



2017 ANNUAL REPORT  
**ACCELERATING  
AND AMPLIFYING  
CHANGE**

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

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## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<b>AFHS</b>	Adolescent-Friendly Health Service
<b>APRO</b>	UNFPA Asia Pacific Regional Office
<b>ASRH</b>	Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health
<b>ASRO</b>	UNFPA Arab States Regional Office
<b>AU</b>	African Union
<b>BBBP</b>	Beti Bachao Beti Padhao
<b>BRAC</b>	Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee
<b>C4D</b>	Communication for Development
<b>CAD</b>	Canadian dollars
<b>CMRA</b>	Child Marriage Restraint Act
<b>CO</b>	Country Office
<b>CSE</b>	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
<b>CSO</b>	civil society organization
<b>CWC</b>	Child Welfare Committee
<b>DFID</b>	Department for International Development (UK)
<b>DHS</b>	Demographic Household Surveys
<b>DSA</b>	daily subsistence allowance
<b>DWCD</b>	Department of Women and Child Development
<b>ECOWAS</b>	Economic Community of West African States
<b>ELA</b>	Empowerment and Livelihood for Adolescents
<b>ESARO</b>	East and Southern Africa Regional Office
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>EUR</b>	Euro
<b>FGM</b>	female genital mutilation
<b>GAGE</b>	Gender and Adolescence Global Evidence (ODI)
<b>GATE</b>	Girls' Access to Education
<b>GBP</b>	Great British pounds
<b>GBV</b>	gender-based violence
<b>GIZ</b>	Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
<b>GNB</b>	Girls Not Brides
<b>GPECM</b>	UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage
<b>GPSU</b>	Global Programme Support Unit
<b>GRF</b>	Global Results Framework
<b>HIV</b>	human immunodeficiency virus
<b>HQ</b>	Headquarters
<b>ICRW</b>	International Centre for Research on Women
<b>KOICA</b>	Korea International Cooperation Agency
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>MENARO</b>	UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office
<b>MGCAS</b>	Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action

<b>MHM</b>	Menstrual Hygiene Management
<b>MICS</b>	Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys
<b>MOE</b>	Ministry of Education
<b>MOGCSP</b>	Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection
<b>MOH</b>	Ministry of Health
<b>MOU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>MOWCA</b>	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
<b>MSNP</b>	Multisectoral Nutrition Plan
<b>MWCD</b>	Ministry of Women and Child Development
<b>NAP</b>	National Action Plan
<b>NCERT</b>	National Council for Education Research and Training
<b>NGO</b>	non-governmental organization
<b>ODI</b>	Overseas Development Institute
<b>RAF</b>	Regional Accountability Framework
<b>RKSK</b>	Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram
<b>RO</b>	Regional Office
<b>ROSA</b>	UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia
<b>SADC</b>	Southern African Development Community
<b>SAIEVAC</b>	South Asian Initiative to End Violence Against Children
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal
<b>SNNP</b>	State of Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples (Ethiopia)
<b>SRH</b>	sexual and reproductive health
<b>SRHR</b>	sexual and reproductive health and rights
<b>TOC</b>	Theory of Change
<b>TOR</b>	Terms of Reference
<b>UDS</b>	University of Development Studies
<b>UN DESA</b>	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
<b>UN WOMEN</b>	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UNGEI</b>	United Nations Girls' Education Initiative
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>US\$</b>	United States dollars
<b>VAC</b>	Violence Against Children
<b>VFM</b>	value for money
<b>WASH</b>	water, sanitation and hygiene
<b>WCARO</b>	West and Central Africa Regional Office
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>YWCA</b>	Young Women's Christian Association

## PROGRAMME SUMMARY

<b>PROGRAMME/PROJECT NAME</b>	UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage
<b>DONORS</b>	Government of the Netherlands, Government of the United Kingdom, European Commission
<b>PROGRAMME BUDGET ALLOCATION (PBA) REFERENCE</b>	<b>UNICEF:</b> SC140940 (Netherlands), SC160258 (UK), SC160614 (European Union) <b>UNFPA:</b> UCJ18 (UK and European Union through UNICEF), UKA90 (UK)
<b>TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO GLOBAL PROGRAMME TO DATE</b>	<b>UNICEF and UNFPA:</b> GBP16 million (US\$21,194,348.82) received from the United Kingdom EUR2 million (US\$2,173,913.04) received from the European Union <b>UNICEF:</b> EUR20 million (US\$22,780,853.82) received from the Netherlands <b>UNFPA:</b> GBP2.5 million (US\$3,727,406) received in 2015 from the United Kingdom for the inception phase of the Global Programme CAD20 million (US\$14,598,540) received in 2015 from Canada for a separate programme aligned with the Global Programme (reporting carried out separately)
<b>GLOBAL PROGRAMME FUNDS USED TO DATE</b>	<b>UNICEF:</b> US\$19,164,901.46 <b>UNFPA:</b> US\$8,455,231.48
<b>UNSPENT BALANCE</b>	<b>UNICEF:</b> US\$14,979,750.75 <b>UNFPA:</b> US\$2,511,736.21 (UCJ18)
<b>DURATION OF GRANT</b>	<b>UNICEF:</b> SC140940: December 2014 – December 2018 SC160258: March 2016 – December 2019 SC160614: November 2016 – November 2019 <b>UNFPA:</b> UKA90: March 2015 – March 2016 UCJ18: March 2016 – December 2019
<b>REPORT TYPE</b>	Progress – Headquarters Regional Offices of Eastern and Southern Africa, Middle East and North Africa, South Asia and West and Central Africa Country Offices: Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Yemen and Zambia
<b>REPORTING PERIOD</b>	January – December 2017
<b>REPORT DUE DATE</b>	31 May 2018
<b>REPORT PREPARED ON</b>	31 May 2018
<b>RELEVANT SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL (SDG) TARGETS AND UNICEF STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITIES</b>	SDGs 5.3: Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage, and female genital mutilation <b>UNICEF Strategic Plan:</b> 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 <b>UNFPA Strategic Plan:</b> 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
<b>FOCUS POPULATION</b>	Adolescent girls (aged 10–19) reached by direct interventions (primarily life skills programmes) Household or community members and 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
<b>PROGRAMME PARTNERS</b>	In the 12 focus countries, the Global Programme works with governments at both the national and sub-national levels, regional bodies engaged in relevant initiatives, academic institutions, international and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations, religious communities, faith-based organizations (FBOs), the private sector and the media.
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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Trends in child marriage

Over the past decade, child marriage has continued to decline. Globally, the proportion of young women who were married as children decreased by 15 per cent, from 1 in 4 to about 1 in 5. It is now estimated that a total of 650 million girls and women alive today were married as children. However, the current rate of decline in child marriage is not sufficient to meet the SDG target of ending child marriage by 2030; to meet this target, progress would need to be 12 times faster than the rate observed over the past decade. The reduction in child marriage has been uneven. While South Asia has led the way on reducing child marriage, the global burden is shifting to sub-Saharan Africa, where rates of progress need to be accelerated dramatically to reduce the prevalence and offset population growth.

## Global programme approach

To achieve lasting change at significant scale, the Global Programme continued to build government ownership and commitment towards ending child marriage. The Global Programme promoted multisectoral approaches, with five out of 12 countries increasing the number of geographic areas where United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) are working together. All countries diversified their efforts to leverage capacities and resources of other sectors, institutions, platforms and systems. The Global Programme currently works with 276 implementing partners and 92 other partners.

## Headline results

Overall, the programme is on track and most output targets were achieved or exceeded.

**EMPOWERMENT OF ADOLESCENT GIRLS:** Country offices (COs) have improved the designing and planning of life skills interventions. The Indicator Index and Programme Guidance are contributing to a better formulation of life skills interventions. Countries are increasingly leveraging opportunities for life skills interventions in the school system. Countries are tracking knowledge, skills and attitudes toward agency and decision-making outcomes.

**COMMUNITY DIALOGUE AND MOBILIZATION FOR SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOUR CHANGE:** COs have been making better distinctions between mass media, campaign activities and community dialogue. Media activities continue to be a key strategy for behaviour change communication, with improvements in tracking coverage and monitoring audience response. At least seven countries are gathering data on gender-equitable attitudes and on attitudes of families to child marriage such as gender roles, gender-based violence (GBV), empowerment and mobility.

**SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING:** COs have improved their efforts to formulate systems strengthening activities in health, education and child protection sectors through direct support or through complementary linkages with programmes supported by other funds. Tracking of complementary programmes and resources has improved since 2016.

**GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP AND INVESTMENTS:** Nine governments have developed child marriage national action plans (NAPs), while five countries have costed and budgeted NAPs. The Global Programme Support Unit (GPSU) is providing guidance and support on assessing the impact

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