



# MOZAMBIQUE

COUNTRY PROFILE

UNFPA-UNICEF  
Global Programme to  
End Child Marriage

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# MOZAMBIQUE COUNTRY PROFILE

**Mozambique is home to 4 million child brides. Of these, 1.5 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.

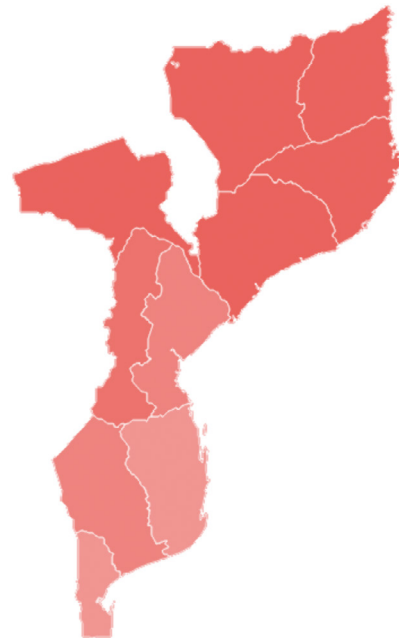
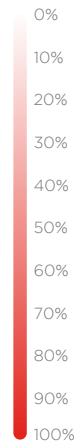
Notes: For details on the calculation of girls and women married in childhood, see: United Nations Children's Fund, Child Marriage: Latest trends and future prospects, UNICEF, New York, 2018. Estimates refer to population year 2019. Values below 2 million are rounded to the nearest hundred thousand;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



**4 million**  
Married before age 18



**1.5 million**  
Married before age 15



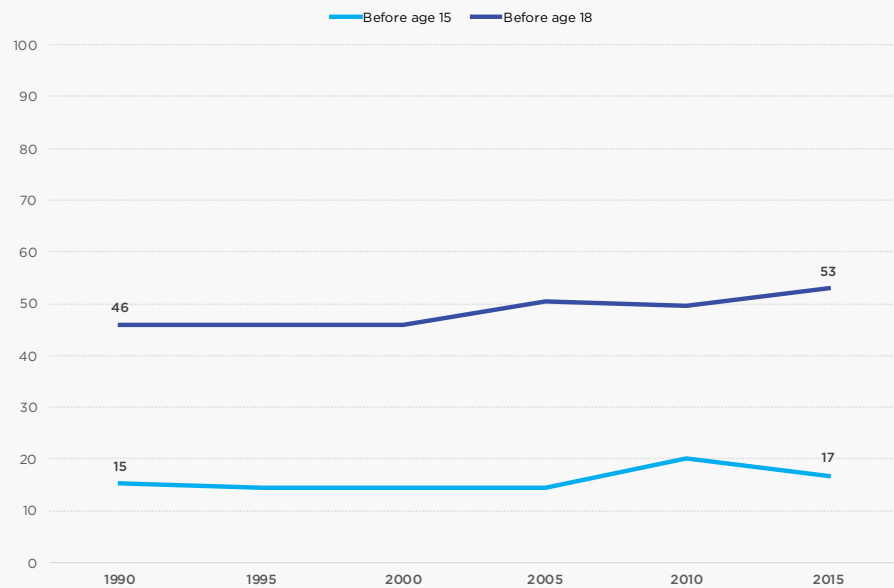
**Percentage of women aged 20 to 24 years who were first married or in union before age 18**

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 Mozambique AIDS Indicator Survey 2015.

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

Source: Mozambique AIDS Indicator Survey 2015

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 Mozambique 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 Mozambique country representatives

We thank and commend the efforts and commitment by all partners across all Government institutions, under the leadership of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action, civil society and private sector in Mozambique and bilateral and multilateral donors for their invaluable contribution to the implementation of the first phase of the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage. The first phase was marked by the drafting and implementation of the first multi-sectoral national strategy to prevent and end child marriage in Mozambique, jointly with the National Coalition to End Child Marriage (CECAP – the national chapter of Girls Not Brides), with strong nationwide advocacy and social mobilization initiatives featuring such champions as Graça Machel, Princess Mabel van Oranje-Nassau, Honorable First Lady of Mozambique, provincial governors, religious and community leaders, female mentors, and children’s and youth groups across the country, culminating in the adoption of the Law on Premature Unions in 2019, as a significant milestone in the fight against child marriage. With one in two girls under 18 still getting married in the country, we call on the Government to maintain its strong commitment to eradicating child marriage as a development priority and stand ready to support key initiatives to make the new law and the new strategy catalysts for change during the second phase of the Global Programme.



**Andrea M. Wojnar**  
UNFPA Mozambique country representative



**Maria-Luisa Fornara**  
UNICEF Mozambique country representative

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

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

**416,824**  
adolescent girls  
aged 10-19 years

actively participated  
in at least one intervention  
aimed at empowering them  
to address child marriage.

**155,900**  
individuals in  
the community

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

Advocacy efforts of UNFPA,  
UNICEF and partners with  
the government  
resulted in the  
passing of decree  
435/2018

that revoked decree 39/2003  
which restricted pregnant  
girls from enjoying their right  
of access to formal education.

**6,466**  
adolescent girls  
aged 10-19 years

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

**A national  
strategy and  
costed action  
plan to end  
child marriage  
(2016-2019)**

was developed and  
launched  
with a budget-line created.

A mentorship approach and  
the U-report platform  
has scaled up life-  
skills training,  
information dissemination and  
empowerment of adolescents  
to speak up and express their  
voices and agency.

Multisectoral coordination for  
addressing child marriage and  
violence against children  
was strengthened  
through support  
**from the Global  
Programme**

that mapped and reviewed  
laws and policies, and the  
implementation of the national  
end child marriage strategy  
**(2016-2019)**

to identify gaps  
where services were not being  
strengthened and economic  
opportunities not created.

A national multilingual  
edutainment campaign,  
**Ouro Negro** reached over

**20 million**  
people with messages  
and interactive talk shows  
on key adolescent behaviors  
related to child marriage.

## Phase I Country Programme Strategies

Coordination and leadership for decentralized implementation of the strategy in a manner that helps create greater coherence and linkages between key sectors has been a major focus of the programme, accompanied by strategic actions to empower girls, mobilize gatekeepers and sensitize families, while strengthening the health, protection and education services in programme areas to deliver child- and adolescent-friendly and gender-sensitive services.

The programme relied on three main approaches to shape interventions: 1) the creation of a solid evidence base; 2) a geographical focus based on the prevalence rates; and 3) the empowerment of adolescent girls and young women.

One key successful programme intervention to improve the knowledge, skills and agency of girls and young women is the safe space approach, which includes three main elements: safe space, girls' network and mentorship. This approach aims to provide the most vulnerable girls and young women between the ages of 10 and 24 with life skills, social participation, leadership, literacy and decision-making skills, economic empowerment, and access to knowledge and information on sexual and reproductive health and rights. Safe spaces at the community level provide the target group with a space in which to express themselves, share experiences, establish new healthy behaviours and choices, discuss and learn about their sexual and reproductive health and rights, human rights, participation and life skills, in a warm and friendly way.

Each mentor recruits 30 of the most vulnerable girls, including girls who are married, pregnant, young mothers, orphans, victims of gender-based violence and fistula, HIV positive girls and girls with disabilities. The mentor meets her group once a week for a period of four months (initial mentorship cycle). After the four-month cycle, the group of 30 girls becomes the so-called 'continuous cycle' which is led by the most confident girl in the group and continues to meet in the safe space on a monthly basis for a period of six months. The presence of a trained female mentor from the same community ensures that the adolescent girls and young women in the safe spaces are supported and guided at an individual and collective level towards improved capacities to make informed choices and adopt healthy attitudes and behaviours related to sexual and reproductive health and rights through the mentorship sessions and beyond.

The mentors also act as role models with whom the girls and young women can identify and mirror themselves. The mentors champion different empowering gender roles, pursuing further education and other dreams; provide a support system within and outside of the safe spaces; assist girls and young women in translating information and knowledge into informed choices or change in behaviours related to their sexual and reproductive health; and showcase that difficulties can be overcome. As examples, one mentor who became pregnant early herself and still managed to return to school, now inspires pregnant girls in her safe space not to drop out of school.

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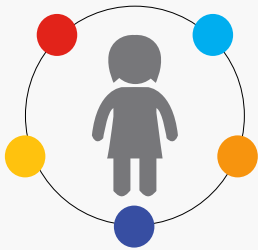
Other mentors support the girls and young women by accompanying them to the youth-friendly services to start uptake of a modern family planning method, or by encouraging them to stand up to parents who want to marry them off or to an abusive boyfriend. Another promising intervention is the community dialogues implemented by UNICEF in four districts in Nampula.

The evidence-based approach proved highly successful and shaped all interventions. In 2015, the secondary analyses of the Demographic and Health Survey, 'Child marriage and Adolescent Pregnancy in Mozambique - causes and impact', provided the first information on the causes of child marriage and its national distribution. The geographical focus of the intervention was based on these data as well as on the volume of activities that tried to address the causes. The formative research became a reference document internally and externally, and was a key piece of

evidence to contextualize the global theory of change and to provide a deeper knowledge of the causes, especially those rooted in social norms. Activities such as the community dialogues and training of religious and community leaders, as well as the content of training and communication materials are based on the results of the study. UNICEF also contributed to the development of the Education Sector Strategic Plan integrating gender issues and addressing child marriage and violence against children in schools.

The geographical focus, targeting provinces with the highest rates of child marriage and population density, and available services, resources and partners, proved to be efficient. Combining the highest needs with the availability of resources – demand and supply – enabled the programme to achieve results.

**Country programme strategies**



**EMPOWER ADOLESCENT GIRLS**



Mobilizing and training girls on life skills and sexual and reproductive health using adolescent peer clubs and online SMS tools



Integrating life skills education in schools



Change agents as mentors for adolescent girls

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



Implementing a standard package of adolescent- and youth-friendly services



Developing and supporting training of child protection community committees



Capacity-building of the police and the social welfare service workforce



Supporting integration of gender-issues into provincial education plans



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



Supporting development of national plan of action to end child marriage

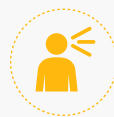
**OFFER ECONOMIC SUPPORT AND INCENTIVES FOR GIRLS AND THEIR FAMILIES**



Leveraging other funding streams to support education



In-kind support for girls' education



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



Multimedia campaigns



Supporting faith-groups, including debates between religious leaders and the community



Engaging boys and men through dialogue

**EDUCATE AND MOBILIZE PARENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS**

# EMPOWERING ADOLESCENT GIRLS WITH SKILLS AND INFORMATION

In 2019:



**51,676**

adolescent girls aged 10-19

in programme areas actively participated in at least one targeted intervention

Since 2016:



**416,824**

adolescent girls aged 10-19

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

## Results from 2016–2019 programme implementation

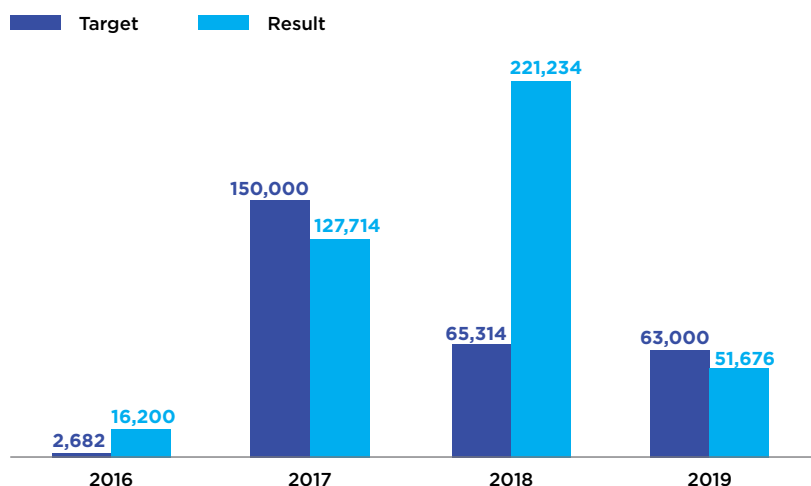
The Global Programme has been implemented in the provinces of Nampula and Zambezia since 2016 with interventions targeting the empowerment of girls aged 10–19 years, with a total of 416,824 girls reached. The programme’s contribution has been a notable reduction in cases of new child marriages. In addition, the programme has successfully identified child marriages in the supported communities together with the community agents and helped withdraw girls from the marriages. The programme has been successful in demonstrating that investing in building health, economic and empowerment assets of girls, including investments in community dialogues, is vital in the reduction of child marriage and teenage pregnancy in the supported provinces.

The United Nations joint team in Mozambique leveraged support from the Global Programme as catalytic attribution to the overall Rapariga Biz programme. The Rapariga Biz programme has reached a total of 699,006 girls across 20 districts since 2016 out of its target of 1 million girls, through safe space mentorships.

### Challenges

The programmatic challenges faced through Phase I included reaching girls at scale, as the Rapariga Biz programme supported by the Global Programme had a target of reaching 1 million girls by 2020 using the mentorship approach. However, capabilities by implementing partners to reach this number were affected by factors such as limited capacity to scale-up, reaching girls in remote areas and gaps in the provision of continuous learning and refresher training of mentors because of lack of funding. A recurrent challenge was the assurance of delivery of a core package of interventions targeting the same populations in the same geographic areas, along with limited ability to measure impact of these interventions, their cost and potential for scale-up.

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



”

Now I am an empowered young woman. I know how to protect myself and to stand up for my rights that I didn't know I had before. I hadn't heard of contraceptives before I met the mentor in my community and became a girls' club member.

My mentor is my everything. She was there for me during difficult situations. She accompanied me to the youth-friendly services to consult a nurse on the use of contraceptives. She also encouraged me to return to school and to go after my dreams.

Marcia Felizanda Marcelino, 19 years

### Lessons learned

The rapid expansion of the mentorship programme created supervisory challenges. The programme has senior mentors and focal points responsible for monitoring and supervision of the mentors' work and their outcomes. The exponential expansion of the programme, however, has overstretched implementing partners, leaving little time for monitoring, supervision and on-site training. Mentor capacity to work independently is an important factor for the sustainability of the programme. Assessing the quality of mentors' work, and their skills can inform programme improvements and continuous learning. Recruitment of mentors may also need revision to ensure mentors selected have the appropriate attitude and aptitude to run mentorship sessions and be successful. A cascade leadership approach can support the mentorship programme by engaging a cadre of lead mentors to coach and provide technical support for mentors in small bi-monthly groups, who themselves would be monitored and supported by focal points and supervisors. Each level in the supervisory hierarchy needs additional training, work protocols, oversight and matching financial and performance incentives. A key lesson learned for this approach, however, is streamlining of the monitoring data collection to harmonize programmatic components being provided to the girls throughout the outputs.

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### Shifts in Phase II

The programme has no major shifts in Phase II; however, targeting of girls for the programme will be strengthened to ensure that the most marginalized and vulnerable are reached first and prioritized for the interventions. The programme will also scale-up approaches to reach boys and young men to ensure that their vulnerabilities are equally addressed. Community dialogues and mobilization tailored to create favourable environments for both girls and boys to remain in school are prioritized, as well as addressing harmful norms and culture pivotal to child marriage in the targeted provinces. UNFPA will include the targeting of pregnant girls and young mothers with appropriate interventions through mentorship to build their resilience and economic assets to prevent or leave a marriage as a response element. The focus here is not only on prevention of elements that target this already vulnerable group of girls, but also on assistance to build a livelihood.

The programme will support development of a comprehensive gender-transformative approach that places adolescent girls at the center of change processes and recognizes the roles of the family and the community. The interventions will aim at creating conditions to prevent child marriage at the individual, relationship, community, family and societal levels, and strengthen demand for reproductive health services. Focus will be placed on adolescent girls' empowerment

with a strong emphasis on life skills such as safe spaces and mentorship for girls, mobilizing families and communities through community dialogues, promoting adolescents' and young people's participation, and government engagement and linking provision of comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services to the needs of young people.

Introduction of new approaches for boys' engagement and increased focus on leveraging economic opportunities in programme areas (economic empowerment programmes by UN Women) will further strengthen the potential for gender transformation. In addition, special emphasis will be placed on engaging men and boys, by building their capacities to promote dialogues among their peers (through media platforms, community theatre and dialogues) that question negative sociocultural constructs of male gender roles as well as promote positive masculinity and a positive approach to social dialogue that also capitalizes on social values and norms. It will be important to use the positive deviance approach and engage men and boys as agents of change by modelling appropriate behaviours and attitudes to their peers to promote positive masculinity.

” My mentor came to my home after a session to ensure I understood the risks and consequences from falling pregnant and to talk to my parents. It made me change my risky sexual behaviours and leave my boyfriend. I want to be the same for others as the mentor was for me. My dream is to study and work in projects like Rapariga Biz. I want to be a mentor to help younger girls.

Mamo, 15 years



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# EMPOWERING GIRLS THROUGH EDUCATION SUPPORT

In 2019:



1,576

girls

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

Since 2016:



6,466

girls

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

## Results from 2016–2019 programme implementation

The programme was successful in demonstrating the importance of keeping girls in school, and provision of school uniforms and school fees as well as the mentorship programme from which girls received assets on empowerment, led to reintegration of girls into school.

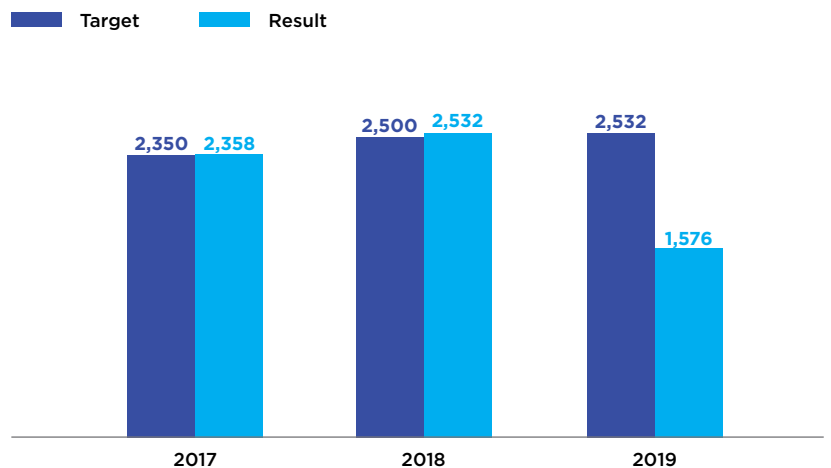
Adolescent out-of-school girls participating in the mentorship programme were specifically mapped and targeted to support their re-enrolment in education in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. Overall, the programme provided financial support to 6,466 girls for school fees for secondary school education (as primary education is free), school uniforms and school materials at the beginning of the school year during Phase I.

### Challenges

Attention is needed within the programme to ensure that those reached with non-formal education and empowerment programme components are those most at risk of child marriage, early pregnancy and dropping out of school. Analyses of the current programme coverage indicates, however, that the programme may be somewhat skewed towards girls less at risk because of the current structure of recruitment. There is some inclusion of girls and young women with disabilities in the mentorship programme but little is known on whether the programme is appropriate or effective in meeting their needs.

There is insufficient coordination between civil society and government partners in identifying out-of-school girls and defining number of student vacancies available for girls in the respective schools. Also, the decision process on integration takes much more time than expected as it is done at the level of the Provincial Department. The programme has been advocating for the integration process to be multisector involving implementing partners and the local government, and for decisions to be made at the local level by district-level education services.

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



### Lessons learned

To ensure girls most in need are those reached, the programme ought to be using evidence-based approaches and tools to map and segment the population of girls to ensure recruitment of the most vulnerable. Further investigation into how girls with disabilities are currently engaging with the programme could inform future efforts to include them in a more meaningful way in programme activities. Revisiting coverage of school corners and adolescent-friendly service locations and then supporting expansion and revitalization of the services would help to ensure access in target districts. Improved monitoring and evaluation of the programme generally would further help to focus recruitment and engagement in communities to reach those most in need.

### Shifts in Phase II

The programme has invested in mentorship training in a low-resource context. Without sufficient follow-up and continuous support, the training will not achieve its desired results. Phase II will therefore shift to have greater focus on quality control and continuous learning of mentors for out-of-school comprehensive sexuality education within the mentorship programme.

New programme components to reach boys and young men will be further strengthened in the next phase, for boys' mentorship groups to support gender-transformative thinking in families and communities and between young people themselves. Expansion of training on gender-transformative programming will further facilitate behaviour change.



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

In 2019:



## 44,216

individuals

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



About

## 2.5 million

individuals

within programme areas were reached with media campaigns on child marriage

Since 2016



## 155,900

individuals

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

## Results from 2016–2019 programme implementation

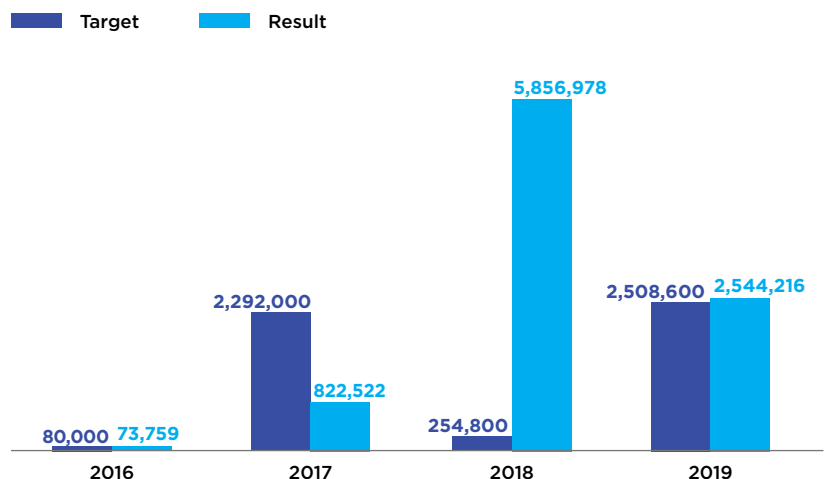
Through the programme, notable successes have been the involvement of the community gatekeepers in the implementation of a gender-transformative approach. From a gender-transformative perspective, many activities aim to create opportunities for individuals to actively challenge gender norms, gender roles and power inequalities in their communities.

Data and evidence generated through formative research has contributed to understanding social norms and gender roles to better inform planning and programming, and address the specificities of the Mozambican context, with results informing the need to include both boys and young men in the mentorship programme aimed at creating positive male norms.

As part of the implementation of the child marriage activities outlined in the national child marriage and communication for development strategies based on the findings of the formative research, UNFPA and UNICEF community dialogues implemented in the programme focus districts of Nampula and Zambezia engaged 44,216 people (20,204 men and 24,012 women) in a critical social change process to review and renegotiate harmful social norms and practices that perpetuate child marriage and contribute to gender inequality. A total of 461 (cumulative) cases of child marriage were identified and dissolved, involving local leaders and local government for follow-up, and 27 of these were followed up in court.

The entertainment-education (EE) radio drama Ouro Negro has continued to be a transmedia (technique of telling a single story across multiple platforms) initiative, comprising a long-running EE radio drama on issues related to adolescents, weekly live radio shows in local languages, stories adapted for community theatre performances and social media campaigns. Ouro Negro, together with the U-report online platform, have reached an estimated 11 million people with culturally sensitive messages in local languages aimed at delaying and ending child marriage.

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



## Challenges

Community-based activities such as radio programmes, community dialogues and youth engagement activities are appreciated by community members but whether they are reaching the community gatekeepers that can have a significant effect on social, cultural norms that act as barriers to care for girls and young women is, as yet, not well documented.

The culture of silence and impunity prevails and is characterized by pressure be it political, economic or social. There is a widespread tendency in most cases to resolve disputes and crimes amicably and following traditional beliefs and customs, with the view of preserving social cohesion, rather than acting within the best interest of the child. A high level of impunity or lack of punishment of perpetrators also prevails because of corruption, a weak justice system and lack of will to deter future offenders. The low level of denunciation and referral of cases, as well as fear of social sanctions and repercussions, perpetuate a culture of silence and acceptance of violence.

Inequitable gender norms are part and parcel of child marriage, hence it will be important to more systematically and strategically engage men and boys in gender-transformative approaches capable of reformulating and reconstructing more equitable gender roles and identities. There is a need to hold community leaders that have been trained and engaged more 'accountable' by publicly announcing their commitment to ensure a child-marriage-free community, and following up regularly.



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## Lessons learned

- Communication for development (C4D) actions and capacity-building must be pursued with communities, adolescents and young people to promote endogenous social and behaviour change, increase demand for quality services, and foster community engagement and empowerment in creating a more protective environment in which children can grow and prosper.
- Work with a range of government partners must be strengthened in terms of coordination mechanisms at provincial and district levels, especially for prevention of child marriage, violence and HIV. Continuous work with national and subnational government partners is necessary to ensure sustainability and appropriation of the interventions, and also to foster a network of committed individuals that promotes a culture of zero tolerance.
- Stronger coordination and synchronization of different C4D platforms and partners will help to increase the impact of interventions on social and behaviour change.
- By focusing on community-level interventions and using existing community structures and volunteers (activists/ mentors) to carry out awareness-raising and sensitization activities, communities' capacities are further enhanced, and they are empowered through leading social change process.
- Expanding boys' and men's involvement in prevention of violence through gender-transformative training and sensitization can increase the shift of harmful norms around gender inequality and gender-based violence within communities. Hence, the second phase of the programme will include peer-to-peer conversations on gender stereotypes and how these affect gender dynamics and power relationships.

- Continuous strengthening of capacities of religious and community leaders and engaging them in ongoing dialogue is necessary to make them accountable for implementation of action plans developed during the community dialogues. They can become champions of the zero-tolerance culture and if they constitute a significant proportion of the community, they will represent the ‘tipping point’ towards normative change.
- Support must be maintained for participatory media programming with and for adolescents, providing a platform for intergenerational dialogue and debate, within which adolescents and their families are prompted to discuss contents traditionally considered as ‘taboo’ and ways to address them.

### Shifts in Phase II

The programme will provide support to community dialogues focusing on social norm change to end child marriage and gender-transformative parenting skills for adolescent boys and girls, at-risk adolescent girls and their parents.

Special emphasis will be placed on engaging boys and young men, by building their capacities to promote dialogues among their peers that question sociocultural constructs of male gender roles as well as promoting ‘positive masculinity’ and a ‘positive’ approach to social dialogue that also capitalizes on positive social values and norms. It will be important to continue to consider the use of the ‘positive deviance’ approach and engage men and boys as agents of change by modelling appropriate behaviours and attitudes to their peers to promote positive masculinity. The aim being to engage men and boys alongside girls and women in preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence and child marriage.

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# STRENGTHENING PREVENTION AND PROTECTION SYSTEMS

In 2019:



52

service delivery points

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



705,928

adolescent girls

in programme areas have utilized health or protection services



150

non-formal, primary or secondary schools

implement interventions to improve the quality of education for adolescent girls

Since 2016:



928

service delivery points

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

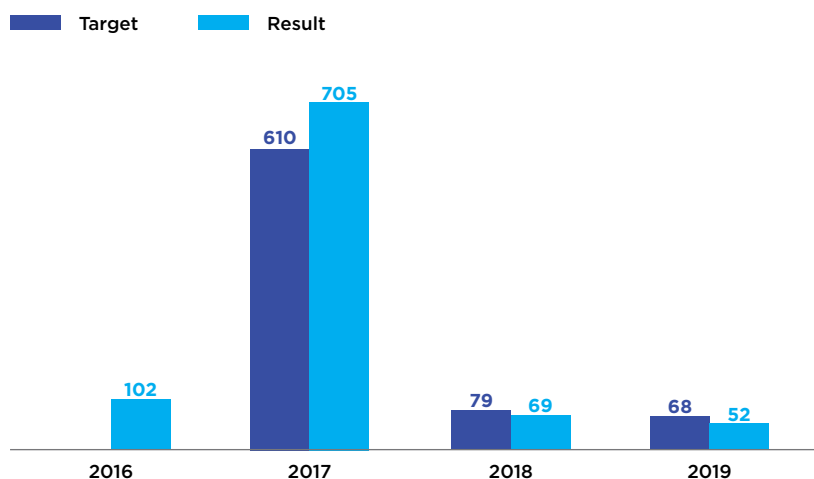
## Results from 2016–2019 programme implementation

The Global Programme complemented the Rapariga Biz programme to support the provision of youth-friendly services in health facilities, school health corners and mobile clinics. In total, 705,928 girls accessed services and 211,689 girls adopted at least one modern family planning method in Phase I. The programme, through the interface with the girls, is crucial in increasing demand for services through referral within the mentorship programme, and awareness-raising through community and radio interventions and the mobile platform SMS Biz. A total of 232 health service delivery points were targeted for reach in Phase I and 350 service delivery points were established. Despite the target being met and surpassed, the issue of target setting is not commensurate with the number of girls to be reached.

During Phase I, the programme supported the expansion of the capacity of the Child Helpline (LFC), which became an important entry point of cases that require protection services. The Global Programme is supporting LFC in capacity-building, equipment and expansion. In 2018 alone, LFC received 116,855 phone calls, 72 per cent of which were made by children, and registered and supported 828 cases affecting a total of 978 victims.

The abolishment of the ministerial decree 39 was a significant achievement in Phase I as it represented removal of a major barrier to pregnant girls' access to education.

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

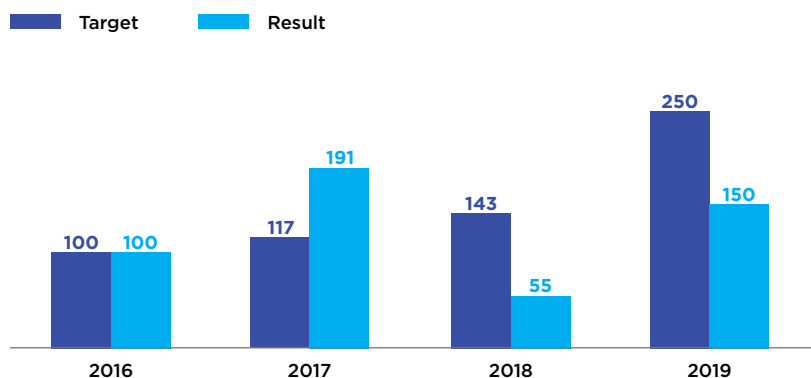




496  
non-formal,  
primary or  
secondary schools

implementing 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



The development of the violence against children referral and reporting mechanism for school has improved coordination and the quality of response and services available for victims of violence. A tripartite partnership was established between the government (the Ministry of Education), UNICEF and civil society organizations (MEPT and CESC) for implementation of an inclusive and participatory development process which resulted in production of a draft mechanism for denouncing, referral and reporting of cases of violence in schools and assistance to victims of violence.

### Challenges

Despite the promising results achieved to date, access to quality essential child protection and health services at the district and community levels remains a significant challenge and larger investment is needed to strengthen adolescent-friendly services.

Low uptake of services by young people was evaluated to be associated with poor service quality, lack of access to service delivery points and lack of information about the existence of such services. Despite the critical importance of these services to the programme, collection of information on referrals for services has not been systematic.

Another challenge is the lack of decentralized services at the community level in a context where there is a conflict between the customary/traditional laws and the national legal framework (little known and implemented), and where most of the regions with the highest rates of child marriage are in remote and hard-to-reach areas. Most districts only have one health and one police centre, and the distances to these centres are large. In most cases, these centres do not have adequate capacity to provide services to young people.

### Lessons learned

Over the past four years, the programme counts many achievements in reaching adolescent girls and young women with family planning and counselling services, information, training and education, and mentorship. Most notably, this has contributed to significant reductions in rates of early pregnancy and marriage among programme participants. Greater access to sexual and reproductive health and rights information and education as well as vocational training and reintegration into school, and increased rates of civil registration are also credited as successes of the programme.

This Global Programme is complemented by a number of other initiatives being implemented in the same provinces (Nampula and Zambezi). There is a need to ensure coordination between such initiatives and further explore possible synergies to avoid duplication and maximize results.

### Shifts in Phase II

There are no major shifts previewed for Phase II. There will continue to be a considerable concern and strategies to produce more data analyses regarding service delivery points as well as consolidation of mapping of service delivery points, activities and results to maximize the convergency.



# STRENGTHENING LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS



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

## Results from 2016–2019 programme implementation

In 2019, advocacy efforts by UNFPA and UNICEF and partners led to the passing of a new law that prohibits marriage of girls and boys under the age of 18 without exception. This new law is aimed at harmonizing and resolving existing conflicts with constitutional laws, the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC)-adopted model law on ending child marriage and the national strategy on the prevention and fight against child marriage.

Another major achievement of the programme was the advocacy and support UNFPA and UNICEF provided towards the development of the National Strategy to End Child Marriage in 2016, including the support towards strengthening government coordination and oversight mechanisms through training and technical support to convene national, provincial and district coordination groups.

Advocacy efforts by UNFPA, UNICEF and other partners were rewarded in December 2018, when the government of Mozambique passed decree 435/2018, allowing pregnant girls to stay in standard day school. The previous decree, 39/2003, banned pregnant girls from day school and referred them to night school; however, in Mozambique the number of schools offering night shifts is very limited and those that do are far from the villages and do not offer a safe environment for girls. Thus, preventing pregnant girls from enjoying their right of access to education.

Technical support was provided to adapt the SADC model law to Mozambique, and with a strong advocacy and engagement of the civil society to amend the family law to harmonize the age of marriage with no exceptions, and adapt the law on premature unions, criminalizing informal unions and creating sanctions and accountability for various associated acts.

UNICEF also supported the revision and development of violence against children in schools referral and reporting mechanisms, which is still ongoing.

### Challenges

Despite the development of a costed national action plan to end child marriage, the plan is not adequately resourced and it is almost impossible to track government funds because of the bureaucratic procedures (the allocated funds and budget execution rate are unknown). This has compromised transparency, accountability and planning for interventions to address child marriage.



### Lessons learned

Government ownership and leadership is critical and its involvement was limited in planning Phase I of the Global Programme. Many of the coordination issues may derive from this, and therefore, in the future maximum alignment with government strategies will help integrate child marriage into district, provincial and national planning.

Better engagement of provincial and district government authorities is required to increase ownership, political commitment and accountability as well as to mitigate challenges of coordination.

### Shifts in Phase II

During Phase II of the programme, continued support will be provided to strengthening of the national and subnational coordination and planning mechanisms. Although there is discussion in the government to transition to programme-based budgeting, there is still no clarity on whether this will be approved and will contribute to better tracking of expenditure against child marriage and other multisectoral areas.

The programme will continue with the same geographic focus, targeting six districts in Nampula and Zambezia, and mostly continuing the same strategic interventions, while refining the content, methodology and messages and creating synergies between interventions. New programme components will be introduced to strengthen gender-transformative impacts of the programme, including analysis and monitoring of social norms change programming, work with men and boys and women's organizations, and development and endorsement of minimum standards and procedures in the area of child protection services. The programme will leverage funding and results with those from regular resources, the Rapariga Biz programme and, in the case of Nampula province and one focus district, the Spotlight initiative.



# STRENGTHENING DATA AND EVIDENCE

## Results from 2016–2019 programme implementation

The evidence-based approach proved highly successful because it shaped all interventions. In 2015, the secondary analyses of the Demographic and Health Survey, ‘Child marriage and Adolescent Pregnancy in Mozambique - causes and impact’, provided the first information on the causes of child marriage and its national distribution and subnational prevalence rates. The geographical focus of interventions was based on these data, as well as many of the activities that tried to address the causes identified. Later, the formative research was a key piece of evidence to contextualize the Global Programme theory of change and to provide a deeper knowledge of the causes, specially those more rooted in social norms, and has become a reference document internally and externally. Activities such as community dialogues or training of religious and community leaders, as well as the content of training and communication materials are following the results of the study. UNICEF also used the study results to contribute to the development of the Education Sector Strategic Plan integrating gender issues and addressing child marriage and violence against children in schools.

The Technical Assistance Facility (TAF) was commissioned to collect lessons learned, focusing on three pillars: 1) Learning agenda to inform implementation; 2) Coordination and convening; and 3) Enhanced impact through programme adjustments. The first part of the TAF mandate was to provide an inception report that would provide a road map for programme interventions and adjustments in 2019. The TAF report provided findings not only for Phase II of the Global Programme, but also for the entire Rapariga Biz programme. In addition, a study to assess the impact of early pregnancies and child marriage on mental health was conducted and findings will be disseminated in 2020.

Two studies are currently under way: a knowledge, attitudes and practices study on adolescents and young beneficiaries of the programme on important aspects of life linked to sexual and reproductive health and rights; and a mapping study to assess thoroughly (census) the presence, activities and services

of Programa Geração Biz district and provincial directorates, considering peer educators, adolescent-friendly health services, advice centres located in schools, youth centres, and multisectoral committees with respect to infrastructure, human resources, equipment and commodities, statistics, key functions and essential services, skills and competencies of service providers in the new districts.

The programme supported a mapping of activities and partners implementing the national strategy on child marriage as well as service providers, based on the “4Ws” approach (Who is doing What, Where and When) and including costing of activities to identify cost-effectiveness.

### Challenges

There is a lack of linkage and coordination between the different initiatives to end child marriage, leading to duplication of data and evidence generation and poor utilization. There is a need to revise the evidence base in terms of statistical analysis, new data and hotspot mapping, and to effectively link different initiatives to reinforce and draw from each other. In 2020 there is also a plan to review the humanitarian needs assessment surveys in Mozambique, particularly in the area of nutrition and food security, to better understand the coping strategies and advocate for revision of survey tools and analysis, as child marriage along with child labour have been regularly identified and anecdotally reported as some of the main negative coping strategies.

### Lessons learned

There is a need to better advocate to include relevant indicators in common surveys and monitoring (SETSAN, protection monitoring by UNHCR, etc.) to build evidence on child marriage as a copying strategy. Also, it is necessary to advocate to enforce vulnerability criteria for humanitarian support provision, and to work with communities to identify usual copying mechanisms and discuss/find alternatives and necessary support to make those viable.

### Shifts in Phase II

Phase II will focus more on South-to-South collaboration and cross-learning, in addition to secondary analysis of administrative and survey data to review/identify new trends and hotspots.

# COMMUNICATIONS TO END CHILD MARRIAGE

## Stories and videos

- [Facing challenges together: Inspiring adolescent girls in Mozambique](#)
- [Young SMS counsellors in Mozambique share their stories](#)

## IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

NAME OF IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	TYPE OF PARTNER	PARTNER FOCUS AREA	MAIN PARTNER
PCI Media Impact	International NGO	Children's rights, youth rights, women's rights	UNICEF
Population Council	International NGO	Children's rights, youth rights, women's rights	UNFPA
Coalizão	Local NGO	Youth rights	Both
Fundação para o Desenvolvimento da Comunidade (FDC)	Local NGO	Youth rights	UNFPA
Núcleo das Associações Femininas da Zambézia (Nafeza)	Local NGO	Youth rights	UNFPA
Programa Inter-Religioso Contra a Malaria (PIRCOM)	Local NGO	Children's rights, youth rights, women's rights	UNICEF
Forum Nacional de Rádios Comunitárias (FORCOM)	Local NGO	Children's rights, youth rights	UNICEF
Nweti	Local NGO	Children's rights, youth rights	UNICEF
Ministry of Youth and Sports	Government body		Both
Ministry of Gender and Women Affairs	Government body		Both
Ministry of Health	Government body		Both
Ministry of Education	Government body		Both
Ministry of Justice	Government body		Both

# 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
Nampula	■	■	■		
Zambezia	■	■	■		
Tete				■	■



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