Nyovani Madise

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”.

We make research evidence matter in African-driven 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

Under-five mortality by region, 2000-2010
(Fink & Hill, 2013)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Rural</th>
<th>Small urban</th>
<th>Large urban</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Latin America</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East &amp; North Africa</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South &amp; South-East Asia</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Progress in Maternal Mortality MDGs Era

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

To achieve SDG target, 7% annual rate of change is needed
Focus on Africa

We make research evidence matter in African-driven development
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 $\implies$ 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Niger</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td>Rwanda</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>37</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

We make research evidence matter in African-driven development
High rates of child marriages in sub-Saharan Africa

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

Contributes to SS Africa’s high fertility: 4.4 children per woman to 2.5 world average
Number of children, by level of education of the mother, in countries where women have on average 5 or more children

Education of the mother:
- Higher
- Secondary
- Primary
- Average
- No education

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%
- 1%
- 2%
- 3%
- 3%
- 3%
- 10%
- 3%

Countries and years:
- Niger 2012
- 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

Children per woman:
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8

Data source: Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS)
The data visualization is available at OurWorldinData.org. There you find research and more visualizations on this topic. Licensed under CC-BY-SA by the author Max Roser.
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