



UNFPA-UNICEF  
Global Programme to  
End Child Marriage

# PHASE I (2016-2019) REPORT

The Global Programme to End Child Marriage is generously funded by the Governments of Belgium, Canada, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway and the UK, the European Union and Zonta International.

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August 2020

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# ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

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<b>CAD</b>	Canadian Dollar
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organization
<b>DHS</b>	Demographic and Health Survey
<b>EAC</b>	East African Community
<b>EALA</b>	East African Legislative Assembly
<b>ECOWAS</b>	Economic Community of West African States
<b>EUR</b>	Euro
<b>FGM</b>	Female Genital Mutilation
<b>GBP</b>	Great British Pound
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-Based Violence
<b>GPSU</b>	Global Programme Support Unit
<b>MHM</b>	Menstrual Hygiene Management
<b>MICS</b>	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>NAP</b>	National Action Plan
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organization
<b>NOK</b>	Norwegian Krone
<b>SADC</b>	Southern African Development Community
<b>SAIEVAC</b>	South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children
<b>SGBV</b>	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal
<b>SRH</b>	Sexual and Reproductive Health
<b>SRHR</b>	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
<b>UN Women</b>	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UNHCR</b>	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>USD</b>	United States Dollar
<b>WASH</b>	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization



# PROGRAMME SUMMARY

Programme/ project name	UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage
<b>Donors</b>	Governments of Belgium, Canada, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, and UK, the European Union and Zonta International
<b>Global Programme funds used</b>	<b>UNICEF:</b> USD 51,421,765.47 as at 31 December 2019 <b>UNFPA:</b> USD 32,413,294 as at 31 December 2019
<b>Unspent balance</b>	<b>UNICEF:</b> USD 18,228,027.80 as at 31 December 2019 <b>UNFPA:</b> (UCJ18) USD 4,089,964 as at 31 December 2019
<b>Report type</b>	Final Phase I – headquarters
	Regional offices of: Eastern and Southern Africa, Middle East and North Africa, West and Central Africa, and South Asia Country offices of: India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Niger, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, Uganda, Mozambique, Zambia and Yemen
<b>Reporting period</b>	January 2016 to December 2019
<b>Relevant SDG targets and UNICEF and UNFPA Strategic Plan priorities</b>	<b>SDG</b> SDG 5.3: Eliminate all harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
	<b>UNICEF Strategic Plan</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Outcome P6: Increased national capacity to provide access to child protection systems that prevent and respond to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect</li> <li>■ Output P6.b.4: Countries (of those with child marriage prevalence is 25% or higher) with national strategies or plans on child marriage with a budget</li> </ul>
	<b>UNFPA Strategic Plan</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Output 6: Young people, in particular adolescent girls, have the skills and capabilities to make informed choices about their sexual and reproductive health and rights, and well-being</li> <li>■ Output 9: Strengthened policy, legal and accountability frameworks to advance gender equality and empower women and girls to exercise their reproductive rights and to be protected from violence and harmful practices</li> <li>■ Output 12: Strengthened response to eliminate harmful practices, including child, early and forced marriage, female genital mutilation and son preference</li> </ul>
<b>Focus population</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Adolescent girls (aged 10–19 years) reached by direct interventions (primarily life-skills programmes)</li> <li>■ Household or community members/leaders (e.g. through regular and repeated participation in community dialogues)</li> <li>■ Adolescent girls reached through quality services (health, education, social protection, child protection, etc.) as a direct result of investments in system strengthening</li> </ul>



<p><b>Programme partners</b></p>	<p>In the 12 focus countries, the Global Programme works with governments at both national and subnational levels, regional bodies engaged in relevant initiatives, academic institutions, international and national non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, religious communities, faith-based organizations, the private sector and the media.</p>
<p><b>UNICEF contacts</b></p>	<p>Cornelius Williams, Associate Director, Child Protection, Programme Division, <a href="mailto:cowilliams@unicef.org">cowilliams@unicef.org</a>, tel. +1 (212) 824-6670</p> <p>Nankali Maksud, Coordinator, UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage, Child Protection, Programme Division, <a href="mailto:nmaksud@unicef.org">nmaksud@unicef.org</a>, tel. +1 (917) 265-4515</p>
<p><b>UNFPA contacts</b></p>	<p>Anneka Knutsson, Chief, Sexual and Reproductive Health Branch, Technical Division, <a href="mailto:knutsson@unfpa.org">knutsson@unfpa.org</a>, tel. +1 (212) 297-5001</p> <p>Satvika Chalasani, Technical Specialist, Adolescents and Youth, Sexual and Reproductive Health Branch, Technical Division, <a href="mailto:chalasani@unfpa.org">chalasani@unfpa.org</a>, tel. +1(212) 297-4931</p>



@UNFPA Asia and the Pacific and UNICEF South Asia

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 What makes us proud:  
 Working together  
 Partnerships, perspectives and  
 (evidence-based) practice  
 Making an impact for all boys  
 and girls.

Kendra Gregson, Regional Advisor Child Protection, UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia, and Ingrid Fitzgerald, Regional Advisor Gender and Human Rights, UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office.



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Trends in child marriage

According to the latest estimates, 650 million women alive today were married as children. Over the past decade, the proportion of women who were married as children decreased by 15 per cent, from 1 in 4 to about 1 in 5 women. At this rate, it would take another 50 years to eliminate child marriage worldwide. The current rate of decline in child marriage has to be significantly accelerated in order to meet the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target of ending child marriage by 2030.

The reduction in child marriage has been uneven. While South Asia has seen significant reductions in child marriage, largely due to progress in India, the global burden is shifting to sub-Saharan Africa, where rates of progress need to be scaled up dramatically to offset population growth.

Globally, 115 million boys and men were married before the age of 18 years. The countries in which child marriage among boys is most common are geographically diverse and differ from the countries in which the practice is most common among girls. Girls remain disproportionately affected, with 1 in 5 young women aged 20–24 years old married before her 18th birthday, compared with 1 in 30 young men.

## Global Programme achievements

- **Advocacy:** The Global Programme to End Child Marriage (the Global Programme) has played a key role in accelerating the momentum to end child marriage, through positioning the global, regional and national agenda, national policy and legislative support, as well as by demonstrating innovative community action. The Global Programme has continuously elevated the issue of child marriage by organizing and providing support to global, regional and national political and partnership dialogues.

Figure 1. Phase I (2016–2019) in review



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