Nearly 1 in 4 young married women in Tanzania, ages 15 to 19, have a desire to use contraception, but are not currently using any method.

Early childbearing is linked to education level

- 52% no schooling
- 34% primary level education
- 10% secondary level education

Universally, early childbearing before age 18 can make life more difficult for young women:

- Increased risk for health problems for the mother and newborn
- More likely to drop out of school
- Less likely to work
- Smaller social network
- Greater chance of single parenthood or divorce

Simiyu has a higher rate of teenage pregnancy than Tanzania as a whole.

Investing in family planning services for the 296,272 young people in Simiyu will unleash their potential to contribute to Simiyu’s economic development in the next decade.

What can policymakers do?

- Support age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education
- Collaborate with community and traditional leaders to address socio-cultural barriers
- Ensure youth-friendly services for family planning
- Include young people in designing and running family planning programs
REFERENCES

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Note: Youth refers to ages 15-24.