Burkina Faso is home to around 3 million child brides; 1 in 2 young women were married in childhood.

Regional and global comparisons

- Married before age 18: Burkina Faso 51%, West and Central Africa 76%, World 8%
- Married before age 15: Burkina Faso 9%, West and Central Africa 28%, World 2%

Vulnerable populations

- Wealth quintile:
  - Poorest: 60
  - Second: 50
  - Middle: 50
  - Fourth: 40
  - Richest: 40
- Education:
  - No education: 90
  - Primary: 50
  - Secondary: 30
  - Higher: 10
- Residence:
  - Rural: 70
  - Urban: 30

Statistical profile on child marriage: Burkina Faso

- Minimum legal age of marriage for girls: 20 | with exceptions: 15
- 569,100 married before age 15
- 3.0 million married before age 18

Countries with the highest and lowest prevalence of child marriage in the region:

- Country with the highest prevalence: Burkina Faso 51%
- Country with the lowest prevalence: World 4%
Characteristics of unions

**Spousal age gap**
Figure 5. Percentage distribution of currently married women aged 20 to 24 years by the age gap between the women and their partners

**Types of unions**
Figure 6. Percentage distribution of ever-married girls aged 15 to 17 years by current marital status

- Married
- Informal union
- Widowed
- Divorced
- Separated
- Don’t know/missing data

Lives of child brides

**Autonomy, empowerment and violence**
Figure 7. Percentage of women aged 20 to 24 years who have an account at a bank or other financial institution, who have had a job in the past 12 months, who usually decide (alone or with their spouses) about visits to the women’s families, who believe wife-beating is justified, and who have experienced intimate partner violence in the past 12 months

- Married before age 18
- Married at or after age 18
- Never married

**Education**
Figure 8. Percentage distribution of girls aged 15 to 17 years by schooling status

- In school
- Out of school
- Don’t know/missing data

Statistical profile on child marriage: Burkina Faso
Lives of child brides (continued)

Early childbearing
Figure 9. Percentage of women aged 20 to 24 years who gave birth before ages 18 and 20

![Graph showing percentages of women by marriage and age at first birth.]

Figure 10. Percentage distribution of ever-married women aged 20 to 24 years by timing of pregnancy and marriage

![Graph showing distribution of pregnancies and marriages among married women.]

Reproductive health
Figure 11. Percentage of women aged 20 to 24 years whose demand for family planning is satisfied by a modern method, who received antenatal care from a skilled provider during their last pregnancy, and who had a skilled attendant during their last live birth

![Bar charts showing percentages of women by marriage and reproductive health indicators.]
Generational trends

Figure 12. Percentage of women aged 20 to 24 years who were first married or in union before ages 15 and 18

Looking ahead to ending child marriage

Observed and required rates of progress

Figure 13. Average annual rate of reduction (%) in the percentage of women aged 20 to 24 years who were first married or in union before age 18, observed and required for elimination

NOTES:
Data on the national prevalence, burden of child marriage and proportions by wealth, residence and education, as displayed in Figures 1, 3 and 4, are sourced from the Demography and Health Module Survey (EMDS) 2015. The datasets for this survey were not available for the analysis required for the remaining figures in this profile, so all other figures use data sourced from the Demographic and Health Survey 2010. Data on the legal age at marriage are sourced from the World Bank, Women, Business and the Law, 2018 dataset. Demographic data are from the United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2022), World Population Prospects 2022, Online edition. Data on regional prevalence, as displayed in the map, are sourced from the Demographic and Health Survey 2010. Maps do not reflect a position by UNICEF on the legal status of any country or territory or the delimitation of any frontiers.  Confidence intervals are not shown in this profile; therefore, caution is warranted in interpreting the results since apparent differences may not be significant. All references to ‘marriage’ or ‘child brides’ include both formal marriage and informal unions in which women started living together with a partner as if married. Global estimates are based on a subset of 103 countries with comparable available data from 2015 to 2022, covering 78 per cent of the global female population. Regional estimates represent data covering at least 50 per cent of the female population. Trends in the prevalence of child marriage were calculated taking into account data from all available surveys. For statistical purposes, ‘elimination’ is defined here as a child marriage prevalence of less than 1 per cent. Values presented are based on at least 25 unweighted cases. Data for some indicators and population groups are suppressed due to insufficient numbers of cases to perform the analysis. Indicators marked as ‘n/a’ indicate either the value was suppressed or data were not collected. Numbers expressed in thousands and/or millions have been rounded. The burden of child marriage refers to the population in 2021. Figures in stacked bar and donut charts may not add up to 100 per cent due to rounding.