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Department of
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and intersecting inequalities**
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Session 4

Age and Gender

Fertility among very young adolescents: Data, methods, trends and challenges

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SDG indicator 3.7.2 Adolescent birth rate

- Definition: Adolescent birth rate (aged 10-14 years; aged 15-19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group
- UN Population Division: custodian agent for this indicator to report to UNSD on an annual basis
- So far reported to UNSD SDG database on adolescent birth rates 15-19

Making the case – demographic facts 2020

- 545 mio young adolescents ages 10-14 globally;
- 310 mio young adolescent girls ages 10-14 globally;
- Another 15 mio will be added over the next decade;
- Each fourth girl in this age-group lives in sub-Saharan Africa;
- Sub-Saharan Africa is expected to experience a 22 per cent increase of girls in this age-group.

Data, methods and challenges

Established dataset of 1,174 data points for 118 countries between 2000 and 2018;

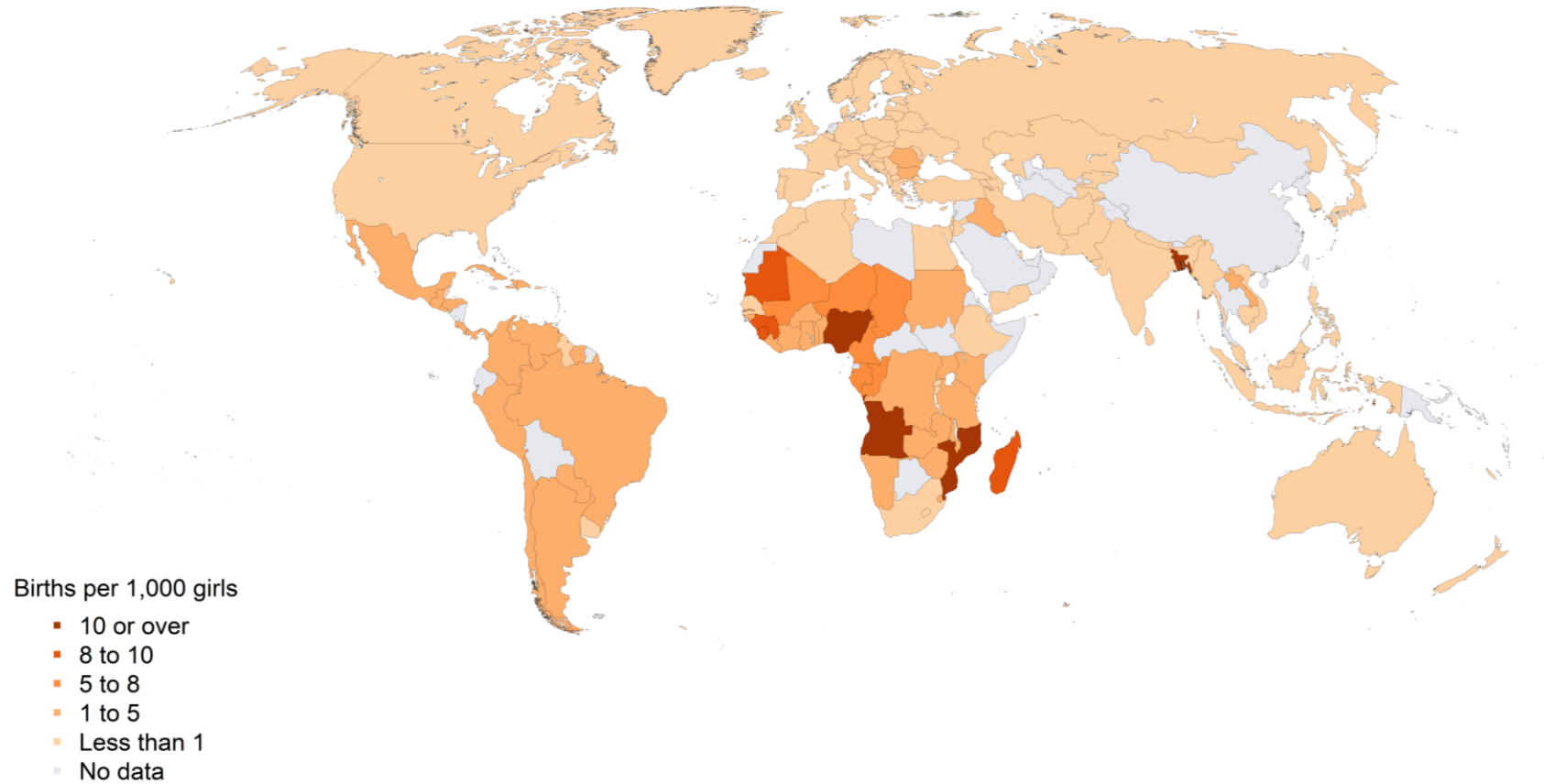
Data sources: DHS (main) and UNSD Demographic Year Book and other surveys

- DHS: birth history data from adolescents 15-19 years 3 – 5 years before the survey;
- UNSD DYB: vital registration data and census data.

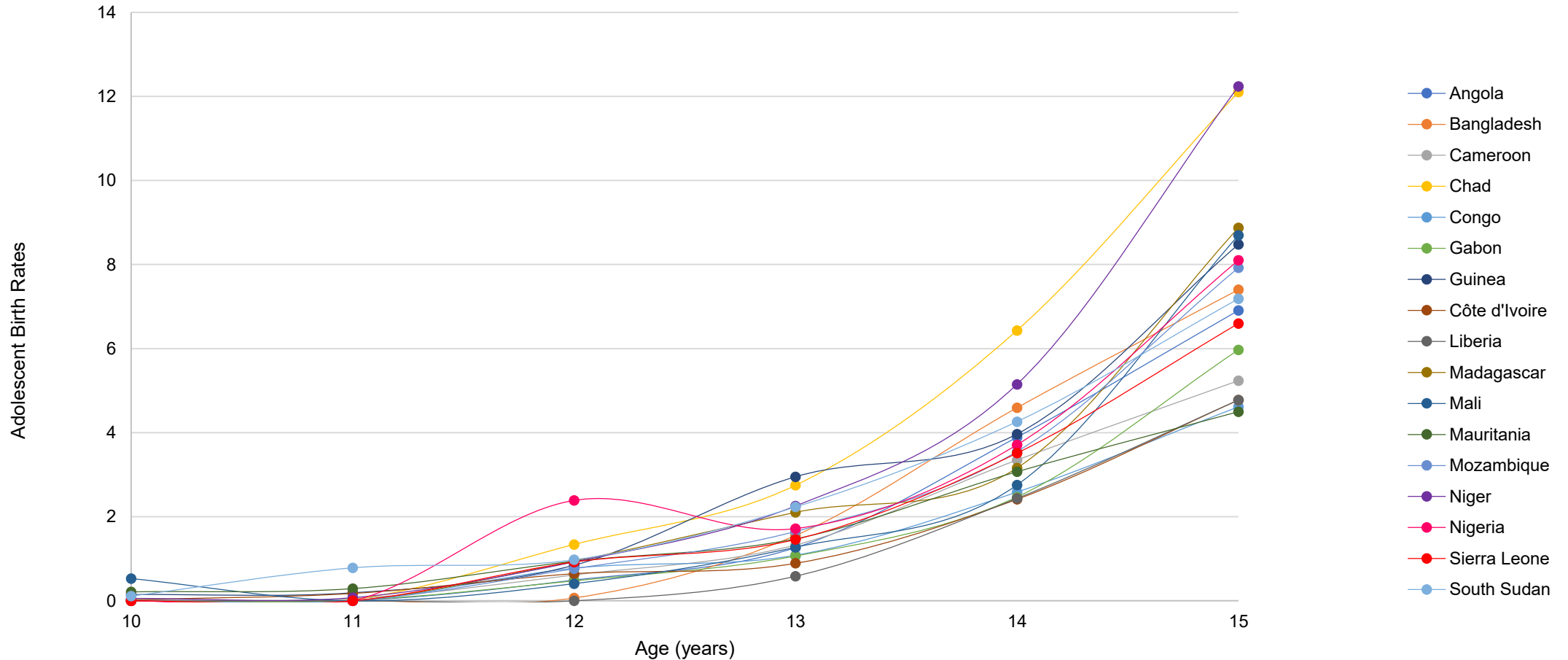
Data quality challenges:

- Age misreporting;
- Omission of births/incomplete registration;
- Only married girls/women surveyed & births reported/registered.

Number of births per 1,000 girls aged 10 to 14 around the world, most recent estimates (2010 – 2017)



Fertility rates by single age of mother for countries with measurable levels of early fertility, 2000 – 2017 (births per 1,000 girls of the respective age)



Key findings: Early adolescent childbearing

- is much more common in sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean than in other parts of the world;
- is currently a matter of high concern in a select number of countries in sub-Saharan Africa and in Bangladesh.
- is often associated with early marriage and child marriage.
- is also associated with high fertility in later adolescence (15-19), higher total fertility levels and high population growth rates.
- Many countries with measurable levels of early fertility recorded a reduction in early adolescent fertility between 2000-2007 and 2010-2017 while others saw an increase.



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Any questions?

Please contact us at
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Thank you