



Overview of available data and data sources on birth registration

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Outline

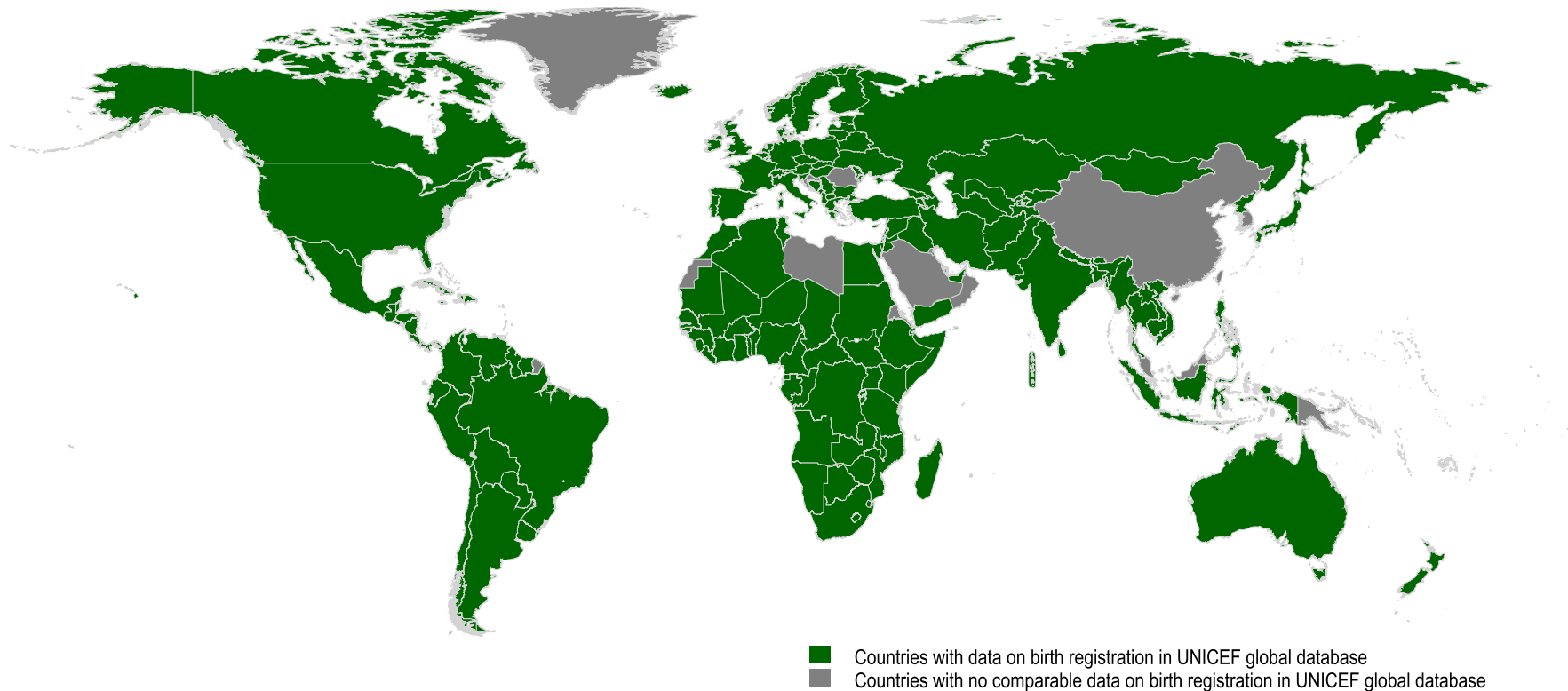
- Overview of available data and data sources on birth registration
- Presentation of UNICEF's current/planned activities on Birth Registration data

OVERVIEW OF AVAILABLE DATA AND DATA SOURCES ON BIRTH REGISTRATION

Data availability and country coverage

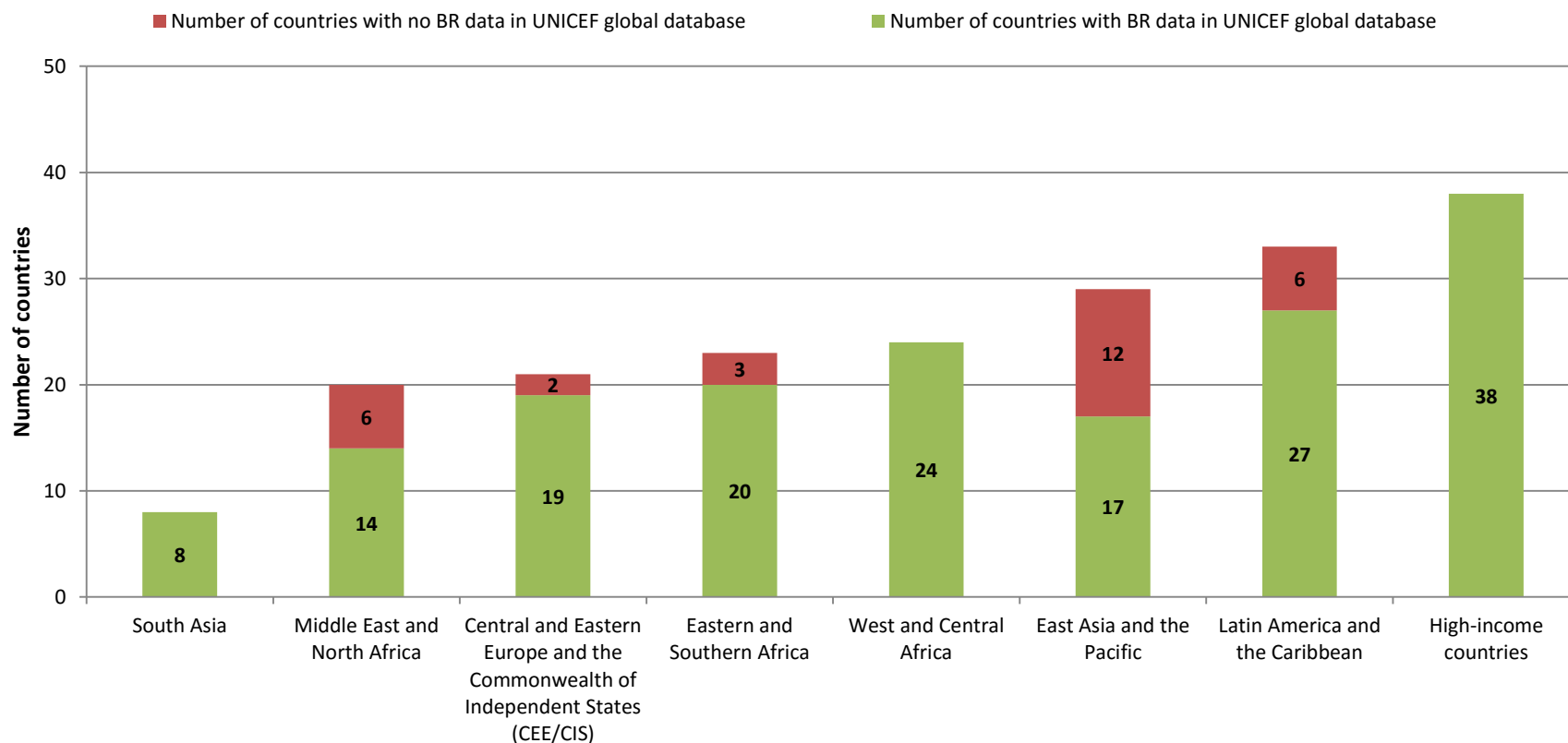
- There are 197 countries in UNICEF's world classification
- The global database currently includes data on birth registration from 166 countries (>80% of countries with data)
- Representative data for all 7 UNICEF regions plus high-income countries
- Disaggregated to extent possible (sex, age, urban-rural residence, wealth quintile, caregiver education, possession of birth certificate)

Data on birth registration are available for more than 80% of the world's countries



Notes: This map is stylized and not to scale. It does not reflect a position by UNICEF on the legal status of any country or territory or the delimitation of any frontiers. The dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties. The final boundary between the Sudan and South Sudan has not yet been determined. The final status of the Abyei area has not yet been determined.

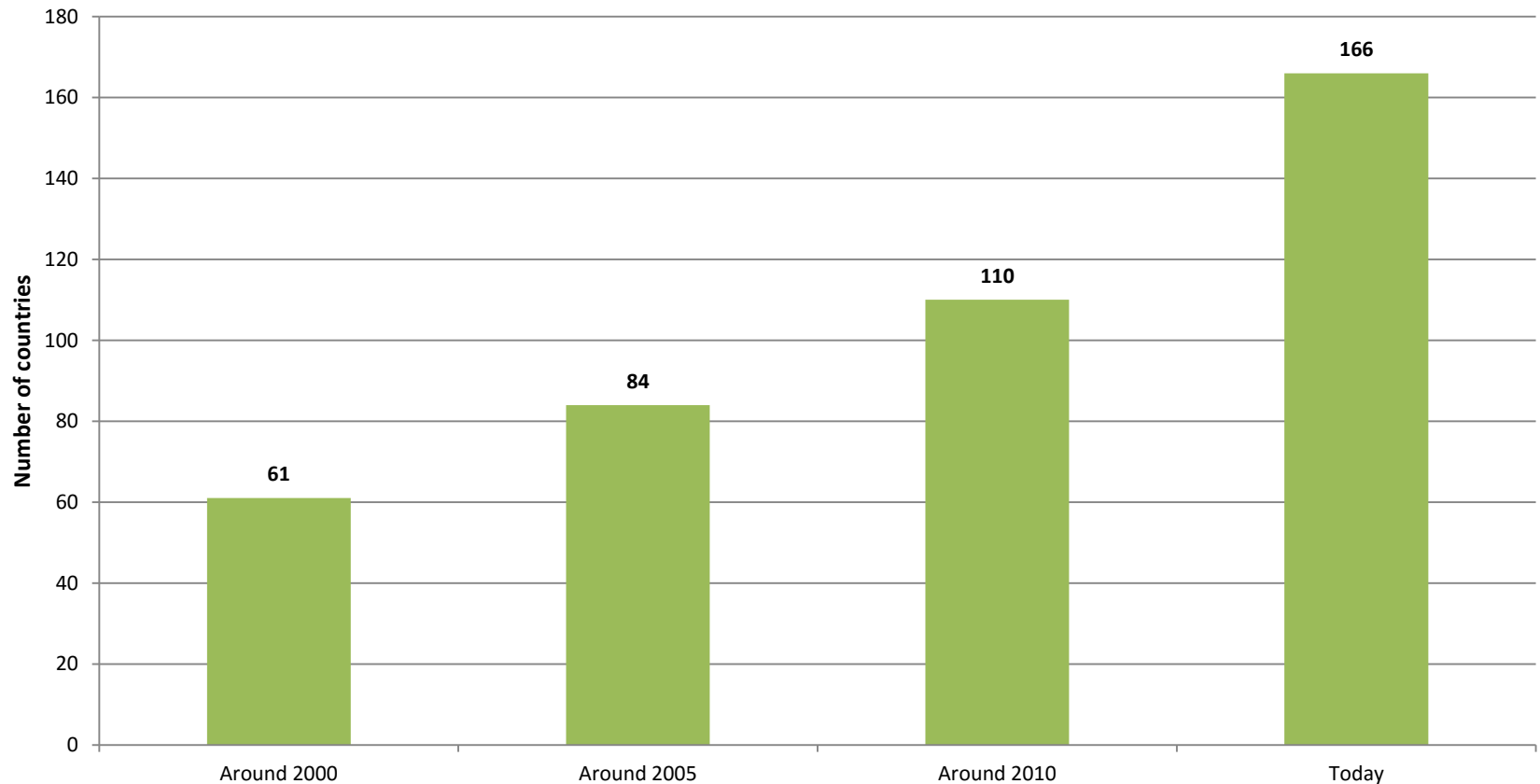
The global database has complete country coverage for South Asia, West and Central Africa and high-income countries



Note: Estimates of 100 per cent are assumed for all high-income countries given that civil registration systems in these countries are complete and all vital events (including births) are registered based on information from: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Population and Vital Statistics Report*, Statistical Papers, Series A, Vol. LXVII, Statistics Division, United Nations, New York, 2015.

The number of countries with available data on birth registration has significantly increased over time

Number of countries with available data on birth registration in UNICEF global database

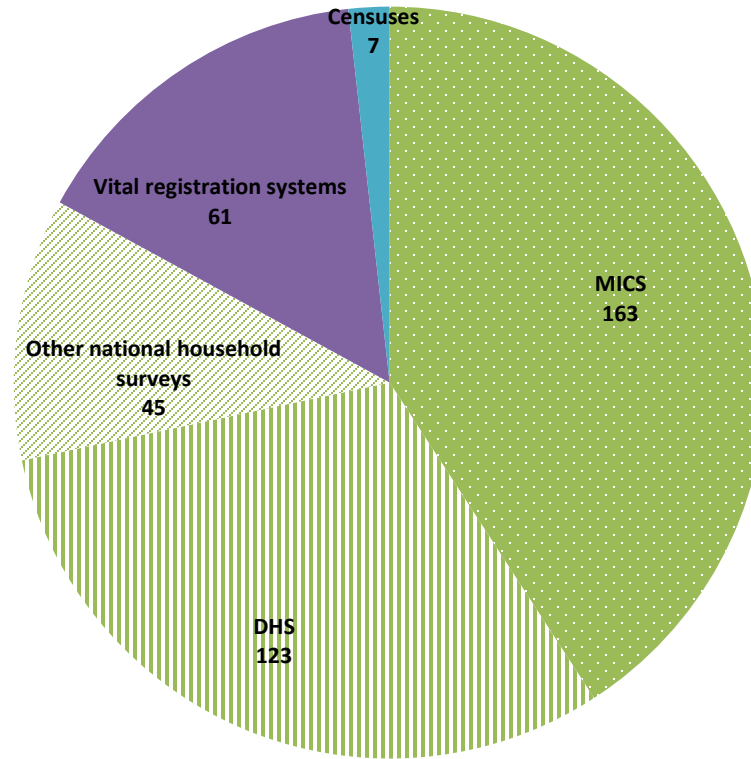


Sources of data

- Around 400 data sources included
 - Nationally representative household surveys (MICS, DHS, others)
 - Censuses
 - CRVS systems
- Year range: 1998-2015
 - Global/regional estimates are based on a more restrictive year range and include latest available data by country
- A majority of countries have data from more than one point in time

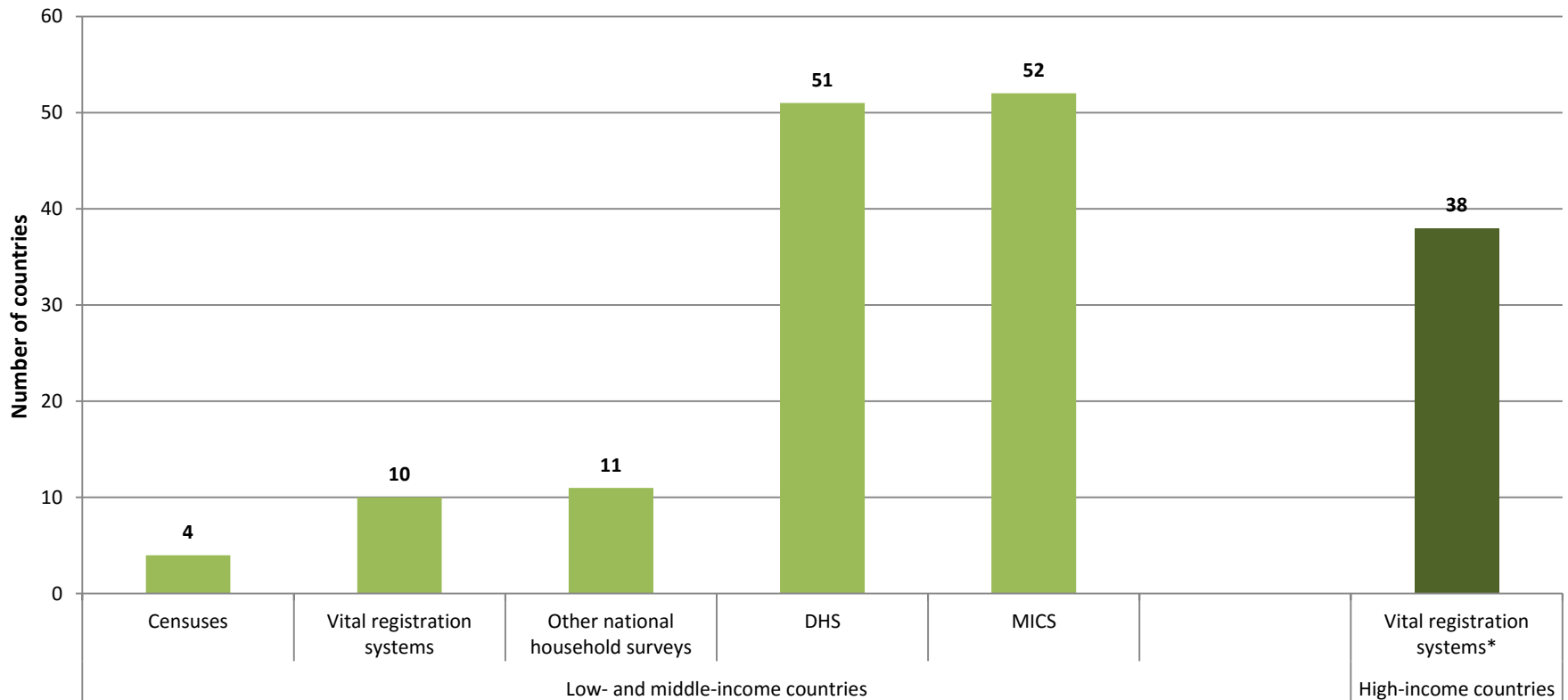
Household surveys represent the largest source of comparable data on birth registration in the UNICEF global database

Number of data sources on birth registration available in UNICEF global database, by type of source



For low- and middle-income countries, household surveys are a key source of data on birth registration

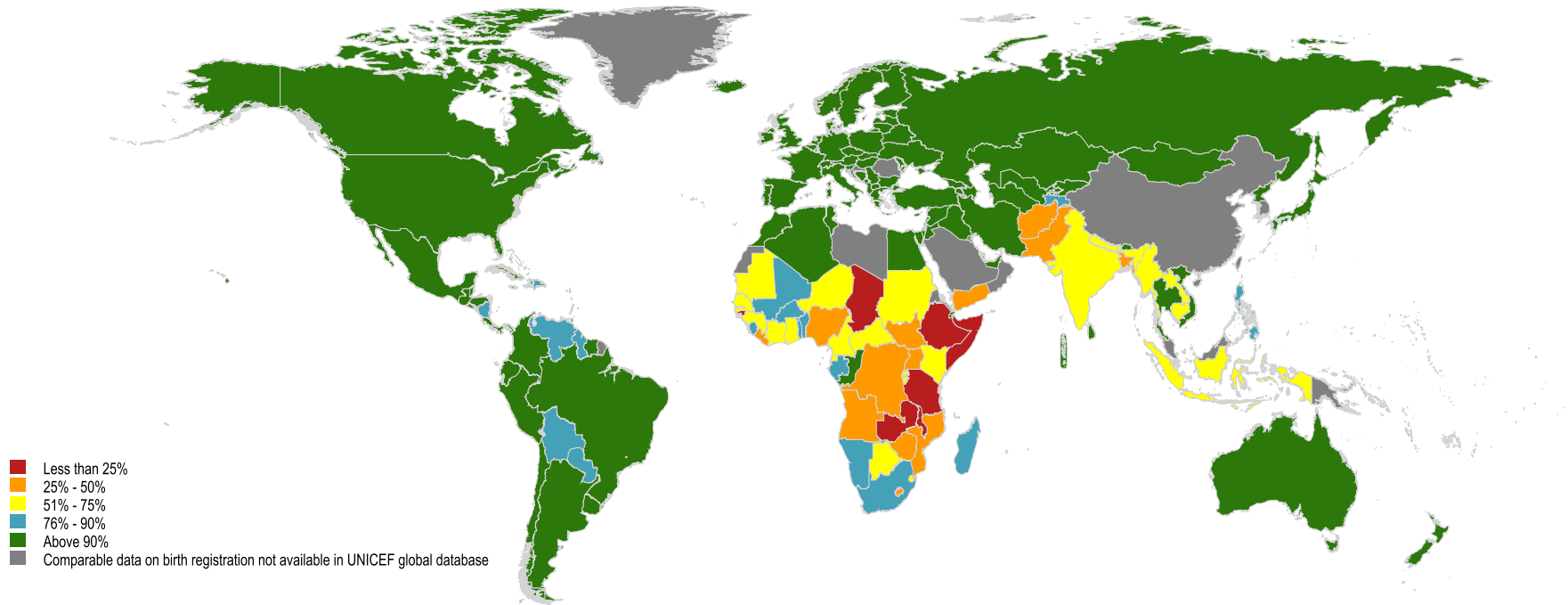
Number of countries with birth registration data in the UNICEF global database, by type of latest available source



Note: For high-income countries, the information is based on the completeness of the civil registration systems as documented in: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Population and Vital Statistics Report*, Statistical Papers, Series A, Vol. LXVII, Statistics Division, United Nations, New York, 2015.

The lowest levels of birth registration are found in countries of sub-Saharan Africa

Percentage of children under age five years whose births have been registered



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Source: UNICEF global databases, 2016, based on DHS, MICS, other national household surveys, censuses and vital registration systems, 2001-2015.

Birth registration data collected in MICS

- **As part of the Questionnaire for Children under Five in MICS**
 - Asks all mothers/primary caregivers of children under 5 whether child has a birth certificate (and to view it if available) and if not, whether child's birth was registered with *relevant civil authorities* (customized by country)
 - If respondent reports that child's does not have a birth certificate and birth has not been registered, they are asked if they know how to register a birth

Birth registration data collected in DHS

- **As part of the Household Questionnaire in DHS**
 - Asks respondents to the HH questionnaire (can be any eligible male/female aged 15 and older) whether each child under 5 has a birth certificate and if not, whether child's birth was registered with the *civil authorities*

Birth registration data collected in censuses

Examples:

1) Census 2012 in United Republic of Tanzania

- For every person in the household, do they have a birth certificate?

2) Intercensal Survey 2015 in Mexico

- For every person in the household, do they have a birth certificate or are they in the civil registry of this country?

3) Census 2010 in the Philippines

- For every person in the household, was the birth registered with the civil registry office?

Challenges in collecting data on birth registration in household surveys and censuses

- Prevalence rates sensitive to the way in which questions are asked
 - Respondents not always clear on who the civil authorities in charge of recording births are in their country
 - May misinterpret birth notification for formal registration
 - Birth certificate may be confused with a health card or other identity document

Example:

Malawi MICS 2013-14: Question on registration included reference to both civil authorities (Registrar General) and others (village headman, church); resulting data reflect a combination of children with official birth registration and those with only a birth notification

Birth registration data from CRVS

- Civil registration systems that are operating effectively compile vital statistics used to compare estimated total number of births in a country with the absolute number of registered births during a given time period
- Data from CRVS normally refer to the proportion of live births that were registered within a given timeframe (typically a year or the legal timeframe for registration applicable in the country)

Updating UNICEF's global database

- 1) On-going as new MICS/DHS surveys, censuses and CRVS data are released
- 2) Concentrated effort once a year through an exercise called Country Reporting on Indicators for the Goals (CRING)
 - Field offices (M&E Officers) are asked to review existing data for a selection of 100+ indicators (including birth registration) and provide any updates for their country via an online system
 - In the last annual round of CRING in 2015, 150 country offices were contacted and of those, around 120 contributed to the exercise
 - Occasionally, an “interim” CRING exercise is conducted in-between annual rounds; most recently, this was completed in February 2016

CRING review process

- Data submissions undergo a rigorous data quality check by thematic focal points at UNICEF HQ
 - Review source documentation (methodology used, sampling, questionnaire etc.)
 - Check for consistency with UNICEF’s standard definition of birth registration (age group, definition)
 - Check for plausibility (does it make sense give previous data points?)
 - Follow up and clarification with the country and regional offices, as needed
 - Consult with programme specialists within UNICEF and MICS team

CRING review process (con't)

Common reasons data are not accepted:

1. Supporting documentation insufficient
2. Data are not nationally representative
3. Data do not conform to the standard indicator definition*

*In some cases, data are reanalyzed or adjusted to conform to standard definition, if possible OR are accepted conditionally with a “y” indicating that the data differ in some way from the standard indicator

Common situations when data are accepted conditionally

- Different age group/population covered (e.g., births registered rather than children under 5)
- Definition only includes children with a birth certificate or some other national customization
- No existing data point for the country

UNICEF'S CURRENT OR PLANNED ACTIVITIES ON BIRTH REGISTRATION :

DATA COLLECTION AND METHODOLOGICAL WORK

Upcoming projects

Testing of new survey questions

- Strengthen data quality
- Include new questions on timing of registration, cost etc.
- Timeframe: December 2016 - September 2017

Upcoming projects (con't)

Global review of CRVS data and systems

- Main goal: highlight strengths and weaknesses of CRVS data for registering births and marriages; identify opportunities for strengthening the quality of CRVS data
- Components:
 - Desk review for a selection of ~10 countries (with regional diversity)
 - In-depth in-country assessment for a subset of three countries
- Timeframe: October 2016 - April 2017

Regional review of CRVS policies, systems and procedures

- Main goal: improved understanding/documenting of country CVRS systems, i.e. insight into opportunities and investments needed
- Components:
 - Desk review for all countries in a selection of three regions (to start)
- Timeframe: November 2016 – May 2017

UNICEF'S CURRENT/PLANNED ACTIVITIES ON BIRTH REGISTRATION : DATA ANALYSIS AND DISSEMINATION

UNICEF's dedicated website on statistics: data.unicef.org

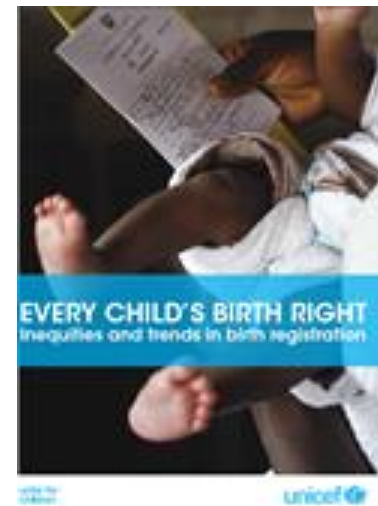
- Latest available data on birth registration
- Global birth registration database
- Recent resources on birth registration data

The screenshot displays the UNICEF Data website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Back to UNICEF.org' on the left and social media links for Facebook, Twitter, and Support UNICEF on the right. Below this is a header section with the UNICEF logo and the text 'UNICEF Data: Monitoring the Situation of Children and Women'. A menu on the right side includes 'ABOUT US', 'RESOURCES', 'CONTACT', 'STATISTICS BY TOPIC + COUNTRY', and 'MULTIPLE INDICATOR CLUSTER SURVEYS (MICS)'. The main content area shows a breadcrumb trail: 'Home / STATISTICS BY TOPIC / CHILD PROTECTION / BIRTH REGISTRATION'. A search icon is visible on the right. The main article is titled 'CURRENT STATUS + PROGRESS' and is dated 'Updated: Oct 2016'. The headline reads: 'The births of nearly one fourth of the global population of children under five have never been registered'. The article text states: 'A name and nationality is every child's right, enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international treaties. Yet the births of nearly one fourth of children under the age of five worldwide have never been recorded. This lack of formal recognition by the State usually means that a child is unable to obtain a birth certificate. As a result, he or she may be denied health care or education. Later in life, the lack of official identification documents can mean that a child may enter into marriage or the labour market, or be conscripted into the armed forces, before the legal age. In adulthood, birth certificates may be required to obtain social assistance or a job in the formal sector, to buy or prove the right to inherit property, to vote and to obtain a passport. Registering children at birth is the first step in securing their recognition before the law, safeguarding their rights, and ensuring that any violation of these rights does not go unnoticed.' A 'READ MORE' link is provided at the end of the article. Below the article is a blue bar labeled 'ACCESS THE DATA' with a share icon and a dropdown menu.

Publications

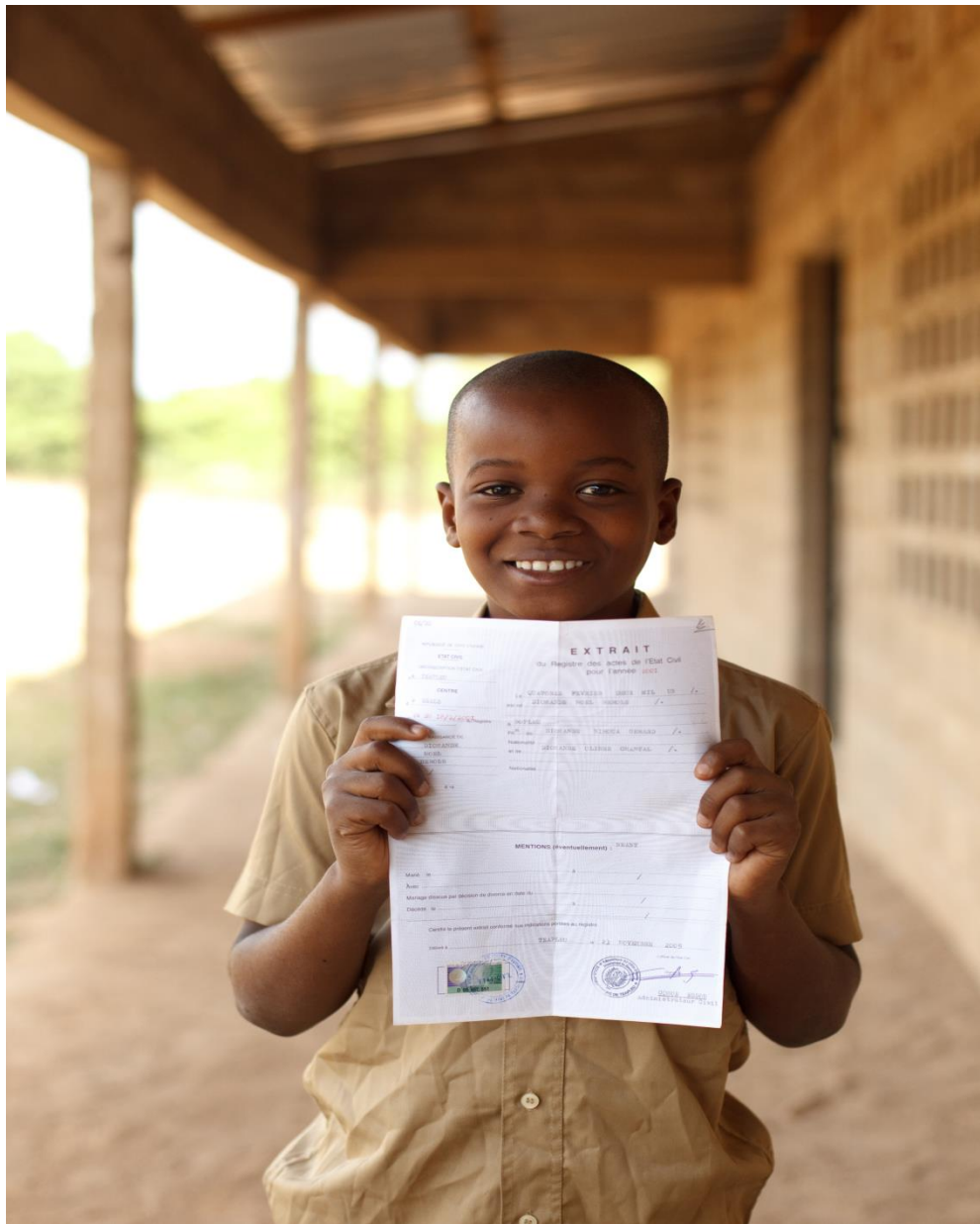
Latest birth registration data published in statistical tables of UNICEF flagship publication, *State of the World's Children*

Thematic data-driven reports and brochures on birth registration



New global publication in 2017

- Updated registration levels (globally and by regions/countries) for children under 5 and under 1
- Updated data on possession of birth certificate (globally and by regions/countries) for children under 5 and under 1
- Overview of barriers to registration (knowledge, place of residence etc.)
- New trends analysis (global and regional and for selected countries)
- Projections to 2030 (and beyond)



Thank you

For more information on UNICEF's
data-related work on birth registration:

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