Key Messages

- Overall, in Montenegro Roma Settlements, 23 percent of women aged 20-24 years got married before age 15, compared to 6 percent of men this age.
- 55 percent of women and 25 percent of men aged 20-49 years got married before age 18.
- There is a negative correlation between education level and marriage before age 18 among women age 20-49 years, being 59 percent among women with pre-primary education or none and decreasing to 25 percent among those with secondary or higher education.
Marriage before the age of 18 is a reality for many young girls. In many parts of the world, parents encourage the marriage of their daughters while they are still children in hopes that the marriage will benefit them both financially and socially, while also relieving financial burdens on the family. In actual fact, child marriage is a violation of human rights, compromising the development of girls and often resulting in early pregnancy and social isolation, with little education and poor vocational training reinforcing the gendered nature of poverty. The right to ‘free and full’ consent to a marriage is recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights - with the recognition that consent cannot be ‘free and full’ when one of the parties involved is not sufficiently mature to make an informed decision about a life partner.

The Montenegro Roma Settlements Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) was carried out in 2018 by the Statistical Office of Montenegro (MONSTAT) as a part of the global MICS programme. Technical support was provided by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), UNICEF, the Government of Montenegro, and UNHCR provided financial support.

The objective of this snapshot is to disseminate selected findings from the 2018 Montenegro Roma Settlements MICS related to Early Marriage. The data from this snapshot can be found in tables PR.4.1RW, PR.4.1RM, PR.4.2RW and PR.4.3R in the Survey Findings Report.

Further statistical snapshots and the Survey Findings Report for this and other MICS surveys are available on mics.unicef.org/surveys.