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

Investing in young people will
accelerate harnessing the
Demographic Dividend in Africa

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Background

- WHO defines young people as between 10 and 24 years old
- Of the 1.1 billion people in Africa, 3 out of 10 (350 million) are young people
- Projected to almost triple by 2100 to 906 million
- A huge population of young people has potential to accelerate socio-economic development when they transition into working age population
 - But, they have to be healthy, skilled & gainfully employed
 - If not, this will be a liability & lead to political instability, violence & crime as seen with the Arab Spring

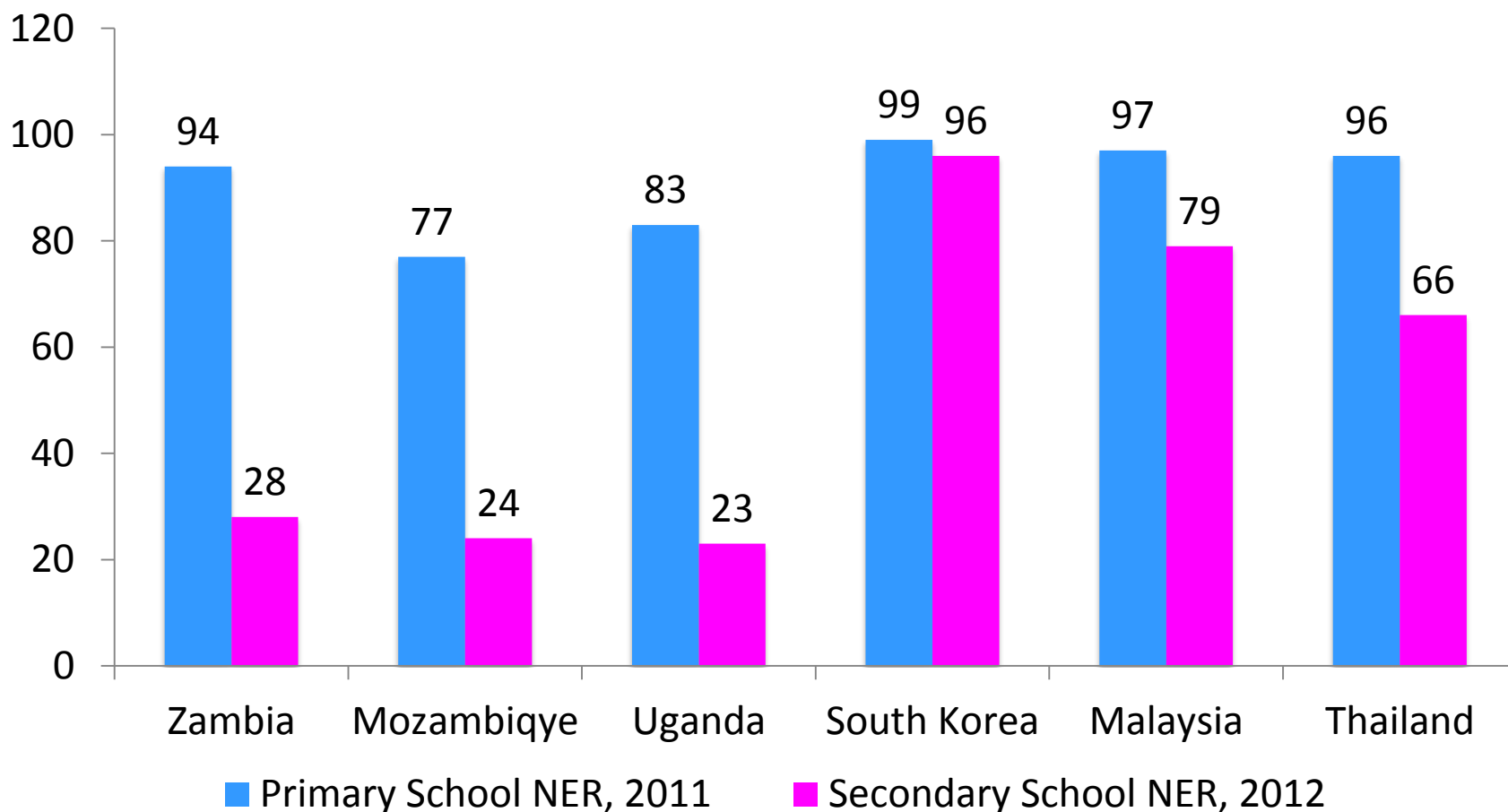
Background

- African governments already committed to address youth health and development challenges
- Signatories to 1994 ICPD, Education for All, 2015 MDGs, now 2030 SDGs, FP2020, AU Agenda 2063, AU Maputo Plan of Action, Ministerial Commitment on Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) in East and Southern Africa (ESA)
- National development & health policies including specific youth policies & youth sexual & reproductive health (SRH) policies and legislation
- However, progress on many fronts is slow
- Presentation focuses on status of education & youth SRH indicators

Education status

- Education is not only necessary to secure a skilled & productive population but also linked to good health
- Many African governments have made some progress
- Substantial increase in the proportion of children attending primary school & modest improvement in literacy rates
- But challenges persist - Primary school dropout rates remain high particularly among girls, tertiary institutions unable to absorb secondary school graduates & mismatch between education curricula & the job market

African countries lag far behind Asian tigers on secondary and tertiary education enrolment rates



Source: Zambia Education Statistical Bulletin 2013, UNESCO UIS

Reform education system to focus on innovation, skills development, science & technology, and entrepreneurship



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Keeping girls in school and providing comprehensive sexuality education is key to empowerment of youth and future generation of women



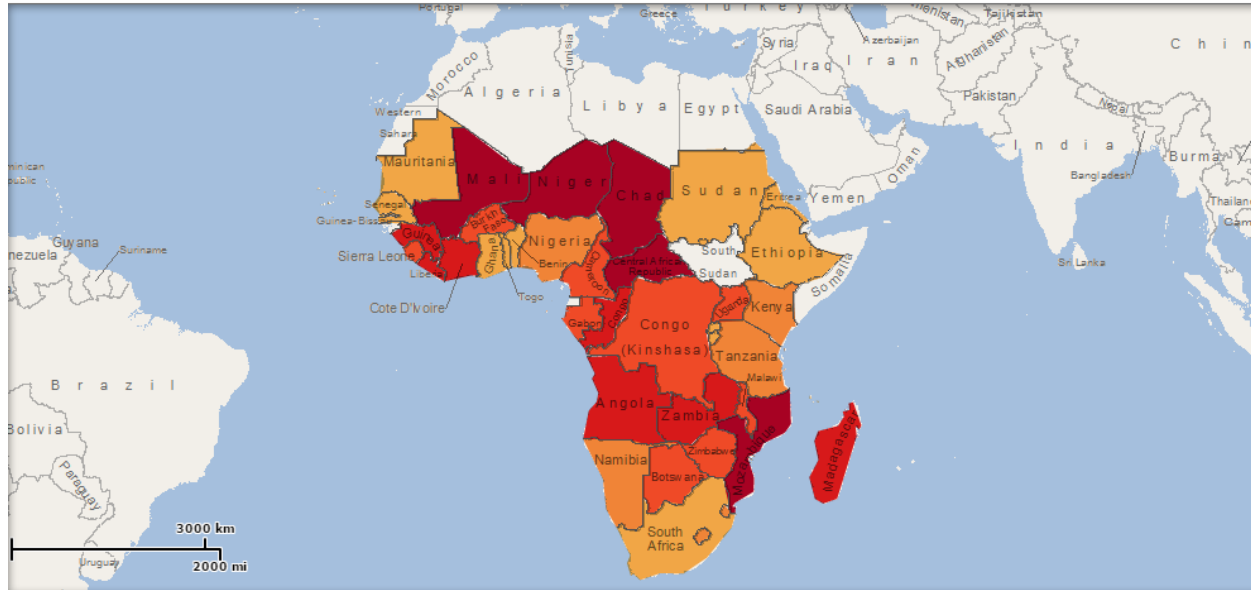
Young people's health status

- Adolescence is a critical time of transformation. Children maturing sexually and experimenting with drugs & substance abuse
- Negative attitudes & limited or lack of access to information & services puts them at risk of a range of issues:
 - STIs, HIV, unintended pregnancy and complications or death related to pregnancy, childbirth & unsafe abortion
- Alcohol and drug use linked risky sexual behavior and predispose adolescents to unintended pregnancy and STIs including HIV
- Have long lasting impacts on young people's wellbeing & lifetime opportunities
 - school drop-out, disability & death

Teenage pregnancy highest in West, Middle and parts of Southern Africa

Percentage of women 15-19 who are mothers or pregnant with their first child by selected background characteristics.

Teenage pregnancy and motherhood by background characteristics
Teenage pregnancy: Percentage who had children or is currently pregnant



Legend

- Up to 17.6
- 17.7 to 23.1
- 23.2 to 28.4
- 28.5 to 34.9
- 35.0 and higher

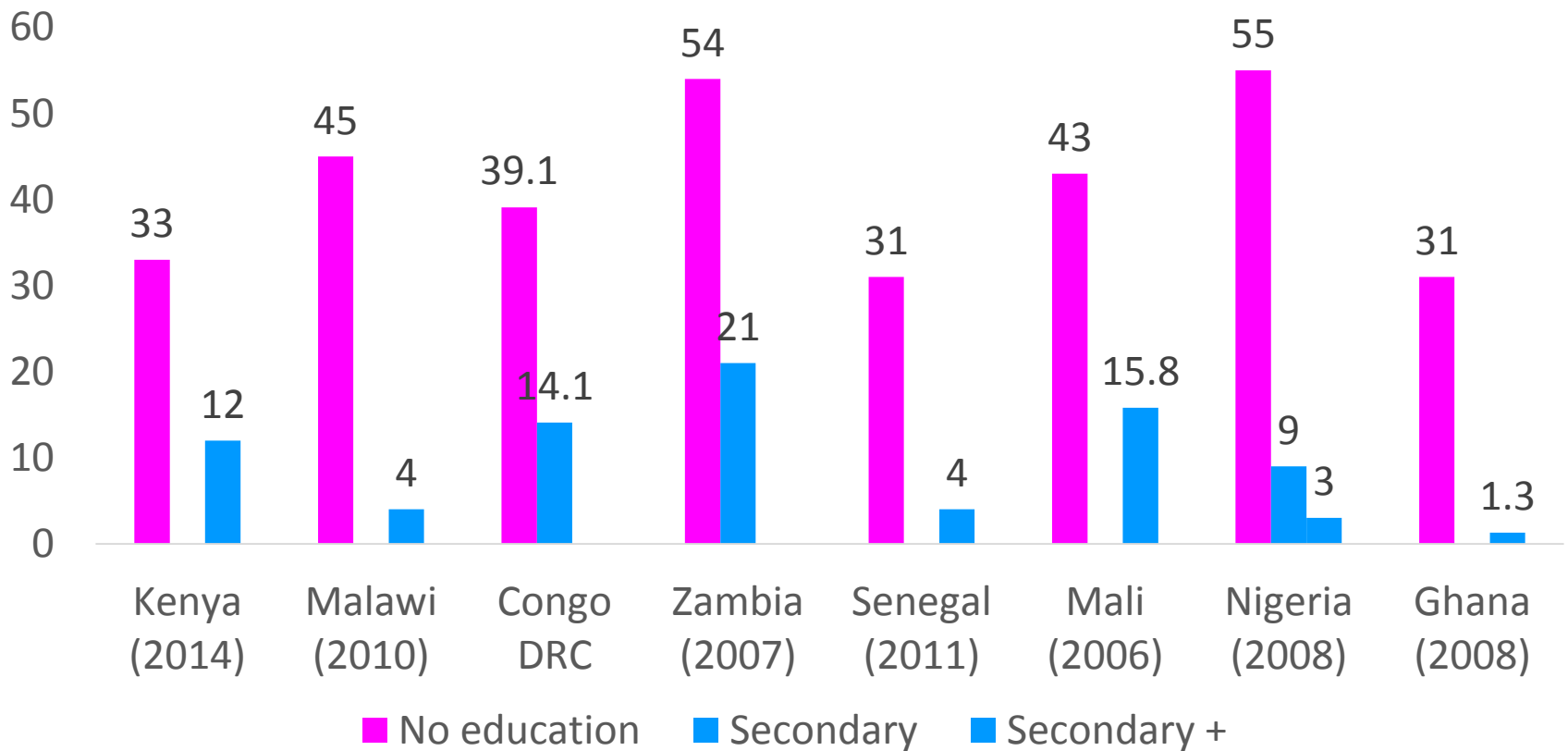
Surveys

Benin: 16.5; Burkina Faso: 23.6; Cape Verde: 17.6; Cote d'Ivoire: 29.6; Gambia: 17.5; Ghana: 13.3; Guinea: 34.3; Liberia: 31.3; Mali: 39.3; Mauritania: 15.8; Niger: 40.4; Nigeria: 22.5; Senegal: 17.8; Sierra Leone: 27.9; Togo: 16.5; Angola: 28.6; Cameroon: 25.2; Central African Republic: 38.1; Chad: 38.6; Congo (Brazzaville): 32.9; Congo Democratic Republic: 27.2; Gabon: 27.6; Sao Tome and Principe: 22.8; Burundi: 9.6; Comoros: 11.3; Eritrea: 14.0; Ethiopia: 12.4; Kenya: 17.7; Madagascar: 31.7; Malawi: 25.6; Mozambique: 37.5; Rwanda: 6.1; Sudan: 10.9; Tanzania: 22.8; Uganda: 23.8; Zambia: 28.5; Zimbabwe: 23.5; Botswana: 28.4; Lesotho: 19.0; Namibia: 18.0; South

ICF International, 2012. The DHS Program STATcompiler - <http://www.statcompiler.com> - June 28 2016.

Keeping girls in school can reduce teenage pregnancy

Teenage pregnancy and motherhood by education level



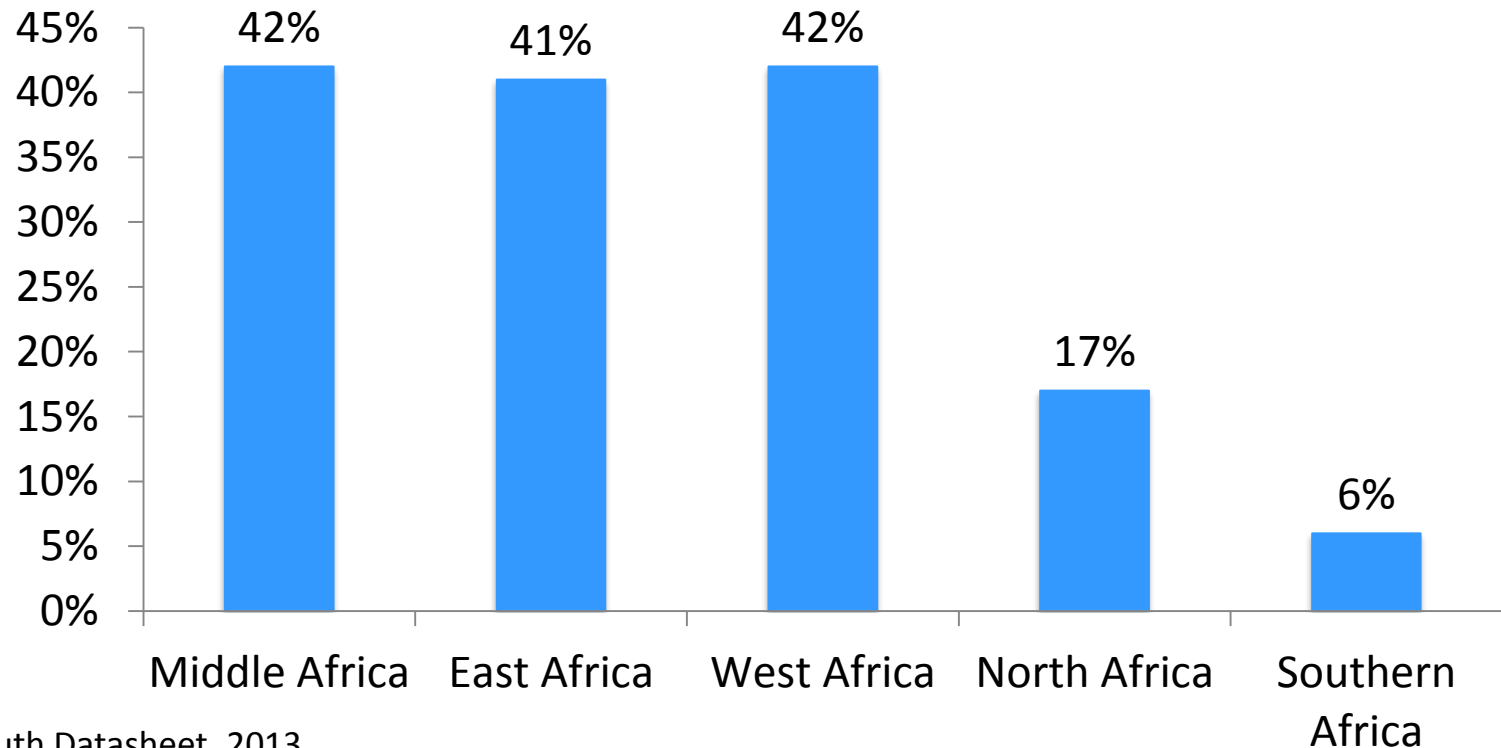
Source: DHS reports

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We make research evidence matter in African-driven development

Keeping girls in school to reduce teenage marriages and childbearing, especially in West, Middle, and East Africa

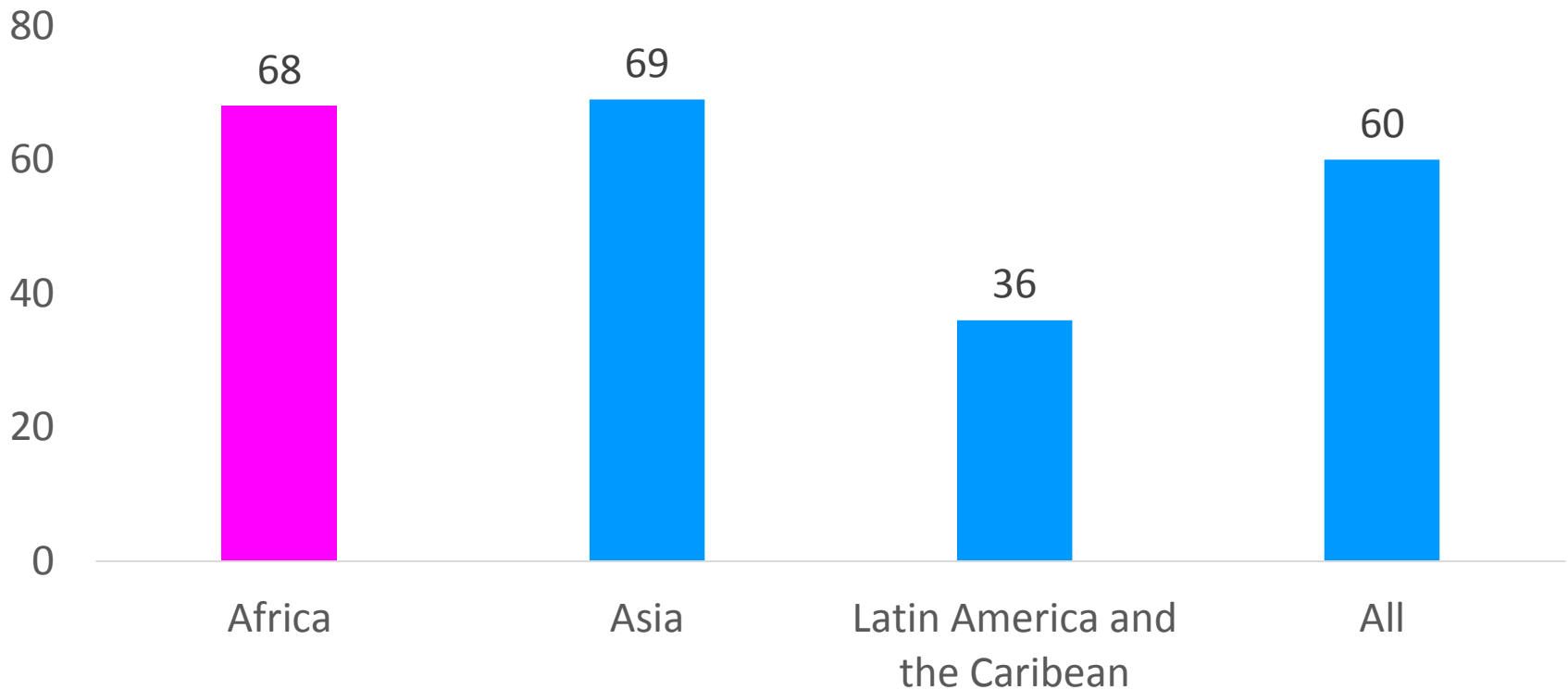
% of women aged 20-24 who got married by age 18



PRB Youth Datasheet, 2013

Most adolescents who are sexually active have an unmet need for contraceptives

Unmet need for contraceptives among adolescents aged 15-19 in developing regions (%)



Guttmacher Institute 2014

Some adolescents are using alcohol and drugs

- Not much data exists on drug and substance abuse – not systematically gathered
- A national survey in Kenya
 - 8% of adolescents aged 10-14 & 19% adolescents aged 15-17 have ever used alcohol
 - 13% of adolescents aged 10-14 & 17% of adolescents aged 15-17 have ever used a drug other than alcohol

Sub-Saharan Africa hosts largest share of HIV deaths among young people

- 2.1 million adolescents aged 10-19 living with HIV - nearly all (85%) located in Africa in 2012
- Majority (About 1.3 million) in Eastern and Southern Africa and 390,000 in the West and Central Africa
- About 300,000 new infections among adolescents – 13% of all new infections - 830 adolescents were infected with HIV everyday of 2012
- Two-thirds among girls mostly in SSA. In some countries, more than 80% of the adolescents —South Africa (82% female), Sierra Leone (85% female), Gabon (89% female)

UNAIDS & UNICEF 2012

Recommendations

- Champion
 - All children going to school & quality education– no child should be left behind
 - Champion girl education & ending child marriage
 - Improving access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services including access to contraceptives and safe abortion services for those who need them in line with national policy.
 - Champion development or implementation of CSE
 - Push for more resources allocated to these issues
 - More attention to be placed on drugs and substance abuse
 - Investments in strengthening routine data systems to collect data on adolescent health

Recommendations

- Legislation
 - Check the extent to which laws protect children
 - Should secondary education be made universal? Uganda already ahead on this. Rwanda & Nigeria reforms of secondary to address unemployment
 - We are losing many children to abortion. E.g. Kenya study. Some countries have laws allowing for access to safe abortion services
- Oversight
 - Hold governments accountable for implementation of global and national policy & legal frameworks including SDGs; AU Agenda 2063; FP2020; Ministerial Commitment on CSE in ESA; Education for All; National education & SRH policies & legal frameworks

Thank you!