High Prevalence of Child Marriage

Girls who have ever been in a union by exact age

Girls in Cabo Delgado are 7x more likely to marry by the age of 18 than girls in Maputo city

Below the age of 18, 4 in 10 girls are married

Girls who have ever been in a union by exact age

3% of married girls are mothers by the age of 14

This increases by age, with half of girls age 19 already becoming mothers

Child marriage is frequently associated with teenage pregnancies

2017 Census Thematic Fact Sheet
Social inequalities in child marriage

The prevalence of child marriage is **35%** higher in rural areas than in urban areas.

**Child Marriage and Education**

- **70%** higher probability that illiterate girls marry before the age of 17 compared to the girls who attend school frequently.

**Poverty Impacts**

- Girls who belong to well-off households are at a **50%** lower risk of child marriage compared to girls from lower-income homes.

**Recommendations:**

1. Encourage policies to preventing child marriage and keeping girls in schools are key to reducing adolescent pregnancies.

2. Increasing access to contraception is critical, particularly amongst youth who have the lowest usage rates of contraception and are most likely to fall pregnant.