Unmet Need for Family Planning among Youth in Africa

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Motivation

- Preliminary findings from: Comparative Report #34: Unmet Need for Family Planning among Youth
- Unmet need is a narrow but core concept
- International monitoring and national programmatic efforts
- Determine where to prioritize needs of young people
Data

• Married women:
  – 61 countries with a DHS since 2000
    • West & Central Africa (18); East & Southern Africa (14);
      Middle East and North Africa (4); Eastern Europe (7);
      Asia (10); LAC (8)

• Unmarried women:
  – 41 countries
    – Africa, Latin America/Caribbean

• Trends:
  – 141 surveys (married women)
  – 90 surveys (unmarried women)

• Latest definition for unmet need
Outline

1. Current situation among married youth
2. Trends among married youth*
3. Comparisons by age
4. Current situation and trends* among unmarried youth
5. Socio-demographic characteristics and unmet need
   – Residence, Wealth, Education, Parity
6. Components of unmet need*
   – Marriage, Sexual activity
   – Fertility desires
   – Contraceptive use

• Global context; focus on Africa
A technical note

Unmet need is:

| # of married women of reproductive age who want to delay/no more children but are not using contraception |
| # of married women of reproductive age |

- Corollary for unmarried women
- DHS algorithm changed in 2012 (Bradley et al 2012)
- Streamlined, consistent, comparable
- Upward adjustment of estimates of unmet need (21.3% to 23%)
Ghana: No calendar data

- Total unmet need, original
- Total unmet need, revised

1993: 36.9
1998: 36.5
2003: 34.5
2008: 35.7

Zimbabwe: Calendar data collected in every survey

- Total unmet need, Original
- Total unmet need, Revised

1994: 19.1
1999: 16.7
2005: 15.5

1994: 14.9
1999: 12.9
2005: 12.0

Kenya: Calendar data collected inconsistently

- Total unmet need, Original
- Total unmet need, Revised

1993: 35.3
1998: 28.0
2003: 27.4
2009: 25.6

1993: 35.5
1998: 23.9
2003: 24.5
2009: 25.6

Egypt: Calendar data collected in every survey

- Total unmet need, Original
- Total unmet need, Revised

1992: 22.9
1995: 20.2
2000: 13.7
2003: 11.8
2005: 12.3
2008: 11.6

1992: 19.8
1995: 16.0
2000: 10.6
2003: 9.5
2005: 10.3
2008: 9.2
A note for DHS data users

- STATcompiler has revised estimates for all surveys since 1990
- All datasets since mid-2012 has revised indicator (v626a)
- Website has STATA and SPSS code for 1990-2012 datasets:
  http://measuredhs.com/topics/Unmet-Need.cfm
Current situation among MARRIED women

Where do we stand now?
Map 1. Unmet Need for Family Planning among Married Women Age 15-24
Unmet need among married women

West and Central Africa

- Benin
- Burkina Faso
- Cameroon
- Chad
- Congo Brazzaville
- Congo Democratic Republic
- Gabon
- Ghana
- Guinea
- Liberia
- Mali
- Mauritania
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Sao Tome and Principe
- Senegal
- Sierra Leone

Percentage

- 15-19
- 20-24
Unmet need among married women in East and Southern Africa.
Comparisons by Age

Who is most disadvantaged when it comes to unmet need?
Comparison of unmet need among younger and older married women

West and Central Africa

- Benin
- Burkina Faso
- Cameroon
- Chad
- Congo Brazzaville
- Congo Democratic Republic
- Gabon
- Ghana
- Guinea
- Liberia
- Mali
- Mauritania
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Sao Tome and Principe
- Senegal
- Sierra Leone

[Bar chart showing comparison of unmet need among younger (15-24) and older (25-49) married women in West and Central Africa]
Comparison of unmet need among younger and older married women in East and Southern Africa.
Unmarried Women

What is the current situation?
Map 2. Unmet Need for Family Planning among Unmarried Women Age 15-24

Legend:
- <15%
- 15% - 24%
- 25% - 34%
- 35% - 44%
- ≥45%
Demand for family planning among unmarried women age 15-19 and 20-24

- West and Central Africa
  - 15-19
  - 20-24

- East and Southern Africa
  - 15-19
  - 20-24

- Latin America and Caribbean
  - 15-19
  - 20-24
Unmet need among unmarried women in West and Central Africa

The chart shows the unmet need among unmarried women in the 15-19 and 20-24 age groups for various countries in West and Central Africa.
Unmet need among unmarried women

East and Southern Africa

- Burundi
- Ethiopia
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Rwanda
- Swaziland
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

15-19
20-24
Comparison of unmarried and married women age 15-24

West and Central Africa

Unmarried 15-19  Unmarried 20-24  Married 15-19  Married 20-24
Comparison of unmarried and married women age 15-24

East and Southern Africa

- Unmarried 15-19
- Unmarried 20-24
- Married 15-19
- Married 20-24

Countries included:
- Burundi
- Ethiopia
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Rwanda
- Swaziland
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe
Socio-demographic Characteristics
Residence
Education

• Significant in most West and Central African countries
• Significant in few East and Southern African countries
  – Ethiopia, Mozambique, Swaziland, Uganda
• Pattern (e.g. Ghana): unmet need highest among those with primary (47.8%) or secondary education (47.7%), lowest among those with no education (39.9%)
• Ethiopia, Burkina Faso and Gabon exhibit different pattern

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Findings not presented

- Trends among married and unmarried young women
- Differences in unmet need by parity
- Components of unmet need:
  - % women marrying by age 15 or age 18
  - % of unmarried women who are sexually active
  - Fertility desires
    - Ideal family size
    - % wanting another child soon
  - Contraceptive use
    - Modern; traditional method use
Thank you!

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