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Gender and Adolescence Research Panorama

Quarter 1 2021 Edition

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QUARTERLY OVERVIEW

In light of the 65th session of The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) (2021) we would like to reflect on this year's priority theme: 'women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life' with a particular focus on younger women and girls' active participation. Female and especially girls' participation in decision-making platforms is a vital component in the fight against a number of pressing global issues such as climate change, child marriage and violence. In this first Panorama of 2021, we focus on adolescent girls' participation across these issue areas. Adolescents' economic and political contexts, as well as gender relations and social norms can influence their participation in public life. To highlight some of these challenges, the Q1 Panorama includes a country spotlight on Lebanon, which has faced significant economic and political changes in recent years and seen a surge in youth protests and public participation (see Box 1). We would also like to highlight a new GAGE [blog](#) entitled 'We Need Youth Leadership To Carve Out A Better Future' by a 19-year-old Lebanese girl who discusses her experiences of volunteering to support families caught in crisis and the importance of youth leadership.

We are delighted to share three new reports exploring: 1) the impact of climate change on adolescent capabilities across Bangladesh, Ethiopia and Jordan; 2) the experiences of adolescents from the marginalised Dom community in Jordan; and 3) the complex drivers of child marriage in humanitarian contexts through the eyes of adolescents. We would also like to highlight two new journal articles, one on human rights education in humanitarian settings and another on patterns of exclusion facing adolescents with disabilities in Ethiopia. Finally, we would like to mention two policy briefs from Bangladesh, one on adolescent voice and agency through technology use, and another on revisiting the impact of covid-19 on adolescents from our round 2 data collection.

Climate change and girls' participation

[The Gender-EqualGreen Learning Agenda](#) has recently been introduced to help leaders address the climate crisis through education. Climate change has a disproportionate impact on girls and particularly affects their access to education. The Malala Fund estimates that in this year alone climate-related events will result in at least 4 million girls in low-income countries being unable to continue with their education ([Malala Fund, 2021](#)). Barriers to education as a result of climate change include increased time spent collecting water due to drought, and lack of transportation to school during the rainy season. Education can equip girls with the skills and knowledge they need to be able respond to the challenges of climate change and be empowered to take action. Yet, girls in low-resource settings can often find themselves excluded from decision-making platforms that discuss climate-related issues, even though they experience the greatest impacts ([Devonald et al., 2020](#)).

Policy and programming implications

- » Ensure climate change and sustainable development is a core curriculum subject within education.
- » Promote adolescent girls' participation within climate change adaptation strategies.
- » Adapt schools to climate-related challenges through providing safe transportation during rainy season, strengthening school infrastructure and introducing flexible school start times to account for time spent collecting water.

The GAGE Research Panorama provides an overview of current research on adolescents over the most recent GAGE quarter, as well as external grey and published literature, specifically looking at articles that relate, from a gender perspective, to GAGE's key capability domains: education and learning; bodily integrity and freedom from violence; health, nutrition, and sexual and reproductive health; psychosocial well-being; voice and agency; and economic empowerment. It also aims to look at the ways specific vulnerabilities such as age, disability and refugee status further disadvantage adolescents in achieving these capabilities.

Education and learning

It is important to align policies and programmes with the current evidence on 'what works' for girls' education. The Girls' Education Roadmap found that some of the most effective interventions are those focused on addressing cost of schooling, improving access and infrastructure, school feeding and improving pedagogy through teacher training. However, a number of commonly used approaches to girls' education have not yet been shown to improve education outcomes such as life skills education, community engagement and efforts to create gender-sensitive school environments ([Psaki et al., 2021](#)).

Within humanitarian settings girls face significant barriers to attending school. UNICEF's solutions book highlights evidence-based practice in education for those involved in designing and implementing girls' education initiatives in these settings. It emphasises the need for flexibility in programming to adapt to local contexts, the use of gender-responsive planning tools and the importance of involving girls and communities in the planning stage. Inclusive social protection can also play an important role in supporting girls to continue with schooling by supporting households to overcome financial barriers ([UNICEF, 2021](#)).

School feeding has expanded in recent years with 50% of children globally currently receiving a school meal. There have been large expansions in low-income countries, and research found a 55% increase in the proportion of low-income countries that have a school-feeding policy. Covid-19, however, is likely to result in a reduction of budgets for social programmes and education ([WFP, 2021](#)).

Policy and programming implications

- » Tackle financial barriers to schooling through provision of labelled or conditional cash-plus programmes to support adolescent school attendance.
- » Prioritise restoring access to school meals and school-feeding programmes when schools reopen.

Bodily integrity and freedom from violence

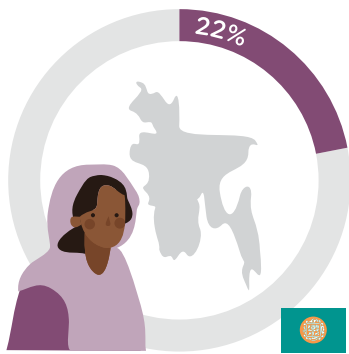
Child marriage remains common in countries impacted by conflict or other humanitarian disasters. Although pre-existing risk factors vary due to differing family values, gender norms and economic drivers, humanitarian crises can influence the incidence and timing of child marriage. Crisis and conflict can disrupt access to schooling and increasing household poverty can lead to fears of an uncertain future, all of which can feed into marriage decision-making ([Presler-Marshall et al., 2020](#)).

There have been significant efforts to target child marriage in low- and middle-income countries through a range of different interventions. A systematic review of evaluations of these interventions from the last 20 years found that interventions that support girls' school attendance by the provision of cash or in-kind transfers were the most successful. In contrast, multi-component interventions provided low success, scale and sustainability rates in preventing child marriage ([Malhotra and Elnakib, 2021](#)).

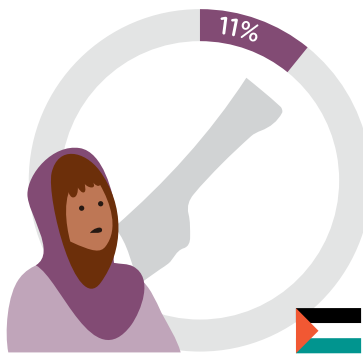
Policy and programming implications

- » Focus on single-component interventions over multi-component interventions within efforts to combat child marriage in low- and middle-income countries.
- » Enforce compulsory education laws and scale up education-linked cash or in-kind transfers to support school attendance.
- » Use mass and social media campaigns to publicise the incidence and risks of child marriage.

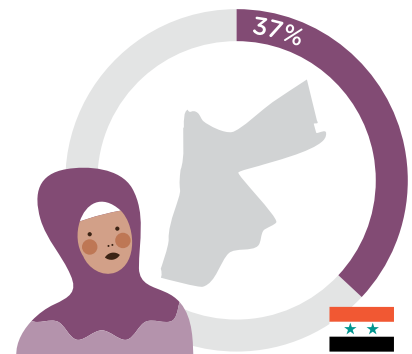
Rates of child marriage vary by country and nationality.



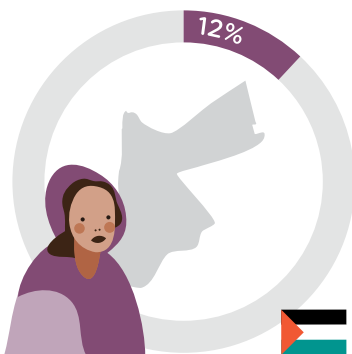
In **Bangladesh**, 22% of Rohingya girls between the ages of 15 and 19 are already married.¹



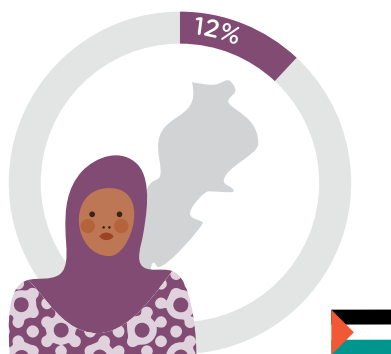
In **Gaza**, 11% of women between the ages of 20 and 24 were married before age 18.²



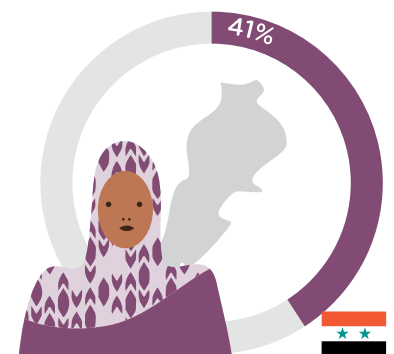
In **Jordan**, 37% of Syrian women between the ages of 20 and 24 were married before age 18.³



In **Jordan**, 12% of Palestine refugee girls between the ages of 15 and 19 and living in formal camps are already married.⁴



In **Lebanon**, 12% of Palestinian women between the ages of 20 and 24 were married before the age of 18.⁵



In **Lebanon**, 41% of Syrian women between the ages of 20 and 24 were married before age 18.⁶

Graphic designed by Ottavia Pasta for GAGE

Voice and agency

Globally, there are a number of challenges that prevent children's meaningful participation and decision-making. These include societal norms, a lack of resources and adults' lack of understanding or support. The most marginalised, such as those with disabilities, and girls and children without parental care, are the most excluded ([Freedson, 2021](#)). Access to the internet and social media can provide youth with the ability to raise awareness and participate in their communities. Globally, children cited unaffordability, infrastructure barriers and poor knowledge and skills as the main barriers towards internet access, especially in low-and middle-income countries ([5Rights Foundation, 2021](#)), which could affect their participation. Furthermore, in Bangladesh negative assumptions of parents also play a key role in adolescents' access – girls are more restricted due to fears they will be contacted by boys and get into romantic relationships. This widens the digital divide and restricts voice and agency among female adolescents ([Huq et al., 2020](#)).

Policy and programming implications

- » Include components that aim to build self-agency among adolescents in cash transfer programmes.
- » Complement income-strengthening measures such as the PSNP with awareness raising and empowerment programmes to tackle deep-rooted social norms.

Box 1. Country spotlight: Host and refugee adolescents' participation in the context of economic and political crisis in Lebanon

In Lebanon, the deteriorating socio-political situation in recent years coupled with an economic meltdown resulted in nationwide anti-government protests that started in October 2019. Young people, including school and university students, have led the anti-government protests, which reflects the widening gap between the ruling class and the youth whose basic needs remain unmet. Moreover, following the Beirut blast in August 2020 and the absence of an adequate state response, the youth were frequently the first responders and even challenged gender roles.

In GAGE research, adolescents in Lebanon showed a lack of confidence in the government's ability or willingness to respond to their challenges. During the protests, very few adolescents participated in the street protests (this was mainly seen among the Lebanese adolescents). Though Lebanese girls, showed greater interest in politics and the ongoing protests than boys, girls' participation in the protests was challenged by their families' political and sectarian allegiances. Nonetheless, this has not prevented some girls from challenging their families and communities and demanding change. An 18-year-old Lebanese girl explained how she defied her family and community and went on to the streets despite their objections: *'I participated in the protests since they started ... My family prevented me from going to the protests because they feared the community's criticism, but I kept going anyway. My family and community might not understand me but I want to fight sectarianism and corruption and make my country better ... Many young people might not understand that and are sectarian and support political parties themselves but they need to understand that this is destroying them and their future.'*

Refugee adolescents showed a complex attitude towards the protests. While supporting people's right to change amid the crises hitting the country, refugee adolescents involved in the GAGE participatory research, especially Palestinian adolescents, prefer not to be part of civic life in Lebanon out of fear of being scapegoated or targeted by the Lebanese authorities. However, they still believe that all groups in Lebanon should unite and form a new kind of system, which reflects their willingness and desire to be included.

Girls in general, and particularly refugee girls, are subject to surveillance and control by their families. Girls usually have limited mobility compared to boys and are often forbidden from participating in public life. The majority of girls lack support, communication and understanding from their parents in addition to being subject to frightful restrictions on their mobility, freedoms and choices, which is perceived as a major source of stress in their daily lives. The girls in the participatory research also emphasised that they have limited opportunities to share their voices within the family, as parenting styles are often authoritative and parents expect to be obeyed and are less likely to promote healthy communication with their adolescent girls.

Despite limited opportunities to participate in family and public life, volunteering and participation in civic organisations opens the door to adolescents being involved in civic life in Lebanon. Increasing participation was noted following the deteriorating situation in the country, with more adolescents showing an interest in volunteering and helping their struggling communities. This was particularly true among Palestinian and Lebanese adolescents. Nonetheless, girls' participation in local organisations or initiatives is limited by the restrictions placed on them by their families.

Psychosocial well-being

Globally, there is a large gender gap in adolescent mental health. In a study of 73 countries, girls on average have worse mental health than boys across four measures: psychological distress, life satisfaction, eudaemonia, and hedonia (Campbell et al., 2021). Similarly, in Tanzania and Viet Nam older adolescents (above the age of 15) and girls were more likely to experience psychosocial problems (Plank et al., 2021).

In Jordan, adolescents from the marginalised Dom community face significant discrimination across multiple aspects of their lives (education, employment) and are subjected to high rates of bullying and violence from their peers. This can take a significant psychosocial toll on these adolescents and can result in negative coping strategies such as substance abuse and violence (Devonald et al., 2021).

Policy and programming implications

- » Invest in platforms (particularly digital platforms), that are inclusive to marginalised groups where children are able to interact with decisions-makers and peers and meaningfully participate in leadership roles.
- » Scale up access to technology through expansion of internet cafes and provision of free (or low-cost) internet.
- » Increase parents' digital literacy ensuring they are aware of the benefits of adolescents using technology and also how to manage online risks.

Economic empowerment

There is emerging evidence that suggests social protection programmes may be effective in reducing child marriage. In Amhara, Ethiopia, an evaluation of the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) found that the cash component of the programme was effective in supporting girls to stay in education and reducing financial pressure on families to get their daughters married at an early age. However, in some cases – where strong social norms support child marriage – increased income through the PSNP may have the opposite impact and enable poor families to cover the costs of a wedding and dowry ([Gavrilovic et al., 2020](#)).

Additionally, a study conducted in Tanzania – to guide the development of a cash transfer programme – compared sexual, relationship and financial decision-making for adolescent girls and young women living in low-resource settings with financially empowered women. It found that a major difference between the two groups was that adolescent girls and young women from low-resource settings lacked a vision to build self-agency ([Gangaramany et al., 2021](#)).

Policy and programming implications

- » Encourage social cohesion through community initiatives that mix marginalised and discriminated groups with other groups and families to challenge any misconceptions.
- » Invest in cost-effective and gender-sensitive psychosocial support services for adolescents.

Health, nutrition, and sexual and reproductive health

Women in Uganda who had their first birth under the age of 18 were found to be less likely to have completed primary education, more likely to be illiterate, more likely to report challenges seeking healthcare and had a higher number of mean births compared to those who had their first birth as adults (above 18) ([Amongin et al., 2021](#)). However, among adolescents in Uganda, contraceptive usage is low and those who were already married and those who had their first child under the age of 15 were more likely to be using modern contraceptives ([Sserwanja et al., 2021](#)). In Ethiopia, poverty affects young couples' decisions over fertility and childbearing in opposing ways. Whereas some couples want to delay pregnancy and increase child spacing due to the costs associated with raising children, others who are suffering from hunger or malnutrition prefer not to use contraception due to beliefs that it will have negative impacts on their health ([Chuta et al., 2021](#)).

Policy and programming implications

- » Combat misconceptions around contraception by increasing age-appropriate comprehensive sex education, particularly targeting younger women to ensure that they have correct information about contraception before their first sexual experience.
- » Involve key community members such as religious leaders and mothers-in-law to challenge gender norms surrounding the use of contraception and child spacing.



Research

Adolescent well-being: Cross-cutting findings

Exploring adolescent capabilities among the marginalised Dom community in Jordan

This report outlines findings from GAGE's qualitative research with adolescents from the marginalised Dom community in Jordan, as well as their caregivers and key informants. It presents findings in relation to GAGE's key capability domains and concludes with a number of implications for policy-makers and programming.

Download: [Devonald, M., Jones, N., Małachowska, A., Alheiwidi, S., Al Amaireh, W., Alshammari, F. and Shareef, Q. \(2021\) *Exploring adolescent capabilities among the marginalised Dom community in Jordan*. Report. London: Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence.](#) [Open Access](#)

'The first thing that I fear for my future is lack of rain and drought': climate change and its impacts on adolescent capabilities in low- and middle-income countries

This report focuses on the unique experiences of GAGE adolescents from Bangladesh, Ethiopia and Jordan in the face of the current climate crisis. It highlights some of the multidimensional challenges they face and the intersection between gender, age, socioeconomic and geographical vulnerabilities.

Download: [Devonald, M., Jones, N. and Yadete, W. \(2020\) *'The first thing that I fear for my future is lack of rain and drought': climate change and its impacts on adolescent capabilities in low- and middle-income countries*. Report. London: Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence.](#) [Open Access](#)

A greener, fairer future: Why leaders need to invest in climate and girls' education

This report highlights the disproportionate impact of climate change on girl's education and estimates that this year in low-income countries climate-related events will prevent at least 4 million girls from completing their education. It provides recommendations on how governments can improve girls' access to education in a climate-affected world.

Download: [Malala Fund \(2021\) *A greener, fairer future: Why leaders need to invest in climate and girls' education*. Washington DC: Malala Fund.](#) [Open Access](#)

Capturing the Complexities of Adolescent Transitions Through a Mixed-Methods Longitudinal Research Design

This book presents findings from global longitudinal studies that contribute to increasing the evidence on excluded and vulnerable populations. In one chapter, members of the GAGE team outline research on capturing the complexities of adolescent transitions in longitudinal research.

Download: [Baird, S., Jones, N., Abu Hamad, B., Sultan, M. and Yadete, W. \(2021\) 'Capturing the Complexities of Adolescent Transitions Through a Mixed Methods Longitudinal Research Design' in Banati, P. \(ed.\) *Sustainable Human Development Across the Life Course. Evidence from Longitudinal Research*. Bristol: Bristol University Press](#)

Measuring empowerment among adolescent girls in the context of intervention

This brief explores adolescent girls' empowerment in Bangladesh. It uses data from the BALIKA project, a randomised controlled study with early adolescent girls designed to evaluate three skills programmes.

Download: [Amin, S. and Misunas, C. \(2021\) *Measuring empowerment among adolescent girls in the context of intervention*. London: Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence; New York: Population Council.](#) [Open Access](#)

Revisiting the impact of covid-19 on adolescents in urban slums in Dhaka, Bangladesh: Round 2

This GAGE policy brief presents findings from the second round of data collection with adolescents in three different locations in Dhaka. It uses qualitative methods (30 individual interviews) to explore the continuation of distance education, psychosocial well-being, digital connectivity and financial constraints in the context of the covid-19 pandemic.

Download: [Ahmed Raha, S., Rana, S., Al Mamun, S., Hasan Anik, M., Roy, P., Alam, F. and Sultan, M. \(2021\) 'Listening to young people's voices under covid-19. Revisiting the impact of covid-19 on adolescents in urban slums in Dhaka, Bangladesh: Round 2.' Policy brief. London: Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence.](#) [Open Access](#)

EDUCATION AND LEARNING

Human rights education in humanitarian settings: opportunities and challenges

This journal article uses qualitative and quantitative data to assess the integration of human rights education (HRE) in non-formal programming for refugees in two different humanitarian settings: Syrian refugees in Jordan and Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

Download: [Devonald, M., Jones, N., Guglielmi, S., Seager, J. and Baird, S. \(2021\) 'Human rights education in humanitarian settings: opportunities and challenges', *Human Rights Education Review*. doi: 10.7577/hrer.3986.](#) [Open Access](#)

Slow Progression: Educational Trajectories of Young Men and Women in Ethiopia

This paper presents findings on young men and women's educational trajectories in Ethiopia. It draws on data from the Young Lives fifth-wave qualitative study across five different locations in Ethiopia.

Download: [Tafere, Y. and Tiemelessan, A. \(2021\) *Slow Progression: Educational Trajectories of Young Men and Women in Ethiopia*. Oxford: Young lives.](#) [Open Access](#)

Girls' Education Roadmap

Currently, education policies and programmes do not always align with what researchers find are most effective in addressing girls' education. This roadmap aims to address this, and reviews thousands of studies and organisations across the globe in order to understand how we can better align needs, evidence and practice in girls' education.

Download: [Psaki, S., Haberland, N., Kozak, M. and Woyczynski, L. \(2021\) 'Girls' Education Roadmap: 2021 Report.' EGER Reports. New York: Population Council.](#) [Open Access](#)

State of School Feeding Worldwide 2020

This report by the World Food Programme outlines an analysis of the global situation of school feeding in 2020 and provides an overview of the direction and scale of change seen within the last seven years. It also provides evidence of the impact of the current covid-19 pandemic on school feeding programmes.

Download: [World Food Programme \(2020\) *State of School Feeding Worldwide 2020*. Rome: World Food Programme.](#) [Open Access](#)

'People Consider Us Devils': Exploring Patterns of Exclusion facing Adolescents with Disabilities in Ethiopia

This journal article draws on qualitative and quantitative data and explores the educational, bodily integrity and psychosocial outcomes of adolescents with different disability types (visual, hearing and physical) in rural and urban communities of Ethiopia.

Download: [Jones, N., Muz, J. and Yadete, W. \(2021\) "'People Consider Us Devils": Exploring Patterns of Exclusion facing Adolescents with Disabilities in Ethiopia'. *The European Journal of Development Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41287-021-00387-z>](#) [Open Access](#)

Reimagining Girls' Education Solutions to Keep Girls Learning in Emergencies

This solutions book highlights promising evidence-based practice on interventions to support girls education in low- and middle-income countries and humanitarian settings. It provides examples of best practice and outlines key lessons learned.

Download: [UNICEF \(2021\) *Reimagining Girls' Education Solutions to Keep Girls Learning in Emergencies*. New York: UNICEF.](#) [Open Access](#)

BODILY INTEGRITY AND FREEDOM FROM VIOLENCE

20 Years of the Evidence Base on What Works to Prevent Child Marriage: A Systematic Review

This systematic review explores evaluations from the last 20 years that aim to understand the effectiveness of interventions aimed at preventing child marriage among girls aged 10–24 years in low- and middle-income countries.

Download: [Malhotra, A. and Elnakib, S. \(2021\) '20 Years of the Evidence Base on What Works to Prevent Child Marriage: A Systematic Review', *Journal of Adolescent Health*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jadohealth.2020.11.017>](#) [Open Access](#)

Through their eyes: exploring the complex drivers of child marriage in humanitarian contexts

This report explores GAGE's current evidence on the drivers of child marriage in humanitarian settings. It starts with an overview of the evidence and then outlines findings from four different humanitarian contexts in Bangladesh, Gaza, Jordan and Lebanon with refugee or stateless adolescents, it concludes with priority recommendations for programming, policy and research and evaluation.

Download: [Presler-Marshall, E., Jones, N., Alheiwidi, S., Youssef, S., Abu Hamad, B., Bani Odeh, K., Baird, S., Oakley, E., Guglielmi, S. and Małachowska, A. \(2020\) *Through their eyes: exploring the complex drivers of child marriage in humanitarian contexts*. Report. London: Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence. \[Open Access\]\(#\)](#)

Evolution in the evidence base on child marriage 2000–2019

This report presents evidence of a scoping review of the evidence base on child marriage from 2000–2019. It yielded 386 articles that focus on early or child marriage in low-and-middle income countries and the data was analysed based on the prevalence, determinants, consequences of child marriage and interventions aimed at preventing or mitigating it.

Download: [Malhotra, A. and Elnakib S. \(2021\) *Evolution in the evidence base on child marriage \(2000-2019\)*. Geneva: UNFPA-UNICEF The Global Programme to End Child Marriage. \[Open Access\]\(#\)](#)

Understanding the Relationship between Child Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation: A statistical overview of their co-occurrence and risk factors

This report by UNICEF outlines the current statistical evidence on the relationship between child marriage and female genital mutilation and provides key insights into their co-occurrence and risk factors.

Download: [UNICEF \(2021\) *Understanding the Relationship between Child Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation: A statistical overview of their co-occurrence and risk factors*. New York: UNICEF. \[Open Access\]\(#\)](#)

Girls believe that child marriage is more common than it is.



Graphic designed by Ottavia Pasta for GAGE

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Hearing the unheard voice-puberty experiences of young Pakistani men: A qualitative study

This study of Pakistani young men aged 18–21 brings to light their experiences of puberty using qualitative methods. The paper aims to contribute to the limited evidence on this topic and inform health promotion programmes.

Download: [Shivji, N.A., Lymn, J.S., Meade, O. and Watts, K. \(2021\) 'Hearing the unheard voice-puberty experiences of young Pakistani men: A qualitative study', *Journal of Adolescence*, 88, pp. 36–47.](#) [Open Access](#)

Later life outcomes of women by adolescent birth history: analysis of the 2016 Uganda Demographic and Health Survey

This article uses data from Uganda's 2016 Demographic and Health Survey of women aged 40–49 to compare socioeconomic and reproductive outcomes of those who had their first birth under the age of 18 and those that had their first birth above the age of 18.

Download: [Amongin, D., Kågesten, A., Tunçalp, Ö., Nakimuli, A., Nakafeero, M., Atuyambe, L., Hanson, C. and Benova, L. \(2021\) 'Later life outcomes of women by adolescent birth history: analysis of the 2016 Uganda Demographic and Health Survey', *BMJ Open*, 11\(2\), p. e041545.](#) [Open Access](#)

Prevalence And Factors Associated With Modern Contraceptives Utilization Among Female Adolescents In Uganda

This study uses data from the Uganda Demographic and Health Survey (UDHS) 2016 to explore the utilisation of modern contraceptives by adolescent girls (n=4,264) aged 15–19 years.

Download: [Sserwanja, Q., Musaba, M. W. and Mukunya, D. \(2021\) 'Prevalence and factors associated with modern contraceptives utilization among female adolescents in Uganda', *BMC Women's Health*, 21\(1\), p. 61.](#) [Open Access](#)

Qualitative study exploring the barriers to menstrual hygiene management faced by adolescents and young people with a disability, and their carers in the Kavrepalanchok district, Nepal

This article investigates menstrual health management for adolescents with disabilities in Nepal. It draws on qualitative interviews with adolescents aged 15–24 and their caregivers.

Download: [Wilbur, J., Kayastha, S., Mahon, T., Torondel, B., Hameed, S., Sigdel, A., Gyawali, A. and Kuper, H. \(2021\) 'Qualitative study exploring the barriers to menstrual hygiene management faced by adolescents and young people with a disability, and their carers in the Kavrepalanchok district, Nepal', *BMC Public Health. BioMed Central*, 21, p. 476.](#) [Open Access](#)

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Priority Areas for Adolescent Health Measurement

This journal article aims to establish priority areas for adolescent health measurements and identify key gaps through collecting four critical inputs to inform priority setting: perspectives of youth representatives, country priorities, disease burden and existing measurement efforts.

Download: [Guthold, R., Moller, A.-B., Adebayo, E., Carvajal, L., Ekman, C., Fagan, L., Ferguson, J., Friedman, H. S., Ba, M. G., Hagell, A., Kohl, K. and Azzopardi, P. S. \(2021\) 'Priority Areas for Adolescent Health Measurement', *Journal of Adolescent Health*. \[Open Access\]\(#\)](#)

PSYCHOSOCIAL WELL-BEING

Drivers of and protective factors for mental health and psychosocial well-being among adolescents: A snapshot from Tanzania and Viet Nam

This report reviews the literature on psychosocial-related challenges, protective factors and risk factors for mental health among adolescents in Tanzania and Viet Nam.

Download: [Plank, G., Samuels, F., Marcus, R and Leon-Himmelstine, C \(2021\). *Drivers of and protective factors for mental health and psychosocial well-being among adolescents. A snapshot from Tanzania and Viet Nam*. London: ODI. \[Open Access\]\(#\)](#)

Understanding Mental Health in the Context of Adolescent Pregnancy and HIV in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Systematic Review Identifying a Critical Evidence Gap

This systematic review aims to identify the prevalence, risks and protective factors of common mental health disorders among adolescents in Sub-Saharan Africa who are living with HIV and are parents.

Download: [Roberts, K. J., Smith, C., Cluver, L., Toska, E. and Sherr, L. \(2021\) 'Understanding Mental Health in the Context of Adolescent Pregnancy and HIV in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Systematic Review Identifying a Critical Evidence Gap', *AIDS and Behavior*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10461-020-03138-z> \[Open Access\]\(#\)](#)

The gender gap in adolescent mental health: a cross-national investigation of 566,829 adolescents across 73 countries

This cross-national investigation of adolescents in 73 countries aims to examine four mental health outcomes: psychological distress, life satisfaction, eudaemonia and hedonia, identifying gender differences and distributions for these outcomes.

Download: [Campbell, O. L. K., Bann, D. and Patalay, P. \(2021\) 'The gender gap in adolescent mental health: A cross-national investigation of 566,829 adolescents across 73 countries', *SSM - Population Health*, 13, p.100742. \[Open Access\]\(#\)](#)

VOICE AND AGENCY

Learning from a Living Archive: Rejuvenating Child and Youth Rights and Participation

This working paper presents findings from phase one of the REJUVENATE project which aims to map different approaches to integrating children, youth and community participation in child rights initiatives through a scoping review of existing practitioner and academic literature, mapping key actors and existing approaches.

Download: [Johnson, V., Lewin, T. and Cannon, M. \(2020\) *Learning from a Living Archive: Rejuvenating Child and Youth Rights and Participation*. REJUVENATE Working Paper 1. Brighton: Institute of Development Studies, DOI: 10.19088/REJUVENATE.2020.001](#) [Open Access](#)

New Forms of Adolescent Voice and Agency Through ICT and Mobile Phone Use

This policy brief explores the positive and negative implications of mobile phone and internet use for adolescent voice and agency in Bangladesh. It uses qualitative data with 64 school-going adolescents and their caregivers.

Download: [Huq, L., Sultan M., Anan Khondoker, Z. \(2020\). *New Forms of Adolescent Voice and Agency Through ICT and Mobile Phone Use*. Dhaka: BRAC Institute of Governance and Development \(BIGD\) BRAC University.](#) [Open Access](#)

Who Decides? Fertility and Childbearing Experiences of Young Married Couples in Ethiopia

This report by Young Lives explores decision-making over fertility, childbearing and contraceptive use for young couples in Ethiopia. It draws on longitudinal quantitative and qualitative data with young parents, spouses, caregivers and community leaders.

Download: [Chuta, N., Birhanu, K. and Vinci, V. \(2021\) *Who Decides? Fertility and Childbearing Experiences of Young Married Couples in Ethiopia*. Oxford: Young Lives.](#) [Open Access](#)

Childrens' Right To Be Heard: We're Talking; Are You Listening?

This policy brief outlines the current state of children's meaningful participation in decision-making. It highlights the importance of including youth voices and outlines some key areas of opportunity.

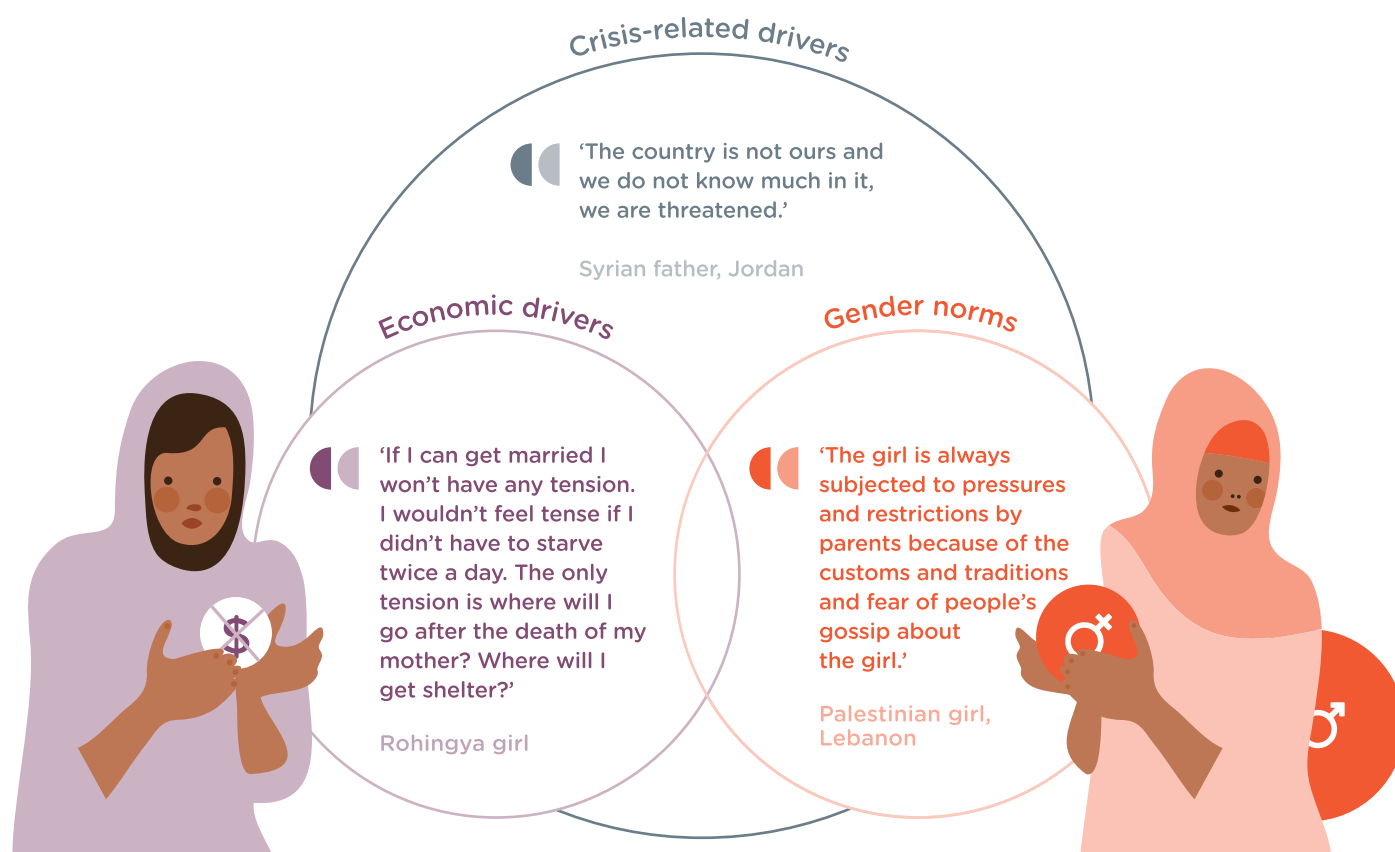
Download: [Freedson, J. \(2021\) *Children's right to be heard: We're talking; are you listening?* London: Joining Forces Coalition.](#) [Open Access](#)

Investigating Risks and Opportunities for Children in a Digital World

This report explores the lessons learnt from research about children's experiences in relation to digital technology in order to inform policy-makers and programme implementers.

Download: [Stoilova, M., Livingstone, S. and Khazbak, R. \(2021\) *Investigating Risks and Opportunities for Children in a Digital World: A rapid review of the evidence on children's internet use and outcomes*. Innocenti Discussion Papers No. 2021-01, UNICEF Office of Research - Innocenti, Florence.](#) [Open Access](#)

The drivers of child marriage are intricately intertwined:



Graphic designed by Ottavia Pasta for GAGE

Advancing youth-centred digital ecosystems in Africa in a post-Covid-19 world

This working paper is one of a series of publications that explores findings from a global consultation held in July 2020 with African youth. It discusses key findings in relation to their experiences with digital technology, youth activism and community engagement.

Download: [Pinet, M., Sanyu, P. and Youn, A. \(2021\) Advancing youth-centred digital ecosystems in Africa in a post-Covid-19 world. London: ODI.](#) **Open Access**

Our rights in a digital world: a snapshot of children's views from around the world

This report outlines the key findings of a major, international consultation with children aged 9–22 years old in 27 countries to input into the General Comment on Children's Rights in Relation to the Digital Environment. It presents their views on how digital technology impacts their rights, and what should be done to protect them.

Download: [5Rights Foundation \(2021\) Our rights in a digital world: a snapshot of children's views from around the world. 5Rights Foundation.](#) **Open Access**

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Disabled Children and Work: An Overview of a Neglected Topic with a Specific Focus on Ghana

This paper outlines the challenges related to children with disabilities and work in Ghana, it provides an overview of the current literature and presents examples of research on children with disabilities.

Download: [Wickenden, M. \(2021\) *Disabled Children and Work: An Overview of a Neglected Topic with a Specific Focus on Ghana*. ACHA Working Paper 7, Brighton: Action on Children's Harmful Work in African Agriculture, IDS, DOI: 10.19088/ACHA.2021.002](#)

Listening to Young Lives at Work in Ethiopia: Third Call

This brief is part of a series that outlines the headline findings for the third round of data collection in Young Lives at Work's COVID-19 Phone Survey in Ethiopia conducted with young people over the phone to explore the impact of covid-19 on work, education, food security and health.

Download: [Woldehanna, T., Porter, C., Favara, M., Hittmeyer, A. and Freund, R. \(2021\) *Listening to Young Lives at Work in Ethiopia: Third Call*. Oxford: Young Lives. \[Open Access\]\(#\)](#)

Developing a framework for cash transfer programs that foster sustained economic empowerment to reduce sexual risk among adolescent girls and young women: a qualitative study

This qualitative study aims to understand adolescent decision-making processes in relation to sexual, relationship and financial decisions in order to feed into the design of a cash transfer programme. It draws on qualitative interviews with adolescents and young women from low-resource settings, their influencers (mothers and male partners) and uses data from financially empowered women as a comparison.

Download: [Gangaramany, A., Balvanz, P., Gichane, M. W., Goetschius, S., Sharma, S., Sharma, K., Mulhausen, J., Noble-Campbell, P., Wamoyi, J., Maman, S. and Prasad, R. \(2021\) 'Developing a framework for cash transfer programs that foster sustained economic empowerment to reduce sexual risk among adolescent girls and young women: a qualitative study', *BMC Public Health*, 21\(1\), p. 122. \[Open Access\]\(#\)](#)

Child Marriage and Ethiopia's Productive Safety Net Program: Analysis of Protective Pathways in the Amhara Region

This report by UNICEF-Innocenti outlines their findings from an ongoing impact evaluation of the Integrated Safety Net Programme (ISNP) pilot in Amhara, Ethiopia. It draws on quantitative and qualitative data to analyse the protective pathways of the PSNP in relation on child marriage.

Download: [Gavrilovic, M., Palermo, T., Valli, E., Viola, F., Vinci, V., Heissler, K., ... Mussa, E.C. \(2020\) *Child Marriage and Ethiopia's Productive Safety Net Program: Analysis of protective pathways in the Amhara region*. Innocenti Research Report UNICEF Office of Research - Innocenti, Florence. \[Open Access\]\(#\)](#)

SPECIAL ISSUE CALLS

Youth and Transitional Justice

Transitional Justice

This special issue calls for papers on the topic of youth transitional justice, including studies on youth-led or initiated approaches to transitional justice, the barriers and challenges in ensuring they are youth-inclusive, and possibilities for innovation or transformation. The journal particularly encourages contributions from young scholars, practitioners and activists as this special issue would like to amplify the voices of young people.

The deadline for submissions is 1 June 2021. Further information can be found [here](#).

Special Issue on Learning in the Context of Adversity

Child Abuse & Neglect

This special issue calls for theoretical and empirical papers that explore learning-related processes in formal and informal settings among children who face adversity. Topics include (but are not limited to) the role of stress physiology, self-regulation, behavioural problems, school engagement graduation rates. **The deadline for manuscripts is 31 August.**

Further information can be found [here](#).

Climate Change and Indigenous Knowledge

International Journal of Climate Change Strategies and Management

This special issue will explore the relationship between indigenous knowledge and climate change adaptation, including multi and interdisciplinary perspectives from a range of disciplines and contexts. **The deadline for abstracts is 25 April 2021.**

Further information can be found [here](#).

Special Issue Interactions between Environmental, Economic and Social Sustainability for Adolescent Development

Sustainability

This special issue invites empirical papers that explore the interactions between social, economic and environmental aspects of sustainable development in relation to adolescent and youth well-being in diverse low- and middle-income countries.

The deadline for submission of manuscripts is 15 September 2021. Further information can be found [here](#).

OPPORTUNITIES

Fellowships and Seed Grants for Junior Researchers for The ILO project on the Elimination of Child Labor and Forced Labor

Deadline: 16 April 2020

Outline: The ILO project 'From Research to Action: Using Knowledge to Accelerate Progress in the Elimination of Child Labour and Forced Labour' is inviting junior researchers to submit high-quality research proposals on child labour, forced labour and human trafficking. Up to three research fellowships and 10 seed grant projects are available. Candidates from the Global South, female candidates and underrepresented populations in the research community are encouraged to apply.

More information can be found [here](#).

EVENTS

Youth politics: what to make of critical voices through the pandemic

Date: 14 April 2021

Time: 14:00–13:30 (GMT)

Location: Online

Outline: This webinar is part of IDS's webinar series on youth in Africa and MENA region. It will focus on young people's civic and political action before and during the pandemic.

More information can be found [here](#).

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Youth Forum

Date: 7–8 April 2021

Time: All day

Location: Online

Outline: The 10th anniversary of the ECOSOC Youth Forum has a theme of 'A Decade of Action: Building a Resilient Recovery', young people will be invited to share their views and experiences on the recovery from covid-19 including achieving the SDGs in the context of recovery.

More information can be found [here](#).

CONFERENCES

PANDEMIC BABIES? THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND ITS IMPACT ON FERTILITY AND FAMILY DYNAMICS

Date: 13–14 December 2021

Location: Berlin, Germany

Conference outline: This conference aims to bring together researchers to discuss fertility and family change in the context of covid-19. It is particularly interested in papers that explore potential fertility and family change to the multitude of other societal and epidemiological developments currently occurring. **Application deadline for extended abstracts or full papers 1 August 2021.**

More information can be found [here](#).

INTERNATIONAL POPULATION CONFERENCE (IPC2021)

Date: 5–10 December 2021

Location: India, Hyderabad (hybrid in-person and virtual conference)

Conference outline: The IUSSP International Population Conference is the world's largest international conference on population studies. The conference has a wide range of themes relating to population issues, including but not limited to, fertility and childbearing, family planning and contraception, internal migration, population and development and the demographic dividend. **The deadline for abstract submissions is 15 May 2021.**

More information can be found [here](#).

Send us your UPDATES!

Please send us details of upcoming events, publications or opportunities which you would like featured in subsequent editions of the digest. You can email the details to Megan Devonald (m.devonald.gage@odi.org.uk).