



## Teenage Pregnancy

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



### FACTS

#### Teenage girls in Lagos state



# 1.1%

have begun child bearing



# 1.1%

have had live birth



# 49.4%

women age 15-49 currently using family planning



# 16.5%

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.
- Low literacy rate.
- Poverty.

### 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.
- Awareness and appropriate laws.

### 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.

### 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.
- Integrate GBV/SRH information and services.
- Address harmful social norms.

[ 1 ] Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey, 2018

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

[ 3 ] UNFPA, Adolescent Pregnancy (2021)



IN SUPPORT OF



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### Advocacy Brief



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



### 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!**



## 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

In Lagos state, **1 in 4 women of 15-49 years**



has experienced physical violence while women within the same age group who have experienced physical violence during pregnancy is put at 5.5% prevalence.



**1 in 14 women (15-49 years)** have experienced sexual violence in the state and the prevalence of both physical and sexual violence experienced by women from their current or most recent husband/partner stands at **1.8%** as alluded by a total of **492 women assessed** for this vice.

## 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)<sup>1</sup>. FGM may result in physical, emotional and psychological complications. These complications can be experienced immediately after the experience to much later in life.

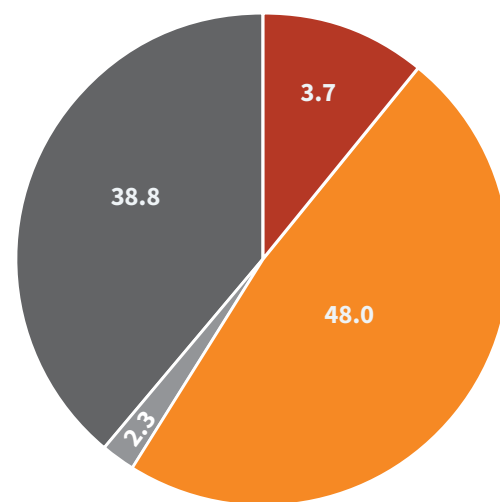
### FACTS



In Lagos State:

- **23.7%** of women age **15-49 years** have been circumcised
- **12.7%** of girls age **0-14 years** are circumcised.
- About half of women between age **15-49 years** would have been circumcised by age 14

Percent distribution of circumcised women by type of circumcision:



- Cut no flesh removed
- Cut flesh removed
- Sewn closed
- Don't Know

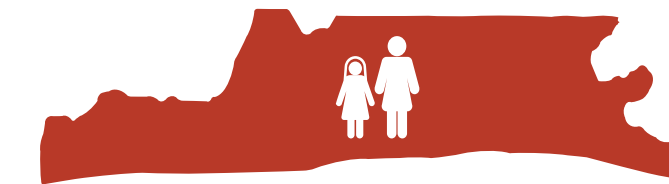
## Child Marriage

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



**3.5% women age 15-19 years** got married before age 15



**2.1% children** within same age group are married