



# Child marriage, partner violence, and other overlapping deprivations of women's agency

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# Overview

- Voice & Agency
- Child marriage
- Overlapping deprivations
- Conclusions





# Voice and Agency

Empowering Women and  
Girls for Shared Prosperity

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- Freedom from violence
- Sexual and reproductive health and rights

- Control over land and housing
- Political participation (voice)

# Why voice and agency?

## Voice

Able to speak up and be heard, and to shape and share in discussions, discourse and decisions

## Agency

Able to make decisions about one's own life and act upon them to achieve desired outcomes, free of violence, retribution, or fear

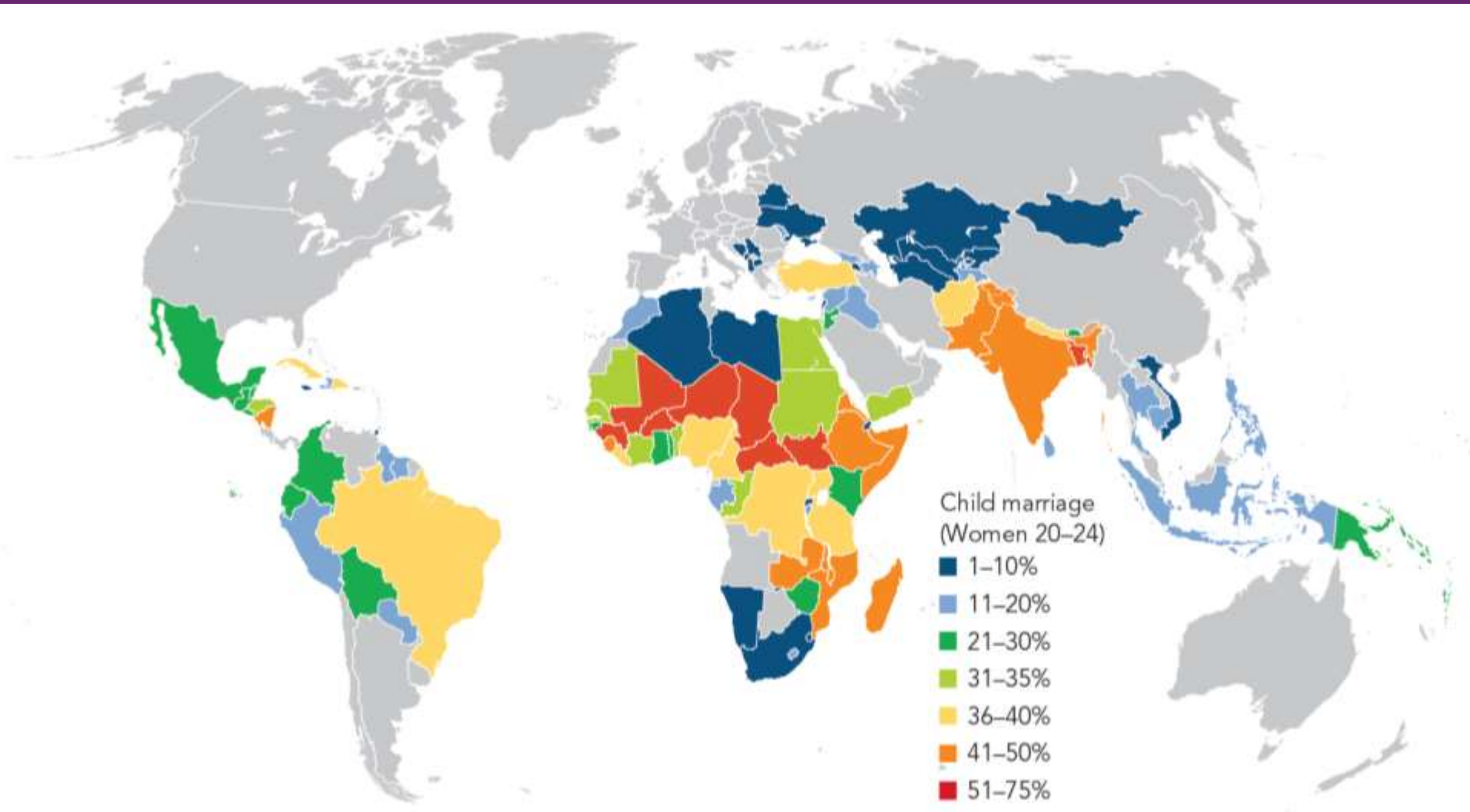


“Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.”

- *UN Declaration on Human Rights, Article 16*



# Child marriage in 111 countries



# Child Marriage: A Global Issue

- Worldwide, more than **60 million** women are married before they turn 18.
  - **15 million** per year
  - **40,000** per day

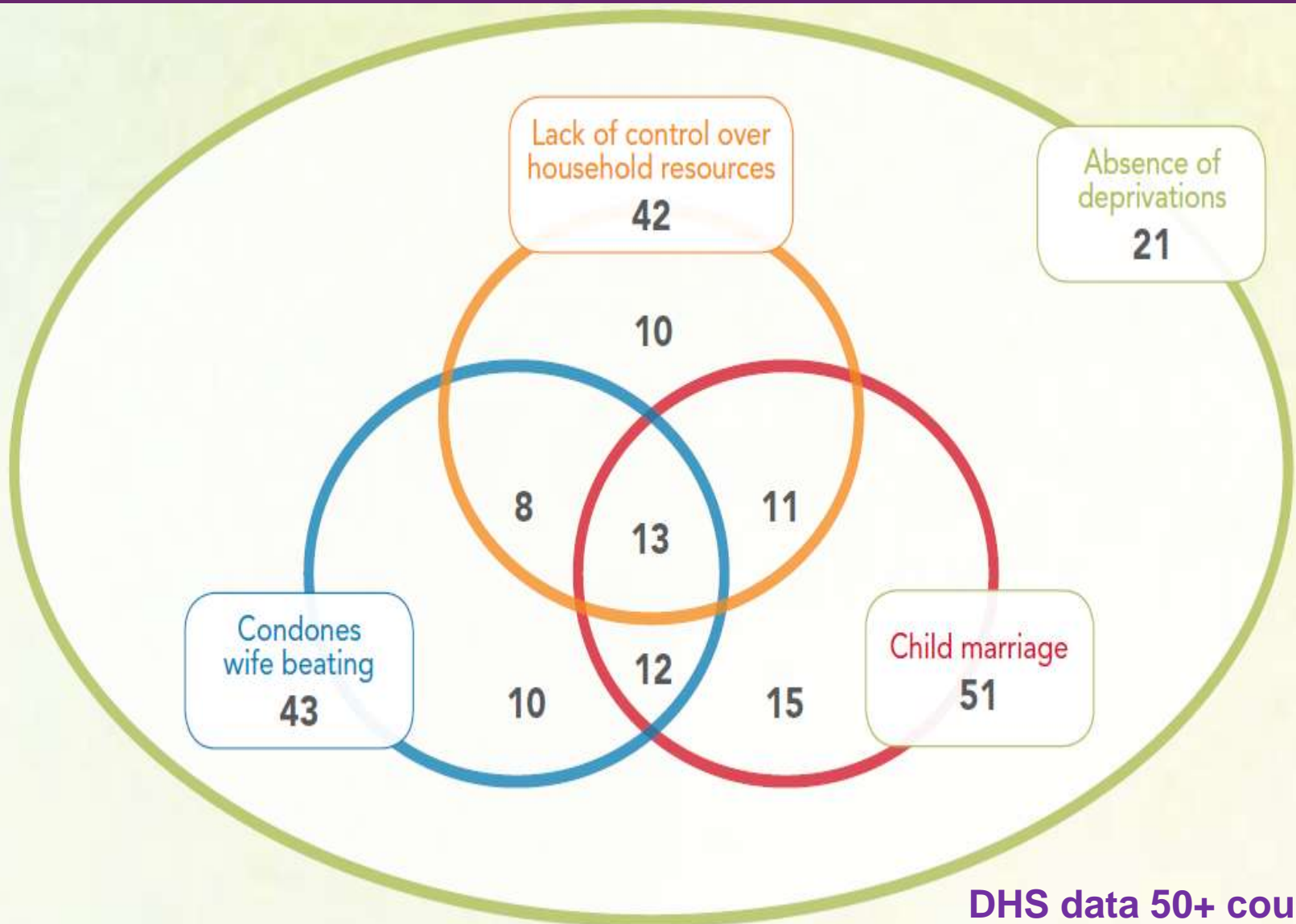


# Child Marriage: Health consequences

- Increased vulnerability to HIV and other STIs
  - Mental health disorders
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- Higher likelihood of maternal morbidity and mortality
    - Girls younger than 15 five times more likely to die in childbirth
    - Pregnancy leading cause of death for girls ages 15 to 19



# Findings: Overlapping deprivations



# Findings: Education is key

## *Share of women with agency deprivations*

90%



Primary education or less

65%



Secondary education and higher

Suffer at least one deprivation

18%



Primary education or less

5%



Secondary education and higher

Suffer three deprivations

# Findings: Drivers of Child Marriage

- Education:
  - Girls with secondary education 6x less likely to marry
  - Each year of education matters
- Poverty:
  - Girls in poor households have 2x the risk
  - Girls in rural areas have 2x the risk

# Findings: IPV and Child Marriage

- 22% increased risk of IPV
  - Decreased sexual agency
    - Ability to refuse sex increases by 2%
    - Improves with every year past 18
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- Other important associations:
    - Polygamy (22% increased risk of CEFM)
    - Attitudes and gender norms

# Conclusions

- Overlapping deprivations echo through all domains of girls' lives
- Child marriage is
  - a fundamental barrier to development
  - costly to societies and economies
- Inextricably linked to low education, IPV, limited sexual autonomy
- No silver bullet, but we are learning what works to prevent child marriage & support young married women

# References

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