

AFIDEP

African Institute for Development Policy
Bridging Development Research, Policy & Practice

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25 years after Cairo.

Can SDGs help to accelerate progress in reproductive health and reproductive rights?

Global Sustainable Development Goals in a Mediatized World

4-5th April 2019, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna

Outline

- 25 years ago, International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), Cairo
- Global progress and challenges of ICPD
- Focus on Africa- Can SDGs help close the gaps?

1994, Cairo

*179 countries reached **consensus** on the relationships between population, development and individual well-being.*

*“increasing **social, economic and political equality**, including a comprehensive definition of sexual and reproductive health and rights... remains the basis for individual well-being, **lower population growth, sustained economic growth and sustainable development**”.*

What have been ICPD's achievements?

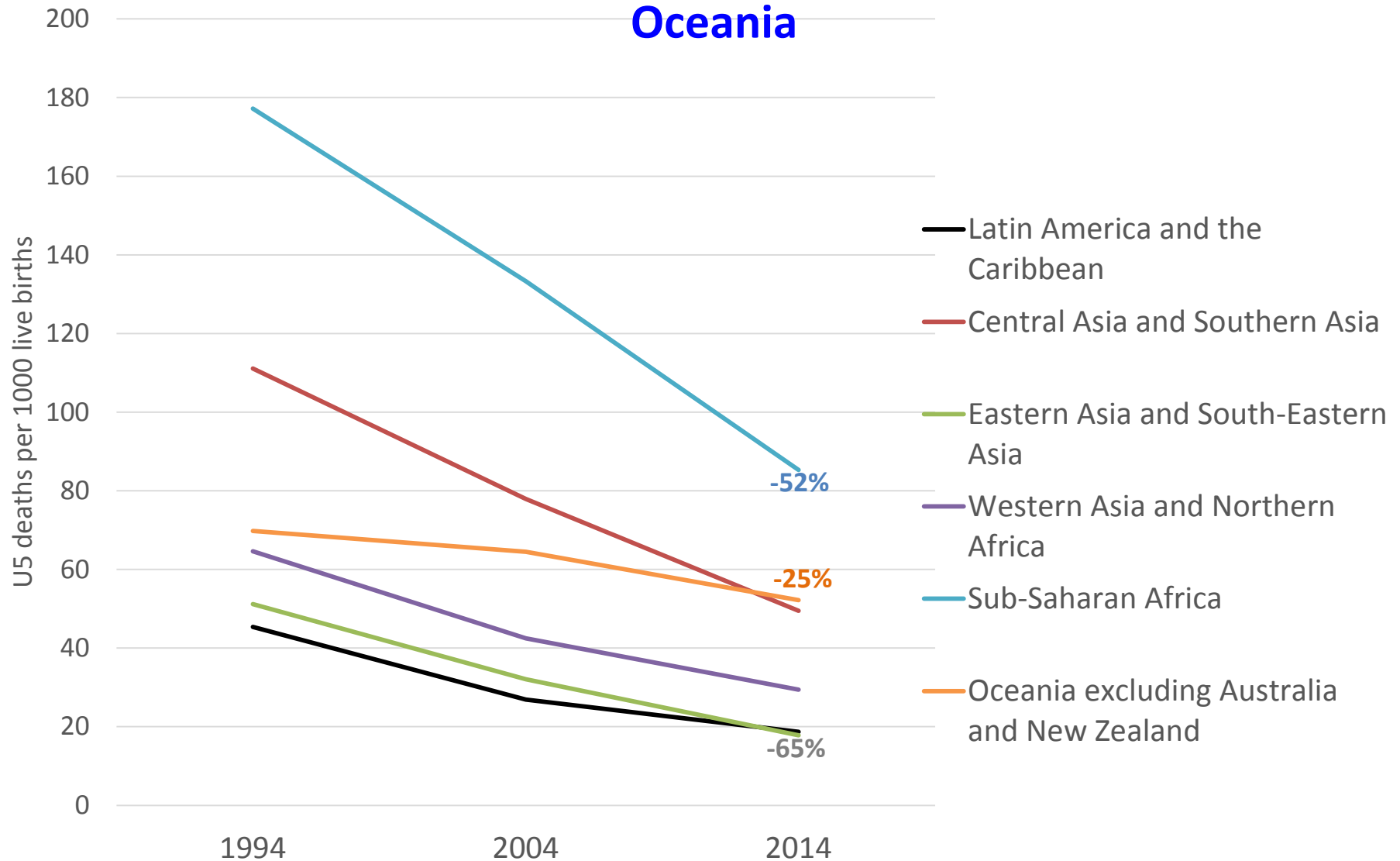
- **Successful integration of reproductive health into primary healthcare systems**
- Declines in
 - maternal mortality ratio (MMR) from 385 to 216 deaths per 100,000 live births
 - childhood mortality (U5MR)
 - HIV transmission and premature deaths
 - fertility

But uneven progress – many left behind

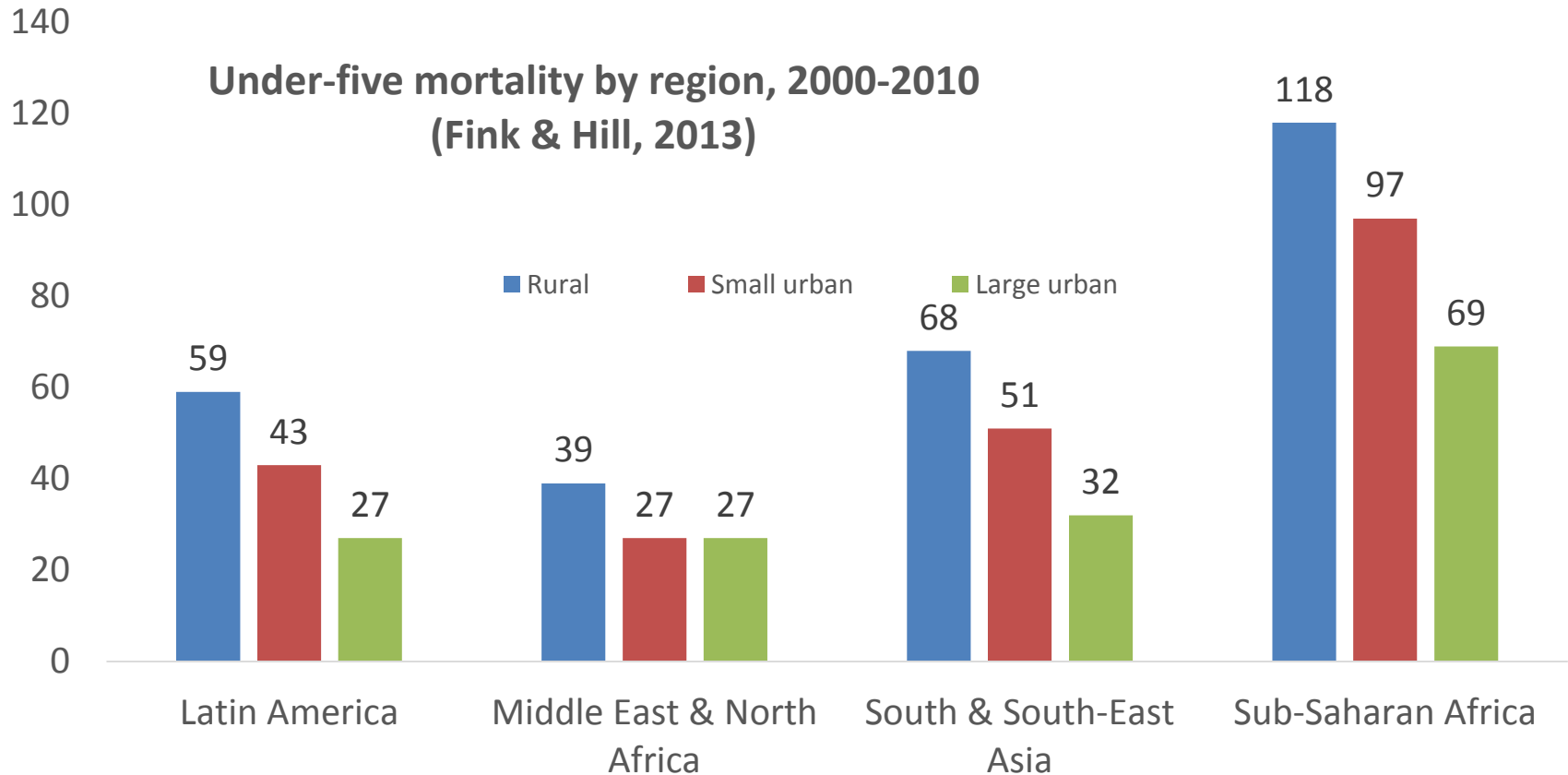
Large differences by

- i) Geographical region
- ii) Urban/rural residence
- iii) Socioeconomic status.

Under-five mortality has fallen steadily between 1994-2014, with reductions of 50% or more except in Oceania

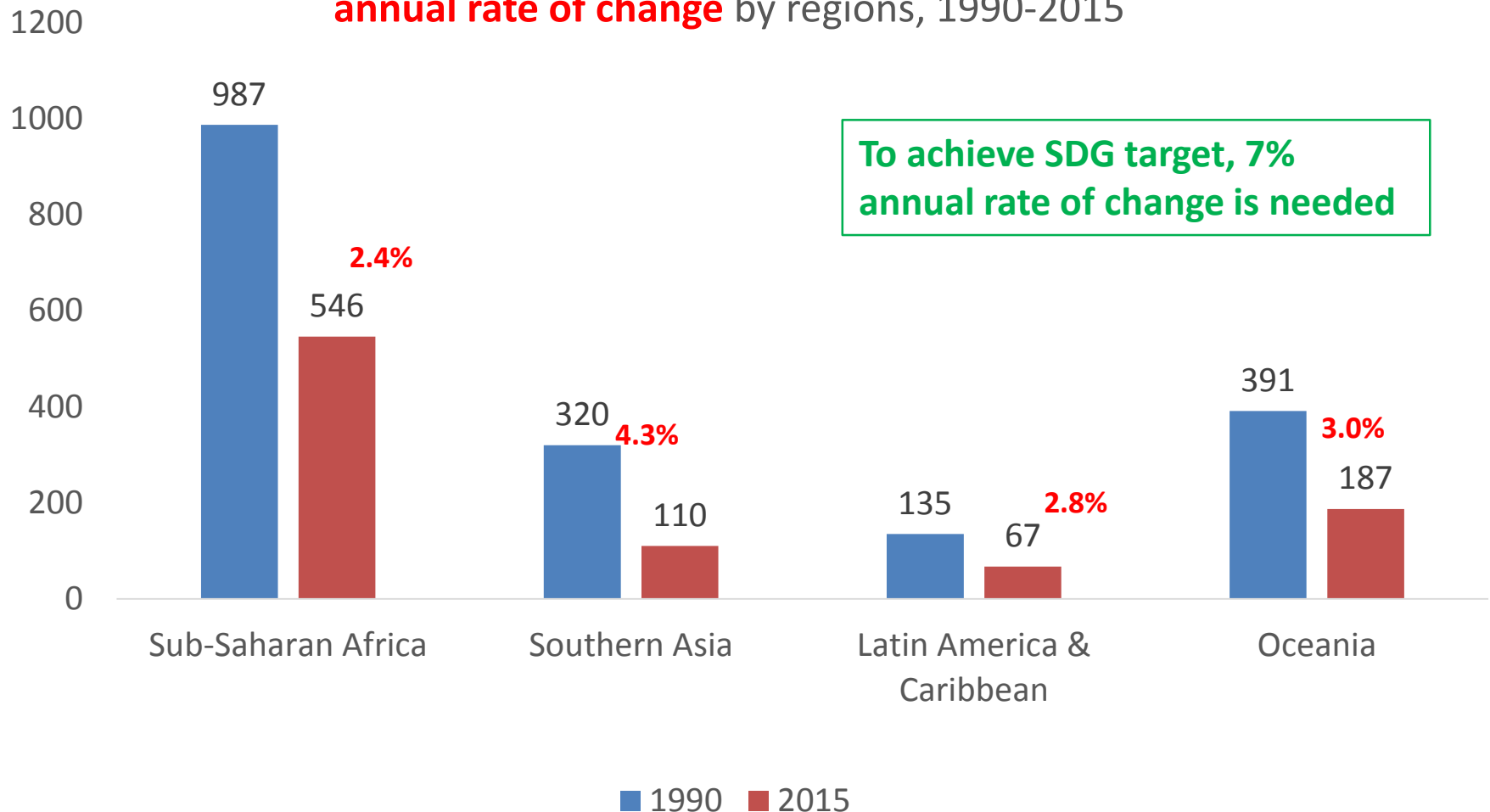


Strong urban-rural differentials in under-five mortality still persist



Progress in Maternal Mortality MDGs Era

Maternal mortality ratios (maternal deaths per 100,000 live births),
annual rate of change by regions, 1990-2015



Focus on Africa

Poor SRH contributes to Africa's slow rate of progress.

Low women's education and low empowerment affects many of the poor SRHR outcomes:

a) Early marriages

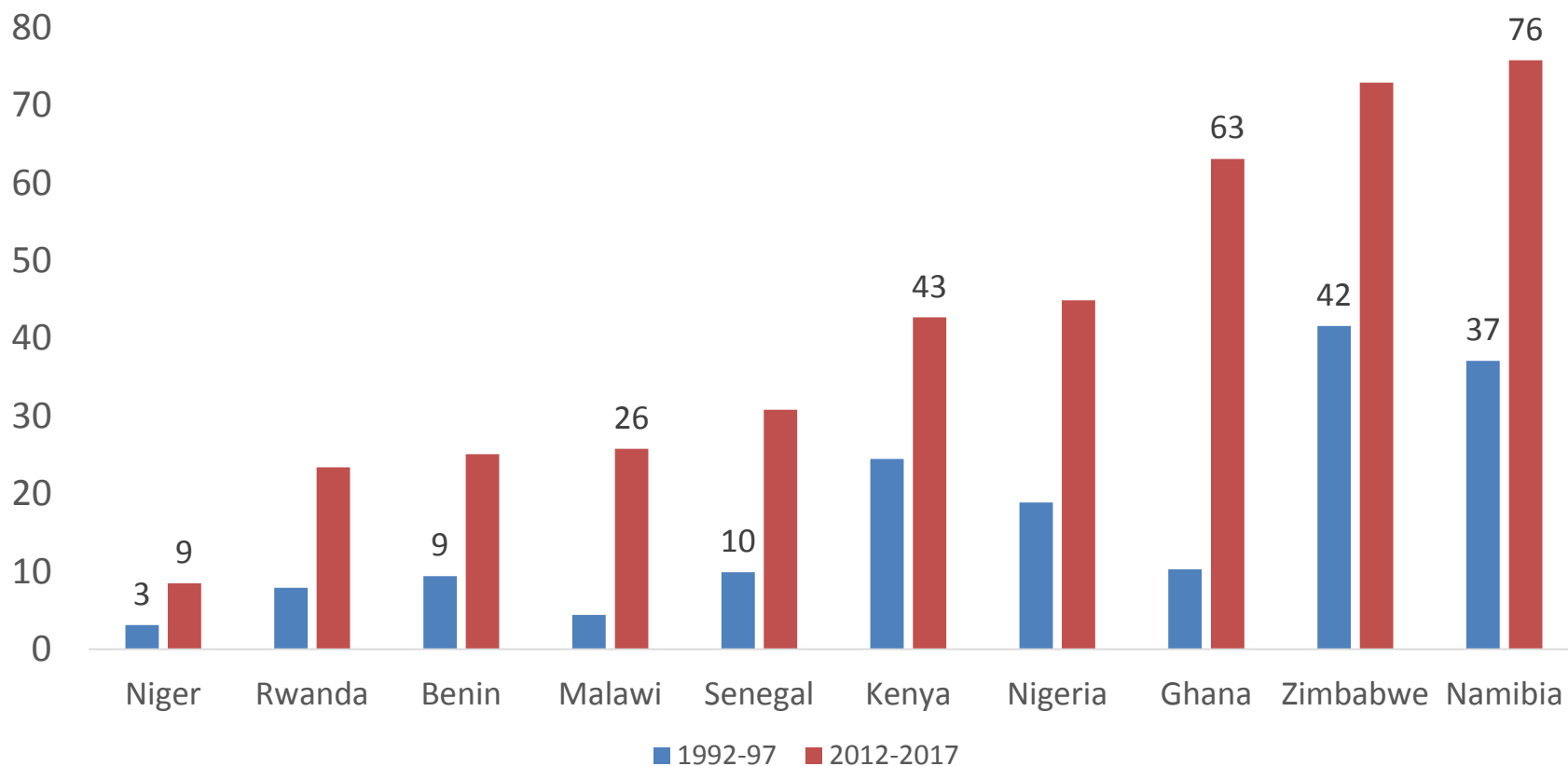
*b) High fertility → high child dependency ratio
80 per 100 cf **40** for the world.*

c) Not-so-universal access to reproductive health services.

Major development bottlenecks

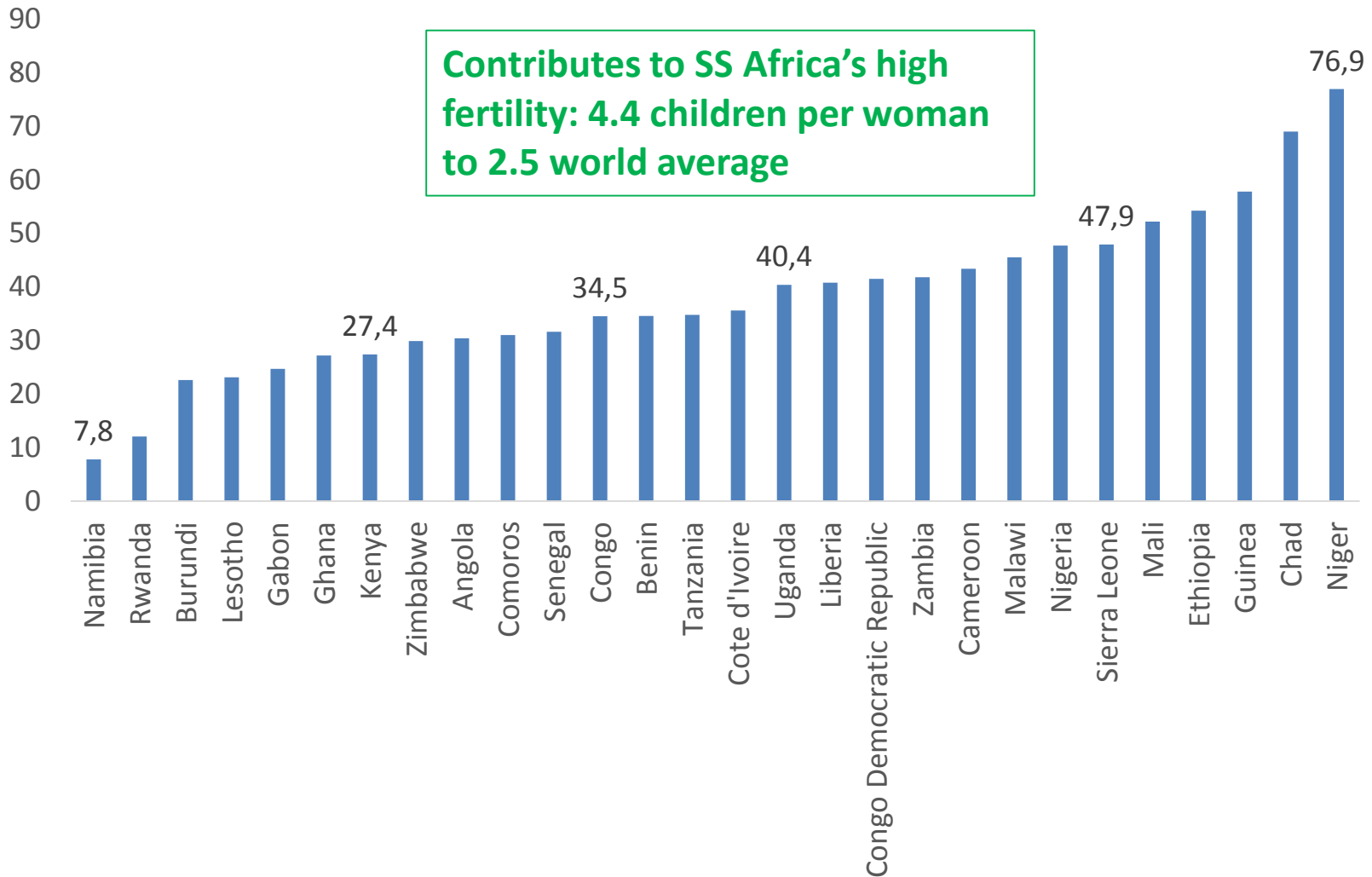
There is progress on women's education but not fast enough

% women with secondary or higher education, selected African countries



High rates of child marriages in sub-Saharan Africa

Percentage of women married by exact age - 18 years. **SS Africa**, 2011-2017



Number of children, by level of education of the mother, in countries where women have on average 5 or more children

Share of women in reproductive age (15-49) with higher education

1%
4%
1%
2%
5%
1%
1%
3%
5%
6%
1%
2%
5%
1%
6%
5%
3%
3%
10%
3%

Niger 2012
Dem. Rep. Congo 2013-14
Chad 2014-15
Mali 2015
Angola 2015-16
Burundi 2012
Mozambique 2011
Timor-Leste 2009-10
Uganda 2014-15
Gambia 2013
Burkina Faso 2014
Afghanistan 2015
Zambia 2013-14
Tanzania 2015-16
Cameroon 2011
Congo 2011-12
Guinea 2012
Cote d'Ivoire 2011-12
Nigeria 2015
Senegal 2014

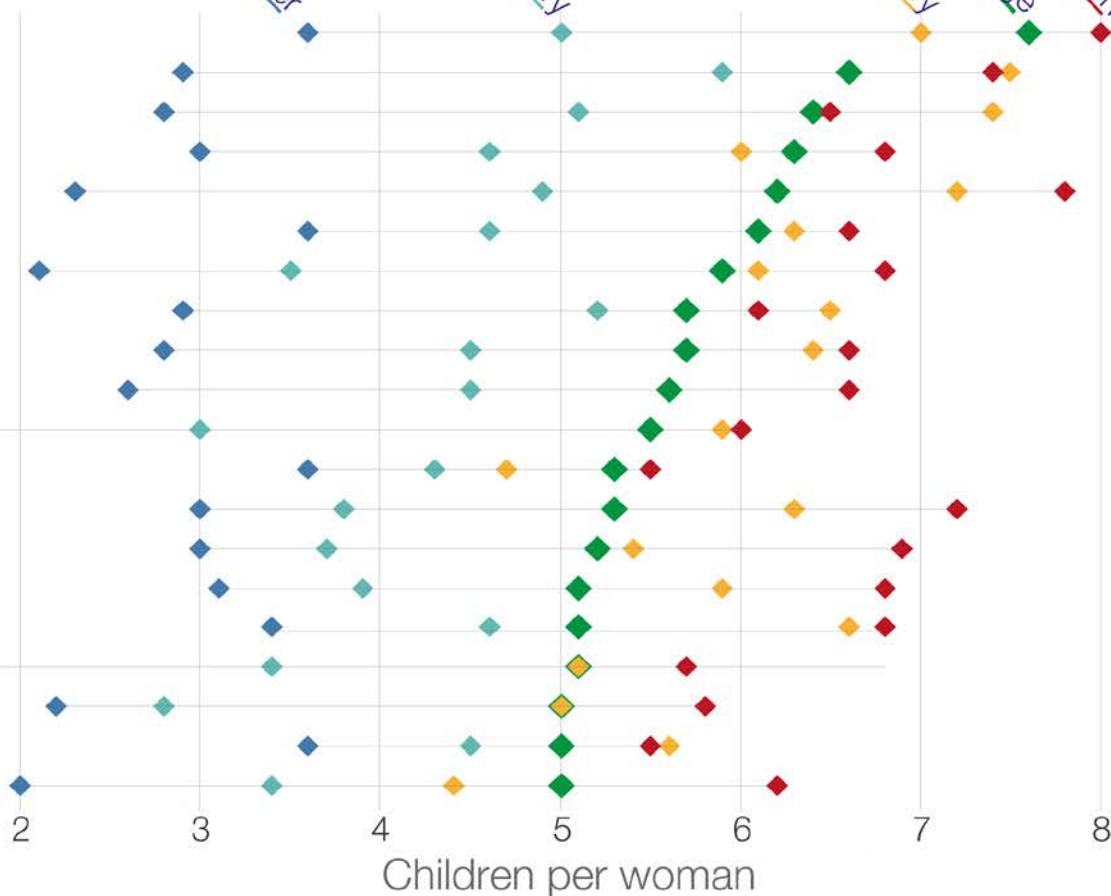
Education of the mother:

Higher

Secondary

Primary

Average
No education



Can Sustainable Development Goals help Africa to advance on ICPD & Development?



- Reduction in MMR to less than 70/ 100,000 live births.
- U5MR < 25 / 1000 live births
- Universal access to primary care



- **12 years of free education**
- Gender equality and inclusion
- Equal access to technical, vocational & higher education



- End discrimination, violence harmful practices against women and girls
- Universal access to SRHR in accordance with ICPD
- Economic empowerment

SDG's – Leave no one behind

- Requires political commitment
- Investment in primary care, slowing down of population growth and free education
- Commitment to SDGs → ICPD advanced
- Conversely, Closing gaps in ICPD ___>
significant progress in **SDGs especially 3,4&5.**

Concluding Remarks



- ICPD - linked women's empowerment and reproductive health
- Progress on under-five, fertility, and HIV transmissions
- Uneven progress by region; urban/rural etc
- Harmful practices e.g. child marriages still high



Leave no one behind