

RAPARIGA BIZ

*Action for Girls and Young Women's
Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Mozambique*

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



**Action for Girls and Young Women's
Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Mozambique
(RAPARIGA BIZ UN JOINT PROGRAMME IN MOZAMBIQUE)**

**ANNUAL PROGRAMME¹ NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT
REPORTING PERIOD: 01 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2023**

Programme Title & Project Number	Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results ²
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Programme Title: Action for Girls and Young Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Mozambique ● Programme Number <i>(if applicable)</i> ● MPTF Office Project Reference Numbers:³ 00101069 (Sweden) and 00117215 (Canada) 	<p><i>Country/Region:</i> Mozambique</p> <p><i>Priority area/ strategic results</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Outcome 1: Girls' and young women's knowledge, agency, and capacities to make informed decisions about their SRH and demand for and uptake of essential SRH services were strengthened. ● Outcome 2: The availability of quality integrated ASRH services for girls and young women increased. ● Outcome 3: An enabling, free and safe environment for increased participation of girls and young women and the promotion of their SRHR created. ● Outcome 4: Strengthened governance and coordination for integrated SRH programming.
Participating Organization(s)	Implementing Partners
Organizations that have received direct funding from the MPTF Office under this programme: UNFPA, UNICEF, UNESCO and UN Women	National counterparts (government, private sector, CSOs/NGOs & others): Ministry of Education and Human Development (MINEDH), Provincial Directorate of Education of Nampula and Zambezia Province (DPE), Secretariat of State of Youth and Employment (SEJE), Núcleo das Associações Feministas da Zambézia (NAFEZA), Coalizão da Juventude Moçambicana (Coalizão), Rede Homens pela Mudança (HOPEM), Associação Juvenil Kutenga (Kutenga), Fundação para o Desenvolvimento da Comunidade (FDC), Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative (REPSSI); PCI Media;

¹ The term “programme” is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects.

² Strategic Results, as formulated in the Strategic UN Planning Framework (e.g. UNDAF) or project document;

³ The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as “Project ID” on the project’s factsheet page the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

	Televisão de Moçambique; Fórum Nacional de Rádios Comunitárias (FORCOM); Rádio Moçambique; Instituto de Comunicação Social (ICS); Instituto de Formação Profissional e Estudos Laborais Alberto Cássimo (IFPELAC); and Instituto Nacional de Emprego (INEP)
<p style="text-align: center;">Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</p> <p>Total approved budget as per project document: US\$ 13,970,447 (including the initial programme document and the several extensions from 2016 through 2023). Note: Subsequently, project extensions were signed, and additional resources made available by the donors (see Contributions received below).</p> <p>MPTF / JP Contribution⁴ : Contribution from Sweden: USD 19,853,139 Contribution from Canada: USD 9,599,572</p> <p>Government Contribution (if applicable): N/A</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Programme Duration</p> <p>Overall Duration (<i>months</i>): 89 months (1 May 2016 - 30 September 2023)</p> <p><i>As per NCE for Action for Girls' and Women's SRHR in Mozambique (Rapariga Biz) Canada # 00117215, end date was 30 September 2023, For Sweden # 00101069 it was 31 March 2023.</i></p> <p>Start Date⁵ (<i>dd.mm.yyyy</i>): 01 May 2016</p> <p>Original End Date⁶ (<i>dd.mm.yyyy</i>): 31 December 2020</p> <p>Current End date⁷ (<i>dd.mm.yyyy</i>): 30 September 2023 (see above)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.</p> <p>Assessment/Review - if applicable, <i>please attach</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Date: 30.06.2020 Mid-Term Evaluation Report – <i>if applicable, please attach</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Report Submitted By</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Name: Walter Mendonca Filho ○ Title: Deputy Representative ○ Participating Organization (Lead): UNFPA Mozambique ○ Email address: mendonca-filho@unfpa.org

⁴ The MPTF or JP Contribution, refers to the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations, which is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

⁵ The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

⁶ As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.

⁷ If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date which is when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF / JP have been completed. As per the MOU, agencies are to notify the MPTF Office when a programme completes its operational activities.

ACRONYMS

AGYW	Adolescent Girls and Young Women
ASRH	Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health
AYFS	Adolescent and Youth Friendly Services
CIADAJ	Multisectoral Committee for the Support of the Development of Adolescents and Youth
CNJ	National Youth Council
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DD	Demographic Dividend
DPS	Provincial Health Directorate
ENDE	National Development Strategy
e-VAWG	Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GoM	Government of Mozambique
IP	Implementing Partner
MGCAS	Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action
MINEDH	Ministry of Education and Human Development
MINT	Ministry of Interior
MoH	Ministry of Health
PGB	Programa Geração Biz
RB	Rapariga Biz
SAAJ	Youth Friendly Services
SBCC	Social and Behavior Change Communication
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infections
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
VAC	Violence Against Children
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
YFHS	Youth Friendly Health Service
UN	United Nations
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VSLA	Village Saving and Loans Associations

NARRATIVE REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the progress and results achieved in the 8th year (2023) of the Rapariga Biz (RB) Programme. The foundation of RB is promoting and protecting the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) aged 10-24 in 20 districts across Nampula and Zambézia provinces. The key relevant programme stakeholders and partners are the Government of Mozambique (GoM), civil society partners and UN agencies, including UNFPA (lead agency), UNICEF, UNESCO, and UN Women. The Secretariat of State for Youth and Employment (SEJE) is the lead entity within the Government of Mozambique, as part of the Programa Geração Biz, with other four-line ministries (Health; Education and Human Development; Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs; and Gender, Children and Social Action). The programme received technical and financial assistance from the Embassy of Sweden and the High Commission of Canada.

The programme builds on a holistic and multi-sector approach to empower AGYW to access their SRHR and make informed decisions concerning their life choices. This approach is composed of 1) mentorship of adolescent girls and young women by young female mentors in safe spaces in communities; 2) school reintegration of out-of-school adolescent girls and young women; 3) provision of gender-sensitive and integrated adolescent and youth-friendly Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH)/Gender-Based Violence (GBV) services in health facilities, schools, and community levels; 4) comprehensive adolescent SRH education; 5) economic empowerment of adolescent girls and young women; and 6) community mobilisation and behaviour change communication which all contributes to ultimately reducing the persistent high numbers of child marriage and early pregnancy in the two target provinces of the programme. During 2023, a remarkably low rate of child marriage among the AGYW enrolled in the programme was sustained (1.1% or 299 cases were recorded among the 27,877 participating girls aged 10-19 years), lower than the target of 5%. The programme similarly saw a low rate of early pregnancy among girls and young women aged 10-19 while participating in the mentorship sessions (0.9% or 253 cases of 27,877 girls aged 15-19 years), against the programme target of 5%. Achievements under specific outcomes and outputs are presented in the results sections below.

I. Purpose

The Rapariga Biz Programme was designed to improve the SRHR of 1,085,447 girls and young women in Mozambique in Nampula Province (10 districts) and Zambézia Province (10 districts). These provinces have some of the highest poverty levels in the country, and women and young girls are burdened with a high level of discrimination and are at high risk of child marriage, early pregnancy, maternal mortality, obstetric fistula, GBV and HIV. The project combined three (3) core components, which aimed to complement one another and drive improvements in SRHR. Firstly, it ran a series of girl-focused interventions, which provided girls with the knowledge to make informed choices relating to SRHR and additional skills such as vocational training. The approach relies on a mentorship model whereby trained mentors provide a safe space for girls to explore questions regarding SRHR, including family planning, gender roles/norms, and prevention and response to GBV, among other topics. Secondly, the project supported health services, including youth-friendly clinics (YFS/SAAJs), mobile clinics, and school health corners dedicated to providing SRHR consultations and comprehensive sexuality education (CSE). It also worked with the Ministry of Education and Human Development (MINEDH) to develop a CSE curriculum that was rolled out to support changing norms and building knowledge around SRHR for adolescents in schools. Thirdly, the project aimed to create an enabling environment by supporting multi-sectoral

approaches and projects such as a sexual health hotline, radio programs focusing on SRHR topics, community dialogues, working with the Ministry of Justice and police officers around gender-based violence (GBV) and the engagement of boys and young men. To this end, the Programme had the following four expected outcomes:

1. Outcome 1: Girls' and young women's knowledge, agency, and capacities to make informed decisions about their SRH, demand for, and uptake of essential SRH services strengthened.
2. Outcome 2: The availability of quality integrated Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH) services for girls and young women increased.
3. Outcome 3: An enabling, free and safe environment for increased participation of girls and young women and the promotion of their SRHR created.
4. Outcome 4: Strengthened governance and coordination for integrated SRH programming.

II. RESULTS

In this section, we include results using three main components: description of the results, the respective indicators and, where possible, stories to witness the result, by outcome and output.

OUTCOME 1: GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN'S KNOWLEDGE, AGENCY AND CAPACITIES STRENGTHENED TO MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS ON THEIR SRHR, DEMAND FOR AND UPTAKE OF ESSENTIAL SRH SERVICES

Rapariga Biz aimed to ensure that the sexual reproductive health and rights of girls and young women between 10 and 24 years are fully realized through improved capacities to make informed decisions and improved access to SRH services. Thus, the girls' and young women's knowledge and agency to make informed decisions about their SRHR was central to Rapariga Biz's holistic and rights-based approach. Having cumulatively reached 1,000,801 girls aged 10-24 years, the programme made a significant contribution in reducing unmet needs for family planning and an increase in Couple-Years of Protection (CYP), reflected in pregnancy rates of less than 5% (0.9%) among adolescent girls from safe spaces which contributed to the reduction of national rates of 46%.

● **Output 1. Improved Knowledge, capacities and agency for SRHR**

- 30,491 AGYW were reached with peer-to-peer mentorship and life skills in safe spaces at the community level by RB in the 13th cycle of the mentorship programme. When compared to the previous year, this represented a decrease of 83%, from 179,639 in 2022 to 30,491 in 2023. The AGYW participating in the mentorship sessions receives knowledge and skills on SRHR, HIV/AIDS and GBV, life skills, decision-making power, self-esteem, exercising of rights and citizenship. The decrease in the number of AGYW reached is attributed to the end of Phase I in March 2023 for the Swedish-supported component and in September 2023 for the Canadian-supported component. While the programme ended in September 2023, the last six months were dedicated to the closure of Phase I, with only a few activities, most of which related to administrative processes.
- Out of the previous 3,280 active mentors in 2022, the Programme changed its approach to the number of mentors, which reduced and requalified the existing mentors. Thus, 2,000 mentors (1,308 former mentors and 692 new mentors) were selected to implement the Programme from 2023 onwards. Therefore, the average number of mentors per district was 100. This represented a reduction of 39% when compared to mentors in 2022 (from 3,280 in 2022 to 2,000 mentors in 2023).

- Cumulatively, the programme reached 1,000,801 AGYW aged 10-24 years in 20 districts of Nampula and Zambezia with mentorship. This number of AGYW represents 92% of the target (1,085,447).
- The prevalence of adolescent pregnancy in Rapariga Biz target districts in 2023 was 0.9% (253 cases of early pregnancy among 27,877 AGYW aged 10-19), and that of child marriage was 0.7% (299 cases of child marriage among 27,877 AGYW aged 10-19). While this is a significant achievement for the project, the actual numbers remain high.
- 4,035 of the total 6,630 AGYW identified as out-of-school were supported to reintegrate into school through scholarships. This figure represents 202% of achievement vis-a-vis the planned target of 2000, while on the other hand, it represents 61% of the demand for school integration among out-of-school girls participating in mentoring sessions.
- SMSBIZ/U-Report registered an exponential growth of users from 472,809 (end 2022) to 831,624 (on the 12th of December 2023) with a ratio of boys to girls of 60% male and 40% female registering a growth of 43,2% in 2023. UNICEF also renewed an additional 2-year contract between Nyaruka and UNICEF Mozambique Country Office, signed in August 2023 to secure operationalization of SMS BIZ/U-Report in Mozambique. Several innovative promotional strategies were used to increase user uptake such as partnering with young artists and digital influencers, using street art to promote SMS Biz in schools and public spaces, and innovative peer-to-peer invitation system to increase uptake of the service.
- TalentBIZ (Fundoo) emerged as a transformative initiative embedded within the U-Report/SMS Biz Platform, that has so far equipped around 20,000 young Mozambicans with essential 21st-century skills. The initiative was implemented in collaboration with the Secretary of State for Youth and Employment and aligns with the goals of Mozambique's youth and employment agenda as the platform fosters entrepreneurship and job opportunities, thereby contributing significantly to the socio-economic development of the country. The strategic use of Rapariga BIZ (RB) funds has played a pivotal role in accelerating the impact of TalentBIZ: (i) SMS Biz is a vital component of the TalentBIZ ecosystem, and RB funds were strategically channeled to enhance the reach and accessibility of TalentBIZ, and (ii) RB funds have significantly contributed to the official launch of TalentBIZ in Zambezia and Nampula. These funds allowed the platform to gradually incorporate additional critical topics, such as mental health support, career guidance, and gender-based violence awareness. This expansion is aligned with the evolving needs of Mozambican youth and ensures the long-term sustainability of the platform's impact.
- As part of the humanitarian response to Cyclone Freddy, SMS Biz reached a total of 258,221 people, consisting mostly of adolescents and young people aged 10-24, with life-saving sms messages before, during, and after Cyclone FREDDY's landfall in Zambezia as well as links to the loGT website for further information including on cholera, PSEA and GBV prevention.

- **Output 2. Citizenship of girls and young women**

- In 2023, 842 girls needing identification documents who participated in mentorship sessions were supported with civil registration and the provision of national identity documents. As a result, 80.8% had their civil registration updated (24,637 of 30,491). Cumulatively, in 2022-

2023, 64% (135,202/210,120) of the girls participating in mentorship sessions in safe spaces have had civil registration updated.

- With contribution from Rapariga Biz (and other funds such as GPECM, Spotlight and UNICEF regular resources), a total of 3366 adolescents and youth were systematically engaged in social mobilization, media broadcasting, peer-to-peer discussions to disseminate key messages (in Portuguese and local languages) on child marriage, ASRH, early pregnancy, GBV, PSEA, right to participation, disability inclusion, climate change and cholera reaching over 5 million people, including children, adolescents and communities. Adolescents continue to benefit from learning media production and programming, leadership, and communication skills which equip them with 21st century skills and prepare them to reach their academic and professional goals.
- **Output 3. Increased demand for SRH services [Remark: In the Canada Proposal this output belongs to outcome 2]**
 - During the reporting period, the programme increased the demand for access and use of information and integrated services on SRH, GBV, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) and HIV through health professionals and sensitisation of activists and mentors. As such, 338,958 adolescent girls and young women (128,679 in Nampula and 210,279 in Zambezia) accessed youth health-friendly services (SAAJ). On family planning, in the 20 programme districts, 55.7% of AGYW (121,375 out of 217,757) who accessed Adolescent and Youth Friendly Services (AYFS) adopted at least one modern contraceptive method in addition to male and female condoms, and 63.8% (139,025 out of 217,757) did HIV test.
- **Output 4. Girls and young women are voicing the issues concerning their lives at the district, provincial and national level**
 - In 2023, the Rapariga Biz Programme continued to promote girls' and young women's participation in decision-making processes by voicing the issues concerning their lives at district, provincial and national levels. In this regard, three conferences were supported through the programme: Two youth conferences were held simultaneously in Maputo and Gaza in the light of the International Youth Day on 12 August, and one youth conference was held in Niassa, in the scope of the African Youth Day. The youth conference in Bilene (Gaza) counted on the participation of the Secretary of State of Youth and Employment (SEJE). The programme also supported the youth in raising their voice through the two Inter-Ministerial Committees for the Support to the Development of Adolescents and Youth (CIADAJ) ministerial events led by the Prime Minister.

OUTCOME 2 - AVAILABILITY OF QUALITY INTEGRATED ASRH SERVICES FOR GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN INCREASED

The intervention focuses on influencing the uptake of SRH services and meeting the growing demand for quality integrated ASRH services among adolescents, girls, and young women in schools, health facilities, and communities within the target districts. This approach aimed to ensure that quality integrated ASRH services are readily available for girls and young women, enabling them to access SRH services in various settings such as communities, schools, and health facilities. As a result, there has been a significant increase in new acceptors of family planning users, rising from 20% in 2016 to 39% in 2023. Moreover, there has been notable progress in women attending fourth ANC consultations, increasing from 55% in 2016 to 71% in 2023, as well as institutional births, which rose from 70% in 2016 to 87% in 2023.

- **Output 5. Teachers implement the comprehensive sexuality and sexual health rights education package**
 - 79 teacher trainers, including 21 females, have been trained and certified across seven teacher training institutes in Zambézia (Quelimane, Alto Molocué, Nicuadala and Morrumbala district) and Nampula province (Nampula, Marrere and Monapo district) on CSE teaching integration in pre-service teacher training.
 - A total of 2,032 pre-service teachers reached with CSE content across seven teacher training institutes in Zambézia (Quelimane, Alto Molocué, Nicuadala and Morrumbala district) and Nampula province (Nampula, Marrere and Monapo district).
 - CSE and ESD cross-cutting manuals were developed and piloted (in the country's south, central, and north regions) to support the integration of CSE content in lesson planning from primary to secondary education.
 - 690 (232 female) in-service teachers, school gender and health focal points and school managers were trained to integrate CSE content into teaching practice as a cross-cutting theme in Nampula and Zambézia province.
 - 22,000 people were reached by CSE interventions/content in Nampula and Zambézia province.
 - 33,805 primary and secondary students and 174 (120 female and 54 male) university students were sensitised on key CSE topics and empowered to serve as change agents in their communities.
- **Output 6. Mobile health clinics and Community Health Workers (CHWs) in 20 priority districts deliver integrated SRH services at the community level.**
 - In 2023, no mobile brigades were deployed in Nampula and Zambezia provinces with funds from Rapariga Biz.
- **Output 7. Integrated ASRH services by health providers are available in school SRH corners**
 - In 2023, the provision of health in schools in the programme's target areas had the contribution of health providers and locally trained activists. A total of 141 school-based activists from 28 schools, representing 60% of secondary schools in the 10 Program Districts in Nampula, contributed to reaching 45,500 students. Among these students, 26% adopted modern contraceptive methods, specifically pills.
- **Output 8. Coordinated services to GBV survivors**
 - In support of the operationalisation of the multisector mechanisms responding to GBV victims, four (4) provincial coordination meetings were held in Nampula and Zambezia involving Government and Civil Society Organisations (CSO) partners to discuss the improvement of referral mechanisms for GBV survivors. In this regard, in Nampula, 3,975 violence cases were assisted in an integrated manner by the mechanism.
 - In 2023, police awareness campaigns targeting the 12 Rapariga Biz districts in Nampula province reached 11,630 (7559 girls and 4071 boys) schoolchildren.

- Under the Spotlight Initiative, an integrated care centre in Angoche (Nampula), was completed and equipped with financial and technical support from the United Nations (UN). The infrastructure has improved the affordability and accessibility of GBV services in that district.
 - The technical and financial strengthening of the child helpline, Linha Fala Crianca (LFC) in 2023 handled 156,296 calls, resulting in 6,296 cases with 6,617 victims involved. Most users contacting LFC were male, especially children, with a significant portion of these calls originating from the provinces of Zambézia, Nampula, Inhambane, and Cabo Delgado. Regarding reports, the most frequently reported cases were child marriages, access to education, and violence/sexual abuse, with the primary victims being female children, mostly aged between 12 and 17 years.
 - The 6,296 cases reported in 2023 represent an increase of 30% compared to the 4,843 reported in 2022. 61% of the total 6,296 reports were referred to various reference entities (both institutional and non-institutional), with emphasis on the Police, Social Action, and Youth Education and Technology sectors. As of December 31, 2023, 2,766 cases were assisted (72% of the referred cases), and 1,920 cases were fully closed (50% of the referred cases).
 - LFC services were strengthened by providing technical equipment, capacity building of counsellors and case managers, including Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), and for the first time, MHPSS for screening the cases of mental health (given by the Ministry of Health) in the three call centres (Maputo-Chimoio-Pemba).
 - To achieve the objectives stipulated in the Multi-Sectoral VAC referral and reporting mechanism, RB supported the Ministry of Education in capacity building of 30 education professionals (teachers and gender and school health focal points) and the multisectoral group to establish the VAC mechanism in school with defined roles and responsibilities of the different sectors. This will enhance efficient implementation, coordination and monitoring with a focus on the central role of schools in preventing and responding to cases of violence against children, which negatively affect the school environment and contribute to absenteeism, school dropouts and failure in learning among children and young people. (RBP funds combined with GPECM and KOICA funding).
- **Output 9. Access to microfinance, vocational training and SME development for girls and young women**
 - 3,964 AGYW aged 15-24 years old from rural and urban Zambézia were economically empowered through financial literacy training, participating in savings groups, vocational and business management training, and allocated kits for business startups. This resulted in 1,056 AGYW running micro businesses in Zambezia following 20 sessions of business management coaching.
 - 4,754 AGYW from the safe spaces in Zambezia developed financial goals and savings plans after participating in financial literacy sessions conducted in their groups (on average, each girl attended 12 sessions).
 - 297 Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) were established. These groups have fostered girls' financial independence by providing them with a safe space to save, take loans, and access social funds. The savings groups have cumulative savings of Meticaís 113,568,000.00 (approx. USD 1,795,000).

- AGYW VSLAs groups have common and distinct features. They are community-based, self-managed savings and loan structures tailored to the needs of resource-poor literate and nonliterate AGYW aged 15-24 years and composed of a minimum of 10 members and a maximum of 25 members. They offer an alternative to formal banking institutions and local illegal money lenders (locally known as *agiotas*) who demand high-interest rates. Based on principles of trust, transparency, and flexibility, they inculcate among members a discipline of saving regularly to then access micro and small low-interest loans throughout an agreed-upon 6-12-month cycle while saving up a large sum accessed at the end of the cycle, during the share-out. Each member also contributes a small amount toward a shared Social Fund that serves to help members deal with unexpected emergencies such as a sick relative or death. Each group is governed by its constitution of rules, regulations and procedures that ensure good governance and group cohesion. Girls-trained community facilitators support the groups in effectively practicing the VSLA methodology. After at least one year of training and practice, the community facilitators may graduate the groups upon a satisfactory evaluation.
- 5,000 AGYW between the ages of 15 and 24, in and out of school and from urban and rural areas, strengthened their employability skills using group learning of the SEJE job seeker guideline. They have shown confidence in preparing resumes, prepared for interviews, and are ready to apply for employment opportunities in Zambezia.

OUTCOME 3: A NURTURING ENVIRONMENT FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF SRHR OF GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN AND THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THEIR SRH RIGHTS CREATED

Families, community members and leaders, religious leaders, parents, midwives, boys and men have played a critical role in promoting an enabling, free and safe environment for increased participation of girls and young women and ensuring that they enjoy their sexual and reproductive health and rights. Therefore, the involvement of these actors in the programme has shown to be key to addressing the barriers and behavioural gaps in the environment surrounding girls and young women in the community related to SRHR.

● Output 10. Actions identified by men and boys to strengthen their involvement in SRHR

- The boys' mentorship launched in late 2021 in 6 districts (3 in Nampula and 3 in Zambezia), has been expanded and is currently in 16 Districts with 445 (111% of the target 400) Young Men leading male engagement sessions. This equated to a total participation of 35,513 boys and young men, of which 7,103 (10 to 14 years old), 16,336 (15 to 24 years old) and 12,074 (20 to 24 years old), 35% accessed AYFS services to address their sexual and reproductive health.
- Through the peer-to-peer male mentorship programme, boys and young men received training and knowledge regarding SRHR, including the use of family planning and prevention and response to STIs such as HIV/AIDS, gender equality, positive masculinities and the prevention and response to GBV. The mentorship programme has been appreciated by the boys and young men partaking in the sessions as it provides a safe space to discuss and explore areas that might otherwise be taboo or hard to find accurate information. It also contributes to an environment that enables AGYW to access their SRHR.

- **Output 11. Religious leaders and religious youth groups mobilised to promote adolescent SRH and rights**
 - Throughout 2023, SRH interventions through faith leaders had minimal implementation, being integrated into community activities through dialogues and community awareness sessions.
- **Output 12. Communities participating in community dialogues on SRHR related to girls and young women**
 - Throughout 2023, a total of 178 communities (150 in Nampula and 28 in Zambezia) were reached by the community dialogue interventions. As a result of these interventions, 311 community leaders (224 in Nampula and 87 in Zambezia) were empowered, leading 2,041 community dialogue sessions in the two target provinces. In total, 36,820 people were reached through community dialogues. As a result of dialogue, cases of violation of girls' rights were identified and followed up, namely premature unions (16), early pregnancy (14), physical violence (23) and cases of school reintegration (39).
- **Output 13. Strengthened awareness of girls and young women SRHR, including HIV/AIDS and GBV prevention**
 - With complimentary funding from GPECM and Spotlight, the peer-to-peer dialogues empowered a total of 65,699 adolescents and youth aged 10 to 24 years (41,366 girls and 2433 boys) in three districts of Nampula provinces to make their own decisions regarding their sexual and reproductive health, negotiate the age of marriage as well as challenge harmful gender and social norms behind violence against women.
 - An integrated behaviour change communication multimedia package conceived through a participatory approach with girls and young women was developed and rolled out on SRHR, HIV prevention, GBV, and girls and women empowerment.
 - The programme planned, implemented and monitored tailored social and behaviour change campaigns reaching 500,000 adolescents and youth to prevent infection, transmission, and mitigate secondary impact of COVID-19 on adolescents and youth, especially the most vulnerable (AGYW, adolescents with disabilities, adolescents living in hard-to-reach areas).
 - 170,737 AGYW accessed SRH services for adolescents and young women, 25% (42,684) of whom were new users of family planning methods, contributing to a total of 44% (74,228) users of contraceptive methods other than condoms.
 - On 16 June 2023, the Day of the African Child, UNICEF Mozambique organized a digital launch of “Oh Menina”, a song and video clip on teenage pregnancies and sexual exploitation of young girls produced by young artists from Zambezia during the participatory production workshop in 2022. So far, the video has reached over 5.3 million people across four social networks (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube), had 4,203,151 million views, 1,650,447 minutes watched, 2,200 comments, 3,907 shares, 76,927 reactions. The video virality rate and growth was impressive, becoming the fastest video to reach 1 million and 2 million on UNICEF’s social networks. The virality was due to good word of mouth, people who watched it tagged their friends to come and watch it, it was shared on groups and their personal feeds. Collaborating with local artists, especially youth and adolescents to tell the story and share key messages, using local languages in certain parts, was well received, and commented on by youth and adolescents (link to video [inserted here](#)).

OUTCOME 4: STRENGTHENED GOVERNANCE, MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION FOR INTEGRATED SRH PROGRAMMING

The impact of strengthening the governance and coordination for better SRHR programming at all levels, from national to provincial and district, is significantly evident as the overall ownership and leadership of Rapariga Biz sit with the Government through the Secretariat of State for Youth and Empowerment, and implementation is happening through its multi-sector structures at national, provincial and district levels. The multi-sectoral committees at all levels continue to provide a strategic mechanism for leadership and coordination of the implementation of Rapariga Biz. At the national level, the programme is overseen by a steering committee in which all partners and the government participate. The UN agencies involved provided technical assistance and leadership within the scope of their respective comparative advantages and through partnerships with civil society partners.

- **Output 14. Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process and report include ASRH**
 - In 2023, UNFPA supported technically the Ministry of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs in reviewing the UPR National Action Plan for submission and approval at the level of the Council of Ministers. This key document included SRHR and Gender-related recommendations, particularly the mechanisms in place for monitoring.
 - UNFPA actively engaged in the 75 Years Celebrations of the Human Rights Universal Declaration in partnership with other UN Agencies and the Ministry of Justice. This included technical and financial contributions to key events where the work being done to promote the UPR Recommendations for its implementation among different stakeholders was highlighted. One of the events was the International Day of the Universal Declaration for Human Rights, along with the 16 Days of Activism to End Violence Against Women Campaign.
- **Output 15. Strengthened inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms on ASRH issues at the national level (CIADAJ)**
 - In 2023, two CIADAJ events took place at the central level in Maputo, with support from RB, convened and chaired by the Prime Minister. Overall, the Programme influenced the CIADAJ ministerial events to include the demographic dividend (DD) as a key priority discussion.
 - Additionally, the Terms of Reference of the Youth Partners Group (YPG) were revised. The main change was that these events were co-led by the SEJE and the UNFPA Representative. In total, four sessions of the Youth Partners Group were held. This is a vital opportunity for promoting the DD and the youth agenda in general. Several Governments, the UN, development partners, beneficiaries, and CSOs participated in the sessions.
- **Output 16. Strengthened coordination on ASRH at provincial and district levels through Progama Geracao Biz (PGB)**
 - The programme supported the organisation of the National Meeting on School, Adolescent and Youth Health.

- Additionally, the programme also supported the organisation of the PGB national meeting in Beira, which was attended by 11 delegations, the central level of all PGB government sectors, invited UN agencies, and CSOs.
- **Output 17. Specific needs and rights in SRH of girls and young women included in current policies and plans**
 - The school, adolescent and youth health strategy (2019-2029) continued to be promoted with the realisation of the National Meeting on School, Adolescent and Youth.
 - Furthermore, the Programme supported the completion of the Programa Geracao Biz (2024-2033) National Strategic Plan, which will guide the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health initiatives in Mozambique.
- **Output 18. Enhanced evidence for girls and young women's SRHR**
 - In complementarity with the UNFPA-supported Census project, 15 thematic studies were completed, and reports and respective fact sheets with relevant information on youth and other related issues were shared with key stakeholders and partners. Find [here](#) the link to the electronic versions of the thematic studies and other vital documents, such as the Household Budget Survey (*Inquérito sobre o Orcamento Familiar*) and Demographic and Health Survey (DHS).
- **Output 19. The situation on the programme site and implementation progress monitored**
 - Two monitoring visits were held from the central level to Nampula and Zambezia
 - Data from Kiribizi from all 20 RB districts is available and updated.
 - PGB national meeting used to review and adapt the implementation of RB on site.
- **Describe any delays in implementation, challenges, lessons learned & best practices**
 - 2023 marked the end of the implementation of Rapariga Biz. As there was no bridge funding during the transition from Phase I to Phase II, the Programme was hugely affected by the shortage of funds. UN agencies and implementing partners had to interrupt their activities and contracts with some key staff.
 - Mozambique, including the RB target provinces, is affected by recurring weather events such as heavy rains and cyclones (cyclone Freddy in Zambezia) that cause flooding, which damages social and economic infrastructure and negatively affects the provision of and access to SRH services, including for adolescents and youth.
 - Nampula and Zambezia were also affected by the non-state armed groups operating in Cabo Delgado. Therefore, both provinces had to host IDPs, which required more support for these people.
 - The launch of **Talent Biz** showcased the culmination of dedicated efforts and collaboration among the Government of Mozambique through the Secretary of State for Youth and

Employment (SEJE), Mozambican Youth Coalition Association (COALIZAO), UNICEF and UNFPA. Several key achievements emerged from these launches, including enthusiastic user engagement, government recognition, extensive media coverage, and youth collaboration.

- UNICEF terminated the production and broadcasting of Ouro Negro programme in 2023. This was substituted by customized capacity building of media partners to produce locally relevant content on ASRHR, VAC/GBV and promotion of health services, as well as greater engagement of young people in production and programming of edutainment type content, including in local languages, and broadcasting through the Child to Child/Adolescent to Adolescent media programmes.
- Engaging youth in discussions about sexual and reproductive health increases their knowledge and awareness of issues such as contraception, sexually transmitted infections, consent, and healthy relationships and can even help to reduce risky behaviors and promote safer practices.
- Training and engaging young local artists in promotion of ASRHR is a very powerful approach that allows young people to produce and share information in creative ways, narrate the realities of their communities in local languages, to be empowered to renegotiate social and gender norms, break negative stereotypes and promote uptake of health and protection services.
- Youth participation in adolescent sexual and reproductive health and HIV prevention has been pivotal in the Rapariga Biz Programme and continues to be crucial for the well-being and empowerment of young people, as well as for the broader societal benefits it brings in terms of improved health outcomes, reduced stigma, and better-informed decision-making.

- **Qualitative assessment (including partnerships)**

- The programme in 2023 continued its strategic and multi-sectoral partnerships with key government institutions on all levels to strengthen the provision of services to adolescents and youth and ensure that the service provision is sustainable beyond the programme's lifespan. Similarly, the programme agencies are involved in advocacy efforts to mobilize political and financial support for the thematic areas of child marriage and early pregnancy in Mozambique through engagement in various working groups and coordination forums that include the participation of development partners and development banks. Two such examples are I) the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Coalition of the Willing (GE CotW), which has as a sub-thematic area on ending child, early and forced marriage, co-chaired by Canada, UNFPA and UNICEF; and II) the National Youth Partners Group (YPG) convened by UNFPA and SEJE. These forums have a wide group of participants (over 25), including development partners, government entities, development banks, UN agencies and other key partners.
- To maximize the resources, cost-effectiveness and impact of the programme, Rapariga Biz is working to provide complementarities and synergies with other like-minded programmes, including the Global Programme to End Child Marriage (GPECM), which is implemented in 6 out of the 20 Rapariga Biz districts in Nampula and Zambezia provinces, and the Spotlight Initiative (SLI) programme which is implemented in Nampula, Gaza, Manica and Cabo Delgado with one convergence district (Agoche in Nampula province).

ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:

Using the **Programme Results Framework from the Project Document / AWP**, provide an update on the achievement of indicators at both the output and outcome levels in the table below. Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, a clear explanation should be given explaining why, as well as plans on how and when this data will be collected.

RESULT FRAMEWORK 2022 - 2023

Programme objectives and results	Process and result Indicators	Baseline 2022	Target 2023	Achieved 2023 (Annual)	MoV
Outcome 1: Girls and young women's knowledge, agency and capacities strengthened to make informed decisions on their SRH, demand for and uptake of essential SRH services	Unmet need for family planning	National data not available	20.0%	19.1% National 19.2% Nampula 23.8% Zambezia	Track2030, DHS, SISMA
	Couple Years of Protection (CYP) by method - PGB	National data not available	1,000,000	5,014,075 National 803,642 Nampula 531,896 Zambezia	SISMA, DPS Nampula and Zambezia Report
Output 1. Girls' knowledge, capacities and agency for SRHR improved	Prevalence of adolescent – pregnancy	National data not available	30% (National)	36% National 42% Nampula 31.8% Zambezia	DHS 2022-2023
		0,9% (1,390 out of 155,477)	<5% (Rapariga Biz)	0.9% (253/27877)	Programme Reports
	% of Girls Young Empowered with knowledge, skills and voices for girls' SRHR (number of girls who have completed mentorship)	89% (970,310 out of 1,085,447)	100%	92% (1,000,801 out of 1,085,447)	Programme Reports
	% of girls and young women integrated into schools and completed school calendar	105% (2089 out of 2000)	100%	61% (4,035 of 6,630 out-of-school)	Programme reports, District Education Directorates (Nampula & Zambezia)
Output 2. Citizenship of girls and young women	Up-to-date records in civil registers for all programme girls and young women	68% (110,565/179,639)	90%	80.8% (24,637 of 30,491 have their civil registration updated)	Programme reports, administrative reports
Output 3. Increased demand for SRH services	Percentage of women visited AYFS who did not use any contraceptive method	56% (96,509 out of 170,737)	40.0%	40.8% (138,263 out of 338,958)	SISMA, DPS Nampula and Zambezia Report
	% of girls and young women in safe spaces aged 15-24 years who are using modern contraceptives	49% (10,879 out of 22,152)	40.0%	33.8% (4792 of 14168 aged 15-24 years using PF)	Programme Reports

Output 4 Girls and young women are voicing the issues concerning their lives at the district, provincial and national level	# 4 national and 8 provincial girls conferences attended by girls, young women, decision-makers and media	2 (National - Maputo))	3	133% (4) (Maputo, Lichinga, Bilene and Tete)	Conference Reports, Programme Reports
	Child Parliament active on ASRH	75% (1 National and 2 Province)	3	100% (1 National and 2 Province)	Programme Reports
	Provincial and National Forums (including media TV and Radio) are active on issues of ASRH	75% (1 National and 2 Province)	3	100% (1 National and 2 Province)	Programme Reports
	White papers suggesting mechanisms to reduce child marriage and early pregnancies	No data available		No data available	programme/conference reports
Outcome 2: Availability of quality integrated ASRH services for girls and young women increased	Continuation rate of new FP acceptors	25%	40%	43% (Nampula) and 36% (Zambezia)	MISAU Reports, SISMA, Programme Reports
	% Pregnant women who attend 4 ANC	No data available	90%	75% (Nampula), 66% (Zambezia)	MISAU Reports, SISMA, Programme Reports
	% Institutional deliveries	98% (Nampula)	90%	98% (Nampula) and 76% (Zambezia)	DPS MISAU Reports, SISMA, Programme Reports
Output 5. Teachers implement the comprehensive sexuality and sexual health rights Education package	% (#) Schools in areas of intervention where the SE package was fully implemented	89% (89 out of 100)	100%	89% (89 out of 100)	Programme Reports, DPED reports
Output 6. Mobile health clinics and Community Health Workers (CHWs) in 20 priority districts deliver integrated SRH services at the community level.	% Outreach ASRH services in communities	45.00%	80%	45%	DPS (Nampula & Zambezia) Reports Programme Reports
Output 7. Integrated ASRH services by health providers are available in #school SRH corners	% Outreach ASRH services in school corners	60%	50%	60%	DPS &DPE(Nampula & Zambezia) Reports Programme Reports
	% of girls 10 – 24 years seeking family planning Services at RSH corners in schools adopting at least one modern family planning method other than a condom	No data available	60%	26% (Nampula)	DPS & DPE (Nampula & Zambezia) Reports Programme Reports
Output 8. Coordinated services to GBV survivors	Percentage of Districts where multi-sectorial teams implement coordinated actions	100% (20 Programme Districts)	100%	100% (20 Programme Districts)	PGB Multi Sector committee meetings report, Programme Reports
	% of survivors of Fistula Obstetric cases empowered with anti-stigma	No data available	60%	No data available	Programme Reports

	and discrimination awareness-building skills, conducting awareness sessions in their communities				
Output 9. Access to microfinance, vocational training and SME development for girls and young women	# young women economically empowered (with income-generation)	6,427	5,000	4,754	Programme Reports
	# girls and young women received information about existing economic opportunities	12,000	18000	34,183	Programme Reports
Outcome 3: An enabling, free and safe environment for increased participation of girls and young women and the promotion of their SRH rights created	Early marriage prevalence	National data, not available	30.00%	48% National (Nampula 61%, Zambezia 48%)	National Data
		0,7% (1,088 out of 155,477)	Rapariga Biz below 5%	1,1% (299 out of 21,877)	Programme Survey
	% Unintended pregnancies	National data not available	20.00%	36% National 42% Nampula 31.8% Zambezia	National Data
		0,9% (1,390 out of 155,477)	Rapariga Biz below 5%	0.9% (253 out of 27,877)	Programme Survey
Output 10. Enhanced involvement of men and boys to strengthen their SRHR	Document with actions proposed exists	No data available	4	No data available	Programme Reports
	% Boys and men participating in implementation of SRHR	105% (210 Mentors of 200)	80%	111%(445 out of 400)	Programme Reports
	% of Boys and Young Men Empowered with knowledge, skills and voices for their SRHR (= number of boys and young men who have completed mentorship)	67% (16976 out of 25200)	100%	106%(35,513 out of 33,375)	Programme surveys and reports;
Output 11. Faith-based leaders and youth groups mobilised and were active in promoting adolescent SRH and rights	% Religious leaders actively involved in the implementation of SRHR (from a total of 400 religious leaders)	69% (276 Leaders out of 400)	50%	No data available	Programme Reports
Output 12. Communities participating in community dialogues on SRHR related to girls and young women	% of community dialogues held on SRHR	100%	100%	100%	Programme Reports
	% of communities supporting the realisation of ASRHR through community dialogues	100%	100%	78% (311 Leaders of 400) reached 36,820 (22,828 M and 13992 W)	Programme Reports
Output 13. Strengthened awareness of girls and young women SRHR	% New acceptors of Family Planning	25%	30%	43% (Nampula) and 36% (Zambezia)	MISAU & DPS Reports, SISMA, Programme Reports

including HIV/AIDS and GBV prevention	HIV/Aids incidence among girls aged 15-24 yrs	10.4% (Zambezia)	7.10%	3.2% Nampulaa	MISAU Reports, SISMA
	# (%) of adolescents empowered with ASRHR through SMS Biz	472,809	831,624	111,536 (Nampula) and 96,288 (Zambezia)	Programme Reports
Outcome 4: Strengthened governance and coordination for integrated SRH programming	% Implementation of coordination instruments	100%	100%	100%	Ministry Reports, Programme Surveys & reports
	National commitment on ASRH and GBV issues	100%	100%	100%	Ministry Reports, Programme Surveys & reports
Output 14. UPR process and report include ASRH	Inclusion of SRH&R for girls and women in UPR report and next review cycles	100%	100%	100%	UPR report, Ministry reports
	# senior police and justice officials trained to implement UPR recommendations	No data available	176	100	UPR report, Ministry reports
	Inclusion of contribution from youth associations and women organizations in the UPR report.	100%	100%	100%	Ministry Reports, Programme Surveys & reports
Output 15. Strengthened inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms on ASRH issues at the national level (CIADAJ)	% CIADAJ decisions implemented	100%	100.00%	100%	Ministry meetings minutes, programme reports
Output 16. Strengthened coordination on ASRH at provincial and district levels (through PGB)	More effective coordination of PGB implementation at provincial and district levels (revitalized committees with regular meetings)	22 (2 Provincial and 20 District)	20 (Nampula & Zambezia)	22 (2 Provincial and 20 District)	Programme reports, PGB Multisector Committees Meeting
Output 17. Specific needs and rights in SRH of girls and young women included in current policies and plans	Platform undertaken in the National Assembly SRHR	YES(operational)	3	YES(operational)	National policies and Plans, Ministry Reports, PES
	ASRH and GBV integrated into district annual plans and budget	YES(operational)	100.00%	YES(operational)	
	Capacity of ministry of education and stakeholders for effective implementation for comprehensive sexual education	(YES) 100%	(YES) 100%	(YES) 100%	MINED Reports, DPE Reports
Output 18. Enhanced evidence for girls and young women's SRHR	Baseline survey available	NA	NA	NA	Baseline reports, Survey report
	End-line survey available	NA	NA	NA	End-line reports, Survey report
	Key programme partners participated in inception phase workshop	NA	NA	NA	Workshop Report

	Qualitative research on sociocultural norms are translated into programmatic adaptation, and evidence-based learning	1 (Qualitative longitudinal dropout study by UNICEF), (Reality Check study not yet completed) - 50%	1	No data available	Workshop reports, surveys reports
Output 19. The situation on programme site and implementation progress monitored	# of joint monitoring visits	22 (220%)	82		Program reports, Field visit reports
	Knowledge and understanding of attitude and behaviors at programme site regularly monitored and reported towards programme adaptation	20 (100%)	20 (KiriBiz)	20 (100%)	Program reports, Kiribiz
		No data available	NA		Program reports, Infobiz