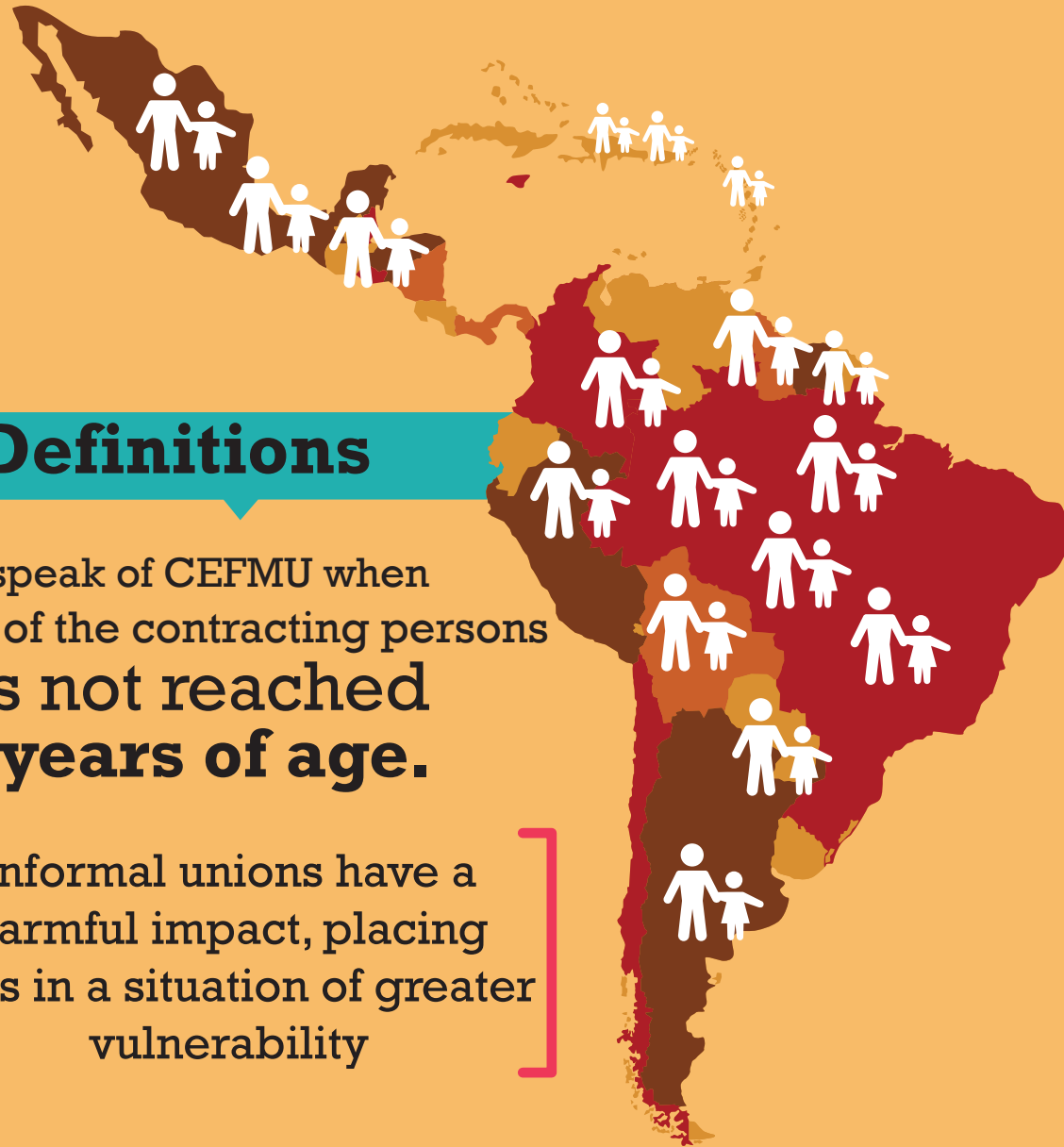


Hemispheric Report

on Child, Early and Forced Marriage and Unions in the States Party to the Belém do Pará Convention (CEFMU)



OAS | MESECVI



Definitions

We speak of CEFMU when one of the contracting persons **has not reached 18 years of age.**

Informal unions have a harmful impact, placing girls in a situation of greater vulnerability

There is a higher prevalence of **informal unions in the region, even in girls as young as 8 or 9 years old.**

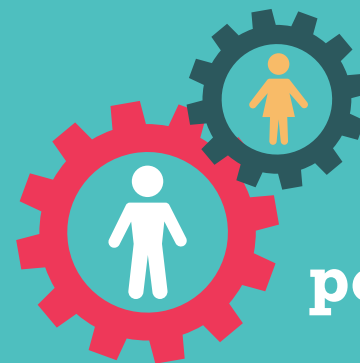


IT IS FORCED

Within child marriage, there is no full, free, and informed consent.

A silenced, widespread, normalized reality.

The prevalence of CEFMU has not substantially changed in the region in the last 25 years.



Factors contributing to the persistence of CEFMU:

- Gender norms and stereotypes.
- Cultural and social norms regarding masculinity.
- Poverty and social exclusion.
- Exposure to violence in both public and private spheres

CEFMUs result from various causes that are linked and reinforce each other, revealing a context of systemic inequality that affects women and girls.



Consequences of CEFMU: cycles of precariousness and poverty.



Limitation of girl's personal autonomy and exposure to various forms of violence and abuse.



Impact on sexual and reproductive rights and health risks.

School dropout.



Economic limitations and child exploitation.

Intergenerational transmission of poverty.



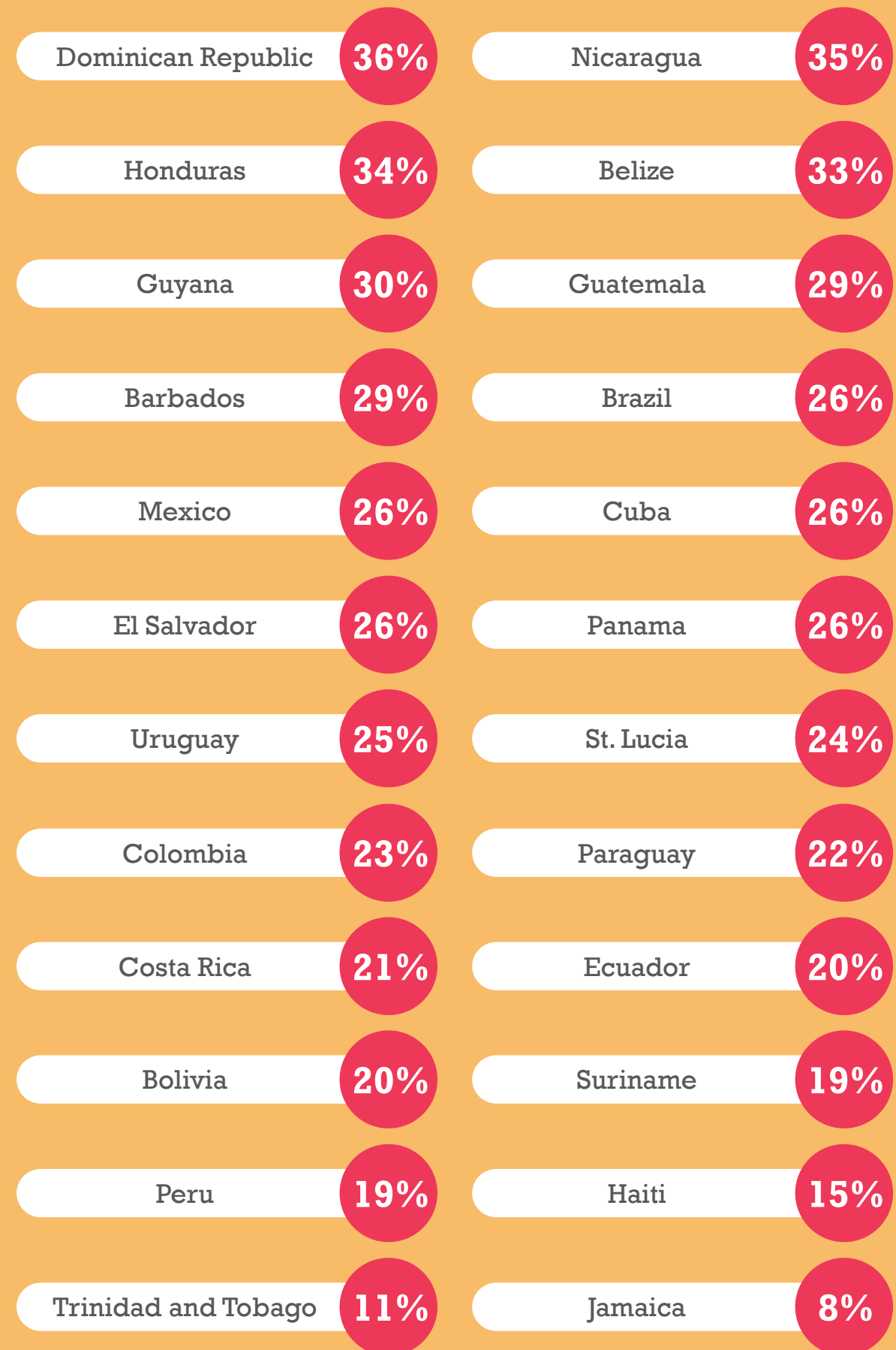
Let's shatter the silence surrounding this normalized practice: being a girl and a wife is not okay.



Visit: https://belemndopara.org/CIM_MESECVI/publications/

Percentage of the prevalence of CEFMU in LAC

● Women ages 20 to 24 who were married or in union for the first time before the age of 18



Source: Reports from MESECVI and UNICEF