

Main findings



EVERY CHILD'S BIRTH RIGHT
Inequities and trends in birth registration

unite for
children

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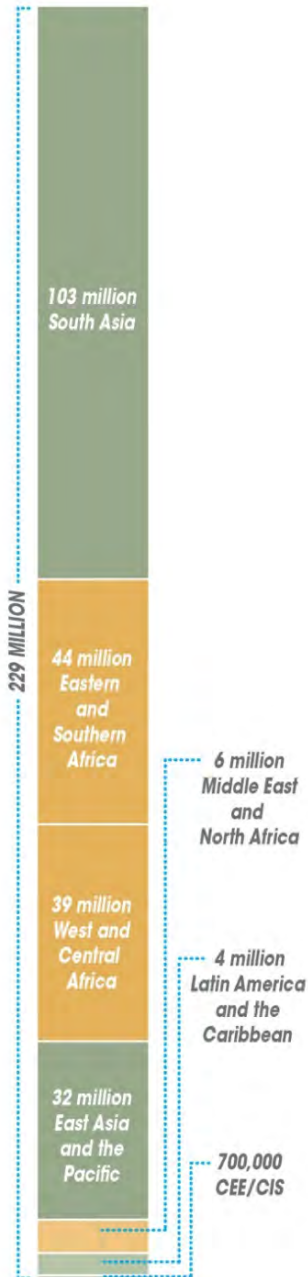
Data and Analytics Section,
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Where do we stand



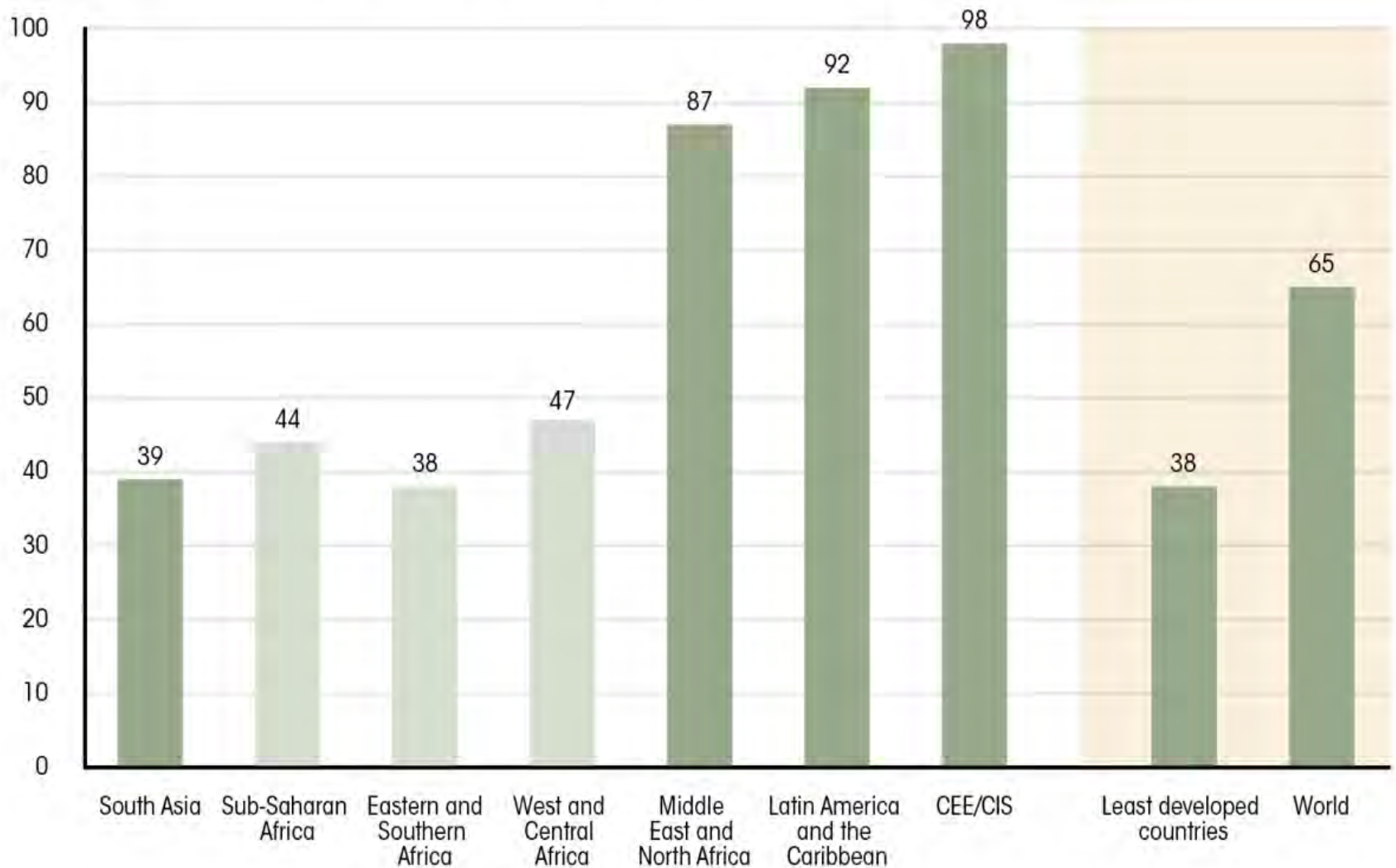
Some numbers



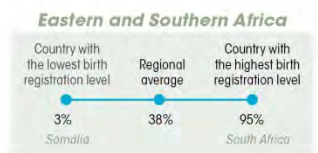
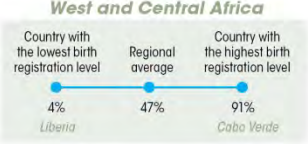
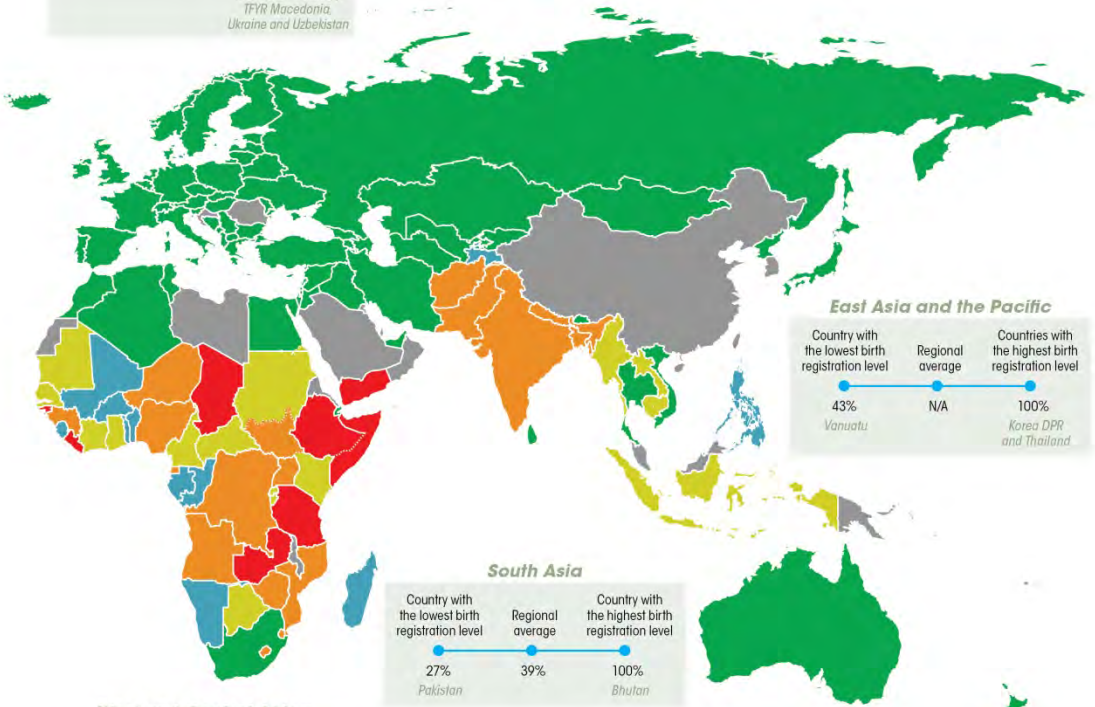
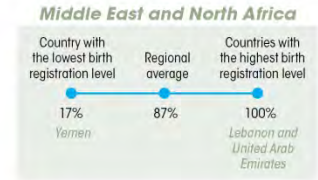
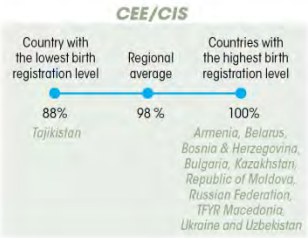
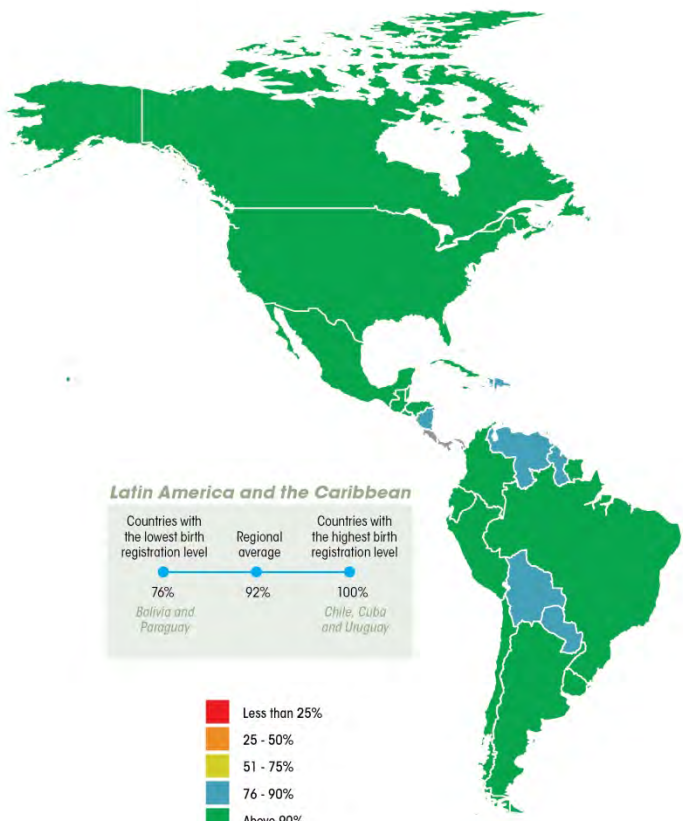
- Nearly 230 million children under five have never been registered
- More than half of them live in Asia
- In 2012 alone, 57 million births were not registered with civil authorities – or 4 out of 10 babies delivered worldwide
- Additionally, 1 in 7 of the children who are registered do not have an official birth certificate
- As results there are 290 million children under five without a birth certificate in the world

Birth registration prevalence varies significantly across regions

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



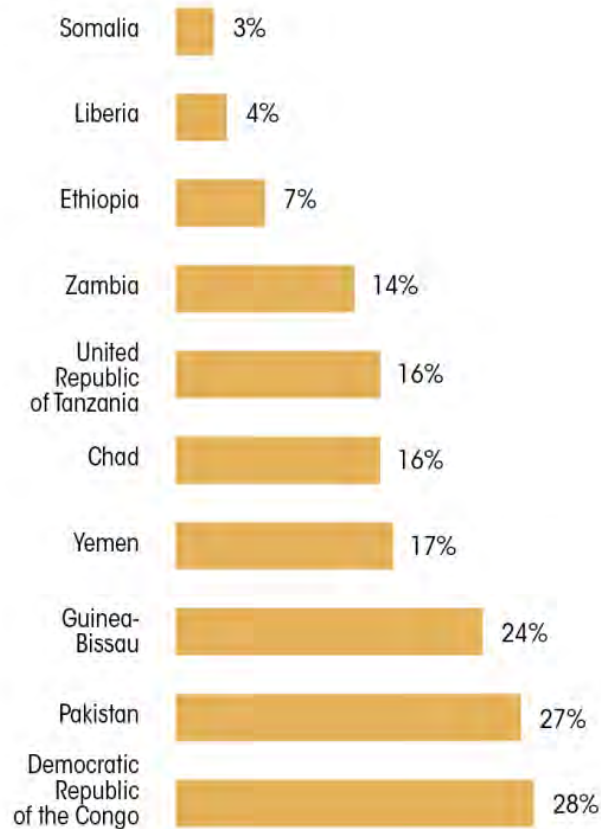
The lowest birth registration levels are found in sub-Saharan Africa
 Percentage of children under age five whose births are registered, by country



Notes: The 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 Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. Data for Bolivia, Egypt, Liberia, Namibia and Yemen refer to the percentage of children under age five with a birth certificate. To identify the countries with data that differ from the standard definition, see the statistical table. Data coverage was insufficient to calculate a regional estimate for East Asia and the Pacific.
 Sources: UNICEF global databases, 2013. Based on DHS, MICS, other national household surveys, censuses and vital registration systems, 2000-2012. Data for industrialized countries and the Russian Federation are from: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Population and Vital Statistics Report*.

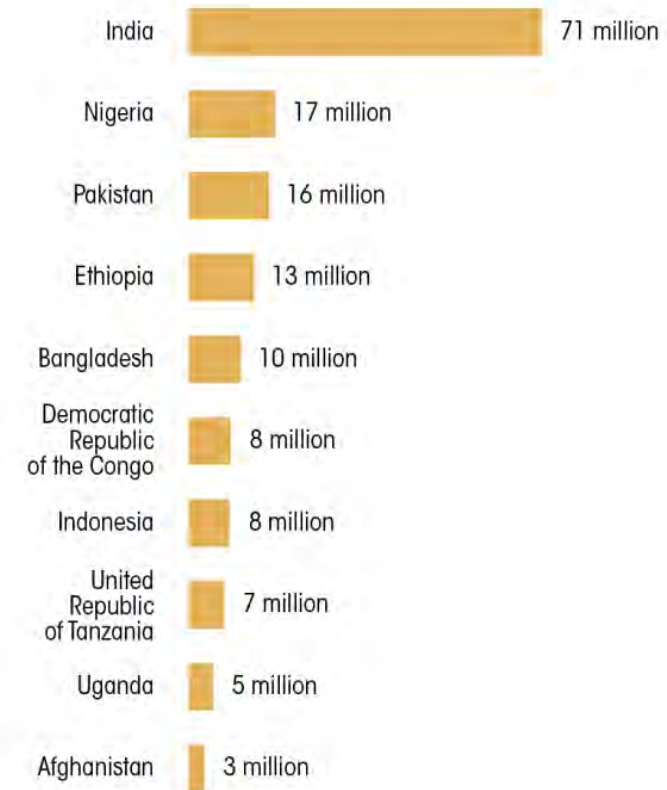
Most of the 10 countries with the lowest levels of birth registration are found in sub-Saharan Africa

Percentage of children under age five whose births are registered, in the 10 countries with the lowest birth registration levels worldwide



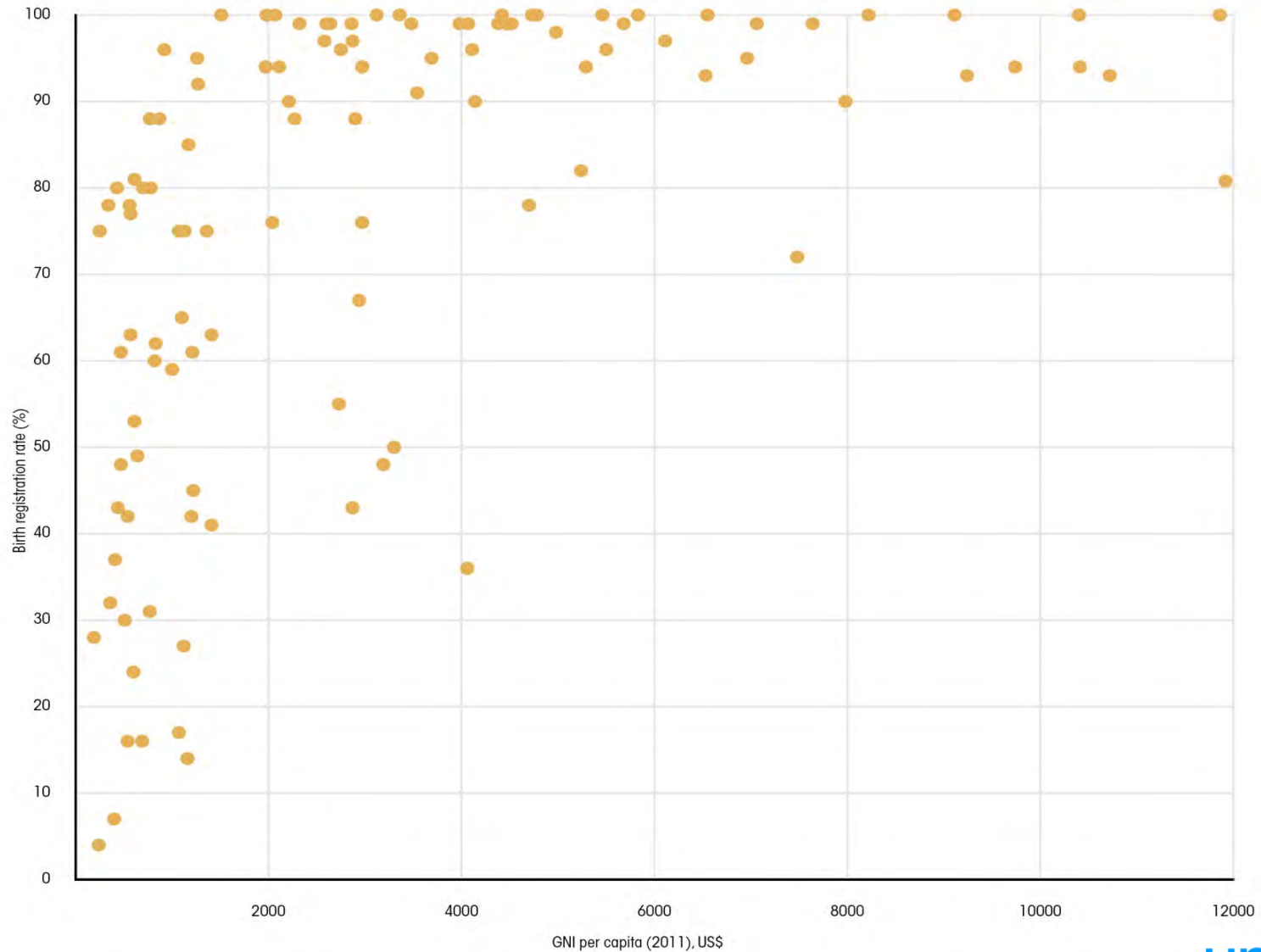
Among the 10 countries with the largest numbers of unregistered children, India has the most, by a wide margin

Number of children under age five whose births are not registered in the 10 countries with the largest numbers of unregistered children



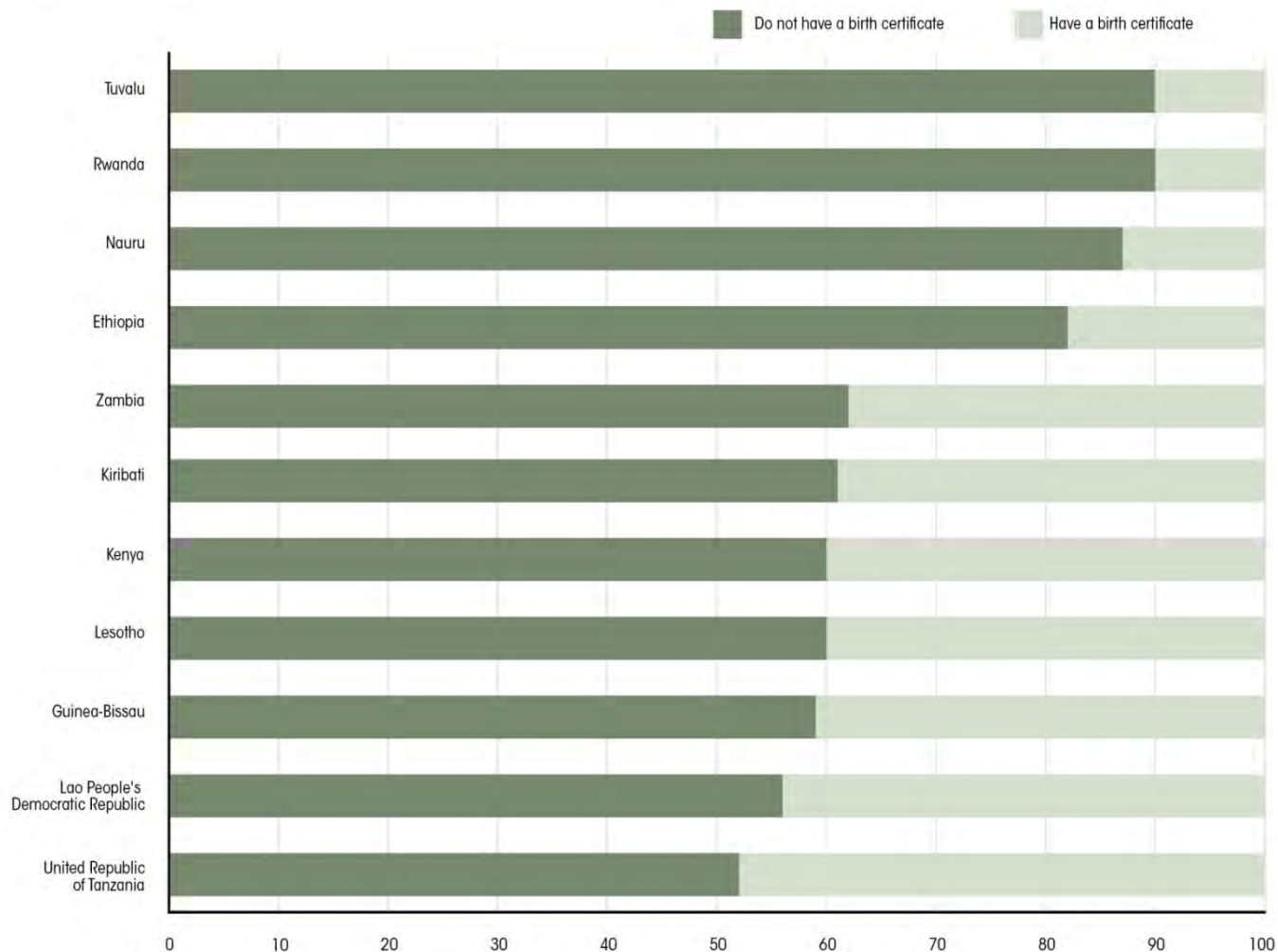
A country can achieve a high birth registration rate even with low per capita income

Birth registration rates and gross national income (GNI) per capita in US\$, in selected low- and middle-income countries



Many children whose births are recorded lack proof of registration

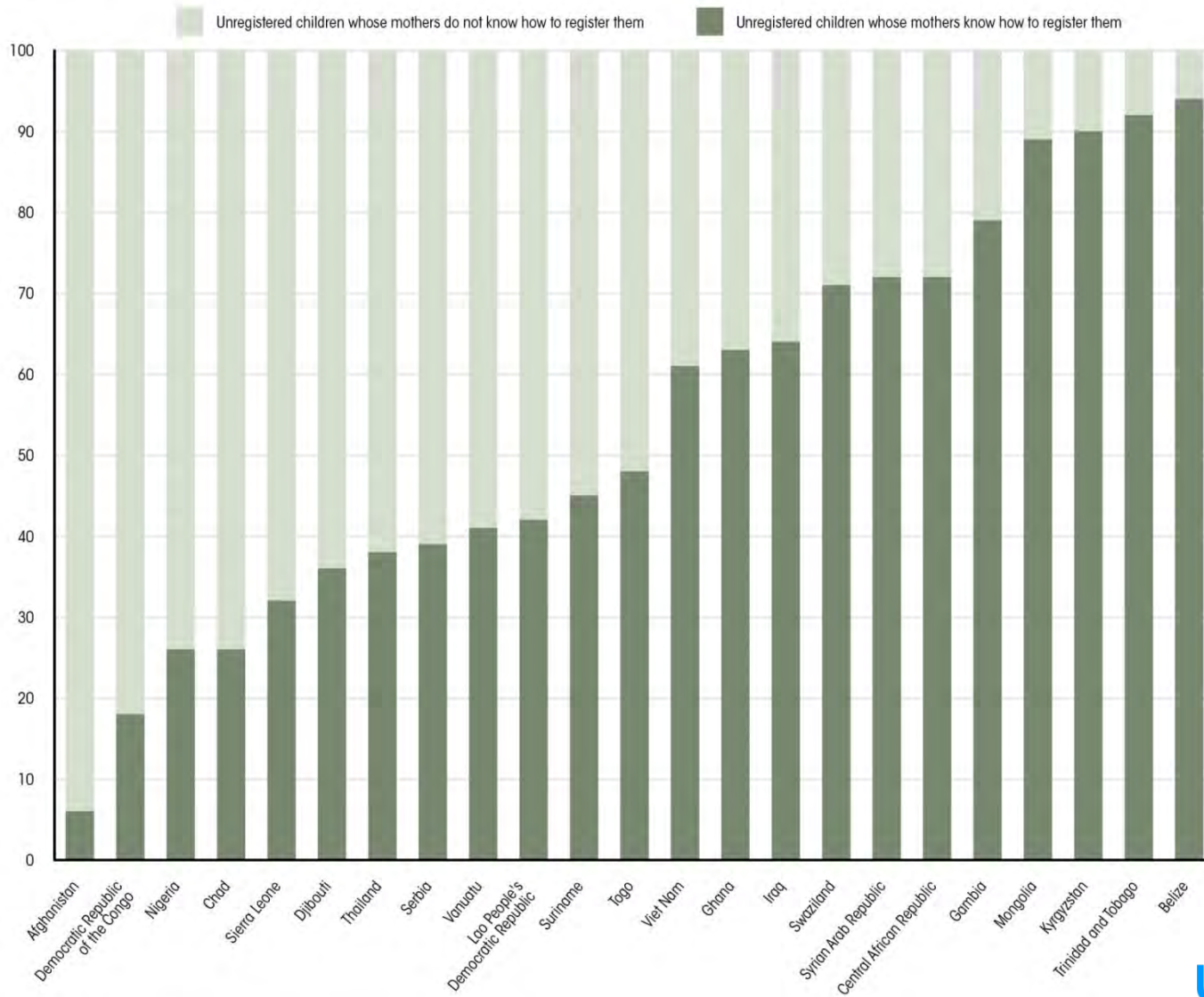
Percentage distribution of children under age five whose births are registered, by whether or not they have a birth certificate, in selected countries



Sources: UNICEF global databases, 2013. Based on DHS and MICS, 2005-2012.

Many mothers lack knowledge of how to register a child's birth

Percentage distribution of children under age five whose births are not registered, by a mother's (or caregiver's) knowledge of how to register a child, in selected countries

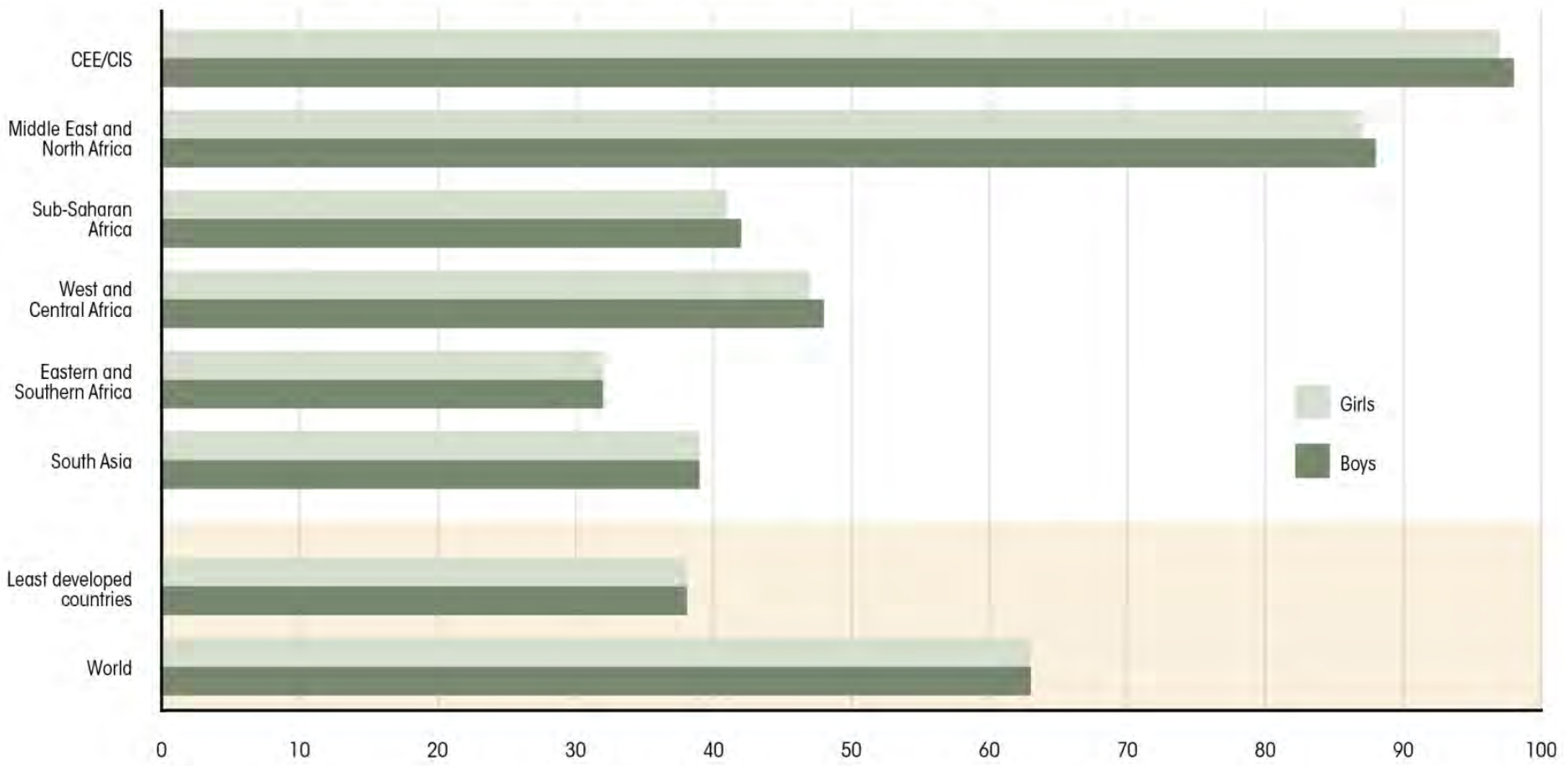


The children left behind



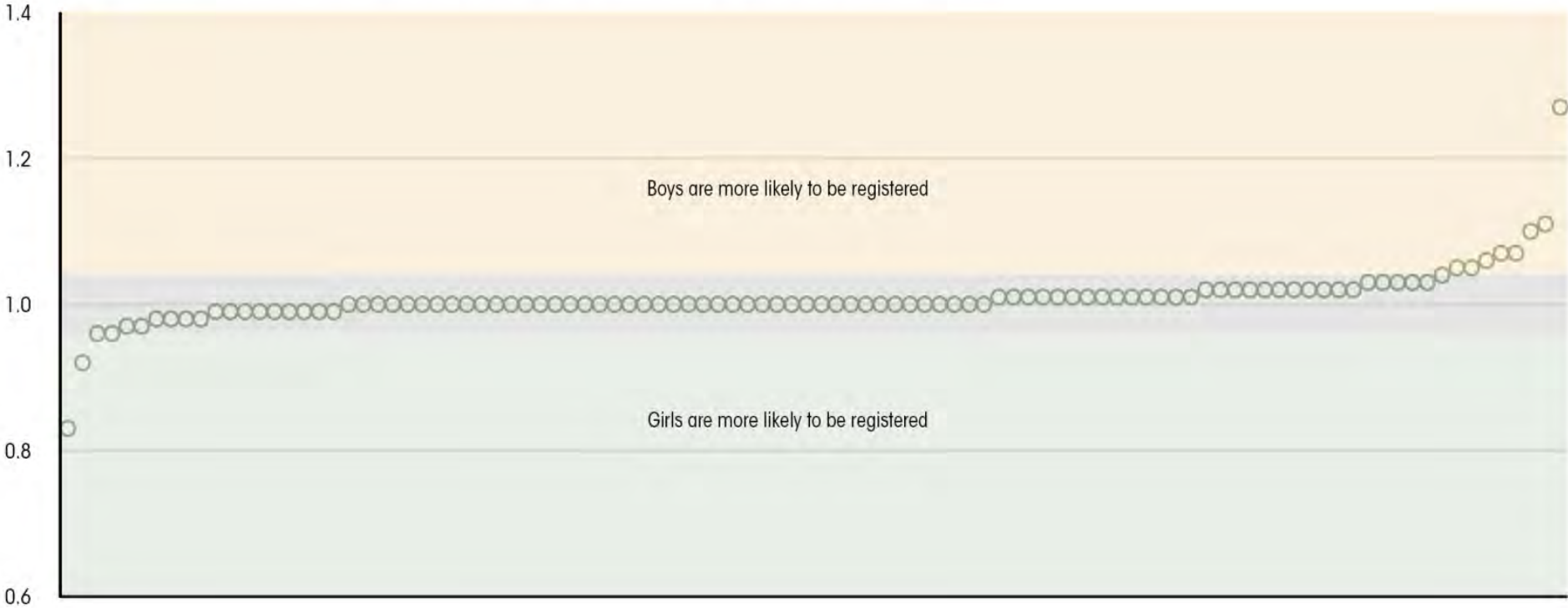
No significant differences are found in birth registration rates between boys and girls

Percentage of children under age five whose births are registered, by sex and region



Gender parity in birth registration appears to be the norm in almost all countries

Ratio of children under age five whose births are registered, by sex (boys over girls)

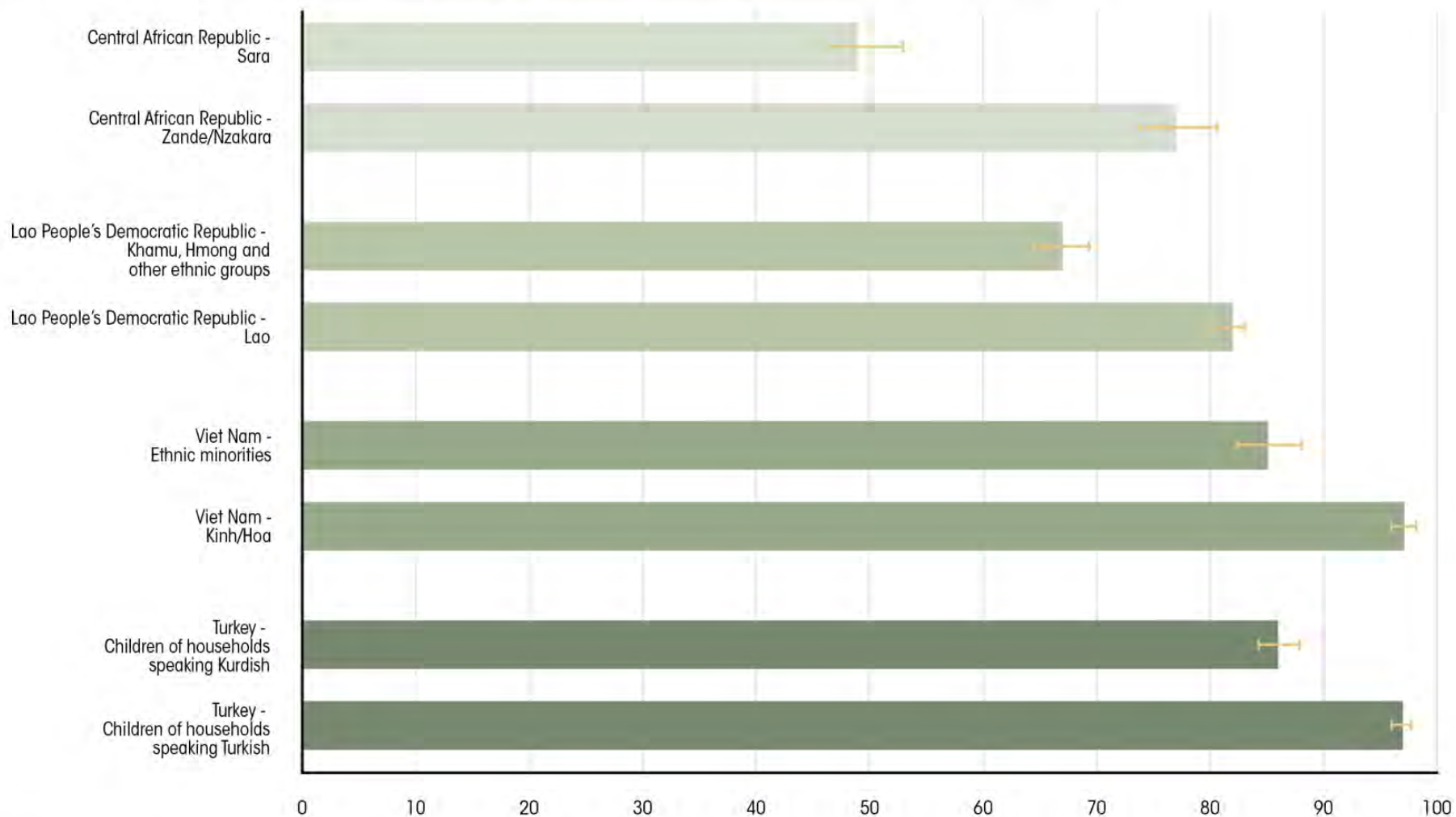


Notes: Each dot represents a country. A ratio of 1.0 (0.95-1.04, grey band) indicates that birth registration levels in the two groups (boys/girls) are equal. Countries with very low prevalence levels have been excluded since data bear some level of uncertainty that would affect the significance of the ratio.

Sources: UNICEF global databases, 2013. Based on DHS, MICS, other national household surveys and vital registration systems, 2000-2012.

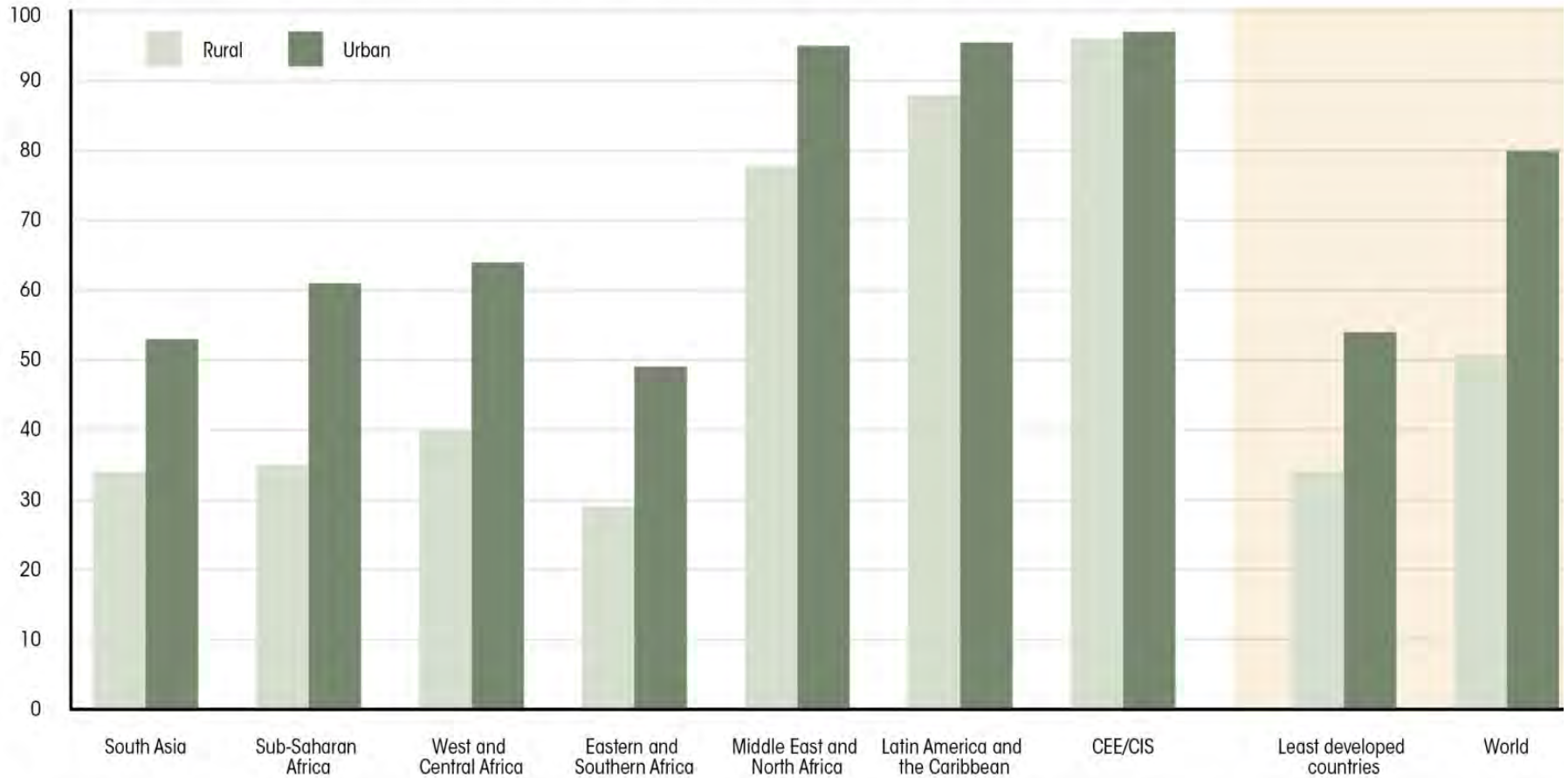
Ethnicity is associated with different birth registration rates in some countries

Percentage of children under age five whose births are registered, by ethnicity in selected countries



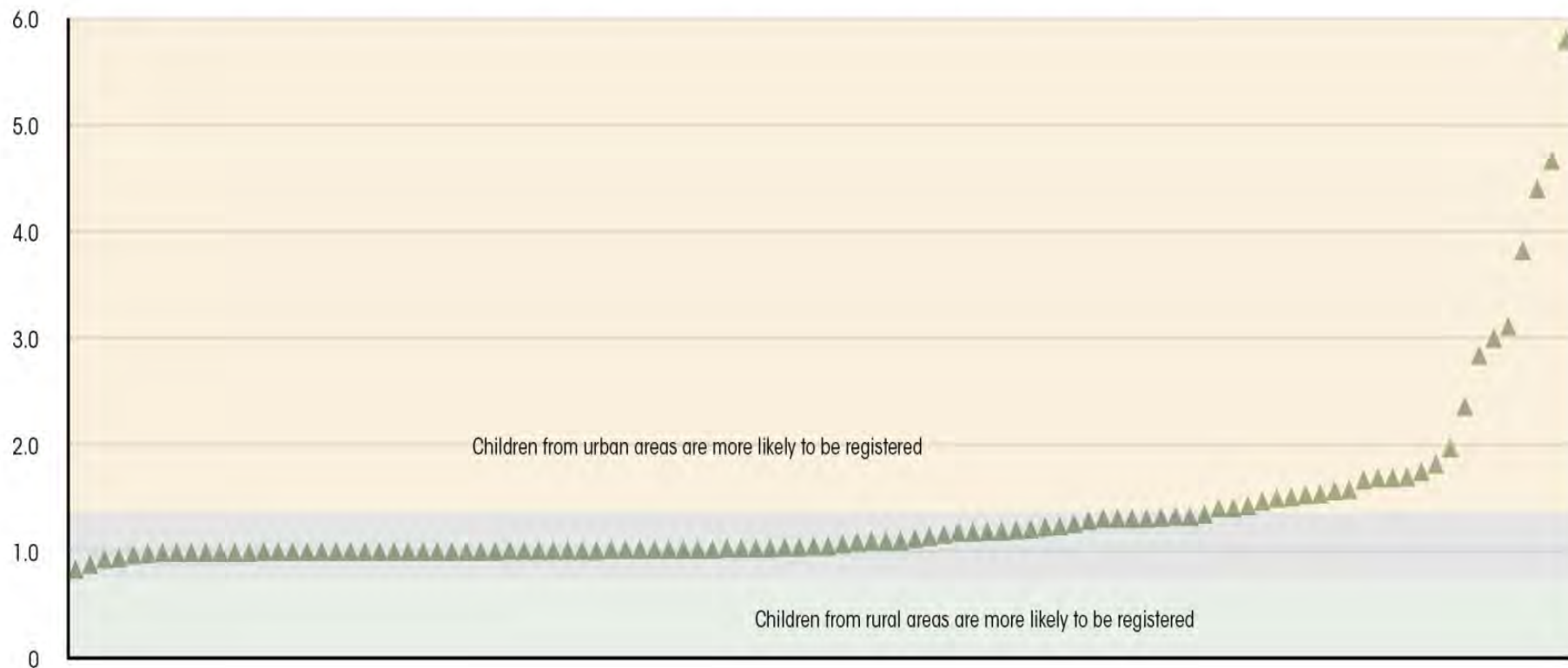
Birth registration is higher in urban than in rural areas in almost every region

Percentage of children under age five whose births are registered, by place of residence and region



In some countries, children living in urban areas are up to six times more likely to be registered

Ratio of children under age five whose births are registered, by place of residence (urban over rural)

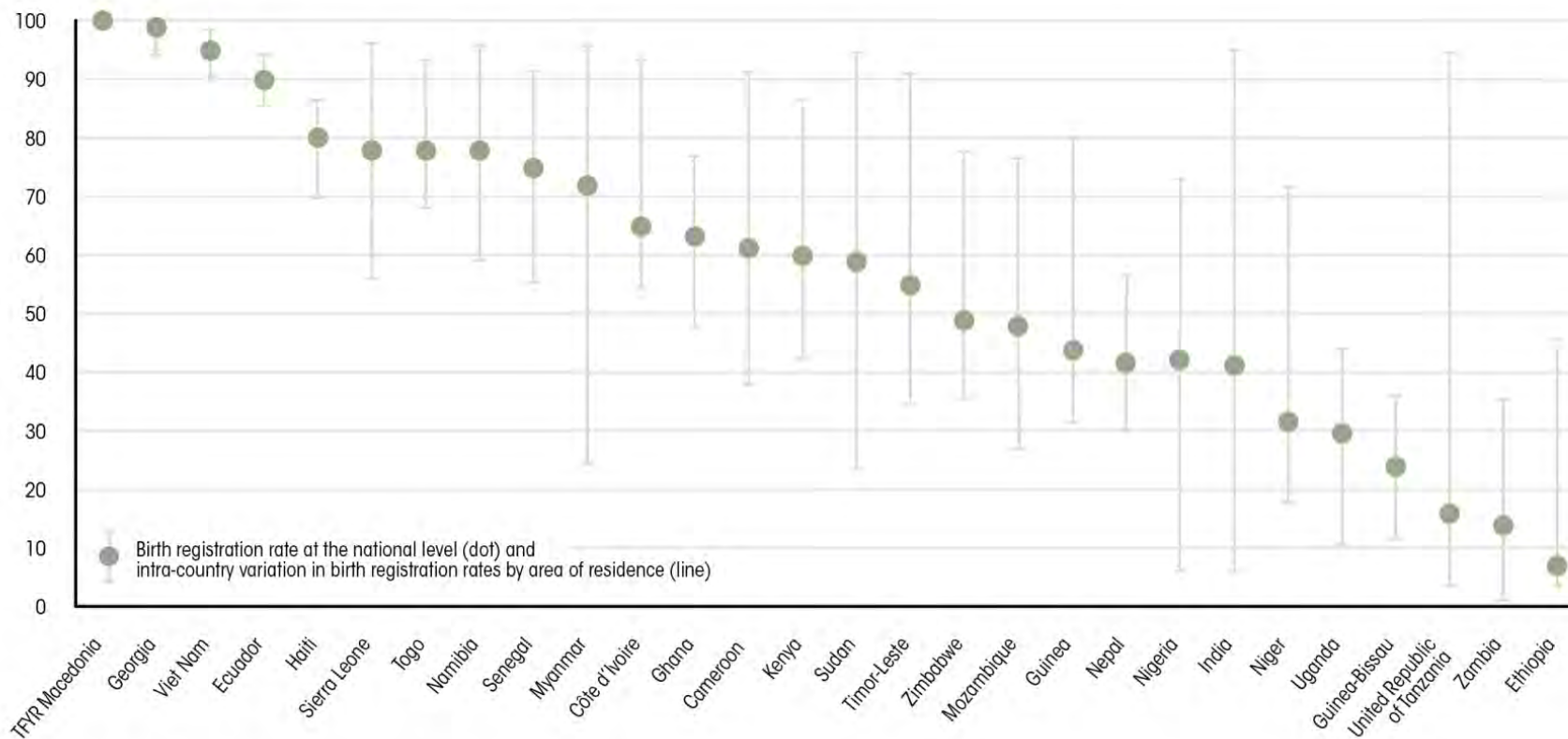


Notes: Each triangle represents a country. A ratio of 1.0 (0.95-1.04, grey band) indicates that birth registration levels in the two groups (children from urban/rural areas) are equal. Countries with very low prevalence levels have been excluded since data bear some level of uncertainty that would affect the significance of the ratio.

Sources: UNICEF global databases, 2013. Based on DHS, MICS, other national household surveys and vital registration systems, 2000-2012.

National birth registration prevalence may hide geographic disparities

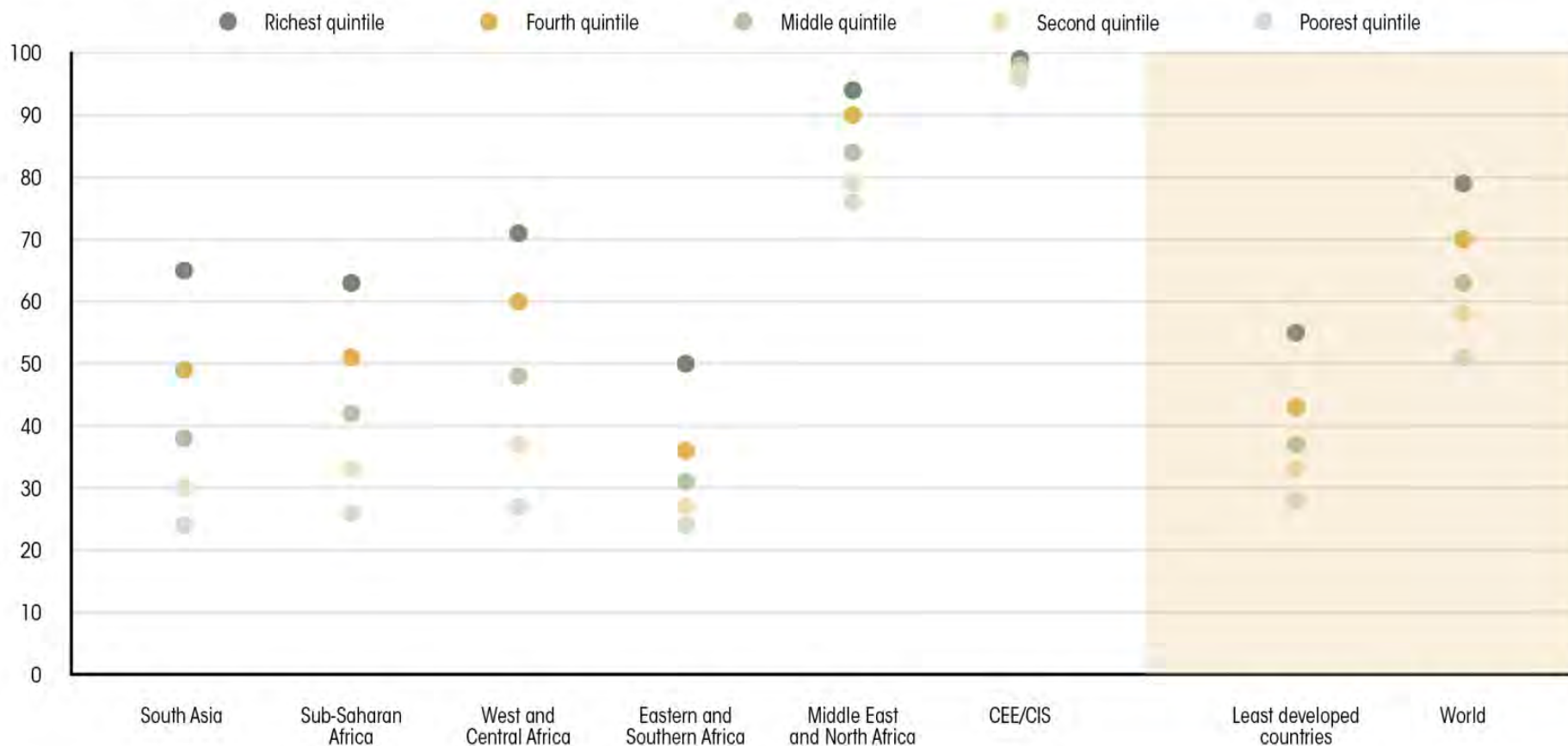
Percentage of children under age five whose births are registered and the geographic area with the highest and lowest level of birth registration, in selected countries



Note: Data for Namibia refer to the percentage of children under age five with a birth certificate.
Sources: UNICEF global databases, 2013. Based on DHS, MICS, other national household surveys and censuses, 2005-2012

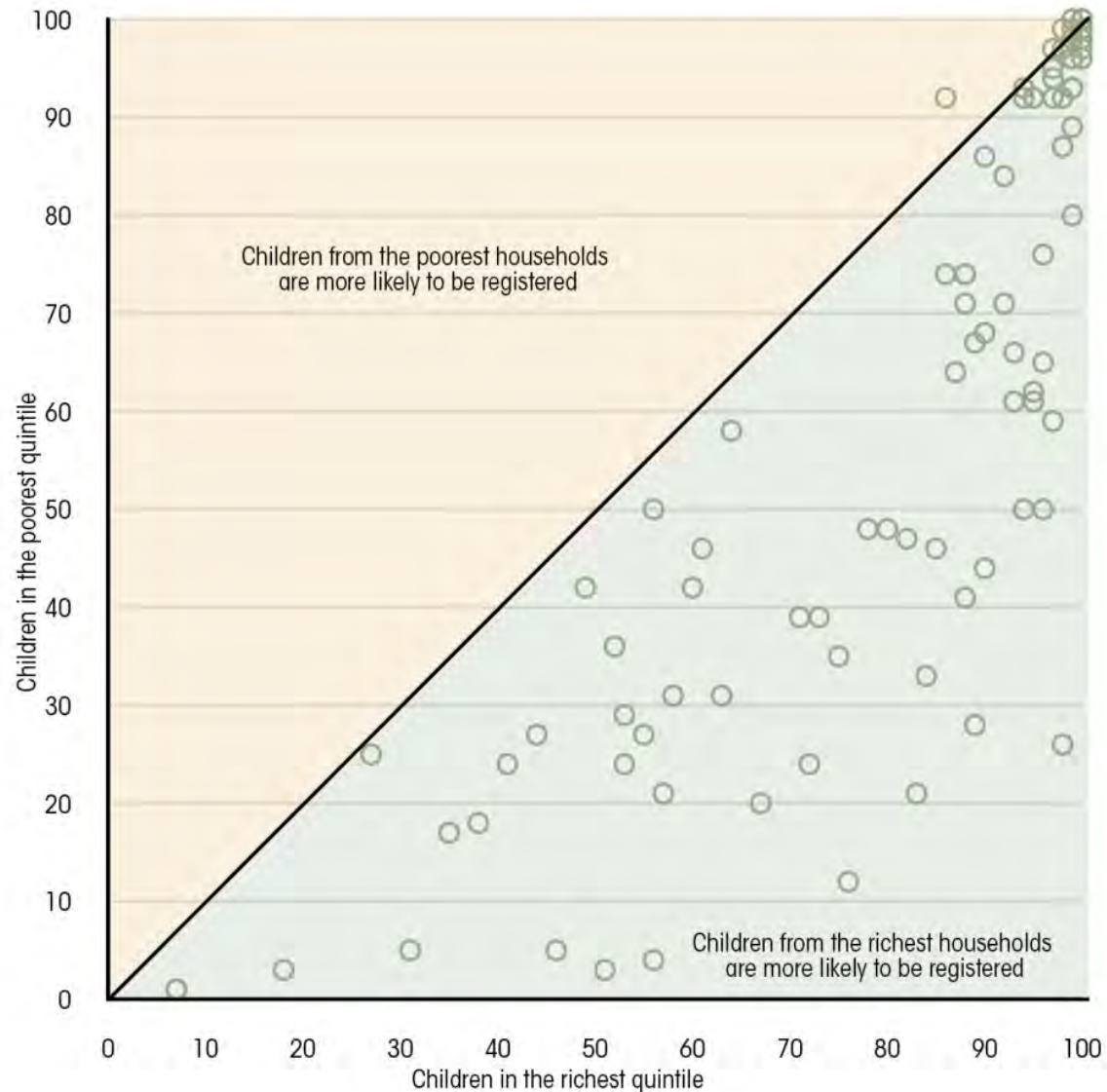
Children from the richest households are more than twice as likely to be registered as children from the poorest households

Percentage of children under age five whose births are registered, by household wealth quintile and by region



In most countries, a family's wealth is correlated with higher birth registration rates

Percentage of children under age five whose births are registered, by household wealth quintile



Notes: Each dot represents a country.

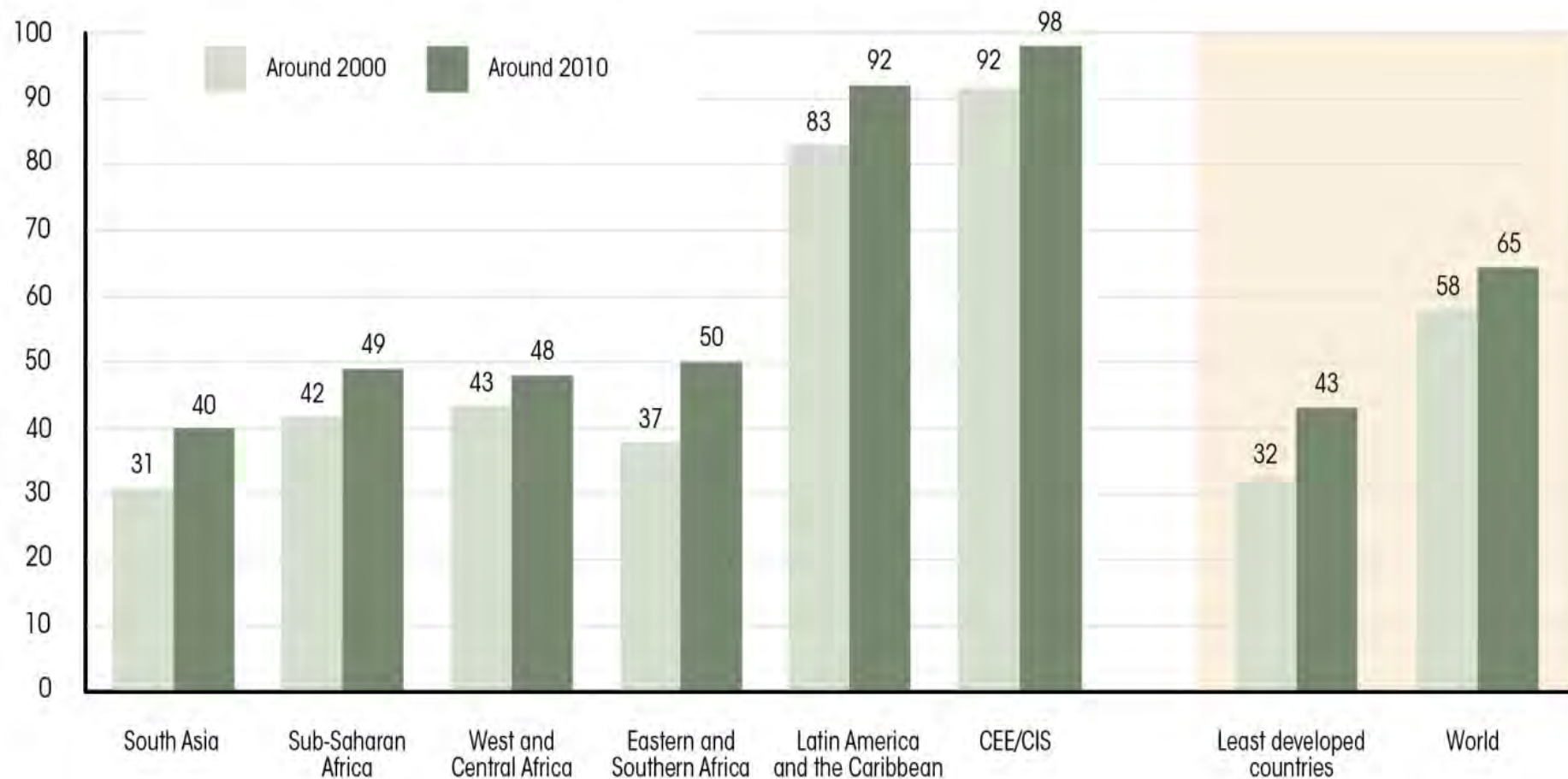
Sources: UNICEF global databases, 2013. Based on DHS, MICS and other national household surveys, 2000-2012.

Progress and prospects



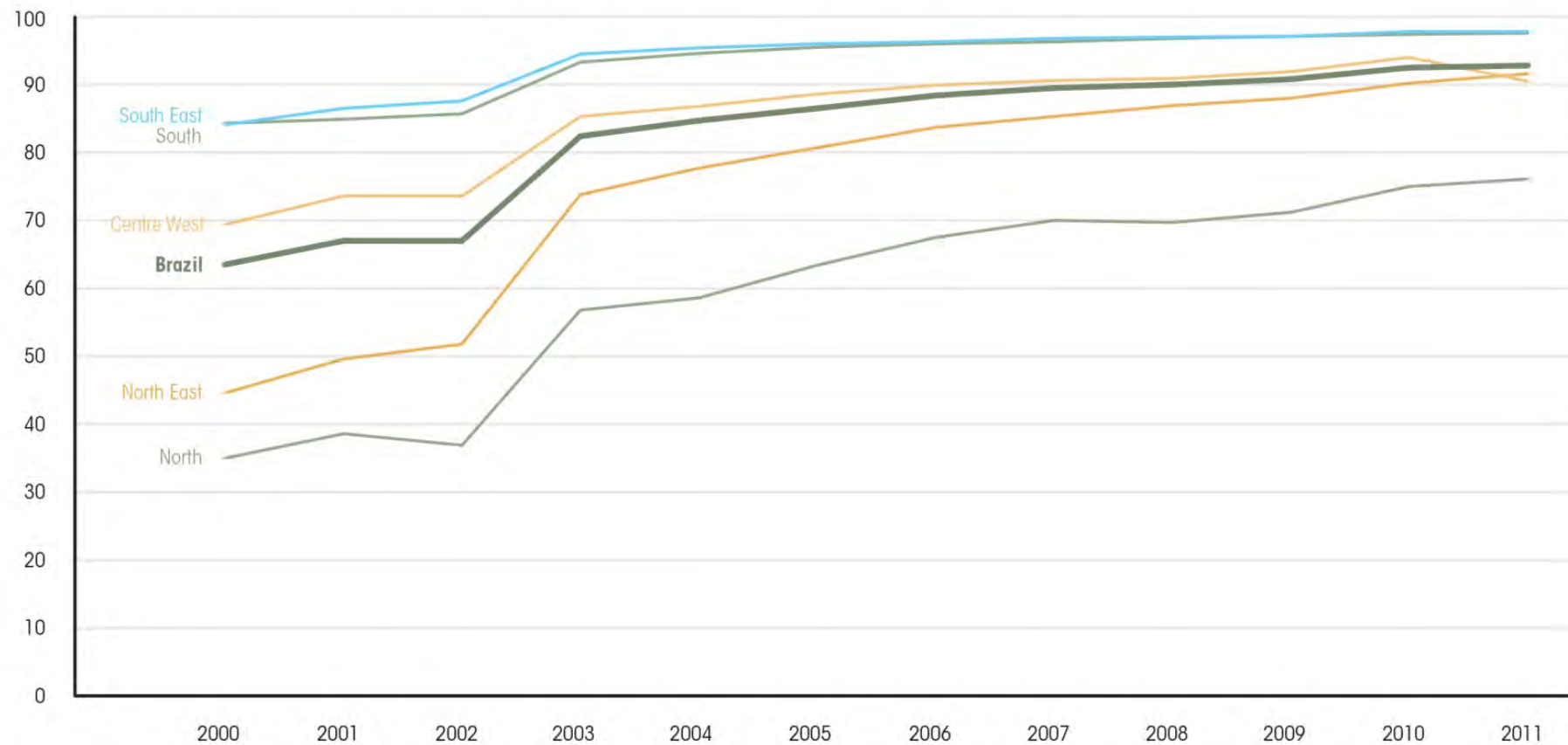
Some progress, albeit small, has been achieved in raising birth registration levels since 2000

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



Brazil is improving its national birth registration rate while closing regional gaps

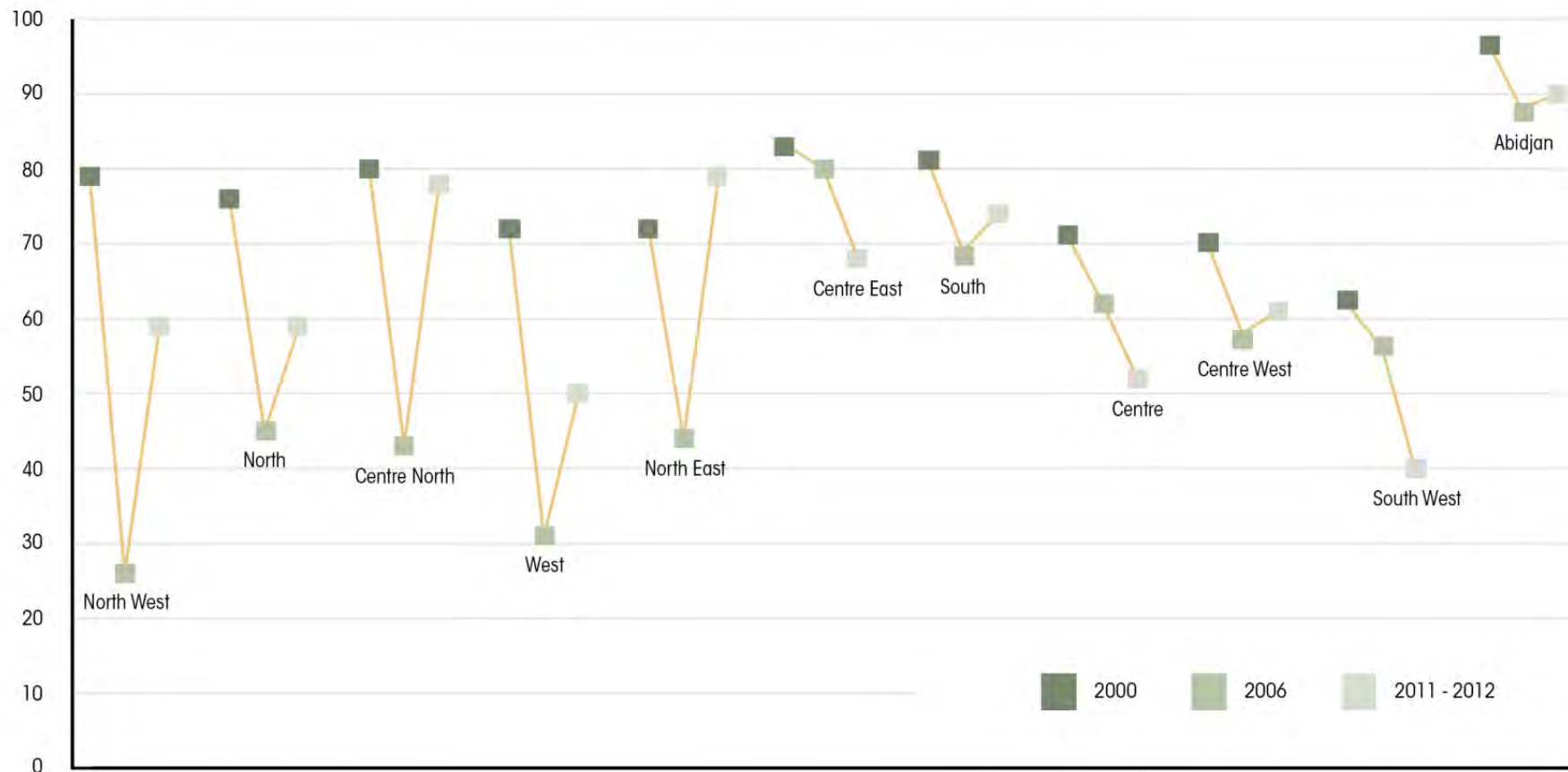
Percentage of births registered in Brazil, by region



Source: Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), *Estatísticas do Registro Civil*, 2000-2011.

Birth registration levels in Côte d'Ivoire are recovering from the effects of a decade-long crisis

Percentage of children under age five whose births are registered in Côte d'Ivoire, by region

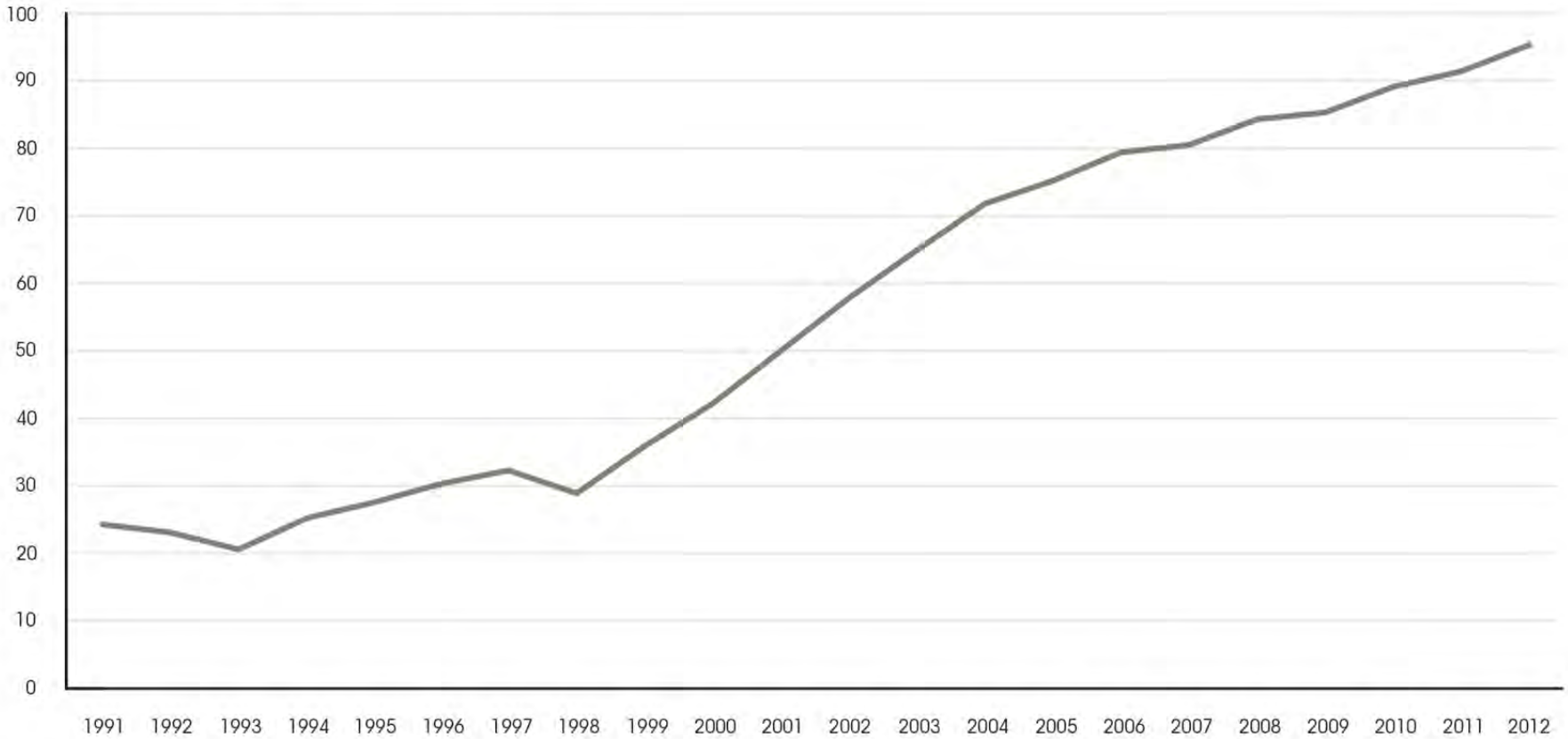


Notes: In order to allow for comparability data from MICS2 (2000) and MICS3 (2005-2006) on birth registration were recalculated according to the MICS4 (2009-2011) indicator definition. Therefore, the recalculated data in this figure and in the text may differ from estimates included in MICS2 and MICS3 national reports.

Sources: UNICEF global databases, 2013. Based on DHS and MICS, 2000, 2006 and 2011-2012.

South Africa has seen a steady increase in birth registration over two decades

Percentage of births registered in South Africa



Note: Figures for South Africa presented in this chart include late registrations.
Source: Statistics South Africa, *Recorded Live Births*, 2013.



Thanks!