How Does Child, Early, and Forced Marriage Impact Your Work?

Today

\[
\frac{1}{3} \text{ of all girls in the developing world are married before the age of 18.}
\]

Tomorrow

Because of the increasing youth population, \[150 \text{ million girls will be married in the next decade}\].

The Facts Related to Child, Early, and Forced Marriage

**Global Health**

- 90% of births to adolescents worldwide occur within marriage.
- Maternal Mortality is the second leading cause of death among girls 15-19 globally.

**Education**

- Girls with no education are 3X as likely to marry before 18 as girls with higher education.
- Girls who marry young are more likely to drop out of school.

**Democracy, Human Rights & Governance**

- 158 countries have minimum age of marriage laws, but they often lack local enforcement.
- Customary laws often contradict formal laws.
ECONOMIC GROWTH AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
- The **POOREST GIRLS ARE 3 X** more likely to become child brides than the richest
- When girls marry young, they are **LESS LIKELY TO PARTICIPATE** in the labor force

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY
- Child brides experience higher rates of **MALNUTRITION** than girls who marry later in life
- Food insecurity can increase **PRESSURE FOR EARLY MARRIAGE** within families

CRISIS & CONFLICT
- **RISK OF CHILD MARRIAGE INCREASES** during social and political uncertainty and humanitarian crises
- Family, social, legal, and economic structures often crumble during crisis and conflict, leaving **LITTLE PROTECTION FROM CHILD MARRIAGE**

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
- Child, early, and forced marriage is a form of **GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**
- Early marriage puts a girl at **HIGHER RISK** of gender-based violence throughout her lifetime

WHAT CAN WE DO?
- **EMPOWER** girls at risk of Child, Early, and Forced Marriage and support already married girls
- Keep girls in **SCHOOL**
- **SHIFT ATTITUDES** via community mobilization and outreach
- **INTEGRATE** prevention and mitigation efforts within and across sectors
- **ENACT AND ENFORCE LAWS** and policies that delay marriage

To find out more about Child, Early, and Forced Marriage, including how **YOU** can address it in your work, visit:
#ChildMarriage  ·  #EndChildMarriage  ·  #CEFMGuide  ·  @USAID