Progress in Family Planning: Did the Millennium Development Goals Make a Difference?

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Evolution of Millennium Development Goal 5

• 2000: UN Millennium Declaration adopted, but lacked a family planning indicator

• 2005: MDG 5 (improve maternal health) included:
  – 5.3 Contraceptive Prevalence
  – 5.6 Unmet need

• 2015: MDG Report stated that “Contraceptive prevalence among women aged 15 to 49, married or in a union, increased from 55 per cent in 1990 worldwide to 64 per cent in 2015… Yet even in 2015 12 per cent want to delay or avoid pregnancy but are not using any method of contraception”
What more do we know now - than was known in 2015 - about progress in family planning at the end of the MDGs?

Has progress in family planning accelerated since 2005, when Target 5.B was included in the MDGs?
Data and Methods

- Data compiled from nationally representative household surveys (UN 2019a)


- Medians, 80% and 90% uncertainty intervals are reported

- Compare “2019 Revision” against pre-2005 “historic scenario”
Compared 2019 Revision (full-data) against historic scenario (pre-2005 data)

Kenya contraceptive prevalence (any method) among married/in-union women age 15-49
Global Contraceptive Prevalence and Unmet Need Estimates in 2015

- **2019 Revision**
  - Unmet need, 2015: 12.7%
  - Contraceptive prevalence, 2015: 62.3%

- **MDG Report**
  - Unmet need, 2015: 11.9%
  - Contraceptive prevalence, 2015: 63.6%

- **Historic scenario**
  - Unmet need, 2015: 10.2%
  - Contraceptive prevalence, 2015: 68.9%

Proportion of married/in-union women
Contraceptive prevalence (any method) in 2015 among married/in-union women – 2019 Revision

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. 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. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.
Conclusion

• We recommend conducting this type of analysis several years after the conclusion of an initiative.

• Despite the efforts of the MDGs, the world, most sub-regions, and many countries did not perform as well in 2015 as what would have been expected in 2005.

• The approach taken here could be used to provide insights into progress in family planning during the time-frame of other initiatives, e.g. SDGs and FP2020.

• Uncertainty intervals can help to set future targets