

Child Marriage Fact Sheet

- In the next decade, 14.2 million girls under 18 will be married **each year**.
- Child wives are forced into adult work at a young age. UN Special Rapporteur Gulnara Shahinian reported that “child wives have no choice but to perform the tasks expected of them, such as domestic chores, shop or farm work and engaging in sexual intercourse with their husbands. If they refuse to do so, they face **physical, psychological and sexual abuse**.”
- Complications from pregnancy and childbirth are the **leading causes of death for girls aged 15-19** in developing countries. Girls under age 15 are **five times more likely to die** in childbirth than women aged 20-24.
- Child marriage exists all over the world, but most married girls live in **South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa**.
- The **International Labour Organization (ILO) does not count child marriage as child labor**. In a recent report, the ILO reported that child labor is much higher among boys than girls — approximately 100 million boys versus 68 million girls.

Data, facts and figures from: UNFPA (2012). *Marrying Too Young: End Child Marriage*. UNFPA: New York.
ILO (2013). *Marking progress against child labour: Global estimates and trends, 2000-2012*. ILO: Geneva.
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