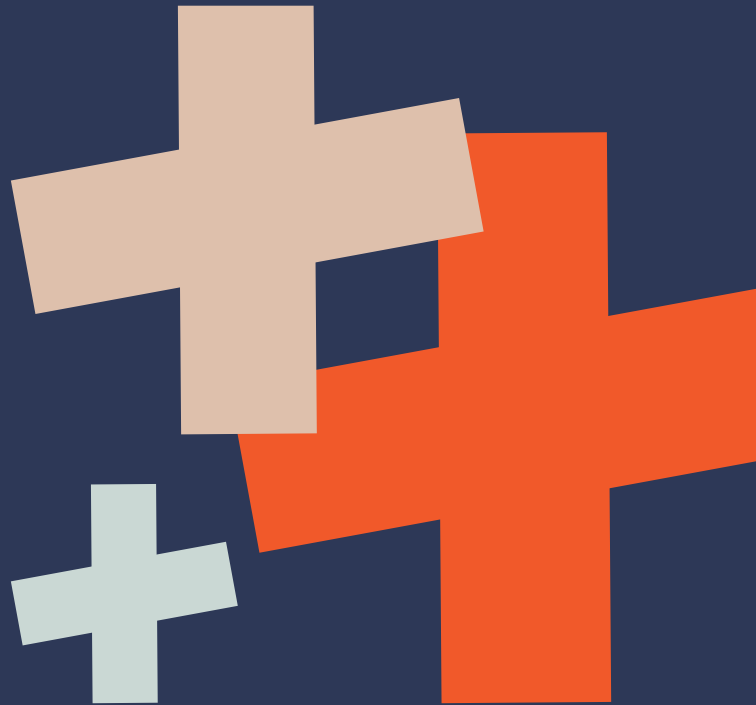
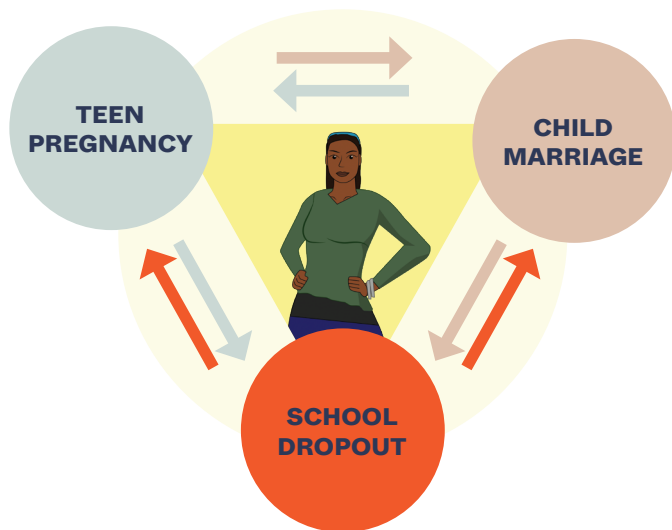


The challenges of child marriage, teenage pregnancy and school dropout

FACT SHEET



Child marriage, teenage pregnancy and school dropout are intricately linked and present serious, interrelated challenges for girls globally—and in Africa. An effective, holistic framework to use in addressing these challenges is the “CTS nexus,” which refers to the connections and interactions between child marriage, teen pregnancy and school dropout. This factsheet provides selected statistics about each issue to help you understand the extent and overlapping nature of the problems and their impact on African girls’ overall ability to determine their own futures and meet their full potential.



C Child Marriage

- Globally, 19% of girls marry before 18.
- In Africa, 32% of girls marry before 18.
- Rates vary from 72% in Niger to 4% in South Africa.
- Mozambique has the highest child marriage rates in Eastern and Southern Africa, at 32%.

T Teen pregnancy

- Globally, 13% of adolescent girls give birth before 18.
- In Africa, 24% of girls become pregnant before 18, nearly double the global rate.
- 55% of unintended pregnancies in girls aged 15–19 result in unsafe abortions.
- 15% of unsafe abortion deaths occur in girls under 20.
- Pregnancy-related deaths are the leading cause of mortality among girls aged 15–19.

S School dropout

- Globally, 66% of girls complete primary school, 44% complete lower secondary.
- 9 million girls aged six to eleven don’t enroll in school.