Gendered Norms and Beliefs Contributing to Child Marriage

- Lack of opportunities for women and girls in society
- Beliefs influencing norms
  - Parents and elders have prime authority over children's life trajectories
  - Beliefs about the importance of female sexual purity
  - Beliefs about marriage as key route to social and economic protection
  - Beliefs about women's role in society as wives and mothers
- Norms influencing child marriage
  - A girl should obey her parents over timing/choice of marriage partner
  - A responsible parent should ensure their daughter is married by early adulthood
  - Girls should be virgins before marriage
  - To become a woman a girl should marry
  - Sexual activity should only take place within heterosexual marriage
- Injunctive norm: A girl should marry young
- Descriptive norm: Most girls here get married by the time they are 18

Broad influencing factors
- Economic systems that place greater economic value on males than females
- Legal systems that do not set or enforce, or allow exceptions to, a minimum marriage age of 18