

Our future: a *Lancet* Commission
on adolescent health and wellbeing

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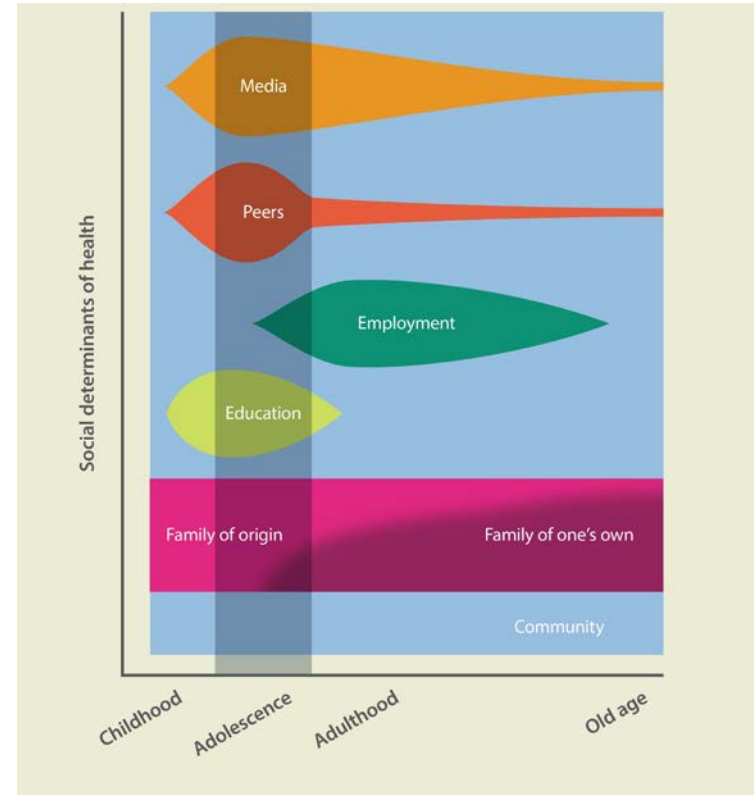
Intersectoral Action Including Secondary School Education

Russell Viner, *University College London*

New Social Determinants Arise

Greatest period of change
in social determinants of health

New opportunities and
new risks





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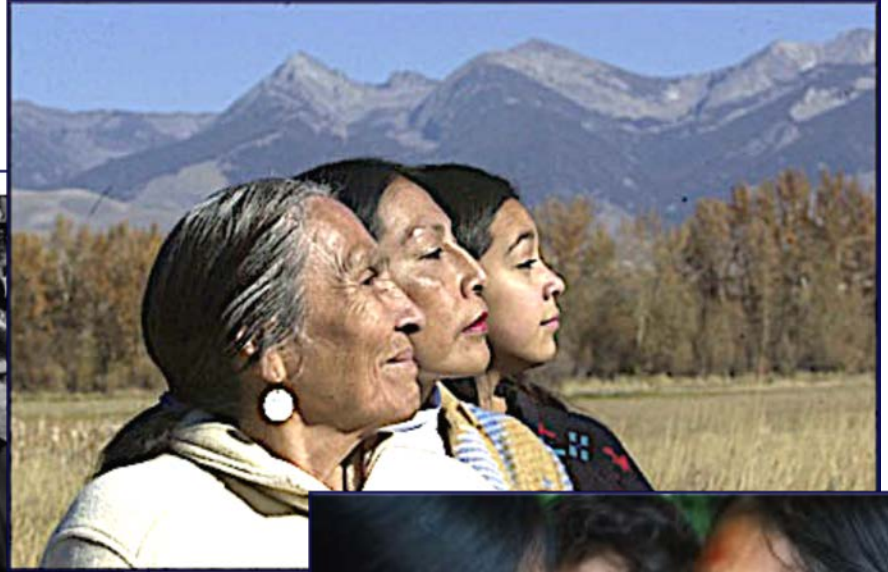


Education Expansion



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#myan4797

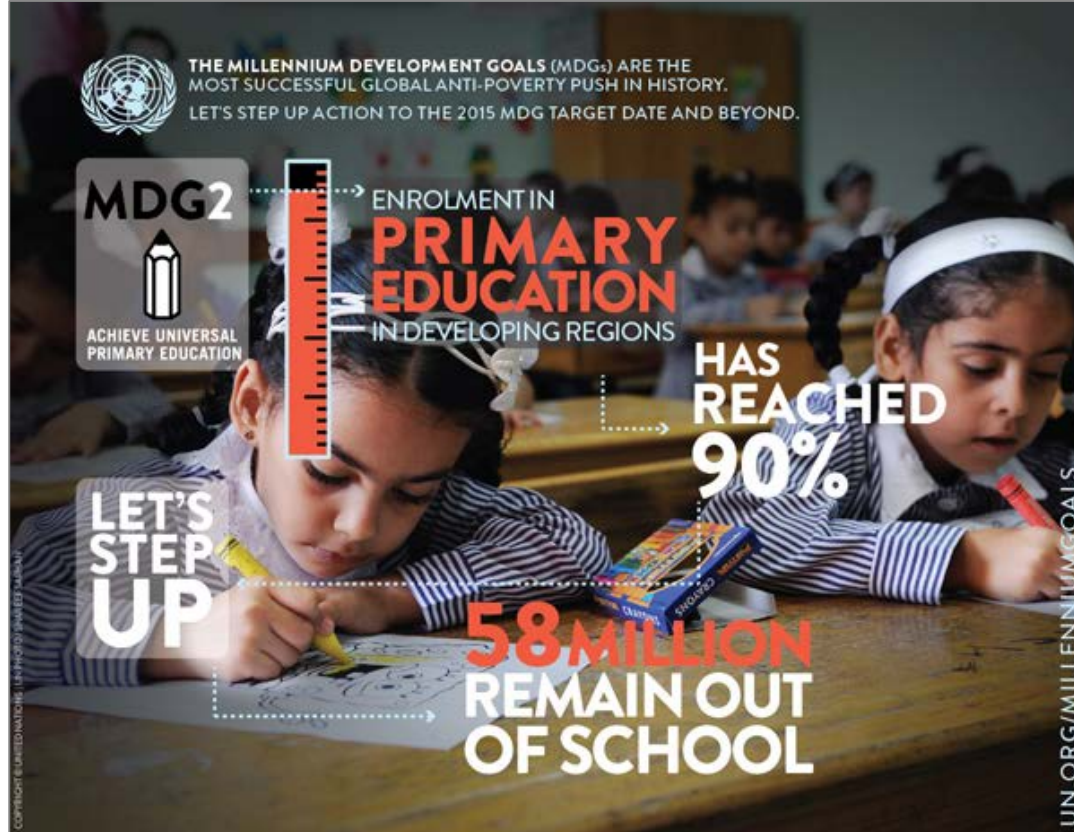


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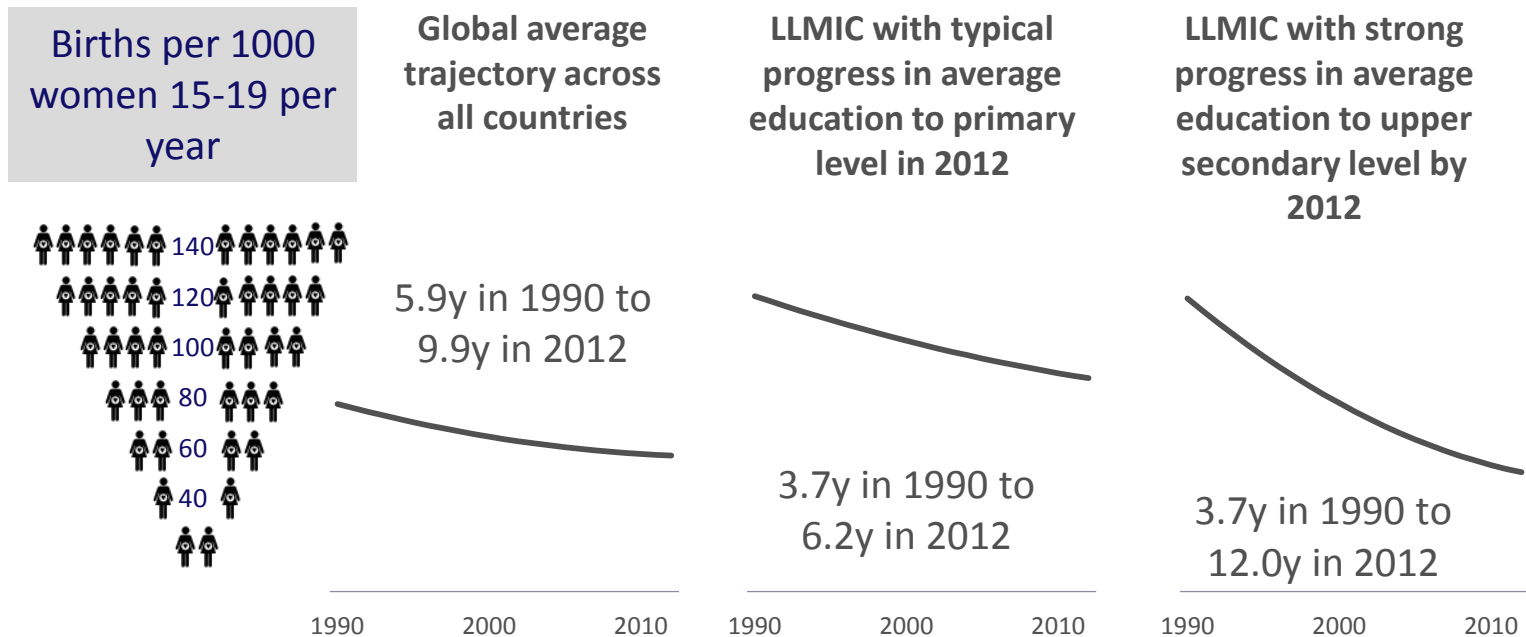


Universal Primary Education





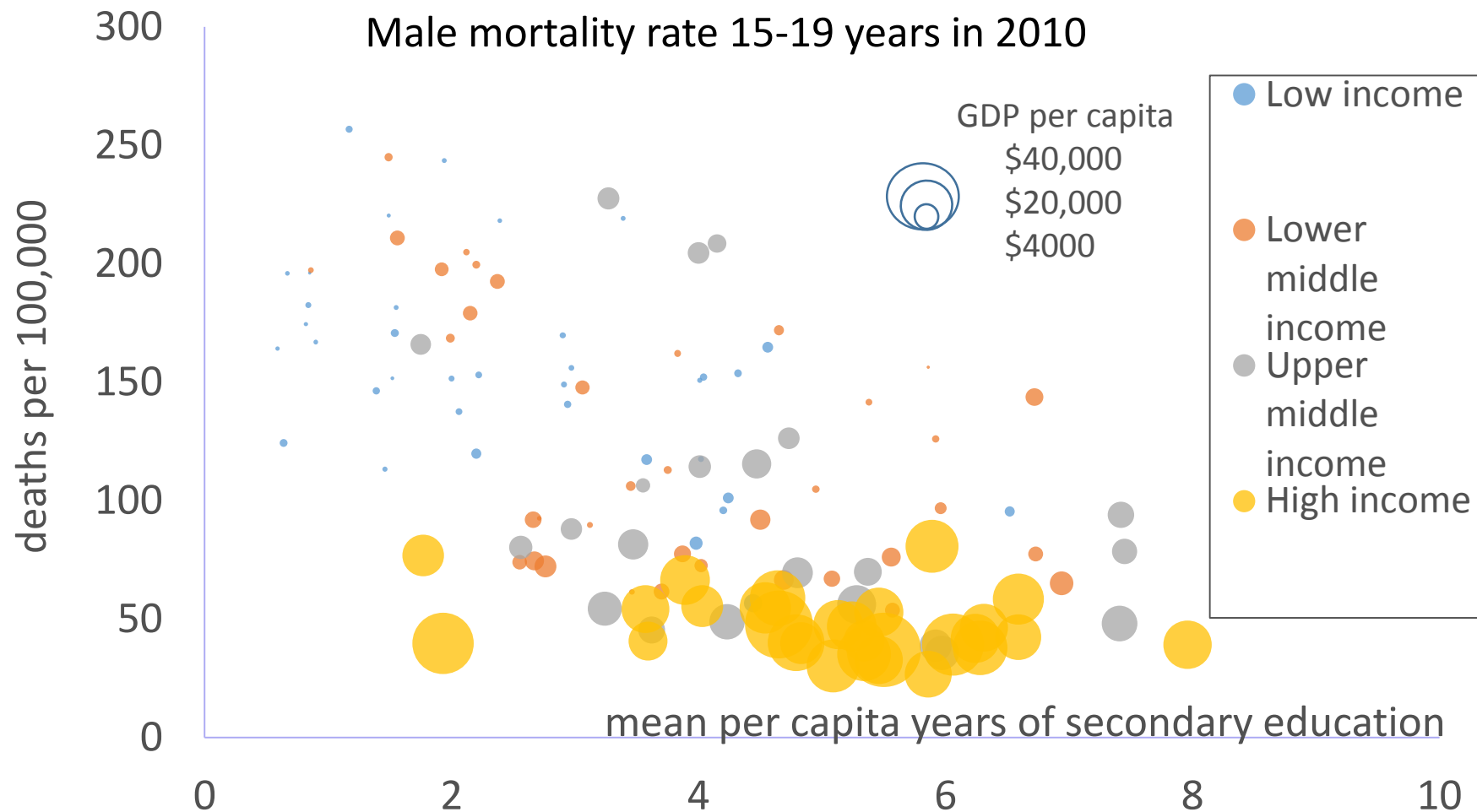
Educational Progress Reduces Teenage Birth Rates



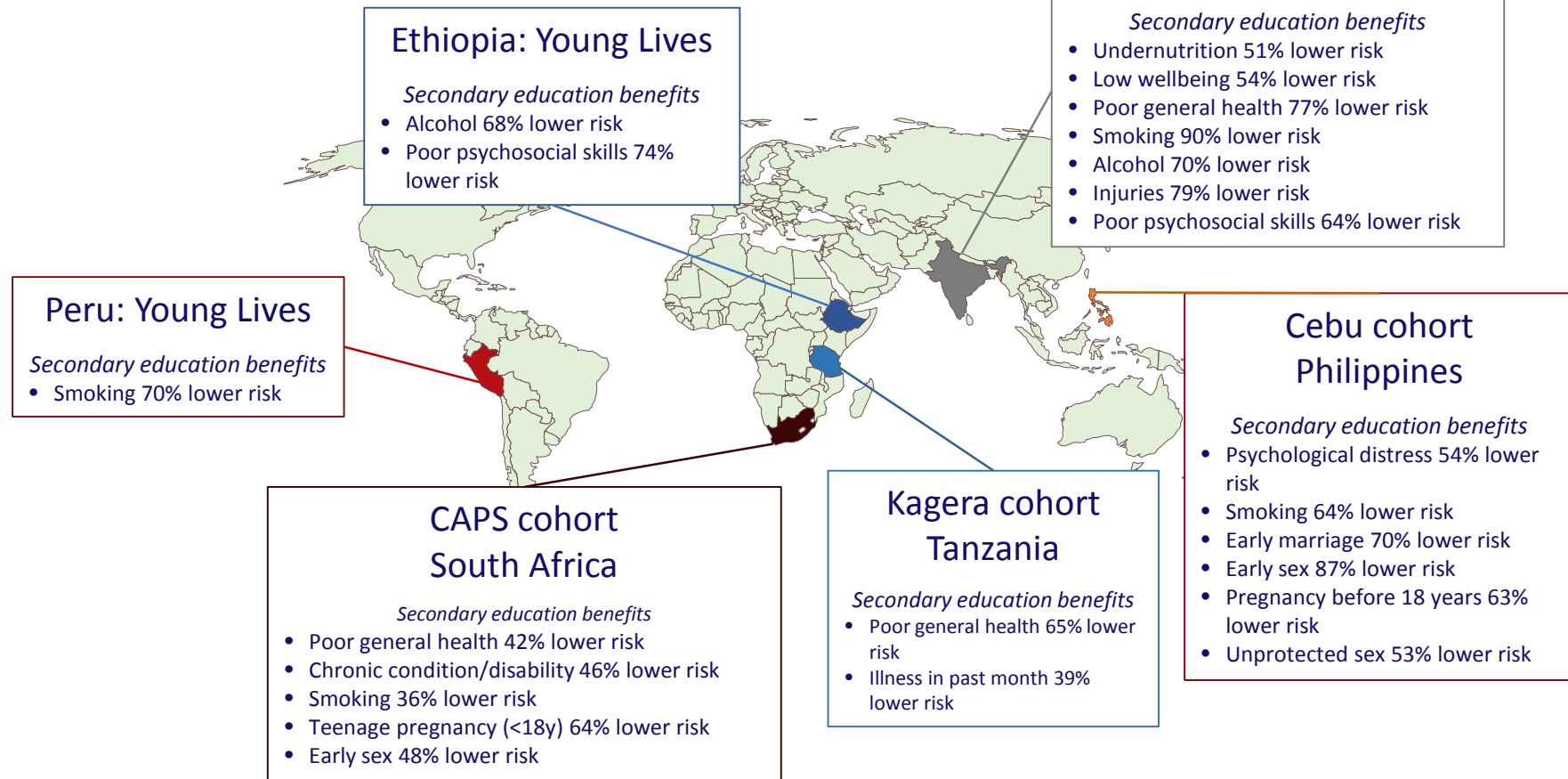
LLMIC: low and lower middle income countries

Source: Education data from IHME 2015. Teenage birth rate data from UN sources

Male mortality rate 15-19 years in 2010



Benefits of secondary education for health in 6 LMIC cohorts





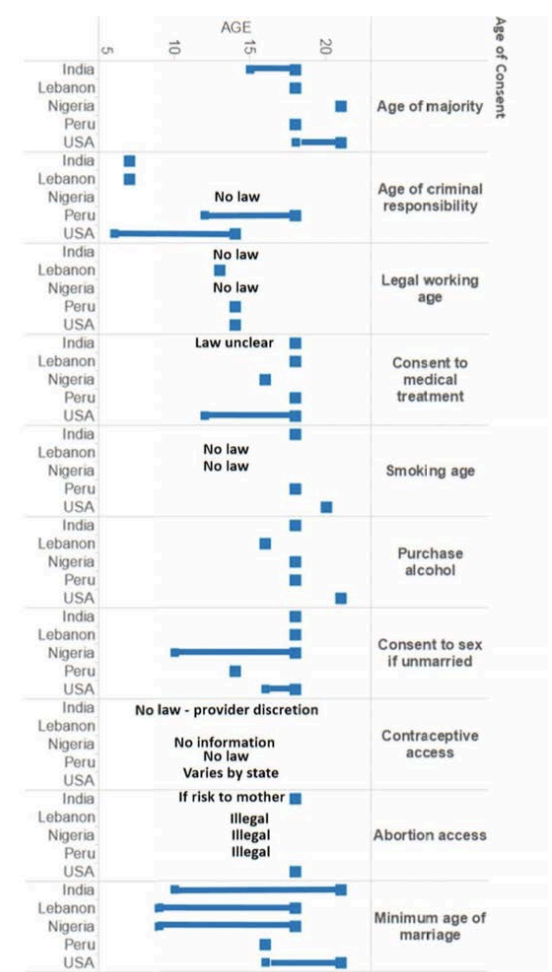
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Varying Legal Frameworks

Legal pluralism permits religious, traditional and customary law or practice to trump national legislation:

- Reservations to international conventions
- Exceptions to national legal frameworks based on customary/religious/traditional law



Developmentally Informed Legal Frameworks

- Take greater account of evolving adolescent cognitive and emotional capacities
- Similar cognitive abilities to adults in emotionally-neutral situations
- Vulnerability to peer influence during stressful situations
- Given knowledge, and with appropriate safeguards, adolescents are competent to make effective decisions about almost all important matters in their lives, including their health
- The exceptions: adolescents need legal and policy safeguards and support for decisions made in contexts where heightened emotion affects the choices
 - Substance use
 - Sex
- The capacity for adolescent learning should be exploited through graduated legal and policy frameworks
 - Driving
 - Youth justice



“Guaranteeing and supporting access to free, quality secondary education for all adolescents presents the single best investment for health and wellbeing.”

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