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

Lauren Rumble, Principal Adviser, Gender Equality

UNICEF Executive Board
Informal briefing – 20 May 2021

Item 6
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COVID-19 IS A GENDER EQUALITY CRISIS

Impact of COVID-19 crisis on child marriage globally

Additional child brides expected due to COVID-19 = 10 million

Impact on childcare and time spent on domestic chores by women & girls

In Lyon, France, Anne-Lise, who is a journalist, is teleworking in lockdown. “Our 3-year-old daughter Violette always keeps close to us, and we are learning to adjust.” Even before the pandemic, girls aged 10–14 years old were more likely than boys of the same age to spend 21 or more hours on household chores per week.
RESULTS ACHIEVED: EDUCATION IN EMERGENCIES

Hanan, 11 years old, attends a UNICEF Makani centre for learning support and skills development in the Za’atari refugee camp in Jordan. The Makani programme remained active during COVID-19 school closures.

Percentage of girls reached with education in emergencies (actual vs targeted)

- Actual
- Targeted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Targeted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017 (Baseline)</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021 (Target)</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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RESULTS ACHIEVED: GIRLS’ SKILLS AND LEARNING

In 2020, 27 per cent of countries institutionalized gender-equitable skills for learning, personal empowerment, active citizenship and/or employability into their education systems with UNICEF support.

In Bangladesh, as part of Skills4Girls, UNICEF established an apprenticeship and mentoring programme with links to employment for out-of-school adolescent girls. Ruhi is training to be an IT support technician and will be the first IT expert in her community once she graduates.
RESULTS ACHIEVED: MATERNAL HEALTH

In Madagascar, UNICEF supported 49 health districts to provide year-round maternal and child health and nutrition service packages in community health centres.

In 2020, the proportion of mothers receiving postnatal care increased to 61 per cent, almost approaching the target of 62 per cent, despite disruptions caused by COVID-19.
RESULTS ACHIEVED: RESPONDING TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

The number of UNICEF country offices implementing gender-based violence in emergencies programmes doubled.

In Mexico, during the COVID-19 pandemic and as part of the Spotlight Initiative, UNICEF partnered with the Government, United Nations agencies and the private sector to provide hotel accommodation as temporary shelter for women and child survivors of violence.
RESULTS ACHIEVED: GENDER-RESPONSIVE PARENTING AND FAMILY-FRIENDLY POLICIES

In 46 countries, UNICEF supported governments to strengthen family-friendly policies

UNICEF supported governments to strengthen family-friendly policies on parental leave, flexible work and childcare

2.6 million parents and caregivers

reached in 87 countries in 2020 with gender-equitable parenting, positive discipline, and mental health support for families

In Viet Nam, UNICEF supports parenting education and has developed guidance for employers on family-friendly policies and other good workplace practices in the context of COVID-19.
RESULTS ACHIEVED: GENDER-SENSITIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION

The number of countries implementing gender-sensitive social protection tripled from 2019 to 2020.
RESULTS ACHIEVED: INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

Expenditures on gender results increased to **20.8 per cent** (of total expenditure) in 2020

UN SWAP performance, 2019-2020

- **UNICEF** 88%
- **OTHER UNITED NATIONS FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES** 79%
- **UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM** 66%

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CHALLENGES: SERVICE DISRUPTIONS FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

Out of 55 countries reporting, the percentage of countries showing improvement in learning outcomes for girls in 2020 increased by only 1 percentage point compared to 2019, while it increased by 16 percentage points for boys.
### UNICEF GENDER ACTION PLAN 2022-25

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal Area 1</th>
<th>Goal Area 2</th>
<th>Goal Area 3</th>
<th>Goal Area 4</th>
<th>Goal Area 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Maternal health and nutrition, including HIV testing, counseling and quality care</strong></td>
<td><strong>Gender responsive education systems</strong></td>
<td><strong>Addressing violence against women and children, incl. intersections</strong></td>
<td><strong>Equitable WASH systems</strong></td>
<td><strong>Gender transformative social protection systems</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Gender transformative programming, including non-discriminatory gender norms</strong></td>
<td><strong>Equitable education access for all</strong></td>
<td><strong>End FGM</strong></td>
<td><strong>End FGM</strong></td>
<td><strong>Gender transformative care work, through family friendly policies</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Gender transformative workplaces and institutional accountability</strong></td>
<td><strong>Girls’ leadership, skills and learning, including digital skills</strong></td>
<td><strong>End child marriage</strong></td>
<td><strong>Menstrual health and hygiene</strong></td>
<td><strong>Gender transformative workplaces and institutional accountability</strong></td>
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</table>

**Cross-cutting organizational priorities**

- Adolescent girls’ leadership and well-being
- Maternal health and nutrition, including HIV prevention
- Gender responsive education systems
- Addressing violence against women and children, incl. intersections
- Gender transformative social protection systems
- Gender transformative workplaces and institutional accountability
- Informal session 2021
- Item X – Annual presentation on the implementation of the UNICEF Gender Action Plan

**UNICEF Executive Board – Informal session 2021**
Thank you for joining the conversation on gender equality with UNICEF.