



COVID-19 IS PUTTING GIRLS AT RISK

The pandemic is expected to exacerbate many of the complex factors that **drive child marriage**.

Over the next **10 YEARS**
13 MILLION more girls will marry as children¹

- Breakdown of family and community structures during crisis and displacement
- Higher risk of violence
- Loss of household income
- Lack of access to schooling
- Reduced access to sexual and reproductive health and services

If the crisis continues, I will miss my education and many girls in my community will get pregnant or be forced to marry.

School-age girl supported by CESOCODE in Malawi

The gendered impact of COVID-19 lockdowns is profound.

CEQUIN, India

The voices of COVID-19 are getting louder while the voices of girls are dwindling.

Msichana Empowerment-Kuria, Kenya

REACHING GIRLS IN CHALLENGING CONTEXTS

Civil society organisations (CSOs) working at the community level are key actors in addressing the needs of adolescent girls during health crises.

They are often the first to respond and can adapt to alleviate the drivers of child marriage in a contextually appropriate way.

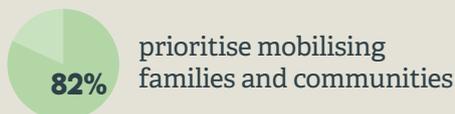
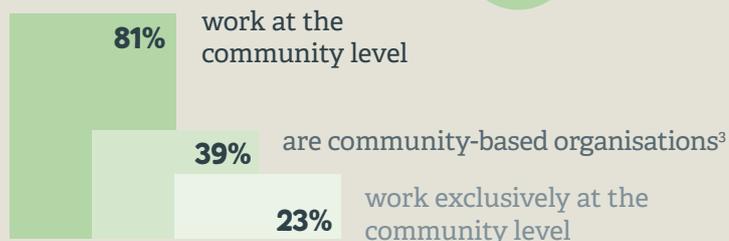
With students at home [...] we shifted our focus to support girls who do not have internet [as] they are at a heightened risk of failing exams, dropping out of school, and marrying early.

Project Soar, Morocco

Every crisis comes with an opportunity and this pandemic has given us [civil society] a chance to innovate in the way we do things to end child marriage.

Nigeria Coalition on Ending Child Marriage

OUR MEMBERSHIP²



50% have annual budget below US\$50,000⁴

65% have 1-20 staff members⁵

79% operate in countries with closed, repressed or obstructed civic spaces⁶

We have had to let go of 26 of our 32 staff members. We have been devastated: 60-70% of our income, supplies, in-kind, pro-bono and cash coming in from social businesses [has dried up].

Mariposa Foundation, Dominican Republic

OPERATING UNDER PRESSURE

Member organisations are working overtime to provide essential services, but many are operating in increasingly restricted civic spaces and have limited staff bases, budgets and resources.

OUR MEMBERS URGENTLY NEED:

- Flexible funding and the ability to repurpose existing funds to respond to the crisis
- Support in **advocating to governments** to prioritise girls' needs during their COVID-19 response and recovery

