Strengthening monitoring and reporting systems in the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage
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This report, ‘Strengthening monitoring and reporting systems in the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage’ is in three sections. The first presents the background of the assessment, the second describes the assessment’s methodology, and includes its purpose, objectives and scope. The third and final discusses the findings across countries and summarizes best practices that can be replicated in other countries.

Complementing the report are 12 country briefs, which present key findings from each of the countries within the Global Programme. They present data sources, completeness and quality of indicators as reported in the 2021 results framework and draw evidence-based recommendations specific to each country.

1. BACKGROUND

In January 2016, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and UNICEF launched the Global Programme to End Child Marriage in 12 countries (Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Yemen and Zambia). The Global Programme has been designed as a 15-year programme (2016-2030) and, has three phases. Phase I (2016-2019) aimed to strengthen critical institutions and systems in selected locations to deliver good quality services and opportunities for a significant number of adolescent girls. It aimed to lay the foundations of attitudes, behaviours and norms against child marriage among a critical mass of families and communities.

Phase II (2020-2023) has aimed to accelerate actions to end child marriage by enhancing investments in, and support for, unmarried and married adolescent girls. This was carried out by

— engaging key actors (including young people as agents of change) in catalysing shifts towards positive gender norms, including the right to choose if, when and whom to marry
— increasing political support, resources, gender-responsive policies and frameworks
— engendering respect for laws, including international humanitarian law
— improving data and evidence on what works to end child marriage.
Phase III (2024–2030) has the longer-term, gender-transformative goal for significantly larger proportions of adolescent girls to fully enjoy a childhood free from the risk of marriage. Girls should experience healthier, safer and more empowered life transitions, including by making informed choices about their education, career, sexuality, relationships, marriage and childbearing.

The Global Programme results’ framework comprises four intermediate outcomes and outputs which contribute to each outcome indicator. The four intermediate outcomes are:

— **Intermediate Outcome 1000**: Adolescent girls at risk of, and affected by, child marriage are effectively making their own informed decisions and choices regarding marriage, education, sexual and reproductive health.

— **Intermediate Outcome 2000**: Relevant sectoral systems and institutions effectively respond to the needs of adolescent girls and their families in targeted Global Programme areas.

— **Intermediate Outcome 3000**: Enhanced legal and political response to prevent child marriage and to support pregnant, married, divorced or widowed adolescent girls.

— **Intermediate Outcome 4000**: Global Programme effectiveness and efficiency (enablers).
2. METHODOLOGY

2.1. Purpose, objectives and scope

The focus of this study is to strengthen the monitoring and reporting systems in the 12 countries, to ensure they respond to the Global Programme results’ framework and support them with monitoring and reporting progress towards the indicators. Specifically, the assessment aims to:

— map all existing monitoring systems and data reporting sources
— assess the availability, relevance of, and potential gaps in monitoring and reporting systems
— assess implementing partners’ monitoring systems
— develop country-specific recommendations based on the findings.

2.2. Study methodology

In summary, the methodology for each objective can be seen in Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objectives</th>
<th>Methodologies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Map all the existing monitoring systems and data reporting sources</td>
<td>— Review background documents (data sources, data-collection templates)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>— Complement the review with key informant interviews (online or in-person) on monitoring and evaluation systems and data flows</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assess the availability and relevance of and potential gaps in monitoring and reporting systems</td>
<td>— Review data reported in the results framework in terms of completeness, consistency, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>— Assess existing mechanisms to ensure the quality of data being collected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assess implementing partners’ monitoring systems</td>
<td>— Review data sources, attendance registers, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>— Review data of participants in activities submitted to UNFPA and/or UNICEF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>— Assess existing mechanisms to ensure the quality of data being collected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop country-specific recommendations based on the findings</td>
<td>— Select a few evidence-based recommendations and suggest ways for implementation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Strengthening monitoring and reporting systems

2.2.1 Review of background documents

The assessment involved a desk review of relevant programme documents, including previous evaluations, Standard Operating Procedures, policy documents, the 2021 results framework and narrative annual reports, attendance forms and data-collection tools.

Initially, the assessment aimed to cover 2020–2021. However, for many implementing partners, documentation for previous years was not properly archived and it was therefore difficult to access documents related to 2020 (especially attendance registers). This led to the assessment being conducted for 2021 only.

2.2.2 Key informant interviews

The document review was complemented by virtual interviews with UNFPA and UNICEF focal points for the Global Programme, to follow up on data issues and to go deeper in analysing data gaps and promising practices.

2.2.3 In-country missions

A set of criteria to select countries for field missions was developed and included:

- geographic coverage across the regions in which the Global Programme is implemented
- potential data quality issues based on 2020 and 2021 annual reports
- feasibility of field mission (e.g., due to humanitarian settings)

According to the criteria, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Niger, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zambia, were initially selected for missions. However, due to the Ebola outbreak in Uganda, this mission had to be cancelled and, due to time constraints, the missions to Bangladesh and Sierra Leone were also cancelled. Hence, the missions took place in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mozambique, the Niger and Zambia from September to October 2022.

The field missions aimed to:

- discuss further data quality issues and assess more data sources
- assess the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and data systems from implementing partners
- discuss the challenges in existing administrative data systems for health, education, child protection and other social services relevant to addressing child marriage
- discuss options for capacity-building to improve data quality
- document country-level examples of promising practices to guide data-collection

The field missions followed five main stages:

1. The mission in each selected country lasted for one week.
2. A briefing meeting was organized with the UNFPA and UNICEF teams in-country.
3. The consultant conducting the assessment met and discussed with focal points from UNFPA, UNICEF and implementing partners.
4. An interview guide was utilized to conduct the discussions, in addition to collecting additional documentation for review.
5. A de-brief meeting was organized on the last day of the mission to present preliminary findings and to get input from UNFPA and UNICEF teams to consolidate the findings.
2.3. Criteria applied to the data quality assessment (DQA)

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has developed a standard DQA checklist which can be adapted to specific programme and administrative data. A single aspect of data quality is defined as a ‘dimension’. The standard DQA criteria/dimensions, are:

- **completeness**: the degree to which all relevant data in a results framework are available
- **validity**: data should represent the intended result clearly and adequately
- **reliability**: data should reflect stable and consistent data-collection processes and analysis methods
- **timeliness**: data should be available at a useful frequency, should be current and should be timely enough to influence management decision-making
- **precision**: data should have a sufficient level of detail to permit informed management decision-making
- **integrity**: data collected should have safeguards to minimize the risk of bias, data transcription or manipulation

This study applies the DQA methodology developed by USAID, apart from the dimension of timeliness, as this was not a factor (delay in submissions of annual reports) highlighted in initial discussions with the Global Programme headquarters team.

The DQA checklist was also applied to a sample of implementing partners assessed during the field visits to examine their data-collection tools being used. The initial scoring was based on the document review and key informant interviews. For countries where a field visit took place, the scoring was also discussed and validated during the end of mission de-brief meetings. Once the results from all countries were consolidated, an initial draft report of the assessment was shared with all country teams, after which additional inputs, comments and documentation were provided and thereafter final scores set.

The DQA score varies from 0 (non-existent) to 5 (excellent). To visualize the scoring, traffic light colours were used, as indicated in Table 2.

### Table 2: The DQA scoring

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score (0-5)</th>
<th>Score (%)</th>
<th>Ranking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-2.4</td>
<td>0% to 49%</td>
<td>Red</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5-3.4</td>
<td>50% to 69%</td>
<td>Orange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5-3.9</td>
<td>70% to 79%</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-5</td>
<td>80% to 100%</td>
<td>Green</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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3. DISCUSSION AND PROMISING PRACTICES

For country-specific findings, assessment and recommendations, please refer to the 12 corresponding country briefs.

3.1. Common challenges across countries

**Monitoring and reporting guidance not being shared with implementing partners and new staff:** Despite the Global Programme having an indicator reference sheet, in some countries (e.g., Mozambique, Sierra Leone and Uganda), the country teams and implementing partners reported that they do not use it. In many cases, this happened because of focal points leaving and new staff arriving without getting the necessary orientation and documentation on the Global Programme, including the reference sheet.

**Weak coordination between UNFPA and UNICEF:** Not all results are reported due to weak collaborative work between UNFPA and UNICEF focal points for the Global Programme. Coordination is also needed to set up baselines and targets for indicators to be reported on annually.

**Insufficient engagement of country M&E team to track Global Programme progress:** The Global Programme focal points are not working closely with country M&E teams in some countries (e.g., Mozambique and Niger), which precludes a common understanding of indicators, set baseline values and to actively participate in data quality reviews.

**Poor design of attendance registers:** Attendance registers are not designed to properly track trainees who complete the number of hours of training required to graduate. For example, all sessions of participation in safe spaces should be recorded using a standard register and the attendance and frequency of participation computed.

**No attendance record of activities related to community engagement:** It is difficult to verify the number of participants in community dialogues when there are no attendance registers for those activities. Here, the number of individuals reached in communities is based on estimates. Further, there is a need to follow up on the adaption of data-collection templates provided in the indicator reference sheet and the use of standard data-collection templates by all implementing partners.

**Lack of inclusion of administrative data:** A number of country programmes (e.g., Ethiopia and Mozambique) provide financial and technical support to government services (e.g., the police, and the ministries for education, health and justice) to reach adolescents and communities, but not all of them report on available administrative data. In addition, programme focal points need to be aware of the potential double-counting of people reached by different government services.
3.2. Promising practices

- Most country programmes are relying on well-established performance monitoring teams that periodically review the performance of the monitoring and quality of data being reported.
- Dedicated technical support provided to Ethiopia and Bangladesh country teams enabled the country programmes to adapt indicator reference templates and use standard data tools and protocols at all levels of implementation. The current design of digital data systems is based on the existing paper-based system at the kebele (village/ward) level that is generating good quality data to feed into the digital systems at woreda (district/zone) level in Ethiopia.

3.3. Overall recommendations for the Global Programme

**Standardization of identification, tracking and measurement protocols:** A way of obtaining high-quality data would be to develop standard protocols on how to:

- recruit/select participating adolescents in activities
- conduct pre- and post-surveys
- track and record participation in activities
- initiate and track referrals for services

- estimate mass media reach and coverage.

**Standardization of data-collection tools:** Additional templates have been proposed in the annexes to help country teams revise their tools and protocols.

**Dedicate technical M&E personnel to the programme:** and also allocate funds to support M&E functions.
Strengthening monitoring and reporting systems

Review of the results framework

Unclear roles and a lack of agreement on data sources have resulted in many indicators being left blank at the outcome level in the 2021 results framework, even though relevant data do exist. For instance, eight out of 17 indicators (47 per cent) have been left blank with no indication whether any of those indicators were tracked or not. No survey is made of the indicators related to the measurement of immediate outcomes and, therefore, those indicators are not reported.

Data sources from implementing partners

The Global Programme has invested in establishing a data-collection system for non-governmental implementing partners. The programme started with paper-based registration forms and then gradually shifted to an online registration system. For example, the programme established a system to register adolescent girls, including variables such as name, gender, age, contact number, residential address, and marital and disability status. This enables the country offices to closely monitor the progress of the programme in terms of the number of girls reached, as well as allowing the offices to conduct further in-depth analyses on the programme's reach.

Adolescents' attendance is recorded in two ways. First, the adolescents themselves sign the attendance sheet and confirm the receipt of snacks during the session. This is done on a monthly basis, with only four sessions per month recorded for reporting purposes. Second, there is an annual attendance register book in which the facilitator records attendance for the entire year. However, the registers can be improved to include standard codes of attendance (1 for present, 0 for absent) for better tracking and to enable stronger evidence of graduation by the adolescents who complete the minimum number of training hours.

On a positive note, the attendance forms for community dialogues and for those participating in training for the anti-sexual harassment committees are well designed and useful to effectively count and report the number of participants.

The adolescents' profiles for 2020 and 2021 were collected in hard copies. Beginning in 2022, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has switched to keeping the profiles in a database and collecting them using Kobo Toolbox software.

2. Indicators considered are those from #1111 to #2201, excluding those on partnership and those on financial performance.
Good practices

Attendance registers for adolescents’ club sessions, anti-sexual harassment committee trainings and community dialogues provide evidence for the validity of the data validity and for disaggregation.

The primary data is stored in a Kobo server with controlled access, and is also stored in Google Sheets with limited access. Any changes made to the document are recorded with the person’s name. UNFPA Bangladesh is discussing the implementation of an information management system of its own, which will further reinforce the process of digitization, as recommended.

Data challenges

Inconsistencies are found when reviewing the results framework. This highlights weak usage of the Global Programme indicators reference sheet. Some results achieved by UNFPA partners were not reported in the 2021 results framework. This is an issue of data completeness at the country level, meaning that not all available data are reported to the Global Programme results framework. This calls for more collaborative work between UNFPA and UNICEF to review programme and administrative data before they complete the result framework and the narrative report.

Data quality assessment (DQA) scores

The mean DQA score for Bangladesh is 68 per cent. Not all indicators are reported on, and it is also important to preserve data integrity and ensure that all source documents are available from implementing partners.

Note: All documents assessed came from UNFPA and their partners, as UNICEF did not provide the requested documentation to conduct the DQA.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimensions</th>
<th>Score (%)</th>
<th>Observations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Completeness</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Many indicators are not filled, despite relevant activities being implemented</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Validity</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Inconsistent data recorded compared to figures from partners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reliability</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Some source documents are not available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Precision</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>Disaggregated data are available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrity</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>Programme data are protected from unauthorized personnel and safeguards are in place to prevent unauthorized changes to the data. E.g., all data that are on the Kobo platform and are only accessible to the programme team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>68</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0% - 49%</td>
<td>50%-69%</td>
<td>70%-79%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Recommendations

1. Ensure the effective use of the indicators reference sheet and report on all indicators related to the activities carried out under the Global Programme. The assessment noted, for example, that the number of adolescents benefiting from prevention and protection services were not reported despite evidence of adolescents participating in counselling services and being referred to specialized centres.

2. Revise attendance forms to improve data validity and comparisons across implementing partners.

3. Plan and carry out relevant surveys to track progress against all indicators. This is important, not least for indicators related to immediate outcome 1200 which have not been reported since the beginning of Phase II of the Global Programme.

4. Designate a specific monitoring and evaluation resource person to support the programme.
Review of the results framework

The indicators related to immediate outcome 1200 were not reported on in 2021 as no relevant survey was conducted in the country. Further, out of 2,000 girls and boys in programme areas who accessed prevention and protection services, only 1,403 were included in the reporting in the results framework. Only two of the Global Programme implementing civil society partners (Voix de Femmes and Tin-Tua) provided evidence that they had reported a figure related to this indicator to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) or UNICEF.

Data sources from implementing partners

The Government of Burkina Faso is implementing a digitized child protection information management system (CPIMS+) with the support of UNICEF for case management, however all implementing partners collect programme data on paper-based forms. Two non-governmental organizations (Christian Believe and Mwangaza Action) use data entry clerks to record programme data on a monthly basis, and this practice reduces data entry bias and provides more readily available data for reporting in a timely manner.

Participation in community dialogues is not recorded in attendance registers. Hence, these figures are provided based on estimates. Further, attendance forms vary across implementing partners and evidence shows that some forms are not properly completed nor secured in safe locations for monitoring purposes.

Good practices

Implementing partners shared the results framework and each of them complete indicators relevant to their activities under the Global Programme. UNFPA and UNICEF country teams then review and compile all data provided by partners to produce a common results framework for the country programme.

In relation to multi-sectoral programming, two of the programme’s implementing partners provide an integrated package of services to address violence against children and child marriage. Voix de Femmes provides complementary services including health services to children referred from adolescent clubs in implementing areas, psychosocial support to survivors of gender-based violence and, in partnership with lawyers, legal services to survivors. Tin-Tua provides birth registration services as well as financial literacy classes and financial support to adolescent girls who have graduated from safe space sessions.

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Data challenges

In 2021, four implementing regions (Boucle du Mouhoun, Centre-Nord, Est and Nord) out of six are facing high rates of attacks by armed groups. In these regions where insecurity is high, mentors carry out empowerment sessions in small groups but have failed to record the participants in every session.

There is a need to standardize, simplify and reduce the number of data-collection tools across implementing partners (such as attendance registers, pre- and post-surveys and questionnaires), while ensuring that attendance in community dialogues is registered.

Data quality assessment (DQA) scores

The mean DQA score for Burkina Faso is 64.4 per cent. This performance is linked to the challenges found when checking data quality. The harmonization of data-collection forms, in particular, will improve the reliability of programme data and digitization of the systems has great potential to improve and preserve data integrity.

DQA score for Burkina Faso

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimensions</th>
<th>ASMADE</th>
<th>Christian Believe</th>
<th>Mwangaza Action</th>
<th>Tin-Tua</th>
<th>Voix de Femmes</th>
<th>UNFPA and UNICEF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Completeness</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Validity</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reliability</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Precision</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrity</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>64.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0% - 49%</td>
<td>50%-69%</td>
<td>70%-79%</td>
<td>80%-100%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recommendations

1. Ensure the effective use of the indicators reference sheet. For instance, some indicators were not reported on, such as the number of adolescents accessing prevention and protection services despite evidence of them benefiting from counselling services and being referred to specialized centres.

2. Revise attendance forms and use attendance registers for community dialogues for evidence-based reporting. This will improve data validity and comparison of data across implementing partners.

3. Accelerate the digitization process to improve data integrity and completeness. Evidence indicates that all partners still use Excel sheets unauthorized personnel can modify, which can pose a risk. Moving to an electronically integrated information management system, instead of using paper-based forms can minimize data entry bias.

4. Plan and carry out relevant surveys to track progress against all indicators. For example, indicators related to immediate outcome 1200 were not reported on in 2021.

5. Designate a specific monitoring and evaluation resource person to support the programme.
Strengthening monitoring and reporting systems

Methodology

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

Review of the results framework

The number of adolescent girls (aged 10–19) who actively participate in life skills or comprehensive sexuality education in programme areas in Ethiopia is relatively low (49,000 girls out of the targeted 105,000). More girls are being reached by the programme, but they are not included in the reporting as they are not engaged for the minimum of 31 hours of sessions as per the indicator reference sheet. Care International Ethiopia is developing manuals on life skills tailored to the Ethiopian context. In 2021, the manual was piloted in 20 select woredas (districts) and the Bureau of Women and Social Affairs is preparing for a full roll out. It is expected that more adolescents will benefit from the standard life skills training once the manual has been finalized.

Indicators related to immediate outcome 1200 were not reported in 2021. With the support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and UNICEF, PMC-Ethiopia has carried out audience monitoring surveys in which questions related to this outcome could be included.

Data sources from implementing partners

UNICEF already has standardized attendance registers for life skills training, community dialogues and in-school sessions, which need to be filled out by implementing partners at every session. Another form unique to the Ethiopian context is the process monitoring which is compiled for the whole kebele (village) every month and reported to the Women, Children and Youth Bureau at the woreda level. This form helps the Global Programme to get a continuous picture of the situation in each kebele, and to assess whether the number of cases of child marriage are going up or down.

The assessment found that not all non-governmental partners and focal points at kebele and woreda levels keep records of Global Programme activities. In a kebele visited in the Hawassa region the assessment team found gaps in the life skills training for girls. The master training for female adolescent mentors is set for four days, however a master training session was organized for two days which is insufficient to train girls coming from very diverse backgrounds and with differing levels of knowledge of life skills.
**Good practices**

The emerging use of digital solutions for data-collection is an example of good practice. PMC-Ethiopia utilizes data clerks who record project data on an online platform. Once this has been done, monitoring and evaluation staff check the data for completeness and consistency.

The Global Programme in Ethiopia has completed an exercise with the aims of simplifying and reducing the number of data-collection tools to track child marriage data. There is an initiative to conduct a diagnostic assessment of the existing monitoring, evaluation and learning system of key ministries and then to develop a framework, provide capacity-building and support the roll out of an improved system.

The presence of record books at the kebele level is also a positive step. These register information related to preventative measures on child marriage and for the management of child marriage cases.

**Data challenges**

There is an issue with data flow in Ethiopia and within the Global Programme. The Ministry of Women and Social Affairs, the lead ministry for child marriage, is designing an integrated case management system with the technical and financial support of UNICEF. In 2022, the management system for cases of violence against children and child marriage is not efficient as many ministries and non-governmental organizations operate separately. Further, there is no data quality check at a central or district level to ensure its completeness and consistency.

The trainings for adolescent girls are organized at a regional and zonal level while lists of registers exist at regional bureaux. Further, mentors are responsible for selecting the girls to participate in the training sessions and are not provided with space to conduct the trainings.

**Data quality assessment (DQA) scores**

The mean DQA score for Ethiopia is 62.5 per cent. This performance could be improved as not all indicators were reported on with the required disaggregation.

**DQA score for Ethiopia**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimensions</th>
<th>PMC</th>
<th>Ministry of Women (Hawassa)</th>
<th>NCA</th>
<th>Care Ethiopia</th>
<th>UNFPA and UNICEF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Completeness</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>72.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Validity</td>
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<td>60</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reliability</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>62.5</td>
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<td>Precision</td>
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<td>60</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrity</td>
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<td>60</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>57.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>72.5</td>
<td>62.5</td>
<td>60.5</td>
<td>72.5</td>
<td>62.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0% - 49%</td>
<td></td>
<td>50%-69%</td>
<td>70%-79%</td>
<td></td>
<td>80%-100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Recommendations

1. Ensure that all non-governmental organizations correctly use the standardized attendance register. Applying the same methodology for life skills training and for data-collection will improve the reliability of data and comparisons across partners.

2. Keep all proof of activities, especially attendance lists for life skills sessions for out-of-school adolescents.

3. Integrate questions to track progress against immediate outcome 1200 in future surveys, including upcoming social and behaviour change surveys which can integrate questions around men’s and boys’ attitudes and beliefs.

4. Designate a specific monitoring and evaluation resource person to support the programme.
In the 2021 results framework, almost all targets were met, and the programme reported disaggregated data against the tracked indicators, however a few indicators were not reported on, including the indictors related to immediate outcome 1200. The Promoting Adolescent Safe Spaces Project conducts baseline and endline surveys every year in four regions of Ghana (Northern, Northeast, Central and Savannah), with the financial support of the Global Programme. Hence, the programme should ensure these indicators are used in the surveys conducted in 2023.

Strengthening service delivery mechanisms at the decentralized level has been proved to be effective, but identification, reporting and referrals can be improved as evidence suggests that the number of child marriage and teenage pregnancy cases recorded in the Social Welfare Information Management System (SWIMS) remains low. Referrals of child marriage and teenage pregnancy cases from health, criminal justice and education systems to the Department of Social Welfare and Community Development at the district level also remain low.

Good practices

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Ghana has developed a written procedure the ‘monitoring data management toolkit’ using the Global Programme indicator reference sheet as a basis. The toolkit includes definitions, clarifications of data sources, the frequency with which it will be collected, and any necessary disaggregation of data specific to the Ghana context. This good practice can be shared with other country programmes to improve their data quality.

Among the background documents, quarterly reports were very comprehensive with figures for the number of individuals reached by partners.

Ghana has made significant efforts in strengthening data-collection and management as part of strengthening relevant sectoral systems (especially health and child protection). The data-collection and management for the Safety Net Programme has significantly improved with direct funding from the Global Programme. Adolescent health registers and reporting forms have been revised to make them more user-friendly. An electronic dashboard has been developed which enables data from the registers and forms on pregnant adolescent girls and adolescent mothers to be compiled at a district level, after validation. Powered by Primero X, this open-source case management software was developed by UNICEF and customized for use in Ghana based on standard operating procedures and case management forms. The SWIMS is currently live in 160 of 261 districts. Regional focal persons and health information officers were oriented on these new tools to enhance their capacity to collect relevant service utilization data for the improvement of quality of care.

The Child Protection Community Engagement Toolkit Application is a web-based platform, developed by the Government of Ghana with support from
UNICEF to facilitate real-time monitoring and reporting of progress made through implementation of the toolkit. The toolkit has been used for community engagement and mobilization activities to promote a supportive and gender equal environment, so far being rolled out in 160 districts through direct support from the Global Programme as well as through complementary funding.

Technical working group sessions are organized to develop an electronic register (e-tracker) and a dashboard to enable the collection of real-time information on the Safety Net Programme. This online solution improves the quality of project data and allows timely submission of programme records.

**Data challenges**

Data quality needs to be improved by strengthening national capacity for data-collection and management. Evidence from internal field reports of the Safety Net Programme pointed out incomplete/incorrect reporting in attendance registers, monthly reports not being up-to-date and non-encouraging entries in e-trackers.

There are weak referral link between social support services, as referral systems are not well activated at the facility level across sectors (education, health, child protection). For example, health service providers rarely link clients to social welfare services and few cases of child marriage within the age group 10–14 years were referred further.

**Data quality assessment (DQA) scores**

The mean DQA score for Ghana is 79 per cent. This good performance relies on a real-time monitoring system which minimizes errors and allows for timely submission of good quality data.

### DQA score for Ghana

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimensions</th>
<th>Score (%)</th>
<th>Observations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Completeness</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>Almost all indicators, except four (#1201-1204)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Validity</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>Ongoing efforts to use the indicator reference manual, and to conduct periodic and effective data quality reviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reliability</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>Existence of an information management system and methods to estimate/check double counting across programme components</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Precision</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>Disaggregate data are available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrity</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>Real-time monitoring solutions (including government systems, Safety Net Programme and the Kobo platform)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>79</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 0% - 49%     | 50%–69%   | 70%–79% | 80%–100% |
1. **Track progress against all indicators through programme data and relevant surveys**, including indicators related to immediate outcome 1200.

2. **Develop an interoperability between relevant information management systems** and strengthen case management and referrals. A review of the current monitoring systems provides evidence of weak referral link to social services and networks.

3. **Strengthen national capacity for data-collection and management** to improve the quality of data and address challenges and gaps identified.

4. **Designate a specific monitoring and evaluation resource person** to support the programme.
In India, the Global Programme is implemented in 15 states through the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and UNICEF field offices with the support of partners. These field offices are an important link in the monitoring and reporting structure of the programme.

Overall, the 2021 results framework showed good performance in terms of results achieved, although a number of indicators were not reported on. For example, in 2021, the programme did not start in-school activities for adolescent students due to school closures as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Hence, the results framework did not report on any schools in programme areas which provide good quality gender-responsive education that meets minimum standards.

In regard to indicators related to immediate outcome 1200 (#1201 and 1204), there were no special surveys conducted to track progress, and the information management system of the government does not include these indicators. The number of adolescents benefiting from prevention and protection services was also not reported in 2021, despite reporting that 438 adolescent-friendly health clinics were providing services.

UNICEF partners use a district-level information management system to report data, which gets automatically compiled at state level. This data are first sent to the field offices, who review and comment formally and non-formally to the partner agencies on data quality and gaps perceived, before submitting the information to the country offices for joint reporting. In 2019, when the system was first collaboratively developed and launched, a guidance document was also created to help district coordinators to fill it out. The launch also included an in-depth training of partner agencies’ programme and monitoring managers. Later guidance has also been built into the system itself.

At the beginning of an empowerment programme cycle, a survey is organized in each district using the Kobo platform to record adolescents’ profile (including name, gender, age, marital status, educational status, willingness to take skills education training and parents’ names). Partners have also established a database of girls who have been at risk of getting married and information on whether support from the Global Programme successfully stopped this. Additional information in the database include the date when the marriage was stopped, the girl’s age at that time, who raised the alert, and main follow-up actions.
Good practices

The district-level information management system for partners to fill in data at district level is digitized and the data are automatically added for the state level, which helps in gathering information promptly and allowing district and state level staff to cross-check its quality.

The country programme developed and shifted the information management system for the Global Programme into an online system (the ODK-ONA platform) in early 2022. The move from an Excel-based reporting tool to the online reporting tool is key to minimize data bias and preserve data integrity.

Data challenges

Inconsistencies identified when analysing the results framework highlight weak reference to the indicator reference sheet. In addition, not all baseline targets were set in 2021.

Data quality assessment (DQA) scores

The mean DQA score for India is 72 per cent. This good performance benefited from evidence-based documentation of the reporting on results. That said, to improve the quality of data, reporting on all applicable indicators should be sought.

DQA score for India

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimensions</th>
<th>Score (%)</th>
<th>Observations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Completeness</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>A number of indicators were not reported on</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Validity</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>Should report on all relevant indicators as applicable if they make reference to the indicator reference manual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reliability</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>Good methodologies used over time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Precision</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>Disaggregated data are available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrity</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>A district information management system is set up but evidence shows that data quality needs to be improved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>72</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 0% - 49%     | 50%-69%   | 70%-79%                                                                     | 80%-100%
Recommendations

1. **Ensure the effective use of the indicator reference sheet and report on all applicable indicators.** Some indicators were not reported on, even though relevant activities are implemented. It is suggested that the Global Programme indicator reference sheet should be consulted and, if needed, the global team should be contacted to clarify the calculation of some indicators, such as the number of adolescents benefiting from prevention and protection services; as evidence shows service delivery points that deliver such services to adolescents.

2. **Set up realistic annual targets for all indicators in the result framework.** This can be done through collaborative work between UNFPA, UNICEF and Government partners before the start of Phase III.

3. **Improve the quality of data provided by the online system.** Efforts have been made to shift the information management system for the Global Programme into the ODK-ONA platform in early 2022. As the system is new and some data bias/variations still exist, it is suggested that constant work is needed to improve the quality of data being collected.
Seven out of 17 indicators (41 per cent) were not reported on in 2021 – with no indication in the results framework whether the country offices had agreed to report on them or not. In addition, four indicators were reported without the required disaggregation (nos. 1211, 1221, 1222 and 1223).

Specific indicators where data was missing include the number of:

- girls and boys in programme areas accessing prevention and protection services, despite implementing partners providing data on cases of gender-based violence and child marriage cancelled or referred to specialized services.
- adolescent girls benefiting from social protection, poverty reduction or economic empowerment programmes despite the narrative report stating that in 2021, economic empowerment was piloted in a Global Programme district (Ancoche, Nampula Province).
- girls supported to enrol/remain in school despite the assessment finding data indicating that 384 adolescents were reached in 2021.

Furthermore, the number of people participating in group education/dialogue sessions (148,616 reported) was underreported, with the results framework indicating that “only community dialogue sessions implemented by not-for-profit health organization N’weti were taken into account because of its rigorous monitoring system tracking change in attitudes”.

In the 2021 reporting process the Global Programme focal point in UNICEF Mozambique was on emergency family leave and hence did not participate in coordinating inputs to the report. Hence, the assessment also looked at the 2020 results framework to identify further good practices in the country reporting.

As in 2021, not all indicators were reported on in 2020 (six out of 17 indicators missing data). Some of these were due to the Global Programme not financing specific activities: it is recommended that, in these cases, ‘not applicable’ is reported in the results framework. In other cases, the team provided explanations for the non-reporting, such as that baseline values would come after a social norms survey to be conducted in 2021 and that certain community activities could not take place due to COVID-19.

On the other hand, the country team provided results from leveraged programmes for nine indicators (e.g., girls participating in empowerment programmes) and provided disaggregated data for all but one indicator (individuals reached by mass media not being disaggregated due to this level of data being unavailable).

3. Indicators considered are those from #1111–2201, excluding indicators on partnership and financial performance.
At N’weti, the way to register non-attendance in adolescent club sessions is confusing. A standardized approach of registering 1 for present and 0 for absence is recommended, as carried out by other organizations (such as Koutenga).

The annual report submitted by women’s rights organization NAFEZA to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) could be improved. It should include summary tables of key indicators/results by province/district to facilitate disaggregation by the Global Programme focus districts, rather than providing narrative comments on achievements. Further, the report does not provide data on the workplan indicators, nor the annual targets agreed with UNFPA (good examples of how to submit data in the partner annual reports can be found in the submissions of other partners, such as the Men for Change Network (HOPEM) and Koutenga).

Both social and economic development foundation FDC and NAFEZA receive funds from UNFPA through the Global Programme and through the Rapariga Biz programme, to implement activities in Nampula and Zambezia provinces. It is recommended that UNFPA requests these partners present the results for the two programmes separately in their annual reports, to enable the disaggregation of the data to be cross-checked.

The Global Programme implementing partners in Mozambique keep data for all districts and provinces where they implement activities. UNFPA and UNICEF then compile this data and report on the geographic locations targeted by the Global Programme. It is advised that the country team keeps documentation on the process of disaggregation by location (data from each partner by district and province) as well as the aggregated figure for each of the Global Programme indicators in an Excel sheet or similar to support quality and timely data reporting even if staff relocate.

Key ministries, including the ministries for justice and education, and the police, are collecting and monitoring administrative data related to violence against children and child marriage disaggregated by province and district and this is presented to UNFPA and UNICEF annually at an end-of-year review meeting. These figures should be included in the results framework but, in both 2020 and 2021, due to COVID-19, UNFPA and UNICEF did not have the meeting, and hence these data were not included in the report.
The mean DQA score for Mozambique is 64 per cent. This means that challenges do exist, especially in regard to completeness and data integrity. The completeness score for the country offices of UNFPA and UNICEF is low compared to the scores of the implementing partners. As mentioned above, not all relevant data submitted by implementing partners were reported. The mean score for Mozambique would be higher if the results for 2020 were taken into account. However, the 2020 results framework for Mozambique has been improved in terms of completeness and data quality.

### Data quality assessment (DQA) scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimensions</th>
<th>N’weti</th>
<th>PIRCOM</th>
<th>NAFEZA</th>
<th>FDC</th>
<th>Koutenga and HOPEM</th>
<th>UNFPA and UNICEF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Completeness</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Validity</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reliability</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Precision</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrity</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Recommendations

1. **Ensure the effective use of the indicator reference sheet and report on all relevant indicators.** There needs to be a better understanding of the definition and calculations of some of the indicators as some figures were provided by partners but not properly reported in the results framework.
2. **Reinforce the collaboration between UNFPA and UNICEF** when setting baseline and target values and ensure that all data from both agencies’ partners are aggregated and reported on, as per the indicator reference sheet.
3. **Standardize tools for data-collection,** such as life skills training registers and community dialogue attendance forms.
4. **Document the process of data disaggregation** by the districts and provinces supported by the Global Programme for better reporting.
5. **Designate a specific monitoring and evaluation resource person** to support the programme.
Among the Global Programme countries, Nepal is the only one which has conducted a dedicated survey on the indicators related to perceptions around child marriage (immediate outcome 1200). However, a number of inconsistencies were found when reviewing the data quality.

Of 17 indicators, nine (52 per cent) were not disaggregated as required and two were not reported on at all. For instance, the number of adolescents benefiting from prevention and protection services was not reported on, despite 106 service delivery points in programme areas reported as providing good quality adolescent-responsive services in the results framework. The indicator on the number of schools providing good quality gender-responsive education is also left blank, despite the narrative report mentioning training sessions for adolescents in schools with gender-responsive education that should meet minimum standards.

Data sources from implementing partners

The attendance forms for life skills training in safe spaces as well as other attendance registers for in-school training sessions are designed to record participants of three training sessions in the same form. The forms also contain attendees’ profiles (such as gender, age and disability). It is suggested that participants’ profiles are recorded instead in the attendance register to easily see who has completed all the sessions and who might have dropped out.

A positive note is the existence of a database of targeted adolescents which provides individual information on them.

The implementing partners did not use specific templates to register community dialogues; the number of participants in community conversation is estimated.

Good practices

The annual implementation of a survey to assess knowledge, attitudes and practices allows reporting on indicators related to gender-equitable attitudes and support for girls’ rights. The survey is designed in the Kobo platform and targets adolescents and their parents who have participated in life skills and community training sessions. However, it is crucial to review the survey’s methodology, as it only reaches about 10 per cent of all participants.
Data challenges

It is crucial to revise attendance registers to cover 10 training sessions in the same form; this will allow mentors to more easily track trainees who dropped out.

The inconsistencies in the results framework indicates that the staff responsible for the Global Programme did not use the indicator reference sheet, and this leads to errors when compiling indicators in the results framework. In addition, the assessment found figures reported in the narrative report which were not reported in the results framework.

Data quality assessment (DQA) scores

The mean DQA score for Nepal is 68 per cent. This performance is based on documentation provided for the assessment. A real-time monitoring system minimizes errors and allows timely submission of good quality data. However, the performance can still be improved if the team improve their use of the indicator reference sheet and provide constructive feedback to district level staff.

### DQA score for Nepal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimensions</th>
<th>Score (%)</th>
<th>Observations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Completeness</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>A few indicators not reported on</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Validity</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>Inconsistencies due to weak reference to the indicator reference sheet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reliability</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>Good methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Precision</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Not all required disaggregation is available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrity</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>Online solution for data-collection and reporting improves data integrity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>68</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0% - 49%</td>
<td>50%-69%</td>
<td>70%-79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>80%-100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recommendations

1. **Strengthen registration of participants in community dialogues**, and enable disaggregation based on gender and attendance status
2. **Ensure the effective use of the indicator reference sheet** and report on all relevant indicators, as it is now clear that some activities are implemented without the relevant results being reported.
3. **Designate a specific monitoring and evaluation resource person** to support the programme.
Review of the results framework

The Niger programme did not report on all relevant indicators in the 2021 results framework. This includes the four indicators related to immediate outcome 1200, despite the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) supporting a nationwide sample-based survey on gender-based violence and UNICEF supporting a survey on fertility and mortality, which both could include questions to track progress against the indicators. Second, activities related to the number of girls and boys in programme areas accessing prevention and protection services, as well as to the number of adolescent girls benefiting from social protection, poverty reduction and economic empowerment programmes were not reported on in the results framework. This is despite the country programme reporting that, among girls participating in life skills sessions supported by UNFPA, 4,037 were referred to health centres (183 in Maradi, 79 in Diffa, 121 in Tahoua, and 3,654 in Tillaberi), and that some adolescent girls who completed the life skills training also benefited from vocational training and economic empowerment activities including manufacture of liquid soap and perfume, knitting and sewing.

Further, it is noted that a total of 6,910,617 individuals were reached by mass media messaging on child marriage, a high number compared to the target of 1,245,625.

Data sources from implementing partners

UNFPA’s implementing partners for adolescents’ training in safe spaces, local development support organizations CADEL and APPADN, reported that each training session is registered in a separate form which are then kept in a secure place. However, the use of one attendance register for multiple training sessions is recommended, to avoid double counting and to easily identify adolescents who have completed all modules, as well as those who failed to complete the minimum hours of training.

No records for participation in community dialogues were found. The number of participants is estimated for each session and, every month the facilitator aggregates and compiles the figures for the dialogues to send to their supervisor.
**Data challenges**

A main challenge is that data-collection tools are not harmonized, with organizations implementing the same programme component using different forms to record attendance in training sessions.

The lack of attendance forms for community dialogues is a challenge, as the data reported are only estimates.

The use of the online solutions Comecare and Rapidpro is in the pilot phase and many implementing partners continue to use paper-based forms and excel sheets to summarize data. So far, the roll out has reached only some partners for testing the tools.

Many organizations refer adolescents to diverse services (e.g., related to gender-based violence or child protection), but they do not report these figures to UNFPA or UNICEF. Further, different ministries, including those for justice and for education, are collecting and monitoring administrative data related to violence against children and child marriage, without having a joint database or coordinated figures for children affected.

**Data quality assessment (DQA) scores**

The mean DQA score for Niger is 61.3 per cent. Many indicators are not reported on despite relevant activities being conducted – it is recommended that the country programme refers back to the indicator reference sheet for guidance. Due to this issue the score for completeness of data is low for UNFPA and UNICEF compared to the implementing partners, who submitted additional data which were not included in the results framework. Further, the programme lacks a mechanism to preserve data integrity.

### DQA score for Niger

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimensions</th>
<th>ASMADE</th>
<th>Christian Believe</th>
<th>Mwangaza Action</th>
<th>UNFPA and UNICEF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Completeness</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Validity</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>61.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reliability</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Precision</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>71.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrity</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>53.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>61.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0% - 49%</td>
<td>50%-69%</td>
<td>70%-79%</td>
<td>80%-100%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Recommendations

1. **Standardize tools for registering training of adolescents**, as implementing partners currently use different attendance lists and tools for registration.
2. **Keep records of all participants in community dialogues**, ensuring that attendance registers are properly completed.
3. **Ensure the effective use of the indicators reference sheet and report on all relevant indicators** since, currently, some activities are not reflected in the results framework.
4. **Assess the pilot phase of the online solutions used** before scaling up to additional regions: by conducting a rapid review necessary adjustments can be made before expansion.
5. **Designate a specific monitoring and evaluation resource person** to support the programme.
Review of the results framework

The number of adolescents benefiting from prevention and protection services was not reported on. This was despite the 2021 narrative report, and the 2021 country profile, highlighting the support by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for a free hotline for reporting and referring cases of gender-based violence. Some 140 cases were reported and recorded at the call centre and referred to services, but this data was not included in the results framework.

Data sources from implementing partners

Attendance registers vary across implementing partners. For example, the attendance forms used by youth empowerment organization Restless Development for life skills training are designed to record many training sessions during the same month. However, registers used by Fambul Initiative Network for Equality Sierra Leone (FINE-SL) which addresses issues of gender equality and violence, allow mentors to record attendance on a weekly basis. It is recommended that the same register is used to record as many attendances as possible, to enable an easy overview of the total number of attendances, using the number ‘1’ for present and ‘0’ for those missing a session.

The attendance registers for community dialogue sessions also differ. It is recommended that FINE-Sierra Leone revise their forms covering community dialogues, to include the status/role of the participants (e.g., youth leader, elder, religious/community leader).

Different ministries, including those responsible for justice, education and the police, used to collect and monitor administrative data on violence against children and child marriage. However, these public services have not set up a database to track all data from different provinces or districts. Further, the results framework and annual report for 2021 did not provide figures from administrative data coming from community-based case management at district level or the key ministries responsible for providing necessary services (such as health or those dealing with gender-based violence). Hence, the number of girls and boys in programme areas who accessed prevention and protection services is not reported due to the lack of a mechanism to track progress made in this area.
**Data challenges**

There is a need for a standardization of data-collection tools, as attendance lists used to track adolescents’ participation in training sessions vary across implementing partners. The indicator reference manual for the Global Programme is not used and this leads to confusion and errors when compiling indicators in the results framework. In addition, the assessment found figures in the narrative report which were not reported on in the results framework.

**Data quality assessment (DQA) scores**

The mean DQA score for Sierra Leone is 58 per cent. Programme and administrative data rely on paper-based forms with no mechanism to check and correct potential errors during data entry. The teams should also refer more often to the indicator reference manual to request disaggregated data from implementing partners for reporting. In regard to validity, little evidence was provided by implementing partners to support figures reported in the 2021 results framework.

**DQA score for Sierra Leone**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimensions</th>
<th>Score (%)</th>
<th>Observations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Completeness</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>Incomplete data, not all indicators are reported on in the results framework</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Validity</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Attendance registers provided for all components of the programme, but not all implementing partners provided evidence to support the programme data they capture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reliability</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Ongoing effort to harmonize training methodologies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Precision</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Not fully disaggregated as required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrity</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Weak mechanism to preserve data integrity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mean</strong></td>
<td><strong>58</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>0% - 49%</strong></td>
<td><strong>50%-69%</strong></td>
<td><strong>70%-79%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>80%-100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Data quality assessment (DQA) scores**

1. **Standardize tools for registering training of adolescents**, as implementing partners currently use different attendance lists and other tools for registration.
2. **Ensure the effective use of the indicators reference sheet and report on all relevant indicators** since some indicators are not reported on (e.g. 140 cases were reported and recorded at the call centre and referred to services, including at one-stop-centres, but not reflected in reporting).
3. **Integrate indicators of immediate outcome 1200 in future surveys on child marriage.**
4. **Designate a specific monitoring and evaluation resource person** to support the programme.
Review of the results framework

The four indicators related to immediate outcome 1200 were not reported on. Since 2020 the country programme has not yet implemented a relevant survey which can be used to track progress against these indicators.

The 2021 results framework indicates that 1,400 adolescent girls benefited from social protection, poverty reduction and economic empowerment programmes. However, figures from implementing partners show 11,250 adolescent girls acquired vocational skills including tailoring, bead-making, and baking, which puts the correct total at 12,650.

The COVID-19 pandemic led to delays in face-to-face training sessions, and to reductions in the number of boys and men targeted to attend group education/dialogues that addressed harmful masculinities and gender norms. However, the pandemic also led to the increased use of mass media (such as radio talks) to compensate for the lack of face-to-face meetings. This resulted in 3,005,000 individuals (boys, girls, women, and men) reached by mass media (traditional and social media) messaging on child marriage, the rights of adolescent girls, and gender equality - five times the target of 596,128.

Data sources from implementing partners

The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD), with support from UNICEF and the United States Agency for International Development, commissioned a review and assessment of the information management system in the entire childcare and protection thematic area in 2022. The current system does not offer web service integration, and many processes are still paper based.

The MGLSD has taken some steps towards harmonizing social protection data through the establishment of a national single registry, which has linked some data from, for example, the Uganda Child Helpline and the information management system for orphaned and other vulnerable children, and generated cross-cutting data based on various indicators.

Data challenges

Different NGO implementing partners use different attendance lists to track adolescents’ participation in training sessions, and there is a need to standardize data-collection tools.

The reference indicator manual for the Global Programme is not used enough, and this leads to errors when compiling indicators in the results framework. Further, the assessment found figures which were reported in the narrative report but not in the results framework; figures which lack supporting evidence-based documentation from implementing partners.
The mean DQA score for Uganda is 58 per cent. The main challenges are related to data validity and reliability. For instance, proper application of the indicator reference manual would improve the DQA. With regards to validity, little evidence was provided to support figures in the 2021 results framework.

### DQA score for Uganda

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimensions</th>
<th>Score (%)</th>
<th>Observations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Completeness</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>Results framework not fully completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Validity</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Figures reported in the narrative report which were not reported in the results framework</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reliability</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Need for standardization of data-collection tools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Precision</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Data not disaggregated as required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrity</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>Use of the government’s information management system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>58</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0% - 49%</td>
<td>50%-69%</td>
<td>70%-79% 80%-100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Recommendations**

1. **Standardize tools for registering adolescents’ training**, as implementing partners use different attendance lists and other methods for registration.
2. **Ensure the effective use of the indicators reference sheet and report on all relevant indicators** related to ongoing activities. Some indicators are not reported on, despite evidence that shows that relevant activities are implemented (e.g., children benefiting from social protection or financial support, and service delivery points providing quality adolescent-responsive child protection or gender-based violence services that meet minimum standards).
3. **Reinforce the validity of programme data**. This can be achieved through periodic data quality review meetings, formative supervision of implementing partners, and by checking the validity and consistency of data from implementing partners.
4. **Designate a specific monitoring and evaluation resource person** to support the programme.
Some 135 adolescent girls were given grants to start their own projects with marketable products based on a market analysis. This number should be counted as girls benefiting from economic empowerment programmes, and hence reported on.

Many indicators were not disaggregated as required, and many baseline values are missing. This makes it difficult to assess progress made in these areas.

An online application/platform to host Global Programme data has been developed by the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) staff of United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). This platform allows for timely reporting and accessibility to data despite the emergency context, with field agents from implementing partners recording programme data directly on the platform.

The database administrator has developed programming/code to check all child marriage programme data entered into the online platform. M&E staff are then able to give feedback to implementing partners on data bias or inconsistencies.

With the poor security situation in the country, only a basic package of services is delivered to girls and their families, hence many indicators are not applicable to the Yemen country programme.

To date, Yemen remains classified as the worst humanitarian crisis globally. A few implementing partners are working with UNICEF and UNFPA using innovative methods to reach vulnerable adolescents and communities in this difficult situation. Nevertheless, data challenges are identified in the result framework and from other programme documents.

As mentioned above, data inconsistencies are found in the result framework and this highlights a weak application of the Global Programme indicators reference manual.

The mean DQA score for Yemen is 55 per cent. Main challenges are related to data validity and disaggregation. With regards to validity, little evidence was provided during the assessment to support figures reported in the 2021 results framework.
DQA score for Uganda

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimensions</th>
<th>Score (%)</th>
<th>Observations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Completeness</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>Results framework not fully completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Validity</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Some figures reported have no evidence from implementing partners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reliability</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Need for standardization of data-collection tools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Precision</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Data not disaggregated as required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrity</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>Use of online/web-based platform for data entry and reporting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>58</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0% - 49%</td>
<td>50%-69%</td>
<td>70%-79%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recommendations

1. **Standardize tools for registering the training of adolescents**, as implementing partners use different attendance lists and other tools for registration.
2. **Ensure the effective use of the indicators reference sheet and report on all relevant indicators** related to ongoing activities. Some indicators are not reported on, despite relevant activities, such as individuals reached by mass media.
3. **Set up baseline targets for standard indicators**.
4. **Reinforce the validity of programme data and ensure that data can be disaggregated as required**. This can be done through periodic data quality reviews.
5. **Designate a specific monitoring and evaluation resource person** to support the programme.
Strengthening monitoring and reporting systems

**Review of the results framework**

Six out of 17 indicators (35 per cent) were not disaggregated as per the indicator reference manual and this also affects the validity of the data since no source data were archived and, hence, were not accessible for the assessment.

Reporting on the number of schools in programme areas that are providing good quality gender-friendly education is missing. This is despite the support by the Global Programme for schools’ Community Action Groups, and its work with students’ clubs through training and information-sharing on gender, child marriage, menstrual health and hygiene. A total of 111 schools took part in Community Action Group activities (40 in Katete district and 71 in Senanga district). These schools could be considered as schools in programme areas providing quality gender-friendly education that meets minimum standards.

A reported 800,000 individuals reached by mass media (traditional and social media) messaging on child marriage, the rights of adolescent girls, and gender equality is higher than the target of 300,000. However, there is no means of verification. The figures are an estimate, and it is suggested that a robust methodology is found to model, or estimate, individuals reached by mass media activities.

The indicators under immediate outcome 1200 are not reported on as no survey has been conducted to track these indicators.

**Data sources from implementing partners**

At the NGO Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA), data clerks are utilized to record project data in a database developed by monitoring and evaluation (M&E) staff. Once data are entered in the database, the M&E staff check it for completeness and consistency.

**Good practices**

The Government has moved from Excel-based data-collection to an old data management system that separately captures each type of violence against children. A new data management system, currently under development, will use an integrated system with a unique identifier for each child survivor of violence. UNICEF has supported the Ministry of Health to develop this integrated system, which will allow for dealing with diverse types of violence. The unique identifier will track individual children benefiting from multiples services. Further, the community-based case management system implemented in the two pilot districts (Katete and Senanga) enables the tracking of service delivery and referrals of cases.
The assessment has found challenges regarding the availability and quality of reporting data from implementing partners. At YWCA, each training session in adolescent clubs is registered on a separate form. It is recommended that one form is to register multiple sessions, using the number ‘1’ to specify present and ‘0’ for absent.

The assessment found attendance lists for participants in community dialogues. This can lead to errors when estimating the number of participants. As a consequence, in the results framework, community dialogue data are not fully disaggregated as required.

There are insufficient personnel with information and communications technology skills for data management at national, provincial and district level in the Government.

### Data quality assessment (DQA) scores

The mean DQA score for Zambia is 56 per cent. Data should be disaggregated as per the indicator reference manual. Some indicators are not reported on in the results framework, despite relevant data from implementing partners being available. Setting up an integrated management system could further improve the DQA score.

#### DQA score for Zambia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimensions</th>
<th>Senanga and Katete districts</th>
<th>Young Women’s Christian Association</th>
<th>UNFPA and UNICEF</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Completeness</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Many indicators not reported</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Validity</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Evidence of participation in training sessions not found for all partners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reliability</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Weak data quality check at district level for community-based case management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Precision</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Data not disaggregated as required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrity</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>Data-collection moved from Excel worksheets to information management system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>0% - 49% 50% - 69% 70% - 79% 80% - 100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dimensions: Senanga and Katete districts, Young Women’s Christian Association, UNFPA and UNICEF.

Comments: Many indicators not reported, Evidence of participation in training sessions not found for all partners, Weak data quality check at district level for community-based case management, Data not disaggregated as required, Data-collection moved from Excel worksheets to information management system.
Recommendations

1. **Standardize tools for registering training of adolescents**, as implementing partners currently use different attendance lists and tools for registration.

2. **Ensure the effective use of the indicators reference sheet and report on all relevant indicators** since currently, some activities are not reflected in the results framework, e.g., individuals reached by mass media.

3. **Keep all proof of activities – attendance lists and registration books – for monitoring purposes.** Attendance forms for community dialogues with some of the government partners at a district level were not available.

4. **Support the government with skilled staff at a district level to further monitor and ensure data validity and completeness.**

5. **Designate a specific monitoring and evaluation resource person** to support the programme.
Strengthening monitoring and reporting systems