

BY THE NUMBERS

The negative consequences of child marriage are numerous yet its prevalence is staggering. 🌿 Each statistic represents a girl robbed of her ability to reach her full potential, deprived of education and meaningful work, threatened by illness, disease and even death. 🌿 Ending child marriage will protect girls and ensure a brighter future for them, their families and their communities.



IFAD / Anwar Hossein

THE PREVALENCE OF CHILD MARRIAGE

100 million: Number of girls worldwide who will be married before 18 in the next decade.¹

51 million: Number of girls (ages 15 to 19) married worldwide.²

82%, 75%, 63%, 57% and 50%: The percentage of girls in Niger, Bangladesh, Nepal, India and Uganda, respectively, who marry before 18.³

39%: The percentage of girls in the Amhara region of Ethiopia who marry before 15.⁴

66%, 12%: The proportion of girls among Nigeria's poorest 20 percent and richest 20 percent, respectively, who will marry before 18.⁵

CHILD MARRIAGE, HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

5: Girls younger than 15 are five times more likely to die in childbirth than those in their 20s.⁶

2 million: The number of women worldwide suffering from obstetric fistula, a debilitating complication of childbirth especially common among physically immature girls.⁷

6,000: The number of adolescents infected daily by HIV.⁸

2-6: The number of times girls ages 15 to 19 are more likely to contract HIV (for biological and social reasons) than boys of the same age in sub-Saharan Africa.⁹

60%, 10%, 1%: The share of girls in Mozambique with no education, secondary schooling and higher education, respectively, who are married by 18.¹⁰

"Ironically, marriage is becoming a risk factor for HIV, and many women are infected by their only sex partner, their husbands. In many societies, the biggest risk factor is marriage at an early age, always with an older man."

—DR. PETER PIOT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, UNAIDS

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To learn more about child marriage, contact the **International Center for Research on Women**

HEADQUARTER OFFICE:

1717 Massachusetts Ave. NW | Suite 302 | Washington, DC 20036 | tel: 202.797.0007 | fax: 202.797.0020 | email: info@icrw.org | www.icrw.org

COUNTRY OFFICE:

42, 1st Floor | Golf Links | New Delhi – 110 003 | India | tel: 91.11.2465.4216 | fax: 91.11.2463.5142 | email: info@icrwindia.org

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