

Causes of child marriage and early unions

- Child marriage and early unions are **5 times more likely to occur in poor households.**
- **Women's reduced economic autonomy** exposes girls and adolescents to a greater risk of child marriage.
- **Girls whose mothers live in situations of poverty, gender-based violence, early motherhood and low educational attainment** are more at risk for child marriages and early unions.
- **Adolescent pregnancy increases the likelihood** of an early union.
- Adolescent girls **under the age of 18 in union or married are more likely to experience violence** at the hands of their partner.
- **Staying in school and finishing high school decreases the likelihood** of child marriage and early unions.
- **Weak development and implementation of adequate legal frameworks** to protect girls.
- **Being a woman and a minor** increases conditions of gender inequality.
- Child marriage and early unions **tend to be higher among 15-18-year-old adolescents.**

SOLAPA CONTRA

CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENCE ARE CRUCIAL STAGES OF LIFE

Ending child marriage and early unions help girls exercise their rights and to have the opportunity to develop all their abilities to reach their full potential and have a prosperous, healthy and full life.



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Child marriage and early unions are complex phenomena related to gender inequalities, violence, poverty, dropping out of school and adolescent pregnancy.

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SOLAPA TAPA

Who are the girls and adolescents of Latin America and the Caribbean?



Why is it so urgent to invest in ending child marriage?

Without accelerated actions and investments, Latin America and the Caribbean will occupy the second highest place in child marriage and early unions by 2030. **SDG 5 is at risk!**

- If current trends continue, by 2030, the number of child brides per year will increase, affecting 9.7 million girls.
- This is the **only region in the world where child marriage and early unions are not decreasing.**
- The region has the **second highest rate of adolescent fertility in the world.**
- More than 60% of married women in Latin America and the Caribbean before age 18 are from the **lowest income quintiles.**
- Early non-marital unions are **more frequent than formal and legal marriage.**

In the past 10 years, the average annual reduction rate of child marriage and early unions in Latin America and the Caribbean has been 12 times lower than in the region with the second lowest decrease (West and Central Africa). **To achieve the goal established in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and achieve ending it by 2030, the average annual reduction should reach 21.5%, that is, 200 times greater than the current 0.1%.**

The Joint Interagency Programme recommends focused attention on adolescents, indigenous, rural, and middle- and low-income areas to end child marriage and early unions.

How can you make difference?

By making a financial commitment to provide better opportunities for girls in Latin America and the Caribbean.

By joining forces with UNFPA, UNICEF and UN WOMEN to support partners and ensure regional efforts.

By breaking the silence and eliminating the myth that child marriage and early unions do not have a real impact in the region.

By sharing this information with interested partners and organizations working on girls' equality.

The projected budget for 4 years for the elimination of child marriage and early unions in Latin America and the Caribbean is \$18.5 million USD.

The Joint UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women Programme to End Child Marriage and Early Unions: 2018-2021

• A joint, interagency effort within the UN System with governments and strategic partners.

• UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women have committed to developing actions that contribute to the achievement of the following Sustainable Development Goals:



• The programme seeks to achieve 4 results:

- Compliance with the international human rights framework
- Develop a package of key policies and services to reduce child marriage and early unions
- Empower girls and adolescent girls to fulfill their rights and delay marriage and early unions
- Break the silence, strengthen evidence and create alliances

• The First Stage will be implemented in 5 countries:

- Colombia
- Dominican Republic
- El Salvador
- Guatemala
- Mexico

The Joint UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women Programme focused attention on adolescents, indigenous, rural, and middle- and low-income area to end child marriage and early unions.