



United Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs

Overview of levels and trends of early childbearing

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United Nations Expert Group Meeting on the evaluation of adolescent fertility data and estimates



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Nations**

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Economic and
Social Affairs

- 1. Early adolescent fertility: levels & trends – overview**
- 2. Reporting on early adolescent fertility in the context of the SDGs**
- 3. Task at hand?**

1. What do we know about early adolescent fertility as of 2019?

- Nearly 310 million girls aged 10-14-years globally; expected to increase by 15 million over the next 10 years.
- Almost one quarter of girls aged 10-14 live in in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Fertility under age 15 is much more common in sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean than in other parts of the world.
- It is often positively associated with early marriage.
- In most countries, it is also positively correlated with high fertility in later adolescence (15-19), higher total fertility levels and higher population growth rates.

1. What do we know about early adolescent fertility as of 2019, cont'd?

- **Elevated** (6 or more births per 1,000 girls) in 11 countries in sub-Saharan Africa (Angola, Cameroon, Chad, Gabon, Guinea, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria and Sierra Leone) and in Bangladesh in Asia.
- **Moderate** levels (1 to 5 births per 1,000 girls) in 49 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, three in Asia (Nepal, Myanmar and Yemen), two in Europe (Bulgaria and Romania) and 20 in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- In 89 countries: **low** levels (less than one birth per 1,000 girls).
- Most countries with elevated levels of early adolescent fertility recorded a **reduction** between 2000-2007 and 2010-2017.

2. Reporting on adolescent fertility (ABR) in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals

The work of the PD to monitor & report on the ABR (Annual number of births to females aged 10-14 or 15-19 years per 1,000 females in that age-group) at the global level is guided by the **IAEG-SDGs**:

- Provides guidelines on reporting mechanisms for SDGs to ensure the **use of harmonized and agreed indicator definitions**;
- Requests that **'imputation of statistics by all international agencies should be avoided'** & national data as approved by NSS need to be reported.

2. Reporting on adolescent fertility in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals, cont'd

- Collected and reviewed adolescent fertility data covering women aged 15-19 from publicly available sources.
- Followed a set of PD internal guidelines **to select one datapoint per calendar year** for all countries to be included for global SDG reporting.
- **New: Need to also report on ABR of girls aged 10-14 years.**

3. Task at hand for this meeting

- Review, evaluate and validate data on early adolescent fertility from a wide range of sources;
- Address methods to estimate early adolescent fertility data;
- Review and discuss systematic and standardized approaches for adolescent fertility data validation and selection for SDG reporting and analysis.