

# YOUNG WOMEN AND GIRLS

## GLOBALLY



THERE ARE MORE YOUNG WOMEN AND ADOLESCENT GIRLS IN THE WORLD THAN THERE HAS EVER BEEN APPROXIMATELY **900 MILLION**<sup>1</sup>



ONE IN SEVEN GIRLS in developing countries is **MARRIED BEFORE AGE 15**, AND 38% ARE **MARRIED BEFORE AGE 18**.<sup>2</sup>

**PREGNANCY AND CHILDBIRTH-RELATED COMPLICATIONS** ARE THE NUMBER-ONE **KILLER OF GIRLS AGED 15 TO 19** WORLDWIDE.<sup>4</sup>



  
**GLOBALLY UP TO 50% OF SEXUAL ASSAULTS ARE COMMITTED AGAINST GIRLS UNDER 16**<sup>3</sup>

**WOMEN AND GIRLS MAKE UP 80%** of the estimated **800,000** PEOPLE TRAFFICKED across national borders annually.<sup>6</sup>

For more facts see: The Australian Women Donors Network [Fast Facts Page](#).

Globally, young **WOMEN AGED 15-24** are most vulnerable TO **HIV**, WITH **INFECTION** rates **TWICE AS HIGH** as in young men.<sup>5</sup>



Young women and girls in **CONFLICT ZONES** are often raped, recruited into armed forces, taken out of school and denied food that instead goes to male family members and livestock.<sup>7</sup>

Despite this, **recovery programs and aid distribution often BYPASS THEM** because they are not seen as direct combatants.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> United Nations International Year of Youth Fact Sheet: Girls and Young Women <http://social.un.org/youthyear/launch.html#facton>  
<sup>2</sup> United Nations International Year of Youth Fact Sheet: Girls and Young Women <http://social.un.org/youthyear/launch.html#facton>  
<sup>3</sup> United Nations International Year of Youth Fact Sheet: Girls and Young Women <http://social.un.org/youthyear/launch.html#facton>  
<sup>4</sup> United Nations International Year of Youth Fact Sheet: Girls and Young Women <http://social.un.org/youthyear/launch.html#facton>

<sup>5</sup> United Nations Youth Girls and Young Women <http://undesadspd.org/Youth/IssueBriefs.aspx>  
<sup>6</sup> United Nations International Year of Youth Fact Sheet: Girls and Young Women <http://social.un.org/youthyear/launch.html#facton>  
<sup>7</sup> United Nations Youth Girls and Young Women <http://undesadspd.org/Youth/IssueBriefs.aspx>  
<sup>8</sup> United Nations Youth Girls and Young Women <http://undesadspd.org/Youth/IssueBriefs.aspx>