



Teenage Pregnancy

Pregnancy occurring in a woman 19 years of age or younger.

FACTS

Teenage girls in Adamawa state



The adolescent birth rate stands at **250 per 1,000 girls** in the **15-19 age group**, two and half times higher than the adolescent birth rate (**107/1,000**) in Nigeria.



1 out of every 4 teenage girl aged **15-19 years is a** mother.



3.4%

pregnant with their first child



25.1%

women age 15-49 currently using family planning



10.2%

women age 15-49 with unmet need for family planning

CHALLENGES

- Commodification of the female child.
- Lack of awareness and sensitization on the negative impact of GBV.
- Lack of protection for survivors.
- Social norms that promote child marriage, teenage pregnancy, FGM and GBV.
- Difficulty of survivor in accessing justice due to persecutory challenges or fear for safety/loss of livelihood.
- Low literacy rate.

WHY WE NEED TO ACT

- GBV is life-threatening with long-lasting adverse consequences on survivors.
- GBV can result in death of girls and women.
- High maternal mortality rates as a result of teenage pregnancy, child marriage and FGM.
- High economic costs for complications related to GBV.

WHAT CAN BE DONE

- Create awareness on the harmful effects of child marriage, teenage pregnancy, FGM and GBV.
- Ensure enforcement of penalties and prosecution of perpetrators of GBV.
- FGM and Child Marriage **MUST** be stopped, and perpetrators prosecuted.
- Empower girls and women with information, skills, and support networks.
- Operationalizing the VAPP Act and Establishing GBV specialised courts for speedy trials of GBV cases
- Girl child education.

ACTION REQUIRED

- Create awareness on the harmful effects of child marriage, teenage pregnancy, FGM and GBV to the individual, family and society.
- Provide support and empowerment to survivors of GBV.
- Provide adequate training on best practice for all agencies providing support to survivors of FGM, child marriage and teenage pregnancy.
- Ensure enforcement of laws against GBV, FGM, child marriage and teenage pregnancy.
- Enforce education laws.
- Address harmful social norms.
- Engage religious/traditional gatekeepers.

[1] Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey, 2018

[2] NBS/UNICEF: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, 2018

[3] UNFPA, Adolescent Pregnancy (2021)



IN
SUPPORT
OF



Spotlight
Initiative
To accelerate change
against women and girls



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Advocacy Brief



Adamawa State

End all forms of Gender-Based Violence and Harmful Practices Against Women and Girls in Adamawa State



Female Genital
Mutilation (FGM)



Child
Marriage



Gender-Based
Violence (GBV)



Teenage
Pregnancy

Context



In Nigeria, violence against women is evident in many forms, including domestic, verbal, and physical abuse, rape and sexual assault, early and forced marriages, incest, female genital cutting, acid baths and outright killing. Women continue to suffer all forms of degradation and deprivation in public and private spaces.

You can end all forms of gender-based violence by taking action **NOW!**



Ending all forms of Gender Based Violence and Harmful Practices Against Women and Girls in Adamawa State.



Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

Any act of violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or mental harm or suffering to women, girls, men, and boys, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.

BACKGROUND

Global estimates published by WHO indicate that about 1 in 3 (35%) of women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime. In Nigeria, 31% of women have experienced physical violence since age 15. In 2017, 14% of women experienced physical violence. Most of this violence is perpetrated by an intimate partner. Worldwide, almost one third (30%) of women who have been in a relationship report that they have experienced some form of physical and/or sexual violence by their intimate partner in their lifetime.

FACTS



1 out of 2 women
has experienced physical violence



1 in 5 women
has experienced sexual violence in the state



20.5% of women who have ever been pregnant has experienced violence during pregnancy
1 in 6 women aged **15-49 years** have experienced both physical and sexual violence committed by their most recent husband/ current partner.



Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

All procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for cultural or other non-medical reasons.

BACKGROUND

The most common type of FGM (41%) is excision (Type 2) where a female is cut and the flesh is removed, while 10% have a clitoridectomy (Type 1) where a female is cut, no flesh removed and 6% have an infibulation (Type 3) where the vaginal opening is sewn closed or narrowed (infibulation)¹. FGM may result in physical, emotional and psychological complications. These complications can be experienced immediately after the experience to much later in life.



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Child Marriage

Any formal marriage or informal union between a child under the age of 18 and an adult or another child.

FACTS



22 million

Nigeria has the third highest number of child brides in the world and ranks **11th** in countries with highest number of child marriage globally



1 in 5 women
married
before the age of 15



30%

children aged **15-19** in
adamawa currently married
before the age of 15



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