



Examining evidence for success in the **Zambian Girls 2030** programme

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Client:	UNICEF Zambia
Duration:	2019-21
Objective:	To conduct an end-line evaluation of the Zambian Girls 2030 programme implemented between 2016-18 in the Northern and Southern provinces of the country.
Summary:	<p>The Ministry of General Education (MoGE), Government of the Republic of Zambia rolled out the Zambian Girls 2030 programme to ensure improved educational and employment opportunities for girls. The programme has been implemented by Restless Development with technical and financial assistance from UNICEF. There were three pivotal interventions – school-level career and skill clubs, district-level career and skill camps, and career internships – realised through the Zambian school system. The interventions were intended to improve girls’ primary to secondary transition rates, secondary school completion rates, tertiary education participation rates, and employability and entrepreneurial skills, while attempting to achieve gender equality in the formal labour market in Zambia.</p> <p>The ACER end-line evaluation provided information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• achievement of intended outputs and outcomes• effectiveness of programme resources towards programme results• ability of the programme to serve the needs of the beneficiaries and MoGE• factors that ensure sustainability of the programme.
Significant challenges:	<p>Sampling and segregating respondent pupils into component-wise groups was difficult due to the limited availability of pupils at schools – a consequence of COVID-19 and the significant passage of time since the end of the programme. Some schools had a lower number of beneficiary pupils available for interview on the day of the field visit due to which additional schools had to be visited. Along with this, end-of-term tests hindered access to sample schools and learners.</p> <p>Several findings are solely based on participant responses due to the lack of school records to corroborate each finding. Such findings were later triangulated through focus group discussions with the community.</p>
Activities:	<p>The end-line evaluation of Zambian Girls 2030 programme was undertaken in three key phases and included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inception phase: Briefing the commissioning team and reviewing the terms of reference (TOR) jointly, undertaking basic desk research, obtaining necessary ethical approvals, and developing the methodology, evaluation matrix, and data collection tools.• Desk review and fieldwork phase: Reviewing literature in-depth, analysing and finding patterns in secondary data, training field enumerators and supervisors on tools, and collecting qualitative and quantitative data from the field with help of the partner organisation.• Information analyses and reporting phase: Rigorous analyses of primary data, organising a validation workshop to discuss the initial findings of the study, preparing a draft report and delivering the final version after including suggestions of the programme team, and finally, developing policy briefs on girls’ education and skills and career development.