

Covid-19 and the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa – A Reflection

A Presentation at the IUSSP Webinar

On

The Covid-19 Pandemic and Sexual & Reproductive Health in Africa

Yemi Adewoyin

University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria

&

University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa

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Outline

- Introduction
- What Sexual & Reproductive Health (SRH) isn't
- SRH and Cognate Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Where We Were with the SDGs
- Covid-19 Situation Report
- Covid-19 Pathways for Impacting the Gains Made
- Sneak a Peek
- Conclusion
- Thank you

Sexual & Reproductive Health (SRH)

- Transcends the sexual and procreation acts
- Encompasses having access to a range of good-quality information and services that promote the individual population's reproductive system and its functions and processes (UN, 1994; UN, 2017).
- It includes;
 - Family-planning counselling, information, education, communication and services and access to safe and effective contraceptive methods
 - Education and services for prenatal care, safe delivery, post-natal care, and infant and women's health care
 - Prevention of unsafe abortion and management of the consequences of abortion.
 - Prevention and treatment of reproductive tract infections, sexually transmitted diseases and other reproductive health conditions including infertility
 - Prevention of harmful practices such as female genital mutilation and eradication of gender-based violence

SRH and SDG 3 (Health & Wellbeing)

Cognate Target	Indicator
Reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births	Maternal mortality ratio Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel
End preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age	Neonatal mortality rate Under-five mortality rate
Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services	Met modern contraceptive needs Adolescent birth rate (aged 10-19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group
Achieve universal health coverage	Coverage of essential health services, service capacity and access Number covered by health insurance or a public health system per 1,000 population
Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries	Health worker density and distribution

SRH and SDG 5 (Gender Equality)

Cognate Target

Indicator

Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

Intimate partner violence
Sexual violence by non-intimate partner

Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation

Proportion of women who were married or in a union before age 15 and 18
Proportion of girls and women who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting

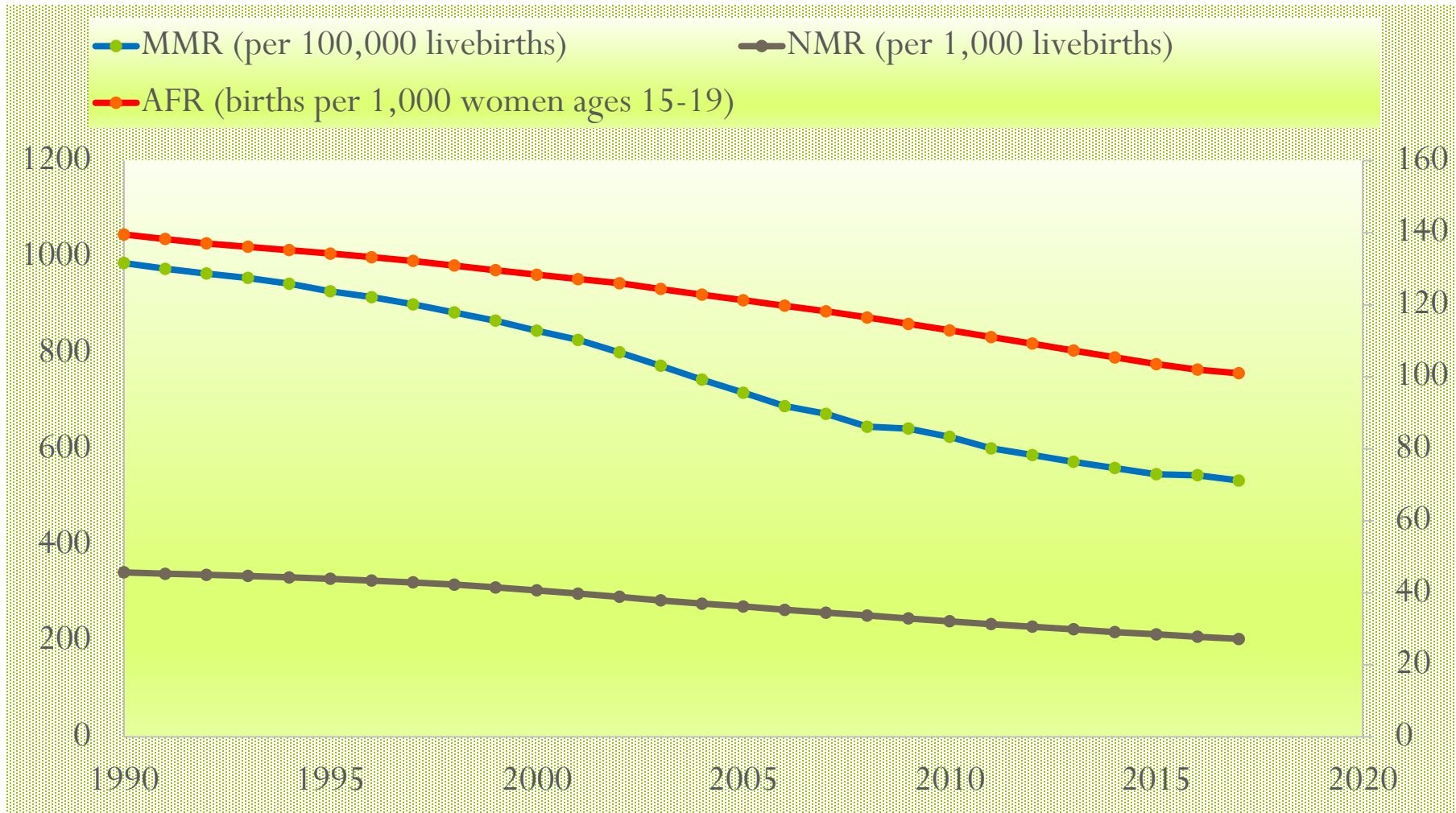
Ensure universal access to sexual reproductive health and reproductive rights

Proportion of women who make their own decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care
Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee women's access to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education

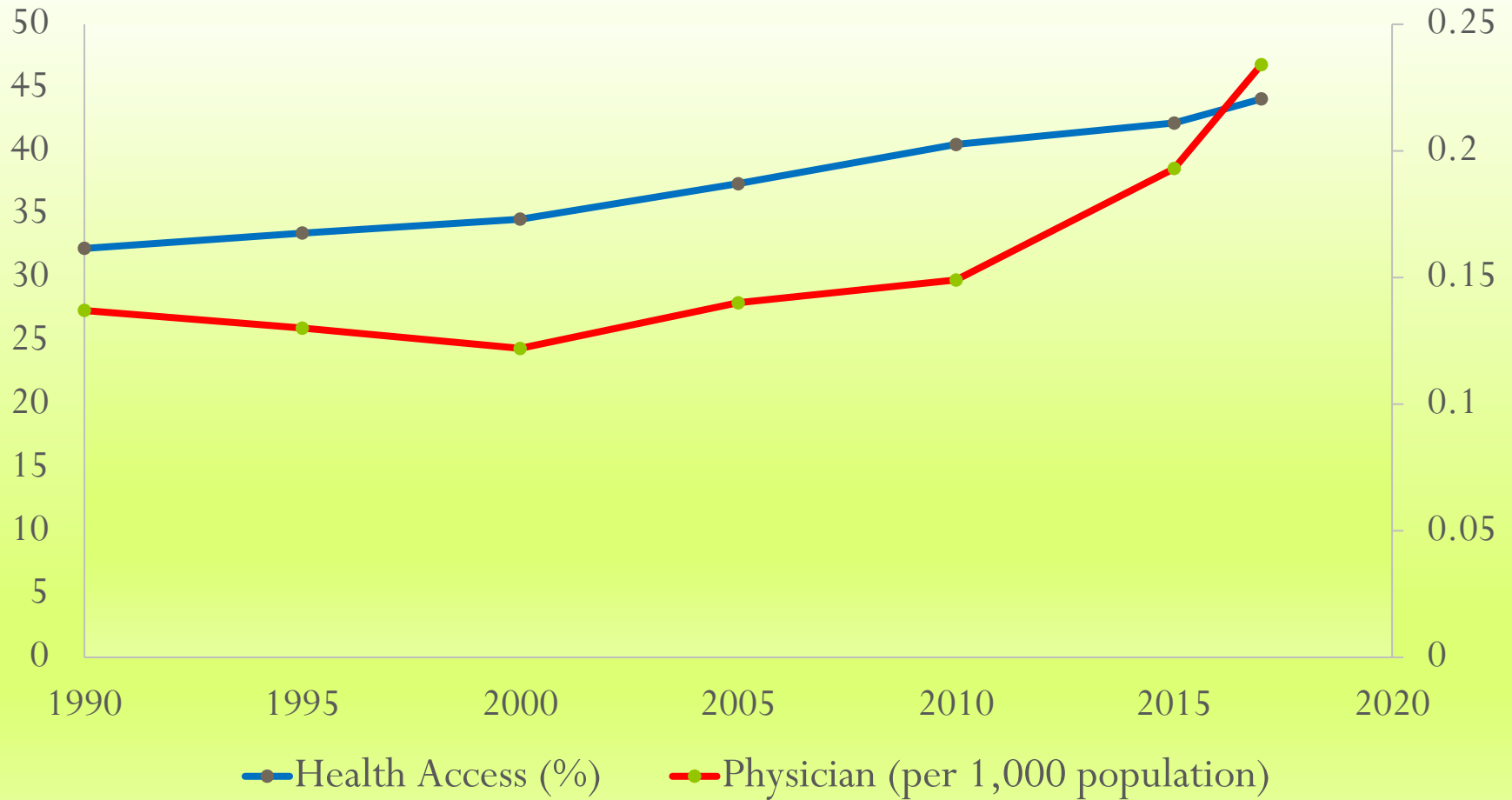
SRH and SDGs 1, 4, 6 & 10

- SDG 1 – No Poverty
 - Socioeconomic status and its implications for SRH, including sex commodification, access and inverse care / the underclass hypothesis
- SDG 4 – Quality Education
 - Gender disparity in access and its implications for knowledge of SRH choices
- SDG 6 – Clean Water & Sanitation
 - WASH facilities distribution and availability for menstrual hygiene, infant health and even for coitus
- SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities
 - Place inequalities within countries and access to SRH services

State of the SDG Targets (1)

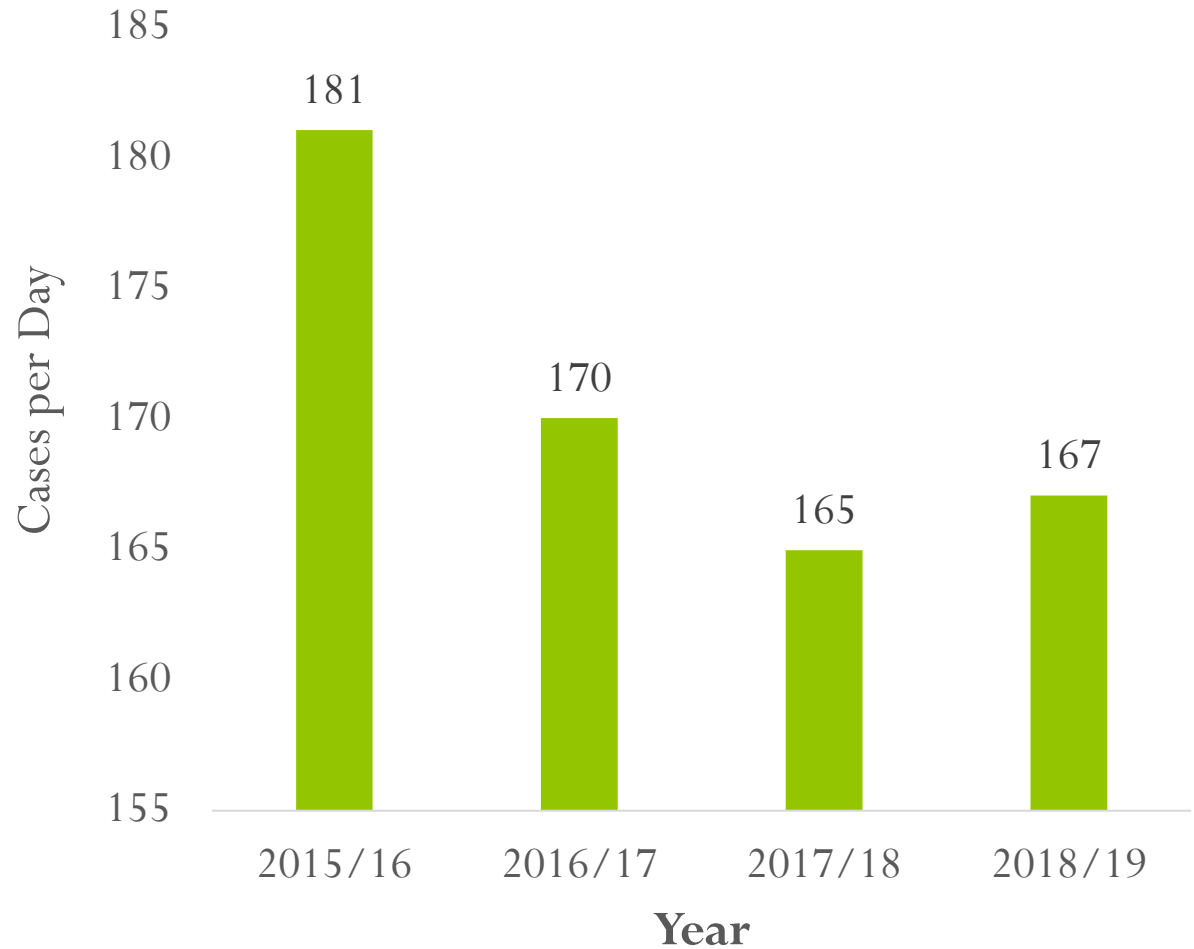


State of the SDG Targets (2)



Sexual Violence (South Africa)

Sexual Violence as reported here is as reported in the Annual Crime Statistics of the South African Police Service.



Covid-19 Status Report

- As at 30th August, 2020 globally;
 - New Cases – 265,888
 - Confirmed cases – 24,854,140 (Africa – 1,044,513 / 4.2%)
 - Fatalities – 838,924
- Confirmed Cases (and deaths) in Africa as of 16th August – Top 10
 - **South Africa – 583,653 (11,677)**
 - Nigeria – 48,770 (974)
 - Ghana – 42,210 (231)
 - **Algeria – 38,133 (1,360)**
 - Kenya – 29,849 (472)
 - Ethiopia – 28,894 (509)
 - Cameroon – 18,469 (401)
 - Cote D'Ivoire – 16,993 (108)
 - Madagascar – 13,724 (166)
 - Senegal – 12,032 (251)

Pathways for Eroding SDG Gains on SRH

- Reprioritization of public spending
 - Most SRH services are government funded with support from international development agencies.
 - Diverting the funds to R&D to combat Covid-19 and for providing stimulus packages to cushion the economic consequences of Covid-19 means less attention to SRH
- Movement Restriction impacts
 - Access to health facilities for SRH services including antenatal and post-natal care, contraceptives and legalized abortion.
 - It also affects coital frequency and associated pleasure, and intimate partner violence
- Healthcare Services
 - Prioritization of Covid-19 patients with respect to personnel and hospital bed spaces

Sneaking a Peek into What to Expect

- Women have died or suffered unsafe births after transport bans in Kenya and 44 other countries – Open Democracy online
- Covid-19 puts Sierra Leone's expectant mothers at further risk – Mail & Guardian, 20th August, 2020
- Doctors' exodus looms as international flights resume – Punch Newspaper, Nigeria. 26th August, 2020
- School closures factor in rape of Ethiopian girls during Covid-19 lockdown – African News Agency, 4th June, 2020
- 2,372 girls defiled, married off during Covid-19 lockdown in Uganda – New Vision, 31st August, 2020
- South African Police Service received 87,000 gender-based violence calls during first week of lockdown – Minister of Police, 2nd April, 2020
- After lockdown, Femicide rises in South Africa – Foreign Policy Online

Thank you.