



NIGER

COUNTRY PROFILE

UNFPA-UNICEF
Global Programme to
End Child Marriage



Belgium
partner in development

Canada



Co-funded by
the European Union



Ministry of Foreign Affairs
and International Cooperation



Government of the Netherlands



Norad



ZONTA
INTERNATIONAL
EMPOWERING WOMEN
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

end
child
marriage
A vision. A chance. A future.



unicef
for every child

NIGER

COUNTRY PROFILE

Niger is home to 5 million child brides. Of these, 1.9 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.

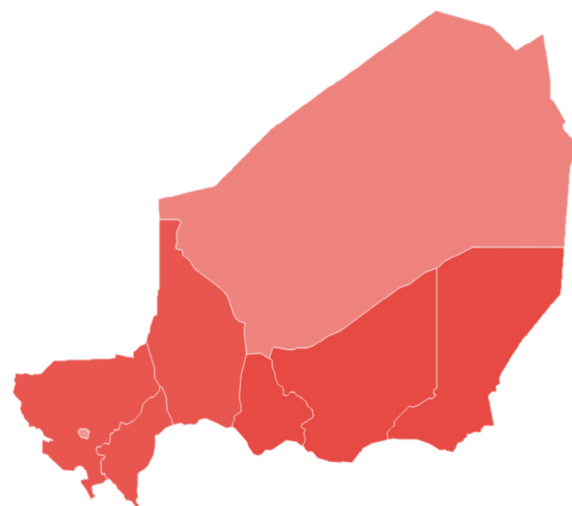
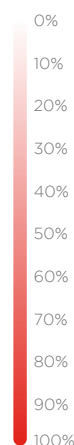
Notes: For details on the calculation of girls and women married in childhood, see: United Nations Children's Fund, Child Marriage: Latest trends and future prospects, UNICEF, New York, 2018. Estimates refer to population year 2019. Values below 2 million are rounded to the nearest hundred thousand;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



5 million
Married before age 18



1.9 million
Married before age 15



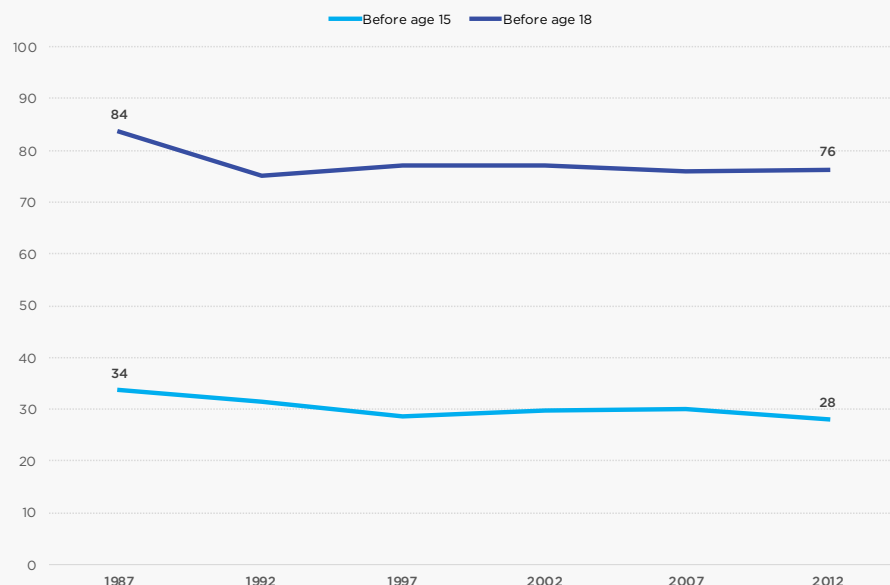
Percentage of women aged 20 to 24 years who were first married or in union before age 18

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 Niger Demographic and Health Survey 2012.

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

Source: Niger Demographic and Health Survey 2012

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



Projections are not shown for the Niger as the country does not show evidence of progress in reducing the prevalence of child marriage, so it is not possible to build on observed rates of change. The projected prevalence will remain the same as today's levels until signs of progress are evident.

Message from UNFPA and UNICEF Niger country representative



M. Ismaila Mbengue

UNFPA Niger country representative

Niger faces a high rate of child marriage with more than three quarters of young women aged 20 to 24 married before the age of 18. This has negative consequences for the health of adolescent girls. In December 2014, the Government of Niger launched its 'Campaign to End Child Marriage' and made the Illimin programme, developed by UNFPA in partnership with the Ministry for the Promotion of Women and the Protection of the Child, one of the strategies of this campaign.

To date, the Illimin programme has enabled more than 150,000 adolescent girls, including 45,000 girls supported by the Global Programme, to acquire knowledge, skills and attitudes to say no to child marriage in order to develop their full potential and participate fully in the development of their community. The programme has also promoted community dialogues to induce change and adoption of positive attitudes and behaviors towards investing in and supporting adolescent girls. These dialogues, which have reached nearly 350,000 Nigeriens, are organized around traditional chiefs, religious leaders and other power holders with the effective participation of adolescent girls, young boys, and parents, on issues related to child marriage, girls' education, reproductive health etc.

Our work is guided by the national strategic plan to end child marriage developed in 2019 with key contributions from the Global Programme.



Dr. Felicite Tchibindat

UNICEF Niger country representative

Given the strength of the social bonds that bind communities together, the norm that sustains child marriage has proven difficult to unravel. But it cannot withstand the force of collective action and social evolution. Our work is to accelerate its inevitable demise.

Ending child marriage requires work across all sectors and at all levels. It requires us to understand the complex drivers behind the practice in different contexts and adapt our interventions accordingly.

Key results during Phase I point to the positive difference the Global Programme has made in galvanizing support for the elimination of child marriage in Niger. More than 115,000 adolescent girls benefitted from child marriage prevention and care interventions.

The Global Programme supported the process leading to the institutionalization of child protection committees, a major achievement in addressing child marriage and promoting positive social norms that protect children's rights.

UNICEF worked to shift social norms on child marriage and gender-based violence by actively involving traditional leaders, media, communities and children themselves. This gives us confidence in the sustainability of interventions.

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

In Phase I, the Global Programme in Niger 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 Niger since the inception of the Global Programme include:

115,078

adolescent girls aged 10-19

actively participated

in at least one **Global Programme-supported** intervention that empowers them with life skills and knowledge to delay child marriage. A total of

4,409 girls

received vocational training in tailoring, design, textile printing, mobile phone repair, food processing, electricity and mechanics.

More than

40,000 adolescent girls

were equipped to better claim their rights and more than 500 of those became advocates for girls' rights by playing the role of 'child protection' correspondents.

The government signed in law measures to

ensure girls enrolled in school are protected and retained in the education system until the age of 16.

These include: the adoption of the decree n°2017-935 / PRN / MEPA / PLN / EC / MES on the protection, support and accompaniment of young girls during schooling; and the order n° 000025 of 4 February 2019, specifying the conditions of protection, support and accompaniment of girls during schooling.

Advocacy and support resulted in development of a costed national strategic action plan to end child marriage 2019-2021

The creation and support of the platform of non-governmental organizations and other partners committed against child marriage under the leadership of UNFPA and UNICEF played an important role in the advocacy actions that led to development of the national strategic action plan.

62,333

adolescent out-of-school girls or those at risk of dropping out

were supported to enrol and/or stay in school.

The collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency supported

20,085

school management committees

to promote gender equality, particularly in early grades, resulting in a 20 per cent enrolment increase.



More than

900 villages

in three regions with high child marriage prevalence and close to

1 million individuals

participated

in community dialogues to promote gender-equitable norms and practices to address child marriage.

Around

100,000

adolescent girls

were saved from child marriage and

2,154

child marriages were cancelled

The capacity of

8,800

school management committees,

including parents' and mothers' associations, was strengthened through training to address child marriage and gender-based violence issues.

Phase I Country Programme Strategies

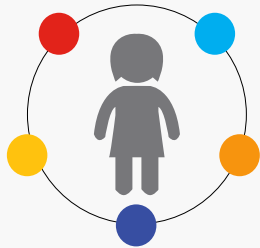


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The strategic approach for Phase I can be summarized as follows:

- Supporting the country to create an environment where child marriage in Niger is accepted as a major problem for the protection of girls. Indeed, with one of the highest rates in the world, 8 out of 10 girls married before the age of 18, child marriage is a taboo subject in Niger. Just recently, in 2015, when the African Union campaign 'End Child Marriage' was officially launched, the theme was centered on fistulas and not directly on child marriage, for fear of resistance and rejection.
- Strengthening government leadership and coordination: given that child marriage has been a taboo subject, the government left the lead to civil society organizations, which operate in dispersed order. So, it was necessary to bring all the actors to work in synergy by supporting the creation of spaces such as the National Coordination Committee chaired by the Ministry in charge of Child Protection.
- Promoting the political commitment of the government: it is essential that the government give the guidelines and outline a framework of interventions. This commitment materialized through the development of a national strategic action plan to end child marriage in 2018.
- Promoting legal reforms for better protection of girls, especially those who are enrolled in school so that they remain in the education system. The prevalence of marriage among girls before age 18 has not decreased in the Niger over the past 20 years, while that of girls under 15 has dropped significantly. It is known that the most vulnerable girls to be married before 18 are those who are out of school. In the Niger, one in two girls entering secondary school, leaves by the end of the first year. Action must be taken to enrol and retain girls until at least the end of secondary school.
- Strengthening the partnership with traditional and religious leaders as key influencers is essential in the context of the Niger where traditional leaders still have significant power over the population. In general, they are closer to communities and listened to more than politicians.
- Supporting the creation of networks with international and national non-governmental organizations to constitute a forum of partners working on child marriage to provide opportunities to meet and exchange practices to promote efficient use of available resources.

Country programme strategies



EMPOWER ADOLESCENT GIRLS



Mobilizing and training girls on life skills and financial literacy



Change agents as mentors for adolescent girls



Creating opportunities for girls' accelerated learning



Developing girls' skills for employability

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



Capacity-building of service providers in case management



Strengthening the capacity of child protection committees and juvenile courts



Implementing standard operating procedures for the prevention of and response to gender-based violence, including child marriage



Leveraging other funding streams to build capacity of school management committees



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



Supporting development of national plan of action to end child marriage

OFFER ECONOMIC SUPPORT AND INCENTIVES FOR GIRLS AND THEIR FAMILIES



Leveraging other funding streams to support education



In-kind support for girls' education



Participatory dialogues with religious and traditional leaders



Multimedia campaigns



Formation of gender groups for dialogue and education



Making public declarations expressing the need to end child marriage

EDUCATE AND MOBILIZE PARENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

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EMPOWERING ADOLESCENT GIRLS WITH SKILLS AND INFORMATION

In 2019:



9,505

adolescent girls
aged 10-19

in programme areas
actively participated in
at least one targeted
intervention

Since 2016:



115,078

adolescent girls
aged 10-19

in programme areas actively
participated in at least one
targeted intervention

Results from 2016–2019 programme implementation

During Phase I of the programme, UNFPA and UNICEF, in collaboration with the ministry in charge of child protection and women's empowerment, supported implementation of approaches to empower adolescent girls, married and unmarried, to acquire knowledge and skills to better enforce their rights and participate in life-related decisions.

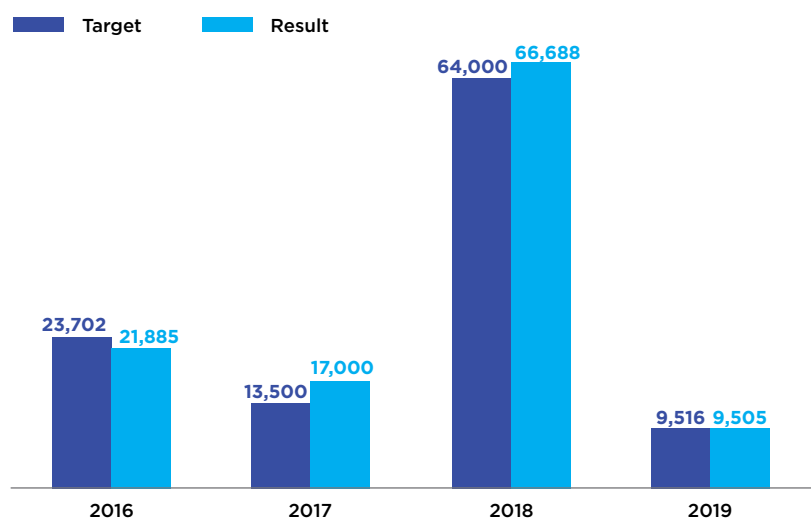
UNFPA implemented an empowerment programme in six out of the eight regions in the country and empowered adolescent girls with information and training on reproductive health, rights, hygiene and skills such as literacy, self-confidence and self-esteem. Activities took place in safe spaces chosen by the communities and adolescents themselves at the village level or at the capitals of the municipalities.

UNICEF, on the other hand, collaborated with the regional directorates in charge of women's empowerment and child protection to support the implementation of a community-based child protection approach in more than 900 villages in 22 communes of the three regions with the highest prevalence of child marriage, Maradi (89 per cent), Tahoua (77 per cent) and Zinder (87 per cent).

In total, 115,078 girls have been reached through Global Programme support since the inception of the programme in 2016. The programme also introduced innovative activities during 2019 for girls participating in the programme to explore issues that negatively affect their well-being, including harmful practices and norms, and share their experiences using creative and participatory videos.

The impact of the adolescent empowerment interventions in Niger is demonstrated through the knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence gained by the adolescent girls. According to findings from the evaluation of the UNFPA-supported 'Illimin Zaman Dunia' adolescent initiative, more than 6 out of 10 unmarried adolescent girls said that they would not accept a forced marriage and 4 out of 5 of the adolescent girls know at least one method of modern family planning.

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



Challenges

Although the programme is well accepted in the communities, the key challenges faced during the implementation of the programme are related to the transition to scale-up because of the high cost linked to increasing the number of girls reached. The challenge is to find the most cost-effective model balancing the issue of ensuring quality of interventions while considering the quantitative aspect of scaling up.

Additionally, the national ownership needs to be strengthened in terms of increasing the financial contribution from the government to ensure its leadership in a successful transition to national scale-up.

Lessons learned

The implication of the traditional authorities in the implementation of the programme has increased the community acceptability of the programme and its objectives. The contextualization and local acceptance of the programme and its objectives has served as inspiration for programming interventions on adolescent girls within the other six countries which are part of the SWEDD (Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend) programme.

Shifts in Phase II

The most significant shift in the programme is increased focus on measuring its impact to optimize the cost-effectiveness of the programme model for scale-up, taking into consideration other community approaches.

A priority is to conduct a baseline study for being able to measure the impact of the different community approaches. Additionally, another priority is integration of menstrual hygiene kits into the package of assets provided to the girls as well as strengthening the economic empowerment component of the programme based on the results from a study conducted in 2019.

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EMPOWERING GIRLS THROUGH EDUCATION SUPPORT

Since 2016:



62,333

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

To improve access and retention, UNICEF has supported CGDES participation in school management. Consequently, 2,094 community members of 829 decentralized management structures (COGES, CGDES, AME) have been trained on key themes, such as roles and responsibilities, resource mobilization and management, children's rights and gender equity. Training was held in convergence municipalities and has contributed to improve primary school enrolment and retention, as well as support for out-of-school children or those at risk of dropping out, with a special focus on girls.

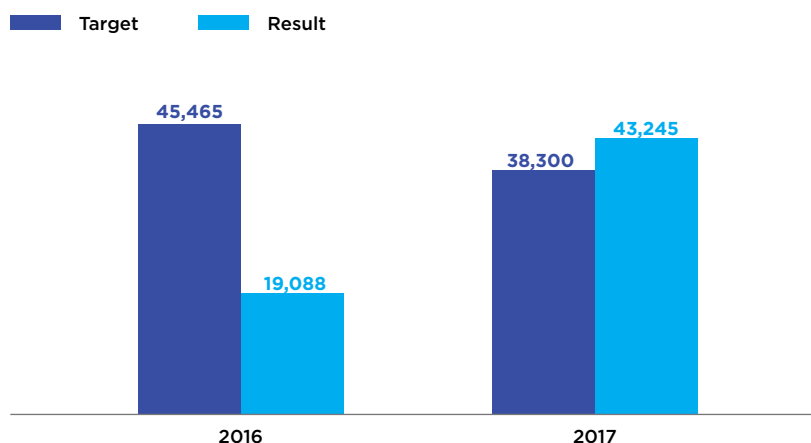
UNICEF continued to support girls' education through local school action plans, by providing small grants to 315 of these plans. Through local school education groups, school management committees followed up on school enrolment and retention and visited parents who did not send their children to school. During parents' general assemblies, awareness was raised of the importance of schooling, and problems and solutions affecting school enrolment were discussed. These initiatives were able to support 62,333 out-of-school adolescent girls to enrol and remain in school during the first two years of the programme.

Challenges

The cross-border insecurity affecting populations in the Lake Chad basin area and in the areas near the borders with Mali and Burkina Faso has impacted on programme delivery, especially at the community level, including enrolment and retention in schools.



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





✱

With strong engagement by the president of Niger, the government, with the support of UNICEF and other partners, signed a decree to promote girls' education and protect them in school.

"My father saw me as an expensive problem. Something else to pay for. And so when I started to refuse to get married, to say I wanted to continue studying, he did not support me at all, but rather fought with me about it. Even my mother, she said 'Good luck' but gave no other support than that. I have no idea where I got the strength to keep fighting, but I did it.

I went to my family, and only one of my brothers supported me. I then went to the local military police and explained the situation. They told me it went beyond them, and that I had to take it to the courts. So I did. And I won. I just knew I could not leave my studies, it was a devastating time for me."

The judge ruled in Roumanatou's favour, but obliged her, personally, to repay the dowry and all other expenses her fiancé incurred during their engagement. In the end, the man forgave her, letting her off the hook for her debt.

Roumanatou is a pioneer in her region, today a teacher who is fighting for girls' right to an education.

SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE COMMUNICATION TO INFLUENCE SOCIAL AND GENDER NORMS

In 2019:



80,709

individuals

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



158,570

individuals

within programme areas were reached with media campaigns on child marriage

Since 2016:



435,910

individuals

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

Results from 2016–2019 programme implementation

Reinforcement by UNICEF of the community-based child protection mechanisms proved to be efficient in addressing social norms. The approach is a cornerstone of the child protection system at local level, and targeted 220 villages in the regions of Maradi and Zinder with a high prevalence of child marriage (89 per cent in Maradi and 87 per cent in Zinder, compared to the national prevalence of 76 per cent). Expansion and training of village child protection committees is one response developed by UNICEF and partners to promote positive practices.

UNFPA initiated the 'Clubs of the Future Husbands', which aim to transform negative attitudes and behaviours of young men in regards to gender equality in general and reproductive health specifically.

Both UNFPA and UNICEF were able to directly reach 435,910 people (30 per cent women, 27 per cent adolescent girls, 27 per cent men and 16 per cent adolescent boys) in educational sessions held three times per week on various topics, such as harmful practices, child marriage, child health, education, protection and children's rights and reproductive health. A total of 541,523 people was reached through participation in village-wide talks on issues covered during the educational sessions. In 2017, communities in 150 villages made a public declaration of the abandonment of harmful practices against women and children. Village child protection committee educational sessions were able to prevent 1,434 cases of child marriage through direct mediation with parents and assisted 614 children to go back to school.

”

Since the community approach was introduced in our village, we Imams have been sensitized on the issue of early marriage. Before, I used to perform marriages without asking the age of the girl. But now I no longer perform marriages when the girl has not reached the age of 18. I ask the age of the girl first. There are many marriages that I refuse to celebrate, I ask that we postpone until the age of the girl reaches 18 years.

El, Imam, Djoura village, Dakoro

”

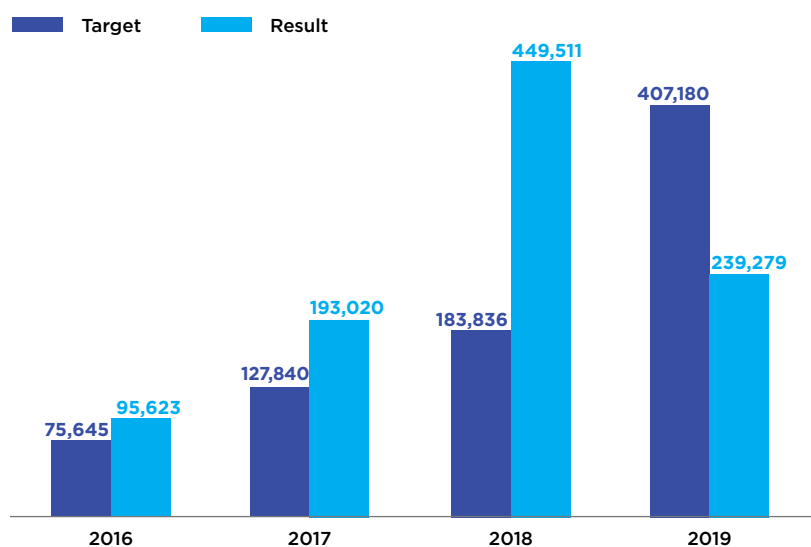
I have a 14-year-old daughter; she goes to school. I had made the decision to have her leave school and give her in marriage. When the community child protection committee members heard about this decision, they came to meet me at home. They made me aware of the risks of early marriage; they asked me to let her continue the school. So, I gave up on marriage and she continued studying. She is in third grade this year (secondary school). I thank the members of the committee; I was going to ruin my daughter's future if they had not intervened.

Is, community member, woman,
Djoura village, Dakoro

The evaluation of the child protection component including a community-based approach, highlights the following results: in 2018, 62.5 per cent of the target municipalities have set up a child protection communal committee compared to 6.25 per cent in 2016. In 2018, 29 per cent of municipalities disbursed funds specifically for child protection compared to none in 2016.

With UNICEF support, a media campaign was conducted through the production and broadcasting of a radio soap opera named 'Haské Maganin Duhu' (The light chases the darkness), with the collaboration of the national radio 'Voix du Sahel' and re-broadcast by nine private radio stations. The entire series focuses on girls' rights and the role to be played by other members of society to help achieve them. The soap opera is based on the experiences of girls in the Niger, through a hero who struggles to escape the difficult situations she faces. She relies on people who help her and others who slow her down.

Number of individuals in programme areas who regularly participate in dialogues promoting gender-equitable norms including delaying child marriage



Challenges

One of the main challenges in community dialogues is effective and timely implementation of the various commitments decided by consensus by the community. Indeed, without the participation of traditional chiefs in the dialogue sessions, certain decisions taken, in particular those relating to the redistribution of powers according to gender, are slow to be implemented.

Another challenge is measuring the impact of the community dialogues. The monitoring tools can be better adapted to measure impact while the training in using the tools and the analysis of data can be strengthened. Additionally, the two independent evaluation studies conducted in 2015 and 2018 did not include evaluations of the impact of the community dialogue component of the programme. Future evaluation studies will include this component.

The challenges encountered during implementation of the community approach to child protection relate to: i) participation and attendance of boys in modular sessions, as the boys leave the villages at the end of the rainy season for the city to look for temporary work, but these are the future dads; ii) measuring the changes as a result of the programme within short deadlines; and, iii) audience measurement for media activities.

Shifts in Phase II

With the results of the ongoing evaluation of community engagement by the regional offices of UNFPA and UNICEF, there are likely to be adjustments in the community-based approaches. UNICEF are supporting a programme with discussions of a specific reference group for married adolescent girls.

The most significant shift in the community dialogues, for the programme in general, is the increased focus on measuring the impact of the approach and testing of different models to better design the most effective model for a community approach.

For 2020, there will be no big changes as the results of the evaluation will not yet be known. Looking ahead, there will be active research around communication for development so that in 2021, results can be evaluated and compared to establish a strategy that is less costly and easy to scale-up with better impact. There will also be an experiment in interactive theatre with young people from peri-urban neighborhoods, which is being launched as part of the Spotlight Initiative.

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STRENGTHENING PREVENTION AND PROTECTION SYSTEMS

In 2019:



159

service delivery
points

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



102,156

adolescent girls

in programme areas
have utilized health or
protection services

Since 2016:



762

service delivery
points

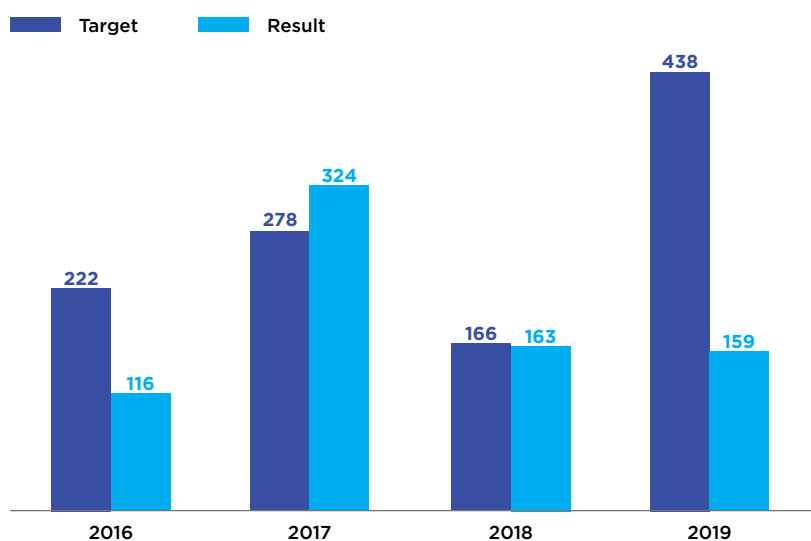
in programme areas
implement guidelines
for adolescent girl-
friendly health and
protection services

Results from 2016–2019 programme implementation

With support from UNFPA, the Ministry of Public Health revised the minimum package of activities for youth-friendly health centres, which are structures created at community level to increase the youth demand for health services. Also, the ministry developed communication tools on creation of health awareness among youth in health services.

Communities' capacity-building for addressing child marriage and gender-based violence issues was conducted through 2,200 school management committees, including parents' and mothers' associations. Over 6,600 committee members were trained on managing and reducing violence. 2,094 community members of 829 decentralized management structures have been trained on key themes, such as roles and responsibilities, resource mobilization and management, children's rights and gender equity. Training was held in convergence municipalities and has contributed to improve primary school enrolment and retention, as well as support for out-of-school children or those at risk of dropping out, with a special focus on girls. Country-wide, girls' education focal points have been trained on gender-based violence to benefit girls. The ongoing out-of-school absorption strategy along with regional fora on girls' education remain special focuses of the needs and satisfaction of communities and partners. They resulted in nationwide community mobilization conducted in collaboration with the Japanese International Cooperation Agency, reaching 20,085 school management committees, promoting gender equality particularly in early grade enrolments with 20 per cent uptake.

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





148

non-formal,
primary or
secondary schools

implement interventions
to improve the quality of
education for adolescent girls



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Challenges

The challenges are mainly related to the inadequacy of social workers because recruitment of civil servants has been suspended since 2015, and those who retire are not being replaced. There is poor quality of human resources and their mobility, which means that a social worker trained in child protection can be transferred to another locality and for another function other than the child protection service. The same problem is observed in justice and security services where there is mobility every two years for judges and police officers in charge of juvenile cases where dedicated staff have been trained.

The health services offered in the various localities are not free of charge. As a result, young people do not use them properly because they lack the resources to pay. Also, the quality of services is lacking in some health centres and services do not respond well to the needs of young people, among other issues because of lack of confidentiality.

Lessons learned

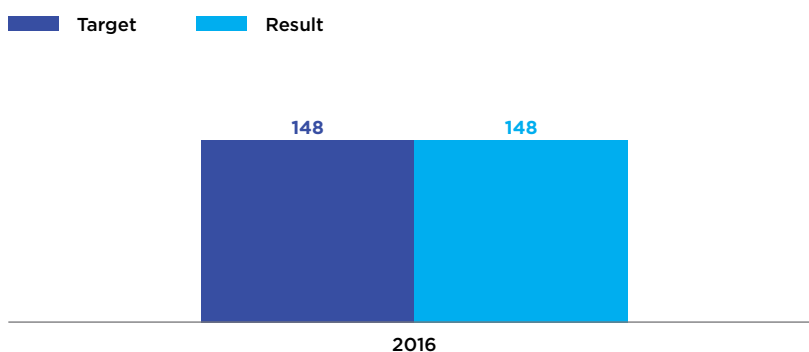
As part of the community-based child protection approach, health workers in the intervention villages reported that girls come to see them at night, either for advice or for contraception. This testimony must remain confidential to prevent parents from rejecting the approach. This shows that when adolescent girls have the information and health workers are also well trained and apply procedures, girls feel confident to expose problems and find solutions without worry.

Shifts in Phase II

The programme will look at improved recruitment of mentors, such as health workers not currently employed by the government.

Further, the programme will look to strengthen the involvement of health workers in the implementation of safe space activities, including exploring the possibility of contributing to the care of the adolescent health costs of the programme.

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



STRENGTHENING LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS



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

Results from 2016–2019 programme implementation

UNICEF and partners advocated the government to commit to the promotion of enrolment and retention of girls in school as an alternative to marriage, by creating conditions for girls to be enrolled and maintained in school, at least until the age of 16, regardless of marital status. In 2018, the Ministry of Education launched a revised national policy on girls' education and training, accompanied by an action plan. The revisions made to the policy were informed by a study on the profile and causes for children being out of school, which highlighted the magnitude of the problem in the Niger. Analysis of the data highlighted gender disparities and identified key gender issues that will be addressed in the revised action plan, known as the Education and Training Sector Plan. As part of the preparatory work for the revised policy, the ministry also commissioned a study on girls' secondary education, which was coordinated and supervised by UNICEF with the ministry's monitoring and evaluation implementation support unit (CAMOS).

In 2018, the Global Programme provided technical and financial support to the government to develop the National Strategy for the Reduction of Adolescent Pregnancy and Child Marriage (2018–2022) and its costed national action plan, with great mobilization of partners. It was an opportunity for stakeholders to work on a consensual theory of change and a results framework to end child marriage that engages all stakeholders.

Niger is among the six countries within the Global Programme framework that have integrated their national strategies for reduction of adolescent pregnancy and child marriage into national and regional development plans and frameworks, in Niger through a nationwide coordination mechanism led by the National Secretariat for the Reduction of Teenage Pregnancy.

Challenges

The challenges are linked to the financing of the national action plan, where the contribution from the state budget is not visible, apart from human resources.

Progress in reforming laws to address harmful practices and especially child marriage is very slow. This is because the government is not considering raising the legal age of marriage for girls to 18 as a priority, in part because of the risk of rejection resulting from the influence of certain religious organizations in the country.

Lessons learned

The national action plan was motivated by Niger taking part in regional meetings on the issue of child marriage, at which most of the recommendations show the need for countries to have a national action plan or strategy.



STRENGTHENING DATA AND EVIDENCE

Results from 2016–2019 programme implementation

The implementation of the Global Programme has strengthened the culture of documenting successes. UNFPA and UNICEF have an important partnership with public and private media (radio, print, television, etc.), which has been used to report on the changes taking place in the target communities. These reports were broadcast in the commonly spoken languages in Niger, during international days dedicated to children, women and girls. In addition, UNICEF has produced several videos based on the testimonies of beneficiaries, but also of actors involved in the field, which have been broadcast at special events, such as the side event on child marriage for First Ladies in West and Central Africa during the African Girl Summit in Ghana 2018. UNFPA has also produced a collection of testimonies from teenage girls who say no to child marriage.

As part of the programme, UNFPA has provided technical support to the government and implementing civil society organization partners in terms of collecting and analysing monitoring data.

Various studies and evaluations conducted were used to provide an overview of the situation of child marriage in the Niger as a prelude to the development of the national action plan to end child marriage. Also, in the context of the advocacy for legislation to protect girls in school, available research have served as the basis for the argument supporting the relevance of this legislation.

Challenges

When going to scale, the management of data gets more challenging with the increased amount and the increased need for effective systems and more resources for data management. Limitations in the methodology of monitoring data collection systems, as well as design of evaluations, resulted in lack of solid evidence of what works at scale.

Lessons learned

Measuring impact for addressing child marriage at scale should be integrated into the programme from the design and planning of interventions to generate stronger evidence.

Shifts in Phase II

- Strengthen the design and methodology of monitoring data collection and analysis, as well as evaluation, using electronic systems, with focus on measuring the impact of programmes at scale and on key indicators (especially child marriage and adolescent fertility).
- Strengthen the monitoring system for measuring impact at scale, and conduct an evaluation study with solid methodology for measuring impact.



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COMMUNICATIONS TO END CHILD MARRIAGE

Stories and videos

- [UNICEF teams up with musician Moon Boots to empower girls in Niger](#)
- [Music against child marriage](#)
- [Alphadi: new 'Champion for children's rights' in Niger](#)
- [In Niger, girls take their shot at a better future](#)
- [Ending child marriage in Niger](#)
- [Empowering girls to advocate for their rights](#)
- [Bassira, video](#)
- [Réalisée par les filles, video](#)
- [Le processus, video](#)
- [Hassana, video](#)

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

NAME OF IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	TYPE OF PARTNER	PARTNER FOCUS AREA	MAIN PARTNER
Association des Chefs Traditionnels du Niger	Local NGO	Children's rights, youth rights, women's rights	Both
Studio Kalangou	Media		UNICEF
Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection	Government body		Both
Ministry of Vocational Training	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
Diffa	■	■	■	■	■
Maradi	■	■	■	■	■
Niamey	■	■	■	■	■
Tahoua	■	■	■	■	■
Tillabéri	■	■	■	■	■
Zinder	■	■	■	■	■
Agadez	■	■	■	■	■
Dosso	■	■	■	■	■



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ZONTA
INTERNATIONAL
EMPOWERING WOMEN
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

end
child marriage
A matter of Justice & Rights



unicef
for every child