GLOBAL PROGRAMME TO END CHILD MARRIAGE

GOAL
Scale up the Global Programme's activities to protect and empower girls, and ultimately help bring an end to the practice of child marriage.

WHO WILL BENEFIT
The program’s priority is engaging adolescent girls as key agents of change in the following 12 countries with high prevalence of child marriage: Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Yemen and Zambia.

PHASE I (2016-2019)
In Phase I, almost 8 million adolescent girls were reached with life skills and school support, 39 million individuals engaged in community-based behavior change, and 26,000 schools strengthened their adolescent girl-friendly education.

PHASE II (2020-2024)
Zonta International’s continued support will help advance the Global Programme’s realization of its vision in which girls everywhere experience healthier, safer and more empowered life transitions while they maintain control of their own destiny by making informed choices and decisions about their education, sexuality, marriage and childbearing. These positive changes hold the potential to transform the lives of millions of girls and families all around the world, helping them enjoy their childhood and reach a brighter future.

FUNDING: US$1,200,000 to UNFPA and UNICEF via UNICEF USA

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES
1. Elevate the voice and agency of adolescent girls by:
   a. Empowering marginalized adolescent girls through skills development and knowledge building.
   b. Promoting gender equality in adolescent girls’ families and communities.

2. Increase resources and opportunities for adolescent girls and their families by:
   a. Strengthening education, health and child protection systems.
   b. Addressing the ways that poverty drives the practice of child marriage.

3. Enhance legal and political action to prevent child marriage and to support married, divorced or widowed adolescent girls by:
   a. Helping governments strengthen their plans to end child marriage.
   b. Building the capacity of governments to make data-driven decisions and implement evidence-driven programs.

PROJECT HISTORY AND TIMELINE

2016
UNICEF and the UNFPA joined forces to launch the Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage.

2018
Zonta International began supporting Phase I with a pledge of US$2 million.

2020
Phase II was launched and Zonta International pledged an additional US$1.5 million.

2018
More than 4 million adolescent girls were reached in 2020 alone.
EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Enhance knowledge, skills and attitudes of marginalized adolescent girls on matters such as their rights, relationships, sexual and reproductive health, and financial literacy, including in humanitarian contexts.

Adolescent boys, families, traditional and religious leaders, community groups, and other influencers demonstrate more gender-equitable attitudes and support for girls’ rights.

Capacity of education, health, child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) systems is increased to deliver coordinated, quality programs and services that meet the needs of adolescent girls and their families, including in humanitarian contexts.

Capacity of national and sub-national social protection, poverty reduction and economic empowerment programs and services is increased to respond to the needs of the poorest adolescent girls and their families, including in humanitarian contexts.

Governments’ capacities are increased to coordinate and implement national and sub-national action plans and systems to end child marriage.

Capacity of governments and non-government organizations is increased to generate, disseminate and use quality and timely evidence to inform policy and program design, track progress, and document lessons.

This is an exciting time, when the Global Programme will focus on using the power of a critical mass of girls, families, communities and strengthened systems to further accelerate progress on a larger scale.