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Data Brief—Gender-Based Violence in Adolescence

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Girls Deliver

PRE-CONFERENCE ON ADOLESCENT GIRLS
KIGALI, RWANDA • 16 JULY 2023

ROUNDTABLE SESSION DATA BRIEF

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN ADOLESCENCE

Gender-based violence (GBV) affects millions of people around the world and can include economic, psychological/emotional, physical, and sexual violence.

GBV in adolescence can have detrimental effects on the life trajectories of those who survive it, particularly girls.



About **1 in 5** ever-partnered girls aged 15-19 have experienced recent **intimate partner violence** [14]

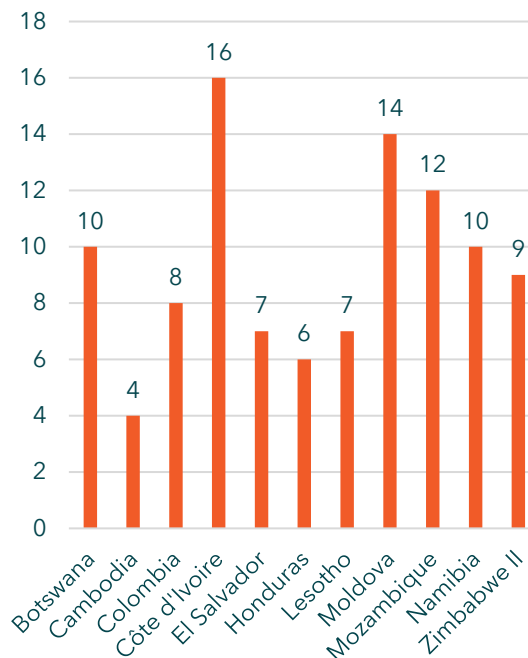


Early/child marriage is a form of GBV

- **1 in 5 women** aged 20-24 were **married before the age of 18** [12].
- Despite some success in the past decade in reducing the prevalence of **child marriage** (from 23% to 19%), it **remains high in certain contexts**. For example, in sub-Saharan Africa, **32%** of girls were married before 18 [12].

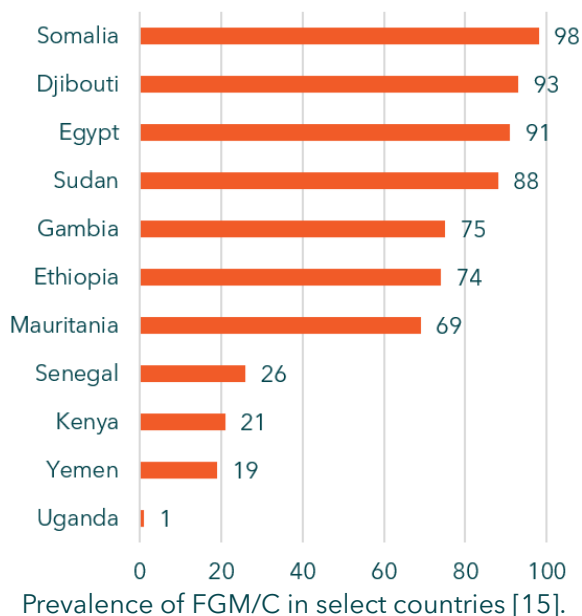
Girls all over the world experience high rates of sexual violence (SV)

- About **90% of survivors** report that their first perpetrator was **someone they knew** [11].
- **Thoughts of suicide** are more common among girls who experienced SV. In Colombia, **88%** of adolescent girls who experienced SV in the past 12 months reported suicidal ideations compared to **14%** of those who did not experience SV [3].
- **Few adolescent girls** who experience SV **disclose** their experiences, and fewer **seek or receive services**.
 - For example, in Laos, only 5% of girls knew of a place to seek help, compared to 58% of boys [8].
 - In Côte d'Ivoire, only about 1 out of 5 adolescent girls (22%) knew of a place to go for help. Girls who did not seek services indicated that the most common reason was that they did not think it was a problem [6].



Percentage of 13-17-year-old girls who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months in selected countries [10].

Female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) is a form of GBV



- An estimated **200 million girls** and women alive today have undergone FGM/C worldwide [13].
- **1 in 3 girls** aged 15-19 living in 31 countries with representative data have undergone FGM/C [13].
- In some countries where FGM/C is practiced, nearly **3 in 4** adolescent girls and women **think the practice should end** [13].

Drivers of GBV

- Gender inequality and social attitudes, including justifications for violence
- Exposure to armed conflict is a driver of increased violence against girls
- Fear of repercussions when reporting gender-based violence
- Lack of legal protections
- Lower levels of education
- Socioeconomic factors, including poverty and lack of social connections

Potential consequences of GBV for adolescents



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