

UNICEF launched A NEW ERA FOR GIRLS: TAKING STOCK OF 25 YEARS OF PROGRESS on 4 March

This is a joint report with Plan International and UN Women that reviews progress, and lack of, for girls since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The report supports the goals of Generation Equality, a multi-partner platform and campaign, led by UN Women, Governments of France and Mexico and civil society that aims to accelerate progress for girls' empowerment.

The report finds that while girls' lives are better today than they were 25 years ago, progress remains uneven, particularly across regions. It notes that **the number of out-of-school girls has dropped by 79 million** in the last two decades. Yet violence against women and girls is still common. **An astonishing 1 in every 20 girls aged 15-19, around 13 million, has experienced rape in their lifetime**, one of the most violent forms of sexual abuse women and girls can suffer.

The report also points to concerning negative trends for girls in nutrition and health, concerns about poor mental health, and that girls remain at high risk of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV.

Additional findings include:

- The adolescent birth rate has **declined from 60 births per 1,000 girls aged 15-19 to 44 births per 1,000 girls aged 15-19.**
- The proportion of young women who were married as children has **declined globally from 1 in 4 to approximately 1 in 5.**
- The prevalence of overweight among girls aged 5-19 has **nearly doubled from 9 % to 17%**
- Globally **970,000 adolescent girls aged 10-19 years are living with HIV today compared to 740 000 in 1995, a 31% increase.**