

GLOBAL PROGRAMME TO END CHILD MARRIAGE



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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.

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

2018



2020



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

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



FAST FACTS

- Globally, 21% of girls are married while they are still children, robbing them of their childhood.
- In the last decade, about 25 million child marriages have been prevented.
- Due to COVID-19, an additional 10 million girls are at risk of becoming child brides by 2030.
- The COVID-19 pandemic is fueling increased risk for child marriages by interrupting education, creating food and economic insecurity, disrupting programs and services, increasing adolescent pregnancy, and causing deaths of parents and caregivers.

STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

- Provide support to adolescent girls to help them enroll in school, remain in school and successfully make the transition from primary to secondary education.
- Support adolescent girls with information, skills and support networks so they are able to make effective choices about their lives, understand their rights, and express their opinions.
- Help improve literacy and teach girls about sexual reproductive health, financial competencies, gender equality and building healthy relationships.
- Engage with men and boys in gender equality work, challenging toxic masculinities and instead empowering them to become agents of positive change on gendered norms, attitudes and behavior.
- Support health and child protection systems in implementing guidelines, protocols and standards for adolescent-friendly and gender-responsive services for adolescent girls who are unmarried, married, divorced, widowed, pregnant or already have children.
- Partner with governments, civil society organizations and other implementing organizations to ensure that social protection, poverty reduction and economic empowerment programs and services are adolescent-friendly, gender-responsive and reaching the most vulnerable adolescent girls and their families.
- Work with key ministries responsible for the implementation of the national child-protection system and key ministries working to end violence against women and girls.
- Provide technical support to governments to help them enact, enforce and uphold laws and policies aimed at preventing child marriage, protecting those at risk, and addressing the needs of girls already married.
- Increase the generation, sharing and use of robust data and evidence on adolescent girls for advocacy, programming, learning and tracking progress.

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.



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