Task 1: Population-weighted coverage of health services

The SDG child survival targets are set for all countries to achieve under-5 mortality targets of 25 or fewer deaths per 1000 livebirths by 2030. As of 2023, 59 countries (29.5 percent) of 200 countries globally are estimated to be off-track under-5 mortality target.

This note estimates population-weighted coverage of health services (Antenatal care 4+ visits (ANC4) and Skilled birth attendant (SAB)) to better understand the difference in these indictors between on-track and off-track countries. The estimated weighted coverage indicator for ANC4 is **57.2 percent** for the on-track countries, while it is **53 percent** for the off-track countries. The gap between the on- and off-track countries with respect to the SAB is greater: the weighted coverage indicator for the former is **77.1 vs 52.6 percent** for the latter.

The population-weighted indicators are driven by countries with large projected births. Figure 1 presents ANC4 (unweighted) indictors for on-track countries (highlighted by blue) and off-track countries (highlighted by red), with each indicator presented by a circle, the size of which corresponds to projected births. Among the on-track countries, the ANC4 population-weighted indicator is heavily influenced by two countries with relatively low ANC4 (unweighted) indicators, India (58.5 percent) and Bangladesh (36.9 percent), when compared with other countries in their cohort. Likewise, these two counties also relatively low unweighted indicators among the on-track countries when it comes to the SAB (Figure 2).

It is also important to note significant heterogeneity in the ANC4 indicator among both types of countries. For example, several countries exhibit high values of the ANC4 indictor (above 80 percent), including Philippines, despite being in the off-track category.
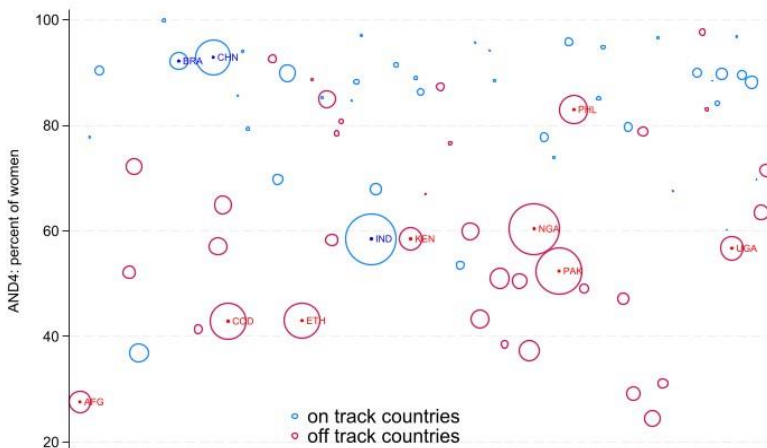
Figure 1: Antenatal care 4+ visits indicators

Figure 2: Skilled birth attendant indicator