

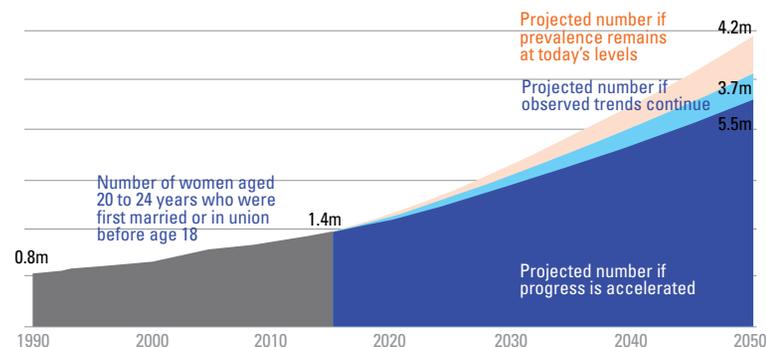


NOTE: Analysis is limited to countries in the Global Programme and are not representative of South Asia as a whole. This analysis relies on older data from India (2005-06), and results are expected to change in the upcoming release of new data (2015-2016).

FIGURE 4: GLOBAL PROGRAMME COUNTRIES IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

The lack of progress plus a growing population means that the number of child brides would dramatically increase; the prevalence must be reduced well beyond 2x the observed trend to keep the number of child brides from growing.

Number of women aged 20 to 24 years who were first married or in union before age 18, observed and projected, Global Programme countries in West and Central Africa.



NOTE: Analysis is limited to countries in the Global Programme and are not representative of West and Central Africa as a whole.

Introduction and global outcomes

This is a report on the first official year of programming for the Global Programme. We begin with headline results and then provide background on the structure, theory of change, methodology and financial particulars of the Global Programme. Following this, results are presented by outcome. The report ends with a discussion of challenges, limitations and next steps.

Headline results

1. More than 754,000 girls reached through girls' clubs, schooling initiatives, skills training and more in 2016.
2. 1.6 million individuals reached: Initiatives designed to facilitate a change in attitude and practice related to girls' rights are well established and have already reached more than 1.6 million individuals, including girls, boys, religious leaders, elders and key decision makers through scaling-up efforts.
3. Engaging with regional and national governing bodies to galvanize political action and will, and to promote the allocation of resources to ending child marriage:
 - a. By the end of 2016, 6 of 12 programme countries (Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Nepal, Uganda and Zambia) have developed National Action Plans demonstrating commitment to action to end child marriage by national governments. This is critical to the sustainability of the movement and to fostering a policy and legislative environment that enables girls' empowerment and targets action towards ending child marriage.
 - b. Three countries have costed and budgeted National Action Plans (Burkina Faso, Mozambique and Uganda).
4. Strengthening of sectoral systems such as education for

in-school and out-of-school girls to prevent or ameliorate the effects of child marriage:

- a. More than 7,500 schools and 5,000 service delivery points supported – Sustainable improvements in health and education systems have been made to improve service provision to meet girls' needs and support their empowerment. National guidelines/policies for adolescent girl-friendly services were implemented in 5,329 service delivery points across programme countries and 7,551 schools were supported to improve quality of education for adolescent girls.
5. Deep, sustained engagement with partners at local, national and regional levels:
 - a. UNFPA/UNICEF, with the support of Global Programme funds, are working to act as a convener for CSOs and governmental organizations on child marriage;
 - b. Drafting of National Action Plans at the country and regional levels;
 - c. Legal reform and strengthening of model laws and inter-continental dialogue on legal issues to better support girls, including spill-overs to non-Global Programme countries; and
 - d. More contextualized solutions and programming.
 6. Commissioning of data and evidence to better understand drivers and effects of child marriage, and support of governments to better use existing data to push for action.

Political state of play

A growing understanding of the prevalence of child marriage has brought international attention to the issue of adolescent girls in general, and child marriage in particular. International organizations, multilaterals and donors have recognized that



children are unable to freely and fully consent to marriage and that child marriage is a violation of a child's rights (United Nations 2014) and human rights. Child marriage deprives girls of their education, health and long-term prospects. Key markers of global momentum on this issue include the creation of Girls Not Brides in 2011, the first International Day of the Girl Child in 2012, the 2013 United Nations Human Rights Council resolution and the 2014 General Assembly resolution, commitments made at the 2014 Girl Summit, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal target 5.3 on eliminating child marriage adopted in 2015. Moving forward, political will to engage on these topics remains high, with strong advocacy from UNICEF and UNFPA as well as partners such as Girls Not Brides and local CSOs to continue to engage governments.

The Global Programme has supported accelerating global momentum through several channels, including United Nations General Assembly resolution 71/175 on child marriage co-sponsored by Canada and Zambia, and the official launch of the Global Programme as the flagship United Nations response to the commitments made in the 2030 Agenda. Regionally, the Global Programme has supported regional coordination through a better-informed Latin America and Caribbean regional partnership, and support to and strengthening of alliances with regional bodies and CSOs – e.g., African Union, Girls Not Brides, South Asian Initiative to End Violence against Children (SAIEVAC) and Southern Africa Development Cooperation (SADC).

In addition, 2016 was host to a number of public and private or expert events on child marriage, showing significant buy-in from government partners, regional bodies, and civil society organizations.

Partnerships, openness and coordination

The Global Programme partners with more than 120 CSOs⁴ as part of a global network of stakeholders working towards ending child marriage. The programme aims to amplify civil society participation and ownership in government-led national and regional mechanisms focused on adolescent girls, adolescent pregnancy and health, and adolescent schooling. The inclusion of civil society in these mechanisms enhances government accountability and increases effectiveness and sustainability. The programme supports CSOs by encouraging the building of networks, working with CSOs as implementing partners to reach more girls, and building the technical capacity of CSOs to inform gendered programming targeted to the unique situation of adolescent girls.

The Global Programme Support Unit at UNICEF headquarters provides technical support to partners, country offices and regional offices while improving coordination. Headline results in this arena for 2016 include finalizing the development of a Programme Guidance document and rolling out a more robust, contextual and relevant indicator framework and index, as well as organizing joint global and regional workshops to strengthen coordination across agencies and developing a communications and visibility plan. Coordination between UNICEF and UNFPA country offices, regional offices and headquarters has been strengthened via joint webinars, reporting, communications and other activities to ensure more effective and efficient programming through lessons learned and sharing of best practices. Finally, the Global Programme Support Unit has sought and offered expert consultation on data, evidence and good practice, resulting in improved strategies and measurement frameworks across regions.

4. A list of implementing partners is available in the appendix.

This report describes the successes of the Global Programme throughout 2016. We focus on the outcome framework outlined in the inception report, highlighting significant progress made in the Global Programme countries: Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Yemen and Zambia.

Impact and thanks

Funding from the donors to the Global Programme has laid the groundwork for accelerated action and change in programming and policy around child marriage. With the generous support of donors, the Global Programme seeks to deepen and improve its programmatic and policy work to improve gender equality through ending child marriage, supporting girls and CSOs to leverage partnerships and maximize impact.

The first official year of the Global Programme has brought about significant learning and adoption of best practices to better measure and evaluate impact in this sphere. UNICEF and UNFPA gratefully acknowledge the donors who have funded programming that set the stage for the Global Programme and their continued support to ensure that future programming will reach its full, intended scale.

Globally,
child marriage
has been slowly
declining.
Today, around
one in four
young women
alive married
in childhood
versus around
one in three
in 1990.



Background

The global state of affairs

Child marriage is a global problem, spanning continents and cultures. Worldwide, almost 750 million women and girls alive today were married before their eighteenth birthday. Child marriage is most common in West and Central Africa, where more than 4 in 10 girls were married before age 18; about 1 in 7 were married or in union before age 15. While 88 per cent of countries have laws prohibiting marriage of girls under age 18, many also allow child marriages to take place with parental consent (World Policy Analysis Center 2015). Although child marriage is not exclusive to girls, many more girls are affected than are boys, highlighting the gendered nature of the problem, and informing potential solutions. Each year, 15 million more girls are married before they turn 18 (UNICEF 2014). While prevalence rates are lower among boys, and while girls are most often married off to older men, more than 156 million men alive today were also married as children (UNICEF 2014). It was these persistently high rates of child marriage that prompted the United Nations to adopt the elimination of child marriage as part of its gender equality goal within the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) framework, under Target 5.3 on harmful practices.

Globally, child marriage has been slowly declining. Today, around one in four young women alive married in childhood versus around one in three in 1990, and the fastest progress has been recorded in the Middle East and North Africa. Moreover, the marriage of girls under 15 years of age has declined, from 10 per cent in 1990 to 6 per cent today. Some

estimates suggest that child marriage rates may have fallen by more than 20 per cent among cohorts born between 1955 and 1959 compared with those born between 1985 and 1989 (Nguyen and Wodon 2014). Rates remain high in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, and a large number of girls and boys around the world are still at significant risk for child marriage.

Continuing progress to decrease rates of child marriage around the world are highly dependent on both rates in the population and population growth. If the current rate of progress is sustained, the proportion of young women married as children will continue to decrease; however, due to population growth, the total number will remain around 750 million in 2030. If current trends continue, one third of child brides in 2030 will be African.

Creating the Global Programme: UNICEF and UNFPA's joint response to urgent action and increased political will

Recognizing the broad potential impact of reducing child marriage rates and empowering girls, over the course of 2014, in consultation with a number of donors and collaboration with governmental and civil society partners, UNFPA and UNICEF provided leadership in the establishment of a Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage. The programme covers 12 countries across four regions (Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Yemen and Zambia), as well as the corresponding four regional offices for each organization (Eastern and

Southern Africa, West and Central Africa, Middle East and North Africa, and Asia and the Pacific/South Asia), with coordination and management by headquarters.

A commitment to evidence underpins the Global Programme agenda, both in conceptualizing the framework and in designing programming, outcomes and indicators, as well as in generating new evidence and supporting actors to do so. There is a strong emphasis on using data to understand the specific needs of young women, and using evidence to ensure that health, education and other services are sensitive to those needs.

The theory of change and joint work of UNICEF and UNFPA build on the available evidence and a decade of both agencies' programming experience on reaching adolescent girls. Data and evidence show that child marriage is driven by many interrelated structural, economic and socio-cultural factors. The programme views the persistence of child marriage as the result of a broad combination of structural and socio-cultural drivers. As more evidence becomes available, the roles of poverty and shocks in prompting early marriage remain important, but a greater understanding of how socio-cultural norms and practices contribute to the challenge have become more apparent. Children are traditionally not afforded voice or agency in their marriage decisions, and strong incentives to conform to traditional or community practices encourage the practice of child marriage even where the dangers are known. Lack of educational opportunities and knowledge can compound the belief that not complying with perceived norms or community practices may result in poor outcomes for a girl or her family, and so marriage may be viewed as a way to

maintain a family's honour. Legal frameworks around the world have slowly been incorporating more prohibitions on child marriage – with notable setbacks – but ultimately provide little protection for children entering forced marriages. Structural factors such as education, geography and job or market access also contribute to child marriage rates.

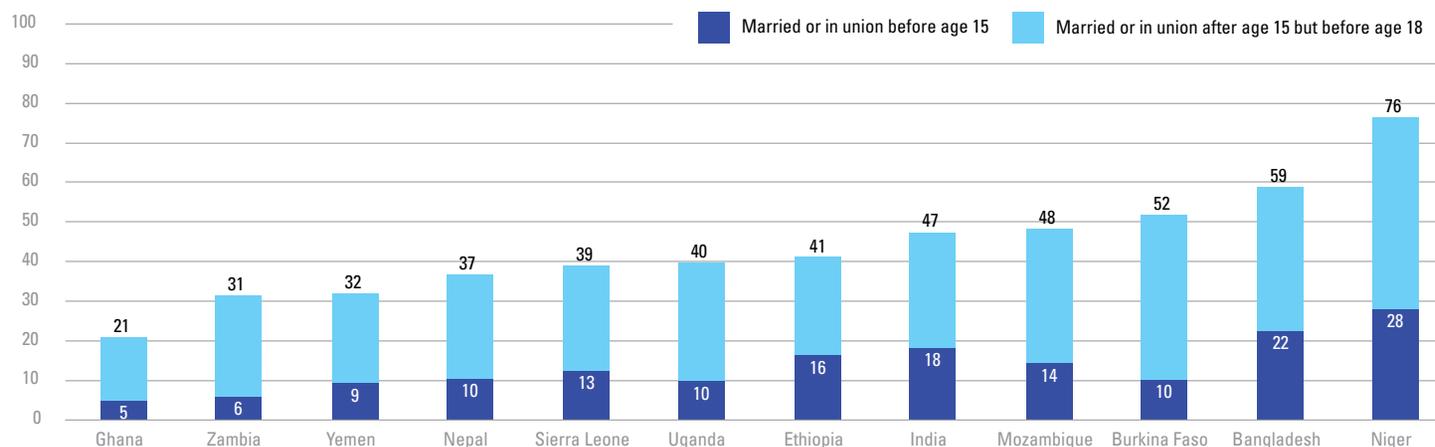
The Global Programme prioritizes investments in adolescent girls recognizing their age- and gender-specific vulnerabilities. For example, while in some parts of the world, boys are married as children, it occurs at a far lower frequency than it does among girls. Girls face far greater risks of gender-based violence, pregnancy and its related morbidity and mortality. Ensuring girls' access to education, sexual and reproductive health services and rights is key to reducing child marriage and transforming long-standing social norms through the intergenerational transmission of behaviours and attitudes.

Overview of Global Programme countries

Progress in delaying marriage for adolescents and ending child marriage varies depending on the region. Rates of child marriage are the highest in sub-Saharan Africa, but a large number of girls and boys around the world are at risk of child marriage. The following section shows graphs on national prevalence of child marriage across age cohorts (before ages 15 and 18), high and low prevalence locations within countries, and trends across generations (ages 20–24 and 45–49). The last graph shows a projection of child marriage numbers in Africa, based on different scenarios.⁵

⁵ All graphs and figures in this section were provided by UNICEF's Data Analytics team and consist of statistics compiled from recent household surveys in each country, such as the Demographic and Health Survey.

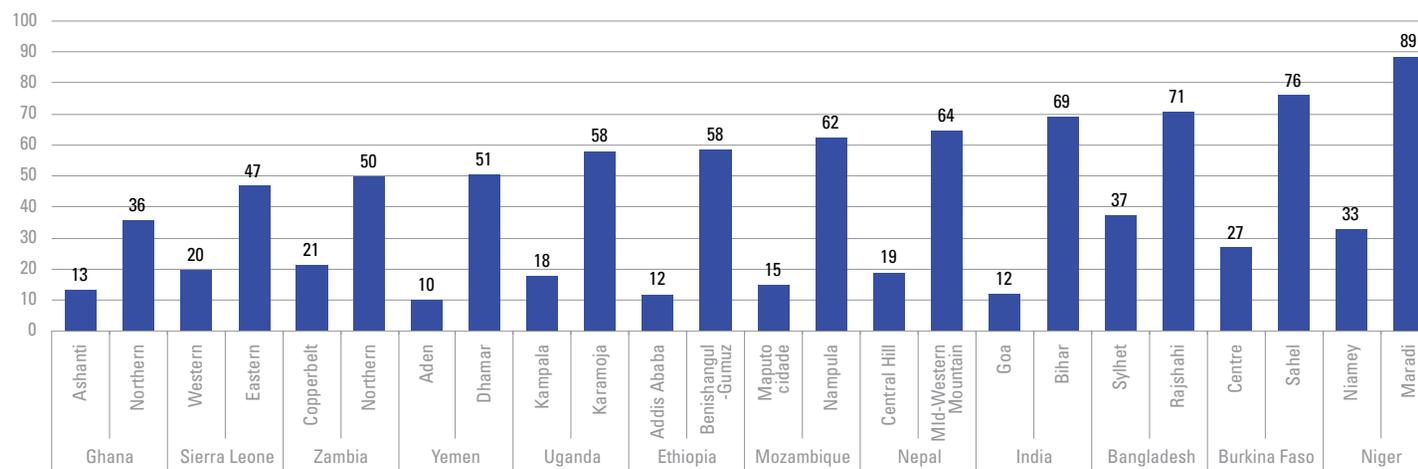
FIGURE 5. PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN AGED 20 TO 24 YEARS WHO WERE FIRST MARRIED OR IN UNION BEFORE AGE 15 AND BEFORE AGE 18, AND GLOBAL RANKING



SOURCE: UNICEF global databases, 2017, based on Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys and Demographic and Health Surveys. For source information by country, see <data.unicef.org>.

Within each of the countries, there appears to be significant within-country and regional variation in the practice of child marriage.

FIGURE 6. PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN AGED 20 TO 24 YEARS WHO WERE FIRST MARRIED OR IN UNION BEFORE AGE 18 IN THE REGIONS WITH THE HIGHEST AND LOWEST PREVALENCE OF CHILD MARRIAGE, BY COUNTRY



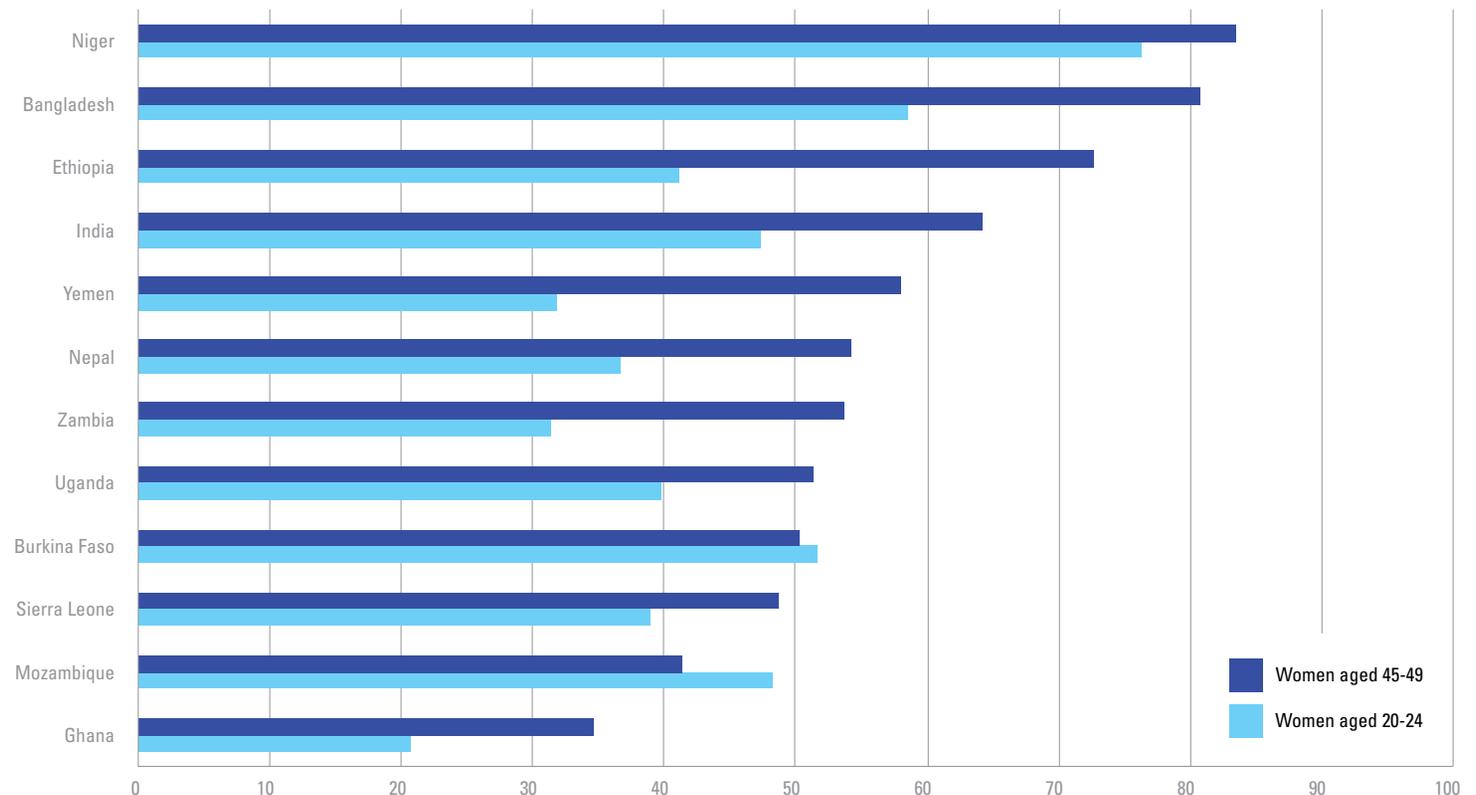
SOURCE: UNICEF global databases, 2017, based on Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys and Demographic and Health Surveys. For source information by country, see <data.unicef.org>.

The median age at first marriage in each of the 12 countries targeted under the Global Programme has been rising. Like much of the world, progress on child marriage indicators is apparent, but slow. Marriage of girls under age 15 has seen some of the largest declines and represents much of the rise in the median age of marriage around the world.

Among the 12 countries under the Global Programme, the Niger has seen the greatest absolute declines in the per cent of women aged 25–49 married by age 15. Among the 12 countries, Ethiopia, Ghana, Yemen and Zambia have achieved the fastest progress in reducing child marriage over the past three decades.

FIGURE 7. PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN AGED 20–24 YEARS AND WOMEN AGED 45–49 YEARS WHO WERE FIRST MARRIED OR IN UNION BEFORE AGE 18

A growing population means that the number of child brides would more than double if the prevalence of child marriage remains at today's levels.

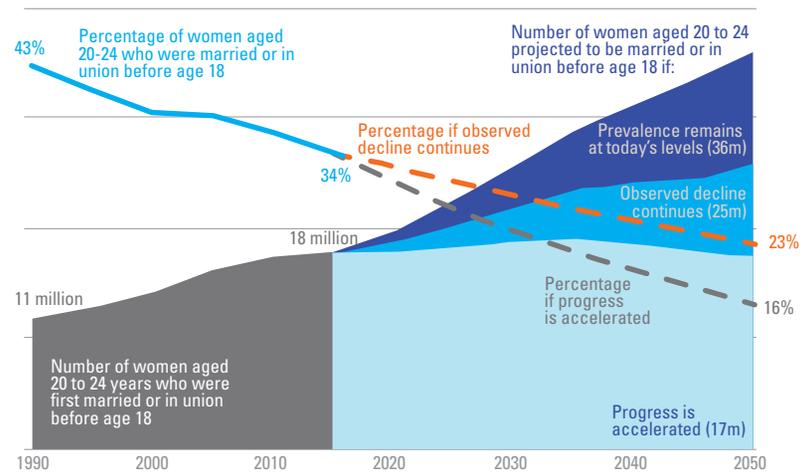




Much work remains to be done, however, as child marriage rates remain high among girls in the focus countries in the Global Programme and increasing populations mean that greater numbers of girls are at risk in the coming years. Figure 8 presents projections for child marriage worldwide in the coming decades.⁶ Projections by region, as explained in the Executive Summary, reflect that West and Central Africa face the biggest challenges in reducing child marriage prevalence due to high potential population growth in the coming years.

⁶ Projections assume political and economic stability and do not take into account the possible impacts of conflict, crises, or the Global Programme itself.

FIGURE 8. CHILD MARRIAGE PROJECTIONS IN AFRICA UNDER THREE POPULATIONS AND MARRIAGE RATE GROWTH SCENARIOS



Source: UNICEF global databases, 2017, based on MICS and DHS. For source information by country, see <data.unicef.org>.

Child marriage is a top corporate priority for both UNFPA and UNICEF, as reflected in their respective Global Strategic Plans 2018-2021 and distinct but complementary mandates.



Organizational Background

UNICEF

Promoting gender equality and empowering women and girls is central to UNICEF's mandate and mission to promote the rights and well-being of all girls and boys and a core aspect of its focus on equity. As the only United Nations agency with the rights of children at the heart of its mandate, and with its strong field presence and scope of work across multiple sectors, UNICEF is well positioned to foster gender-equitable child outcomes as a catalyst to a more just and equal world – not only today, but also in the long term – by supporting girls and boys to realize their full potential and helping societies to redefine gender roles and power relations for the women and men of tomorrow.

The SDGs have reaffirmed and invigorated UNICEF's work on gender equality, including the rights and empowerment of adolescent girls. The SDG targets and indicators resonate with UNICEF's work, especially those in Goal 5 on gender equality (ending violence against women and girls, ending child marriage and female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C), Goal 3 on health (reducing maternal mortality, addressing sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS), Goal 4 on education (elimination of gender disparities at secondary and higher levels of schooling) and Goal 6 on water sanitation and hygiene (with specific mention of the needs of women and girls).

UNICEF's long-term commitment and bold approach to advancing gender equality and the empowerment of girls and women is encapsulated in its Gender Action Plan

2014–2017. Aligned with the organization's Strategic Plan 2014–2017, the Gender Action Plan outlines innovative, evidence-based and scalable strategies and offers an analytical and programmatic framework for country offices to assess how gender inequality impedes their efforts to advance women's and children's rights and well-being, and to plan and implement effective responses. It specifies three programme areas for UNICEF's work on gender equality: 1) targeted gender priorities with a focus on adolescent girls' empowerment; 2) mainstreaming priorities on gender across UNICEF's seven programmatic sectors; and 3) strengthening UNICEF's institutional capacity and systems to deliver gender results.

UNFPA

In line with its mandate and the International Conference on Population and Development Program of Action 1994, UNFPA is charged with the health, well-being and rights of women and girls around the world. Specifically, UNFPA aims to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled. As part of its Strategic Plan 2014–2017, UNFPA has strengthened its commitment to upholding and sustaining adolescent girls' rights and health. UNFPA leads the United Nations' efforts to achieve the SDGs, specifically Goal 5 on gender equality (ending harmful practices, including child marriage and FGM/C, and ending violence against women and girls) and Goal 3 on health (reducing maternal mortality and addressing sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS), set within the 2030 Agenda by promoting access to life skills, sexual and reproductive health

and reproductive rights, including through strengthening health systems, improving education about sexual and reproductive health, and supporting health services. Aligning with the 2030 Agenda, UNFPA continues to prioritize investments in adolescent girls in the forthcoming Strategic Plan 2018–2021, with ending child marriage as one of its transformative results.

UNFPA has been delivering on this commitment to child marriage through the Adolescents and Youth Strategy, and associated initiative, Action for Adolescent Girls, a multi-country

initiative launched in 2012 on the first International Day of the Girl Child. This work, fully aligned with the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action, builds on evidence generated since the early 2000s by UNFPA-supported programmes that reached the most marginalized adolescent girls at risk of and affected by child marriage.

UNFPA supports in-country partners – including governments and local CSOs – in ending child marriage and ensuring girls’ access to health information and services. In tandem

Adolescent participation and leadership in the Global Programme

In Mozambique, about 1.5 million persons were reached with messaging to prevent child marriage through radio drama Ouro Negro and more than 35,000 adolescents specifically on gender-based violence through SMS Biz/U-Report. In addition, civil society, youth and religious organizations, and more than 70,000 adolescents and youth were actively involved in awareness raising and debates to prevent gender-based violence and child marriage and raise awareness on the devastating impact it has on the health and well-being of girls. Additionally, the Government of Mozambique has included adolescents in the drafting of its National Action Plans. The Ministry of Health organized a National Consultation of Adolescents and Youth within the Global Financial Facility for the National Investment Case on Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health, which resulted in a set of recommendations by the 53 adolescents and youth participants coming from 10 provinces of the country, to strengthen policy interventions for adolescent sexual and reproductive health, including preventing early pregnancies and marriage. About 200 girls attended a national girls’ conference organized in Nampula with support from the \$14 million One UN Programme regarding the sexual and reproductive health and rights of adolescent girls and young women (also called Rapariga Biz).



with programming for girls are the closely aligned goals of implementing sustainable, rights-based interventions based on evidence, and supporting good governance practices. UNFPA with its mandate has an important role in unpacking and addressing its relationship to child marriage. With the onset of puberty, the risk of child marriage, and of course adolescent pregnancy, sharply increases. Sexual and reproductive health factors are thus closely linked to and among the causes of child marriage. Similarly, child marriage directly threatens the health – and particularly sexual and reproductive health – outcomes of girls due to increased risk of maternal morbidity and mortality, sexually transmitted infections including HIV, domestic and gender-based violence, etc. In particular, UNFPA has a track record of mobilizing communities and using culturally sensitive approaches to bring about changes in social norms to support gender equality and the abandonment of harmful practices such as FGM/C.

Alignment with the global movement on child marriage

UNFPA and UNICEF's commitment to accelerate action to end child marriage aligns closely with and complements the work of other global organizations including Girls Not Brides, CARE, Plan International and Save the Children, as well as local non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Growing awareness and agreement that rights-based approaches to support governments and in-country partners in ending child marriage has resulted in a concentrated movement to address the practice worldwide. The Global Programme has identified several strategies to strengthen participation of different stakeholders such as civil society, young people, academia and donors.

One key mechanism is the Partner Advisory Group, whose purpose is to serve as an institutional mechanism for dialogue and consultation between the Global Programme, sister United

Nations agencies, donors and civil society representatives on issues critical to accelerating action to end child marriage. The Partner Advisory Group provides advice on policies, strategies and advocacy, through interactions with the Programme Support Unit. The establishment of the Partner Advisory Group structures the process of consultation with partners, including civil society, international NGOs, United Nations agencies, foundations, academia and the private sector, to benefit from the strategic, policy and operational advice that this constituency can offer.

In addition to the Partner Advisory Group, the Global Programme also recognizes young people beyond being a primary focus of services but as partners in development as powerful agents able to act in support of children's rights. This is reflected through programmes such as the SMS Biz/U-Report in Mozambique, an anonymous service employing more than 20 young counsellors to answer questions from youth in Mozambique via SMS about topics ranging from gender-based violence to the location of the nearest health centre.

The purpose of the Global Programme

Child marriage is a top corporate priority for both UNFPA and UNICEF, as reflected in their respective Global Strategic Plans and distinct but complementary mandates. Beginning in January 2014, the two agencies initiated an inception phase to develop a Global Programme.

The Global Programme sets out to achieve the following impact: 'Girls fully enjoy their childhood free from the risk of marriage; they experience healthier, safer, and more empowered life transitions while in control of their own destiny, including making choices and decisions about their education, sexuality, relationship formation, marriage, and childbearing'.



The Global Programme theory of change focuses on five main strategies to effect meaningful and lasting change through evidence-based programming and advocacy that includes:

1. Building the skills and knowledge of girls at risk of child marriage;
2. Supporting households in demonstrating positive attitudes towards adolescent girls;
3. Strengthening the systems that deliver services to adolescent girls;
4. Ensuring that laws and policies protect and promote adolescent girls' rights; and
5. Generating and using robust data to inform programmes and policies relating to adolescent girls.

The allocation of funds from UNFPA's and UNICEF's core resources and generous support from the Governments of Canada, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Italy set in motion initial activities at country, regional and global levels. These included consultations on expanded work to end child marriage with government and civil society at the country level.

Table 1 illustrates the growing partnership and funding streams at global level with UNICEF and UNFPA on child marriage from 2014 to date.

The Global Programme has completed its first year, which was dedicated to strengthening critical institutions and systems in select localities and countries, as well as delivering quality services and opportunities for a significant number of girls. Building on the support of donors in the year preceding the official launch, it also lays the foundation for attitudinal change among a 'critical mass' of families and communities for a longer-term shift in behaviours and norms. This report focuses on activities in the first year, covering all five programme goals as described above in the 12 selected countries.

TABLE 1. CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNFPA AND UNICEF WORK ON CHILD MARRIAGE AT GLOBAL LEVEL SINCE 2013

Donor/Recipient	2013				2014				2015				2016				2017				2018				2019							
7 per cent set aside – UNICEF only									Contribution of US\$2 million supports work in seven countries (Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, India, Nepal, Niger and Sierra Leone), and relevant regional and headquarters offices.																							
Canada – UNICEF only									Contribution of C\$20 million supports work in six countries (Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nepal and Yemen), and relevant regional and headquarters offices.																							
Netherlands – UNICEF only									Contribution of EUR 20 million supports work in 12 GP countries (Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Yemen and Zambia), and relevant regional and headquarters offices.																							
Office of the Executive Director – UNFPA only	Contribution of US\$1 million to support work in six countries (Guatemala, India, Niger, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Zambia) and headaquarters.																															
Canada – UNFPA only													Contribution of C\$20 million supports work in six countries (Guatemala, Haiti, India, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone), and relevant regional and headquarters offices.																			
Italy – UNFPA only													Commitment of EUR 750,000 for support to three countries (Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and Mozambique) and headquarters.																			
UN Foundation – UNFPA only													Contribution of US\$1,025,000 supports work in Guatemala and India.																			
United Kingdom/ Department for International Development – UNFPA and UNICEF													Commitment of up to GBP 25 million to support work in 12 Global Programme countries and relevant regional and headquarters offices.																			
European Commission – UNFPA and UNICEF																	Commitment of approximately EUR 6 million for support to 12 Global Programme countries, and relevant regional and headquarters offices.															

The theory of change and joint work of UNICEF and UNFPA build on evidence and a decade of both agencies' programming experience on reaching adolescent girls.



Programme methodology and background

The overall objective of the Global Programme is to enable girls who are at risk of or already affected by child marriage to choose and direct their own futures, to support households in demonstrating positive attitudes towards adolescent girls, and to strengthen the systems that deliver services to adolescent girls. It also seeks to ensure laws and policies that protect and promote adolescent girls' rights, and which highlight the importance of using robust data to inform policies relating to adolescent girls. In this, girls are the ultimate beneficiaries, with the aim being to have girls live out their adolescent lives free from the risk of child marriage, with access to sexual and reproductive health, rights and services.

The initial group of 12 countries (listed above) have been selected according to the following criteria: middle-to-high absolute prevalence (25 per cent or higher among women aged 20–24 years) and current and future burden of child marriage (prevalence in relation to the population size); regional distribution; readiness (national commitment and connection to global commitments); existence of a movement to end child marriage and empower girls within the country; and regional dynamics.

The theory of change and joint work of UNICEF and UNFPA build on the available evidence and a decade of both agencies' programming experience on reaching adolescent girls. The programme views the persistence of child marriage as the result of a broad combination of structural and socio-cultural drivers. These include: poverty; lack of educational and economic opportunities; social expectations of behaviour;

discrimination against girls and women and restrictive gender roles; beliefs about the protection of girls; and low awareness of and access to alternatives. In many settings, girls are perceived as a burden on household expenses, with child marriage often viewed as the best option out of a menu of poor choices. In some contexts, child marriage is viewed as a path that unburdens the family and preserves its honour while protecting girls.

Evidence suggests that when these underlying causes – the drivers of child marriage – are eliminated, the practice will decline and, ultimately, end. Equally, a failure to engage with families, including boys and men, and the broader community on discussions about child marriage, as well as collective decisions that promote respect for the human rights of girls and women, will undermine success. Overall, the five selected strategies guide countries to identify key interventions that should be included when setting up or strengthening dedicated programmes to address the drivers of child marriage and leveraging sectoral interventions. The Global Programme includes innovative and cross-sectoral activities to promote and scale up successful initiatives and link them up with continental policy frameworks.

The ultimate beneficiaries of the Global Programme are the children at risk of child marriage or those who are already married, particularly adolescent girls in the 12 countries. To reach them, the Global Programme seeks to work with many actors, including adolescent girls and their communities, governments at both the national and subnational levels, regional initiatives (African Union and the South Asia

Initiative to End Violence against Children), academic institutions, international and national NGOs, community-based organizations, religious communities and faith-based organizations, and the media.

The design of the Global Programme and its strategies based on the theory of change involve partnerships with girls, and with communities. Local activists, especially young people, are better aware of the contexts in which this programme will work, and are engaged to effectively interact with the programme beneficiaries and participants. The interventions that will contribute to increase girls' agency, change social norms and increase social action are indeed implemented in collaboration with community based NGOs and CSOs using participatory development tools where success is in part determined by long-standing interactions with communities. The programme works to implement in partnership with local authorities, civil society and young people, focused interventions at the level of girls, families and communities, in focus districts as determined by the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and the respective Country Programme Documents.

The Global Programme presents immense potential for collaboration with civil society on the establishment or strengthening of community-based adolescent groups as a platform for delivery of information, skills and, in some cases, resources. This process seeks to engage communities and to leverage existing infrastructure to promote the benefits of delaying marriage and pregnancy for long-term, sustainable norms change in a cost-effective and efficient manner.

At the country level, UNICEF and UNFPA work with sectoral ministries, such as the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Women's and Children's Affairs, and their systems to promote better policy and programming for girls at risk of and

affected by child marriage. UNICEF and UNFPA also work to ensure that existing mechanisms maximize coordination among actors already engaged in ending child marriage as well as expand to include other stakeholders and support governments in drafting, costing and enacting National Action Plans to End Child Marriage. One of the key and ongoing objectives of the programme at country level is to bring on board multiple sectors, especially those not traditionally involved in the fight to end child marriage, such as the education, health and economic/financial sectors.

At the regional level, UNICEF and UNFPA have actively supported the African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage and the South Asian Initiative to End Violence against Children (SAIEVAC) Regional Plan of Action to End Child Marriage. The Global Programme will continue to provide support in the implementation and strengthening of these regional initiatives.

The 'joint' in joint programme: How UNICEF and UNFPA are working together

The Global Programme is being implemented within the context of the response to the 2012 United Nations General Assembly resolution calling for the United Nations system to better work together, consolidate processes and encourage information sharing. Specifically, resolution 67/226 on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review requested 'the UN system to build on best practices and lessons learnt in implementing 'Delivering as One' by a number of countries and to further consolidate the process by clearly outlining the core elements based on lessons learned'.

In support of working as one, the United Nations Development Group Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) were established, providing the United Nations Country Teams with an integrated package of clear, practical and

internally consistent guidance on programming, leadership, business operations, funding and communications for the United Nations to work and deliver together at country level. The SOPs cover a wide variety of activities to shift the United Nations' focus from planning together to delivering together, with a clear emphasis on simplification and streamlining of processes and instruments. They enable United Nations Country Teams to make better use of shared data, policy analysis and advocacy to provide integrated solutions and allow the United Nations to better leverage its own expertise from across the system to support public policy responses by calling on the system-wide capacity of the organization.

Finally, the SOPs better serve the United Nations' goals as intermediaries to governments. By displaying all United Nations resources in a country in a Common Budgetary Framework, the United Nations Country Team provides the government with clear accountability of what can be expected and planned within a given time frame. Overseeing the United Nations delivering together at the country level reinforces national coordination roles and capacities to deliver results across sectors. Shared programme and business practices build on economies of scale and reduced transaction burdens or those we serve. The SOPs therefore increase transparency and efficiencies; reduce transaction costs for governments, partners and stakeholders; and organize and hold the United Nations accountable in-country for shared results.

The joint UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage works within the context of this SOP at country level and adopts the pillars from the SOP as measures of success in its area of focus.

In practice, UNICEF and UNFPA regional and country offices have some leeway in how they work together, giving rise to creative and effective collaborations to meet local, national and regional

needs and contexts. In some places, the two organizations have put together joint communications products and co-sponsored events such as an expert group meeting and International Day of the Girl celebrations. In other places, staff from both organizations have participated in joint workshops to better know each other's programming and offer lessons learned. Advocacy efforts at the regional and national government level have also been effectively coordinated in many programme countries, allowing for a unified message of purpose and consistent support for the programme's goals. All participating country and regional offices have submitted joint UNFPA-UNICEF annual results reports for 2016 and annual workplans for 2017.

1	<p>One Child Marriage Programme unifies the UNFPA and UNICEF system under the national development strategy, underpinned by integrated policy approaches and services, and programme monitoring through joint workplans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution to the SDGs • Joint regional and country workplans • Joint M&E system and reporting • Convergence in target areas and complementary interventions • Joint products • Strategic Plan alignment to the Global Programme
2	<p>One Budget, with all planned and costed UNFPA and UNICEF child marriage programme activities transparently presented in one place, provides a shared overview of the entire Global Programme's contribution to a country.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transparent financial reporting • Entire contribution of the Global Programme
3	<p>One Leader and One Team, the Global Coordinator oversees the shared results and joint activities of the UNFPA and UNICEF, together with the Steering Committee and Partner Advisory Group.</p>
4	<p>One Advocacy Plan, communicating as one, facilitates common messaging and advocacy in areas of United Nations engagement and results on child marriage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint messaging at global, regional and country levels • Joint policy advocacy on United Nations engagement and child marriage • Support and coordinate National Action Plan development • Partnerships with regional bodies (African Union, SAIEVAC, SADC, etc.)

Engagement with the Partner Advisory Group is also key to the success and desired openness to external organizations of the Global Programme on child marriage. Given the focus on regional partnerships and coordination with implementing organizations to achieve economies of scale, the input of the Partner Advisory Group provides significant added value to the programme methodology. Some members of the Partner Advisory Group serve as key resource persons and are based in countries where the Global Programme is being implemented, providing valuable support to ensure effective programming and coordinated advocacy. A summary table of geographical convergence between UNFPA and UNICEF Global Programme interventions in 2016 is below and more detail is available in the annexes. A list of partner organizations is also available in the annexes.

Global outcomes

The following sections detail results by outcome at the country level. It is important to note that Global Programme implementation was flexible at the country level in order to allow for contextual programming, to leverage existing and new partnerships, and to acknowledge differences in progress-to-date institutional capacity of implementing partners and governments in the fight against child marriage.

TABLE 2. GEOGRAPHICAL CONVERGENCE BETWEEN UNFPA AND UNICEF GLOBAL PROGRAMME INTERVENTIONS IN 2016

Common geographic programme areas	Number of countries
Complete overlap of areas	2 (the Niger and Mozambique)
At least half of all areas in common	6
At least one area in common	2
No areas in common	2 (Ethiopia and Yemen, no programming in 2016 by UNFPA)

Numerical results are provided for each outcome, with a few key caveats. First, targets are not uniform across countries; they reflect existing programming and what were perceived as ambitious, but achievable, goals in the specific context and may have different units of analysis. Totals are not provided in these cases. Second, the wide range of countries and associated maturity of child marriage programming covered by the Global Programme allows for significant differences in implementation. The lack of targets or results for a given country does not reflect a failure to implement, but rather the decision to focus on particular outcomes and use Global Programme funds for particular programmes that reflect the current state of play of child marriage programming and policy in a given country. Thus, results for each outcome area are not discussed here for every country.

Outcome 1: Adolescent girls at risk of and affected by child marriage are better able to express and exercise their choices; Indicator 1: Number and proportion of adolescent girls in programme areas demonstrating increased knowledge and skills.

Outcome 1 of the Global Programme, ‘Adolescent girls at risk of and affected by child marriage are better able to express and exercise their choices’ is a key focus of the Global Programme and forms the basis for its girl-centred programming. In the 12 programme countries, UNICEF and UNFPA have supported programming and advocacy by partners and governments to improve girls’ decision-making and life skills, encourage girls to stay in school, provide alternatives for out-of-school girls and provide alternative income generation and financial inclusion options so that girls can make more informed decisions. For

many countries, results exceeded targets. As targets are set for the coming years of the Global Programme, these experiences in setting targets will be incorporated into planning.

UNICEF and UNFPA are working to map programming in terms of geographical convergence and existing partnerships. Numerical results are provided at the country level, with acknowledgement that UNICEF and UNFPA are working to reach the most vulnerable girls they have identified through mappings of the target population, but often with limited information provided by national-level household surveys and contextual knowledge of on-the-ground staff.

Headline results:

1. In 2016, 535,430 adolescent girls were reached through life skills programmes and 218,565 through school support interventions in the 12 programme countries.
2. All countries are supporting a wide range of adolescent girl-focused life skills interventions and school attendance support.
3. Linkages to national social protection schemes are being strengthened in Bangladesh, Ethiopia and India.

Programmatic success highlights:

1. Nepal has developed a good example of a clearly articulated life skills programme, Rupantaran, which focuses on building girls' sexual and reproductive health, social and financial skills.
2. The Niger uses a strong multi-sectoral approach in the *Illimin* programme, which includes mentorship, and literacy-focused skills.
3. School attendance support is being delivered through different strategies: school bridging programmes such as those in Nepal

and the Niger, transport expenses (Burkina Faso and India), and conditional cash transfer programmes (Bangladesh and India).

4. Use of national social protection schemes:
 - a. In Ethiopia, the country office is working with the Productive Safety Net Programme to influence the targeting of girls from vulnerable families, as recipients of the scheme.
 - b. In Bangladesh, the country office is working with the Government to invest in scale-up of the Adolescent Empowerment Clubs model being delivered by the Global Programme.

Tables 3a and 3b summarize the baselines, targets and results for both Outcomes 1.1 and 1.2. Outcome 1.1 relates to the number of girls actively participating in an empowerment programme such as with life skills, health information, economic empowerment and social protection. Outcome 1.2 relates to the number of girls in programme areas supported to remain in primary or lower-secondary school (i.e., with cash transfers, social protection, or other support). Targets noted here have been in some cases revised from the previous year's decisions for various reasons. All targets were subject to revision following early exploratory and formative work, which prompted country offices to make more realistic projects for feasible reach. Further budget shortfalls led to decreases in some targets and, additionally, some funds were reallocated to different outcomes, allowing for more balanced use of funds. In some cases, targets were revised upwards as programming goals were honed.

West and Central Africa

In **the Niger**, the *Illimin* child marriage/adolescent girls programme has been supported since 2013. It is one of the largest dedicated programmes for girls in UNFPA's portfolio,

TABLE 3A. TARGETS AND RESULTS FOR GIRLS REACHED FOR OUTCOME 1.1 IN 2016

		1.1			
		2015	2016		2017
		Baseline	Target	Results	Target
Bangladesh	UNICEF	16,169	100,000	93,166	100,000
	UNFPA	0	0	0	1,500
Burkina Faso	UNICEF	5,000	10,750	12,417	36,000
	UNFPA	2,637	500	2,560	2,560
Ethiopia	UNICEF	80,000	18,124	51,239	185,030
	UNFPA	2,400	0	0	2,630
Ghana	UNICEF	18,240	18,000	56,600	
	UNFPA	9,239	21,650	29,390	28,560
India	UNICEF	0	125,000	131,889	500,000
	UNFPA	15,000	30,900	29,900	70,000
Mozambique	UNICEF	7,318	0	0	
	UNFPA	7,318	2,682	16,200	6482
Nepal	UNICEF	4,224	1,050	2,346	1260
	UNFPA	1,823	4,000	5,220	2580
Niger	UNICEF	2,730	7,702	7,461	10,356
	UNFPA	8,912	16,000	14,424	13,500
Sierra Leone	UNICEF	15,000	1,500	1,998	600
	UNFPA	8,331	1,500	2,400	3,600
Uganda	UNICEF	0	20,000	60,992	1900
	UNFPA	2,516	8,733	10,900	14965
Yemen	UNICEF	N/A	19,350	3,660	5000
	UNFPA	0	0	0	500
Zambia	UNICEF	1,200	2,430	0	40
	UNFPA	3,099	1,250	2,778	5,750
		211,156	411,121	535,540	992,813

TABLE 3B. TARGETS AND RESULTS FOR GIRLS REACHED FOR OUTCOME 1.2 IN 2016

		1.2			
		2015	2016		2017
		Baseline	Target	Results	Target
Bangladesh	UNICEF	16,169	9,000	37,371	25,000
	UNFPA		0	0	0
Burkina Faso	UNICEF	937	1,100	1,105	2,600
	UNFPA	0	0	0	0
Ethiopia	UNICEF	3,260	5,684	5,415	3,000
	UNFPA	1,200	0	0	1,010
Ghana	UNICEF		0	0	0
	UNFPA	0	0	0	0
India	UNICEF	0	125,000	131,888	0
	UNFPA	3,800	0	0	0
Mozambique	UNICEF	264	0	0	0
	UNFPA		0	0	9,000
Nepal	UNICEF	0	0	9,804	1,500
	UNFPA	0	0	0	
Niger	UNICEF	714	45,465	19,088	38,100
	UNFPA	0	0	0	200
Sierra Leone	UNICEF	7,011	0	2,536	0
	UNFPA	0	4,000	5,072	0
Uganda	UNICEF	0	8,100	6,286	5,180
	UNFPA	0	0	0	0
Yemen	UNICEF	N/A	0	0	0
	UNFPA		0	0	0
Zambia	UNICEF	0	900	0	0
	UNFPA	0	0	0	0
		33,355	199,249	218,565	85,590

reaching nearly 15,000 girls (Outcome 1.1) in 2016, with a presence throughout the country. Over a period of eight months, the programme gives girls access to a range of opportunities in a context where there is little else for them, combining life skills and health information with cognitive skills such as literacy, and aiming at increasing enrolment and retention of girls in formal and non-formal education. Through the safe spaces, girls connect to other girls, learn about their rights, and have the opportunity to fundamentally transform how they are viewed in society. Adolescent girls who have graduated from the programme wish to marry at 19 and have their first child at age 21 to give birth in their lives to six children [Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) results that show desired fertility of 11 children per woman]. There is also some evidence about an increase in use of contraceptives among girls participating in the programme.

In **Sierra Leone**, in 2016, UNICEF and UNFPA supported the establishment of 74 new girls' clubs, and UNFPA established 80 new girls' clubs in addition to the existing 257 girls' clubs already in place, most of which remained operational during the year. These clubs supported 4,398 adolescents with life skills to strengthen their capacities to protect themselves from abuse and exploitation. Both agencies used the national standardized modules to reach adolescent girls (both in and out of school) with essential life skills and knowledge required for their development and protection from violence, abuse and exploitation. UNFPA's activities were preceded by an exercise to identify the most vulnerable girls. Additionally, 5,496 adolescent girls enrolled in girls' club activities during the previous year continued to benefit from life skills activities in partnership with Restless Development between January and June 2016.

In **Burkina Faso**, more than 15,000 girls were supported with safe spaces, individual counselling and community programming (Outcome 1.1) and 1,005 children at risk of



Abiba Nibaradun, ActionAid's Programme Officer for the Upper West Regional Programme, leads an activity with members of the Girls' Club at the Naabugubelle Basic School, Sissala-East district, Upper West region.

Girls' clubs in Ghana

ActionAid, under the End Child Marriage campaign, is strengthening girls' clubs in schools by training their patrons and executive members to facilitate their club meetings. Where no clubs exist, the campaign is encouraging schools to set up clubs. The aim of these clubs is to have safe platforms to discuss and address the relevant concerns or challenges that girls face. Sessions held during club meetings include making them conscious of their rights, entitlements and responsibilities, as well empowering girls to demand accountability from duty bearers, including parents, teachers, community leaders and the government.

Child brides return to school

By Souleymane Saddy Maâzou

NIAMEY, Niger – When Fati was 12-years old, her father removed her from school in Niamey and sent her to Nigeria to marry a 40-year-old man. A year later, she was hospitalized with injuries inflicted by her new husband.

It took several months before she was well enough for discharge, and while she was still in the hospital recovering, her husband divorced her. By that time, she was the mother of a small boy.

Aichatou had to leave school at age 15 after she was forced to marry a 30-year-old man. At age 16, shortly after giving birth to her first child, she was widowed.

Finding themselves newly single, new mothers and not yet 18, both Fati and Aichatou went to live with family in the Talladjé area of Niamey, where they spent their days caring for their babies and doing housework – with few prospects for the future, other than more of the same.

Then two years ago, a knock on their doors changed both their lives.

An outreach worker was going door to door to spread the word about the UNFPA-supported Safe Space programme Illimin, which had recently launched in their area, and to find girls ages 10 to 19 who were not enrolled in school to ask if they would like to join the programme.

Fati and Aichatou both said yes.

“By attending the Safe Space programme Illimin, I found the motivation to return to school,” says Fati, unable to suppress a large smile. “It helped me to gain confidence in myself. It has also re-awakened my lifelong dream to study and have a career. A dream that was shattered by my father.”

The price of denying girls an education

Fati’s and Aichatou’s stories of forced marriage are common in Niger – which, at 75 per cent, has the world’s highest rate of child marriage and, at 10 per cent, one of its lowest rates of girls enrolled in secondary school. This landlocked nation of 20 million is also one of the world’s poorest countries, and in 2014, ranked 188 out of 188 countries in the UN’s Human Development Index.

Aichatou, who was married at 15 and widowed at 16, writes on the blackboard during French class.



Fati is now enrolled in eleventh grade – and at the top of her class.

Investing in adolescent girls’ education and empowerment could prove key to strengthening the labour force and sparking economic growth in Niger – and in lower-income countries around the world. However, child brides and adolescent mothers are much less likely to attend school than other girls, meaning before countries can tap into the transformative potential of the 600 million adolescent girls on the planet today, they must reduce rates of both.

Illimin means “knowledge for dignity” in Hausa, a common language in Niger, and the Safe Space programme Illimin was designed to combat both early marriage and pregnancy by educating and empowering adolescent girls to facilitate this change themselves.

“It is at the Safe Space that my dream to go to school came back to me,” says Aichatou. “In this program, I was welcomed, re-motivated and guided towards resuming my studies.”

Back to school

In secure spaces chosen in consultation with communities, Safe Space staff educates girls about sexual and reproductive health, self-esteem, their rights, money management, public speaking and

literacy. In 2014 and 2015, over 10,000 girls completed the program.

Today, Safe Spaces have opened around the country, and 16,000 girls are scheduled to graduate this August alone. The programme plans to double that number for the class of 2017.

So far, at least 56 students have refused to marry men before age 18, despite pressure from their families, and credit the Safe Space with giving them the skills and confidence to negotiate the postponement. And many girls who were forced to drop out of school early are returning to class.

Fati and Aichatou were part of the inaugural 2014 class. Today, they are enrolled in eleventh grade at a second chance secondary school for students who previously dropped out – and are ranked near the top of their class.

Six days a week, they rise early to complete their homework and housework, then leave their sons with family, so they can spend the afternoon at school.

“These girls work well and are very involved in their education. I am sure they will succeed,” says Ibrahim Hassane, their French teacher.

After graduation, both girls plan to continue their studies. Fati hopes to enroll at the National School of Administration and Magistracy, and Aichatou dreams of becoming a journalist. Fati has also begun to campaign nationally – and internationally – to end child marriage, and has spoken at conferences in Zambia and Paris.

“I salute the determination of Fati and Aichatou,” said Monique Clesca, the former UNFPA representative in Niger. “It is the Fatis and Aichatous of Niger who will help the country achieve its demographic dividend, because they have education and will participate fully in the life of their country. Ultimately, that’s the result of empowering girls.”

child marriage have received support for their schooling (including school kits, bicycles and scholarships) and social skills training (marketing management, culinary arts, food, dye, hairdressing, sewing) in five targeted regions (Central, East Central, Eastern, North Central, Sahel and South Central) (Outcome 1.2). This keeps adolescents in school while avoiding their marriage before the age of 18. Thanks to Global Programme support, 34 child marriages (15 in the Sahel region and 18 in the East region) were cancelled or postponed, and the girls were able to continue their studies. Among them, a dozen passed in the upper class (CM1, CM2, 6th, 5th, 4th and 3rd) and 33 girls were provided with medical care by the local health services (counselling, follow-up and family planning).

In **Ghana**, UNFPA and UNICEF are using a wide range of approaches and strategies to reach in-school and out-of-school adolescent girls, including reaching 85,990 girls through life skills and girls empowerment programmes, peer support and role modelling initiatives, community reflections and dialogues on the negative consequences of child marriage and the importance of girls education, adolescent sexual and reproductive health information and services, counselling, support for girls to access information and services (e.g., social welfare, protection, education, health, legal, livelihoods training, etc.) and to report/seek support through appropriate channels (Outcome 1.1).

Through the Sistas’ Clubs, Kayayei networks/paralegal groups and outreach programmes, girls are provided with integrated services, including adolescent sexual and reproductive health information and services, livelihood empowerment and legal literacy skills to build their health, social skills and economic assets.

South Asia

Nepal's joint UNICEF and UNFPA programme on child marriage touches on a number of key areas, including social and financial skills training for girls, policy research, and government advocacy. A total of 7,566 adolescent girls actively participated in one of the targeted programme areas (Outcome 1.1), such as the government-endorsed social and financial skills training (Rupantaran), cohesive and supportive spaces/network and local planning process, and 9,804 adolescent girls were supported to (re)enrol and remain in formal and non-formal education (Outcome 1.2).

In **India**, the states have implemented plans that have reached more than 293,677 adolescent girls by increasing referrals to services, raising awareness, and providing easily accessible information and life skills and vocational skills programmes (Outcome 1.1). In addition, 115,483 boys were engaged in awareness-building programming.

In India, the work that started with adolescent girl groups in 2013 in Rajasthan was expanded to the state of Odisha with a special focus on tribal adolescent girls, who tend to be poorer and much more marginalized relative to other groups. UNFPA is now advocating for similar targeted, evidence-based programmes through the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao scheme. An interesting dimension of this girl's programme, in addition to the content on life skills and sexual and reproductive health, is that girls collectively strategize on how to challenge stereotypes and discrimination. Multimedia coverage of this programme has received excellent press.

In **Bangladesh**, UNICEF demonstrated that the adolescent empowerment project, rolled out in target districts, is a successful strategy towards preventing child marriage and promoting a supportive community environment. At the end

of 2016, nearly 150,000 girls have been reached with at least one intervention related to empowerment of adolescent girls, with 93,166 of these girls reached under Indicator 1.1. The Government of Bangladesh has agreed to roll out 5,000 new adolescent clubs throughout the country utilizing its own revenue budget, following the lessons learned from the adolescent empowerment project developed by UNICEF.

Other girl-focused programming in Bangladesh has supported approximately 37,371 adolescent girls from 184 secondary schools to retain and continue education (Outcome 1.2). About 10,372 out-of-school girls (aged 8–14 years) from Satkhira and Dhaka urban slums were enrolled and continued the second chance education programme (NFPE), out of which 5,305 girls were successfully mainstreamed back to formal primary schools. Some 500 of the most vulnerable out-of-school adolescent girls were identified from child marriage-prone areas (Khulna CC and Dacope, Khulna) and enrolled in a basic literacy, numeracy, life and livelihood skills training programme to pilot and demonstrate community-based solutions on quality services for adolescent girls, including those in school as well as second-chance education for those girls who had dropped out. The agencies will continue to develop and refine these strategies in consultation with the Ministry of Education, for roll-out and expansion.

Eastern and Southern Africa

In **Mozambique**, girl-centred programming has actively sought to include the voices of youth and adolescents in programming and legal reform. UNFPA and UNICEF supported the meaningful participation of adolescent girls (and boys) in policy and advocacy processes on issues regarding their life, through various platforms during the reporting period. Following the recommendations from

the Universal Periodic Review 2016 Mozambique, the Ministry of Justice organized, with technical and financial support from UNFPA, a national meeting to develop a new four-year action plan for the Universal Periodic Review mechanism, with the participation of adolescent and youth representatives from 18 national youth platforms and 24 justice officials/focal points on human rights in the whole country. As a result, the plan includes adolescents and youth sexual and reproductive rights.

In addition, in November, with technical and financial support from UNFPA and in collaboration with various NGOs, the Ministry of Health organized a National Consultation of Adolescents and Youth (within the Global Finance Facility National Investment Case on Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health), which resulted in a set of recommendations by the 53 adolescents and youth participants coming from 10 provinces of the country, to strengthen policy interventions for adolescent sexual and reproductive health, including preventing early pregnancies and marriage. Two hundred girls attended a national girls' event organized in Nampula with support from the US\$14 million One UN Programme for Adolescent Girls and Young Women Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (also called Rapariga Biz). The programme started on 1 May 2016 in Nampula and Zambezia provinces, funded by the Government of Sweden through UNFPA (coordinating agency), UNICEF, UNESCO and UN Women.

The same programme reached 16,200 girls, meeting the standards for Indicator 1.1 with mentorship in safe spaces, with an additional 7,200 girls participating less regularly, for a total of 23,518 adolescent girls with mentorship in safe spaces – of which 13,574 were girls aged 10–14 years and 9,944 were aged 15–19 years – well above the 2016 target. In addition, 2,618 young women aged 20–24 years

are also participating. Adolescent girls participating in the mentorship are acquiring knowledge and information on sexual and reproductive health, strengthening their agency and capacities to make informed decisions and to demand related services. Some 2,750 girls (of which 2,503 were aged 10–19 years) among them were enrolled and/or reintegrated in education thanks to programme support, and 1,421 (of which 1,416 were aged 10–19 years) were supported to obtain ID cards.

In **Ethiopia**, programming rested on the Overseas Development Institute's research showing that school is a key area of focus. As a result, 51,239 schoolgirls (Outcome 1.1) were reached with various interventions contributing to improving girls' retention and performance in school, far exceeding targets. This reach was achieved via multifaceted programming that included strengthening girls' clubs, strengthening school guidance and counselling, teachers' training on sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence, including child marriage to provide support to girls at risk, and direct material support (such as school supplies and materials to support menstrual hygiene management).

In **Uganda**, almost 72,000 adolescent girls (aged 10–19 years) in 30 targeted districts actively participated in several programmes supported by the UNICEF and UNFPA Global Programme work (Outcome 1.1). Out of these, 19,266 girls (1,473 are in school and 17,793 are out of school, 5,221 are married girls, while 14,045 are unmarried) were enrolled into Empowerment and Livelihood for Adolescents clubs and acquired skills in financial literacy and were mentored and provided with sexual and reproductive health information. Some 642 girls were referred for sexual and reproductive health and HIV services, and 269 accessed family planning and HIV counselling and testing services. A total of 213 mothers have been reached through the mothers' forum.

In efforts focused on particularly vulnerable girls, 40 girls were facilitated to run a successful children’s symposium in commemoration of the International Day of the Girl 2016, and the 23 most vulnerable girls in that group were provided with livelihoods and life skills support as immediate relief and will be linked to the Empowerment and Livelihood for Adolescents programme in 2017.

Towards the goal of scaling up and reaching more girls and boys, through a partnership with the Ministry of Education, 4.4 million children actively participated in music, dance and drama competition across all primary schools in Uganda; 2,880 children in secondary schools also participated. The themes for the competitions were ‘Stop Child Marriage and Poor Nutrition for Quality Learning’ and ‘Harnessing Young People’s Potential for Uganda’s Socio-Economic Transformation’, respectively.

In **Zambia**, programming on Outcome 1 began midyear, so while targets were exceeded for Outcome 1.1 due to establishing safe spaces for girls in Lusaka District, Global Programme funds were not used for this project. Additionally, targets were not met for Outcome 1.2. This will be an area of focus for Zambia in the coming year.

Middle East and North Africa

In **Yemen**, 3,682 married girls have been provided with knowledge and skills on the adverse consequences of child marriage, maternal and reproductive health care and the benefits of the importance of education and delayed marriage, and another 16,000 girls were identified (Outcome 1.1). In addition, 650 adolescent girls have been trained on life skills (Training of Trainers) and are expected to pass on the knowledge to their peers and other community members. Outcome 1.2 was not a focus for Yemen in 2016.

Outcome 2: Households demonstrate positive attitudes and behaviours towards investing in and supporting adolescent girls.

Outcome 2 of the Global Programme recognizes that adolescents do not live in a vacuum and that their ability to make decisions about their reproductive and sexual health, childbearing and marriage are ultimately intertwined with the attitudes and behaviours of their families, which may make decisions for them, and their communities, which shape social norms and traditional practices. UNFPA and UNICEF have worked to create community dialogues, public service announcements and other wide-reaching mass media campaigns to better inform and sensitize community members to the dangers of child marriage and the benefits of supporting and investing in adolescent girls.

Headline results:

1. Information, education and communication activities with a large reach are being delivered in countries such as India, Mozambique and the Niger.
 - a. Radio programmes with listenership of 85 per cent coverage in the Niger;
 - b. SMS/U-Report reaching 35,000 adolescents on gender-based violence prevention messages in Mozambique; and
 - c. Television series on adolescence, gender and empowerment with reach of 2.8 million at inception in India.
2. Countries are also supporting participatory and interactive behaviour change communication interventions – not all are sustained conversations/dialogues and few countries have measures to monitor shifts in behaviour change.
 - a. Community dialogue (Ethiopia, the Niger);
 - b. Child Protection Community Facilitation toolkit (Ghana) offers comprehensive or tested tools for sustained and structured community dialogues.



TABLE 4. TARGETS AND RESULTS FOR NUMBER OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS, GATE-KEEPERS AND DECISION MAKERS REACHED UNDER OUTCOME 2 IN 2016

Indicators reflect the number of individuals who regularly participate in dialogues promoting gender equality and positive social norms around child marriage.

		2.1			
		2015	2016		2017
		Baseline	Target	Results	Target
Bangladesh	UNICEF	592,491	1,000,000	1,013,419	163,400
	UNFPA	130,000	3,000	0	2,000
Burkina Faso	UNICEF	9,600	17,500	17,500	750,000
	UNFPA	10,000	10,500	10,900	10,900
Ethiopia	UNICEF	14,400	104,800	31,400	139,575
	UNFPA	0	0	0	1,314
Ghana	UNICEF	70,000	150,000	2,400,000	20,000
	UNFPA	2,569	1,270	1,120	31,049
India	UNICEF	0	100,000	140,000	200,000
	UNFPA	87,000	40,000	0	0
Mozambique	UNICEF	15,000	65,000	68,000	2,282,000
	UNFPA	6,945	15,000	5,759	10,000
Nepal	UNICEF	12,955	5,000	10,032	4,907
	UNFPA	354	15,520	10,000	3,880
Niger	UNICEF	6,615	15,645	31,341	23,040
	UNFPA	45,635	60,000	64,282	104,800
Sierra Leone	UNICEF	15,000	10,000	11,185	3,000
	UNFPA	3,000	2,000	2,300	2,000
Uganda	UNICEF		3,165	12,103	20,180
	UNFPA	2,250	5,270	12,103	0
Yemen	UNICEF	N/A	15,500	278,080	250,000
	UNFPA		0	0	26,000
Zambia	UNICEF	5	50	0	76
	UNFPA	2,449	2,403	910	3,000
		1,026,268	1,641,623	4,120,434	4,051,121

West and Central Africa

In **Ghana**, an estimated 2.4 million individuals were reached directly through community engagements, regular dialogues, home visits and welfare clinics (child protection and communication for development (C4D) programme) and an estimated 7 million people were reached through indirect mass and social media (i.e., radio and television) content across the country (child protection and C4D programme), greatly exceeding targets, largely due to complementary funding from the Government of Canada and engaging the media as a key, strong ally (Outcome 2.1). Through broad partnerships with government and NGO and international NGO partners, both agencies continued to invest in community-based sensitization, reflections and dialogues to challenge harmful traditional practices and progressively reduce the acceptability of child marriage. As a result, reports are showing that silence is being broken around sensitive child protection issues as well as gendered norms including child marriage and teen pregnancy. There is also increased awareness and willingness to address such issues within targeted communities, with girls themselves and adolescents becoming agents of change within their school and community environments.

In **the Niger**, programming was targeted with the goal of creating spill-overs and supporting long-term change. Nearly 95,000 people were involved in community dialogues supported by UNFPA and UNICEF (Outcome 2.1). This experience shows that once communities 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 in particular, as well as are given an opportunity to participate in inter-generational and inter-gender open discussions on the issue, they are ready to change social norm-based practices. Qualitative observations and data recorded

by community facilitators based in the communities indicate that, as a result of the intervention, girls married later and went back to or remained in school, and religious and traditional leaders prevented early and forced marriage through mediation with parents. Participating communities set up committees to monitor the age of marriage, prevent early and forced marriages through mediation, and report cases of child marriage requiring referral to specialized services.

In **Burkina Faso**, 516,774 people (including 231,741 men and 285,033 women) were sensitized on the risks associated with both female circumcision and child marriage via the Global Programme's work as well as that of the UNICEF and UNFPA Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting (Outcome 2.1). Furthermore, 242 villages celebrated public declarations whereby community members committed to abandoning the harmful practices of both FGM/C and child marriage.

In **Sierra Leone**, 13,485 people participated in community dialogues (Outcome 2.1). In partnership with the Office of the First Lady and the Office of the Wife of the Vice-President, UNICEF supported a nine-month programme aimed at mobilizing religious and traditional leaders on actions to end teenage pregnancy and child marriage and engaged school authorities and communities to support adolescent girls. As part of this process, 5,072 girls were successfully re-enrolled/reintegrated back into the school system. A total of 300 community stakeholders participated in a day-long community stakeholders' meeting through mobilization and outreach sessions to sensitize and establish a social contract on the protection, support and empowerment of adolescent girls in the intervention areas.

Community dialogue for social norm change to protect children from harmful traditional practices (with a focus on

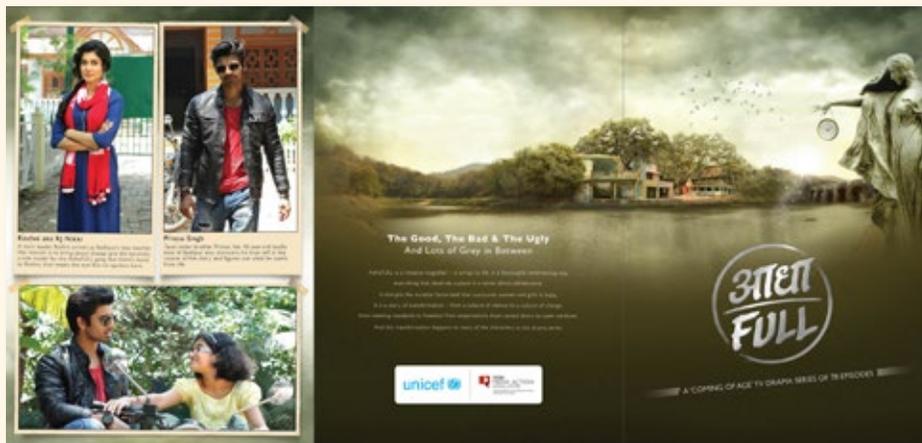
child marriage and teenage pregnancy) has taken place in at least nine districts and reached at least 256 communities through NGO partners. These communities have developed community action plans to address violence against children (which also includes child marriage) with UNICEF support. The challenge now is to support and monitor implementation of these plans.

South Asia

The Global Programme's work in **India** has leveraged several large-scale existing government programmes to increase awareness and transform social norms around child marriage among community members. In particular, UNFPA and UNICEF have worked closely with the Government of India's flagship scheme – *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao* – Save Daughters, Educate Daughters. The agencies supported interventions with adolescent girls' collectives in community settings and in schools; worked with panchayats (local leaders), service providers and communities to create an enabling environment for girls; and developed a range of resource materials, including policy briefs, training modules, communication guides and an information, education and communication resource package, for advocacy against harmful practices.

Further, as part of the National Adolescent Health Strategy – Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram, a programme that focuses on promoting adolescent health and well-being, UNFPA and UNICEF, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, have implemented a training programme for counsellors and peer educators, ensuring access to reliable information and essential services. UNFPA and UNICEF jointly organized a two-day conference to amplify the advocacy against child marriage and adolescent pregnancy. The national conference included participants

Using mass media to increase reach at scale in India



UNICEF commissioned a transmedia edutainment series that reached an estimated 2.8 million people between October and December 2016. The main aim/objective of the series is to provide information and address and raise awareness on a number of social issues, including ending child marriage, and to increase adolescent empowerment. In the state of Rajasthan, UNICEF and UNFPA, in collaboration with the state government, reached more than 600,000 adolescents through the implementation of a large-scale communication initiative.

from the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Human Resource Development and Ministry of Skills Development and Entrepreneurship, and several civil society organizations, including NGOs, international NGOs and community groups for adolescent girls and boys.

In India, programming reached an estimated 140,000 parents/community members through national and state flagship programmes as well community-based structures (Outcome 2.1). As part of the Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram initiative, UNFPA, in collaboration with UNICEF and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, recently launched a mobile application (Saathiya) to enable peer educators to access accurate information and messages on adolescent health and development needs for more effective transactions with young girls and boys. UNFPA's pilot programme on adolescent fertility and child marriage in one district of Madhya Pradesh has now been scaled across all districts in the state. UNFPA is now contributing towards technical assistance for the roll-out across the entire state through the Spandan programme. Furthermore, delay in receipt of funds (second tranche of funds came in late October) to support dedicated work under this output limited UNFPA's ability to reach out to families and communities in large numbers. Nevertheless, engagement with families and communities was undertaken as part of the initiative's focusing on girls, under Outcome 1.

In **Bangladesh**, UNICEF has been actively involved in community dialogues in four districts identified by the End Child Marriage initiative and an additional six districts. UNFPA was involved the planning phases for this output in 2016 and will begin to implement regular dialogues in 2017.

In **Nepal**, more than 20,000 community members were reached through participatory and intergenerational dialogues and community theatre and other events with information on child marriage. These numbers fell short of targets due to delayed implementation of the radio public service announcements (PSAs), which were expected to reach many more people.

Eastern and Southern Africa

In **Ethiopia** in 2016, 31,400 community members in Afar, Amhara and Somali regions regularly attended community dialogues facilitated by trained community facilitators. Continued community attendance at these dialogues suggests that they are of interest, although ongoing unrest and a state of emergency led to a delay in programme implementation in all regions, in particular in the newly added target regions of Amhara and Oromia. Furthermore, religious leaders were mobilized in the target regions to support efforts towards ending both child marriage and FGM/C. In partnership with Norwegian Church Aid and 14 major faith-based and umbrella organizations, UNICEF worked to strengthen the capacity of religious leaders and faith-based organizations to be champions for ending the practice and to support monitoring and documentation of progress made.

In **Mozambique**, civil society, youth and religious organizations, as well as more than 70,000 adolescents and youth, were actively involved in awareness raising and debates to prevent gender-based violence and child marriage and raise awareness on the devastating impact it has on the health and well-being of girls. In partnership with the West and Southern Africa Law Association, multi-sectoral actors and civil society received comprehensive introduction to the national strategy and devised provincial-level plans in three of the six focus provinces with the highest rates of child marriage. In addition, about 1.5 million people were reached with messages to prevent child marriage through the radio drama *Ouro Negro* and more than 35,000 adolescents specifically on gender based violence through SMS Biz/U-Report. UNFPA results did not meet targets, as the Rapariga Biz programme did not begin until May, and this is an area of focus in 2017.

UNICEF and UNFPA in **Zambia** are also heavily invested in a programme to engage and integrate traditional leaders into programming to end child marriage. These interactions are predicated on the idea that social norms are one of the key drivers of child marriage and that customary laws and rites of passage play an important role in defining social norms regarding child marriage. UNFPA has worked with 910 traditional leaders in Zambia to increase their knowledge of the dangers of child marriage, champion them as agents of change, and train them to refer girls and boys at risk of child marriage to services. Using mass media campaigns, the programme aims to mobilize communities to transform detrimental social norms.

In **Uganda**, UNICEF and UNFPA have put in place community forums in which mothers are mobilized to end child marriage and provide support to their adolescent girls on ways of addressing teenage pregnancy. Some 26,000 mothers were reached with general life skills information and 34,929 girls aged 10–17 years (6 per cent of the total number of girls aged 10–17 year in the target population) had their births registered as a first step to protection from marriage and sexual violence and tacit acknowledgment by family members community members that age is an important legal indicator of readiness for marriage. More than 12,000 community members were engaged in community dialogues, exceeding targets, and a total of 6,420 community leaders, including teachers, religious leaders, and cultural leaders, were also mobilized through village meetings to support activities geared towards ending child marriage.

Middle East and North Africa

In **Yemen**, the groundwork has been laid to make progress on Outcome 2 at the community level via an assessment in six targeted governorates to better understand the

attitudes of local communities towards child/early marriage, and their knowledge of the effects of early marriage. These programmes reached a total of 278,080 community members, exceeding targets, although they had lower intensity of engagement than in other countries (quarterly rather than weekly or bi-monthly as achieved elsewhere). While programming implementation was difficult due to the ongoing emergency, higher-than-expected levels of implementation by partner organizations were achieved despite the situation. The assessment identified girls who received multi-sectorial packages of services and will be used to inform further programming on Outcome 2.

Outcome 3: Relevant sectoral systems deliver quality and cost-effective services to meet the needs of adolescent girls.

While a large focus of Global Programme programming and partnerships has been direct-to-girl, the Global Programme is grounded in the idea that the systems in which girls live have a profound effect on their ability to exercise their own agency, make informed decisions about their sexuality and marital status. To that end, Outcome 3 seeks to expand the focus of programming to include sectoral strengthening, thus ensuring that girls are supported in various ambits where they come into contact that have systems with the potential to support or guide them. In the first year of the Global Programme, Outcome 3 addressed health, education, child protection systems in the programme countries and sought to better develop and implement guidelines, packages, and best practices.

Headline results:

- 1. Health:** covers development and implementation of guidelines, training packages for health providers, quality improvement and certification of adolescent-friendly health services. Eight out of the 12 countries supported health systems to implement national guidelines/policies for adolescent girl-friendly services in 5,000 service delivery points (Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Nepal, Mozambique, Nepal, Sierra Leone and Zambia).
- 2. Education:** eight country offices invested in supply side interventions to keep girls in school, which include improving physical infrastructure, water, sanitation and hygiene, menstrual hygiene management, teacher training, gender-responsive teaching and curriculum and textbook reform, etc. Country highlights include a policy decision by the Minister of Education in Burkina Faso to train 43,000 primary school teachers on the Quality Child-Friendly School approach.
- 3. Child protection:** support includes strengthening community structures and legal and justice systems for preventive and response interventions related to gender-based violence. For example, Mozambique has reported on strengthening the capacity of 4,000 individuals including police, social workers, legal aid providers, judiciary, prosecutors and members of community child protection committees.

West and Central Africa

In **Burkina Faso**, the Global Programme continues to support relevant sectoral systems to scale up quality and cost-effective services to meet the needs of adolescent girls at risk or affected by child marriage. Some 54 service delivery points were supported (Outcome 3.1) and 301 schools received training using the Quality Child-Friendly

TABLE 5A. BASELINES, TARGETS, AND RESULTS FOR INDICATOR 3.1.

The number of service delivery points in programme areas implementing guidelines for adolescent girl-friendly health and protection services.

		3.1			
		Baseline	Target	Results	Target
Bangladesh	UNICEF	0	100	89	50
	UNFPA	N/A	0	0	0
Burkina Faso	UNICEF	37	44	44	44
	UNFPA	10	10	10	10
Ethiopia	UNICEF	232	877	885	950
	UNFPA	10	0	0	12
Ghana	UNICEF	0	0	0	1,687
	UNFPA	0	30	45	40
India	UNICEF	0	5	3,673	750
	UNFPA	N/A	0	0	0
Mozambique	UNICEF	N/A	0	0	0
	UNFPA	655	0	102	
Nepal	UNICEF	N/A	0	311	105
	UNFPA	4	6	6	22
Niger	UNICEF	0	89	116	86
	UNFPA	0	133	0	192
Sierra Leone	UNICEF	0	0	0	
	UNFPA	N/A	0	21	
Uganda	UNICEF	0	10	0	51
	UNFPA	15	30	0	690
Yemen	UNICEF	N/A	0	0	0
	UNFPA		0	0	0
Zambia	UNICEF	5	50	27	14
	UNFPA	0	30	0	60
			1,414	5,329	4,763

TABLE 5B. BASELINES, TARGETS AND RESULTS FOR INDICATOR 3.2.

The number of non-formal/primary/secondary schools in programme areas implementing interventions to improve the quality of education for adolescent girls.

		3.2			
		Baseline	Target	Results	Target
Bangladesh	UNICEF	7	47	620	70
	UNFPA	N/A	0	0	0
Burkina Faso	UNICEF	151	300	301	370
	UNFPA	N/A	0	0	0
Ethiopia	UNICEF	200	713	455	713
	UNFPA	N/A	0	0	12
Ghana	UNICEF	0	2	1	0
	UNFPA	N/A	0	0	0
India	UNICEF	0	0	1,627	750
	UNFPA	N/A	0	0	0
Mozambique	UNICEF	N/A	100	100	117
	UNFPA	N/A	0	0	
Nepal	UNICEF	0	0	257	140
	UNFPA	N/A	0	0	0
Niger	UNICEF	0	0	0	0
	UNFPA	N/A	148	148	148
Sierra Leone	UNICEF	0	0	0	0
	UNFPA	N/A	0	0	0
Uganda	UNICEF	0	100	687	625
	UNFPA	N/A	0	0	
Yemen	UNICEF	N/A	0	0	0
	UNFPA		0	0	0
Zambia	UNICEF	424	500	744	100
	UNFPA	N/A	0	0	0
			1,910	4,940	3,045

School approach. A total of 672 front-line social workers and teachers were trained on FGM/C and child marriage case management, social norms and change, and sexual and reproductive health. To enhance equity in education, UNICEF also promoted girls' education as a way to prevent girls from child marriage via community sensitization, and provision of 605 scholarships, 500 bicycles and 15,000 learning kits. On top of the major social mobilization campaign to encourage parents to send their children to schools, UNICEF reached a total 853 schools in the target zones with the Quality Child-Friendly School approach, covering 183,027 children (85,688 girls) who now have access to improved quality education.

In **Ghana**, programming to address child marriage continued to be embedded in the ongoing and wider system strengthening efforts, through the child protection, gender, education and health sectors. The capacity of 45 service providers were strengthened in two regions on youth-friendly services provision using the revised Adolescent Health and Development manual (Outcome 3.1). Focus was on the development of both national policies, guidelines and standards for more gender-sensitive and child-sensitive services, as well as capacity building at both national and subnational levels, including for health and child protection service providers. Platforms for learning and sharing continued to be supported, with the National Advisory Committee on Ending Child Marriage, the National Stakeholders Forum and the newly formed Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection online platform for child marriage stakeholders providing good opportunities for coordination, sharing, learning and visibility to efforts on the ground. As per the approved 2016 Annual Workplan, UNICEF Ghana is tracking the intermediate indicator, 'Availability of gender-responsive frameworks, guidelines and manuals to support girls' education and gender equality in basic

education', contributing towards the long-term indicator for Output 3.2 target for 2016: 'at least two resources available by 2016'. This target was achieved.

In **Sierra Leone**, neither UNICEF nor UNFPA included any activities under Outcome 3 in 2016, and no targets were set. However, activities were undertaken under other projects. For example, the standardized national life skills curriculum for both in- and out-of-school adolescents was pre-tested, finalized and officially endorsed by the Government. UNICEF and UNFPA used the newly developed life skills modules to reach adolescents (both in and out of school) with essential life skills. The aim of the life skills content is to equip adolescents with knowledge and skills required for their development and protection from violence, abuse and exploitation. UNICEF supported a master training conducted on the life skills modules, reaching 40 National Trainers comprised of staff of the line ministries of the National Secretariat for the Reduction of Teenage Pregnancy, NGOs and CSOs. These group of Trainers of Trainers will continue to be supported to roll out the life skills training curriculum at district and chiefdom levels.

The Niger's programming on child marriage has focused on girls' empowerment, societal behaviour change – in particular at the community level – and, to a certain extent, to increased government commitment to address the issue. Although UNICEF and UNFPA are engaging in programming related to Outcome 3 in the Niger, they are not using Global Programme funds for these initiatives.

South Asia

In **Nepal**, UNFPA and UNICEF worked to influence the Health Sector Support Plan and Education Support Plan, which have been finalized this year to integrate activities and budget to address child marriage through their sectoral mechanisms.

avoid
early marriage



In **Bangladesh**, access to sexual and reproductive health-related information and services is limited. UNICEF supported 100 service delivery points (Outcome 3.1) and 620 schools to support adolescent girls' education (Outcome 3.2) in 2016. As a result of UNICEF's support to Adolescent-Friendly Health Services, health services were provided to 48,665 adolescents – 36,975 adolescent girls and 11,690 adolescent boys – and are being monitored by the Directorate General of Health Services and the Directorate General of Family Health. The experience and lessons learned from these interventions have been utilized as inputs for the National Adolescent Health Strategy and costed action plan, where national-level investments on gender-responsive adolescent-friendly health services have been recognized as key priorities and a specific component on ending child marriage has been included within the same. The programme's focus on gender disparities, teenage pregnancy and access to sexual and reproductive health services for both married and unmarried adolescent girls and also boys led UNICEF to successfully leverage resources from the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to scale up Adolescent-Friendly Health Services in four priority districts.

In **India**, the agencies have gradually shifted their focus from community- and sector-based interventions to district-level interventions to reach more girls, boys and community members through multi-sectorial programming and support to a variety of ministries. UNICEF supported 3,673 service delivery points (Outcome 3.1) and 1,627 schools (Outcome 3.2) in 2016. For the scale-up and sustainability of the programme, UNICEF and UNFPA are engaging with the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Ministry of Panchayati Raj (local governance), Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights.

In the coming year, UNICEF and UNFPA will extend its partnerships to include the Ministry of Skills Development and Entrepreneurship, World Bank and the private sector. UNICEF and UNFPA are working with large government programmes in order to effectively reach millions of adolescents, ensuring quality and cost effectiveness in advocating against harmful practices such as child marriage and gender-biased sex selection.

Also in India at the national level, UNICEF finalized a basic package of interventions and indicators for the theory of change for the Ending Child Marriage programme. This includes a monitoring and learning framework which has been operationalized in 16 districts across 8 states (9 districts and 4 states supported by the programme).

Eastern and Southern Africa

At the regional level, UNICEF began a partnership with Childline to reduce duplication of programming and to ensure that measures to reduce child marriage are more cost-effective. This is an example of an ongoing partnership that has shown initial promise in an increase in child marriage cases reported to Childline, and that will be strengthened going forward.

In **Ethiopia**, 885 service delivery points were supported (Outcome 3.1) and 455 schools were supported to help girls' education (Outcome 3.2). The result of this support was that the community surveillance mechanisms established in Afar region raised public awareness and were able to track cases of child marriage and FGM/C, improving enforcement of the law by identifying cases and reporting them to the police. More than twice as many cases were reported in 2016 than 2015 following implementation of legal literacy classes in schools – reaching 101,116 students in 2016 – and in public

settings – reaching more than 40,000 community members. In Amhara, 232 planned child marriages were annulled as a result of interventions from women’s development groups before police were involved. The remainder, 883 cases, were processed by the court in Amhara. Of these cases, 457 marriages were annulled; 405 were approved due to a lack of evidence of the child’s age (i.e., absence of a birth certificate and inability of the age determination process to substantiate that the bride was under 18); and 21 cases are still pending/under process. In 2017, the results of interventions through law enforcement and surveillance mechanisms will be closely examined to inform further scale-up.

In **Mozambique**, UNICEF child protection efforts to strengthen the capacity of multi-sectoral actors at the provincial, district and community levels in focus provinces benefited about 7,130 individuals including police, social workers, legal aid providers, judiciary, prosecutors and members of community child protection committees at 102 service delivery points (Outcome 3.1). Significant investments were also made in institutional and operational capacity strengthening to provide mobility and enhanced services for children, youth and women at risk of violence, abuse and harmful practices, including child marriage. The UNICEF Education programme supported capacity building of the members of school councils in monitoring of child marriage, student attendance, and cases of violence against children through roll-out of training for school councils in all 22 districts in Zambézia Province.

In **Zambia**, Outcome 3 programming is in the planning and consolidation phase due to a review that found a need for reinforcing partnerships and reimagining relevant work in the country in the education and health sectors. Funds from UNFPA’s End Child Marriage initiative were used to support Outcome 3 programming due to late arrival of Global Programme funds, resulting in support to the Ministry of Health to increase

adolescent sexual and reproductive health services at 27 delivery points (Outcome 3.1). Support was provided for teacher training, water, sanitation and hygiene training, curriculum development and child-friendly schools programming in 744 schools (Outcome 3.2).

In **Uganda**, UNICEF and UNFPA are working to engage relevant ministries and to support the cabinet approval of a National Framework on Sexuality Education. Financial support has been provided to the Ministry of Education and Sports to create school health policies, but due to a change in leadership, implementation was delayed until 2017. 687 schools received support from UNICEF through the child-friendly school model. The past year saw focus on support supervision and orientation on reporting, tracking, referral and response guidelines recently approved by the Ministry of Education and Sports with support from UNICEF at the school level.

Middle East and North Africa

In **Yemen**, the above-discussed assessment also focused on identifying available services and which, if any, response mechanisms are available, and on developing adequate responses to the needs of the identified married girls and girls at risk. One area in which UNICEF’s joint work has had particular success is in strengthening the social work and case management system, which was expanded and made functional in six governorates (Aden, Amran, Hajjah, Hodeidah, Ibb and Taiz) to prevent and respond to abuse, exploitation, neglect and violence against children. Case management is an integral component of the social work system to identify individual children and families in need of particular assistance and provide adequate assistance to prevent and respond to their vulnerabilities. In Yemen, case management has also been linked to community-based

TABLE 6. COUNTRY PROGRESS ON DRAFTING, COSTING, LAUNCHING AND FINANCING NATIONAL ACTION PLANS

Progressing Completed milestones

2016	Draft national strategy on child marriage exists	National strategy launched/ endorsed	Action plan exists	Strategy or action plan is costed	Budget allocated to strategy or action plan
Bangladesh	Progressing	Progressing	Progressing	Progressing	Progressing
India	Progressing	Progressing	Progressing	Progressing	Progressing
Nepal	Completed milestones	2016	Progressing	Progressing	Progressing
Yemen	Progressing	Progressing	Progressing	Progressing	Progressing
Burkina Faso	Completed milestones	2015	Completed milestones	Completed milestones	Completed milestones
Ghana	Completed milestones	2017	Completed milestones	Completed milestones	Progressing
Niger	Progressing	Progressing	Progressing	Progressing	Progressing
Sierra Leone	Progressing	Progressing	Progressing	Progressing	Progressing
Ethiopia	Completed milestones	2013	Completed milestones	Progressing	Progressing
Mozambique	Completed milestones	2015	Completed milestones	Completed milestones	Completed milestones
Uganda	Completed milestones	2015	Completed milestones	Completed milestones	Completed milestones
Zambia	Completed milestones	2016	Progressing	Progressing	Progressing

Child-Friendly Spaces, where the majority of vulnerable children are identified through trained social workers. SOPs were put in place to establish good practices to respond to children’s needs. These SOPs detail procedures and steps to social workers and case managers to enable them to both

prevent and respond to identified children’s vulnerabilities, including children survivors and those at risk of gender-based violence. The social work and case management system is currently functioning in 6 out of 10 targeted governorates, providing a coverage of 45 per cent of children and their families in those governorates, in order to identify and respond to cases of child marriage and children at risk of child marriage. This system has identified 35 cases of child marriage (3 boys; 32 girls) and provided services to 22 children (1 boy; 21 girls).

Outcome 4: National laws, policy frameworks and mechanisms to protect and promote adolescent girls’ rights are in line with international standards and are properly resourced.

Many countries’ laws do not comply with international and regional commitments and, in other instances, there are clear conflicts between civil/common law and customary law. More work is needed to bring these laws into agreement with international conventions. Support to countries’ National Action Plans is key to maintaining momentum and support for legal reform and measurable change on prevalence indicators. This includes costing and budgeting national plans that have been launched, as well as establishing a monitoring mechanism to track the operationalization of National Action Plans (coordination with multiple sectors, resourcing, etc.).

UNICEF and UNFPA have placed child marriage and adolescent pregnancy as key strategic priorities on the agenda of regional institutions such as the Economic Community

of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). The two agencies have also been instrumental in the establishment of a subregional working group of United Nations agencies and NGOs working on child marriage in West and Central Africa in 2016 with the aim to strengthen regional responses and synergies in addressing child marriage. This group also aimed to build on momentum and promising progress in the region in 2015–2016. These include the development of a Strategic Plan on Ending Child Marriage in Burkina Faso as well as the development of policies to end child marriage in Ghana and Nigeria. There also appear to be important spill-overs from the regional concentration of efforts, as Cameroon, Chad and the Gambia also revised their laws to set the age of marriage at 18 years.

For headline results, the overarching, but minimum, goal is for countries to have costed and launched National Action Plans to end child marriage as described in the following table. However, national laws and frameworks for implementing these plans are diverse and contextual, and thus difficult to measure or compare across countries. We note countries where National Action Plans are in place, but also highlight progress above and beyond National Action Plans, such as where local or customary laws are being brought into alignment or continue to be in conflict, or where laws on minimum age of marriage have been passed and are in full force, and where governments have shown exemplary public support for the issue.

Headline results:

1. Two countries launched national strategies/action plans on child marriage in 2016; a total of six of the Global Programme countries (Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Nepal, Uganda and Zambia) had plans by the end of 2016, with Ghana set to launch in 2017;
2. Three countries (Burkina Faso, Mozambique and Uganda) have costed and budgeted national strategies. Uganda has additionally completed a district-level allocation of budgets;
3. 2016 was a high-profile year for child marriage – Ghana, Nepal, Sierra Leone and Zambia convened events related to adolescent girls and child marriage – for example, Prince Harry (Nepal), Graca Machel, Mabel Van Oranje (Mozambique), African Union Special Rapporteur mission (the Niger) and launch of the End Child Marriage campaign (Ghana); Nepal received presidential funds for child marriage as a result of the summit on adolescent girls;
4. Drafting of national strategies/National Action Plans is strongly linked to countries establishing national coordination mechanisms with diverse sector ministries and development partners. Examples: Burkina Faso developed its costed plan through the ‘multi-sectoral partnership platform’, while the Niger has a national committee for the ‘coordination of actions aiming at ending child marriage’ and has used its National Action Plan for adolescents (2015–2018) to integrate child marriage; and
5. Both agencies have made significant contributions to supporting national governments in drafting of child marriage National Action Plans through generating data, hiring consultants and supporting consultations.

West and Central Africa

West and Central Africa offices have worked to provide strategic support to governments and regional initiatives and to improve partner coordination. The two agencies provided strategic support to the African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage particularly through i) high-level advocacy with Member States through eight national campaigns to end child marriage launched in 2016; and ii) strengthening the



M&E framework of the interventions related to the campaign. Both agencies were involved in the African Union-led review meeting in October that highlighted significant progress on accelerating actions to end child marriage in the region through policy development, legislative change, increased investments in partnerships, M&E and operational research and implementing programmes at scale that have a direct impact on adolescent girls who are already married or at risk of child marriage. UNFPA played a key role in African Union-led efforts to strengthen national and regional capacities of key stakeholders such as parliamentarians and religious leaders.

In **Sierra Leone**, the Minister of Justice has taken a lead role in improving the policy and legal framework by harmonizing the six existing laws concerning age of consent of child marriage in Sierra Leone. UNFPA, UNICEF, the Office of the First Lady and other partners are presently engaging the Ministry of Justice and the Law Reform Commission on the process. A draft document on the laws has been compiled by the Law Reform Commission to equip partners with the information and allow them to be better positioned to engage in the process.

Upstream advocacy with the Sierra Leone members of Parliament also resulted in the establishment of a parliamentary committee on violence against children which has started championing the issue, including harmful practices against children and women, with a focus on child marriage, teenage pregnancy and FGM/C. The Committee has developed an action plan to end violence against children which has been approved in the Parliament.

Furthermore, the National Secretariat for Teenage Pregnancy Reduction is currently developing a new national strategy that will address both teenage pregnancy and child marriage reduction with support from UNICEF and UNFPA. Regional

consultations involving all key stakeholders (government officials, CSOs, Paramount Chiefs, religious leaders, girls, etc.) have taken place to seek their inputs in the strategy development process. Finalization of the strategy is expected in the first quarter of 2017 and will include a costed plan to address child marriage.

With an eye towards sustainability and ensuring government participation, UNICEF has worked with the Minister of Women's Promotion and Child Protection to agree to develop a National Plan of Action to End Child Marriage in **the Niger**. A multi-actor, multi-sector Child Marriage Coordination National Committee was established. The African Union Special Rapporteur on Child Marriage visited the Niger, and UNFPA and government representatives participated in the African Union Child Marriage Campaign Review Meeting in Lusaka, Zambia. At the International Day of the Girl Child celebrations on 11 October, the First Lady of the Niger delivered a speech indicating that the Government is acknowledging the detrimental consequences of child marriage on adolescent girls.

The Government of **Ghana**, under the leadership of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, continued to demonstrate in 2016 its highest commitment to ending child marriage in Ghana, through the National Launch of the End Child Marriage campaign in Ghana by the President in February 2016, together with the finalization by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection of the first cross-sectoral National Strategic Framework and Operational/M&E Plan to End Child Marriage (2017–2026). The National Strategic Framework, which highlights interlinkages among the child protection, education, health, gender and social protection sectors, is expected to provide a vision and strategic guidance to all key stakeholders involved in efforts to end child marriage. In addition, the

development of a cross-sectoral strategy aimed at reducing adolescent pregnancies has commenced. Issues affecting vulnerable adolescent girls, including child marriage, were also profiled at the national level as part of the Chief Justice Annual Mentoring Programme in 2016.

South Asia

In **Nepal**, the National Strategy on Ending Child Marriage was endorsed by the cabinet. An inter-ministerial steering committee established for coordination and M&E has been meeting on a quarterly basis to guide the development process of the costed National Action Plan with an M&E framework. Currently, six task forces are working on the National Action Plan under the guidance of the steering committee.

In **Bangladesh**, the agencies are working closely together to assist the Government of Bangladesh with a National Action Plan to End Child Marriage. The final draft of the plan has been submitted to the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs for its approval before endorsement. The plan will contribute to the establishment of a set of comprehensive strategic interventions to support adolescent girls, provide them with access to quality services, build their assets and thereby contribute to delaying the age of marriage. The document was developed under the leadership of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs with technical and financial support from UNICEF and UNFPA. Both agencies also supported the Ministry to conduct a series of national and subnational consultations/workshops with a range of government, donor, NGO, international NGO and civil society partners. It is important to note that the collaboration of key development partners in this process contributed to stronger ownership of the plan and potential contribution to its implementation.

In **India** at the state level, UNICEF and UNFPA collaborated with the Rajasthan government on the formulation and implementation of a large-scale strategic action plan for addressing child marriage. The action plan strongly communicates the government's commitment to addressing child marriage in the state and has the potential for facilitating convergent action across multiple sectors for ending discrimination and harmful practices against girls. This action plan is supported by a wide-scale joint communication campaign, Sanjha Abhiyan, for intensive advocacy against child marriage. The campaign has been a collective effort involving participation across a range of stakeholders and reflects high levels of political and administrative commitment and partnerships.

Eastern and Southern Africa

In **Mozambique**, high-level advocacy and visits significantly contributed to the intensified commitment of the Government to end child marriage. A High-Level Panel on Adolescents chaired by Graça Machel was organized by the Ministry of Health with UNFPA and UNICEF support and in collaboration with the World Health Organization, to open the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health board meeting in Maputo. Panellists at the event, which was moderated by a Mozambican adolescent girl and attended by about 200 international and national participants, included the First Lady of Mozambique, the Minister of Health, Minister of Education and Human Development, Minister of Youth and Sports, Minister of Gender, Children and Social Welfare, and adolescent girls from youth organizations. Child marriage was reported as a major issue by all panellists and during discussions.

Other major advocacy events and visits including by Mabel van Oranje, Graça Machel, UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador Catarina Furtado, the Office of the First Lady and the

Parliament significantly contributed to the intensified commitment of the Government to end and prevent child marriage. The local civil society platform ROSC, which acts as the secretariat of the National Coalition for the Elimination of Child Marriage with support from UNICEF conducted a series of advocacy activities with the national Parliament aiming at the revision of the current family law in order to harmonize the minimum age at marriage for girls with international norms and raise awareness on the regional legislative initiatives (SADC model law) aimed at curbing child marriage. UNICEF and UNFPA also supported the institutional strengthening and capacity building of the National Coalition for the Elimination of Child Marriage through financial support.

Beyond dedicated child marriage strategies, UNFPA and UNICEF supported sector strategies and the development of action plans in 2016 to enhance the protection of adolescent girls from early marriage and early pregnancy. These include:

1. National Investment Case for Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Child and Adolescent Health from the Ministry of Health;
2. Finalization of the revision and approval of the National Education Gender Strategy;
3. Provincial operational plans for Tete and Zambézia were developed with UNICEF support, along with specialized training on the prevention/reporting of school-based abuse accompanied by the introduction of anonymous 'suggestion boxes' in primary schools in priority districts in the two UNICEF target provinces;
4. Development of a National Strategy for School Health and for Adolescent and Youth (2016–2020/24) by the Ministry of Health with UNFPA support; and
5. A health services package to be offered to adolescents at schools and in adolescent- and youth-friendly services known as SAAJs were defined.

In **Uganda**, the National Strategy to End Child Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy, launched in June 2015, was disseminated to and implemented in all 30 targeted district local governments in 2016. This led to a total of 223 community actions being developed and implemented in these districts to prevent child marriage and teenage pregnancy, and a total of 12,103 (6,799 male, 5,304 female) individuals engaging in community dialogues on ending child marriage. These community dialogues resulted in at least 391 public commitments/announcements by local leaders (24 female, 367 male) to ending child marriage and teenage pregnancy in those districts; 163 leaders/members (31 female, 132 male) signing pledges to prevent child marriage in their communities; and up to 51 Lower Local Governments in those districts that had developed action plans to end child marriage in line with the national strategy allocated funds in their budgets towards activities to end child marriage.

In **Zambia**, the National End Child Marriage Strategy was finalized and launched in April 2016 by the Ministry of Gender. The National Plan of Action on ending Child Marriage was drafted and is being finalized. The strategy and National Action Plan are multi-sectoral and address vulnerabilities of children that can lead to child marriage, as identified by research on child marriage (2015). UNICEF and UNFPA continue to provide support for this project.

In **Ethiopia**, the research output from work conducted by Overseas Development Institute provides an important base for the ongoing drafting and advocacy surrounding its National Action Plan. The initiative could not be completed as planned due to various reasons. First, the approval process for the inception report for the costed road map (including methodology for costing) by management at the lead ministry (Ministry of Women and Children Affairs) took longer than

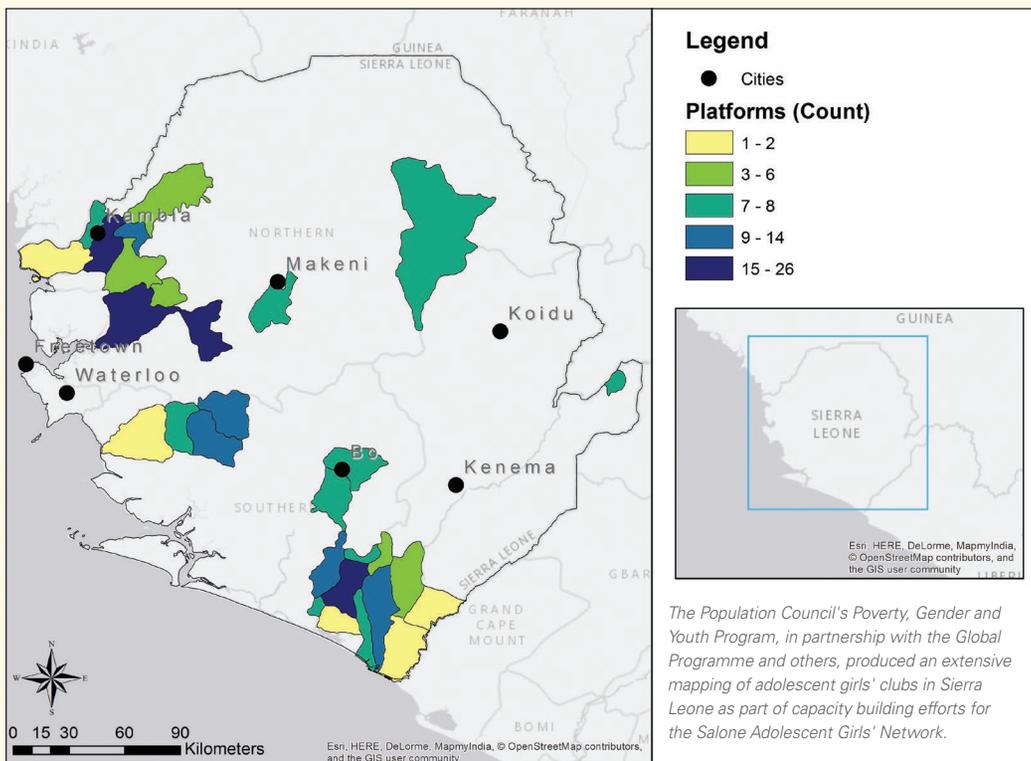
anticipated. Second, change (in November 2016) in the leadership of the Ministry, as well as the recent unrest and declaration of a state of emergency, posed a challenge to start consultations on the road map at the subnational level.

Middle East and North Africa

In **Yemen**, progress on developing a National Action Plan to end child marriage has stalled due to the ongoing emergency.

Salone Adolescent Girls Network: Mapping of girls' clubs

The Population Council has achieved a comprehensive mapping of partner programming. At present, there are no plans to undertake such an intensive activity in other countries.



Outcome 5: Government(s) and partners within and across countries support the generation and use of robust data and evidence to inform policy and programming, track progress and document lessons.

Outcome 5 of the Global Programme, 'Increased generation of and use of robust data and evidence on adolescent girls for advocacy, programming, learning, and tracking progress', seeks to improve the quality and quantity of evidence around ending child marriage and to support governments in continuing to work in the areas of child marriage.

One important aspect of data and evidence on child marriage is to have reliable prevalence estimates. Long gaps between surveys pose a challenge in measuring progress in many domains, including child marriage. In Yemen, for example, the last DHS was completed in 2013, but the previous one dates back to 1993. UNFPA and UNICEF have worked with governments and other United Nations agencies to improve the quality and frequency of administrative data collection around social indicators such as age at first marriage, poverty, and sexual and reproductive health.

UNICEF and UNFPA are also conducting mapping exercises to better understand CSO and partner engagements and the geographic overlap of programming. Specifically, there



have been a mapping of child marriage initiatives in South Asia and in West and Central Africa, a mapping of national policy frameworks and strategies addressing the sexual and reproductive health of married and unmarried young people in all five countries in the region where UNFPA works (Burkina Faso, Ghana, Niger, Nigeria and Sierra Leone). These and broader efforts to support the development of such maps in select countries will help to identify where greater economies of scale can be achieved. However, it

will have to be part of a longer-term process of capacity building and evidence-based programming with partners and governments.

A summary table of geographical convergence between UNFPA and UNICEF Global Programme interventions in 2016 is on page 26 and more detail is available in the annexes. A list of partner organizations is also available in the annexes.

The primary indicator for Outcome 5 is the number of countries using evidence for policymaking and programming around child marriage. Highlighted here are exemplary actions by governments to show that they are dedicated to the generation and use of data and evidence for decision making.

1. Countries are supporting excellent evidence generation work but need for strengthening link with better programming.
2. Few countries have strong M&E systems – there is a need for strengthening regional office and headquarters support.
3. The country and regional offices have been involved in several research and evaluation projects to streamline operations and inform programming:
 - a. Evaluation of the *Illimin* programme in the Niger and impact evaluation of the child protection programme on child marriage in Bangladesh;
 - b. Overseas Development Institute studies on hotspots and good practices in child marriage programming in Ethiopia;
 - c. Formative research on adolescent health risk behaviours on social constructs that drive child marriage in Uganda;
 - d. Operational research study on scaling up strategy and an assessment of financial incentive schemes for girls in India; and
 - e. Regional Office for South Asia workshop on evidences and good practice in child marriage – including mapping studies, operational research, impact evaluation and good practice documentation.
4. Through a collaboration with the Social and Inclusion Policy UNICEF team, the agencies have advocated for investments in child marriage through the ‘meso-methodology’ approach piloted in Bangladesh, a budget tracking tool for reviewing and advocating budget investments in child marriage.

5. Child marriage prevalence projections and trend analysis were undertaken in 12 countries to inform policy and strategy decisions.
 - a. Ghana and Bangladesh offer good examples where governments have been constructively engaged to influence policy and strategy – Ghana’s projections informed the Situation Analysis of the National Strategic Framework on child marriage, while in Bangladesh, the analysis informed discussions on child marriage elimination targets.

West and Central Africa

In West Africa, UNFPA has supported regional research to strengthen evidence-based programming and policy development on child marriage in the region. UNFPA undertook a review of laws and policies impacting adolescents and youth in the five Global Programme countries (Burkina Faso, Ghana, Niger, Nigeria and Sierra Leone). The review covered laws and policies related to child marriage, adolescent pregnancy, adolescent sexual and reproductive health, as well as education and youth employment policies. There is also ongoing research by UNICEF on social norms related to gender norms and child protection with a focus on measuring social norms including child marriage, as well as by UNFPA on promising practices on child marriage and adolescent pregnancy in the region. These publications will be finalized in 2017.

In **the Niger** in 2015/16, UNFPA conducted, along with the Government of the Niger, a quasi-experimental, pre-post impact evaluation of the activities associated with the National Plan of Action to End Child Marriage. The results are being analysed for a peer-reviewed journal and will be used to support further programme evaluation going forward.

In **Burkina Faso**, operational research on social norms programming was conducted in March 2017 with technical assistance from the West and Central Africa Regional Office aiming at allowing the Global Programme to better adapt its community-based strategies to the results and lessons learned from the sociological study on child marriage conducted in the Sahel region in 2016.

In **Ghana**, government use of data is noted as having progressively strengthened over the past year, evidenced by UNICEF's analysis of the 2011 DHS and, with technical and financial input from UNICEF, in 2016 the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection Child Marriage Unit developed and distributed 1,000 of copies of a standard information, education and communication resource package (Resource Guide, Fact Sheets, Q&A) on ending child marriage in Ghana, which were made available to a wide range of partners working on child marriage in the country. UNFPA was also engaged in collaboration with Population Council to produce a Situational Analysis on Adolescent Girls and Young Women in Ghana. Increased visibility and communication on child marriage was planned to end in mid-2017.

In **Sierra Leone**, DHS and Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys are routinely collected and the Government is involved in coordinating and planning intervention mappings and use of data. Planned secondary analysis of census data was not possible due to delayed release of the census until December 2016.

In West and Central Africa, UNFPA and UNICEF are providing direct technical assistance to country offices to strengthen country programming, implementation, evidence generation and reporting. UNICEF and UNFPA regional offices continued to provide substantive regular

support to the country offices engaged in the Global Programme. The two regional offices undertook a joint mission to Ghana in October 2016, where they worked jointly with the two country-office focal points as well as the Government of Ghana and NGO partners. The outcome was a Guidance Note to strengthen elements of the joint work in Ghana in terms of programming, M&E, coordination, partnerships and communication.

South Asia

In **India**, large-scale government programming is in place to address child marriage, and UNFPA continues to support those efforts. UNFPA analysed data from the 2011 census in order to derive estimates on the prevalence and trends in child marriage. These estimates were used for evidence-based advocacy with the state government of Rajasthan in the policy dialogues related to the launch of the state strategic action plan for ending child marriage.

UNFPA conducted a thorough assessment of conditional cash transfers for girls in India. The findings from the research indicated specific areas that can be addressed and used to strengthen the overall positioning, targeting and delivery of financial incentive schemes for the best interests of girls, increasing programme effectiveness, coverage and cost-effectiveness.

Also in India, UNICEF developed and operationalized a large-scale and comprehensive monitoring and learning framework in 16 districts across 8 states (9 districts and 4 states covered under the Global Programme), the findings will be used to advocate for and formulate future projects and programmes.

In **Bangladesh**, UNFPA has, with support from the Global Programme funds, finalized a national study with an exclusive

focus on child marriage. The study, which was conducted in 14 districts, is representative at district level and the findings can also be extrapolated to other districts of Bangladesh. The findings provide a rich source of data and will be used to prepare policy briefs and fact sheets for policy advocacy and programming efforts. In addition, this result contributes to Outcome 5 of the Global Programme whereby the Government of Bangladesh will support the generation of robust data and use these data to inform policy development.

In **Nepal**, UNFPA and UNICEF are involved in several completed and ongoing research projects to increase the availability of data on child marriage in particular and the situation of adolescent girls in general, including a baseline study to identify patterns and prevalence in child marriage by geography, a review of legal policies (Policy Brief on 'Ending Impunity for Child Marriage in Nepal: A review of normative and implementation gaps'), a working paper on the effects of child marriage on school dropout, development of a web-based monitoring tool, Rupantaran, and introduction of U-Report/Rapid Pro, and an assessment of resource allocation and expenditure of local bodies (village development committees/municipalities) on issues/activities related to ending child marriage. Efforts to engage the Government of Nepal have been met with some resistance for political reasons and are ongoing.

Eastern and Southern Africa

In **Zambia**, UNICEF continues to build on the strong links with the relevant directorates of the Ministry of General Education and has also strengthened the linkages between civil society partners and the Ministry to ensure a more harmonized and cohesive approach to the issues of child marriage. UNICEF has supported the Ministry of General Education and the Ministry of Higher Education in the development of an education sector

plan and an implementation plan for each ministry. To inform the education sector plan, data analysis specifically focusing on girls and including the issue of child marriage is being carried out in 2016 and the early part of 2017. The analysis will consider how and to what extent child marriage, among other issues, acts as a barrier to schooling and as an impediment to girls' secondary school completion. The use of safe spaces and the sustained participation of boys and girls in the safe spaces will subsequently improve their ability to build their individual social, economic and health assets.

To support Zambia's National Plan of Action (Outcome 4), consultants were engaged to assist in a pilot project in six districts to identify vulnerabilities that can lead to child marriage. They developed a draft theory of change and a visual of the drivers of child marriage. In discussions with the lead ministry, the Ministry of Gender, it helped to progress the different narrative around child marriage as a result of socio-economic disparities.

In **Ethiopia**, the Government is working towards universal registration of births. While it will take time to bring about universal birth registration in Ethiopia, a national programme for free and universal civil registration, including births, was launched in August 2016. The programme has the potential to contribute to efforts to end child marriage over the medium and long term. Registration of births and marriages helps to identify marriages that include children and, where laws are in place prohibiting child marriage, full information about the ages of a person entering a marriage can be used by authorities to prevent or annul child marriages.

In **Uganda**, the National Gender-Based Violence database, initially developed with support from UNFPA outside of the Global Programme, and the national incident reporting tool were revised to include child marriage and were rolled out to 24 out

of 30 targeted districts by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development with UNICEF support. It is hoped that this will be instrumental in enhancing the Government's ability to track incidences of child marriage and teenage pregnancies. Tracking these harmful practices enables the Government to assess its progress in dealing with the issues. To further deepen understanding of child marriage in Uganda, the Global Programme co-financed a collaborative study, 'Adolescent Health Risk Behaviours' Study'. The study is spearheaded by United Nations agencies, including UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and the World Health Organization in partnership with Makerere University School of Public Health. The findings will provide more information on the key factors associated with child marriage in Uganda, which will guide future programming for child marriage.

The formative research on child marriage was approved by senior management from the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development. Findings of the study provided the Global Programme an opportunity to better address social norms perpetuating child marriage in Uganda. For instance, that 'the transition from childhood to adulthood are defined and constructed around marriage and reproduction' and that 'in spite of the awareness of the legal definition of a child, girls' sexual maturation, body changes and physical stature are used to define the onset of adulthood (womanhood) – which is linked to marriage and childbirth'. Messages to end child marriage were tied to such constructs. Through the Global Programme, UNFPA and UNICEF have supported the adolescent health risk behaviours study, which, among other things, is trying to establish prevalence of adolescent marriage, facilitating factors and further identifying research areas under child marriage. This will further strengthen evidence and triangulate findings of the formative research mentioned above. The DHS is ongoing and child marriage and teenage pregnancy are part of the indicators under survey.

Regional research and evidence

UNICEF and UNFPA supported a number of research studies and evaluations to strengthen the effectiveness and evidence base of the Global Programme. UNICEF and UNFPA worked together on a mapping of child marriage initiatives in two regions, South Asia⁷ and West and Central Africa. In West and Central Africa, the mapping included a review of national policy frameworks and strategies addressing the sexual and reproductive health of married and unmarried young people in all five countries in the region where UNFPA works (Burkina Faso, Ghana, Niger, Nigeria and Sierra Leone).

In 2016, the UNICEF Middle East and Northern Africa Regional Office partnered with the International Center for Research on Women to undertake a Regional Study on Child Marriage. The study, now in its final stages, has documented and taken stock on the legal, policy, social and behavioural (social norms) aspects within which the practice continues to persist in the region, and to identify promising practices for the prevention of child marriage. The focus of the review is six countries in the region: Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Sudan and Yemen. The objective of this project is to support the regional office's efforts to promote greater understanding of child marriage prevalence and practice across the region and to use the results of the study to develop the region's first child marriage study in 2017, which will seek to strengthen, guide and acceleration programming, advocacy and results for girls and women in this area. The project was planned for August 2016 to March 2017.

⁷ <http://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/publications/mapping-child-marriage-initiatives-south-asia>.

The story of Christiana*

My name is Beyuo Christiana. I am a sixteen-year-old girl, the second of five children. My family hails from a small farming community in the Upper West Region of Ghana. Life in my village is difficult; we have always had to struggle to get enough to eat and clothes to wear.

Despite these hardships, my dad made sure all of us children were enrolled in school. He was determined to give us a chance at an education. He would often urge us to study hard to break the cycle of poverty our family was trapped in. I assured him over and over that I would make him proud and become a doctor who could take good care of him in his old age. My dream of becoming a doctor made me a very serious student – in fact, for years I was first in my class. Then, things began to change.

My dad passed away suddenly when I was only 13. Life became unbearable for us. My mum alone could not provide for us, and we often went hungry.

One day, I returned from school very hungry. There was no food to eat so I started walking towards a friend's house. On the way I met a man from a neighboring village. He asked me my name and about my family. I told him. He said he wanted to be my friend. I didn't answer. He gave me five cedis to buy food and he promised to visit me another time.

This was the beginning of my real problems. The man kept visiting me and occasionally brought food to my mum. One day he asked me to visit him in

his village. My mum encouraged me to go. He had sex with me a couple of times. I was only 15-years-old. When I got home, I felt sick and thought I had malaria. My mum took me to the clinic, and the nurse told me I was pregnant.

My uncles talked to the man who made me pregnant. Next thing I knew my mum was telling me someone was coming to perform marriage rites. That is how I got married. I immediately stopped my education, and my dream of becoming a doctor began to fade away.

Then one afternoon, when I was 16-years-old and had just given birth, I came into contact with the Community Development Alliance in Ghana (CDA-Ghana) during a community meeting about child marriage. CDA-Ghana educated community leaders about the effects of child marriage and why they should take steps to abandon the practice. They also told parents not to force their girls to marry just because they are pregnant. They encouraged parents to give their daughters who got pregnant a chance to finish their education after childbirth. I was so happy because education will help prevent so many girls just like me from being married off against their wishes.

After several other meetings with community leaders, the chief and elders passed a bylaw banning child marriage. I told my mum that I would like to go back to school. She said, "What about your husband?" I told her that all I cared about was finishing my education and that I needed her



Christiana and her mother.

©CDA/UNICEF GHANA

support. She promised to support me, but insisted I tell my husband my plans, so I did. He told me that if I went back to school, our marriage would be over.

I kept quiet, and one day I met a CDA-Ghana staff member in our community and told him my story. To my surprise, CDA-Ghana provided me with a school uniform, bag, mathematical set, exercise books and pens. I was so happy and grateful! They assured me of further assistance if I showed seriousness and hard work. I am now in form 2, preparing to go to Junior High School 3. I am happy that at least I have a chance to reorganize my life. My early marriage to a man who was 15 years older than me is now dissolved. I am free from the bondage of child marriage. Many children in my community may have gone this way, but thanks to CDA-Ghana, so many parents have been enlightened and child marriage is now becoming a thing of the past.

Community Development Alliance (CDA) is one of the NGOs supported by UNICEF Ghana to address child marriage and teenage pregnancy in communities of the Upper West Region of Ghana, one of the regions with the highest prevalence of child marriage in the country.

* The real name of the victim has been changed to protect her identity.



Visibility and communications

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Enhancing the visibility of child marriage around the globe is essential to ending it, and so UNFPA and UNICEF have jointly undertaken a communications and visibility strategy to better disseminate results, evidence and awareness. This process aims to make UNFPA and UNICEF's efforts visible at every level, from local communities to governments, to help sustainably support norms

change and to encourage conscientiousness around the issue of child marriage. This section highlights specific communications initiatives undertaken by various country offices. UNICEF and UNFPA are also committed to ensuring the visibility of donor logos or acknowledgement on communications products. A full list of media coverage of Global Programme activities is provided in Annex 5.

Prince Harry opened the Nepal Girl Summit in March 2016, an event to promote gender equality and an end to child marriage in Nepal.



Events and launches

UNICEF and UNFPA officially launched the Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage in New York on 15 March 2016. The launch event included ministerial-level participation from Canada, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom, as well as senior representation from the European Union and the Government of Italy.

David Nabarro, Special Adviser to the Secretary General on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, gave the keynote speech, following opening remarks from the Executive Director of UNFPA and the Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF. The event featured a powerful and innovative question-and-answer session where members of the panel responded to questions from girls from around the world. Other notable participants at the event included Nyaradzai Gumbonzvanda, Goodwill Ambassador for Ending Child Marriage, African Union, and Heather Hamilton, Interim Executive Director, Girls Not Brides.

Sierra Leone's launch of the African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage, supported by UNFPA and UNICEF, provided a forum for government partners, community stakeholders and policymakers to make commitments to end child marriage. Sierra Leone was the 16th African country to launch the campaign. More than 3,000 adolescent girls participated in a series of activities, which culminated in the launch.

The multilateral Nepal Girl Summit brought together partners from around Nepal with the slogan 'Girls are the future of Nepal', and was organized by the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare in March 2016. Supported by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development and UNICEF in collaboration with partners, the summit promoted the Government of Nepal's commitment to end child marriage in Nepal by 2030. The summit was inaugurated by President Bidya Devi Bhandari of Nepal and Prince Henry of Wales. More than 2,266 adolescent girls and boys participated in various consultations at district and national level. As a result of the event, the President has allocated US\$500,000 to the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare from the President's Fund to implement interventions on ending child marriage and adolescent girls' empowerment in line with the national strategy.

In South Asia, UNFPA and UNICEF jointly organized a three-day expert meeting in Bangkok in September 2016 attended by UNFPA and UNICEF staff, government partners, regional governance representatives, academics and other implementers. The exchange of information and ideas culminated in a meeting report, available on the UNFPA website.⁸

In India, UNFPA and UNICEF jointly organized a two-day conference to amplify advocacy against child marriage and adolescent pregnancy. The national conference included participants from the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Human Resource Development and Ministry of Skills Development and Entrepreneurship, as well as several CSOs, including NGOs, international NGOs and community groups for adolescent girls and boys. The conference laid the groundwork for the commitment for the projects and programmes designed to increase the advocacy for empowering adolescent girls with

⁸ Report available at <http://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/publications/expert-group-meeting-evidence-base-accelerated-action-end-child-marriage-south-asia>

various state governments, CSO partners and other relevant stakeholders across the different states. Further coordination between programmes focused on adolescent pregnancy and child marriage could lead to better implementation and more efficient use of funds, as many drivers and themes are cross-cutting.

Communication for development and social media

In order to support the above-mentioned Global Programme meeting in Bangkok, UNFPA and UNICEF undertook a joint mapping of child marriage initiatives in South Asia, support to SAEIVAC and SACG regional mechanisms for ending violence against children, and the development of joint communications products for Nepal, Bangladesh, India and Nepal offices highlighting programme interventions and impact. In addition, South Asian offices established joint webinars and created a joint mailing list for country and regional offices.

In Bangladesh, under the overall leadership of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, in collaboration with other NGO partners and donors, a national Mass Media Strategy on Ending Child Marriage was finalized. One aspect of the strategy involved the development of a series of campaign materials such as television and radio PSAs, as well as print materials, all of which will be produced and disseminated in 2017. Through the partnership with Ministry of Women and Children Affairs and Ministry of Information, community engagement initiatives (such as interpersonal communication, community dialogues and multimedia) focusing on gender norms and key household practices reached 259,276 adolescent girls in the Global Programme districts.

In Eastern and Southern Africa, the UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office Communications section produced PSAs on child marriage. These PSAs have been

utilized by UNICEF offices in Africa on social media platforms. The PSAs were viewed by almost 280,000 people, at least 10 times more viewers than average for UNICEF PSAs.

In 2014–2016, UNFPA commissioned a detailed review of laws and policies in 23 Eastern and Southern Africa countries under the auspices of the Safeguard Young People Programme at the University of Pretoria in collaboration with East African Community, SADC, Intergovernmental Authority on Development and other United Nations partners. This was done to determine how legislative and policy provisions directly or indirectly affect adolescents' and young people's sexual and reproductive health rights in the different countries. The findings of the law and policy review were disseminated at seven events around the world, including the International AIDS Conference and the Africa Conference on Sexual Health and Reproductive Health and Rights.





Value for money

The United Nations is committed to the best use of resources to attain desired results for children. Value for money is embedded in all key processes and key decisions consciously take value for money into account. The United Nations' Value for Money proposition has four pillars – economy, effectiveness, programme and budget development, and equity – which have been consciously and carefully integrated into child marriage activities and supported programmes covered under all funds directed through the Global Programme in programme countries.

Economy – The United Nations takes all necessary steps to ensure that inputs procured are of a high quality at the best cost over a longer term (five+ years) by requiring at least three quotes with defined quality standards and employing specialized supply professionals in the country office. Within both agencies, a Copenhagen supply division works to obtain high-quality supplies sourced overseas.

Additionally, both agencies have deliberately built the capacity of national staff to increasingly take on more senior responsibilities, thus gradually taking up positions that were previously held by international professionals.

Effectiveness – The United Nations focuses on changing the situation of the most vulnerable children by demonstrating results that are attributable to its interventions. For example, UNICEF has rolled out a Results-Based Management Training to its staff to further enhance results-based programming and ensuring that its outputs are linked to its intended outcomes.

UNICEF endeavours to engage partners with a successful track record in delivering results and effectively managing its resources. UNICEF ensures this by undertaking a pre-assessment (micro-assessment for those it intend to contract above US\$100,000 and simplified financial assessments for those below this amount) before engagement, and carries out other assurance activities, including joint programme monitoring and financial reviews in the course of implementation. Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer procedures are fully complied with to engage and manage UNICEF and UNFPA partners.

Programme budget development and value-for-money ratios – UNICEF and UNFPA jointly develops projects and their corresponding budgets with partners to ensure full ownership and facilitating joint monitoring.

UNFPA and UNICEF have implemented a set of standards at an institutional level to set standard costs for key inputs that guide country offices and headquarters offices in reviewing and approving budgets for their partners when developing partner Programme Cooperation Agreements, enabling each country office to ensure that budgeted costs are reasonable. They have developed value-for-money ratios that enable them to assess three key parameters for Programme Cooperation Agreement budgets:

1. Partner contribution to direct programme costs – for a meaningful partnership, they require partners to

make a minimum of 15 per cent contribution to direct programme costs;

2. UNICEF contribution to support costs – a maximum of 25 per cent has been set;
3. Proportion of support costs to direct programme costs – a maximum of 25 per cent has been set.

Equity – The United Nations ensures that its programmes are targeted to reach the most marginalized children and women; an equity analysis is undertaken at the beginning of the country programme through the Situation Analysis, the results of which inform the Organization of the most marginalized areas.

Through its focus on value for money, UNICEF and UNFPA are committed to evidence-based programming and engaging in activities that use donor funds effectively for change. UNICEF and UNFPA are uniquely situated in programme countries for this role. In designing and implementing joint programmes utilizing the skills, knowledge and evidence amassed by the Global Programme and organizational cooperation, UNICEF and UNFPA aim to work with existing infrastructure and to encourage governments to take on pieces of, or entire, programmes in order to ensure that funds are used where the agencies have a comparative advantage, such as in advocacy and partnership building and direct-to-girl programming.

Results from the past year of programming show that value for money is evident. For instance, UNICEF has made progress towards working at scale in Bangladesh, Ethiopia and India, where programming reached more than 150,000 girls and community members in each country. Working with on-the-ground partners – both governments and NGOs – ensures that existing support structures are reinforced and local knowledge incorporated into programming to maximize results.



Challenges in implementation

Theoretical framework and methodology

Despite many gains, UNFPA and UNICEF faced challenges in implementation and methodology over the past year. Implementation, governance and best practices for the Global Programme are still being refined and improved, so adjustments will need to be made to ensure that M&E methods sufficiently and holistically track progress. The new risk matrix will help to alleviate some of these challenges and allow for greater mitigation.

Funding and disbursement

Beginning in January 2014, the two agencies initiated an inception phase to develop a Global Programme. The allocation of funds from UNFPA and UNICEF's core resources and generous support from the Governments of Canada,⁹ the Netherlands and Italy set in motion initial activities at

⁹ Canada has funded two complementary projects with UNICEF and UNFPA to address the issue of child, early forced marriage. These projects predate the Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage.

country, regional and global levels. Throughout the inception phase, UNFPA and UNICEF have agreed on the value of a harmonized global vision captured in a programmatic framework that allows for diversity and country-level adaptation. It was concretized in March 2016 with the launch of the Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage with the additional contributions – through a pass-through mechanism – of the Government of the United Kingdom and the European Union. Table 1 goes into more detail on these sources.

Emergency

The work on child marriage in Yemen is a good example of how programming has been adapted to the conflict situation. In the case of Yemen, the legislative endorsement process has been suspended due to current conflict, but the country office has developed and is working with three local NGOs and piloting a package of multi-sectorial interventions addressing child marriage that includes interventions to promote gender equality, girls' education, enhancing livelihood/employment opportunities for girls, improving reproductive maternal and child health, and community outreach activities, etc. At the same time, the regional office documented some existing programme practices on addressing child marriage in other country office/countries in the region.

Political stability and buy-in

In West Bengal, India state elections delayed the programme's implementation. In 2016, the government of Telangana's decision to reorganize the existing 10 districts into 31 districts and the consequent issues impacted the implementation of the programme at the district level. In Nigeria, an ongoing food crisis and military engagement with Boko Haram makes accessing certain populations difficult.

In Uganda, programme design is in line with national strategies and National Action Plans, though challenges remain where key national-level strategies (such as the National Action Plan Child Policy and Violence against Children response plan) remain in draft. Limited human resources and limited financial commitments from the Government of Uganda to the lead ministry to oversee the implementation of the National Strategy to End Child Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy has weakened the ability to build upon and strengthen the national movement to end child marriage, especially after the African Union Girls' Summit. This is partially due to the election time, and therefore some of these issues should lessen in 2017.

In Ethiopia, programme implementation was affected by the recent unrest and the state of emergency declared in October 2016. In particular, the delayed term start in schools nationwide in the 2009 Ethiopian calendar year (2016) had a negative impact on implementation of school-based interventions. This was particularly the case in Amhara and Oromia regions.



Next steps and challenges ahead

As the Global Programme continues into 2017, UNFPA and UNICEF have identified a number of strategic goals and plans to expand and improve the programme to reach more girls, better monitor and evaluate progress, and to work more effectively with partners. In the coming year, the Global Programme will strengthen operational systems and programme coherence for improved effectiveness and efficiency. The Global Programme is rolling out the Programme Guidance and the Indicator Index to meet a number of goals including informing programme design, tracking and reporting. Missions and support are being undertaken jointly with the regional offices that are the first point of call for countries. Programme measurement undertakings such as the evaluability assessment will be used to inform programming directions and scalable programme models are being explored.

Scale and funding

Continuing to reach girls at scale is a challenge. The Global Programme's objective is to reach 2.5 million girls by 2019, yet funding available so far is not sufficient to take successful approaches to scale. The inception phase report of the Global Programme was much more ambitious, with goals to reach more than 6 million direct beneficiaries and another 12 million indirectly through mass media programmes and more. More support is needed to exceed the current Global Programme target and meet the inception phase report's ambitions. Furthermore, the four-year time frame of the Global Programme also makes it difficult to reach this goal in countries and regions where an in-depth process engaging communities in a face-to-face dialogue is needed to have an impact. Social change is a long-term process, as evidenced in the theory of

change for child marriage, and so coordinated and increased commitments will be necessary to achieve impact.

Diverse contexts are important factors in the design and review of scalable models. Notably, in Ethiopia, there is more experience with designing programmes for particular geographical areas (notably the highlands), but significantly less experience with programmes targeting lowlanders, despite significant differences between these two groups. Programmes geared towards the socio-cultural and religious context of highlanders applied to lowland communities may not yield the desired results and so bringing programmes to scale in Ethiopia will be complicated by this challenge. This challenge is not limited to Ethiopia, and so UNICEF and UNFPA have commissioned a temporary appointment position to develop minimum effective, efficient and scalable packages for life skills for Ethiopia that will ideally serve as a model for other countries as well.

Data and monitoring and evaluation

Despite significant monitoring efforts by UNICEF and UNFPA through the Global Programme, M&E data are relatively scarce and practices need additional support. Overall, lack of reliable data and indicators on child marriage and violence against children remains a major challenge for programming. Despite these issues, UNICEF and UNFPA continue to learn from challenges in the field and strive to define and improve best practices around M&E in order to better measure outcomes associated with Global Programme funding and programmes. In particular, UNICEF and UNFPA are working with dedicated staff to clean existing data and to clarify the indicators both with the country offices and within the Global Programme Support Unit.

For all outcomes, post-reporting work has been done to ensure that results listed are consistent across countries and match

indicators in the reporting indicator index. In coordination with the Global Programme Support Unit M&E Specialist, country programmes are aligning their indicators with the recommended Global Programme indicators, in addition to ensuring that the Global Programme indicators themselves are included in their respective monitoring systems at the agencies' level.

For Outcome 2 specifically, measurement and tracking of social norm change could be improved. The Niger is undertaking a Knowledge, Attitudes and Practice study, while India has a robust M&E system that will capture Outcome 2 data – but more work is needed in this area to refine indicators and strengthen monitoring efforts. The Global Programme will further the framework being developed by FGM/C. Programmes have specifically requested ongoing technical support and financial assistance to strengthen data collection.

For UNICEF, the Global Programme applies a Monitoring Results for Equity System approach, which is an evidence-based planning, programming and monitoring tool to enable the programme to reach most marginalized children, hold service providers to account and improve access for the most disadvantaged communities, including girls at risk of and affected by child marriage. As the programme develops, both UNFPA and UNICEF will continue to improve data collection strategies to better reflect the demands of gender equality by disaggregating data to better understand how programme benefits are distributed by sex, age, geography and disability. Overall, the strengthening of programme coherence will come through the Programme Guidance and Indicator Index; strengthening M&E systems is a significant priority for headquarters and the regional offices.

For both agencies in the South Asia region, continued active engagement with SAEIVAC is an important goal moving forward and is heavily focused on M&E. However, significant

resources are required to support SAIEVAC and its monitoring of the regional action plan. Resources will also be required to establish a useful knowledge management platform for the region and corresponding monitoring missions.

Tracking and monitoring girls enrolled in Nepal's programme has been a challenge, as most of them are semi-literate with limited capacity to fill the profile form accurately. This has demanded more attention and time from the facilitators, making recording and reporting time- and resource-heavy. Another issue affecting the programme is internal migration in the communities causing girls to drop out in the middle of sessions and affecting tracking. A web-based monitoring system is being developed which will be used by both organizations to address these issues.

The UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office has invested significantly in technical assistance to country offices on their M&E frameworks and capacity to monitor the programme. UNICEF and UNFPA have recognized that there is a need for longer-term investment in this area and, as such, UNICEF plans to recruit a temporary appointment position in 2017 to assist both organizations to strengthen their capacity at country-office level, including to follow up on the outcomes of the evaluability assessment.

Engaging men and boys

Engaging men and boys is a key entry point into addressing the structural and normative challenges faced by girls in exercising their rights. Evidence-based programming to engage with men and boys and challenge gender norms is an area of interest for many programme countries in the quest for sustainable change. Currently, countries are working to embed engagement of boys and men more concretely into the community-level interventions (under Outcome 2),

while capacities are being strengthened at systems and policy level to integrate a gender-equity approach. This work continues to contribute to growing the evidence base on how best to engage with men and boys to see effects on girls' empowerment and agency as well as community attitudes.

Legal reform

Sustainable change at the country and regional level as well as the local level requires both social norms change and legal reform. Government and local leader support for such reform is paramount, but legal reform happens slowly and must be addressed with care and respect for the local social, religious, normative and governing environment. Legal reform involves a great number of steps and significant advocacy from civil society as well as United Nations organizations.

Ongoing policy review and advocacy shows there is much work to be done here, work that will likely not come to fruition in the short time frame of the existing grant, but will lay the groundwork for sustainable change. Continued focus on developing and costing National Action Plans is key to promoting legal reform. For instance, a UNFPA review of laws and policies on adolescent sexual and reproductive health in 23 countries in Eastern and Southern Africa indicated a disconnect between the relevant policies and laws in the majority of countries in the region. In Nepal, UNFPA seeks to implement recommendations from a policy review that identified key legal gaps and inconsistencies undermining efforts to address child marriage.

Working across the theory of change

A large proportion of funding and energies in the past year of the Global Programme have gone to direct-to-girl programming, focusing on Outcomes 1 and 2. While both UNICEF and

UNFPA have excelled at supporting and implementing programmes that make girls the direct beneficiaries, as evidenced by this report, progress must be seen across the theory of change to ensure long-lasting and sustainable change. In particular, it may be prudent to conduct a review of inputs and indicators in order to increase the ability to support sectoral systems (Outcome 3) and to continue to support evidence generation and use of existing data. These efforts are made with an eye towards keeping girls at the centre of the mission, but also recognizing the norms and systemic barriers they face in promoting and executing their own agency and choice to live free from child marriage.

Using data and evidence

As UNICEF and UNFPA continue to work with countries on using available data and evidence in their National Action Plans and associated policy, and associated policy, we will continue to engage with evidence that emerges from monitoring, research and evaluation projects that fall under the scope of the Global Programme as well as outside sources. For example, one key area of inquiry is the results from a qualitative study covering six districts in Zambia. Further work is needed to understand and determine how to take into account boys as victims of child marriage, including with older women, and how marriage as a marker of adulthood interacts with child marriage.

Donor contributions

UNICEF and UNFPA gratefully acknowledge the funding commitments of donor governments – Canada, the European Union, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom – to the Global Programme. The funding for the Global Programme has led to important changes at national, regional and local levels, including supporting girls with

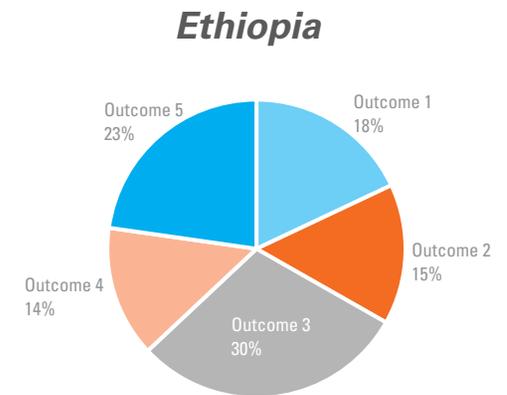
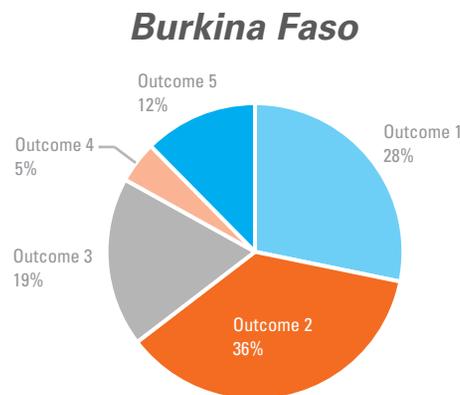
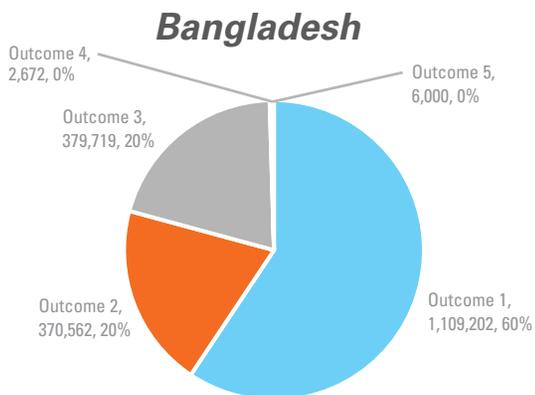
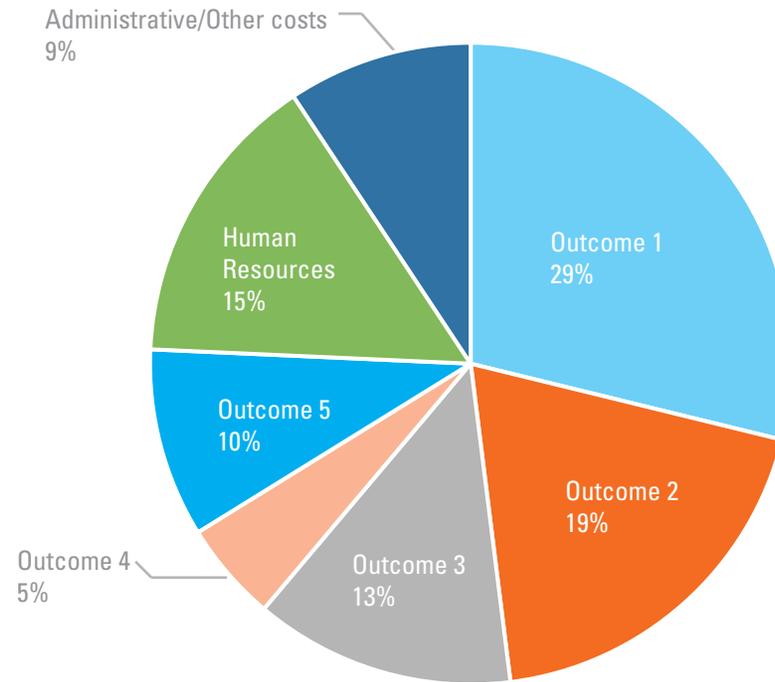
life skills programming and vocational training, sensitizing religious leaders and community members to the dangers of child marriage, engaging with governments on passing better laws and devoting resources to generating better evidence and strengthening sectoral systems to support girls. Ongoing support from donors is key to reach more girls and community members for normative change, to support the commissioning of data and evidence to better understand drivers and effects of child marriage, and to support governments to better use existing data to push for action. Donor contributions have also eased the way for better engagement with partners at the local, national and regional levels, resulting in legal reform and strengthening to better support girls – including spill-overs to non-Global Programme countries that are involved in regional planning activities – and more contextualized solutions and programming.

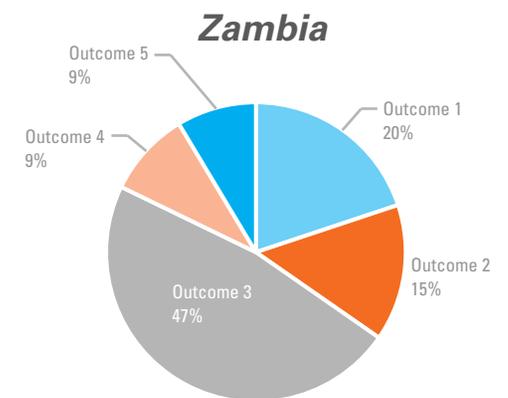
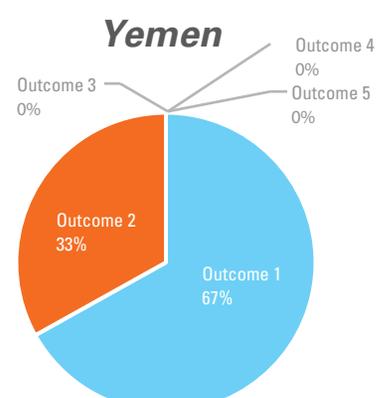
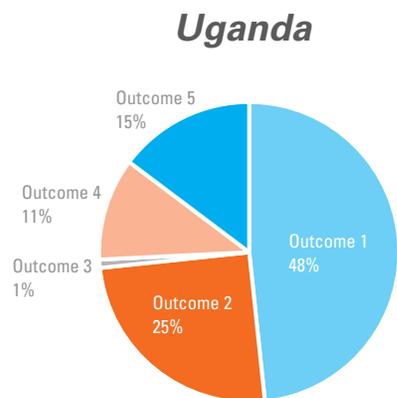
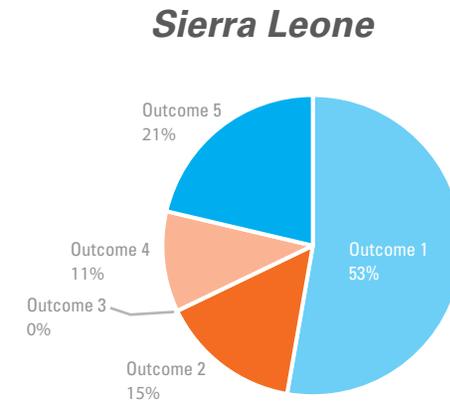
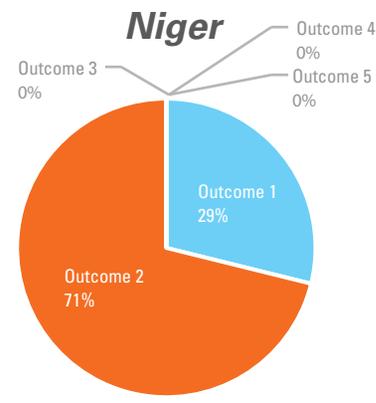
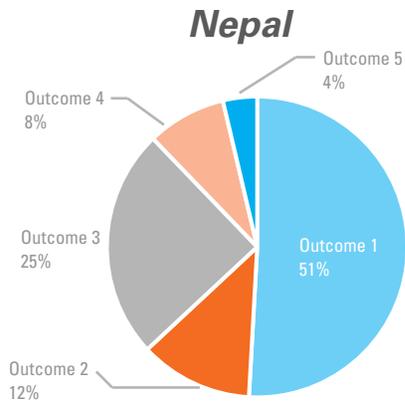
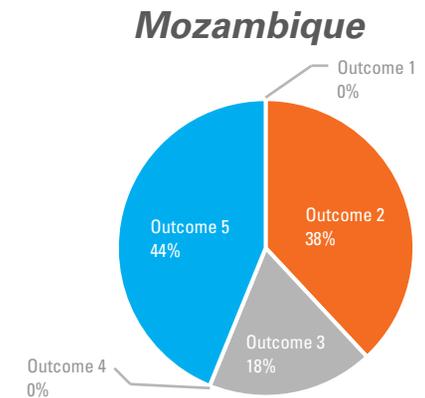
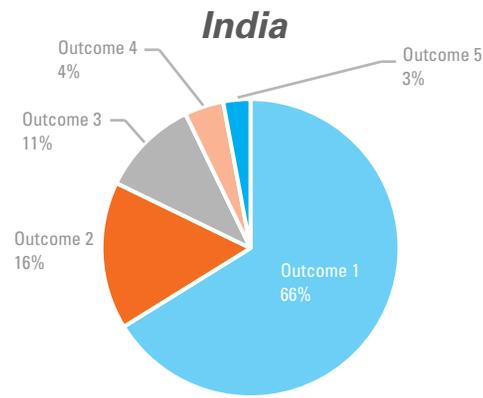
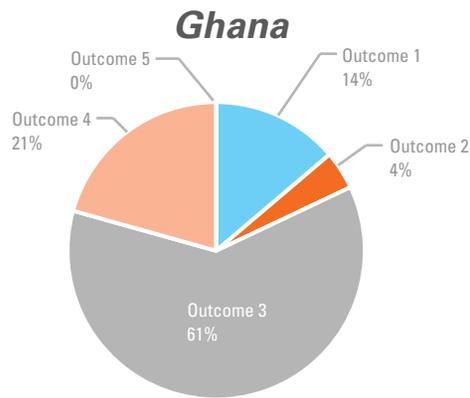


Annex 1: UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage

Annual Progress Report 2016, estimated
expenditures per Outcome 2016 – Pies

Estimated distribution of expenditures per outcome across agencies – GP resources, 2016





Annex 2: Risk Matrix for the Global Programme on Accelerating the End of Child Marriage – updated May 2016

Risk	Probability	Impact	Mitigation	May 2016 Updated
A. Country risks (political and security)				
<p>1. Political will of Member States, including commitment to legal and legislative change and financial investments, is lacking, thereby hampering positive changes.</p>	Low	Medium	<p>The Global Programme has strategically selected countries where some amount of momentum exists against the issue of child marriage. Strong working relationships with the authorities and national ministries will be maintained to build a sense of common purpose and enhance national ownership of the process. The programme will also amplify civil society voices, including alliances and external funds, which tend to enhance government accountability.</p>	<p>Risk Rating: Low</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Joint UNICEF/UNFPA advocacy country strategies for launch, implementation and budgeting of National Plans of Action for Child Marriage 2. Lessons learned from countries that have launched and budgeted plans (Burkina Faso, Mozambique and Uganda) shared with countries in the programme and beyond 3. Continued engagement with regional economic communities such as the African Union, SADC and ECOWAS through mechanisms such as the African Union Campaign on Child Marriage for enhanced 'influence' at country level 4. Joint advocacy through CSO networks such as Girls Not Brides (activated at global level and implemented at country level) to hold governments accountable
<p>2. Changes in the political context in countries, such as changes in leadership, and shifts in national priorities (away from child marriage) affect the continuation and sustainability of ongoing positive change processes.</p>	Low/ Medium	Medium	<p>Country programmes are designed to implement strategic plans, in consultation with national governments and in alignment with national priorities. Both UNFPA and UNICEF have long-standing relationships with the legislative and executive arms of Member States, which permits a high degree of continuity in work, with slight changes in direction as needed to align with any new priorities. The multi-sectoral nature of the Global Programme will permit continuity and sustainability of action through the most promising lead ministries in any given context. Country commitments enshrined in international declarations and conventions will also be utilized as the basis for sustaining action.</p>	<p>Risk Rating: Low</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continued engagement with regional economic communities such as the African Union, SADC and ECOWAS through mechanisms such as the African Union Campaign on Child Marriage for enhanced 'influence' at country level 2. Evidence informed advocacy with targeted sectors in six countries in the Global Programme
<p>3. Humanitarian crises (e.g., Ebola Virus Disease in Sierra Leone, earthquake in Nepal) hamper or completely restrict implementation.</p>	Medium	High	<p>Country offices of both agencies prioritize disaster preparedness, and temporarily shift to emergency response in affected regions – which tends to usually include children and adolescents at risk of or affected by child marriage. As above, in consultation with the Steering Committee, to the extent possible, programme activities in unaffected regions will continue, and child marriage programme activities will be reactivated in affected regions as early as possible, including during the reconstruction phase.</p>	<p>Risk Rating: Low</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Programme Support Unit continuously monitoring emergency situation in programme countries 2. Programme Support Unit and Middle East and Northern Africa Regional Office consistently monitoring emergency situation in Yemen through situation reports

Risk	Probability	Impact	Mitigation	May 2016 Updated
4. The Global Programme does not reach the most-at-risk/vulnerable girls.	Low/ Medium	Low	In designing the Global Programme, UNICEF applied a MoRES approach (Monitoring Results for Equity System), which is an approach to equity-focused planning, programming and monitoring. This tool supports monitoring programmes and policies to ensure that an equity approach of reaching the most marginalized children is evidence-based and in support of expected impact. UNFPA uses population data to conduct age, gender and geographically disaggregated analysis to estimate prevalence and burden. At the core of both of these approaches are: the identification and targeting of the most vulnerable, holding service providers accountable and creating better access for the most disadvantaged communities, including girls at risk of and affected by child marriage. Furthermore, child marriage being a common phenomenon precludes certain problems seen with targeting for rarer negative outcomes.	Risk Rating: Low 1. Strategic focus on the programme continues to aim to reach for the most vulnerable girls through MoRES and population data analysis
5. Inadequate coordination between development partners working on child marriage results in duplication of efforts.	Low/ Medium	Low	The option of working jointly with multiple donors (Canada, European Commission, Italy, Netherlands, and United Kingdom) through the Global Programme is already going a long way to mitigate this risk. In addition, the planned inception phase will ensure that programmatic resources are complementary and reach areas of greatest need. At the country level, UNICEF and UNFPA are coordinating with governments to ensure that their child marriage strategy is aligned with national priorities, and supporting a unification of civil society efforts, in order to avoid duplication.	Risk Rating: Low 1. Governance structure of the Programme (such as Steering Committee and Partner Advisory Group) provides a forum for coordination between development partners, CSO and governments
6. Inadequate coordination between UNFPA and UNICEF	Low	Medium	The UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme will work within a formalized programme structure that both facilitates and mandates various coordination systems including through the AA/CA function and the Steering Committee.	Risk Rating: Medium 1. Enhanced coordination between UNFPA and UNICEF through one Programme Coordinator, joint communication and joint projects in similar geographic areas
B. Development/delivery risks				
1. Inadequate capacity of government partners, civil society or UNFPA/UNICEF staff lowers effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, etc.	Medium	Medium	The Global Programme is developing a strong monitoring and evaluation framework, as well as independent evaluation in close cooperation with the independent Offices of Evaluation of both agencies. Programme baselines and regular monitoring will be established to track progress. An evaluability assessment, a management-led mid-term review, and a final evaluation will be carried out. In addition, the programme's Outcome Area 5 will generate data and evidence that will stand-alone, but also critically inform the final evaluation of the Global Programme. Put together, these elements will be able to track the programme's effectiveness at the Outcome and Output level which will provide useful benchmarks for assessing progress.	Risk Rating: Medium 1. Agencies undertake continuous programmatic assessments to ascertain suitability of implementing partners to ensure they are working with the best partners who are suitably positioned to achieve results and have the mandate and competitive advantage on the ground

Risk	Probability	Impact	Mitigation	May 2016 Updated
C. Partner risks				
1. Inadequate capacity of government partners, civil society or UNFPA/UNICEF staff lowers effectiveness, efficiency, relevance etc.	Low / Medium	Low/ Medium	One of the key assumptions underlying the Global Programme is the existence of the need for capacity building at country level of a variety of stakeholders. Capacity tends to vary across countries and financial support dedicated to boosting capacity will be adjusted accordingly. Technical support across the programme (from HQ, from ROs, between countries, from external technical partners) will also be allocated as per capacity and needs. Where needed, external consultants and partners will be brought on board to bridge the capacity gaps.	Risk Rating: Medium 1. Programme Support Unit and regional offices focused on provision of technical support to enhance country capacity through sharing information in emails, country visits, annual consultations and engagement of consultants
D. Financial risks				
1. The Global Programme does not attract sufficient funding to deliver results at scale due to changes in partner priorities or other reasons.	Medium	Medium/ High	The option of working jointly with other donors through the Global Programme will go a long way to mitigate this risk. In addition, the planned inception phase, will ensure programmatic resources are complementary and reach areas of greatest need. Further, the Global Programme has decided to expand country programming gradually, focusing only on 12 countries to begin with.	Risk Rating: Medium 1. Programme Support Unit developing resource mobilisation strategy, actively identifying and meeting partners to raise resources 2. Programme Support Unit developing advocacy strategy starting with advocacy calendar to enhance 3. Strategic relationships with donors fostered through regular meetings to review country situation and programme progress 4. Relationships with National Committees sustained through visits, teleconferences and regular country updates
E. Reputational risks				
1. Risk of cultural sensitivity of the topic, risk of conservative backlash from within the communities	Low	Low/ Medium	It is crucial that the Global Programme is not perceived as imparting a particular agenda or ideological framework, which is not in the best interests of the community. Hence, careful consideration will be given to how issues are conceptualized and framed in any given country and subnational context with adherence to basic do-no-harm guidelines. Community leaders, parents and guardians will be involved from the start as per ethics protocols as well as cultural considerations. UNFPA and UNICEF have strong backgrounds in community-level work, and are successfully managing child marriage programmes in many countries, already demonstrating that it is indeed possible to avoid any reputational risks to the agencies or development partners.	Risk Rating: Low 1. Agencies are implementing in a culturally sensitive manner at country level

Risk	Probability	Impact	Mitigation	May 2016 Updated
F. Fiduciary risks				
Risk that funds are not used for the intended purposes; do not achieve value for money; and/or are not properly accounted for	Low	Medium/ High	UNFPA and UNICEF policies on fraud and procurement are publicly available and strictly applied. Within the Joint Programme framework, the Steering Committee is the highest body for strategic guidance, fiduciary and management oversight and coordination. The Administrative Agent will be accountable for effective and impartial fiduciary management. Outside the direct Joint Programme framework is the UNDG Fiduciary Management Oversight Group, which will serve as the first point of contact at headquarters for fiduciary matters. It oversees the implementation of the fiduciary aspects of the United Nations Development Group policies on joint funding mechanisms, and discusses any required departures from the standard Memorandum of Understanding, Letters of Agreements and Steering Committee Terms of Reference.	<p>Risk Rating: Low</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Programme countries continuously applying assurance activities through Audit Firms to support undertaking of Spot Checks, Audits and Micro-Assessments. 2. Agencies anti-fraud and whistle-blower protection policies shared with partners, consultants and contractors as appropriate.

Annex 3: Results Framework (2016 Update)

Time frame: Four years (2016–2019)		2016 Update
Country focus Eastern and Southern Africa: Ethiopia, Mozambique, Uganda, Zambia West and Central Africa: Burkina Faso, Ghana, Niger, Sierra Leone	South Asia: Bangladesh, India, Nepal Arab States: Yemen	
Primary regional focus: sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia		
Global focus: United Nations forums, including the General Assembly, Human Rights Council, Commission on the Status of Women, Commission on Population and Development		
Impact: Girls fully enjoy their childhood free from the risk of marriage; they experience healthier, safer and more empowered life transitions while in control of their own destiny, including making choices and decisions about their education, sexuality, relationship formation/marriage and childbearing.		
Strategic objective: To accelerate action to address child marriage by enhancing investments in and support for married and unmarried girls and making visible the corresponding benefits of this support; engaging key actors – including young people as agents of change – in catalysing shifts towards positive gender norms; increasing political support, resources, policies and frameworks promoting positive change; and improving the data and evidence base.		
Impact indicators: Percentage of women aged 20–24 married/in-union before age 18 Percentage of women aged 20–24 married/in-union before age 15 Among all women aged 20–24 married/in-union before age 18, percentage who gave birth before age 20 Among all women aged 20–24 married/in-union before age 15, percentage who gave birth before age 18 Percentage of adolescent girls of lower-secondary school-age that are out of school Percentage of women aged 15–19 who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods Percentage of births to girls aged 15–19 attended by skilled health personnel		
Outcome 1: Adolescent girls at risk of and affected by child marriage are better able to express and exercise their choices		
Outcome 1 Indicators: Number and proportion of adolescent girls in programme areas demonstrating increased knowledge and skills Girls' retention rate at primary or lower-secondary school/Girls' transition rate from primary to lower-secondary school in programme areas		
Output 1.1: Adolescent girls (aged 10–19) are actively participating in a targeted programme (life skills, health information, economic empowerment, social protection)		
Output Indicator 1.1: Number of adolescent girls (aged 10–19) in programme areas actively participating in at least one targeted intervention	535540	
Output 1.2: Adolescent girls are supported to enrol and remain in formal and non-formal education, including through the transition from primary to secondary education		
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	218565	
Outcome 2: Households demonstrate positive attitudes and behaviours towards investing in and supporting adolescent girls		
Outcome 2 Indicator: Number and proportion of individuals in programme areas that hold gender equitable attitudes		

Time frame: Four years (2016–2019)	2016 Update
Output 2.1: Households are increasingly aware of the benefits of investing in adolescents girls and ending child marriage	
Output Indicator 2.1: Number of individuals in programme areas who regularly participate in dialogues promoting gender equitable norms, including delaying child marriage	4120434
Outcome 3: Relevant sectoral systems deliver quality and cost-effective services to meet the needs of adolescent girls	
Outcome 3 Indicators: Number and proportion of adolescent girls in programme areas that have utilized health or protection services Percentage point difference in exam-pass rates between boys and girls in programme areas	
Output 3.1: Health and protection systems supported to implement guidelines, protocols, and standards for adolescent girl-friendly health and protection services	
Output Indicator 3.1: Number and proportion of service delivery points in programme areas implementing guidelines for adolescent girl-friendly health and protection services	5,329
Output 3.2: Non-formal/primary/secondary schools supported to improve quality of education for adolescent girls	
Output Indicator 3.2: Number and proportion of non-formal/primary/secondary schools in programme areas implementing interventions to improve the quality of education for adolescent girls	4,940
Outcome 4: National laws, policy frameworks and mechanisms to protect and promote adolescent girls' rights are in line with international standards and are properly resourced	
Outcome 4 Indicator: Whether country has resources allocated to decreasing child marriage in at least two ministries within a national action plan or another clearly defined policy/planning mechanism	
Output 4.1: Country has costed national action plan or development plan on ending child marriage across more than one ministry	
Output Indicator 4.1: Whether country has developed a costed national action plan/development plan on ending child marriage across more than one ministry	Yes for 4 countries
Outcome 5: Government(s) and partners within and across countries support the generation and use of robust data and evidence to inform policy and programming, track progress and document lessons	
Outcome 5 Indicator: Whether country uses robust data and evidence on child marriage to inform policy and programming	
Output 5.1: Country-specific, high-quality data and evidence generated and shared on what works at scale to accelerate ending child marriage	
Output Indicator 5.1: Whether country collects and share high-quality data and evidence on what works at scale to accelerate ending child marriage	Yes for 7 countries

Annex 4: List of UNICEF's and UNFPA's CSO partners incl. NGOs, FBOs, INGOs, Regional committees, stakeholder coalitions, and other organizations

Implementing partners	Notes
Abs Development Organization	CSO
Afar Community Capacity Building & Integrated Development Association (ACCIDA)	CSO
Action Aid	INGO
The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)	FBO
Advocates and Trainers for Children and Women's Advancement and Rights (ATCWAR)	CSO
AfriKids	NGO
Associação Coalizão da Juventude Moçambicana (Coalizão)	CSO
Associação Moçambicana para Desenvolvimento da Família (AMODEFA)	CSO
Association Belwende Tiga	CSO
Association des chefs traditionnels du Niger (ACTN)	FBO
Association Femmes Environnement et Développement du Burkina Faso (AFEDEB)	CSO
Association pour le Développement de KYEMBARA	CSO
Association Tin Tua	NGO
Breakthrough Trust	CSO
BRAC	INGO
Campaign for Female Education (CAMFED)	INGO
Coligação para a Eliminação e Prevenção dos Casamentos Prematuros (CECAP)	Coalition of 40 CSOs
CECODECON	CSO
Centre for Reproductive Rights	INGO
Centre for Development Initiative (CDI)	NGO
Child Rights International (CRI)	INGO

Implementing partners	Notes
Christian Children's Fund of Canada (CCFC)	FBO
Christian and Islamic Network on Population and Development (CINPAD)	FBO
Church of Uganda	FBO
Civil Society Forum for Child Rights (ROSC)	Civil society forum
Coalition nationale contre les VEFF	CSO
Coast Trust	NGO
Comunicação e Direitos	CSO
Community Development Alliance (CDA)	NGO
Council of Religions of Mozambique (COREM)	FBO
Dalit Mahila Vikas Mandal (DMVM)	CSO
Danish Refugee Council	INGO
Equal Access	INGO
The Foundation for Community Development (FDC)	CSO
Federal and Regional Ethiopian Orthodox Church	FBO
FHI 360	INGO
Fambul Initiative Network for Equality (FINE)	CSO
Forum Mulher	Network of 35 CSOs
Girls Not Brides	Global Partnership
Horizonte Azul	CSO
The Hunger Project	INGO
The Institute for International Cooperation and Development	FBO
International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)	Global Research Institute

Implementing partners	Notes
International Needs	INGO
IREX	INGO
Islamic Affairs Council	FBO
Jatan Sansthan	CSO
Jagorani Chakra Foundation (JCF)	CSO
Lafia Matassa	NGO
Maia	CSO
Marie Stopes International	INGO
Matei Initiative Empowerment Programme for Sustainable Development (MATCOPS)	CSO
Mwangaza Action	CSO
Núcleo das Associações Femininas da Zambézia (NAFEZA)	CSO
National Alliance to End Child Marriage and FGM/C	Coordination body of stakeholders in Ethiopia
National Association of Social Workers	NGO
Neerman	Non-profit consultancy
Nepal Inter Religious Network	FBO
Nirantar	CSO
NORSAAC	NGO
Organization for the Development of Women and Children	NGO
Oxfam	INGO
Pathfinder	INGO
PCI Media Impact	PVO
Plan International	INGO
Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana	CSO
Planned Parenthood Association of Sierra Leone (PPASL)	CSO

Implementing partners	Notes
Planned Parenthood Association of Zambia (PPAZ)	CSO
Population Council	INGO
Population Services International (PSI)	INGO
People's Rural Education Movement (PREM)	NGO
Programa Inter-Religioso Contra la Malaria (PIRCOM)	FBO
REACH	UN coordination approach
Reach a Hand Uganda	CSO
Rede de Comunicadores Amigos da Criança (RECAC)	Network of journalists
Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative (REPSI)	Regional NGO
Religious Leaders' Associations (Niger)	FBO
Restless Development	NGO

Implementing partners	Notes
Rupantar	NGO
SADC Parliamentary Forum	Regional committee
Seek to Save Foundation	NGO
Society for Nutrition, Education & Health Action (SNEHA)	NGO
Songes	NGO
South Asia Coordinating Group for Ending Violence Against Children	Regional committee
Southern Africa HIV and AIDS Information Dissemination Service (SAFAIDS)	Regional NGO
Tawsul for Human Development	CSO
TPO Uganda	NGO
Trailblazers Mentorship Foundation	CBO
Union des Confessions du Burkina	FBO
Union Nationale des Religieux et Croyants du Burkin	FBO
Vishakha	CSO

Implementing partners	Notes
Women in Crisis Movement (WICM)	NGO
Women and Law in Southern Africa (WLSA)	Regional NGO
Wiwana Foundation (WWF)	CSO
World Vision	FBO
World YWCA	FBO
Youth Leadership Development Foundation	CSO
Yuwalaya	CSO
Young Women's Christian Association Zambia (YWCA)	FBO
Zambia Centre for Communications Programmes (ZCCP)	CSO
Zambia NGO Coalition to End Child Marriage	Coordination body of stakeholders
Total IPs	100

Other CSO partners	Notes
African Centre for Heritage Activities (ACHA)	CSO
AfriYAN	Regional CSO Network
Association des chefs traditionnels du Niger (ACTN)	FBO; also IP
Coalition Nationale de lutte Contre le Mariage Précoce	Stakeholder coordination body
Conselho Nacional da Juventud (CNJ)	CSO
Council of Religions of Mozambique (COREM)	FBO; also IP
East African Community Secretariat (EAC)	Regional intergovernmental organisation
Fambul Initiative Network for Equality (FINE)	CSO

Other CSO partners	Notes
Fórum Nacional das Rádios Comunitárias (FORCOM)	NGO
Inter-Religious Alliance for Advocacy and Social Development (AIRDES)	FBO
Nepal Magar Women's Society (NMWS)	CSO
Parlamento Juvenil (PJ)	CSO
Plan International	INGO; also IP
Plan Sierra Leone	NGO
Population Council	INGO; also IP
Reach a Hand Uganda	CSO; also IP
Restless Development	NGO; also IP
SADC Parliamentary Forum	Regional committee
Southern Africa HIV and AIDS Information Dissemination Service (SAFAIDS)	Regional NGO; also IP

Other CSO partners	Notes
Salone Adolescent Girls Network	CSO
Save the Children	INGO
Southern African Litigation Center (SALC)	Regional human rights organisation
Union des religieux et coutumiers du Burkina (URCB)	FBO
Union des confessions du Burkina (UCB)	FBO
Women in Crisis Movement (WICM)	NGO
World Education	INGO
Zambia NGO Coalition on Ending Child Marriage	Coordination body of stakeholders; also IP
Total	27
Total without IPs	19

Annex 5: Global Programme media links 2016

Bangladesh

Say no to child, early and forced marriages
https://www.unicef.org/bangladesh/media_9804.htm

With education, child marriage drops in Bangladesh, study says
<https://www.voanews.com/a/education-child-marriage-bangladesh-study/3251796.html>

How Shampa escaped child marriage
<https://www.unicef.org.au/blog/stories/july-2016/how-shampa-escaped-child-marriage>

Driven to Dhaka by disasters, Bangladeshi girls harassed into marriage
<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-bangladesh-childmarriage-climatechang/driven-to-dhaka-by-disasters-bangladeshi-girls-harassed-into-marriage-idUSKCN12P177>

Ruined by child marriage in Bangladesh's tribal districts (mentions Global Programme)
<http://www.themalaymailonline.com/features/article/ruined-by-child-marriage-in-bangladeshs-tribal-districts#F18BRY-m20z5VoG11.99>

Burkina Faso

UNFPA and students in a discussion in Ouagadougou on the International Day of the Girl Child
<https://www.facebook.com/UnfpaBurkinaFaso/posts/576605399193392>

Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child
<http://burkinafaso.unfpa.org/fr/news/le-mariage-d%E2%80%99enfants-au-burkina-faso-mobilisation-et-synergie-d%E2%80%99actions-pour-%C3%A9radiquer-le>

Article on the prevention of early marriage
<http://lefaso.net/spip.php?article69097>

UNFPA and UNICEF joint meeting on child marriage
<https://www.facebook.com/UnfpaBurkinaFaso/posts/546721618848437>

An African Union delegation visiting UNFPA to discuss follow up to the National Campaign to Combat Child Marriage
<https://www.facebook.com/UnfpaBurkinaFaso/posts/545221715665094>

Public statements on the abandonment of female genital mutilation and child marriage
<https://www.facebook.com/UnfpaBurkinaFaso/posts/530714357115830>

Promoting the abandonment of female genital mutilation and the fight against early marriage
<https://www.facebook.com/UnfpaBurkinaFaso/posts/530400377147228>

Meeting between the Resident Representative of UNFPA and the Minister of Justice of Human Rights and Civic Promotion
<https://www.facebook.com/UnfpaBurkinaFaso/posts/495356223984977>

Pictures from an official ceremony of public declaration of abandonment of child marriage and female genital mutilation
<https://goo.gl/photos/dgSHr7R9MtF14cc57>

Article on villages banning child marriage
<http://lefaso.net/spip.php?article74842>

Article on abandonment of child marriage and female genital mutilation
<http://lefaso.net/spip.php?article74751>

Article on child marriage
<http://nord.lefaso.net/spip.php?article126>

Scholarship to keep girls in school
https://www.unicef.org/bfa/french/reallives_9896.html

Ethiopia

Ethiopia boosts its efforts to end child marriage
<https://unicefethiopia.org/2015/06/25/ethiopia-boosts-its-efforts-to-end-child-marriage-and-fgmc-by-2025-at-the-national-girl-summit/>

Surprising new evidence on child marriage in Ethiopia
<https://www.odi.org/comment/10411-surprising-new-evidence-child-marriage-ethiopia>

Ghana

Rampant teenage pregnancy in three districts of Ashanti
<http://www.graphic.com.gh/news/general-news/teenage-pregnancy-rampant-in-three-districts-of-ashanti-ppag.html>

Ghana leads global campaign to end child marriage
<https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/diaspora/Ghana-leads-global-campaign-to-end-child-marriage-424233>

UNICEF Ghana: #GhanaEndsChildMarriage #fightchildpover-tygh Noella Wiyaala
<https://www.facebook.com/UNICEFGhana/videos/10154337878761064/>

Child marriages are illegal – UNICEF
<http://www.ghananewsagency.org/social/child-marriages-are-illegal-unicef-100888>

Child Marriage in Ghana: Too young to marry but old enough to have sex?
<http://www.pulse.com.gh/news/local/child-marriage-in-ghana-too-young-to-marry-but-old-enough-to-have-sex-id5156954.html>

Ghana to host African First Ladies' Conference
<http://www.ghana.gov.gh/index.php/news/2414-ghana-to-host-african-first-conference>

India

Voices against child marriage in Malda
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MJ5R58daoq4>

Adolescent girls fighting back against child marriage in Malda
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YJXkwXv53h0>

Stories of Adolescent girls fighting Child Marriage in rural Bengal
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mf6q9nl44b4>

Article on young girls creating awareness on sanitation and child marriage
<http://epaper.thestatesman.com/1029860/The-Statesman-Siliguri/9th-December-2016#page/13/2>

India part of UN initiative to save girls from child marriage
<https://yourstory.com/2016/03/india-un-initiative-save-girls-child-marriage-2/>

UNICEF to launch caravan campaign against child marriage
<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/UNICEF-to-launch-caravan-campaign-against-child-marriage/article14617597.ece>

SDGs to face challenge of 750 million child marriages by 2030
http://zeenews.india.com/exclusive/sdgs-to-face-challenge-of-750-million-child-marriages-by-2030_1902540.html

9 shocking facts about child marriage in India and world
<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/education/story/child-marriage-shocking-facts/1646803.html>

No wedding tents for child marriages, Indian suppliers vow
<http://english.alarabiya.net/en/variety/2016/05/07/No-wedding-tents-for-child-marriages-Indian-suppliers-vow.html>

Mozambique

UNFPA Mozambique photo database
<http://www.unicef.org/mz/photodatabase/protection/index5.html>

“In the end it wasn’t my choice”: child marriage in Mozambique
<http://www.unicef.org/mz/en/in-the-end-it-wasnt-my-choice-child-marriage-in-mozambique/>

Drought through the eyes of a child
http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/cate-heinrich/drought-afrika-mozambique_b_10398966.html

Protect girls through minimum-age marriage laws

<http://www.worldpolicy.org/blog/2016/07/18/protect-girls-through-minimum-age-marriage-laws>

“My parents robbed me of the future and today I am the second wife of the man who took me out of school” Mozambican forced to marry 11 years and mother since 12 years of age
<http://www.verdade.co.mz/tema-de-fundo/35-themadefundo/58733-os-meus-pais-roubaram-me-o-futuro-e-hoje-sou-segunda-esposa-do-homem-que-me-retirou-da-escola-mocambicana-forcada-a-casar-com-11-anos-e-mae-desde-os-12-anos-de-idade>

Premarital marriage and pregnancy in adolescence in Mozambique: analyzes summary

<http://www.unicef.org/mz/casamento-prematureo-e-gravidez-na-adolescencia-em-mocambique-resumo-de-analises/>

National strategy for preventing and combating premature marriages (2016-2019)

<http://www.unicef.org/mz/estrategia-nacional-de-prevencao-e-combate-aos-casamentos-prematureos-2016-2019/>

Preventing and combating premature marriage and early pregnancy is a priority in Mozambique, but there is no money
<http://www.verdade.co.mz/tema-de-fundo/35-themadefundo/57568-a-prevencao-e-o-combate-do-casamento-prematureo-da-gravidez-precoce-sao-uma-prioridade-em-mocambique-mas-nao-ha-dinheiro>

Mozambique on the black list of premature marriages
<https://www.tsf.pt/internacional/interior/mocambique-entre-os-dez-paises-com-mais-casamentos-prematureos-governo-5121164.html>

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#Casamentosprematureos
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Big Yellow Taxi was
responsible for art
direction and design.
www.bigyellowtaxi.com

With the generous support of donors in 2016 and earlier contributions to provide a solid base for programming design and reach, UNFPA and UNICEF have worked to reach more girls through direct-to-girl services, community engagement, and work with governments and CSOs.