

# Birth Registration in Sub-Saharan Africa: Current levels and trends

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# Global monitoring of the SDGs

UNICEF is the custodian for SDG 16.9.1, a role which includes:

- Supporting countries in generating, analyzing and using data for this indicator
- Leading methodological work and developing international standards
- Establishing mechanisms for the compilation and verification of national data
- Maintaining global databases and producing global and regional aggregates

## *SDG REGIONAL CLASSIFICATION*



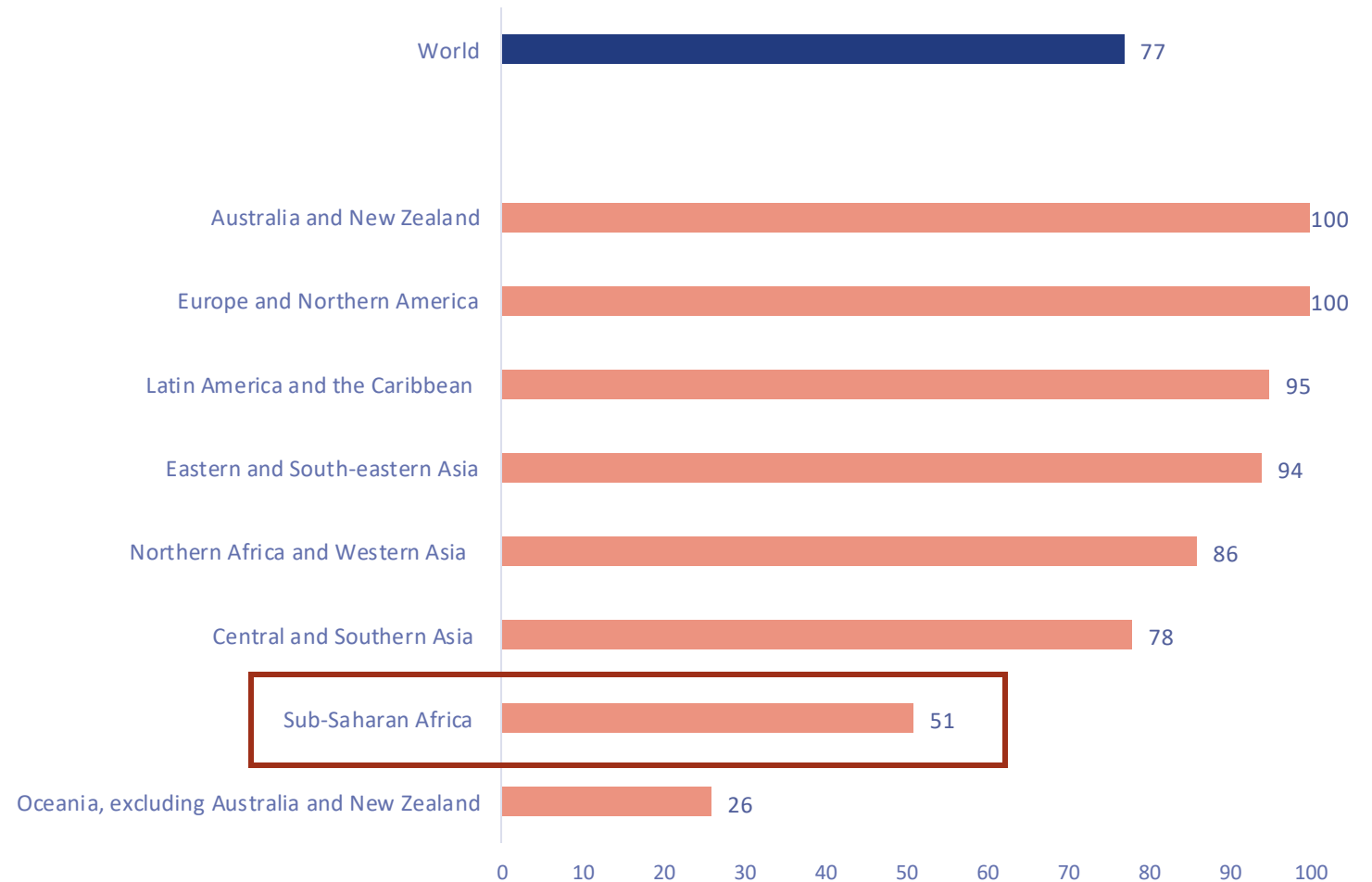
# Data sources for global/regional aggregates

- Compilation and verification of national data to be used for global reporting is achieved through a **country consultation process**
- The consultation solicits feedback **directly from national statistical offices** and other government agencies responsible for official statistics
- Submissions are reviewed to **assess the quality** of each data source and the application of internationally agreed definitions, classifications and methodologies
- Estimates based on comparable data collected between 2014 and 2023 (latest available for each country) for 173 countries representing 98% of global pop of children under 5 (2023)
  - Latest available data for around 80% of these countries are from the last 5 years
  - Population coverage is above 90% for all SDG regions
  - 102 (59%) countries have data from household surveys (MICS, DHS, other national surveys) or censuses; 71 (41%) have vital statistics derived from civil registration systems

# CHILDREN UNDER-FIVE: REGISTRATION

**Globally, close to 8 in 10 children have had their births registered in the last five years; in sub-Saharan Africa, just over half of children under five are registered**

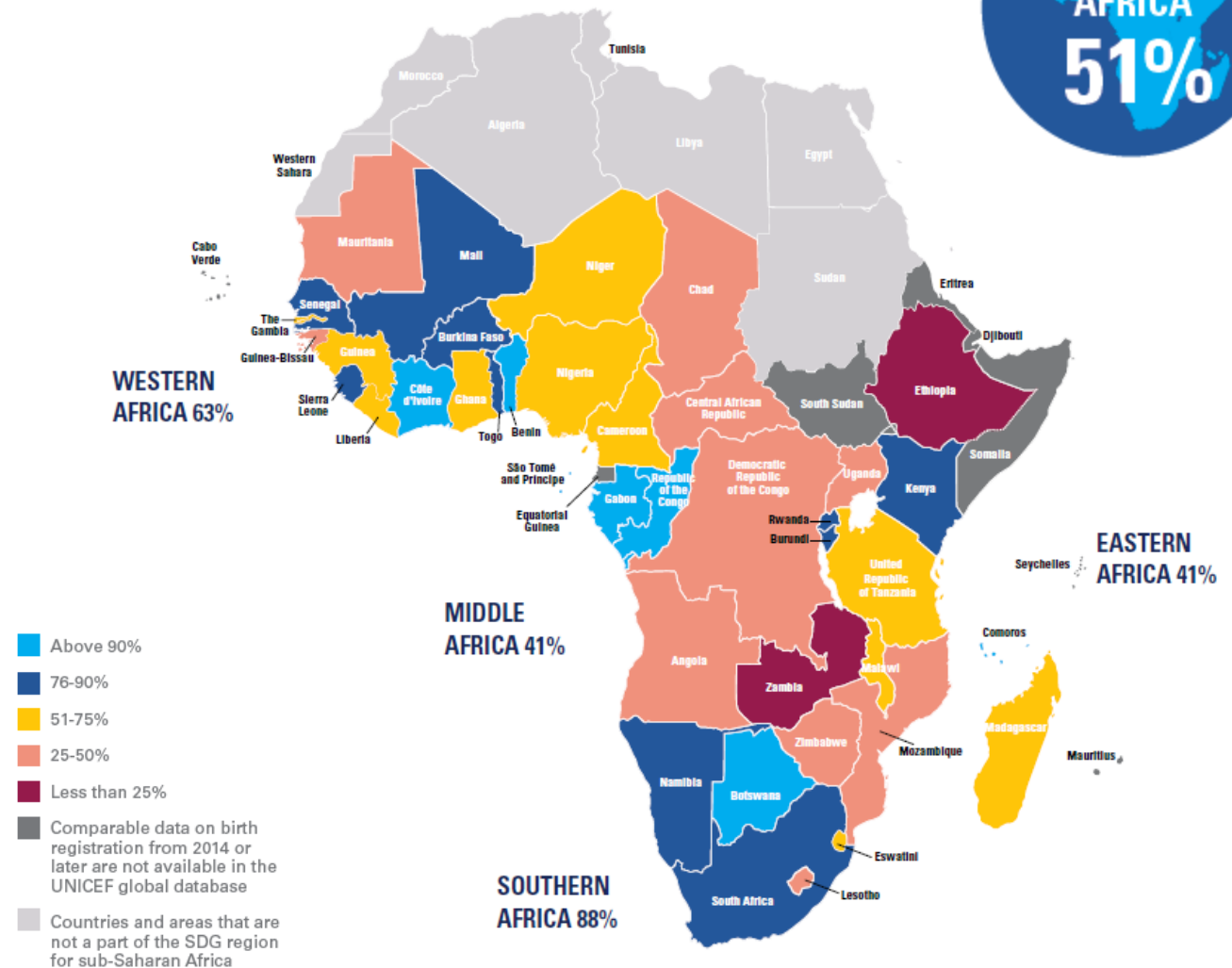
Percentage of children under age 5 whose births are registered, by region



# CHILDREN UNDER-FIVE: REGISTRATION

Percentage of children under age 5 whose births are registered

**Across subregions, Eastern and Western Africa trail behind, both with less than half of children registered**



Note: This map is stylized and not to scale. It does not reflect a position by UNICEF on the legal status of any country or territory or the delimitation of any frontiers. The final boundary between the Sudan and South Sudan has not yet been determined.

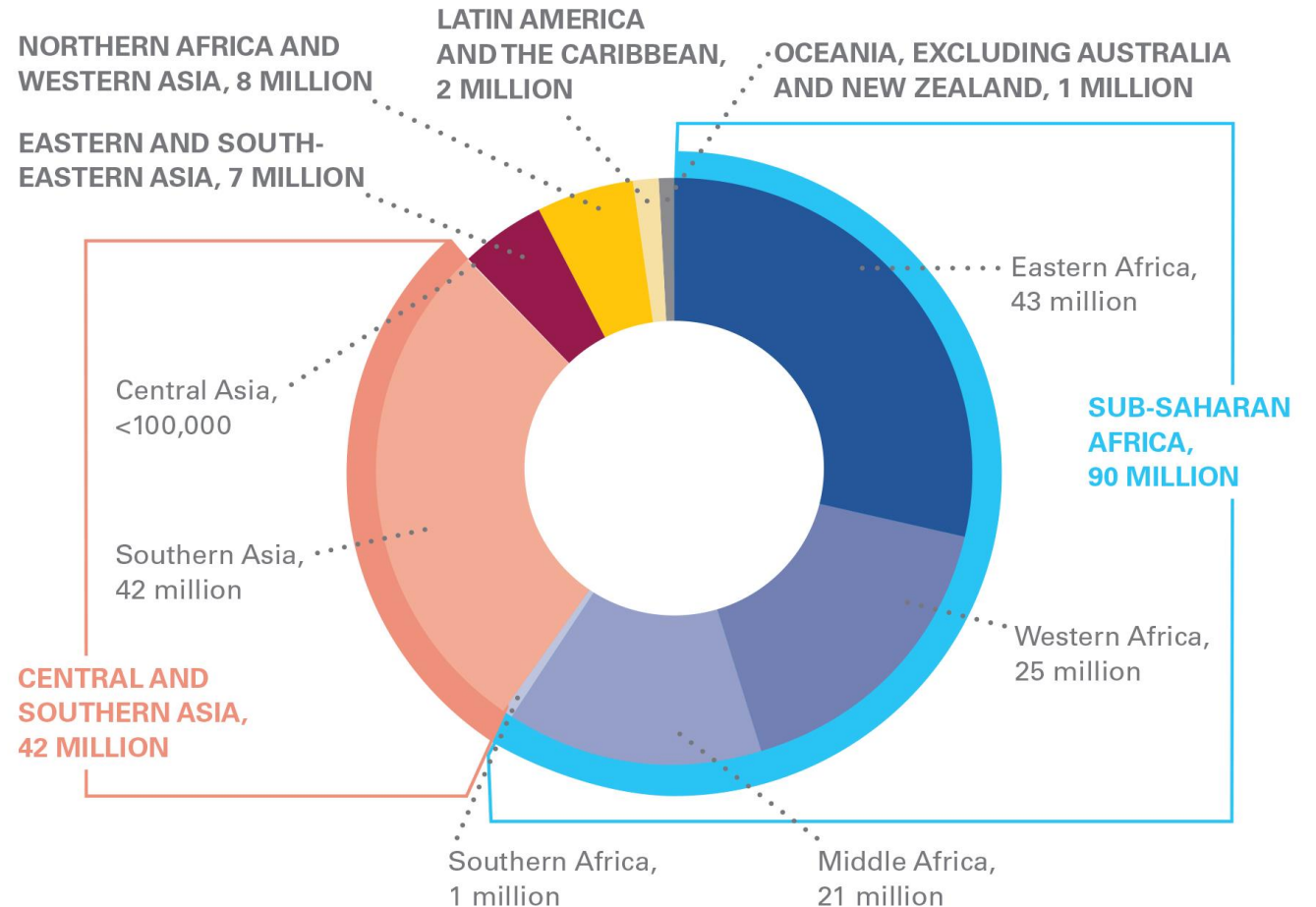
# CHILDREN UNDER-FIVE: LACK OF REGISTRATION

**Of all unregistered children worldwide, more than half (90 million) live in sub-Saharan Africa**

**The largest number of unregistered children in the region is found in Eastern Africa**

Note: In the regions of Europe and Northern America and Australia and New Zealand, 100 per cent of children are estimated to be registered with a birth certificate on the basis of civil registration coverage.

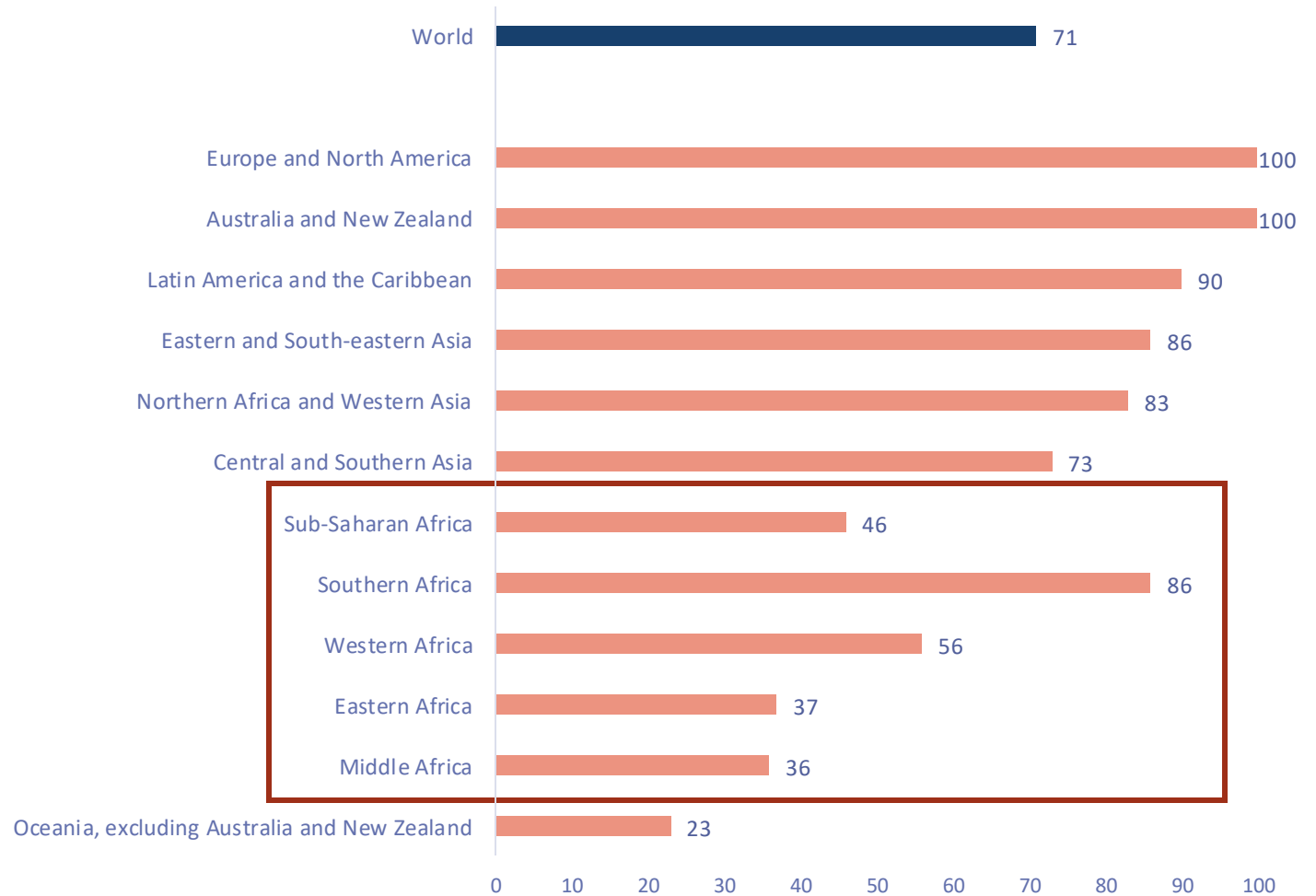
Number of children under age 5 whose births are not registered, by region



# INFANTS UNDER-ONE: REGISTRATION

**Globally, around 7 in 10 infants have had their births registered; in sub-Saharan Africa this proportion is just 4 in 10**

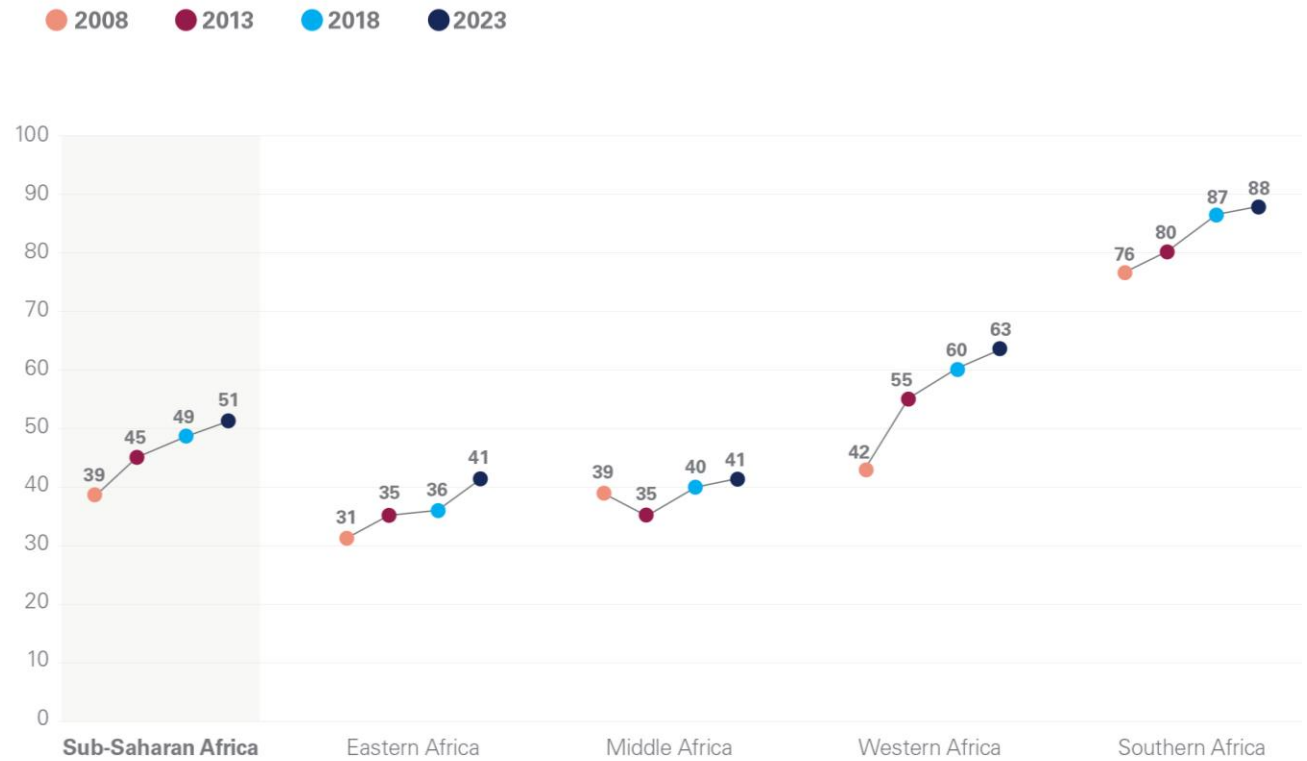
Percentage of infants under age 1 whose births are registered, by region



# ASSESSING PROGRESS

Over the last 15 years, sub-Saharan Africa has made steady advances to raise the level of birth registration, with the strongest gains in Western Africa

Percentage of children under age 5 in sub-Saharan Africa whose births are registered, observed

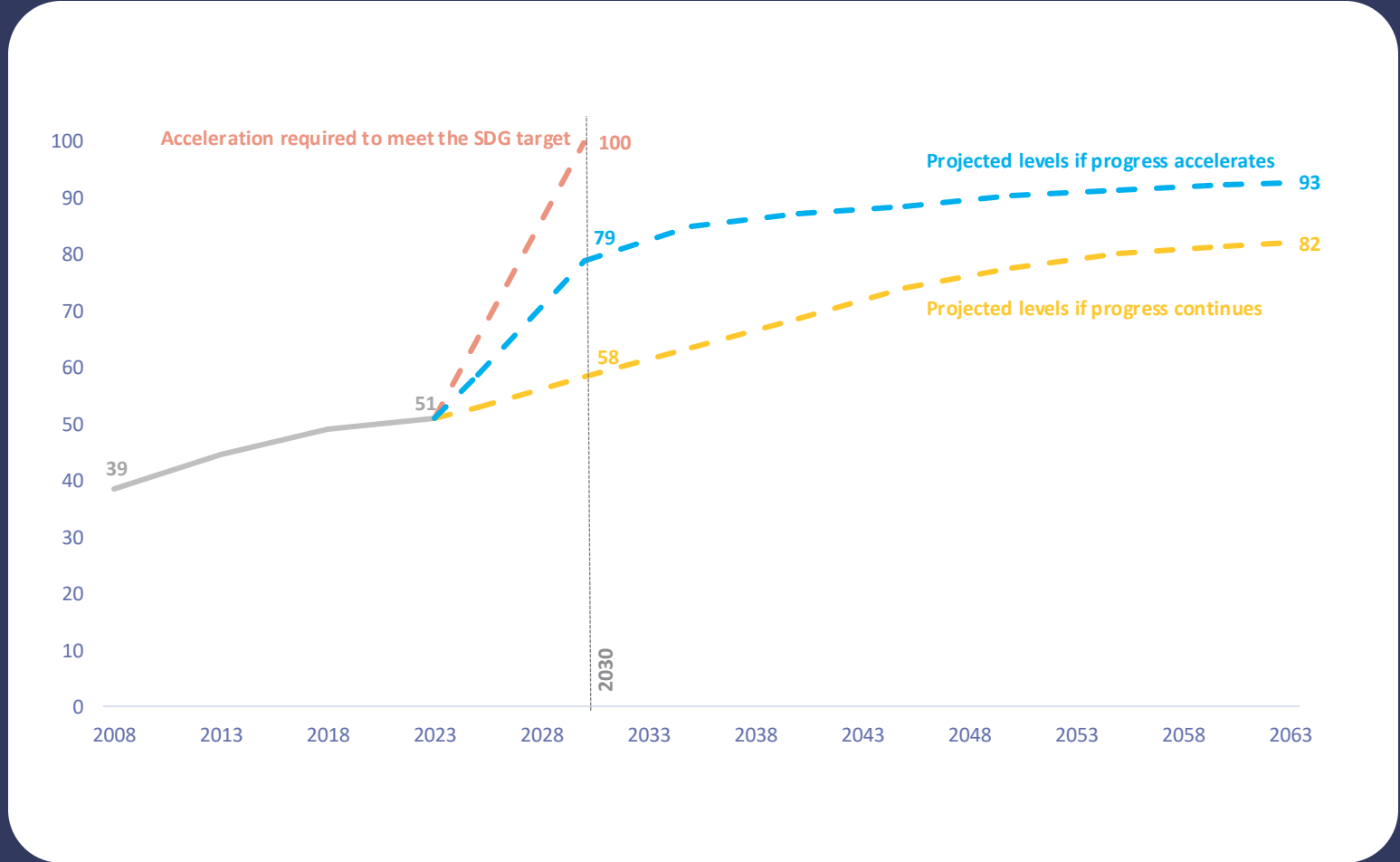


# LOOKING AHEAD

**Despite recent advances in some parts of the region, the SDG target remains out of reach**

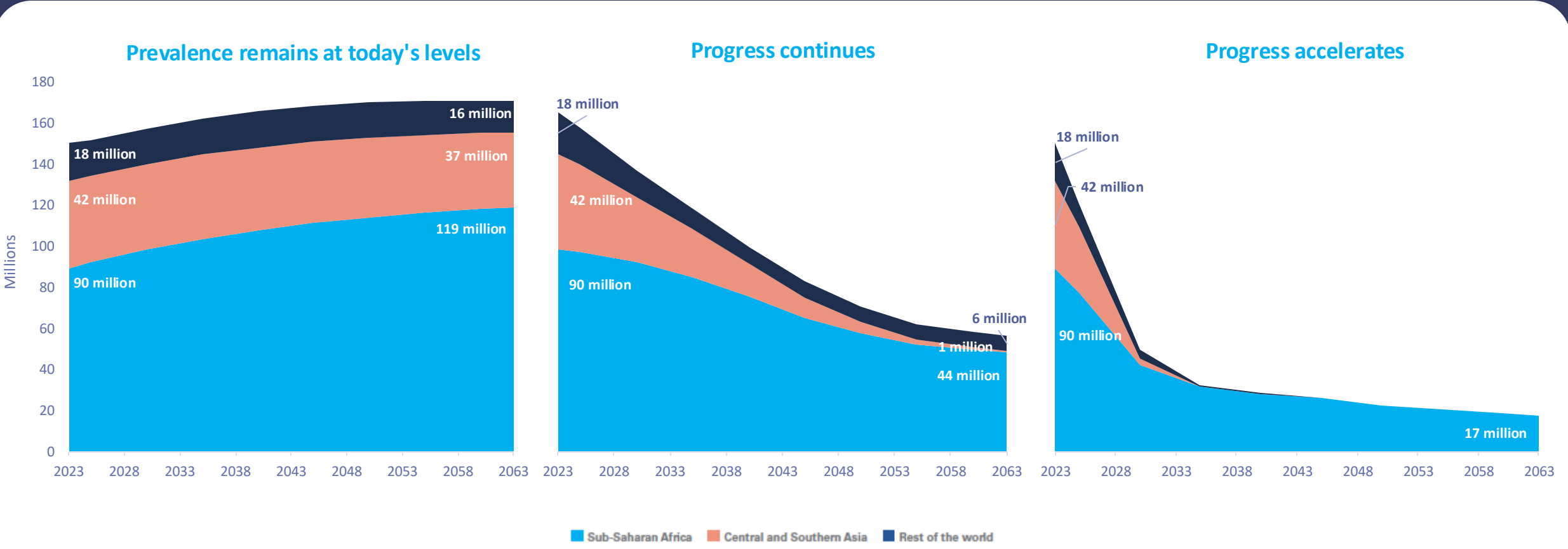
**Even with accelerated progress, the promise of universal birth registration could still fall short in 2063**

Percentage of children under age 5 in sub-Saharan Africa whose births are registered, observed and projected




# The number of unregistered children in sub-Saharan Africa could surpass 100 million after 2030 if prevalence levels remain as they are today. With sustained progress, the region could cut the number of unregistered children in 2063 by half

Number of children under age 5 whose births are not registered, observed and projected



# Data resources

 [data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/birth-registration/](https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/birth-registration/)



## Resources



The Right Start in Life: 2024 update

 Publications



A Statistical Update on Birth Registration in Africa

 Publications



A Statistical Profile of Birth Registration in Asia and the Pacific

 Publications



A statistical profile of birth registration in Africa

 Publications



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# Thank you

[data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/birth-registration/](https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/birth-registration/)

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