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Sex Disaggregation, Gender,
and THE DEMOGRAPHIC AND HEALTH SURVEYS

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Concepts we need to keep clear



SEX:
Biology



GENDER:
Roles/responsibilities



GENDER IDENTITY:
Who you feel you are irrespective of your biological
sex

Why focus on sex as the differentiator?

SDGs focus on leaving no one behind

- The female and male sexes
 - Have **different health needs** and vulnerabilities **because of biology and gender related roles**
 - Are treated as unequal because of their gender:
 - Women's societal roles and responsibilities are less valued
 - Women's control and access to resources is more limited
- Many indicators of interest are based on biological capabilities



SDGs and sex disaggregation

SDG indicators should be disaggregated, where relevant by income, **sex**, ethnicity. No definition of “relevant”, however.

1. For 30+ indicators, sex disaggregation explicitly specified
2. Others that should be disaggregated by sex →
3. Ones not requiring sex disaggregation:
 - Defined only for women: Ex. 3.1.1, 3.7; most in Goal 5 (except 5.4.1, 5.a.1, 5.b.1); 11.7.2
 - At population level, but household as unit (Eg: handwashing facility; network coverage)
 - Population not the unit, such as those involving action plans, spending, prices, tariffs, schools, etc.

Should be disaggregated

Poverty: 1.4-1.5

Hunger: 2.1-2.2

Health: 3.2; 3.3.2-3.3.5; 3.4;
3.6.1; 3.8.1-3.8.2; 3.a.1; 3.b.1

Education: 4.2.2; 4.3-4.4

Employment: 8.6.1; 8.10.2

Inequality: 10.3.1

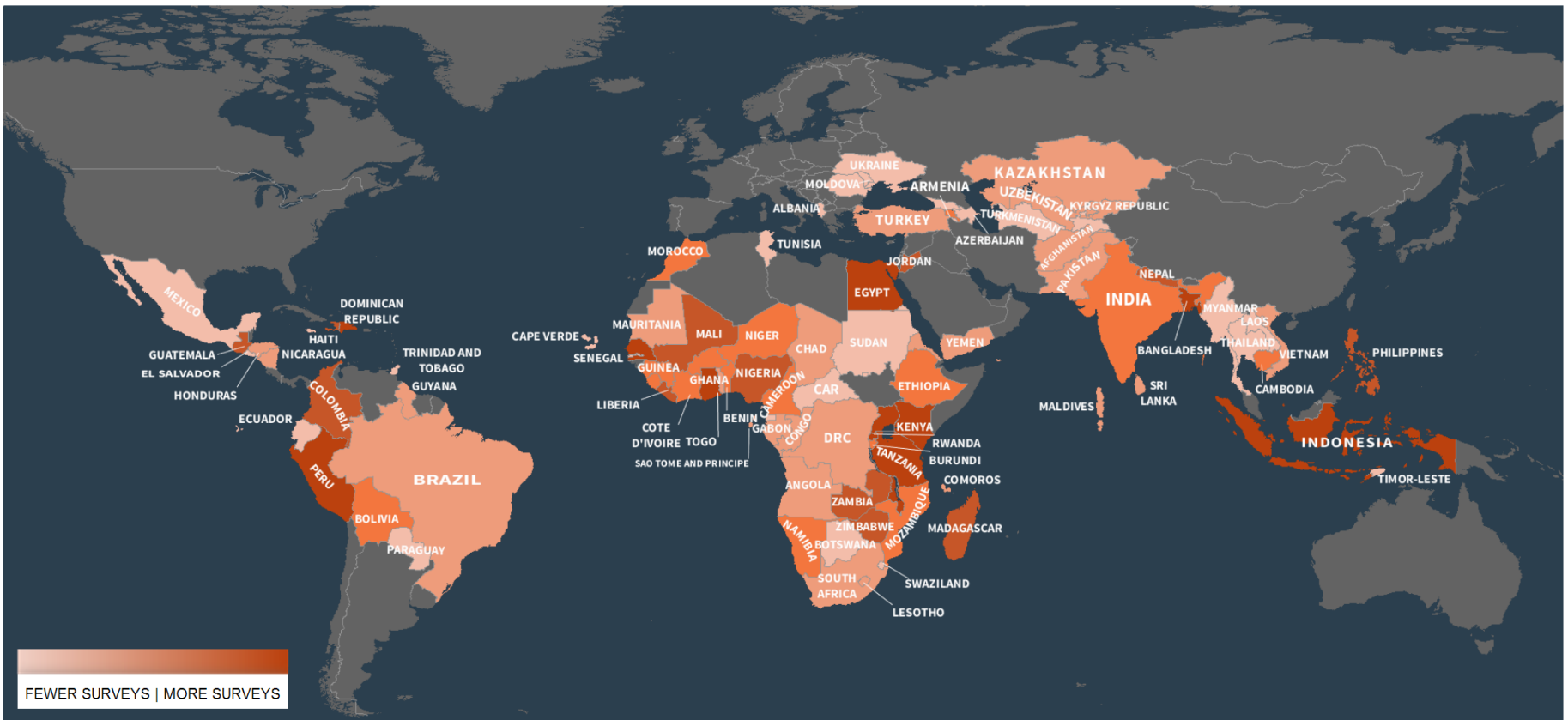
Cities: 11.1.1

Inclusive societies: 16.1.3;
16.1.4; 16.2.1; 16.3.1; 16.3.2;
16.6.2; 16.9.1; 16.10.1

Sust. Devt.: 17.8.1

DHS: Since 1984: 320+ Surveys in about 90 countries

Where We Work



SDGs in the DHS: Few for entire population

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Basic services: 1.4.1* | Cell: 5.b.1 |
| Malnourishment: 2.2.1; 2.2.2 | Water: 6.1.1 |
| MM and safe births 3.1.1; 3.1.2 | Sanitation: 6.2.1 |
| Child mortality: 3.2.1; 3.2.2 | Elec. & fuel: 7.1.1, 7.1.2 |
| FP & Fertility 3.7.1, 3.7.2 | Informal employment: 8.3.1* |
| Tracer interventions: 3.8.1 | Child labor: 8.7.1 |
| Tobacco use: 3.a.1* | Bank accounts: 8.10.2 |
| School & develop: 4.2.1; 4.2.2 | Slums: 11.1.1* |
| Youth school: 4.3.1* | Viol: 11.7.2 |
| Parity index: 4.5.1 | Child punishment: 16.2.1* |
| Gender eqty: 5.2.1, 5.2.2 | Sex. violence: 16.2.3 (women only)* |
| Marriage, FGC: 5.3.1, 5.3.2 | Birth registration: 16.9.1 |
| Decisions: 5.6.1 | Internet: 17.8.1* |
| Rights: 5.a.1 | |

Indicators with sex disaggregation not in the DHS....

| | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Poverty line related: 1.1.1; 1.2.1; 1.2.2; 1.3.1 | Felt discrimination: 10.3.1; 16.b |
| Undernourishment: 2.1.1; 2.1.2 | Trafficking: 10.7.3 |
| Disease incidence: 3.3.1-3.3.5 | Convenient access: 11.2.1 |
| Mortality , suicide: 3.4.1; 3.4.2 | Victims homicide: 16.1.1 |
| Alcohol: 3.5.2 | Conflict deaths: 16.1.2 |
| Preschool/ICT/proficiency: 4.2.2; 4.4.1; 4.6.1; 4.7.1; 4.c.1 | Population viol: 16.1.3 |
| Time in domestic work: 5.4.1 | Feeling safe: 16.1.4 |
| Mobile phone: 5.b.1 | Trafficking: 16.2.2 |
| Earnings, unemployment: 8.5.1, 8.5.2 | Crime/viol reporting: 16.3.1; 16.a.1 |
| Youth unemployment: 8.6.1 | Prisoners: 16.3.2 |
| Occupational. injuries: 8.8.1 | Bribes/satisfaction: 16.5.1; 16.6.2 |
| Tourism jobs: 8.9.1. | Representation in pub. instns: 16.7.1 |
| Median income: 10.2.1 | Killings: 16.10.1 |

How does the DHS collect data on sex?

Household questionnaire:

- ✓ Household respondent reports on each member's sex for ALL AGES

Woman/Man questionnaire for respondents age 15-49 :

- ✓ Individuals identified in the household questionnaire as female get the woman's questionnaire and those as male, the male questionnaire

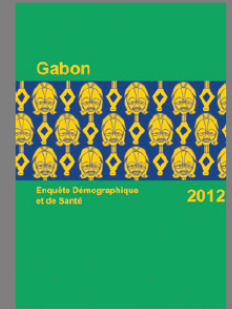
Children's information

- ✓ Based on mothers'/caretaker's reports



Sex disaggregation when reporting

- All indicators collected at the individual level are always disaggregated by sex
- Due to sample size limitations, only some indicators can be reported separately by sex and other disaggregation categories:
 - Example: Education, yes; child mortality by sex within other disaggregation categories, no
- **Gender indicators:**
 - Women's empowerment (decision making) also collected for men: Means that a comparison can be made by sex
 - Violence indicators: Several indicators require violence in the population; however
 - Partner violence asked mainly of women age 15-49 , not men
 - Data not explicitly collected on all forms of violence against women and men



Thoughts on gender identity and same sex relationships: Perhaps for the future?

- Many health and demographic indicators require biological sex
- Most countries not as yet concerned. Nonetheless issue has arisen in South Africa and Colombia
- Measurement vs. recognition/acknowledgement/accommodation
- LGBTQ measurement/accommodation a challenge in DHS type surveys
 - Need to **pilot and validate questions** for asking about gender identity and same sex relationships in a general population survey
 - Questionnaires will require very **complicated skip patterns**
 - No way to evaluate **under reporting**
 - **Timing of LGBTQ status** relative to demographic events: some are married, have had children, etc.
 - Even when allowed for, **statuses too fluid** to know what to do when calculating indicators: **For example unmet need for contraception**
- More likely that violence variables, including intimate partner violence and sexual violence will need to explicitly account for same sex violence

Final thoughts

- Sex disaggregation is relevant for almost all population based SDGs:
 - Need clear guidance on which ones must be reported by sex
- DHS provides many of the population-based SDG indicators, but not all
 - Also many indicators available only for 15-49 year olds
- With some tweaking of questions/indicator definitions, reporting on a few more may be possible
- In the DHS, all indicators for which sex disaggregation is relevant, are in fact disaggregated by sex
- Not always possible to look at indicators by sex and other disaggregation due to small sample sizes
- LGBTQ identification a challenge: Not only for measurement but for determining how to adjust

