

Patterns and trends in fertility and family planning in urban Africa: Implications for urban development

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Introduction

International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) Family Planning, Fertility and Urban Development programme, funded by Gates Foundation

'State of the art' **literature review** conducted on links between urban development, family planning (FP) and fertility change

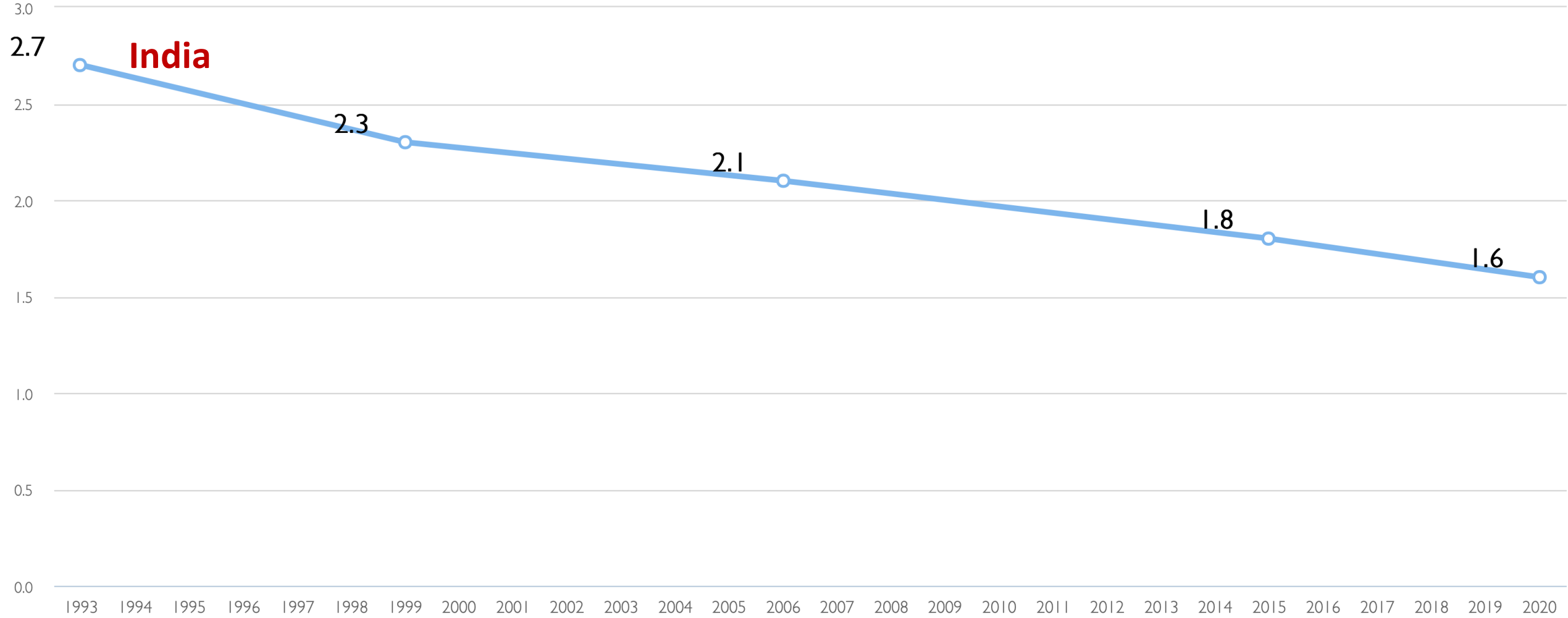
Report on 'influencing the urban policy agenda', based on interviews with international urban policy experts

1. Urbanization promotes fertility decline, but fertility stalls have emerged in some contexts

- **Urban fertility stalls** identified for a number of African countries
 - Urban fertility rates have stalled in **~50% of African capital cities** (@ an average of 3.4 children per woman)
 - Recent **increases** in a few countries (e.g. Nigeria, DRC, and Tanzania)
 - In other urban areas, stalls apparent in about **1/3 of countries**

Total fertility rate 15-49

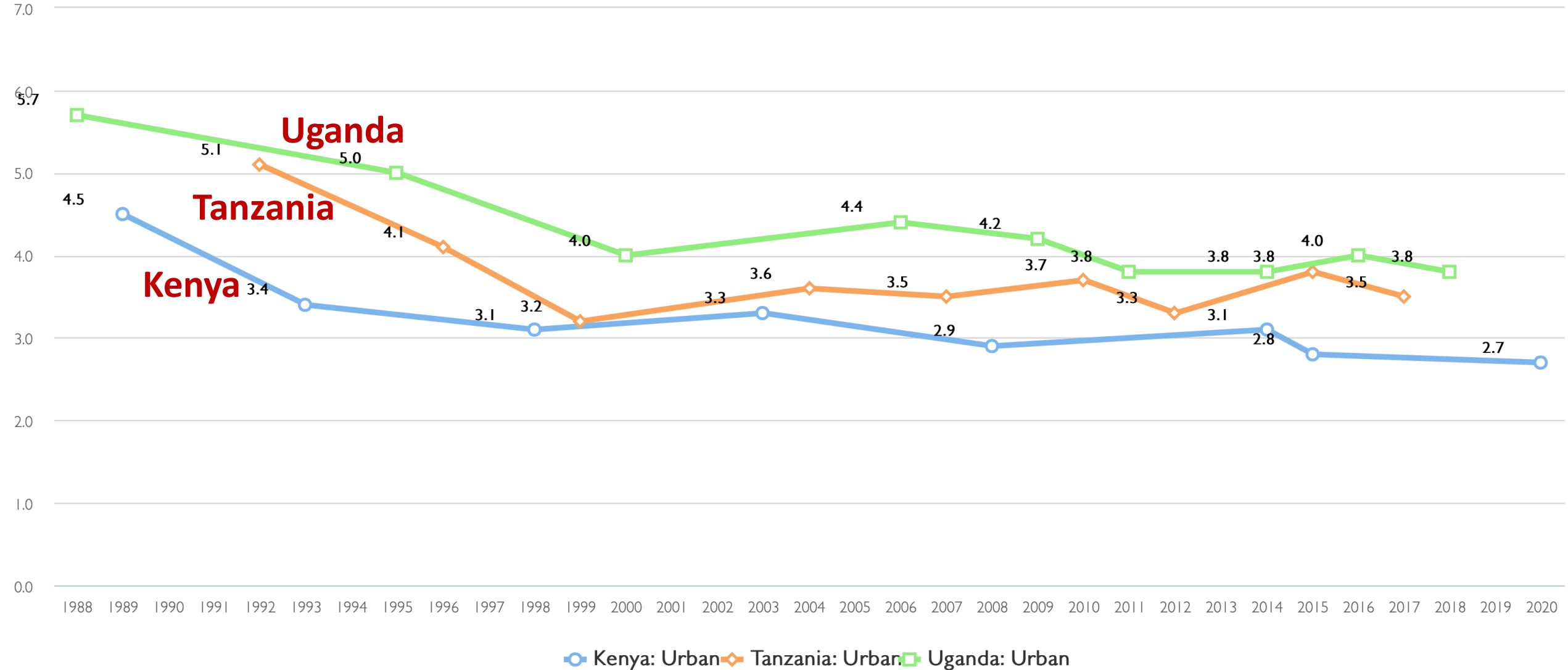
Total fertility rate for the three years preceding the survey for age group 15-49 expressed per woman



India: Urban

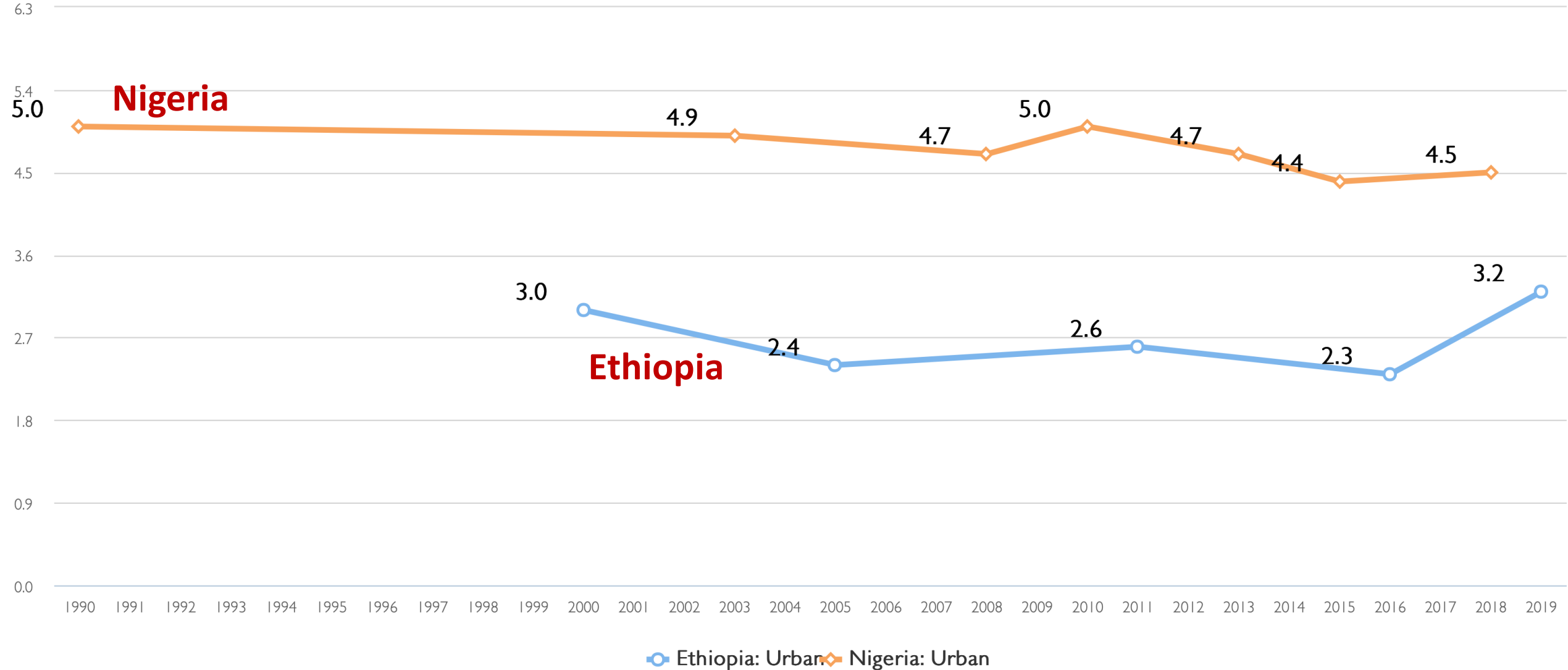
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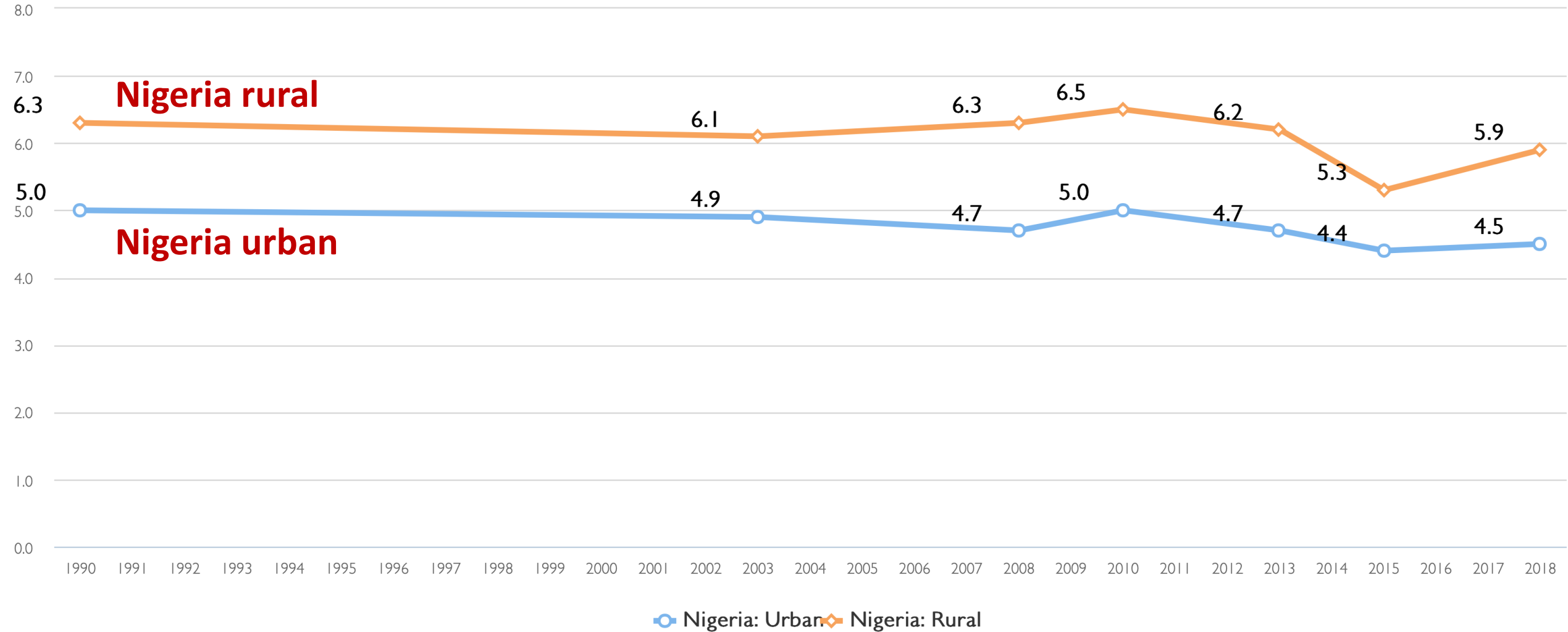


1. Urbanization promotes fertility decline, but fertility stalls have emerged in some contexts

- Urban fertility stalls identified for a number of African countries
- No clear urban and rural patterns in fertility stalls/increases

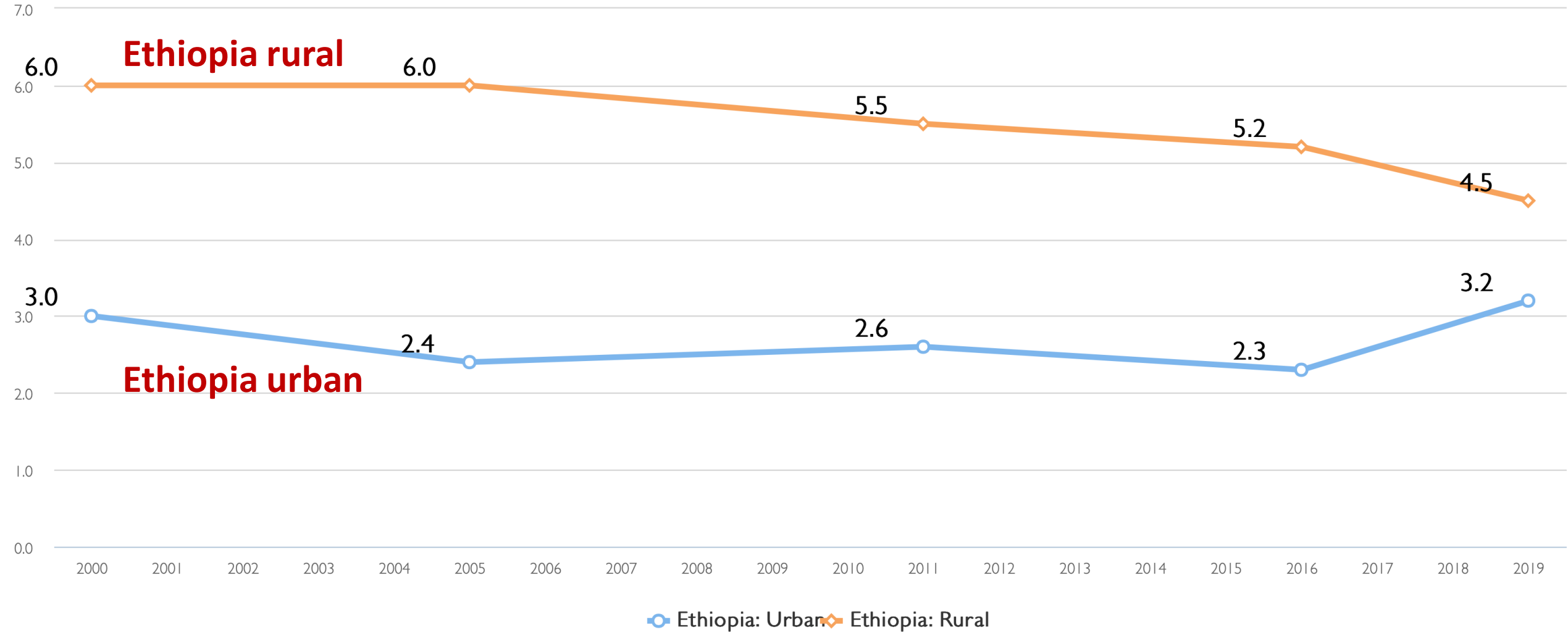
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1. Urbanization promotes fertility decline, but fertility stalls have emerged in some contexts

- Urban fertility stalls identified for a number of African countries
- No clear urban and rural patterns in fertility stalls
- What specific factors are driving these differentiated trends? No consensus, but possibly:
 - Declining **national and international support** for FP programmes from 1990s
 - High levels of **desired fertility** related to socioeconomic uncertainty
 - Disruptions to **female education** linked to the effects of economic crises (and structural adjustment programmes) of the 1980s and 1990s

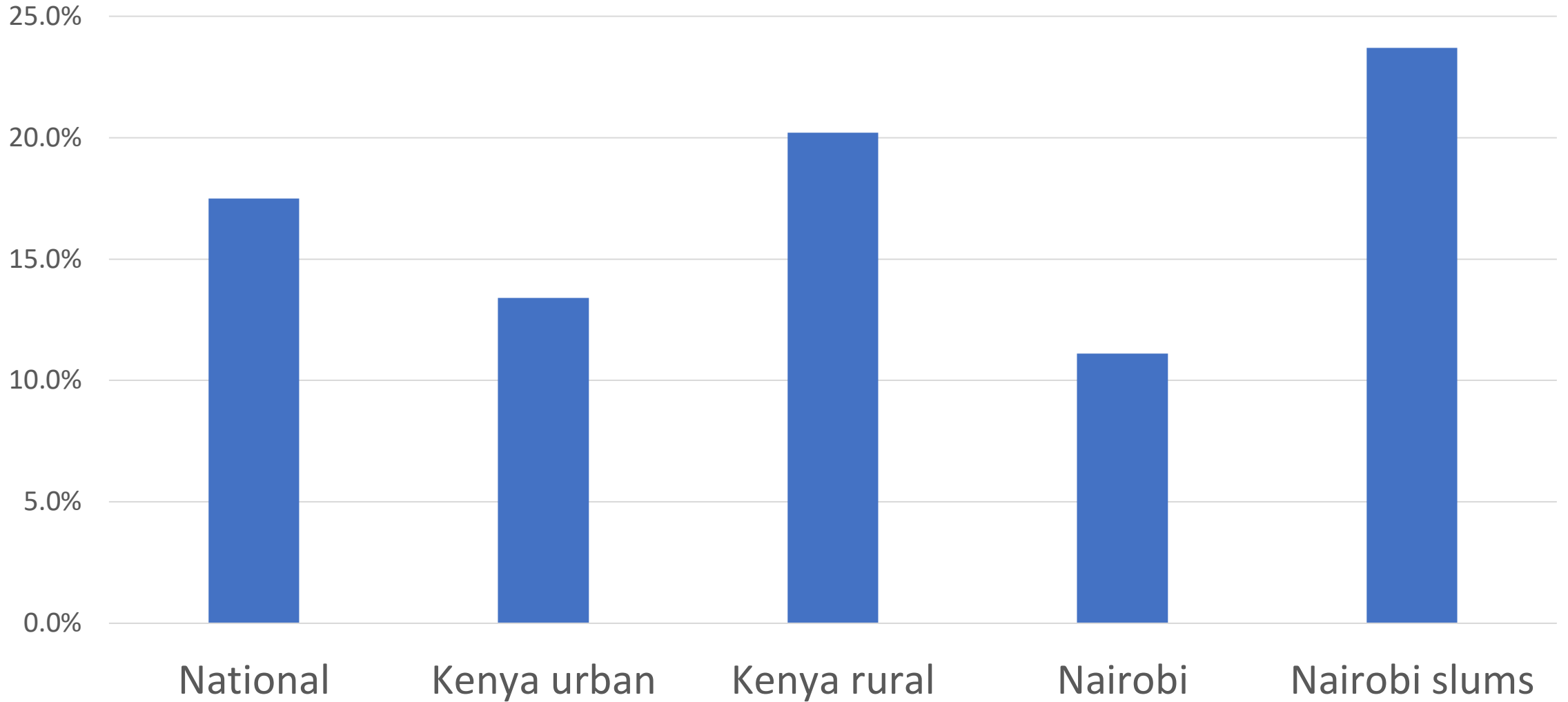
1. Urbanization promotes fertility decline, but fertility stalls have emerged in some contexts

- Fertility stalls = **continued (rapid) rates of urban growth**
- Will **perpetuate higher levels of poverty** while placing **pressure** on **housing** stocks and other **urban services**
- Will **impact how cities are managed** and how much/where money is spent

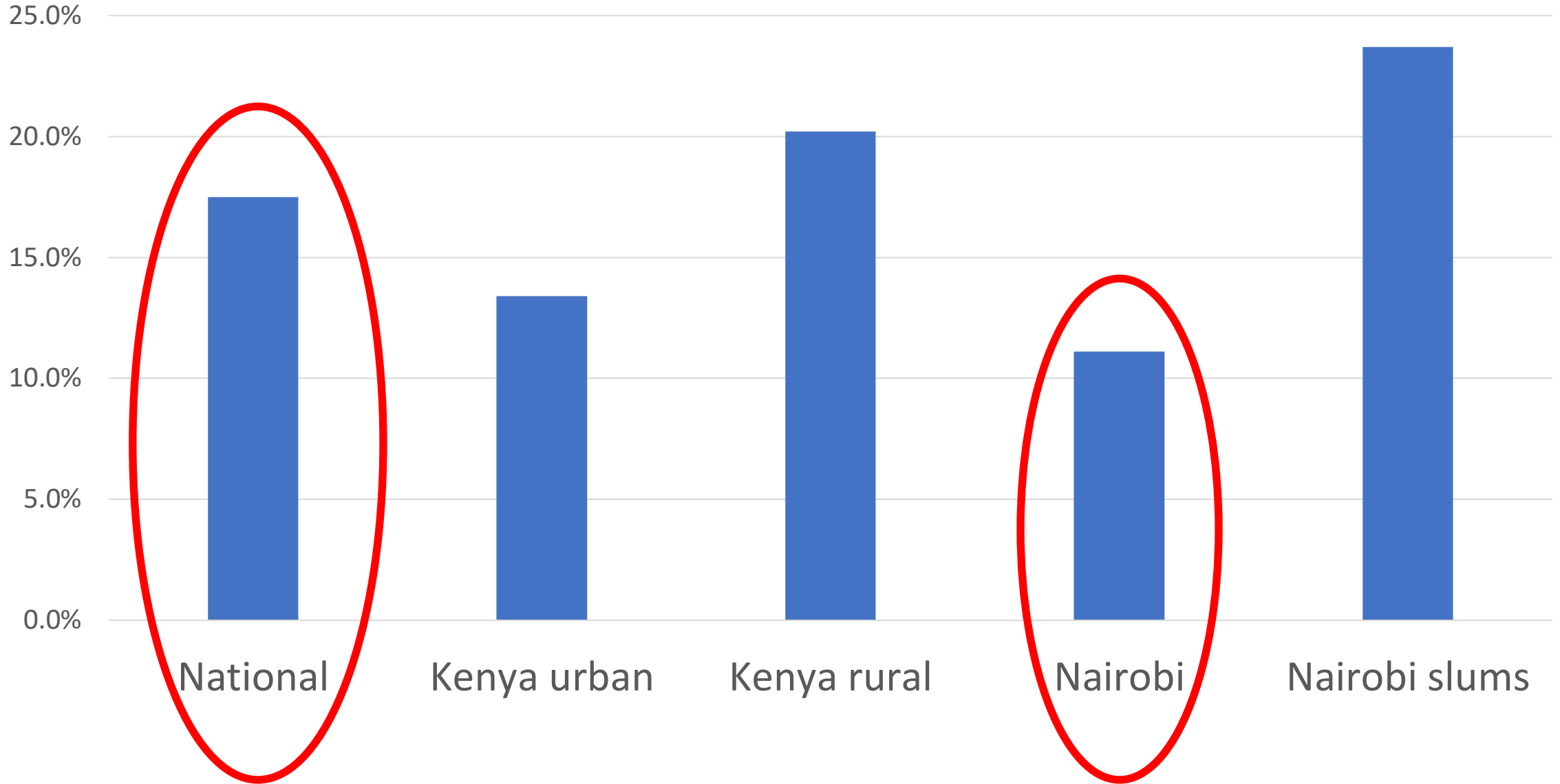
2. Geographies of unmet need for FP

- Historically, government FP programmes have **prioritized rural services**
- But in 10 out of 39 African countries with relevant data, **unmet need is higher in urban areas** than in rural areas
- Patterns of unmet need in countries (e.g. Ghana) show significant **geographic heterogeneity** (Amoako Johnson et al., 2012)

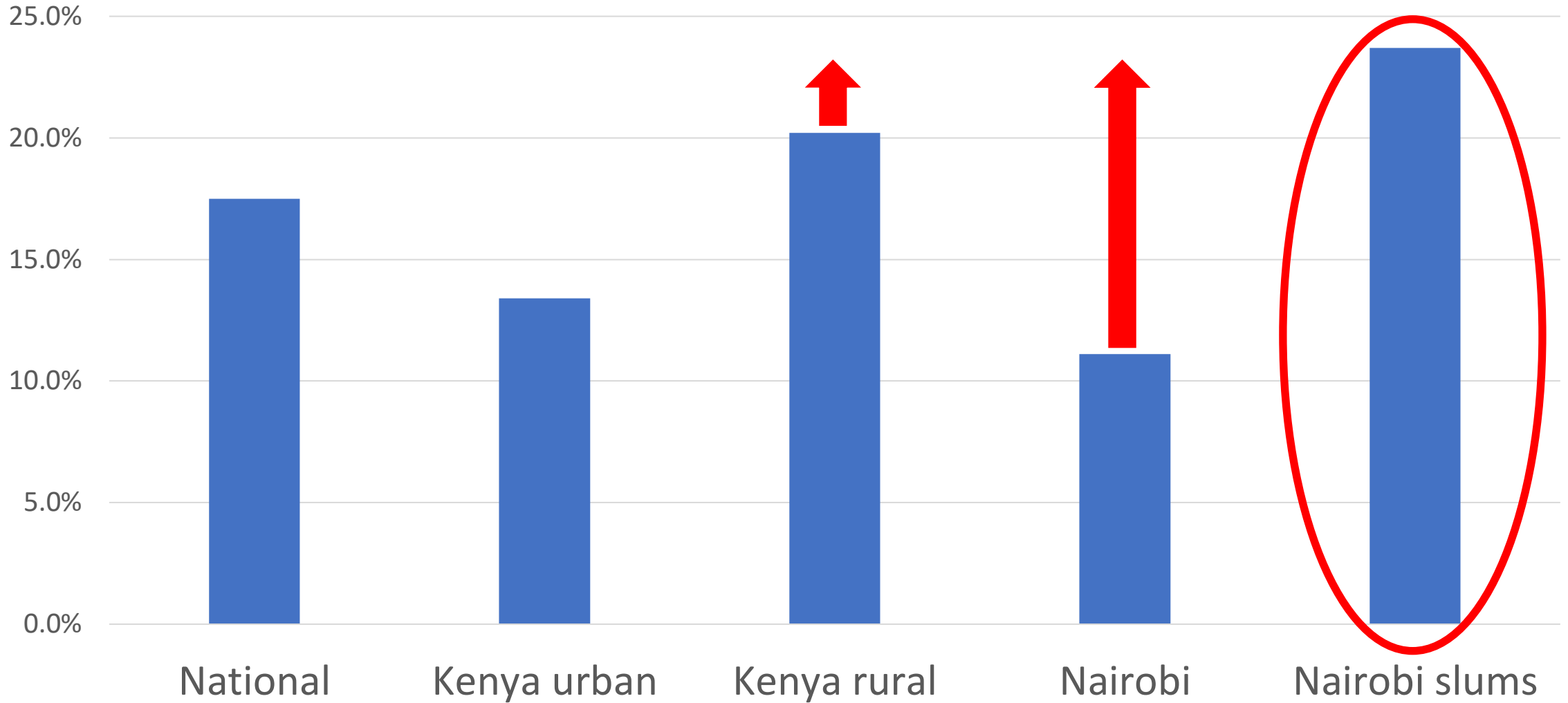
Geographies of unmet need in Kenya



Geographies of unmet need in Kenya



Geographies of unmet need in Kenya



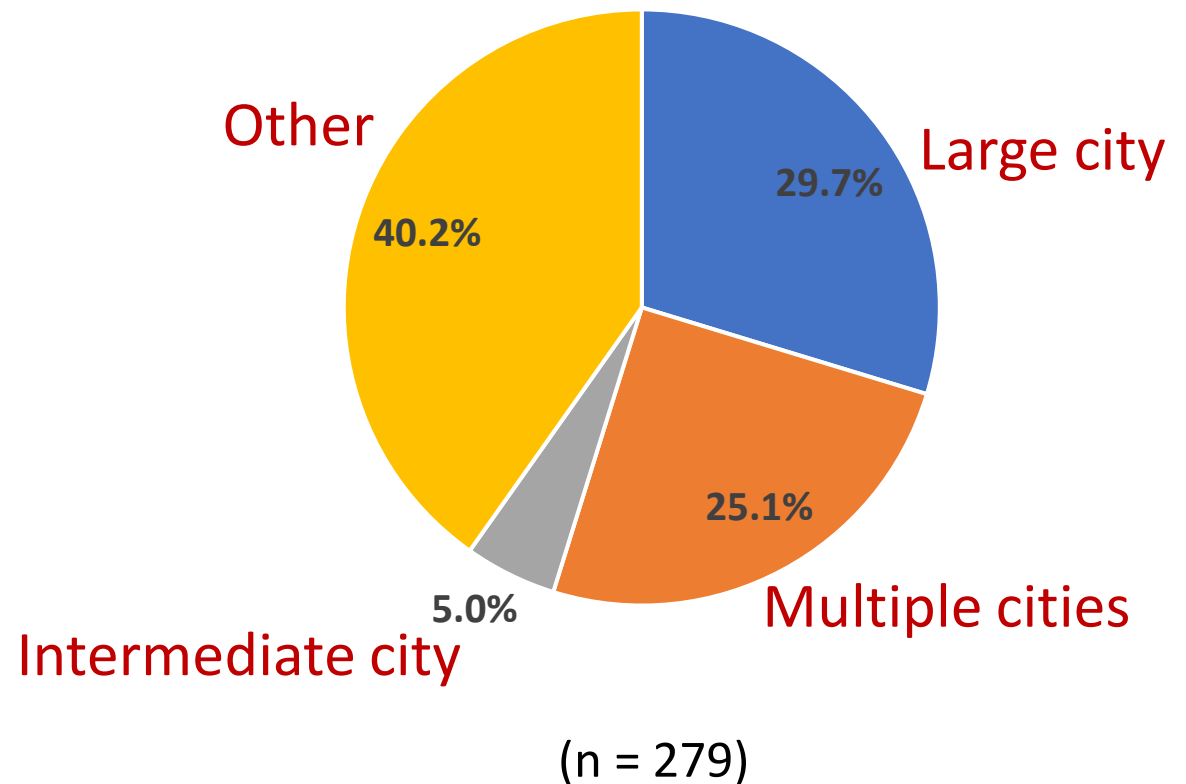
2. Geographies of unmet need for FP

‘Finally, the Viwandani-Korogocho difference is equally intriguing. Even when education, age and ethnicity are controlled for, a big difference persists between the two [NUHDSS] sites, with women in Viwandani more likely to realise their fertility desires than women in Korogocho. This difference may be partly explained by the lower level of under-five mortality in Viwandani than in Korogocho. Further analysis is therefore needed to understand the specific role community factors play in women (and couples) realising their fertility desires.’

Machiyama K, Mumah JN, Mutua M, Cleland J. Childbearing desires and behaviour: a prospective assessment in Nairobi slums. *BMC Pregnancy Childbirth*. (2019) 19:100. doi: 10.1186/s12884-019-2245-3

2. Geographies of unmet need for FP

- There is a **research bias** towards larger cities and national urban-rural comparisons
- We need to know more about trends in **intermediate cities, peri-urban** areas, etc.



Conclusion

- We know a fair amount about urban FP and fertility patterns/trends
- But there are **geographic and thematic blind spots**
- And we are limited by broad **urban/rural comparisons**

Thank you

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Duminy, J., Cleland, J., Harpham, T., Montgomery, M. R., Parnell, S. and Speizer, I. S. (2021) 'Urban Family Planning in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: A Critical Scoping Review'. *Frontiers in Global Women's Health* 2: 749636. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fgwh.2021.749636>