

# NEPAL

COUNTRY PROFILE

UNFPA-UNICEF  
Global Programme to  
End Child Marriage

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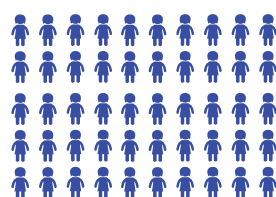


# NEPAL COUNTRY PROFILE

**Nepal is home to 5 million child brides. Of these, 1.3 million married before age 15.**

Source: UNICEF global databases, 2020. Demographic data are from United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019), World Population Prospects 2019, Online Edition, Rev. 1.

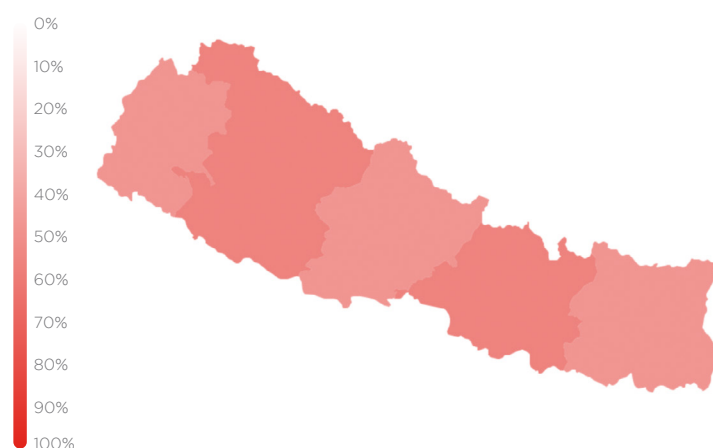
Notes: For details on the calculation of girls and women married in childhood, see: United Nations Children's Fund, Child Marriage: Latest trends and future prospects, UNICEF, New York, 2018. Estimates refer to population year 2019. Values below 2 million are rounded to the nearest hundred thousand; those above 2 million are rounded to the nearest million.



**5 million**  
Married before age 18



**1.3 million**  
Married before age 15



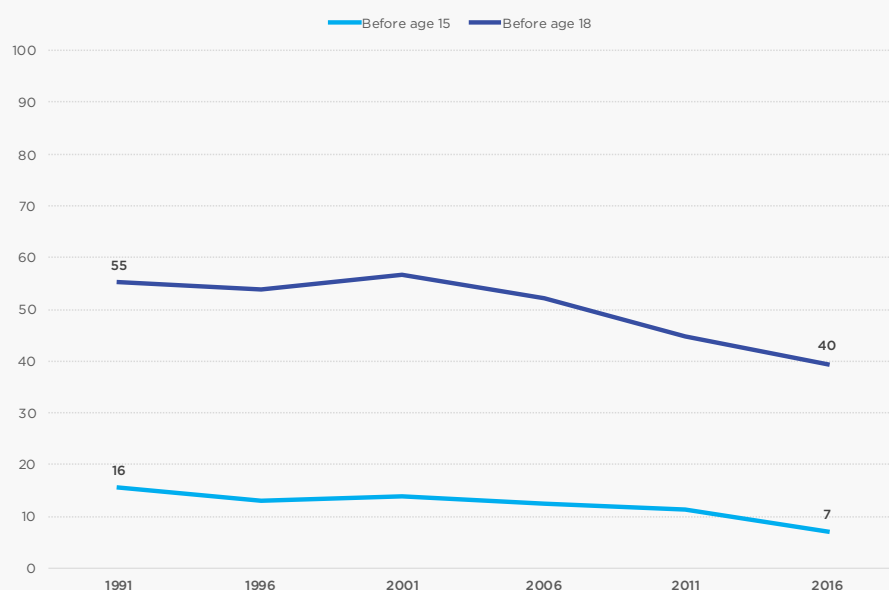
**Percentage of women aged 20 to 24 years who were first married or in union before age 18**

Note: This map is stylized and not to scale. It does not reflect a position by UNFPA or UNICEF on the legal status of any country or area or the delimitation of any frontiers. Source for child marriage prevalence data is the Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2016.

## Percentage of women aged 20 to 24 years who were first married or in union before age 15 and before age 18

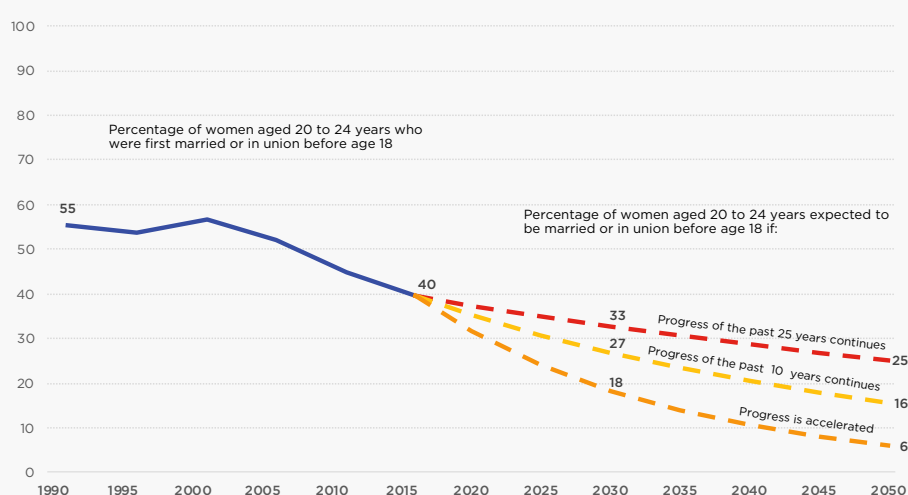
Source: Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2016

Note: This trend analysis is based on the prevalence of child marriage across age cohorts, as measured in the latest available survey.



## Projections of the prevalence of child marriage

Source: UNICEF analysis based on the Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2016





## Message from UNFPA and UNICEF Nepal country representative



**Lubna Baqi**

UNFPA Nepal country representative

Nepal has the third highest rate of child marriage in Asia. Despite laws against it, the practice remains widespread in the country. Child marriage threatens the lives and health of girls, and limits their future prospects. Girls pressured into child marriage often become pregnant while still adolescents and are at higher risk of complications during pregnancy and childbirth.

UNFPA is working closely with all its partners in Nepal towards a society that is free of violence and harmful practices for all women and girls, including child marriage.

Under the Global Programme to End Child Marriage, jointly implemented by UNFPA and UNICEF with local partners in Nepal, both agencies have made concrete efforts to promote policies and programmes designed to end child marriage. Together we have accelerated action towards the empowerment, participation and protection of girls through interventions that are complementary and based on the added value we bring to this partnership.

Rupantaran, meaning transformation in Nepali, is an innovative initiative under the programme that has truly been able to live up to its name. It has given many girls the confidence to find their voice and to exercise their agency. It has empowered them to make responsible decisions about their own future, support their peers to prevent child marriage, and influenced change in their communities.

UNFPA will continue to support girl-centred programmes that enable them to have choices. This includes access to youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health information, education and services, for both married and single girls, so that they can make a safe transition to adulthood.



**Elke Wisch**

UNICEF Nepal country representative

The results we have achieved so far under the Global Programme to End Child Marriage are making a real difference in young girls' lives by enabling them to pursue a different path through the skills they are building and the confidence they are developing. Our work with their families and communities is contributing to significant positive changes for children and adolescents here in Nepal.

The programme continues to play a critical role in sustaining traction to end child marriage in Nepal by putting the issue on national and local government agendas, providing policy and legislative support, strengthening critical services and mobilizing community action for and with girls. We have been able to galvanize government and other partners to form a long-term partnership across all three tiers of the federal governance structure and thus harness opportunities to advocate and drive change in policy and budget allocations. A key strength of the programme has been the alliance between UNFPA and UNICEF, which has enabled us to harness our combined expertise and resources to facilitate a multi-sectoral, multi-tier programme approach which is vital to addressing child marriage. For the second phase, UNICEF Nepal is striving to sharpen the gender-transformative approach and to increase the scale and reach of the programme. During these challenging pandemic times, it is even more imperative for the Global Programme to adapt to the changing circumstances and to go to scale to be able to reach girls and communities already previously impacted by layers of marginalization which have been further exacerbated due to COVID-19. We remain committed to ending child marriage in Nepal by 2030.

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## Country movement to accelerate action to end child marriage: Key moments and achievements of Phase I

In Phase I, the Global Programme in Nepal deepened partnership with the government to accelerate action to end child marriage and provided data and evidence with advocacy to promote policy change and legal reform at various levels.

Significant achievements in Nepal since the inception of the Global Programme include:

# 29,704

## adolescent girls aged 10-19

have participated in at least one programme intervention aimed at empowering them with skills and information to delay child marriage.

A total of

# 282

## health and protection service delivery points

were capacitated through training, including training of law enforcement personnel on child marriage and child-friendly gender-sensitive services.

This has led to a

# 128 per cent

## increase

in cases, including child marriage cases, being reported over the last two years.

# 27,826

## adolescent girls aged 10-19

have been supported by the programme to enrol and continue with their education in order to delay child marriage.

In September 2018,

## a new Children's Act 2075

was enacted, that paves way to respect, protect and fulfil the rights

of children following Global Programme investments in building awareness among authorities.

## A national costed road map to end child marriage

was drafted with support from the Global Programme and is currently awaiting endorsement from parliament.

# 28,328

## individuals in the community

were engaged and regularly participated in dialogues promoting gender-equitable norms including delaying child marriage.

Over

# 1.6 million

## people in programme areas

were reached with media campaigns to end child marriage.

## Phase I Country Programme Strategies

A multi-tier, multisectoral and holistic programme was designed for Phase I of the Global Programme in Nepal. The programme focused on empowering girls; improving access to education and promoting continued attendance; mobilizing families and communities; strengthening health and protection services; improving the policy environment; and ensuring laws were implemented. A staggered approach was taken, with the first year of the programme focusing on advocacy and improving the policy environment. The programme continuously sought opportunities to integrate ending child marriage results and activities into plans, policies and strategies. As a result, the National Multisectoral Plan, the Nepal School Sector Development Plan, the Adolescent Health and Development Strategy and the Act Related to Children have all included the issue of child marriage and proposed strategies and activities for prevention.

Joint advocacy by UNFPA and UNICEF contributed to placing ending child marriage high on the government agenda, which manifested in plans, policies and budgeting at the federal level, and later trickled down to the provinces and municipalities.

Guided by the National Strategy on Ending Child Marriage from 2016, which was developed with support from the Global Programme, coordinated and interconnected interventions at the individual, household, subnational and community levels were designed and implemented to accelerate efforts to decrease the rate of child marriage and address its complexities and diverse determinants in a holistic way, based on a model of the socioecological development of adolescent girls and boys.

The programme focused on empowering girls through improving access to, retention and performance in secondary education; creating linkages with the United Nations Global Education Initiative and the adolescent empowerment programme with a focus on building capacity of teachers in gender; working with parents and religious leaders to create a social movement by engaging in a dialogue on social norms change; and strengthening the capacity of existing systems and platforms to identify, prevent, respond, refer and report.

The system strengthening and increasing service provision component of the ending child marriage programme was addressed through a two-pronged approach – improving ongoing UNFPA and UNICEF system strengthening initiatives and the targeted

capacity-building of service providers on specific issues and strategies on child marriage across multiple sectors. The programme focused on increasing the capacity of health service providers from adolescent-friendly health services and supporting the government to improve services in the intervention districts. The programme also supported strengthening the capacity of gender-based violence watch groups and law enforcement bodies.

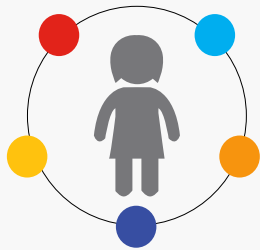
In addition, child clubs/networks were capacitated to effectively participate in the national annual consultation process (*Bal Bheelas*), providing a space and mechanism for children and adolescents to express their views, concerns and recommendations, which are then fed into the annual plans of the local government.

The programme also conducted research to establish new evidence related to child marriage and corresponding issues, including health service utilization by adolescents and the relationship between dropping out of school and child marriage. Eight research studies and assessments were conducted through the programme.





## Country programme strategies



### EMPOWER ADOLESCENT GIRLS



Mobilizing and training girls on life skills and financial literacy



Developing girls' skills for employability



Creating opportunities for girls' accelerated learning



Change agents as mentors for adolescent girls



Integrating life skills education in schools

### ENHANCE THE ACCESSIBILITY AND QUALITY OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND PROTECTION SERVICES



Implementing a standard package of adolescent-friendly health services



Supporting capacity-building of providers of adolescent-friendly health services and counselling



Supporting joint monitoring for quality improvement and certification of adolescent-friendly sites



Strengthening of gender focal points at district education offices and in schools

### FOSTER AN ENABLING LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK



Providing data and evidence with advocacy to promote policy change and legal reform



Supporting development of national plan of action to end child marriage

### EDUCATE AND MOBILIZE PARENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS



Participatory dialogues with families, religious and traditional leaders and other key actors



Multimedia campaigns



Engaging boys and men through dialogue

### OFFER ECONOMIC SUPPORT AND INCENTIVES FOR GIRLS AND THEIR FAMILIES



Leveraging other funding streams to support education

# EMPOWERING ADOLESCENT GIRLS WITH SKILLS AND INFORMATION

In 2019:



## 4,175

adolescent girls  
aged 10-19

in programme areas  
actively participated  
in at least one targeted  
intervention

Since 2016:



## 29,704

adolescent girls  
aged 10-19

in programme  
areas have actively  
participated in at  
least one targeted  
intervention

## Results from 2016–2019 programme implementation

Findings from the knowledge management study conducted by the programme indicated that adolescents who participated in the 'Rupantaran' social and financial skills sessions felt increasingly confident and well-informed at the end of the nine-month course. Girls who benefited from the training reported becoming increasingly engaged and were inspired to share information on what they had learned with their peers, their parents and with their communities. Similarly, they also described changes in how they made life decisions and tried to influence decisions of their relatives as a result of the intervention.

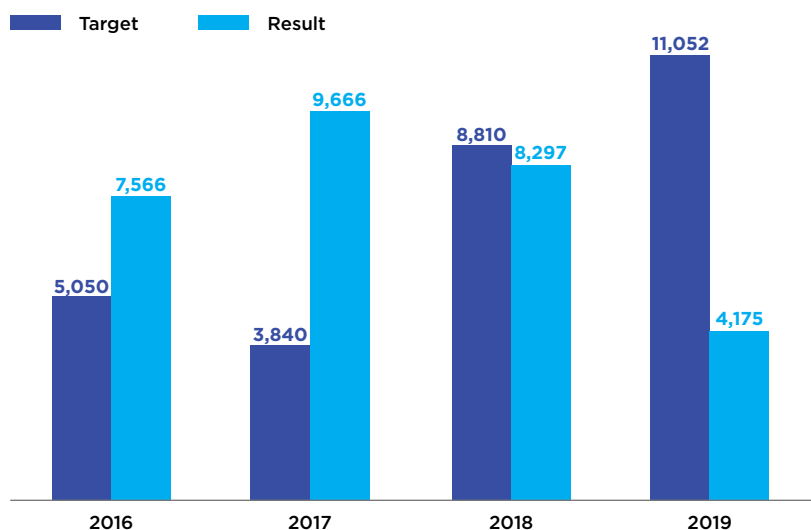
Overall, 29,704 adolescent girls attended the Rupantaran social and financial skills sessions during Phase I. An analysis of a sample of pre- and post-training assessments showed improvements: Over 65 per cent of girls in programme areas demonstrated increased knowledge and skills after nine months of training compared to 21.6 per cent at baseline (pre-training).

”

Earlier, I was not interested in going to school. I tried to go for two or three days but I quit. After joining the 'Rupantaran' programme, I realized the importance of education and now I go to school regularly. I am working hard to have a bright future. Besides studying, I sell green vegetables during my free time and earn money which I save for my studies.

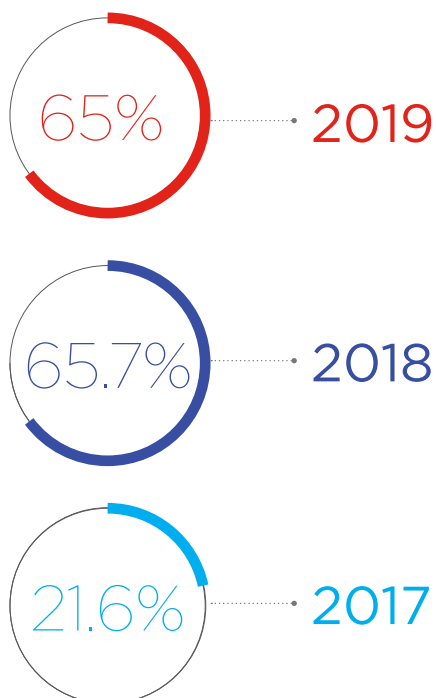
Puspa Mandal, 12, Saptari

Number of adolescent girls (aged 10–19) in programme areas actively participating in at least one targeted intervention





Proportion of adolescent girls in programme areas demonstrating increased knowledge and skills



”

With the skills I learnt through the ‘Rupantaran’ sessions, I was able to support my mother to re-open the vegetable shop that supports our livelihood. In the mornings and evenings, I work in the shop and I go to school during the day. My aim is to complete my education. I am planning to expand the business after completing Grade Ten.

Apshana Khatun, 15, Rautahat, who lost her father before she was born



# EMPOWERING GIRLS THROUGH EDUCATION SUPPORT

In 2019:



## 7,908

adolescent girls

in programme areas supported to enrol and/or remain in primary, lower secondary or non-formal education

Since 2016:



## 27,826

adolescent girls

in programme areas supported to access and remain in primary or lower secondary school or non-formal education

This includes 3,000 out-of-school girls from urban slums supported to enrol and remain in school, and 3,600 girls who were successfully mainstreamed back to formal primary schools

## Results from 2016–2019 programme implementation

The Global Programme leveraged the Girls Access to Education (GATE) programme to provide education support to 27,826 girls during Phase I. GATE played an important role in providing literacy and numeracy skills to support out-of-school girls to enter/re-enter formal schooling. As a result of the programme, more than 75 per cent of the girls graduating from the programme were enrolled in formal school.

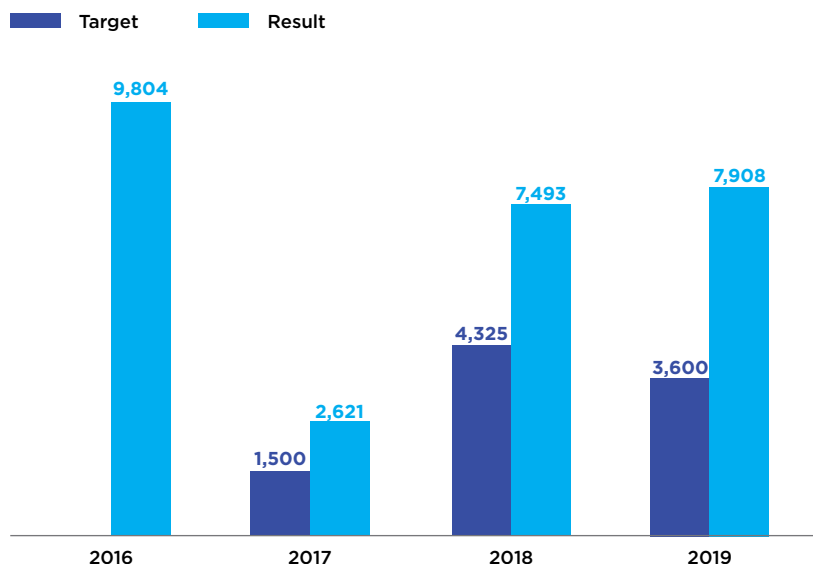
Religious leaders were mobilized to influence parents' attitude on child marriage and the importance of education. This approach proved especially effective in Muslim communities where the views of religious leaders were more strictly followed than in other religious groups. In other religious groups, the adolescents and parents, while interacting during monitoring visits, mentioned that the religious leaders do not have much authority and influence in the marriage decision.

”

Every Friday we have prayers at our mosque. Before prayers, there is a short sermon. I use this time to speak about child marriage. When I have to officiate during marriages in our community, I use the opportunity to remind everyone why child marriage is wrong.

Hashmatullah Naumani

Number of adolescent girls in programme areas supported to access and remain in primary or lower secondary school or non-formal education





”

One of our friends aged 13–14 was about to get married but we did not let it happen. We talked to the parents of the girl about the harmful effects of child marriage. We got support from our teachers, the Principal and even the police to stop it from happening.

Focus group discussion with Junior Champions, Dhanusha

### Challenges

One of the key challenges faced by the programme was the difficulty in enrolling/re-enrolling older girls in formal school as older girls often find it embarrassing to join in lower grades and share the classroom with younger children; however, they also find it difficult to perform in higher grades because of a lack of previous education. For such girls, under Phase II, the programme plans to create linkages with economic opportunities.

### Lessons learned

There is a constant need for programmatic review and evaluation to ensure the theory of change of the programme remains relevant. The evaluation of the afterschool programme supported the Global Programme to change the strategy on school retention.

### Shifts in Phase II

The afterschool programme will be discontinued under Phase II as the programme evaluation did not demonstrate the effect of this programme on learning outcomes.



# SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE COMMUNICATION TO INFLUENCE SOCIAL AND GENDER NORMS

In 2019:



## 4,256

individuals

(1,370 males) in programme areas regularly participated in dialogues promoting gender-equitable norms including delaying child marriage



About

## 1.2

million

individuals within the programme areas were reached with media campaigns on child marriage

As a result of the intergenerational dialogue and appreciative inquiry sessions conducted through the programme, 14 local level governments developed action plans to identify adolescent girls at risk of getting married and dropping out of school. These 14 local governments are implementing the plans and are providing education support to the vulnerable girls.

## Results from 2016–2019 programme implementation

The adolescent 'Rupantaran' package is supplemented by the adult 'Rupantaran' training package, which targets the parents and guardians of adolescents enrolled in the training. The 'Rupantaran' adult package has facilitated the process of parents creating a protective and enabling environment for adolescents to realize their full potential and achieve their rights.

During Phase I, close to 3,000 parents completed the 'Rupantaran' adult training, in addition to 28,328 community members mobilized to participate in community dialogues promoting gender-equitable norms including delaying child marriage.

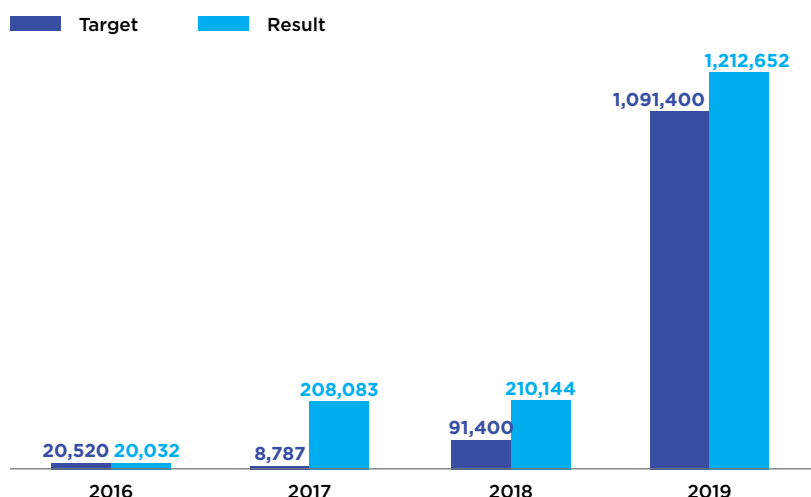
Religious leaders were mobilized to reach households with messages on gender discrimination, violence and child marriage. The religious leaders shared key messages during weekly prayers and annual festivals. Approximately 600,000 individuals were reached through the religious leaders' messages. Some of the mobilized religious leaders have regular programmes on national television and radio, through which they also disseminate messages on gender, the importance of education and child marriage.

”

My parents also took the 'Rupantaran' training. Now the change I see in them is that they say: 'we should educate our children, love both daughters and sons equally, and eat nutritious food'.

Roshani, 14, Saptari

Number of individuals in programme areas who regularly participate in dialogues or reached with media campaigns promoting gender-equitable norms including delaying child marriage





Since 2016:



28,328

individuals

in programme areas  
regularly participated  
in dialogues promoting  
gender-equitable  
norms including  
delaying child marriage

This includes 13,418 boys and men

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”

I accept decisions made by my children regarding their choice of life partner because if I choose a partner for them, they might not welcome my decision. I suppose that if I force them to marry a partner of my preference, I might be putting their lives at a risk.

Janaki, mother, 36, Achham

During Phase I, media campaigns such as radio public service announcements (PSAs), a short web series, and one-minute videos on child marriage and other related subjects were developed. These communication interventions were successful in reaching households and communities and changing mindsets.

### Challenges

The programme has faced significant challenges in engaging fathers in ‘Rupantaran’ sessions. Factors contributing to the low participation of fathers are high rates of migration among men and because the programme has mainly mobilized women as outreach workers responsible for conducting orientation among parents, potentially alienating fathers.

### Lessons learned

Although it remains critical to empower women and women's groups such as gender-based violence watch groups with knowledge and leadership skills, solely targeting and developing the capacities of such groups to address patriarchy, gender discriminatory practices and harmful social norms is inadequate. Women mobilized by the programme have frequently expressed their limitations when negotiating with parents, especially fathers, and have suggested engaging male members of the communities in advocating the negative impact of child marriage, gender discriminatory practices and the importance of prevention and response.

### Shifts in Phase II

Phase II will focus on community-level dialogue between parents and adolescent boys and girls using community-level platforms. The focus will be on reaching adolescent boys and girls through social media, as many self-initiated marriages begin through Facebook. Mobile technology will be used to collect the voices and opinions of young people on the issues that matter most to them.

Another strategic shift is to work with religious leaders to reach fathers, especially in Muslim communities.

”

It has only been about two months since the PSA began broadcasting but the positive effects are visible. The parents who used to think that arranging the marriage of their daughter before she reaches puberty was a virtue have realized that child marriage is a crime. Dhaularam Sarki, a member of my village, married his elder daughter at the age of 15 but is now making preparations to send his younger daughter to school. He has decided to arrange the marriage of his younger daughter only after she becomes self-reliant. In this way, the radio PSA has had a dramatic impact on the awareness of people in my locality, including myself.

Kunti Tamang, 36, Kapilvastu

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# STRENGTHENING PREVENTION AND PROTECTION SYSTEMS

In 2019:



**5**  
service delivery  
points

in programme areas  
implement guidelines  
for adolescent girl-  
friendly health and  
protection services

In 2019, increased commitment from partners to enhance accessibility of services (the performance indicator has institutionalized the reporting and accountability mechanisms), and the demand for services, including legal counselling and legal aid (reflected in the increased number of child marriage cases prevented) has pushed service providers to improve responsiveness, and enabled the exceeding of performance targets.



**18,048**  
adolescent girls

in programme areas  
have utilized health or  
protection services



**120**

non-formal,  
primary or  
secondary schools

implement interventions  
to improve the quality of  
education for adolescent girls

## Results from 2016–2019 programme implementation

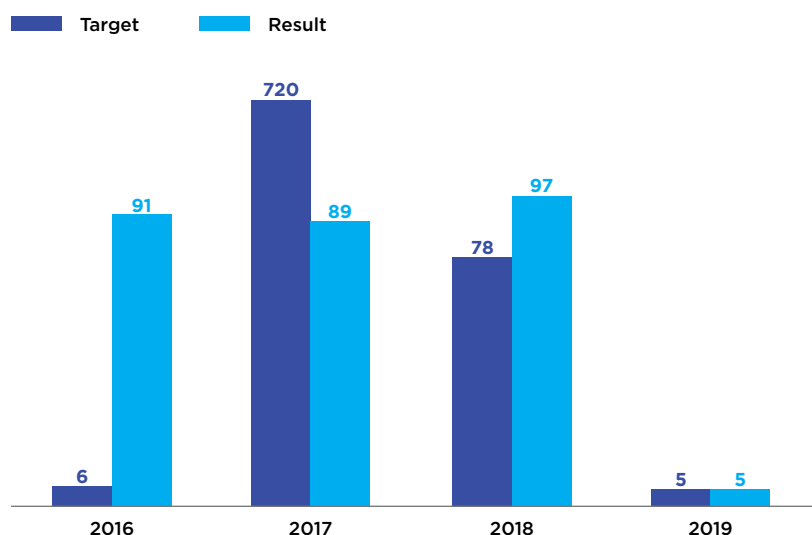
The programme has been successful in supporting the government to strengthen the health system's capacity to provide health services to adolescents in a responsive and sensitive manner. The programme supported the government in revising and updating the Adolescent Health and Development Strategy, which identified child marriage as a key barrier to achieving health-related goals and outlined strategies and activities for ending child marriage.

Another key achievement of the programme is the increase in child marriage cases being reported over the last two years. This was achieved by strengthening the capacity of law enforcement bodies through the provision of training for police personnel from Women and Children Service Directorates and Centres on child marriage and child-friendly, gender-sensitive services.

The programme focused on addressing the issues of gender, disparity and inequity in the education sector. This focus on gender and equity mirrors the School Sector Development Plan and supports the government's initiatives to improve access, participation and learning outcomes. Through non-formal classes, out-of-school girls were able to learn basic literacy and numeracy skills. The majority of the girls graduating from non-formal classes enrolled/re-enrolled in formal schooling.

In the formal sector, the programme built the capacity of gender focal points to address issues like child marriage and gender-based violence through cross-sectoral interventions/linkages with water, sanitation and hygiene, health and child protection sectors. This initiative contributed significantly to strengthening the complaint hearing mechanism in schools, providing a safe space for students to raise issues related to bullying, harassment and the quality of education.

Number of service delivery points in programme areas implementing guidelines for adolescent girl-friendly health and protection services



Since 2016:



282

service delivery  
points

in programme areas  
implement guidelines  
for adolescent girl-  
friendly health and  
protection services

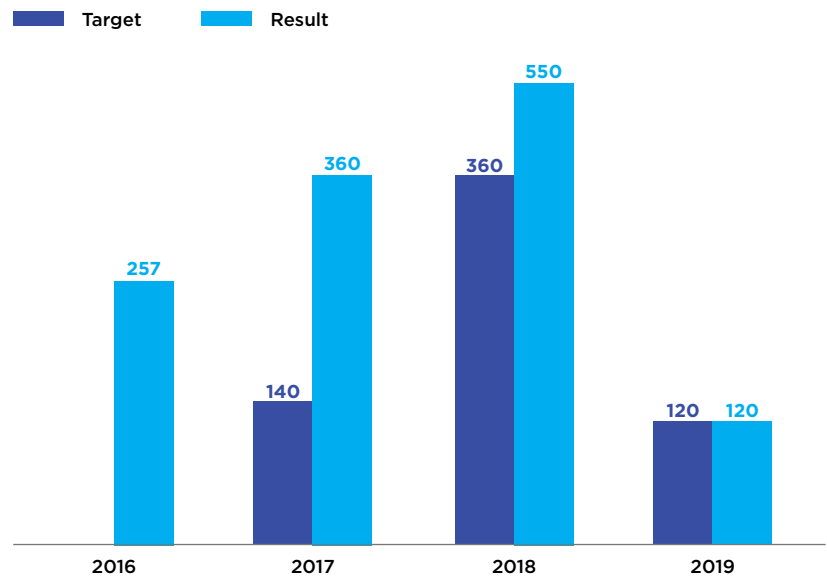


1,287

non-formal,  
primary or  
secondary schools

implement interventions  
to improve the quality of  
education for adolescent girls

Number of non-formal/primary/secondary schools implementing interventions to improve the quality of education for adolescent girls



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### Challenges

There are many underlying social norms and attitudes towards adolescents and their health service utilization, especially concerning sexual and reproductive health services. Factors including the distance to the health facility, the behaviour of health service providers, shortage of staff and supplies at the facilities, lack of counselling, privacy and confidentiality, lack of information on sexual and reproductive health and other sociocultural factors are still prevalent, despite investment in the capacity-building of service providers. Moreover, the shift to a federal system in Nepal has resulted in high levels of transfers among health-care providers which has also affected service delivery, especially for protection services. Some of the structures that the programme invested heavily in during the early stages, such as Women and Children's Offices, ceased to exist in the new federal structure, creating a vacuum at the local level for coordination on child protection issues. The programme is working on building the capacity of the elected bodies on protection issues to mitigate this gap.

The programme has not been able to track the retention rate of girls enrolled in formal schooling following their graduation from GATE classes. As these girls require continuous support to remain in school, the programme needs to establish a support mechanism for these girls.



### Lessons learned

It is important to create linkages between services to ensure that vulnerable girls can receive appropriate holistic services. Therefore, system strengthening work must identify the needs of adolescent girls and map out available services.

The complaint box mechanism has acted as a strong deterrent for sexual harassment and bullying and has contributed to motivating teachers to prevent child marriages identified in schools. The engagement of teachers with municipality officials and representatives proved to be an effective strategy for sustaining the interventions beyond the Global Programme support.

### Shifts in Phase II

As a significant number of girls get married before the age of 20, there are large numbers of married adolescents with high unmet need for family planning resulting in unintended pregnancies. In Phase II of the programme, there will be efforts to include married girls in the programme and provide them with appropriate information and skills so that they are able to make decisions on issues affecting them.

The programme will work closely with deputy mayors, some of whom come from a protection background and have existing knowledge on the issue, to strengthen protection services in the targeted municipalities. The programme will also work with judicial councils formed under the municipalities.

As the mobilization of young champions and the afterschool programme could not directly contribute to learning outcomes for the students, the afterschool programme will be discontinued.

In Phase II, the programme will strengthen the complaint response mechanism in targeted schools.



# STRENGTHENING LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS



The country has a national strategy and costed action plan on ending child marriage

## Results from 2016–2019 programme implementation

The Global Programme supported the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens to develop the National Strategy on Ending Child Marriage. UNFPA and UNICEF provided technical support in drafting the theory of change for the national strategy and supported multiple consultations with adolescents, parents and key service providers and partners. The strategy provides the overall framework for addressing child marriage in Nepal and has strengthened coordination at all levels.

A costed action plan, with a monitoring and evaluation framework, has been drafted with support from the Global Programme. The plan also outlines the coordination mechanism at provincial and local levels. The action plan is currently awaiting endorsement from parliament.

In Phase I, the National Civil Code, 2017, and National Penal Code, 2017, were enacted, which set the minimum age for marriage at 20 years for both men and women. The law provided that marriages by person(s) below the age of 20 years receive no legal recognition. The law also criminalized marriage below the age of 20 years and stated such cases shall be investigated by the police and prosecuted by the government, which was not previously the case. The Global Programme supported partners to advocate for this criminalization.

The Global Programme invested in building awareness among authorities on the need to enact the Act Relating to Children, 2018. This act prohibits not only child marriage, but also the act of arranging the

marriage of a child. It provides for special protection measures and services for children subjected to child marriage. The law also requires mandatory reporting of incidences of child marriage by health professionals, teachers and other professionals working with children.

As a result of the sensitization of policymakers through the Global Programme, governments at different levels allocated budgets for activities to address child marriage. In 2019, the federal government allocated a budget for campaigns against child marriage. In the same year, six out of the total seven states allocated budgets for interventions to address child marriage, including awareness-raising on child marriage and the importance of investing in the girl child. The programme in State 2, with the slogan 'Educate daughters, save daughters', focuses on ensuring girls remain in schools.

The increased awareness and sensitization among policymakers in the relevant ministries and National Planning Commission, using support from the Global Programme, led to the development of the Fifteenth Plan 2019/20–2023/24, which includes various approaches to address child marriage. The plan provides that the school curriculum shall include content that educates children on the legal consequences and other aspects of child marriage. Similarly, the plan emphasizes developing an accessible and appropriate educational environment for the reduction of child marriage.

## Challenges

The programme faced significant challenges in receiving the endorsement for the costed action plan from the relevant ministry. The main reason for this delay is attributed to the focal person within the ministry constantly being replaced with a new person.

## Lessons learned

Coordination and collaboration with other key actors, such as Girls Not Brides and other non-governmental organizations, supported advocacy work with the government and also supported the development of robust policy documents. Joint advocacy was critical in changing the government's stance on some key legal interpretations.

## Shifts in Phase II

In Phase II, UNFPA and UNICEF will continue to advocate with the government to ensure the costed action plan is endorsed to formalize the coordination and monitoring mechanism.

Efforts on support the local government in translating these policy documents according to the local context will be primary.



# STRENGTHENING DATA AND EVIDENCE

## Results from 2016–2019 programme implementation

The biggest success from Phase I is development of a monitoring mechanism for the web-based reporting system for the 'Rupantaran' training programme. Although the system remains a work in progress, the tool helps the programme to systematically monitor change among the adolescents and adults participating in the programme and informs the programme of adjustments necessary.

The web-based reporting system provides evidence on 'what works' or 'what does not work' in terms of the effectiveness of the content of the training package. However, other data and evidence generated during Phase I primarily focused on identifying the drivers of child marriage, situation analysis and the effect of child marriage on education, etc.

Data and evidence generation commissioned by the programme has resulted in a better understanding of programme effectiveness and the trends, drivers and effects of child marriage. It has also supported the government, which has used the evidence for advocacy, to inform plans and policies and to influence resource mobilization.

With the objective of tracking changes among adolescents before and after 'Rupantaran' sessions, a change assessment questionnaire was developed and pre-tested. Adolescents who are enrolled in the 'Rupantaran' sessions complete the pre-training questionnaire. As a result, the programme has been able to generate detailed profiles (age, gender/sex, caste, etc.) and evidence on the changes in their knowledge, attitudes and skills through the course of the training.

Data generated through the programme are shared during the advocacy/orientation events organized with municipalities to show the positive change among participants and to convince them of the benefits of local budget allocation to support the implementation of 'Rupantaran'.

The programme is working closely with service providers and supporting the strengthening of information management systems, the harmonizing of indicators and the establishment of an integrated information system. Improvement in data generation is established by comparing data from previous years. For example, following technical support, case recording and reporting by police has greatly improved during the last three years.

### Challenges

The key challenge faced in evidence generation is the quality of data collected by partners. In the web-based recording and reporting tool, constant data auditing is required to ensure correct entry. The programme was not able to provide the required support to the partners because of a lack of adequate resources for monitoring. In Phase II, the programme is increasing the resources for monitoring, especially for data quality assurance.

### Lessons learned

Having a results matrix established at the start of the programme is crucial. In Phase I, the results matrix was only finalized later in the programme, which affected data collection for some of the indicators.

### Shifts in Phase II

The study on self-initiated child marriage and the assessment of the 'Rupantaran' social and financial package planned in 2019 could not be initiated because of contractual delays. This will be prioritized in 2020. The programme will focus on conducting secondary reviews and analysis rather than conducting new research/studies. Moreover, as mentioned above, the programme is planning to focus on data quality and providing support to partners for programme monitoring.



# COMMUNICATIONS TO END CHILD MARRIAGE

## Stories and videos

- [Out of her shell](#)
- [Combating child marriage in Nepal](#)

## Social media posts

- [Let's salute and applaud the perseverance of these #girls from Baitadi, Sudurpaschim Province of #Nepal, who have been campaigning hard to keep their villages child marriage free](#)
- [Hats off to @Rolpamunicipal+local stakeholders for declaring their 11-point commitment to #endChildMarriage](#)
- [Meet Kriti Paswan \(15\), a Dalit @GPChildMarriage peer educator in Rautahat!](#)

# IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

NAME OF IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	TYPE OF PARTNER	PARTNER FOCUS AREA	MAIN PARTNER
Centre for Reproductive Rights	International NGO	Women's rights	UNFPA
Restless Development	International NGO	Youth rights	UNICEF
The Adventist Development and Relief Agency	International NGO		UNFPA
Nepal Red Cross Society	Local NGO		UNFPA
Family Planning Association Nepal	Local NGO		UNFPA
Sancharik Samuha Nepal	Local NGO	Women's rights	UNFPA
Nepal Fertility Care Centre	Local NGO	Children's rights	UNICEF
SODC	Local NGO		UNICEF
Center for Research on Environment Health and Population Activities	Academic institution		UNFPA
Department of Women and Children	Government body		UNFPA



# PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AREAS

GEOGRAPHIC AREA	Output 1.1: Life-skills and economic support	Output 1.2: Education support	Output 2.1: Social and behavioural change	Output 3.1: Quality health and protection services	Output 3.2: Quality education
Baitadi	■	■	■	■	■
Bajhang	■	■	■	■	■
Rautahat	■	■	■	■	■
Kapilvastu	■	■	■	■	■
Rolpa	■	■	■	■	■
Dhanusha	■	■	■	■	■
Doti	■	■	■	■	■
Saptari	■	■	■	■	■
Achham				■	■
Bajura				■	■
Dolpa				■	■
Humla				■	■
Jumla				■	■
Kalikot				■	■
Mahottari				■	■
Mugu				■	■
Parsa				■	■





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