



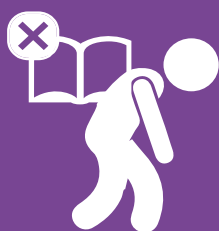


## The impact of COVID-19 on child marriage

According to a UNICEF global report from March 2021, the impact of COVID-19 on child marriage can be seen in five ways:

- Interrupted education and school closures increase child marriage risk by

**22%**  
per year



- Disruptions to programmes and services**, because delayed programmes to prevent child marriage are estimated to result in a one-year loss of gains from such programmes. Widely applied mobilisation of effective programming could reduce risk by

**33%** in a mitigation scenario.

- Economic shocks**, given that in countries where paying a bride price is common, loss of household income increases the probability of marriage by

**3%**

- Death of a parent** can increase the likelihood that a female orphan will be married off, since family members may find it hard to support her.

- Higher pregnancy rates** as child marriage and dropping out of school increases.



## UNICEF's response\*

### ► Egypt

Socio-behavioural activities in the frame-work of the foster-parenting project, showing docudramas on different topics including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and child marriage in clubs, including for mothers, fathers and children.

### ► Jordan

UNICEF is working on a strategy for the Zaatari Refugee Camp - where there has been an increase in child marriage – aiming to involve communities in self-evaluation. Based on the outcomes, the strategy will be replicated in other areas and at the national level.

### ► Morocco

In 2019, UNICEF launched a project that promotes positive social norms and a protective legal framework for girls against sexual violence and child marriage.

UNICEF and the public prosecutor's office are conducting a study on the legal framework and judicial practices in relation to child marriage, to develop the capacities and awareness of magistrates and judges to better assess and defend the best interests of a child and to strengthen their role in protecting children from marriage

UNICEF, along with UN Women, UNFPA and the National Observatory of Human Development are developing a national study on child marriage, focusing on prevalence, profiles, costs and policy impacts.

## ► Sudan

Several child marriage prevention initiatives are on using community facilitators and religious and key community leaders.

UNICEF supports girls' clubs in schools in ten states. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, these clubs provided the opportunity for a successful and coordinated exchange between mothers, girls and teachers, in the course of which the issue of child marriage was also tackled. Sometimes during these discussions, cases of child marriage were reported.

## ► Yemen

Yemen is part of the 'Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage' modified to take account of the

humanitarian crisis. Utilising a whole-community approach to empowering girls and engaging community stakeholders. Based on a strategy to engage with communities, anyone with the potential to influence the community is identified to lead social dialogue on child protection.

## ► Djibouti

UNICEF and UNFPA integrate work on child marriage within activities for the prevention of Gender-Based Violence and harmful practices, particularly FGM. For instance, during the "16 Days of Activism to End Violence against Women and Girls" international campaign, UNFPA posted awareness-raising videos on social media on GBV, including child marriage.

\*Many of these responses have been suspended or impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic



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