Annual report on the implementation of the UNICEF Gender Action Plan, 2018–2021

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COVID-19, CLIMATE CHANGE AND CONFLICT: A CRISIS FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

10 MILLION more child marriages may occur in the next decade.

1 IN 2 WOMEN reported direct or indirect experiences of violence since the pandemic began.

11 million girls may never return to school, despite schools reopening after the pandemic, reversing hard-earned gains in girls' education.

A young girl walking in a flooded area in South Sudan, after a flood that has displaced thousands of people, compromising education, spreading waterborne diseases, and leaving many without access to clean drinking water. The most vulnerable are children, the elderly and women.
RESULTS ACHIEVED: QUALITY AND DIGNIFIED MATERNAL CARE

In 2021, 39 countries supported by UNICEF were implementing plans to strengthen the quality of maternal and newborn primary health care, up from 23 in 2018, and exceeding the overall target of 30.

Shirin Akhter (right) is a community volunteer with the Village Education Resource Center in Gazipur, Bangladesh. She is visiting Torima Akhter, who is five months pregnant with her first child, to inform her about essential maternal and newborn health services. UNICEF is supporting community health workers to provide quality maternal health services in village communities as part of a multisectoral COVID-19 response.
RESULTS ACHIEVED: GIRLS’ SKILLS AND LEARNING IN EMERGENCIES

Globally, 17 million girls participated in UNICEF-supported skills development programmes in 2021.

In Viet Nam, adolescent girls living in remote and hard-to-reach communities are equipped with affordable digital learning solutions and mentorship programmes. In 2021, over 29,000 ethnic minority adolescent girls gained digital and transferable skills for employability in Viet Nam.
RESULTS ACHIEVED: WASH AND MENSTRUAL HEALTH AND HYGIENE

Cumulative growth in both WASH and Menstrual Health And Hygiene indicators, exceeding planned targets

- Schools with separate sanitation facilities for girls and boys delivered through substantive UNICEF support to WASH sector systems
- Schools with menstrual hygiene management services

A teenage girl in Indonesia shows off an innovative mobile application for girls’ health, created with and for girls. It was recognized by the Digital Public Goods Alliance in 2021 and expanded to 10 countries globally.
RESULTS ACHIEVED: RESPONDING TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND HARMFUL PRACTICES

REACHED 7.6 MILLION adolescent girls in 2021 in 47 countries with child marriage-related prevention and care interventions

INCLUDING OVER 11,000 adolescent girls with disabilities across 20 countries

800,000 GIRLS and women accessed FGM prevention and protection services between 2018 and 2021

Adolescent girls from Rapale secondary school, Nampula province, Mozambique, stand in front of “talking murals” that depict themes relating to ending child marriage. Mozambique has one of the highest rates of early unions in the world, affecting almost one in every two girls. UNICEF and partners are supporting girls with protection and other services, and engaging religious and other leaders in norms change programming to shift restrictive gender norms in the country.
RESULTS ACHIEVED: POSITIVE GENDER SOCIALIZATION AND PARENTING

Countries with at-scale programmes addressing gender-discriminatory roles and practices among children increased from **36 countries in 2018 to 64 countries in 2021.**

In 2021, **3 MILLION** mothers, fathers and caregivers were reached across 94 countries, an almost fourfold increase since 2017.

Nikola plays with his 7-month-old baby, Helena, in Serbia. Nikola participated in the gender-responsive Caring for the Caregiver programme that helps parents and caregivers manage stress, focus on self-care, engage in conflict resolution, and share parental responsibilities.
RESULTS ACHIEVED: MAKING UNICEF A MORE GENDER-RESPONSIVE ORGANIZATION

Rise in percentage of expenditures on programming with a primary focus on gender equality from 2017 to 2021

Gender Action Plan institutional and implementation benchmarks
LOOKING AHEAD: GAP 2022–2025 NEW FEATURES

Adolescent girls’ leadership and well-being
Gender-responsive parenting and caregiving
Gender in humanitarian action
Ending all forms of violence against women and girls
Gender-responsive social protection
Gender-transformative workplaces and practices

Hala, a 15-year-old Syrian refugee, teaches her sister how to access digital learning through a UNICEF-supported programme providing girls with education, skills and job placements in Jordan.
Thank you for joining the conversation on gender equality with UNICEF.