



COUNTRY SUMMARY

SIERRA LEONE

2023 Annual Results and Phase II (2020-2023) Report

UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage

**end
child
marriage**

A voice. A chance. A future.

The UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage is generously funded by the Governments of Belgium, Canada, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, the European Union through the Spotlight Initiative, and Zonta International.

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Situation of adolescent girls and child marriage

There are 998.2 thousand child brides in Sierra Leone of whom 272.3 thousand were married before the age of 15.¹ According to the 2019 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), 8.6 percent of women aged 20–24 in Sierra Leone are married before the age of 15, and 29.6 percent of women in the same age bracket are married before the age of 18. Despite the decrease in prevalence over the years [from 12.5 and 38.9 percent respectively (2013 DHS), child marriage and teenage pregnancy remains a nationwide issue.

In 2019, 21 per cent of adolescents aged 15–19 had begun childbearing, putting these girls at heightened risk of health and other social consequences related to pregnancy. In Sierra Leone, child marriage is both a driver and a consequence of adolescent pregnancy.

The attempted coup on 26 November 2023 created anxiety and security concerns among the population. Although the coup ended in a day, a government-imposed curfew of several weeks made people cautious to venture out and affected this programme's implementation, and created uncertainty and fears among programme participants.



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¹ Child Marriage Data Portal, Sierra Leone country profile, <https://childmarriagedata.org/country-profiles/sierra-leone/>

2023 KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



UNFPA-UNICEF supported the government's efforts to strengthen its response system to gender-based violence (GBV). This included launching the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS+) in May 2023, the first of its kind in a non-humanitarian setting and government-led context. GBVIMS captures child marriage (as part of forced marriage) which is one of the categories of gender-based violence (GBV).



Through the safe spaces **1,277** adolescent girls were supported to go back to or remain in school, and **60** adolescent girls were prevented from getting married.



8,020 boys were targeted through safe spaces and school clubs with training on life skills and on ways to become gender champions by challenging harmful practices.



5,566 religious and traditional leaders and **10,221** young people successfully engaged in intergenerational dialogues on ending child marriage and to support the rights of girls and all adolescents.



Over **250** MSW staff and social workers have gone through the parenting trainings through a positive parenting education programme rolled out by the Ministry of Social Welfare (MSW) with the support of UNICEF.



696 parenting facilitators trained nationwide, including **362** male and **334** female. In 2023, a total of **12,240** (9,496 female, 2,744 male) parents and caregivers participated in the positive parenting programme, reaching a four-year cumulative (2020 - 2023) of **15,398** from 12 districts.



During Phase II, a total of **30,406** underserved and marginalized adolescent girls, including **445** girls with disabilities.



In Phase II, a total of **12,947** local actors, including religious and traditional leaders, were reached with meaningful participation in dialogues and consensus building to end child marriage.



Learning from the global evidence on what works to end child marriage, UNICEF, in partnership with National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA), initiated the process of developing a cash and social protection model that targets reduction of child marriage and teenage pregnancy.



The programme supported the National Secretariat for the Reduction of Teenage Pregnancy and Child Marriage (NSRTPCM) to strengthen nationwide coordination.

The Global Programme's Phase II (2020–2023) vision is for adolescent girls, especially the most marginalized, to fully enjoy their childhood free from the risk of child marriage, and experience healthier, safer, and more empowered life transitions, including making choices about their education, sexuality, relationships, marriage, and childbearing. The Global Programme supports governments and civil society partners, including women- and youth-led organizations and feminist movements, to accelerate action to end child marriage. At the heart of the theory of change is an adolescent

girl-centred approach that empowers individual adolescent girls to make decisions about if, when and whom to marry, within a web of support that involves her family, the community (including boys and men), service providers, society and public structures, institutions, systems and services, laws, and policies.

Phase II was implemented guided by programme principles; core approaches and key strategies as follows:

Principles and approaches	Aims from Phase II programme document	Strategies from Phase II theory of change
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⌵ Human rights-based approach. ⌵ Gender transformation and the rights of women and girls. ⌵ Leave no one behind and an intersectional approach. ⌵ Adolescent girl-centred approach to development, empowerment, and protection. ⌵ Systems strengthening and community mobilization. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⌵ Use the demonstration and catalytic power of (i) strengthened systems; (ii) mobilized communities; and (iii) empowered girls to further accelerate progress at significantly large scale. ⌵ Scale up interventions and strengthen systems to reach more girls, locations and countries. ⌵ Increase political and social support to end child marriage. ⌵ Engage more governments, donors and actors. ⌵ Finance and implement budgeted plans. ⌵ Achieve demonstrable change in some significant locations of considerable size. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⌵ Create and expand opportunities for the empowerment of adolescent girls. ⌵ Promote a supportive and gender equal family and community environment. ⌵ Strengthen governance to prevent child marriage. ⌵ Enhance sustainability and impact of child marriage programmes. ⌵ Build partnerships and leverage additional resources and co-investments.

OVERALL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Table 1: Summary of output indicator performance for 2023 and Phase II (2020–2023)

Indicator	2023		PHASE II (2020-2023)	
	Targets	Results	Targets	Results
Indicator 1111: Number of adolescent girls (aged 10–19) who actively participated in life skills or comprehensive sexuality education interventions in programme areas	24000	13066	96500	54344
Indicator 1121: Number of girls (aged 10–19) supported by the programme to enrol and/or remain in primary or secondary school	750	1277	2000	5025
Indicator 1211: Number of boys and men actively participating in group education/dialogues that address harmful masculinities and gender norms	10750	8128	43000	36936
Indicator 1221: Number of individuals (boys, girls, women and men) who participate in group education/dialogue sessions on consequences of and alternatives to child marriage, the rights of adolescent girls and gender equality	31750	31030	81825	198720
Indicator 1222: Number of 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	3,300,000	253,413	4,250,000	7,584,155
Indicator 1223: Number of local actors (e.g., traditional, religious and community leaders) with meaningful participation in dialogues and consensus-building to end child marriage	1250	8185	3575	12568
Indicator 1231: Number of civil society organizations newly mobilized in support of challenging social norms and promoting gender equality by the Global Programme (cumulative)	1	2	3	3
Indicator 2121: Number of primary/secondary/non-formal schools in programme areas providing quality gender-friendly education that meets minimum standards	-	-	45	44
Indicator 2131: Number of service delivery points in programme areas providing quality adolescent-responsive services (health, child protection/ gender-based violence) that meet minimum standards	10	12	38	34
Indicator 2211: Number of partnerships (both formal and informal) established to deliver adolescent-responsive social protection, poverty reduction, and economic empowerment programmes and services	-	-	20	-
Indicator 3111: Number of policies or legal instruments addressing child marriage drafted, proposed or adopted at national and subnational level with Global Programme support (cumulative)	7	7	21	15
Indicator 3121: Number of subnational plans with evidence informed interventions to address child marriage	16	16	64	16
Indicator 3211: Number of generated evidence and knowledge that focus on what works to end child marriage (cumulative)	5	6	16	10
Indicator 3212: Number of generated evidence and knowledge that apply a gender analysis (Cumulative)	5	9	20	12
Indicator 3221: Number of South-to-South cooperation (conferences, expert visits, peer consultations, study tours, communities of practice) supported	1	5	1	7

Providing intensive support to marginalized girls

The Global Programme has effectively empowered girls to make informed decisions about marriage and their sexual and reproductive health, thereby transforming their knowledge, context, and environment. The 2023 Phase II independent evaluation concluded that the Global Programme increased the knowledge and skills of targeted adolescent girls at risk of, and affected by, child marriage, equipping them to make informed decisions and choices regarding marriage, education, and sexual and reproductive health. The Global Programme facilitated access to comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) and life skills education (LSE) for both in- and out-of-school girls. In some cases, this was combined with economic empowerment interventions designed to mitigate poverty drivers of child marriage.

In Phase II, a total of 30,406 underserved and marginalized adolescent girls, including 445 girls with disabilities, were reached with life skills education through safe spaces across the four target districts of Koinadugu, Pujehun, Kambia and Moyamba.

In a qualitative assessment at the end of 2023 conducted in Koinadugu and Pujehun districts with 1048 stakeholders, the programme was reported to have had a significant impact on girls attending safe spaces. One of the effects frequently mentioned by various stakeholders (teachers, parents and mentors) was the change in their attitudes towards other people. This is likely to be related to the girls' increased level of confidence, another effect observed by interviewees.

In a safe space questionnaire administered in 2022 and 2023 in UNFPA-supported safe spaces, almost all the girls asked said they were confident that they would be able to delay marriage until they were at least 18 years old (93 per cent to almost 100 per cent, depending on district and age group). For those surveyed who were already married, 57 out of 60 girls said they were confident in their ability to ask for marriage annulment.

A total of 300 female mentors and 60 case workers were trained and available in the communities to deliver the life skills session and

support the girls' access to different services including sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services. Over 9,000 older adolescent girls were referred and able to access the available SRH information and services at the healthcare centres in their communities.

In Phase II, a total of 4072 marginalized adolescent girls, including 205 with disabilities, were supported to enrol or remain in school. This included supporting them with school support packages that included uniforms and scholastic materials to relieve their families of the financial burden of their education. A total of 5920 girls were additionally provided with menstrual and hygiene kits to help them manage their menstruation safely and with dignity, and to avoid them missing classes during their periods.

Enhancing the family and community environment

The 2023 Phase II independent evaluation found that the Global Programme mobilized community stakeholders to contribute to changing the social and gender norms that perpetuate harmful practices. This has included the engagement of traditional and religious leaders – and increasingly, parents and caregivers – as agents of change. An important priority of the Global Programme in Phase II was the engagement of boys and men to promote healthy relationships, positive masculinities and gender equality, and countries designed and initiated interventions accordingly. Engagement with extended families has however been more limited, despite their important role in decisions related to child marriage in many contexts.

In Phase II, a total of 12,947 local actors, including religious and traditional leaders, were reached with meaningful participation in dialogues and consensus building to end child marriage. According to some of the leaders, drawing on the 2023 qualitative assessment, the programme had not only reduced child marriage and adolescent pregnancies but had also led to reduction of rites of passage for girls (Bondo Society) which normally subject girls to female genital mutilation. Although some leaders still oppose or are hesitant about adolescents receiving family planning services, many were positive towards it.



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A total of 12,240 (9,496 women, 2,744 men) parents and caregivers participated in parenting programmes in 2023, bringing the Phase II cumulative total since 2020 to 15,398. In a qualitative assessment at the end of 2023, in project communities in Koinadugu and Pujehun districts, perceptions regarding child marriage were reported by several stakeholders to have changed. Marriages under the age of 18 are seen as unacceptable and education for girls is seen as useful and important.

7,500 boys (3,000 aged 10–14, 4,500 aged 15–19) fully participated in the life skills and comprehensive sexuality education programmes and group dialogues to address harmful masculinities and gender norms, all facilitated by the partner staff. These sessions helped transform many adolescent boys' acceptance of harmful gender norms, attitudes, and behaviours that perpetuate violence against women and girls. 520 boys participated in school clubs, empowering them to become advocates for ending child marriage in their schools, homes and communities. 26 boys' clubs were established in 2023 across the four districts and 22 teachers' counsellors were trained as facilitators. Boys'

clubs also served as safe spaces for open discussions and learning. Through the operation of a Male Advocacy Peer Educator (MAPE) network, 108 MAPEs were supported and trained to become advocates in ending child marriage and other harmful practices. The MAPEs conducted outreach and community dialogues with 2,805 participants across the four target districts (934 women, 1,410 men, 245 girls and 216 boys). For wider reach, they also conducted joint radio discussions in their respective districts involving other stakeholders including religious leaders, youth leaders, and representatives of government and civil society organizations.

The MAPE network, guided by the [National Male Involvement Strategy for the Prevention of SGBV](#), engaged respected men in their communities and trained them to become advocates in ending child marriage and other harmful practices. They also increased demand for SRH and GBV services by raising awareness of the referral pathways and the rights of girls and women to live free from violence, and encouraging men to support their wives and female family members to access SRH, maternal and GBV/protection services.

Prior to setting up of new safe spaces, 120 community meetings/sessions were conducted in the new target communities to educate community members on the project interventions, while also soliciting the support of community leaders towards the project interventions. 18,861 (11,889 girls and women, 6,972 boys and men) community members (including parents, religious leaders, youth and adolescents) attended the meetings and sessions.

These engagements resulted in: i) development of 240 community action plans focusing on key issues affecting adolescents such as lack of communication between adolescents and parents, negative peer influence and harmful practices; ii) 5,566 traditional and religious leaders openly supporting girls' education – 900 participated in the establishment of child safety mechanisms in 60 communities in Moyamba and Koinadugu Districts; iii) 240 (144 male, 96

female) community, traditional and religious leaders were willing to introduce sanctions where they were aware of a child marriage.

Enhancing sustainability of interventions by building resilient systems

The 2023 Phase II independent evaluation found that, by design, the Global Programme embeds ownership and sustainability elements through four of its outcomes aimed at strengthening government systems and community structures. This approach is delivering positive signs, particularly in countries with strong commitment and leadership from their national and subnational governments and local structures.



With some increased capacity from the sectoral systems, Global Programme interventions are delivering in the areas of education, health, GBV, child protection and, to a lesser extent, social protection services.

UNFPA supported the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE) in the process of rolling out CSE. A revised definition of CSE was developed by the Ministry that was deemed more appropriate (with a slight addition to the global definition) and the name “Child and Adolescent Health and Life Skills” was adopted for CSE in the education system. A CSE-coordinating committee group was established chaired by MBSSE and co-chaired by UNFPA and composed of all key stakeholders. UNICEF supported MBSSE for capacity-building of 1,350 SRGBV-focused instructional leaders and community structures (40 per cent females) and 2,400 junior and senior secondary school teachers (40 per cent females) in Kenema, Kono, Western Area, Kailahun, Pujehun, Bonthe, Kambia, Kabala and Falaba.

Two pilot districts were identified for the first roll-out (Koinadugu and Pujehun) and 50 schools have been identified for the pilot scheme. CSE trainers received instruction creating, in all, 14 qualified School Quality Assurance Officers and Supervisors and MBSSE support staff.

Sierra Leone became the first country in a government-led and non-humanitarian context to pilot and launch the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System that establishes digital referral pathways to support GBV case management. The GBVIMS is configured to track all categories of gender-based violence in Sierra Leone, including child, early and forced marriage, and other harmful practices. For effective referrals for GBV survivors, a national GBV database which harmonizes the case management process and tools has been developed and finalized. More than 200 staff from the Ministry of Gender and Children’s Affairs, MSW, FSU, Ministry of Health and from civil society organizations have been trained in all regions on GBV case management.

A digital GBV service register, e-RPW, was developed and launched on 20 April 2023 and rolled out nationally. Through this app, GBV services at district and chiefdom level have been mapped out.

Support was provided to the Ministry of Gender and Children’s Affairs to strengthen coordination of GBV services by bringing together Helplines and Situation Rooms to discuss reporting and referral of sexual and gender-based violence, including election-related sexual and gender-based violence.

2,051 survivors of GBV received a comprehensive package of services, including medical services, psychosocial support, shelter and legal support. To increase visibility and awareness of GBV services, UNICEF supported the NSRTPCM to erect billboards, promoting the GBV services including helplines and one-stop centres in all 16 districts. The operation of the four adolescent and youth friendly SRH hubs continued to be supported in 2023. The hubs are strategically located in underserved and hard-to-reach areas and in close proximity to safe spaces supported under the programme, to enhance referral pathways.

Expanding partnerships

The 2023 Phase II evaluation highlighted the Global Programme’s success in catalysing efforts at all levels to end child marriage. This was achieved through joint programming, partnerships, advocacy, and knowledge-sharing. The Global Programme worked with other initiatives, expanding reach, coverage, and funding. It used evidence and tools to raise awareness and inform advocacy and programming. The Global Programme capitalized on the momentum of the SDG agenda which prioritizes the elimination of harmful practices, including child marriage. Since 2015, ending child marriage has been prioritized by UN agencies’ country programmes. The Global Programme fostered partnerships with CSOs, aiding their national expansion. All countries established strong partnerships with governments and CSOs, and to a lesser extent, feminist organizations and the private sector. However, mobilizing new CSOs was a challenge and this was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which forced many CSOs to downsize or shut down.

Community and stakeholder engagement has continued, including tailored workshops for specific stakeholder groups such as the Sierra Leone Teachers Union, the Youth Advisory

Group, the Interreligious Council Executive Board, and civil society organizations working with and for adolescent girls. Community engagement in the targeted chiefdoms in Koinadugu and Pujehun districts for the pilot was conducted, including stakeholder meetings and radio engagements.

In all, 14 memorandums of understanding were signed between partners operating safe spaces. This included one-stop centres, Rainbo centres, family support units and peripheral health units. This significantly increased referrals of girls to services in the various districts.

The Global Programme worked with the Salone Adolescent Girl Network (SAGN) to strengthen adolescent girls' sexual and reproductive health through trainings, engagement and collaboration. This included training the partners how to use the e-RPW, and a two-day workshop on delivering life skills using the National Life Skills Manual.

In 2023, to improve programme delivery and cost-effectiveness, UNFPA and UNICEF engaged implementing partner Restless Development to create safe spaces, linking girls to services, positive parenting and community engagement in Koinadugu district.

Addressing poverty

Poverty and lack of economic opportunities are key drivers of child marriage. The 2023 Phase II evaluation found that Global Programme countries have linked with social protection and economic empowerment interventions to tackle poverty-driven child marriage. Yet, in most countries, and especially in ploycrisis contexts, these linkages remain limited, despite economic insecurity being a significant driver of child marriage. The Global Programme has shown some successful examples of partnerships with government-led programmes, but social protection or economic empowerment opportunities that could benefit girls and mitigate poverty-driven child marriage have not been fully explored. Successes include school subsidies, incentives, vocational training, and start-up funds. However, these interventions often have a limited focus on economic empowerment and income-generating activities and have little connection to social protection schemes.

Through the Global Programme, 15 girls who participated in the life skills sessions were linked to income-generating activities. They were selected from among the out-of-school girls who participated in life skills training in safe spaces based on their willingness to attend the vocational or learning skills sessions for income generation.

Collaboration between child protection and social policy programmes helped secure strong commitment and ownership from the National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA) and World Bank to enhance the government's social protection scheme for a cash-plus model to prevent teenage pregnancy and child marriage.

Facilitating supportive laws and policies

The 2023 Phase II evaluation revealed that the Global Programme's partnerships and advocacy played a key role in renewing commitments to combat child marriage globally, regionally, and nationally. The Programme aided governments in formulating laws, policies, strategies, and costed action plans. However, the adoption of these measures has been slow, and government funding for these plans remains limited. Moreover, in some countries, enforcing age-limit laws for marriage can unintentionally heighten the vulnerability of adolescent girls and their families.

The Child Rights Act (CRA) 2007 was revised and the final draft (Child Rights Bill 2022) was validated by Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs (MoGCA) and partners. The 2022 bill proposes a minimum marriage age of 18 years, harmonization with other child justice laws, and the abolition of both FGM for children and corporal punishment. The bill was tabled in parliament, but it was not passed.

In Phase II, UNFPA-UNICEF supported the NSRTPCM to develop, implement and review the National Strategy for the Reduction of Adolescent Pregnancy and Child Marriage (NSRAPCM) from 2018 to 2022. NSRTPCM was particularly supported to take ownership of the strategy.

In 2023, the Global Programme supported NSRTPCM to review the 2018-2022 strategy. Both agencies have been assisting NSRTPCM and prepare for the development of the new strategy aligned to the new Medium Term Development Plan 2024-2030 (MTDP) and to lead cooperative implementation with line ministries. The Global Programme supported the government to ensure that the right of adolescent girls and mainstreaming of gender was to be reflected in the MTDP. As a result, the MTDP hopes to reduce adolescent pregnancy from 21 per cent in 2022 to 10 per cent by 2030 under the goal of 'women's empowerment' and to roll out GBVIMS across all 16 districts by 2025 under the goal 'gender mainstreaming'.

In 2023, four reviews and validations were done on the Child Rights Bill (2022) aimed at addressing a wider range of children's issues including child justice.

Building a new generation of data and evidence

The 2023 Phase II evaluation revealed that the Global Programme has produced significant evidence on effective strategies to end child marriage, especially during COVID-19. This evidence has informed understanding, advocacy, policy, and strategic direction. The programme has boosted investment in research partnerships at global and regional levels to identify and fill evidence gaps, produce new evidence, and build research capacity at the country level. Despite these advancements, there are still country-level gaps in the evidence that indicate a need for continued investment.

The launch and implementation of the Digital Referral Pathway (e-RPW) gives case workers and survivors access to an up-to-date registry of available services and service providers nearby.

In Phase II, implementing partners, including government and civil society partners, were trained by UNFPA and UNICEF on the GP Indicator Reference Manual and on strengthening their monitoring and evaluation systems. Partners, including mentors and volunteers in safe spaces, were trained on collecting and sharing timely data through KoboToolbox. The analysed data is shared with partners, including UNFPA and UNICEF, and used as evidence not only for progress-tracking but also targeting upcoming activities.

During this phase, the Global Programme also supported the development of several national strategies and policies, ensuring that they were evidence-based. These included The National Male Involvement Strategy for the Prevention of SGBV, launched in 2020; The National Policy on Radical Inclusion in Schools, launched in 2021; and the National Strategy for Response to SGBV, launched in 2021.

Programme challenges

- The programme lacks designated monitoring and evaluation staff to ensure an effective, harmonized system. Partners, including the government, are heavily reliant on donor funding.
- Some safe space locations provided by communities lack accessibility and privacy. Programme implementation was hampered due to the remoteness of some hard-to-reach communities.
- There is no proper system to monitor girls' performance at schools. The MBSSE has been supported to develop a system to track girls' retention and performance. However, this is paper-based because IT resources are scarce, and it is time-consuming and prone to errors. Some monitoring of girls reintegrated through safe spaces is done by mentors and volunteers.
- While the anticipated impact of the positive parenting programme on reducing harmful practices is significant, the high costs associated with delivery present a major challenge for nationwide scale-up.
- Young people often lack the confidence to speak out against child marriage, FGM, and other harmful practices, expressing the need for increased technical capacity building.
- The implementation of CSE in schools did not start in 2023 as planned. Due to pushback against CSE in 2022, delays in the expansion of the pilot, and elections and political unrest, efforts focused more on stakeholder and community engagement.
- The capacity and staffing of the National Secretariat for the Reduction of Teenage Pregnancy needs to be increased to ensure effective implementation and coordination.

Lessons learned

- The approach of consolidating activities under one partner per geographical location has proven to be more cost-effective and impactful.
- The quality and sustainability of interventions is improved by facilitating learning exchanges between NGOs and government partners on best practice for supporting girls in enrolling and staying in school, and delivering life skills education.
- Identifying and using appropriate entry points, communication channels, and key messages for reaching men and boys is crucial for the programme's success. Emphasis will be placed on motivating men and boys who are willing to participate and contribute to group engagement sessions as valuable resources for gender-transformative programmes.
- Effective collaboration with healthcare providers is necessary to ensure services are adolescent- and youth-friendly, confidential, and culturally sensitive.
- The year leading up to elections is not an opportune time to pass sensitive bills in parliament in the Sierra Leone context.
- Local councils are pivotal for the delivery of services and coordination for adolescents.
- Virtual calls can be an impactful and cost-effective means of facilitating learning exchanges.

Priorities for the way forward

- The Programme will work to adapt and integrate the parenting programme into existing government and community-led cross-sectoral platforms and initiatives, through community health workers (CHWS) and Teachers, to take the programme to scale. The government will be supported to strengthen their capacity to deliver life skills education in community learning centres, to complement and scale up the safe space programme.

- In 2024, UNFPA-UNICEF aims to support the government and partners on the use of digital technologies to strengthen and scale up the parenting and safe space programme.
- During Phase III the Global Programme will build on and strengthen use of disability friendly materials to better target girls with disabilities; to leverage on the national social protection and cash-plus programmes to keep girls in school and get more of those out of school back into education; and to link vulnerable adolescent girls with existing livelihood and income-generating opportunities
- The programme will develop/revise materials and guidelines on male engagement to strengthen gender-transformative and innovative approaches that promote positive masculinities and gender equality and challenge discriminatory gender and social norms.
- Building upon Phase II work, Phase III will work with traditional and religious leaders and men to identify ways in which women- and youth-led organizations and networks such as the SAGN can be given more support.
- It will aim to build SRH and GBV prevention capacity and increase referrals to SRH and GBV protection services using the National Referral Protocol and innovative tools such as the digital referral pathway.
- With support from WCARO, UNFPA-UNICEF, it will build the capacity of women-led, youth-led and feminist organizations/groups, including those representing girls and women with disabilities, on gender-transformative approaches for programming and meaningful engagement with duty bearers including on child marriage, SRH and GBV.
- The programme will work with boys to shift gender norms, attitudes and behaviours.
- Scaled-up teacher training and baseline assessment is now planned for early 2024 to deliver CSE through schools by the start of the new school year in September 2024. The CSEs and life skills curriculum will be rolled out through MBSSE across the country in Phase III.
- Technology and innovation will be leveraged to sustain and scale up intensive service delivery for adolescent girls; GBVIMS+ and Digital Referral Pathway will be scaled up; the helpline and Digital Referral Pathway will be publicized to address GBV; and the effectiveness and adolescent and youth friendliness of services in target districts will be assessed, including SRH hubs and one-stop centres
- The cash-plus model will be integrated in Phase III in collaboration with social protection services.
- MoGCA will be supported to develop and implement a strategic plan on the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Act, ensuring gender mainstreaming across sectors for gender-transformative programmes and policies at both national and subnational levels.
- The development of a new strategy of reduction of child marriage and teenage pregnancy (2024–2030) will be supported.
- The position of the NSRTP as the national coordinating body combating teenage pregnancy and child marriage across various levels will be supported.
- The involvement of front-line workers – health and social workforce – into the Global Programme activities will be supported.
- Increased accountability for reporting child marriage and GBV will be supported.
- Support will be offered to partners working with local councils for efficient implementation of local action plans.

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