

African governments and regional commitments related to child marriage

Compiled by the *Girls Not Brides* Secretariat



Country	Prevalence, married by age 18 (i)	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child	Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol)	SADC Protocol on Gender and Development	ESA Ministerial Commitment	African Union Campaign to end child marriage in Africa
Algeria	2	Ratified	Signed, not ratified	N/A	N/A	
Angola	–	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified	✓	
Benin	32	Ratified	Ratified	N/A	N/A	
Botswana	–	Ratified	Not signed	Not Signed	✓	
Burkina Faso	52	Ratified	Ratified	N/A		Launched (2015)
Burundi	20	Ratified	Signed, not ratified	N/A	✓	
Cabo Verde	18	Ratified	Ratified	N/A	N/A	
Cameroon	38	Ratified	Ratified	N/A	N/A	
Central African Republic	68	Signed, not ratified	Signed, not ratified	N/A	N/A	
Chad	68	Ratified	Signed, not ratified	N/A	N/A	Launched (2015)
Comoros	32	Ratified	Ratified	N/A	N/A	
Congo	33	Ratified	Ratified	N/A	N/A	
Côte d'Ivoire	33	Ratified	Ratified	N/A	N/A	
Democratic Republic of the Congo	39	Not signed	Ratified	Ratified	✓	

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Djibouti	5	Signed, not ratified	Ratified	N/A	N/A	
Egypt	17	Ratified	Not signed	N/A	N/A	
Equatorial Guinea	30	Ratified	Ratified	N/A	N/A	
Eritrea	41	Ratified	Signed, not ratified	N/A	N/A	
Ethiopia	41	Ratified	Signed, not ratified	N/A	✓	Launched (2014)
Gabon	22	Ratified	Ratified	N/A	N/A	
Gambia	36	Ratified	Ratified	N/A	N/A	
Ghana	21	Ratified	Ratified	N/A	N/A	
Guinea	52	Ratified	Ratified	N/A	N/A	
Guinea-Bissau	22	Signed, not ratified	Ratified	N/A	N/A	
Kenya	26	Ratified	Ratified	N/A	✓	
Lesotho	19	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified	✓	
Liberia	38	Signed, not ratified	Ratified	N/A	N/A	
Libya	–	Ratified	Ratified	N/A	N/A	
Madagascar	41	Ratified	Signed, not ratified	Signed, not ratified	✓	
Malawi	50	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified	✓	
Mali	55	Ratified	Ratified	N/A	N/A	
Mauritania	34	Ratified	Ratified	N/A	N/A	
Mauritius	–	Ratified	Signed, not ratified	Not Signed	✓	
Morocco	16	Not AU Member	Not AU Member	N/A	N/A	
Mozambique	48	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified	✓	
Namibia	9	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified	✓	
Niger	76	Ratified	Signed, not ratified	N/A	N/A	Launched (2014)
Nigeria	43	Ratified	Ratified	N/A	N/A	
Rwanda	8	Ratified	Ratified	N/A	N/A	

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Sao Tome and Principe	34	Not signed	Signed, not ratified	N/A	N/A	
Senegal	33	Ratified	Ratified	N/A	N/A	
Seychelles	–	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified	✓	
Sierra Leone	44	Ratified	Signed, not ratified	N/A	N/A	
Somalia	45	Signed, not ratified	Signed, not ratified	N/A	N/A	
South Africa	6	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified	✓	
South Sudan	52	Not signed	Signed, not ratified	N/A	✓	
Sudan	33	Not signed	Signed, not ratified	N/A	N/A	
Swaziland	7	Signed, not ratified	Ratified	Ratified	✓	
Tanzania	37	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified	✓	
Togo	25	Ratified	Ratified	N/A	N/A	
Tunisia	2	Signed, not ratified	Not signed	N/A	N/A	
Uganda	40	Ratified	Ratified	N/A	✓	
Zambia	42	Signed, not ratified	Ratified	Ratified	✓	
Zimbabwe	31	Ratified	Ratified	Ratified	✓	



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The Global Partnership
to End Child Marriage

Notes and sources

1. Child marriage prevalence: the percentage of women 20-24 years old who were married or in union before they were 18 years old. It is based on Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS), Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) and other national surveys, and refers to the most recent year available during the period 2002-2011.
Source: UNICEF, 2014. *State of the World's Children 2015: Reimagine the future*. Statistical table 9 – Child protection:
http://www.unicef.org/publications/files/SOWC_2015_Summary_and_Tables.pdf
2. Status of the ratification of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.
Source: African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights: <http://www.achpr.org/instruments/child/ratification/>
3. Status of the ratification of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.
Source: African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights: <http://www.achpr.org/instruments/women-protocol/ratification/>
4. Status of the ratification of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol on Gender and Development.
Source: <http://www.sardc.net/books/SADC-Gender-Monitor-english.pdf>
5. Status of the country launches of the African Union Campaign.
Source: *Girls Not Brides* secretariat conversations with the Campaign secretariat.

For more information on how these regional texts relate to child marriage, please refer to the "Overview of Africa instruments, commitments and initiatives" factsheet.