Adolescent girls, including the most marginalized, in countries targeted by the Global Programme fully enjoy their childhood free from the risk of marriage; they experience healthier, safer and more empowered life transitions, including making choices about their education, sexuality, relationships, marriage, and childbearing.

**Target 5.3:** Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation. Indicator 5.3.1: Proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18.

**Immediate Outcomes**

- **1100** Adolescent girls at risk of and affected by child marriage are effectively making their own informed decisions and choices regarding marriage, education and sexual and reproductive health.

**Outputs**

- **1110** Underserved/marginalized adolescent girls (aged 10–19) who are at risk of child marriage, married, divorced or widowed, and adolescent girls who are pregnant or already have children, are engaged in gender-transformative life skills and comprehensive sexuality education programmes that build their knowledge, skills, and awareness of their rights, and connect them to services.
- **1120** Adolescent girls are supported to enroll and remain in formal and non-formal education, including through the transition from primary to secondary school.

**Strategies**

- **Create and expand opportunities for the empowerment of adolescent girls:** Increase scale and reach of child marriage programmes, especially for the most marginalized, leveraging, coordinating and complementing other government-, United Nations- and civil society-led initiatives in line with national action plans.
- **Promote a supportive and gender equal environment:** Create dialogue and raise awareness of gender inequalities and their negative consequences for women, men, girls and boys, the economy and society, and work with local champions and influencers at all levels including in households, communities, local institutions (including schools and health centers) and at all levels of government to address them.
- **Gender inequality and control of adolescent girls’ sexuality:** Social norms that promote harmful and discriminatory gender stereotypes for girls, women, boys, and men.
- **Manifestations of multidimensional poverty:** Material deprivation to meet basic needs, social isolation, inequality, exclusion and powerlessness, denial of fulfillment of one's capabilities, physical and psychological well-being.
- **Lack of economic opportunities, disruption of the economy:**

**Sustainable Development Goal Target**

- **1000** Relevant support to the most marginalized (girls) Enhanced knowledge, education and life skills, and attitudes of marginalized adolescent girls, including in humanitarian contexts, on matters such as their rights, relationships, sexual and reproductive health, and financial literacy.

**Drivers**

- **1200** – FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT
  - Adolescent boys, families, traditional and religious leaders, community groups, and other influencers demonstrate more gender-equitable attitudes and support for girls’ rights.

**Intermediate Outcomes**

- **1210** Boys and men are engaged in gender-transformative programmes (including comprehensive sexuality education for boys) that promote healthy relationships and positive masculinities and gender equality.
- **1220** Families, communities, traditional and religious leaders, and other influencers are engaged in dialogue and consensus-building on alternatives to child marriage (including education), the rights of adolescent girls, and gender equality.
- **1230** Women’s organizations and youth-led organizations are included and supported to mobilize the voices of the marginalized (particularly girls), challenge harmful social norms, and promote gender equality.

**Strategies**

- **Strengthen governance to prevent child marriage:** Foster an enabling legal and policy environment, government leadership, financing and accountability, inclusive of voices of civil society, youth-led organizations and women's rights organizations, researchers, media, traditional and religious leaders and other influencers for effective actions to end child marriage.
- **Enhance sustainability and impact of child marriage programmes:** Support contextually relevant programmes and strategies at national and local levels.
- **Build partnerships:** Leverage additional resources and co-investments on preventing and responding to child marriage in Global Programme areas.

- **Adolescent pregnancy:**
- **Inaccessible or low-quality health (including sexual and reproductive health), education, social protection, gender-based violence and child protection services:**
- **Lack of implementation of laws and policies that protect adolescent girls:**
- **Conflicts, natural disasters, displacement, lack of respect for International Humanitarian Law:**

**Causes and Drivers**

- **Gender inequality and control of adolescent girls’ sexuality:** Social norms that promote harmful and discriminatory gender stereotypes for girls, women, boys, and men.
- **Lack of economic opportunities, disruption of the economy:**

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**Problem:** Child marriage and early union of adolescent girls and boys persists as a common practice in many societies and is associated with a combination of structural, economic, socio-cultural factors and broader gender inequality. Lack of locally acceptable alternative life opportunities pushes adolescent girls and boys into marriage. A total of 650 million women and girls alive today were married as children.