

## Expected outcomes of the campaign are:

- A demonstrated increase of commitment and resources across sectors invested in the reduction of child marriage, particularly in countries where the campaign to end child marriage has been launched.
- Greater involvement of all stakeholders including communities, the private sector and CSOs.
- Increased numbers of countries that review, enact, and enforce the necessary legislation in line with regional and international regarding child marriage.
- Increased percentage of children and adolescents – especially girls – with access to birth registration and quality primary and secondary education, and with access to family planning services particularly in countries where the campaign to end child marriage has been launched.
- Increased number of countries with comprehensive evidence-based policies and programmes being implemented to end child marriage
- An effective monitoring and evaluation (M&E) reporting system instituted.

By 2021 30 African Member states had adopted the Campaign to End Child Marriages and are implementing key activities and statutory actions in line with its objectives. these are : Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad , Cote d'ivoire , the Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt , Lesotho , Ethiopia, Eritrea, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Malawi, Mauritania , Mozambique , Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, The Gambia, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia , and Zimbabwe

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# AFRICAN UNION CAMPAIGN TO END CHILD MARRIAGE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,  
HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS AND SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT

# About the Campaign

Launched in 2013, the Campaign is aimed at promoting, protecting and advocating for the rights of women and girls in Africa, to accelerate an end of child marriage in Africa.

This is achieved by enhancing continental awareness of the implications of the practice through supporting legal and policy actions in the protection and promotion of human rights; mobilizing continental awareness of the negative socio-economic impact of child marriage; building social movement and social mobilization at the grassroots and national levels and increasing the capacity of non-state actors to undertake evidence based policy advocacy including the role of youth leadership through new media technology, monitoring and evaluation among others.

The Campaign works towards building on existing activities of governments and partners in ending child marriage and is based on advocacy, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) as well as the facilitation of technical assistance and capacity building.

## The Ending Child Marriage Campaign Overview

### The Problem

Child marriage is practiced in Africa whereby 125 million girls and women were married before their 18th birthday. In Eastern, Central and Southern Africa, at least 30% of young women were married before the age of 18. In Western Africa, the proportion is even higher with over 40%. Child brides are also younger in this region which has the world's highest prevalence of marriage before age 15 (UNICEF, 2018)

### AU End Child Marriage Campaign Objectives

In line with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (Goal 5.3), AU Agenda 2063, AU Agenda 2040, the African Children's Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) and the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (Maputo Protocol), the specific objectives are to;

- Promote the effective implementation of AU legal and policy instruments with a bearing on young people/adolescents especially the Girl-child promoting the fulfilment of their human rights;
- Promote & support AU member states to frame, launch and execute National Strategies and Programmes including building a social movement at grassroots level involving lawyers, magistrates, judges, teachers, health & social workers, traditional & religious leaders, men, boys, among others to Prevent & End Child Marriage as an issue of human rights & harmful traditional practice
- Promote universal access to birth registration, quality education & sexual and reproductive health (SRHR) services including meeting the unmet needs of married & unmarried adolescents for family planning .
- Strengthen the evidence base needed to design & implement effective policies and programmes for reducing child marriage at scale.
- Contribute to the Implementation of Item five (5) from the Eight (8) African Union Commission priority areas on "Mainstreaming Women & Youth in all AUC & Continent wide activities within an Inter-departmental collaboration & coordination mechanism".

