



EVIDENCE BRIEF

DRC: 10 ans: Comment cet âge, déterminant chez les filles, conditionne notre avenir en République Démocratique du Congo? (2017)



Why is it important?

In 2016, 10-year-old girls made up 2.3 per cent of the population of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The evidence shows that 10-year-old girls are a key element in the economic growth, social well-being and stability of a country. This report explains and contextualizes the status of 10-year-old girls in the DRC by outlining their current health and educational needs, their presence in the child labour market, and the DRC's current child protection measures. The report also includes policy and programming recommendations to improve the health and standard of living of 10-year-old girls.

Methodology

The report synthesizes and analyzes existing evidence and data to provide programming and policy recommendations. Indicators measuring human rights and gender-based violence were analyzed, as well as policies regarding the protection of women and girls.

Key findings

Unfortunately, most Congolese girls 10 years of age begin their adolescence with a weight deficit, stomach problems and mental health issues related to chronic malnutrition. They will struggle to complete their education in its entirety and may be exposed to serious social and health problems, including child marriage, early and forced sex, unwanted early pregnancy, physical and emotional abuse, harassment, lack of information about their bodies and their rights, and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV and AIDS. Barriers such as poverty, gender inequality, limited access to appropriate health services, and laws and repressive social norms related to emerging

sexuality, will prevent them from seeking help or assistance. All of these have a negative impact on mental health, including increased anxiety, depression, loss of self-esteem and suicidal tendencies.

Conclusion

Changing attitudes to improve the health and outcomes of 10-year-old girls requires the support of the national community and investment from the government. The protection of girls' rights can only be guaranteed if the relevant laws, policies and programmes are in place to ensure girls can access services.

URL

<http://drc.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/UNFPA2.pdf>

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