



# NEW GLOBAL ESTIMATES OF CHILD MARRIAGE

Data & Analytics Section, Division of Data, Research and Policy

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## 01. GLOBAL OVERVIEW

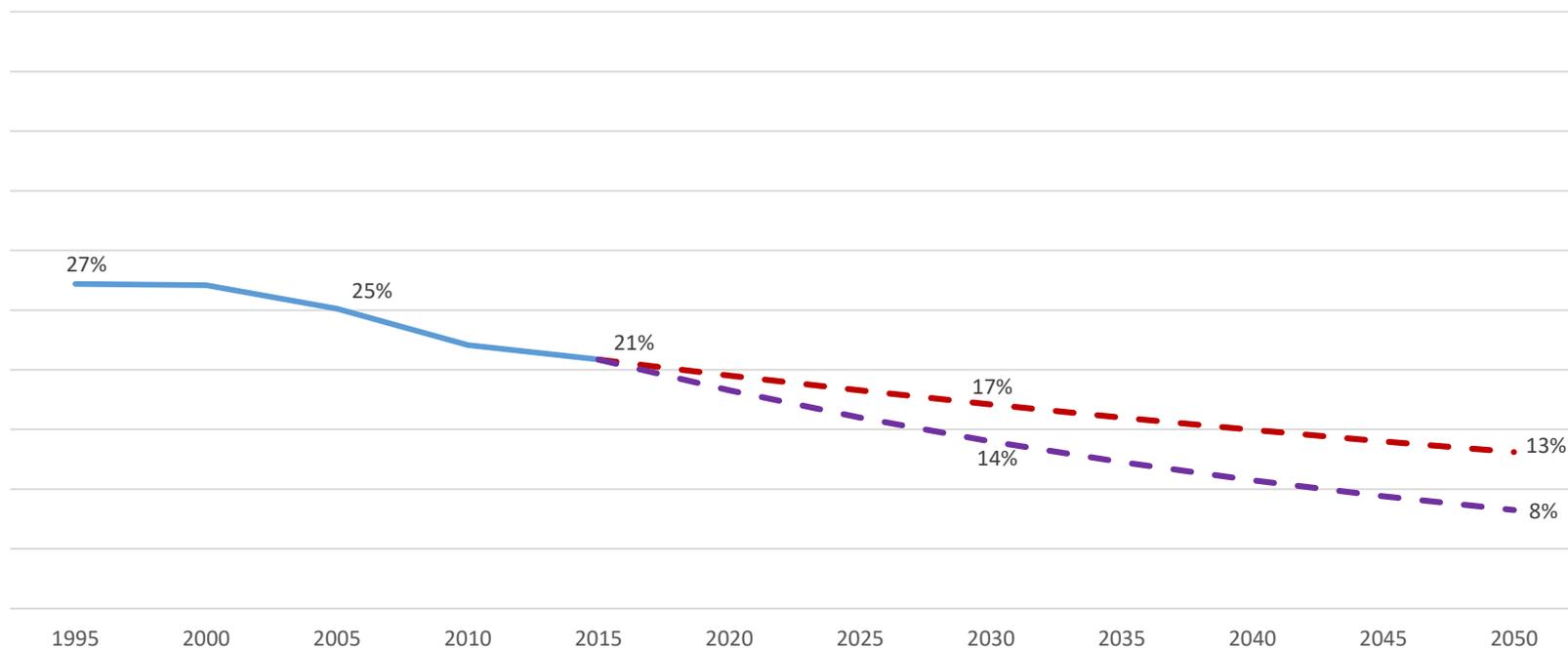
New data confirm that the practice of child marriage has **continued to decline** around the world, with accelerated progress in the last 10 years

Progress is **insufficient** to meet the ambitious target of elimination, as set forth in the SDGs

# Child marriage has **continued to decline** around the world

Percentage of women aged 20 to 24 years who were first married or in union before age 18, observed and projected

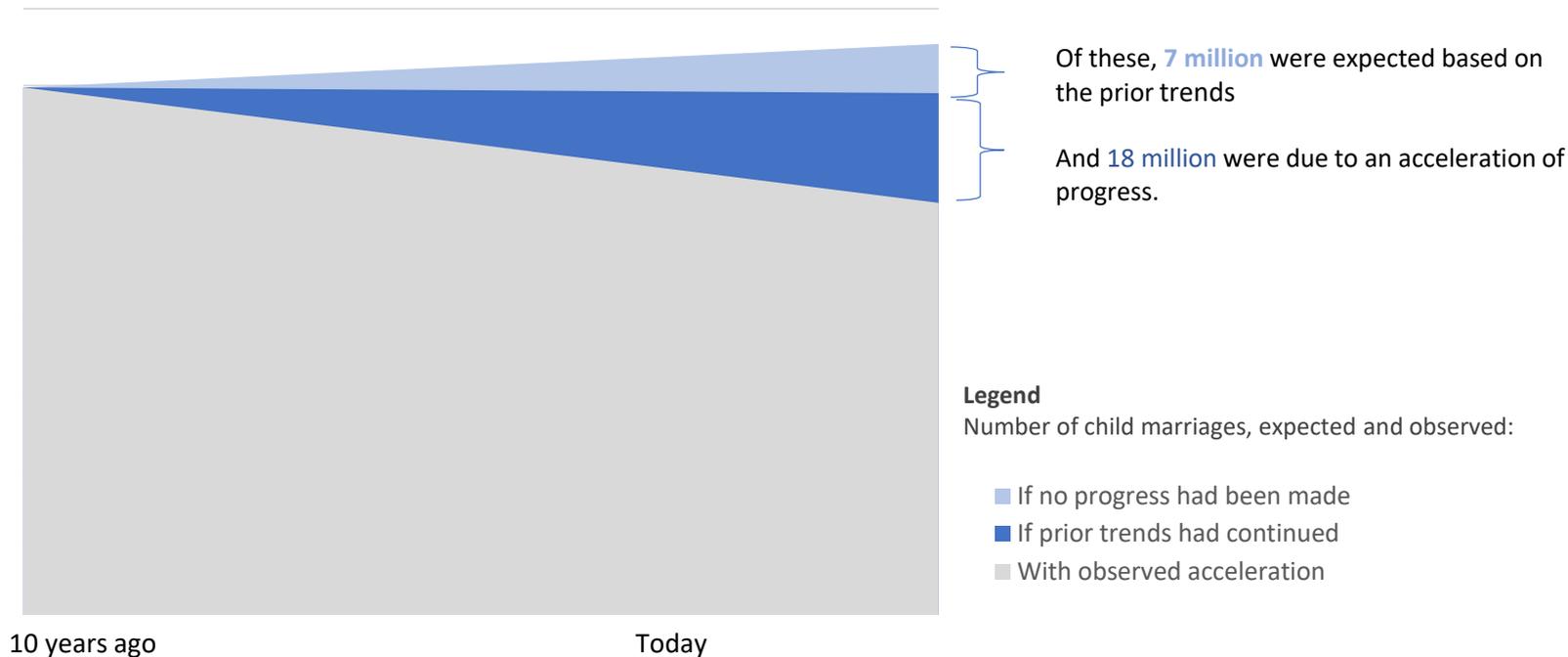
— Observed prevalence — Projected prevalence if observed declines continue — Projected prevalence if progress is accelerated



Source: UNICEF global databases, 2018

Notes: Analysis is based on a subset of 107 countries with available data covering 78 per cent of the global population of women aged 20-24 years. The first projection scenario is calculated on the basis of the observed average annual rate of reduction from the past 20 years (red dotted line). The second scenario assumes a doubling in this rate of reduction (purple dotted line).

## 25 million child marriages have been **averted** in the past decade



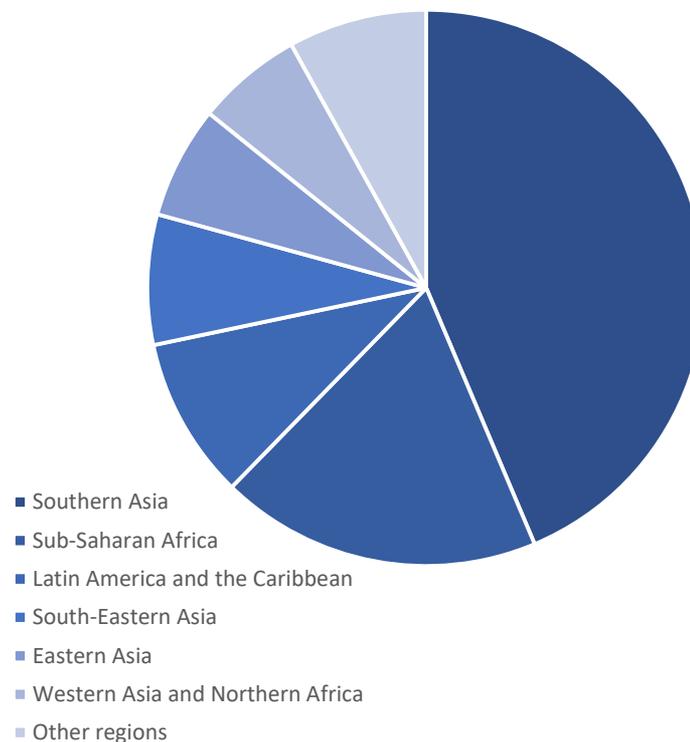
Source: UNICEF global databases, 2018

Notes: Analysis is based on a subset of 107 countries with available data covering 78 per cent of the global population of women.

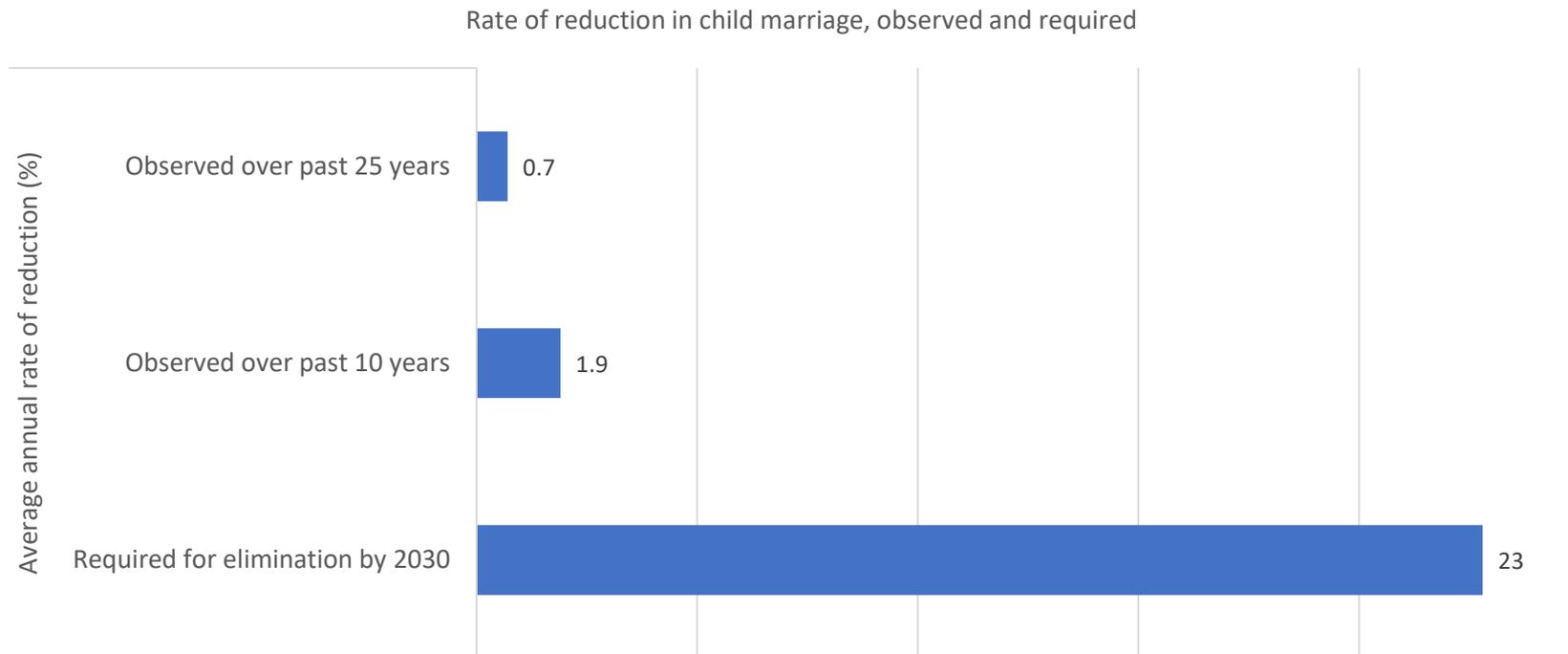
The global number of child brides is now estimated at **650 million**

**12 million:** Number of girls married in childhood each year, according to the latest prevalence and population figures.

Global distribution of girls and women married before age 18, by region, 2017



# Substantial **acceleration** is needed in order to meet the Sustainable Development Goal target 5.3



Source: UNICEF global databases, 2018

Notes: Analysis is based on a subset of 107 countries with available data covering 78 per cent of the global population of women. For statistical purposes, elimination is defined as a prevalence of one per cent or lower.

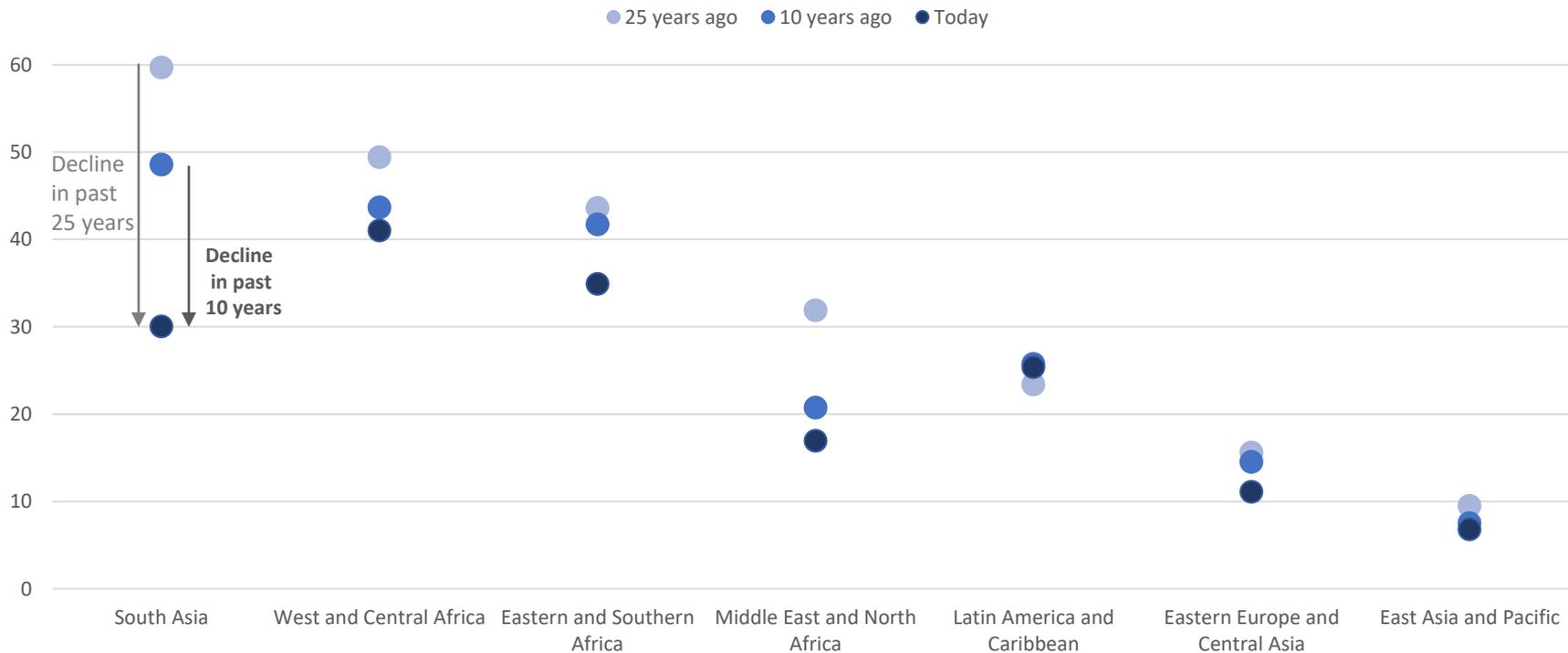
## 02. Regional trends

Global progress has been driven by reductions in **South Asia**.

Distinct trends in the practice of child marriage are evident across geographic regions, though **variation** exists within regions and even within countries.



## Percentage of women aged 20 to 24 years who were first married or in union before age 18, by region

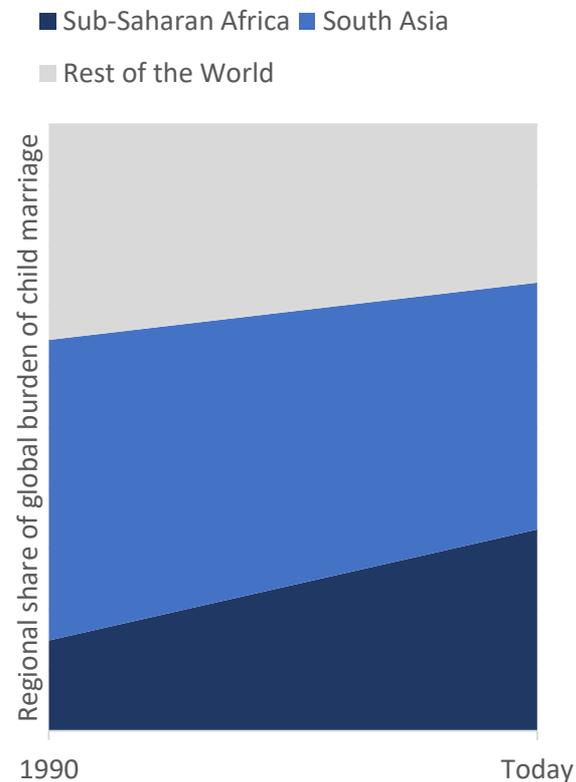


Source: UNICEF global databases, 2018

Notes: Analysis is based on a subset of 107 countries with available data covering 78 per cent of the global population of women aged 20-24 years. Regional estimates represent data from countries covering at least 50 per cent of the regional population. Data coverage was insufficient to calculate regional estimates for North America and Western Europe.

**Sub-Saharan Africa** is now home to the highest prevalence of child marriage, and over the past decade has seen only modest declines.

In addition to the slow progress, the sharply increasing population means that with each passing year **the number of child brides could grow.**





**unicef**   
for every child

**THANK YOU!**

Claudia Cappa

[ccappa@unicef.org](mailto:ccappa@unicef.org)

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