At the 2017 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), the overarching theme will be *Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world*. Six additional named goals will also be receiving special attention, one of which will be SDG 5: Gender Equality.

SDG 5 aims to level the world’s playing field for women and girls by removing all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere. Further, SDG 5 strives to eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation, as well as eliminate harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

SDG 5 also seeks to right economic imbalances by giving value to unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household. It works to give women and girls control over their bodies, and whether they wish to have a family, by ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights. Finally, SDG 5 promotes the empowerment of women by expanding the use of information and communications technology as a tool for education, awareness, and solidarity.

UNICEF puts a special emphasis on the aspect of adolescent girls, as it applies to UNICEF’s work in gender across all country contexts, including humanitarian crisis and emergency settings.

*Agenda 2030 offers a chance to recognize and address adolescent girls’ issues and enable them to avoid child marriage and unwanted pregnancy, protect against HIV transmission, stay safe from female genital mutilation, and acquire the education and skills they need to realize their potential.*

**HEADLINE MESSAGES**

**Give adolescent girls all the opportunities they deserve as they mature to adulthood by 2030**

Gender and adolescent girls issues are addressed in the Gender Action Plan (GAP) and across different outcomes of UNICEF’s Strategic Plan, including health, with regard to adolescent pregnancy and maternal health; HIV and AIDS, with respect to HIV testing, treatment, care and psychosocial support for both boys and girls; nutrition, in addressing anemia among adolescent girls; water, sanitation and hygiene, in promoting puberty education and menstrual hygiene management; and child protection, in addressing the practice of FGM/C.

The following SDG targets are most closely related to UNICEF’s core gender aim:

- **Target 5.1** End all forms of discrimination against women and girls everywhere;
- **Target 5.2** Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation;
- **Target 5.3** Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilations;
- **Target 5.4** Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies, and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate;
- **Target 5.6** Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the ICPD and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences;
- **Target 5.c** Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.
DISAGREGATED DATA COLLECTED FROM OFFICIAL STATISTICAL CHANNELS
Addressing inequities in gender outcomes and access to adolescent girls’ services will require increased investment in the timely collection, analysis and use of disaggregated qualitative and quantitative data (e.g., by gender, age, education, wealth quintile, migrant status, ethnicity, geographic area, disability status, etc.) to identify marginalized groups and adjust programmes to their needs. It will also mean supporting governments to recurrently identify and address bottlenecks limiting the availability, accessibility, acceptability and affordability of quality adolescent girls’ interventions, as well as systematically addressing gender-related barriers to care.

The following are SDG indicators that are more closely related to UNICEF’s core gender team and the focus on adolescent girls:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator ID</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and over subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner, in the last 12 months, by form of violence and by age group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>5.2.2 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner, in the last 12 months, by age group and place of occurrence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>5.3.1 Percentage of women aged 20-24 who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>5.3.2 Percentage of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone FGM/C, by age group.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FINANCIAL STATISTICS, SOCIAL SPENDING AND PROGRESS ON RESULTS FOR CHILDREN
The economic return on investing in girls and women is high, and drives a diversity of social and economic development outcomes. National budgets need to take gender into account, and gender action plans must be budgeted that cover issues such as: ending child marriage, ending violence against girls and women, improving girls’ education and strengthening social protection plans and data systems that take into account women’s unpaid care work. Improved reporting on expenditures and programmes that have direct and indirect impacts on increasing gender equality should be pursued.

AWARENESS-BUILDING & PARTICIPATION, ESPECIALLY AMONG CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS
In UNICEF’s work with national governments and partners, adolescent girls should be included as agents of change, who have the potential to jumpstart economic growth and spur the innovation needed for a sustainable future, and their welfare is fundamental to achieving key economic and social objectives – including a competitive labor force, sustained economic growth, improved governance and vibrant civil societies.

1 [http://indicators.report/targets/5-1/](http://indicators.report/targets/5-1/)
2 [http://indicators.report/targets/5-2/](http://indicators.report/targets/5-2/)
3 [http://indicators.report/targets/5-3/](http://indicators.report/targets/5-3/)
4 [http://indicators.report/targets/5-4/](http://indicators.report/targets/5-4/)
5 [http://indicators.report/targets/5-6/](http://indicators.report/targets/5-6/)
6 [http://indicators.report/targets/5-c/](http://indicators.report/targets/5-c/)