

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL SIGNATURE PROJECT:

ENDING CHILD MARRIAGE: A PROGRAM TO ACCELERATE GLOBAL ACTION PHASE III



GOAL

With renewed ambition toward 2030, the Global Programme will boost its actions to accelerate the decline in child marriage globally and respond to the combined effects of the polycrisis and the pushback against gender equality on adolescent girls.

PHASE III (2024-2026)

Zonta International's continued support in the final phase of the Global Programme will focus on strengthening government capacity and ownership of the work and generating important evidence and data to sustain the program long term.

PHASE II (2020-2024)

Phase II brought increased political support, resources about healthy and safe decisions, gender-responsive policies, as well as enhanced investments in and support for both unmarried and married adolescent girls. Over 6.3 million adolescent girls were empowered with life skills and comprehensive sexuality education were delivered through safe spaces in communities and schools.

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.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

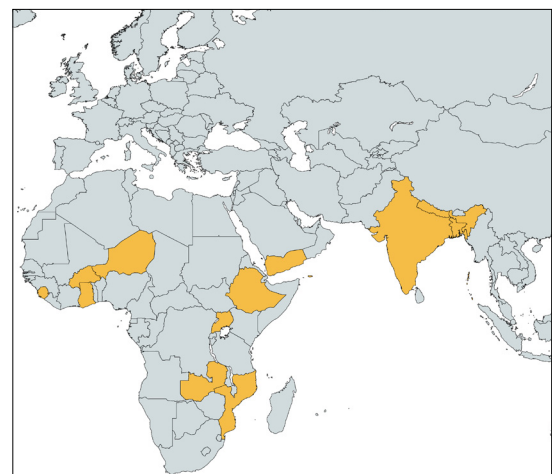
- Elevate the voice and agency of adolescent girls by:
 - Empowering marginalized adolescent girls through skills development and knowledge-building.
 - Promoting gender equality in adolescent girls' families and communities.
- Increase resources and opportunities for adolescent girls and their families by:
 - Strengthening education, health and child protection systems.
 - Addressing the ways that poverty drives the practice of child marriage.
- Enhance legal and political action to prevent child marriage and to support married, divorced or widowed adolescent girls by:
 - Helping governments strengthen their plans to end child marriage.
 - Building the capacity of governments to make data-driven decisions and implement evidence-driven programs.

FUNDING: US\$1,500,000

WHO WILL BENEFIT

The program's priority is engaging adolescent girls as key agents of change **in the following 12 countries** which account for almost half of the world's child marriages:

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



PROJECT HISTORY AND TIMELINE

2016

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

2018

Zonta International begins supporting Phase I with US\$2 million pledge. 121,658 adolescent girls in the 12 countries were supported with access to remain in primary or lower secondary school or non-formal educational systems.

2020

Phase II launches, Zonta International pledges an additional US\$1.5 million; more than 4 million adolescent girls are reached.

2022

Zonta International supports remainder of Phase II with additional US\$1.2 million pledge. Almost 75 million individuals (girls, boys, women & men) reached by mass media messaging on child marriage, the rights of adolescent girls and gender equality.

FAST FACTS

- Globally 21% of girls are married while they are still children, robbing them of their childhoods.
- In the past decade, the proportion of women who were married as children decreased from 1 in 4 to about 1 in 5.
- It is estimated that there will be 10 million additional child brides over the course of the 2020s due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- A tenfold increase in conflict-related deaths correlates with a 7% increase in child marriage.
- A 10% change in rainfall due to climate change is associated with a 1% increase in child marriage.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES



Marginalized adolescent girls demonstrate enhanced knowledge, skills and attitudes on matters such as rights, relationships, sexual and reproductive health, and financial literacy, including in humanitarian contexts.



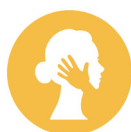
Adolescent boys, families, traditional and religious leaders, community groups, and other influencers demonstrate more gender-equitable attitudes and support for girls' rights.



Capacity of education from primary through secondary school, health and sexuality programs, child protection, and gender-based violence (GBV) systems is increased to deliver 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 enhanced to fund, coordinate and implement national and sub-national action plans and systems to end child marriage, including strengthening services and response mechanisms for victims of gender-based violence.



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.

STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

- Ensuring a human rights-based approach by recognizing child marriage as a human rights violation and leveraging opportunities to advance gender equality and the rights of adolescent girls.
- Leaving no one behind by addressing root causes that perpetuate structural inequities and intentionally deepening inclusion of marginalized populations.
- Fostering gender-transformative change, grounded in addressing the root causes of gender inequality and discrimination and tackle intersectional forms of exclusion.

CLIMATE IMPACT & RESILIENCE: The Global Programme will adapt and respond to the ever-changing circumstances and challenges affecting adolescent girls, child marriage, adolescent pregnancy and gender equality. This may include moving interventions to communities displaced by environmental crises or armed conflict; using digital technologies to reach populations in areas made inaccessible by floods or by insecurity; or strengthening community-based structures to ensure the continuity of interventions at the community level. It is imperative that ending child marriage becomes an integral part of all dimensions of humanitarian and climate change programming, including prevention, resilience building, mitigation and response.

SUSTAINABILITY & REPLICATION: The Global Programme Phase III will focus on sustainability through buy-ins with local governments, including resourcing costed action plans specifically built to end child marriage. Through the design and priorities of the Global Programme, Phase III will reflect an intentional effort to adapt to the polycrisis and evolving factors that influence the state of child marriage and then prepares the program for a long-standing future.



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