

Growing up in the SDG era: Diverse Realities of Young People in Low- and Middle-income countries

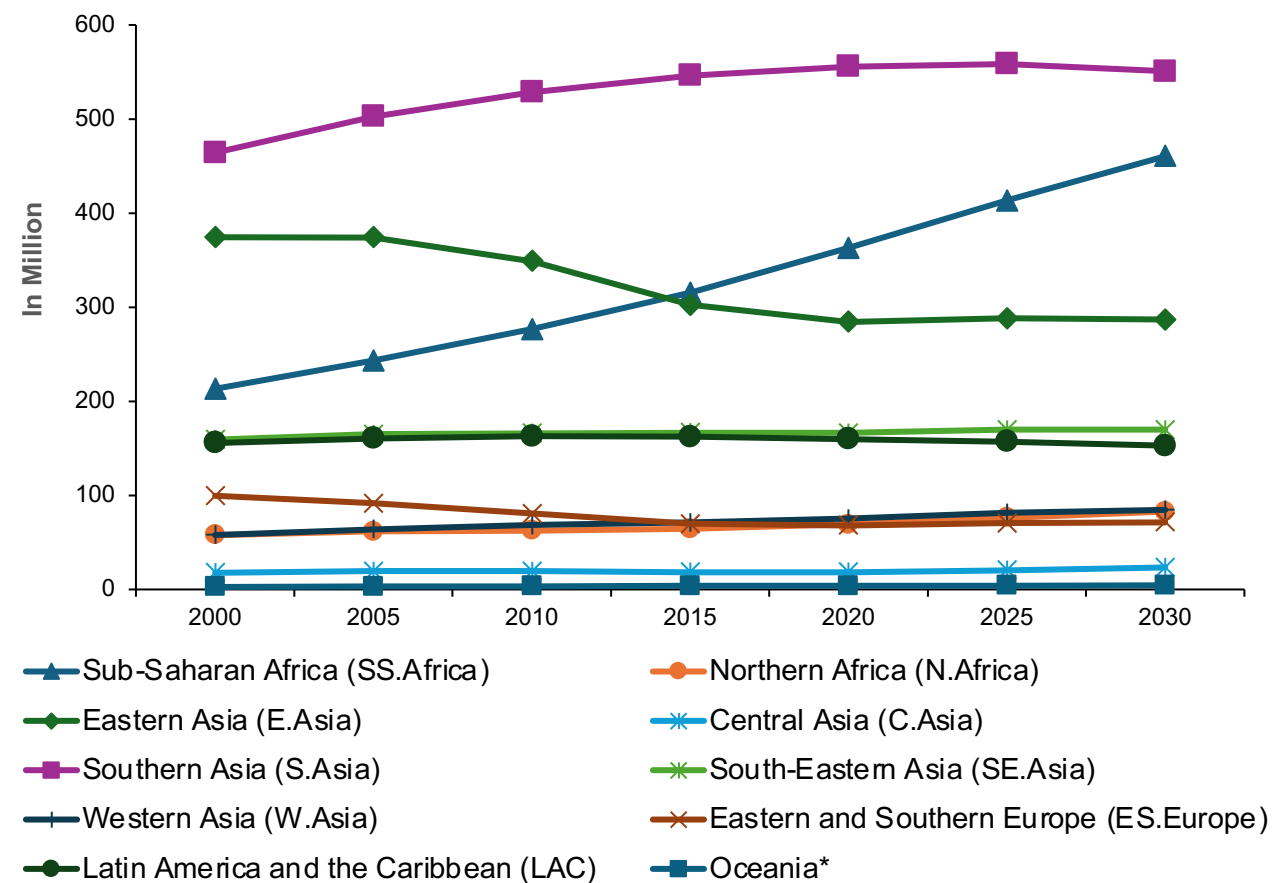
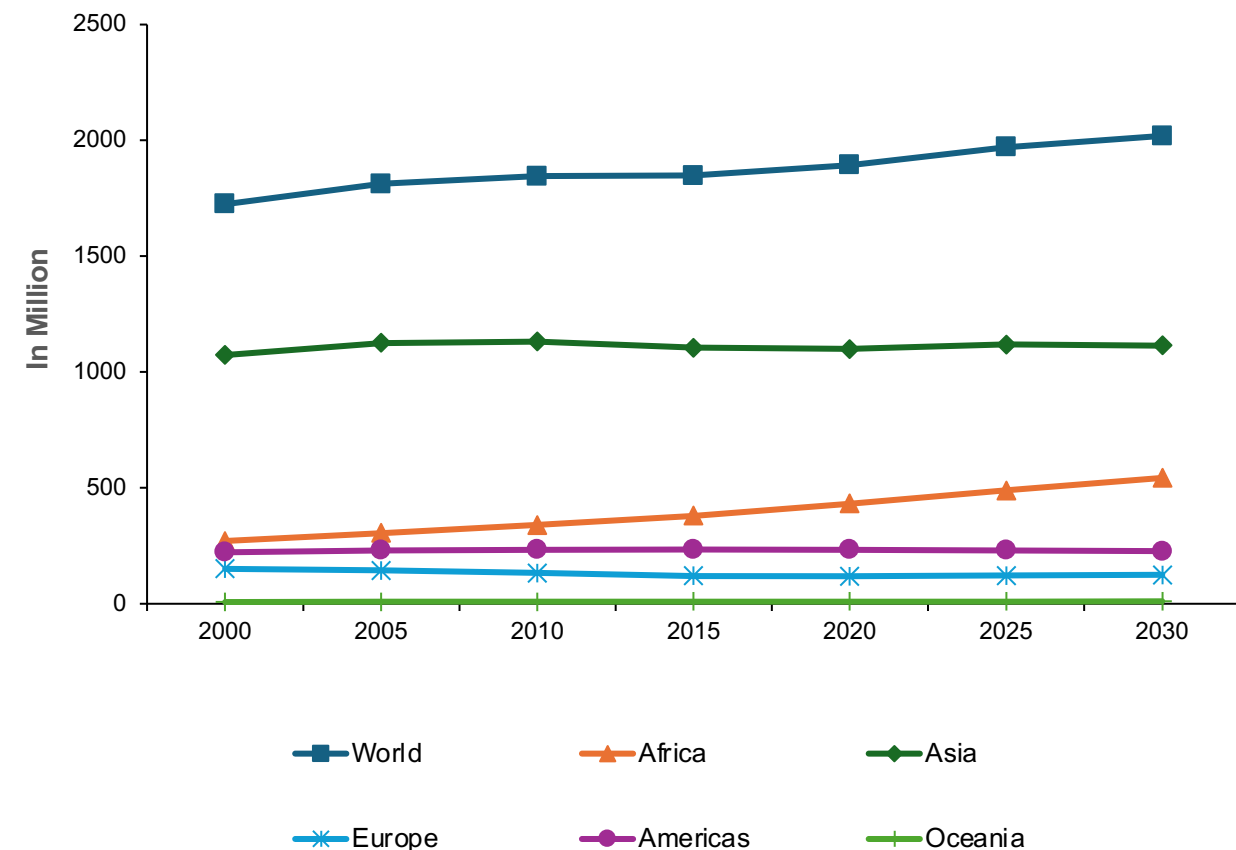
KG Santhya

IUSSP Mattei Dogan Foundation Award Presentation

International Population Conference

Brisbane 2025

Young people's world



SDG commitments to young people

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



- Reduction of maternal deaths
- Prevention and treatment for communicable and non-communicable diseases, substance abuse and injuries;
- Universal access to SRH services
- Universal health coverage

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



- Full and productive employment and decent work
- Equal pay for work of equal value
- Reduction in youth in NEET status
- Eradication of modern forms of slavery, including forced and child labour
- Protection of labour rights and safe & secure working environment
- Access to banking and financial services

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

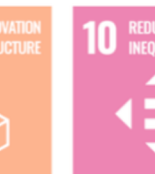


- Free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education, leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes
- Affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education
- Skilling for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship
- Gender parity in education
- Literacy and numeracy
- Citizenship education and education for sustainable development
- Safe, inclusive and effective learning environment

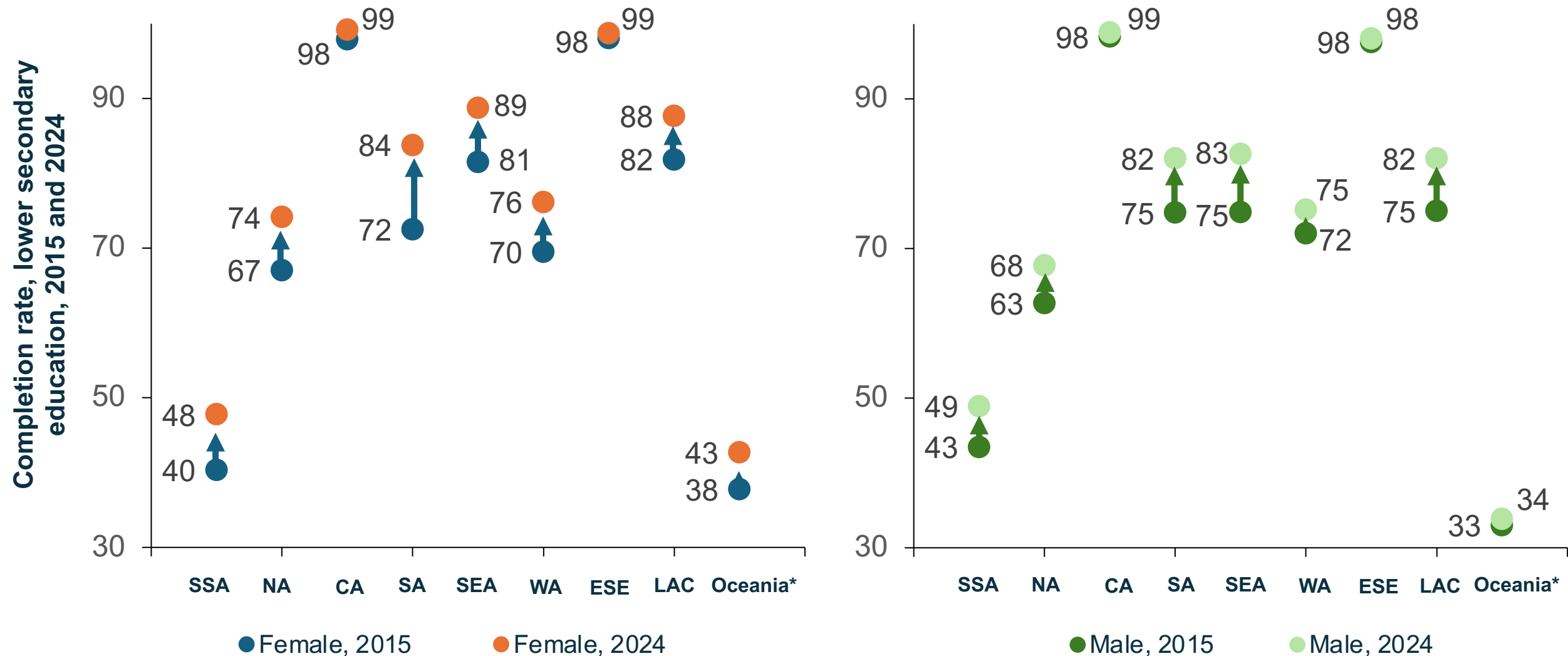
5 GENDER EQUALITY



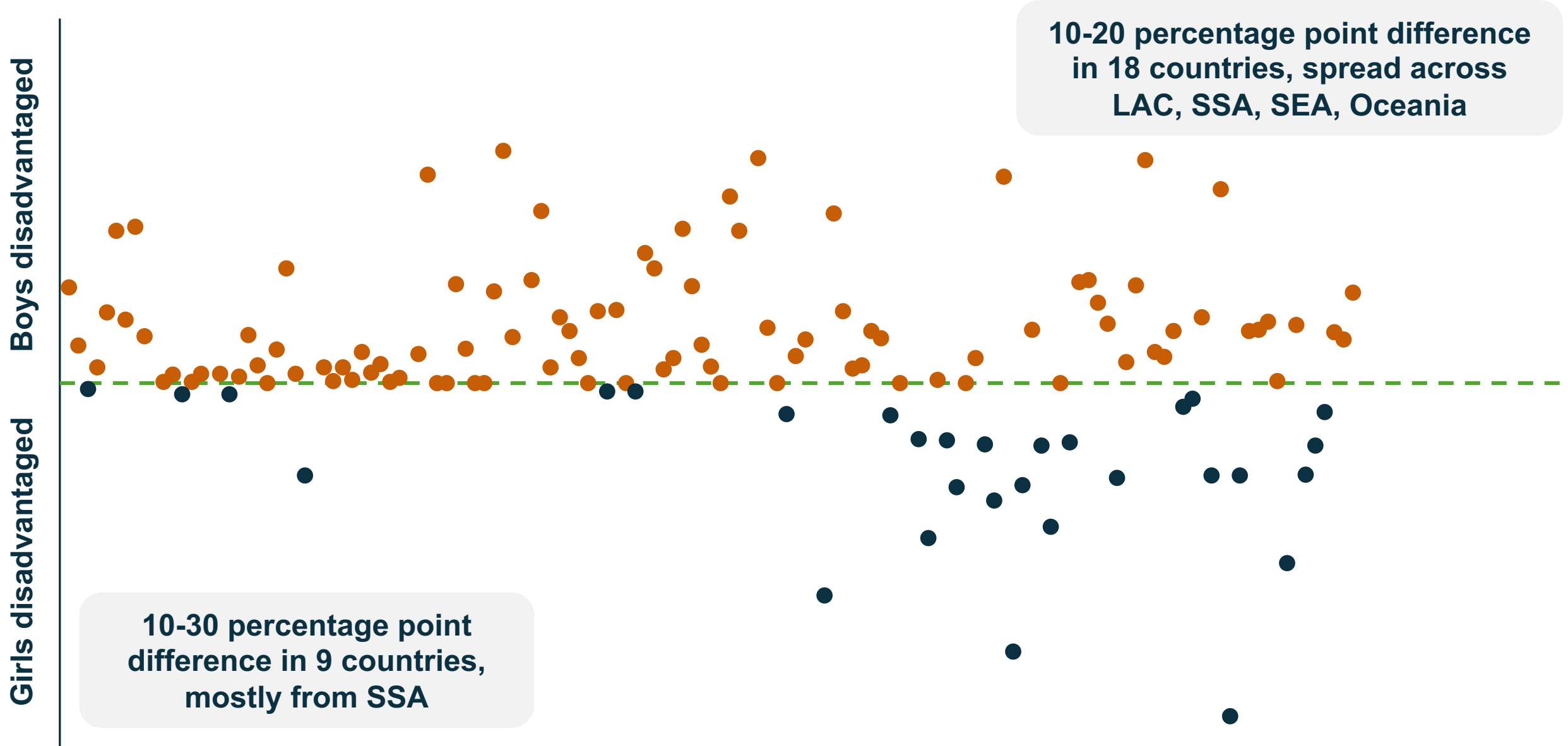
- Elimination of discrimination, violence and harmful practices against women and girls
- Recognition of unpaid care and domestic work
- Full and effective participation in civic life
- Universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights
- Enhanced use of ICT



Ensuring free, equitable and quality education

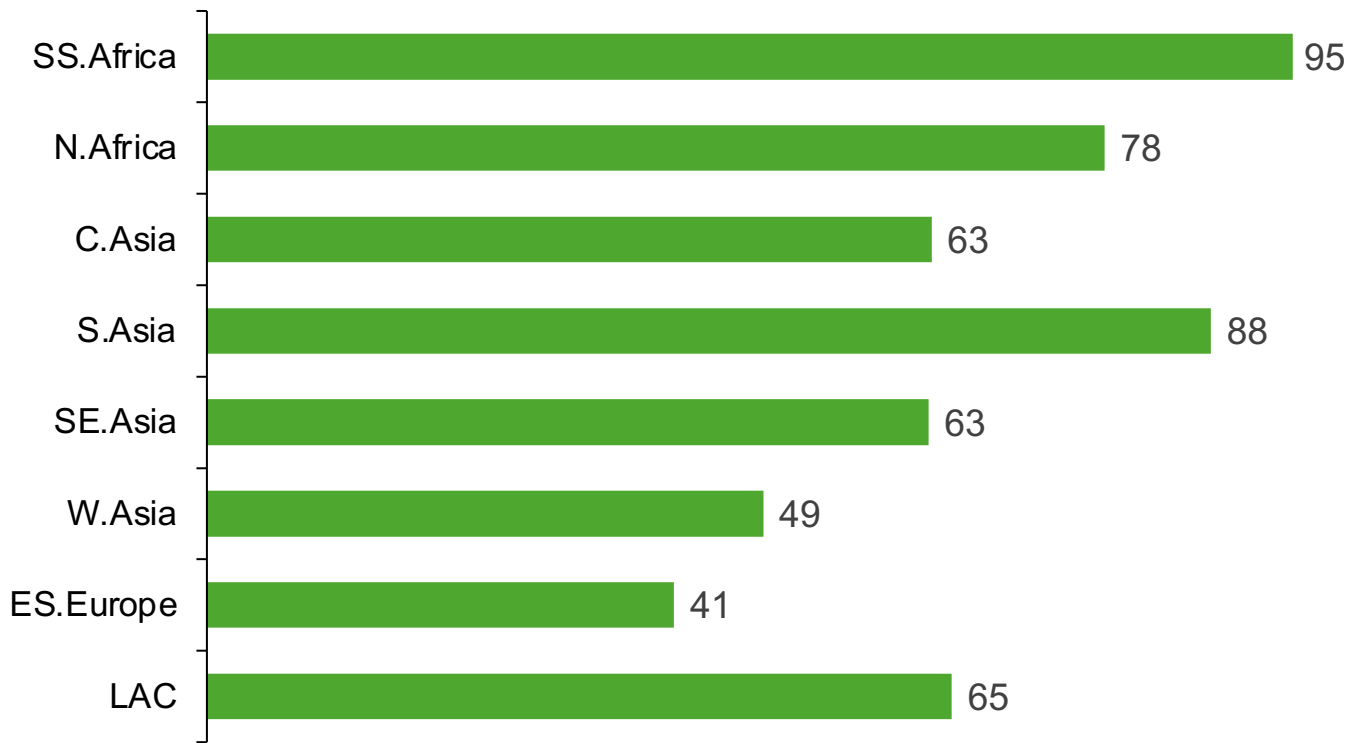


Gender gap in completion rate, lower secondary education, 2024



Promoting relevant and effective learning outcomes

Children lacking basic skills* (%)



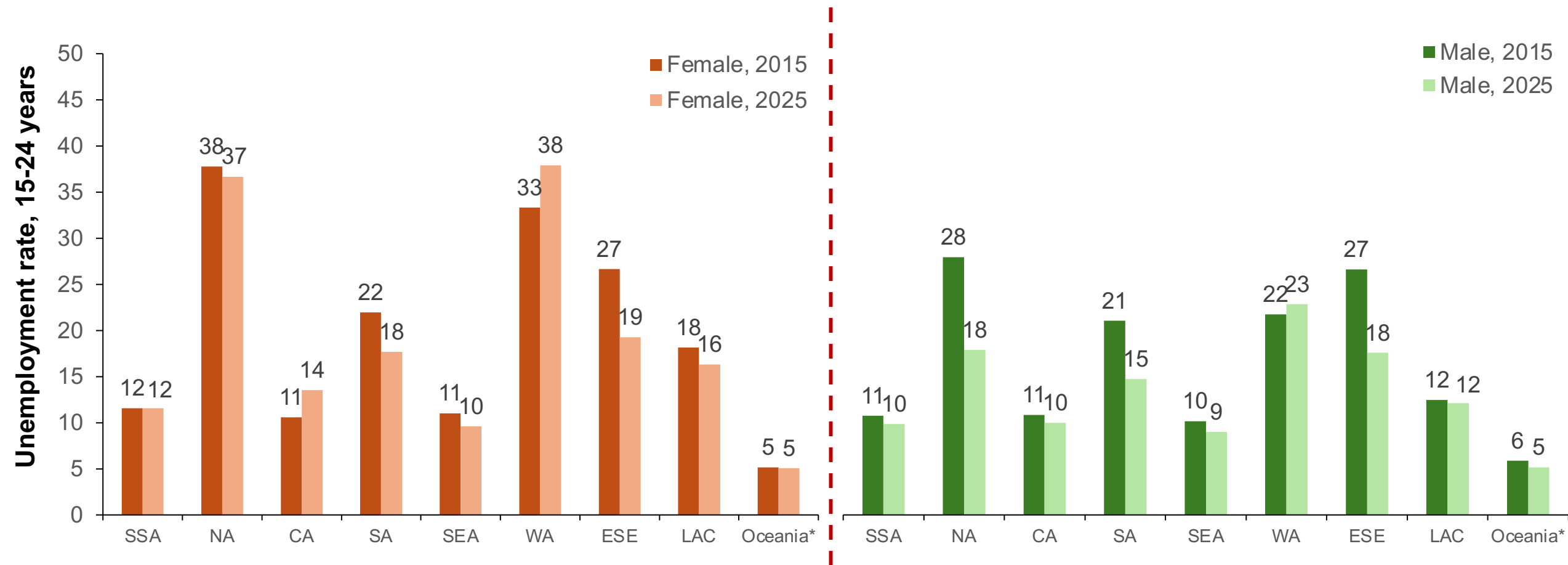
*Data points are estimated and are not limited to 2015-2025 period

Cost* of lacking basic skills and early school leaving in 2030 (in \$ billion)

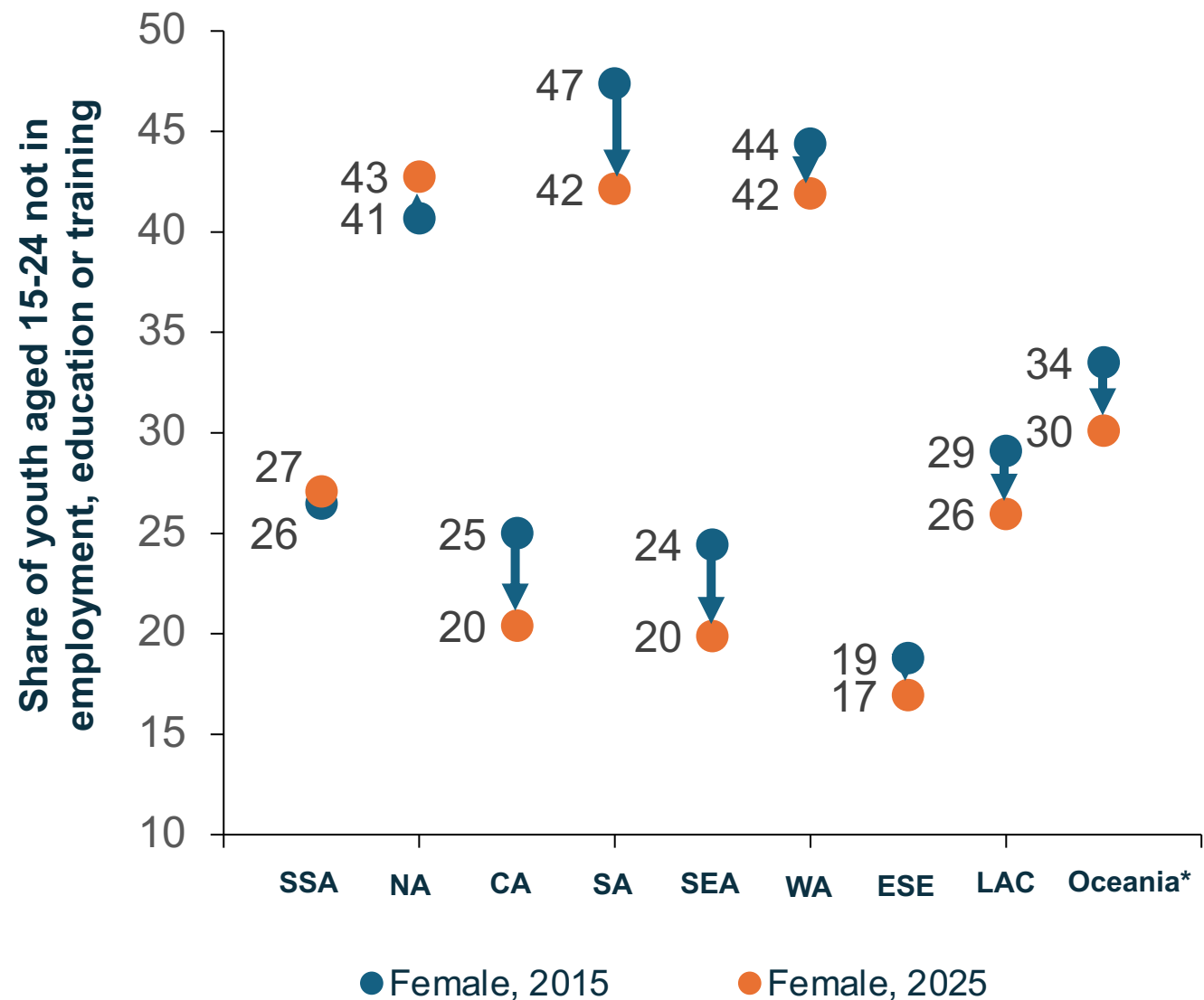
Region**	Lacking basic skills	Early school leaving
Sub-Saharan Africa	552	374
Central Asia	89	32
Southern and Western Asia	1542	743
Eastern Asia and the Pacific	1459	2197
Latin America and the Caribbean	1251	525

*Annual private cost, i.e., economic costs borne by individuals;
**Classification of regions differ from regional classification used elsewhere in the presentation

Reducing unemployment

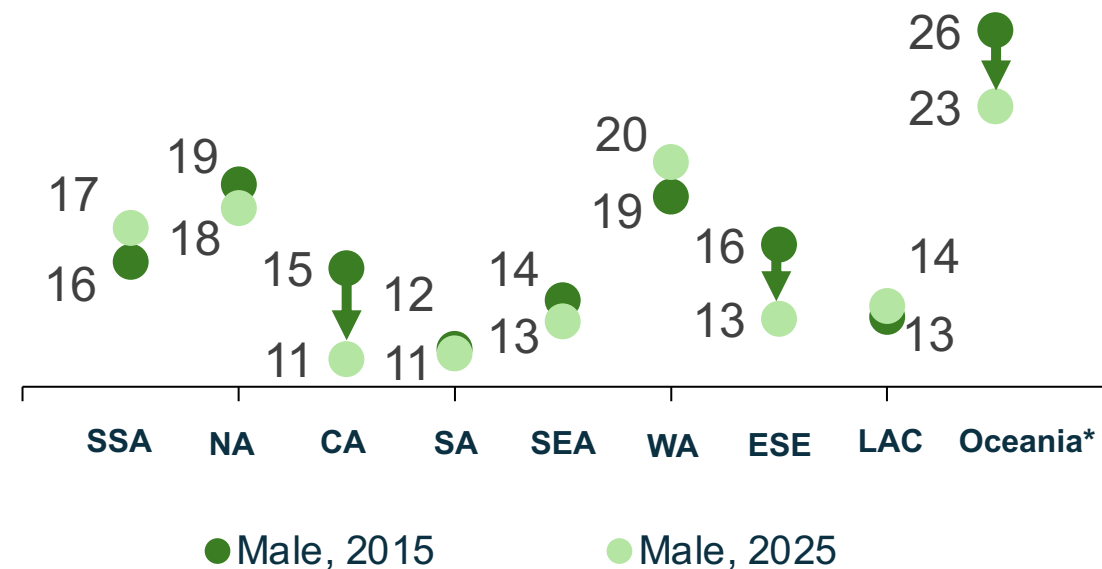


Reducing youth in NEET status



NEET status is a much more permanent situation for young women than men

More young women than men were in inactive NEET status than unemployed NEET

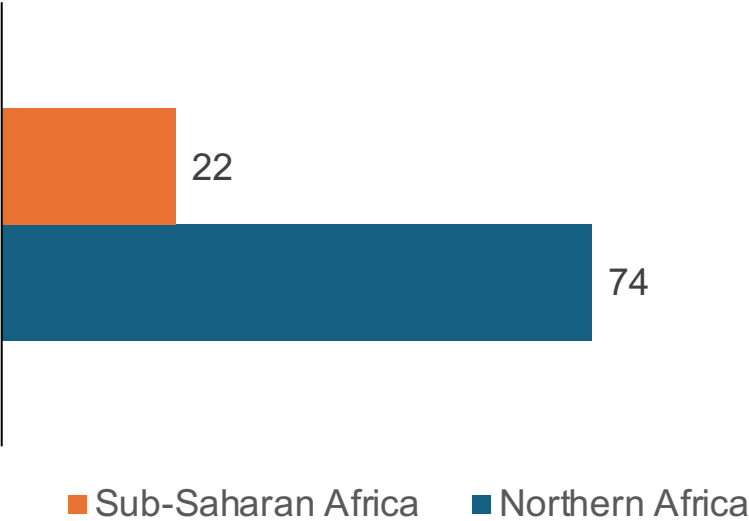


Eliminating harmful practices

Young women aged 20-24 first married by exact age 18



Proportion of 15-19 year-old girls who have undergone female genital mutilation (2022)



Sources::United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) global databases, 2024.

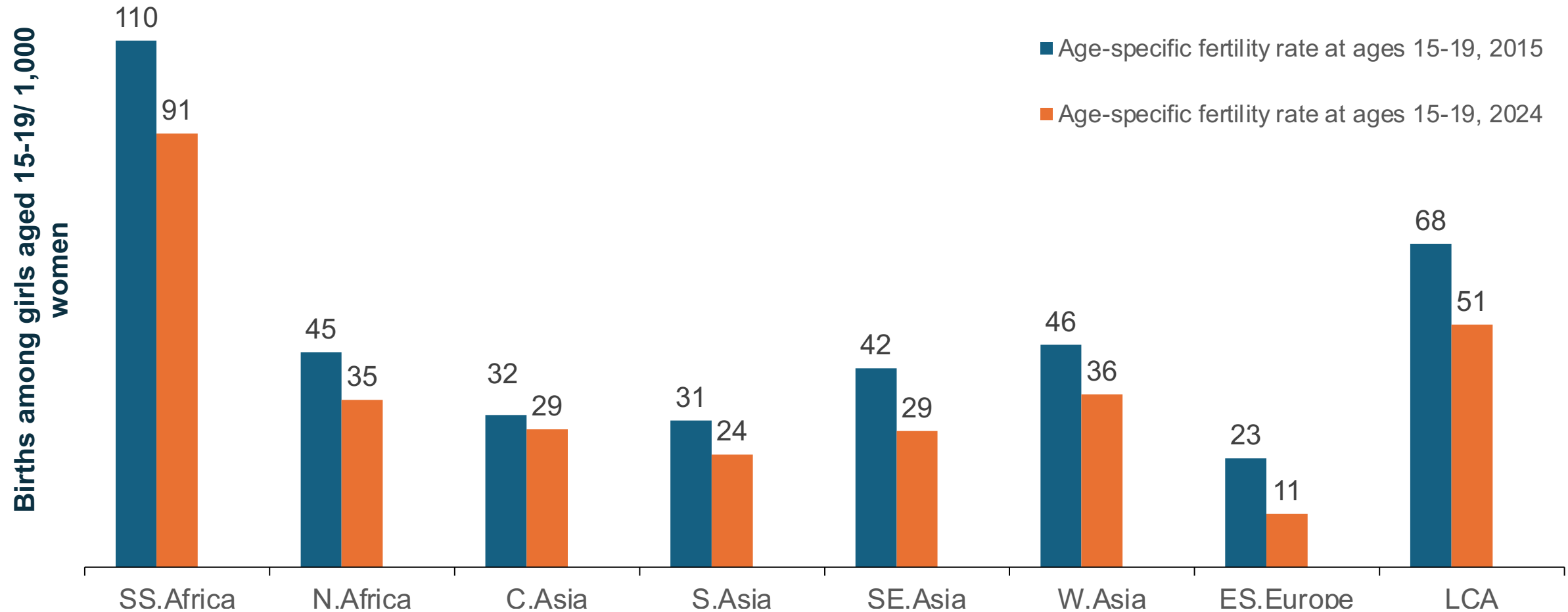
Note: *Oceania excluding Australia and New Zealand

Reducing child marriage over time

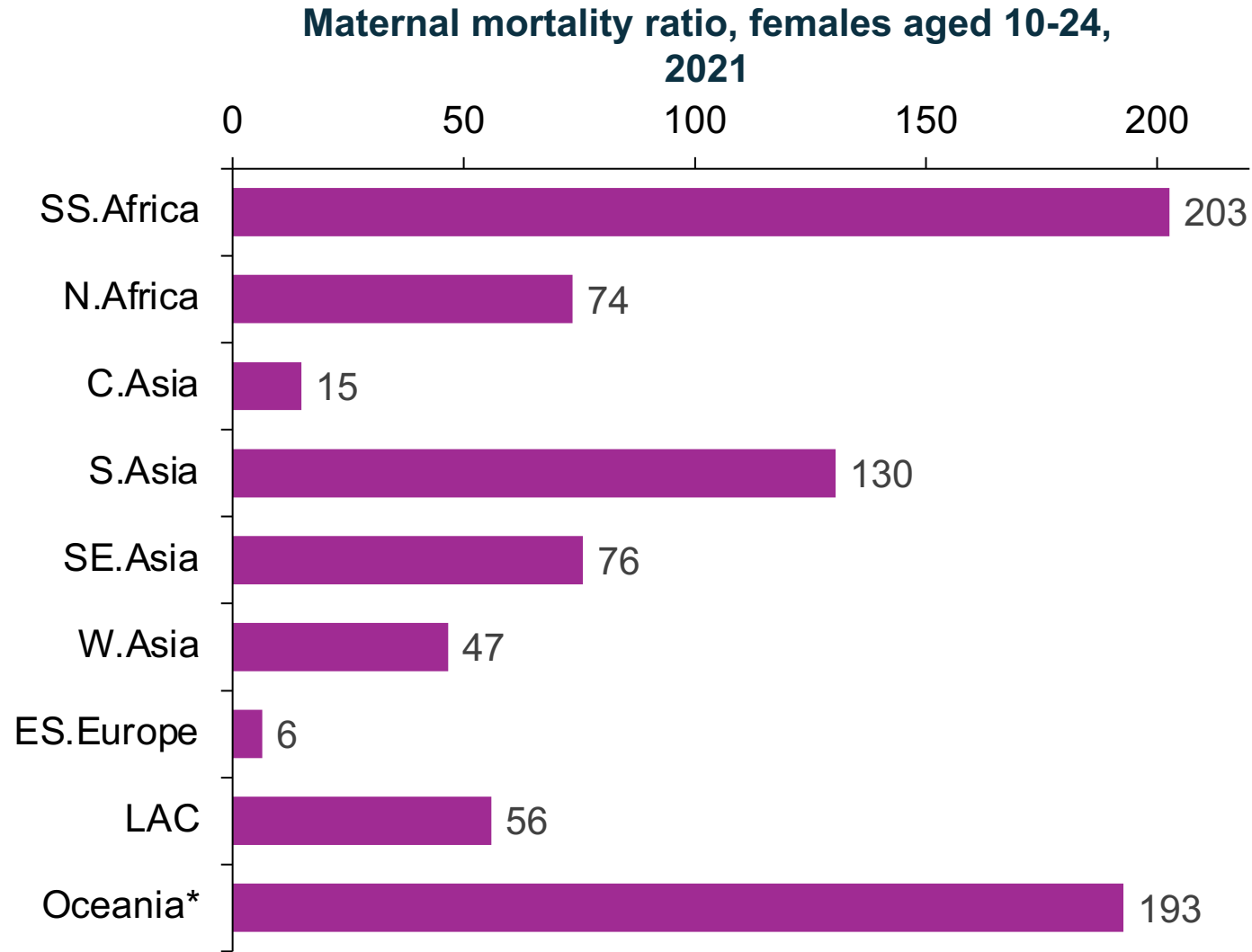
Girls aged 15-19 currently married/in union



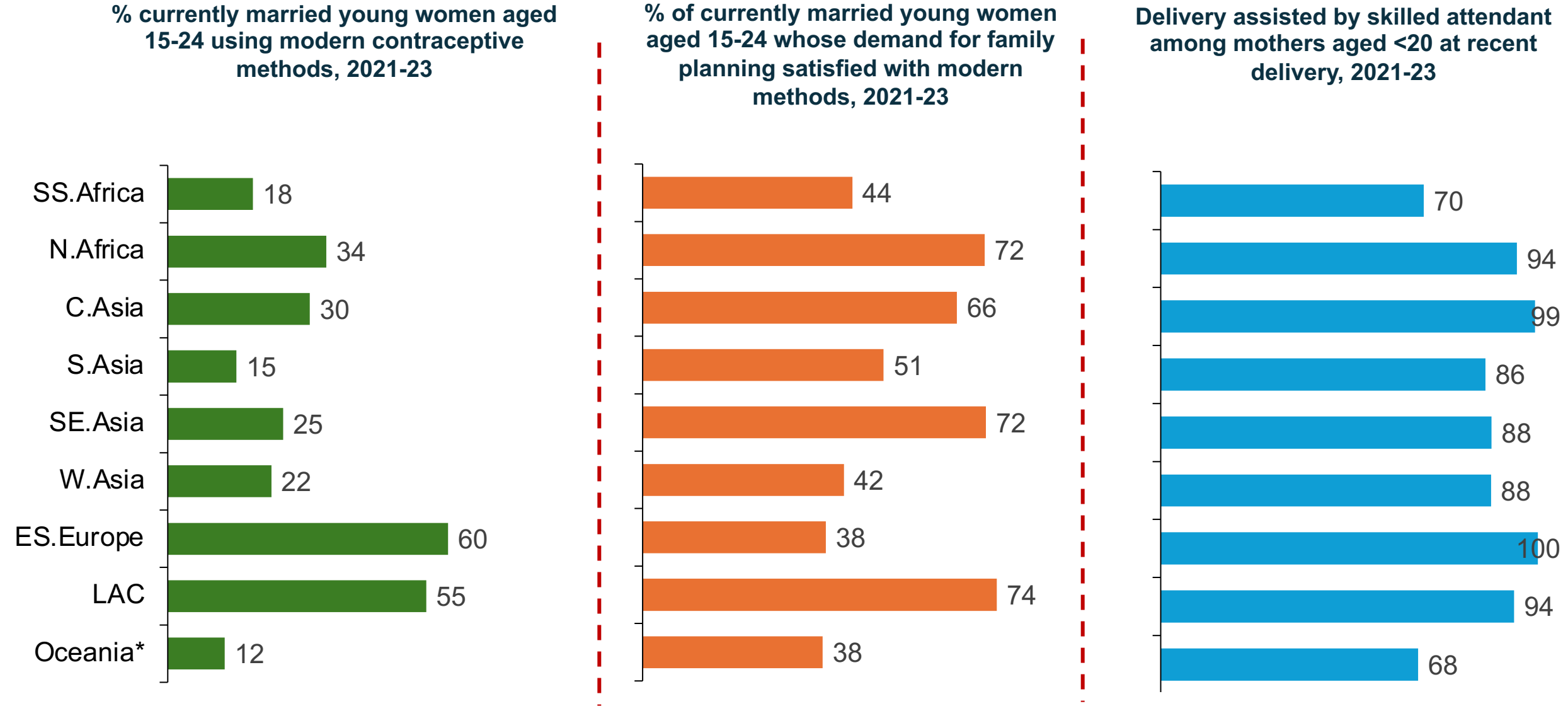
Reducing early onset of childbearing



Reducing maternal mortality



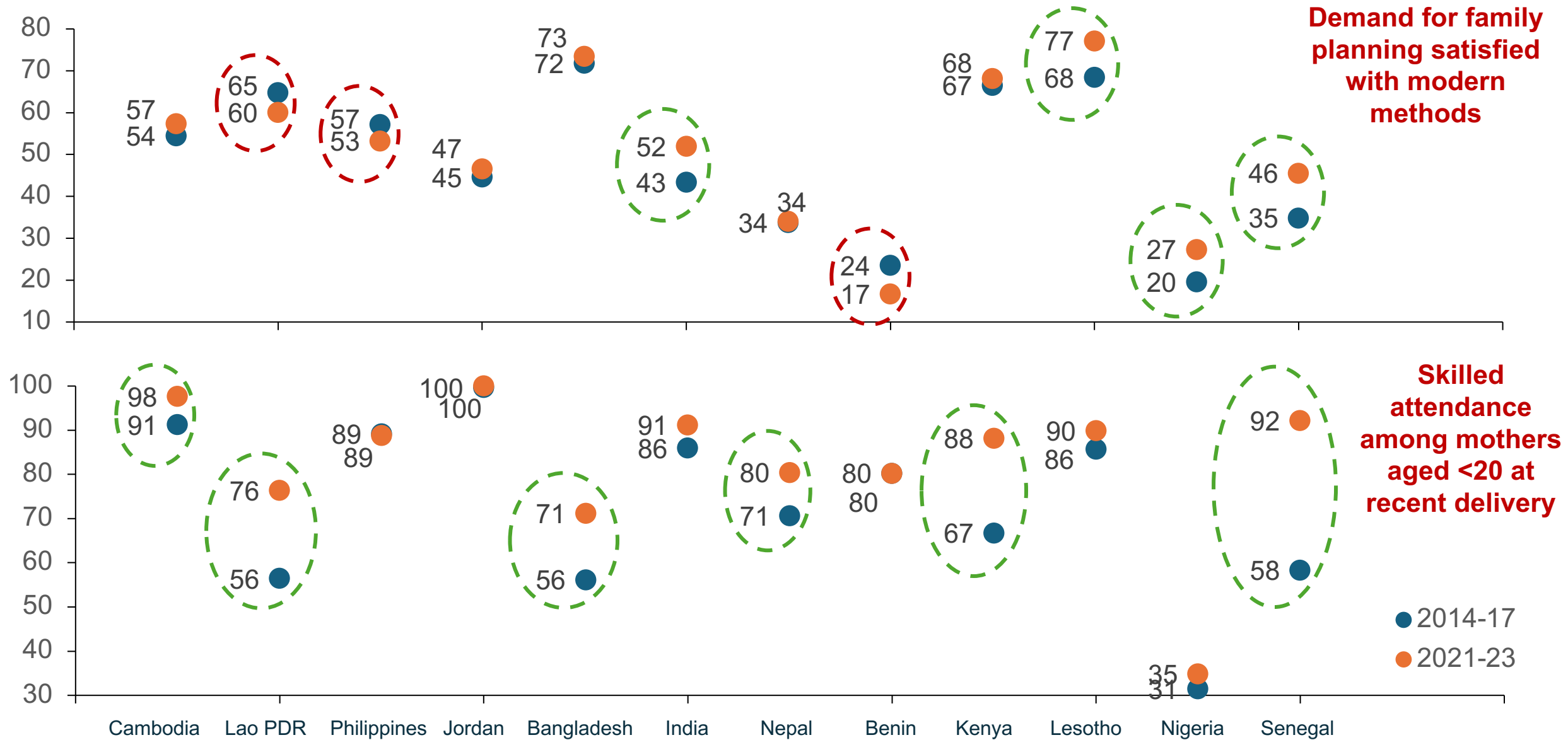
Ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health



Source: <https://www.statcompiler.com/en/>; <https://mics.unicef.org/surveys>

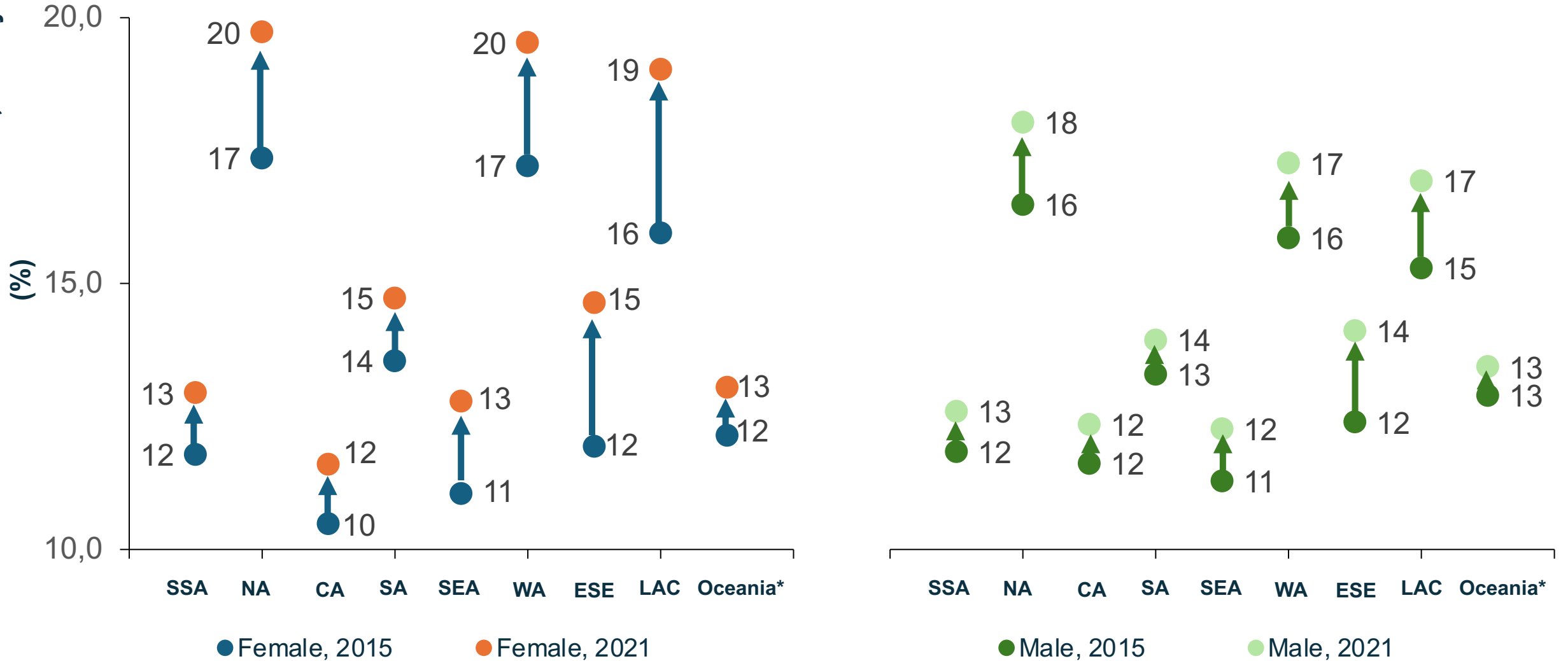
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Progress in ensuring universal access to SRH services



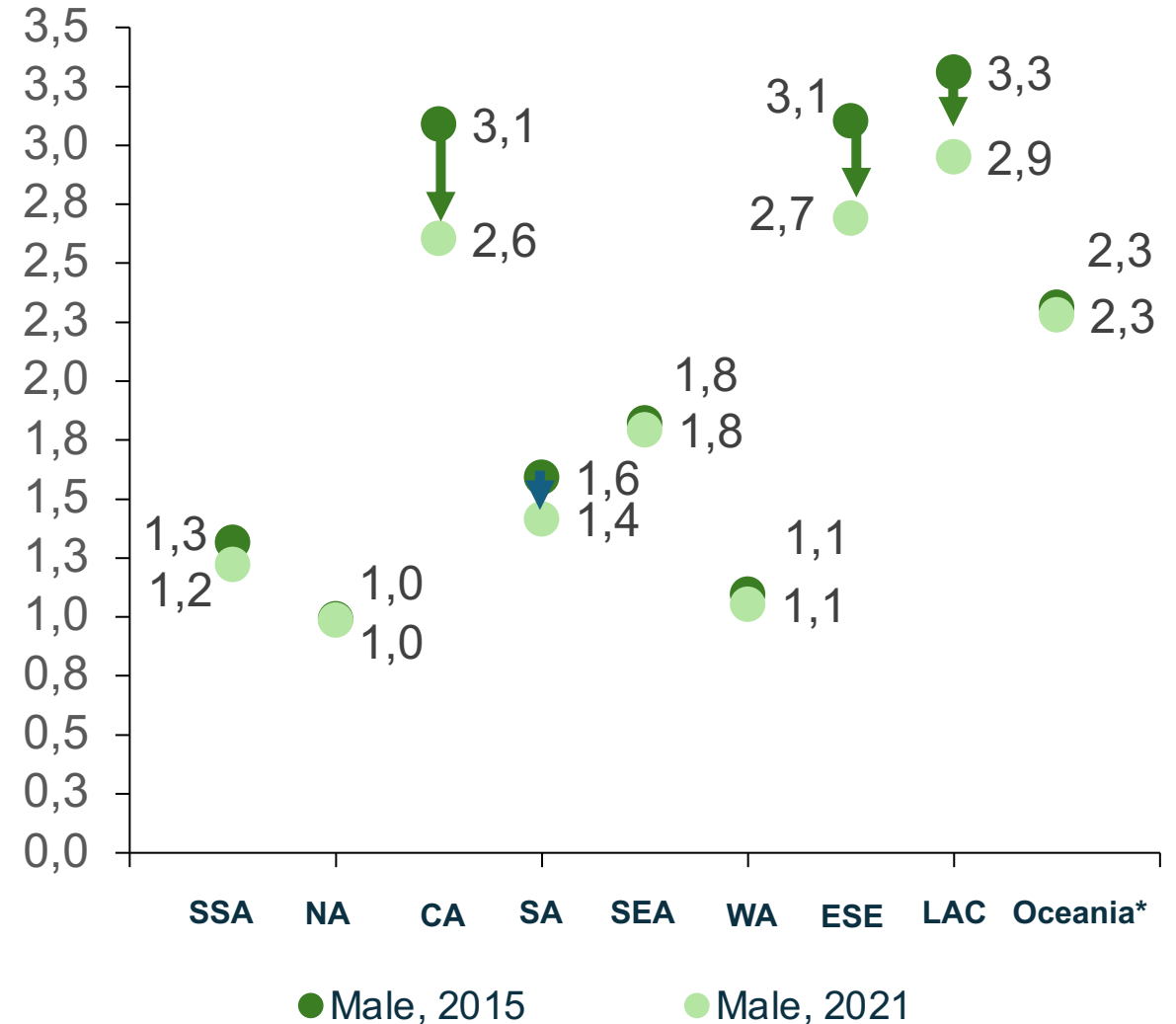
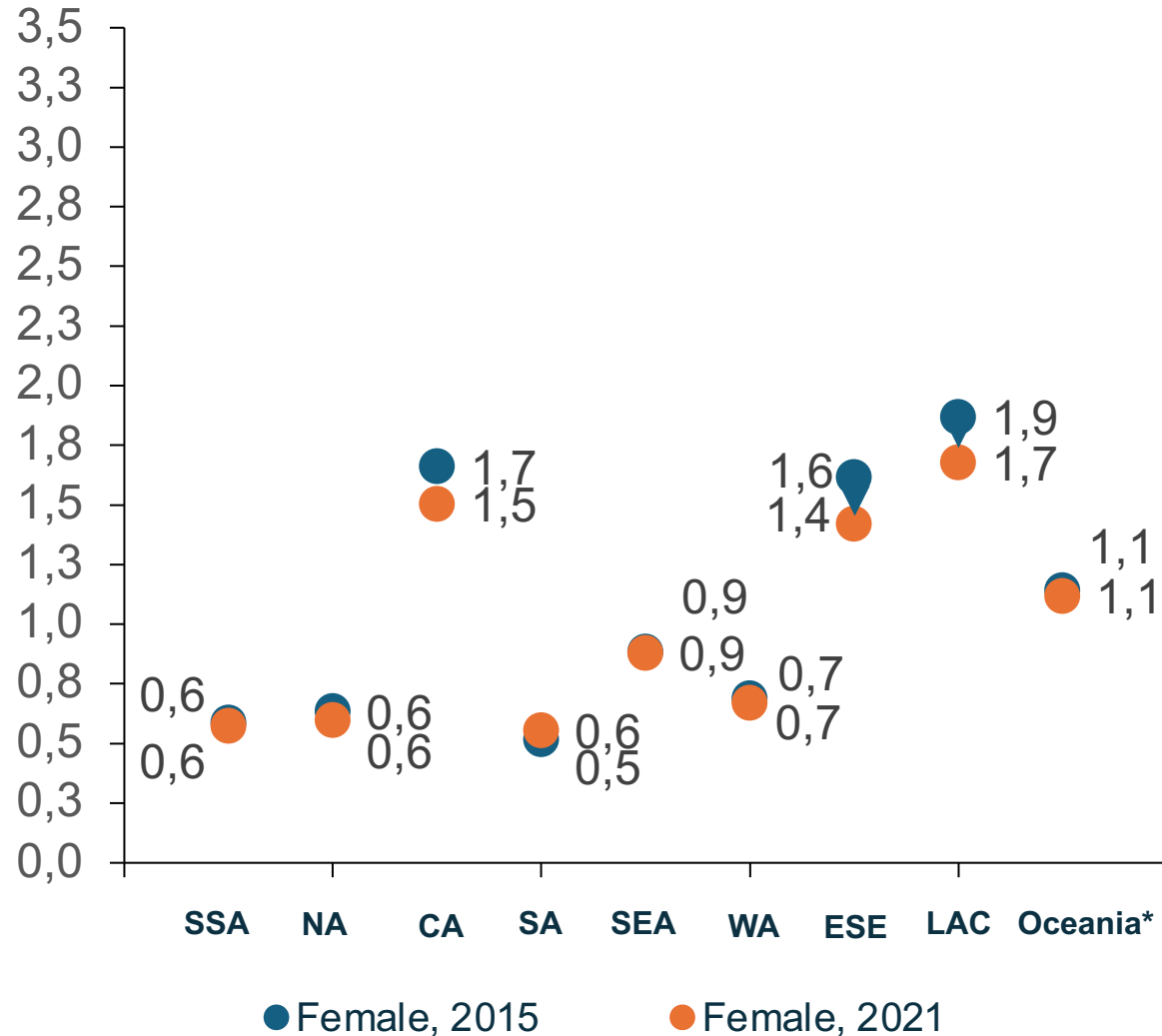
Reducing mental health disorders

Prevalence of mental health disorders, 10-24 years



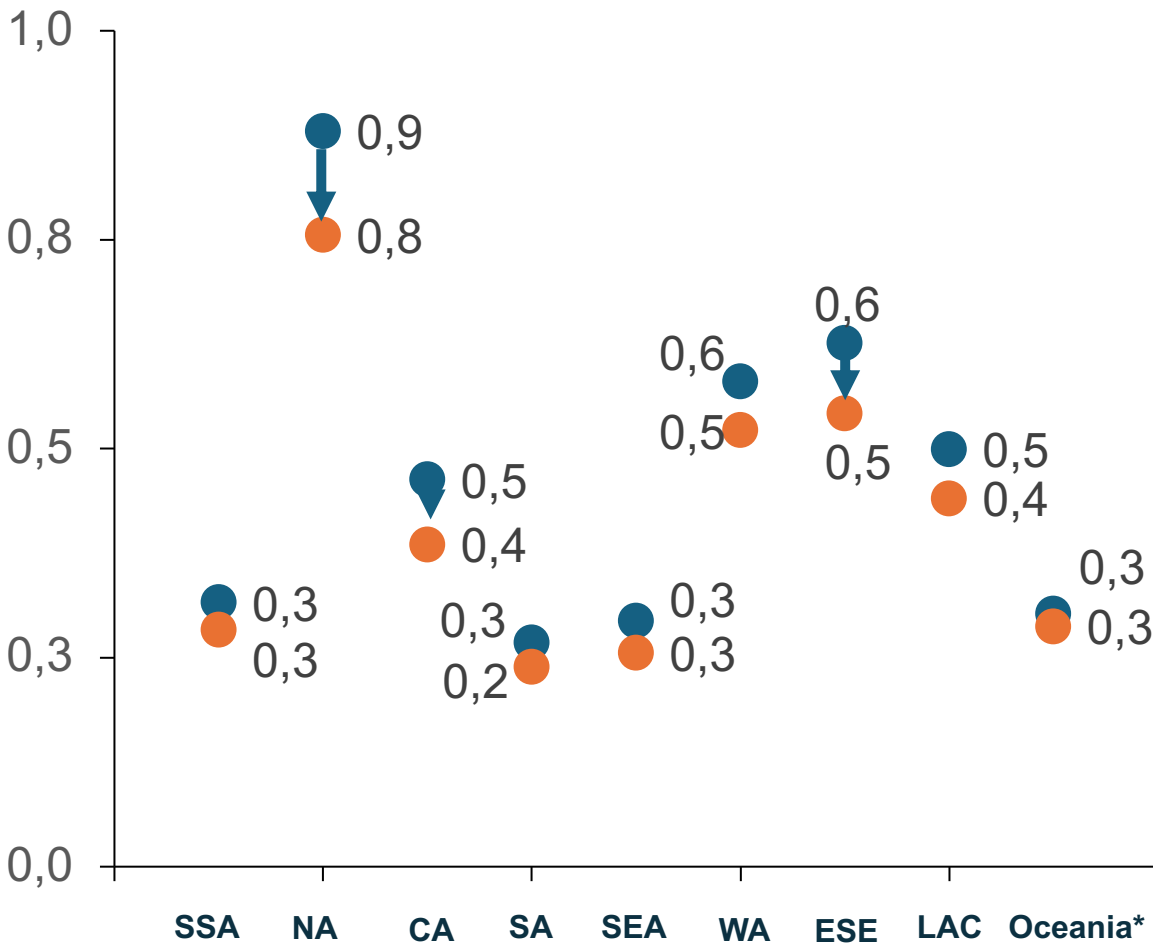
Reducing substance abuse disorders

Prevalence of substance disorders, 10-24 years (%)

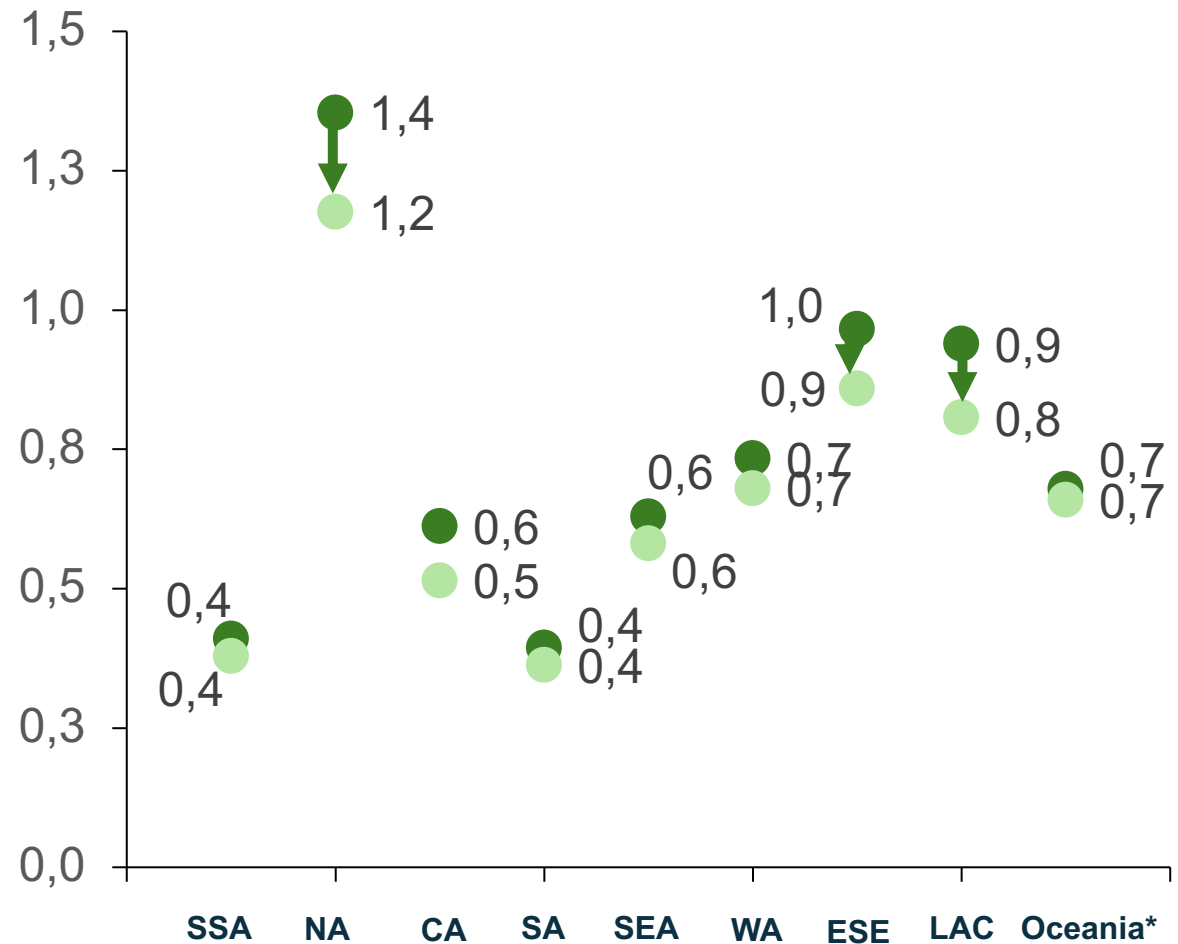


Reducing road injuries

Prevalence of road injuries, 10-24 years (%)



● Female, 2015 ● Female, 2021



● Male, 2015 ● Male, 2021

Moving forward

- Keep young people in the driver's seat of policymaking
- Invest in making a desirable set of indicators available across more or all countries and at regular intervals to track the progress in meeting our commitments to young people