Good morning ladies and gentlemen:

* I am Inger Ashing,**Chief Executive Officer (CEO**) of **Save the Children International. Standing there, I feel heartbroken to reveal the hazardous situation of child marriage we are now confronted with.**
* **This year, because of the increasing financial and educational pressure due to the wide spread of COVID-19, 500,000 more girls from different areas are at risk of being forced into child marriage.**
* **In descending order,these risky areas are South Asia, west and central Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, Europe and Central Asia.**
* **In the past 25 years, we have always been glad to witness child marriage rates declining, by the whole international community’s constant efforts. But now, in the following five years, up to 14.5 million girls could be at risk of child marriage, which is 2.5 million more than average.**
* The pandemic leads to school closures and pushes up to 117 million children’s families into poverty. These are the two main direct reasons. More girls are forced to drop out of school, earn a living, support their families, take care of sick family members and so on. And to make matters worse, due to increasing pressure to work, bans on pregnant girls attending school and risk of child marriage, girls are less likely to return school, which, in the end, force these girls lose contact with education.
* These kind of data and hard reality are really sorrowful.

Now, **Save the Children International are in crying need for your help. If you’d like to make your contribution, please contact us on our website. That’s all for today, thanks for your listening!**