

Population-weighted Coverage of ANC4 and SAB

In “On-track” and “Off-track” countries

1. Background

The below analysis of ANC4 (antenatal care) and SAB (skilled attendant at birth) used the following data sources: the UNICEF Global Data Repository, the UN World Population Prospects population estimates and the UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME). The country code present in each dataset was used as the common identifier in merging the datasets. The methodology for calculating the population weighted coverage for both ANC4 and SAB used the following formula:

$$\text{Weighted Coverage} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i w_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n w_i}$$

where x_i = country coverage estimate and w_i = projected births for 2022.

2. Sample

The sample consisted of 201 observations for which there were classifications of “On-track” and “Off-track” status according to the IGME, and for which there were available ANC4 and/or SAB data from the UNICEF Data Repository. Countries were classified as “on track” if a country was classified as “Achieved” or “On track” in the UN IGME, while a country was classified as “off track” if classified as “Acceleration Needed”. In terms of data availability for the ANC4 and SAB indicators, a total of 71 countries had ANC4 data, while a total of 130 SAB countries had data on SAB. Calculations for weighted coverage used the latest available ANC4 and SAB indicators per country, ranging from 2018 to 2022.

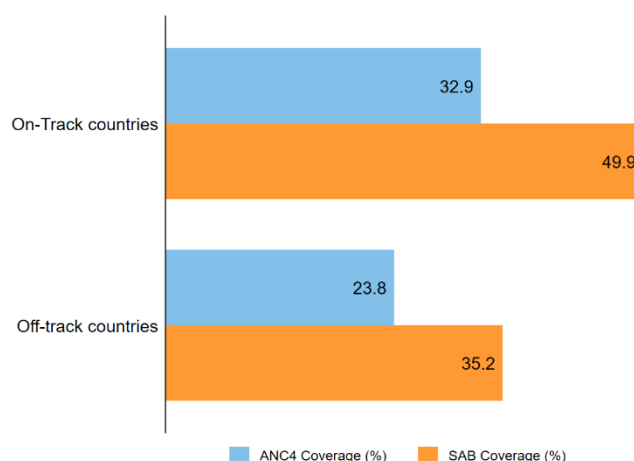
3. Limitations

Due to the limited availability of ANC4 and SAB data, as well as the exclusion of a number of countries from the “on-track” and “off-track”, a total of 62 countries were excluded from the analysis. See Annex 1 for a list of excluded countries.

4. Results

Figure 1 presents the weighted average for ANC4 and SAB coverage by “on-track” and “off-track” classification. Unsurprisingly, a higher proportion of “on-track” countries had higher coverage on both indicators, with a difference of 9.1 percentage-points and 14.7 percentage points for ANC4 and SAB, respectively. A population-weighted linear regression on both raw indicators (individual country coverage) by “on-track”/“off-track” status shows a statistically significant difference for SAB (P-value=0.0000) and no statistically significant difference was found for ANC4 (P-value=0.0042), suggesting that the observed ANC4 difference cannot conclusively be attributable to the “on track” status (or lack thereof). Nonetheless, the practical and notable difference observed for both indicators should serve as a baseline in understanding the many factors behind these differences and further research with additional data may be needed to understand policy differences which may be used to provide further support to “off-track” countries in increasing their ANC4 and SAB coverage.

Figure 1 – Population weighted ANC4 and SAB coverage, by on- and off-track country classification



Annex 1: Countries Excluded from Calculation

Bermuda	Congo	United Kingdom	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Latvia	Niue	Slovenia	Ukraine
Kosovo (UNSCR 1244)	Cook Islands	Equatorial Guinea	Israel	Monaco	Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	Sweden	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Angola	Comoros	Grenada	Republic of Korea	Maldives	Nauru	Eswatini	British Virgin Islands
Andorra	Czechia	Guatemala	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Mexico	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Syrian Arab Republic	Vanuatu
Armenia	Djibouti	Haiti	Lebanon	Marshall Islands	Kosovo (UNSCR 1244)	Togo	Yemen
Belgium	Eritrea	Holy See	Libya	Myanmar	Sudan	Tajikistan	South Africa
Botswana	Micronesia (Federated States of)	Hungary	Sri Lanka	Namibia	Solomon Islands	Trinidad and Tobago	
Switzerland	Gabon	Ireland	Luxembourg	Nicaragua	San Marino	United Republic of Tanzania	