



KEY ASKS FOR 2020 SDG VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS

SDG 5: GENDER EQUALITY

SDG 5 aims to level the world’s playing field for women and girls by 2030 with dedicated attention to address all forms of discrimination against them across thematic areas. It strives to eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls, end harmful practices -- such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation -- and give women and girls control over their bodies through universal access to sexual and reproductive health.

SDG 5 also seeks to correct economic imbalances by giving value to unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household. Finally, SDG 5 promotes the empowerment of women and girls by expanding the use of information and communications technology as a tool for education, awareness, and solidarity. UNICEF encourages governments to address adolescent girls’ issues, empowering them with the education and skills required to realize their full potential, which also reduces the likelihood of child marriage, unwanted pregnancy, HIV.



KEY ASKS

Give adolescent girls all the opportunities they deserve as they mature to adulthood.

Address the specific and interconnected challenges faced by adolescent girls across outcomes that limit opportunities as grow into adults. The targeted priorities include:

- Providing quality and dignified care for adolescent pregnancy and maternal health;
- HIV testing, treatment, care, awareness and psychosocial support for girls and boys;
- Preventing anemia among girls, particularly those experiencing pregnancy;
- Ending harmful practices of child marriage, early unions and female genital mutilation or cutting;
- Providing dignified menstrual health and hygiene education and services.

Support women’s economic empowerment and redistribution of care responsibilities through investments in family-friendly policies across workplaces.

Promote family friendly policies for all caregivers working in the formal and informal sectors, across the private and public systems. This is particularly important for workers in vulnerable situations and low-income families, where children may be most at risk of being deprived of basic rights and services. This includes the following complementary elements:

- Establishing policies of parental leave, infrastructural facilities, quality child care and child benefits;
- Promoting a culture of equal sharing of child care responsibilities in the household.

Address the gender data gap through timely collection and use of gender-disaggregated data.

Build systems and capacities for effective gender-disaggregated quantitative and qualitative data collection, analysis and use, complemented by strong commitment to and accountability for ambitious gender equality goals. The following SDG targets are most closely related to UNICEF’s core gender aim:

Target 5.1	End all forms of discrimination against women and girls everywhere.
Target 5.2	Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.
Target 5.3	Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilations.
Target 5.4	Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies, and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.
Target 5.6	Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the ICPD and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.
Target 5.c	Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.



MONITOR -- THE IMPORTANCE OF DISAGGREGATED DATA COLLECTION, ANALYSIS AND USE

Addressing inequities in gender outcomes and access to adolescent girls’ services requires increased investment in the timely collection, analysis and use of disaggregated qualitative and quantitative data (e.g., by gender, age, education, wealth quintile, migrant status, ethnicity, geographic area, disability status, etc). This supports identification of marginalized groups and limitations of programmes and also offers opportunities to adjust programmes that are fit for purpose. To enable use of such

data, adequate systems and capacities are required that allow systematic monitoring and encourage greater accountability.

Good data collection systems allows governments to recurrently identify and address bottlenecks that are limiting the availability, accessibility, acceptability and affordability of quality adolescent girls' interventions and to ensure evidence-based programmatic decisions and course correction. Further, success in gender-responsive programming is reliant on requisite leadership support at all levels of government and partners.

The following are SDG indicators that are most closely related to gender priorities focused on adolescent girls:

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



INVEST -- SOCIAL SPENDING AND PROGRESS ON RESULTS FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

The economic return on investing in girls and women is high and drives a diversity of positive social and economic development outcomes. National budgets need to explicitly account for gender equality and gender action plans must be budgeted and resourced adequately. Improved reporting on expenditures and programmes that have direct and indirect impacts on increasing gender equality should be pursued. Further, strengthened monitoring and reporting on gender targets will provide the gender data and evidence required to prove return on investment and continue resource mobilization and allocation in the future financial cycles.

Both the SDGs and the [Addis Ababa Action Agenda](#) (AAAA) recognize the link between gender sensitive child and youth-focused investments and growth. UNICEF works to support data and evidence generation for better and greater public investment in children, and encourages Governments to:

1. **Increase visibility and coherence of investments on child and adolescent-focused SDG priorities that are of a cross-cutting nature**, and which sit less easily within traditional sectoral budgets. Interventions in areas like child protection, gender equality, adolescent development, nutrition and early childhood development cut across sectors and are not always classified under sectoral budgets, which can result in gaps, duplication, poor coordination or omission.
2. **Adopt principles of results-based reporting to spending on children and adolescents, with a particular focus on equity and effectiveness**, including gender equality. Examples include tracking of spending that explicitly addresses geographic disparities of services for children and adolescents (quality and access) and inequities among different population groups in access to public social services, or other matters.



ACTIVATE -- AWARENESS BUILDING & MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION OF CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS & YOUTH – BOTH GIRLS AND BOYS

Adolescent girls should be included as agents of change who have the potential to jumpstart economic growth and spur the innovation needed for a sustainable future. While it is critical to ensure consultations with child and youth groups with equal representation of female and male voices, engaging adolescents, particularly girls, in conceptualizing and developing innovative, technology-based solutions for social impact has produced impactful programmatic results and simultaneously developed 21st century skills among youth. Inclusion of children, adolescents and youth – girls and boys – is fundamental to achieving key economic and social objectives, including a competitive labor force, sustained economic growth, improved governance and vibrant civil societies.

1. **Actively involve children, adolescents and youth in local and national planning processes in development and humanitarian contexts** through consultation and other participatory means, and as part of ongoing efforts to make children, adolescents and youth aware of these issues, inspire their positive action and expand the space for their participation in accountability mechanisms and activities. This should be part of a continuum to regularly, meaningfully and consistently engage children, adolescents and youth as agents of change to influence behaviors and social norms amongst themselves, their households and their communities. It goes beyond engagement just for the purposes of reporting periods, but rather systematizing the engagement of young people in a variety of ways and across media and communications channels, including for example: digital platforms (including U-Report), participatory theatre, intergenerational community dialogues, community & children's radio, participatory video, school clubs, TV Edu-tainment and child-participatory research.
2. **Establish institutionalized mechanisms for promoting participation and implementing recommendations from children and adolescents** by ensuring that there is a responsive audience, dedicated budgets, accountability mechanisms and feedback loops.
3. **Provide spaces for children, adolescents and youth to learn about, discuss and take action on the SDGs, including Gender Equality.** UNICEF can support this effort due to our existing work in this space and creating child-friendly education and entertainment materials through our foundational partnerships on the [World's Largest Lesson](#) and [Comics Uniting Nations](#). UNICEF's [Youth Activate Talk Methodology](#) is also a platform from children to express their ideas on the SDGs through a variety of mediums.