

# Youth: Critical Agents of Repositioning Family Planning

*Ishrat Z. Husain  
14 February, 2005  
Accra, Ghana*



# Making the Case



Photo Credit: GEEP



# Content

- What is Repositioning Family Planning?
- Why focus on youth problems?
- How Reposition Family Planning will help?
- What actions could be taken to Reposition FP for youth?



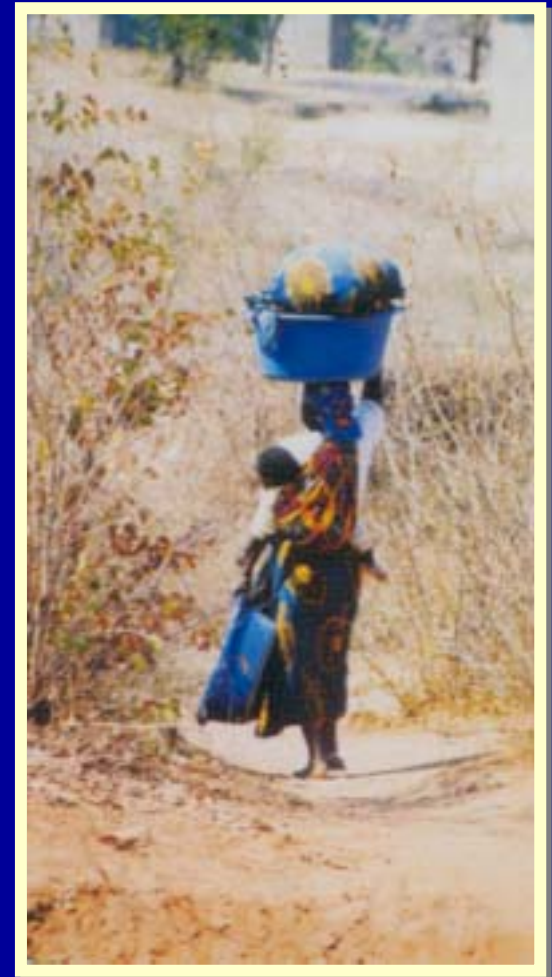
# What is “Repositioning FP”?

- An initiative that supports advocacy and evidence-based interventions to mobilize commitment and strengthen FP services in sub-Saharan Africa



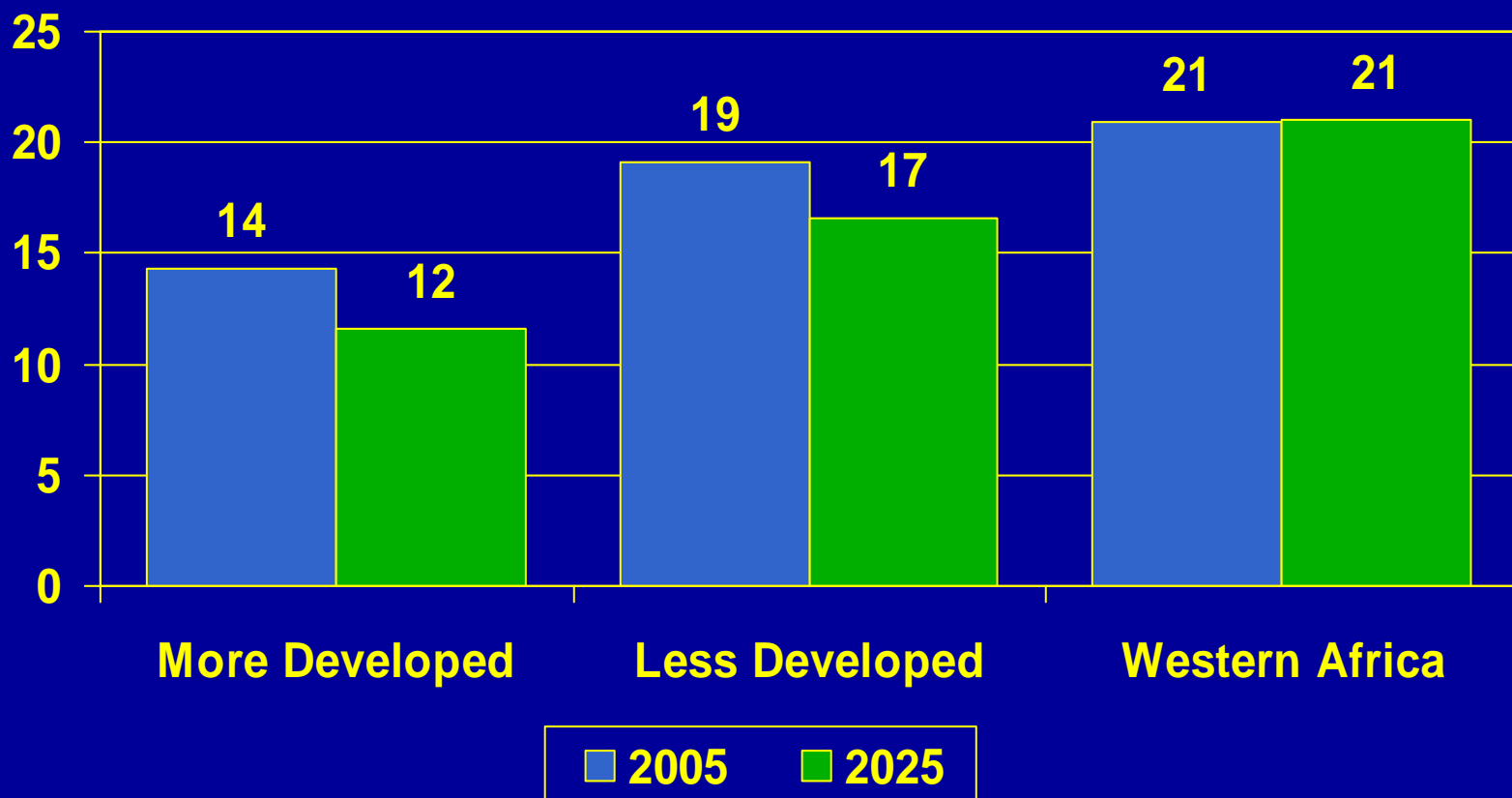
# Why focus on Youth?

- **An important asset for society and RH behavior shapes the future**
- **The asset is not fully harnessed for development and face unprecedented challenges**
- **FP can help address the challenges**



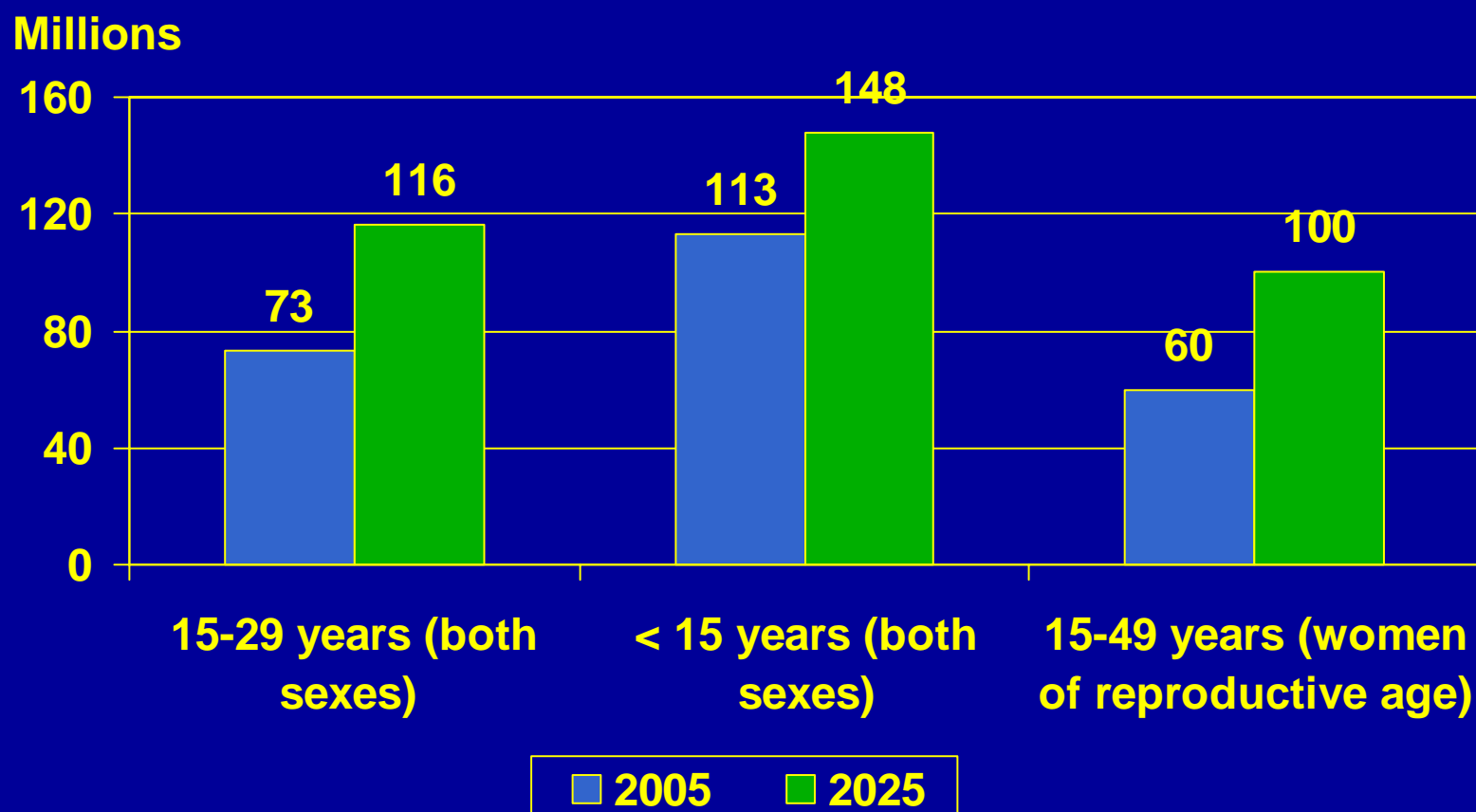
# Youth – a growing asset in society

Percent of Males (15-24 year olds) Compared to the Total Population - 2005 and 2025



UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs/Population Division,  
*World Population Prospects: The 2002 Revision, Vol II: Sex and Age*

# Youth and Women of Reproductive Age (in millions) Western Africa



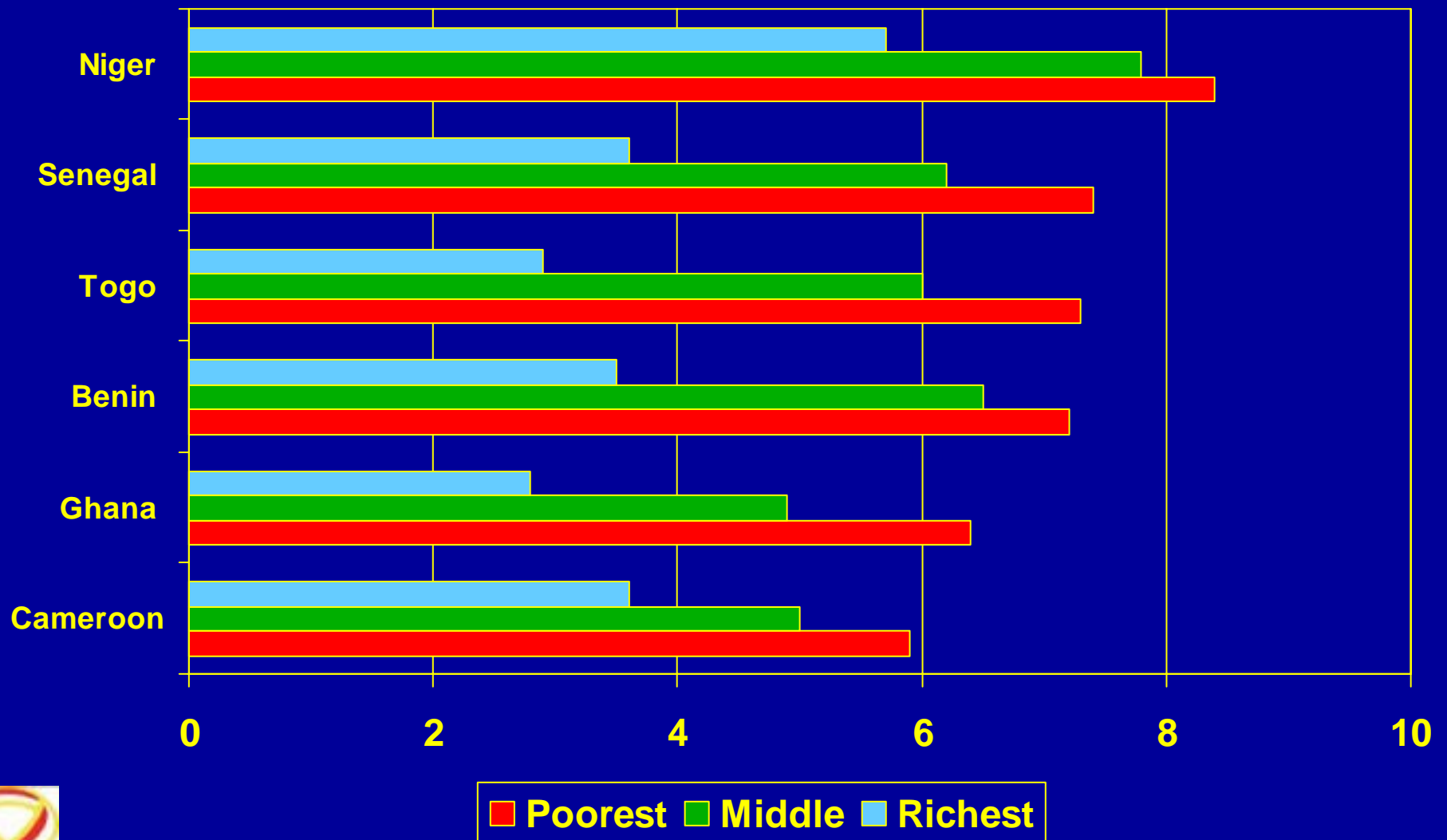
UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs/Population Division,  
*World Population Prospects: The 2002 Revision, Vol II: Sex and Age*

# Harnessing Youth's Potential

- ✓ High unemployment among youth- 40 to 50%
- ✓ Inequitable access to RH services make rich and poor poorer.
- ✓ Reduce economic and social inequities through RFP
- ✓ Increase life expectancy (Africa lowest in the world)
- ✓ Promote safer RH behavior



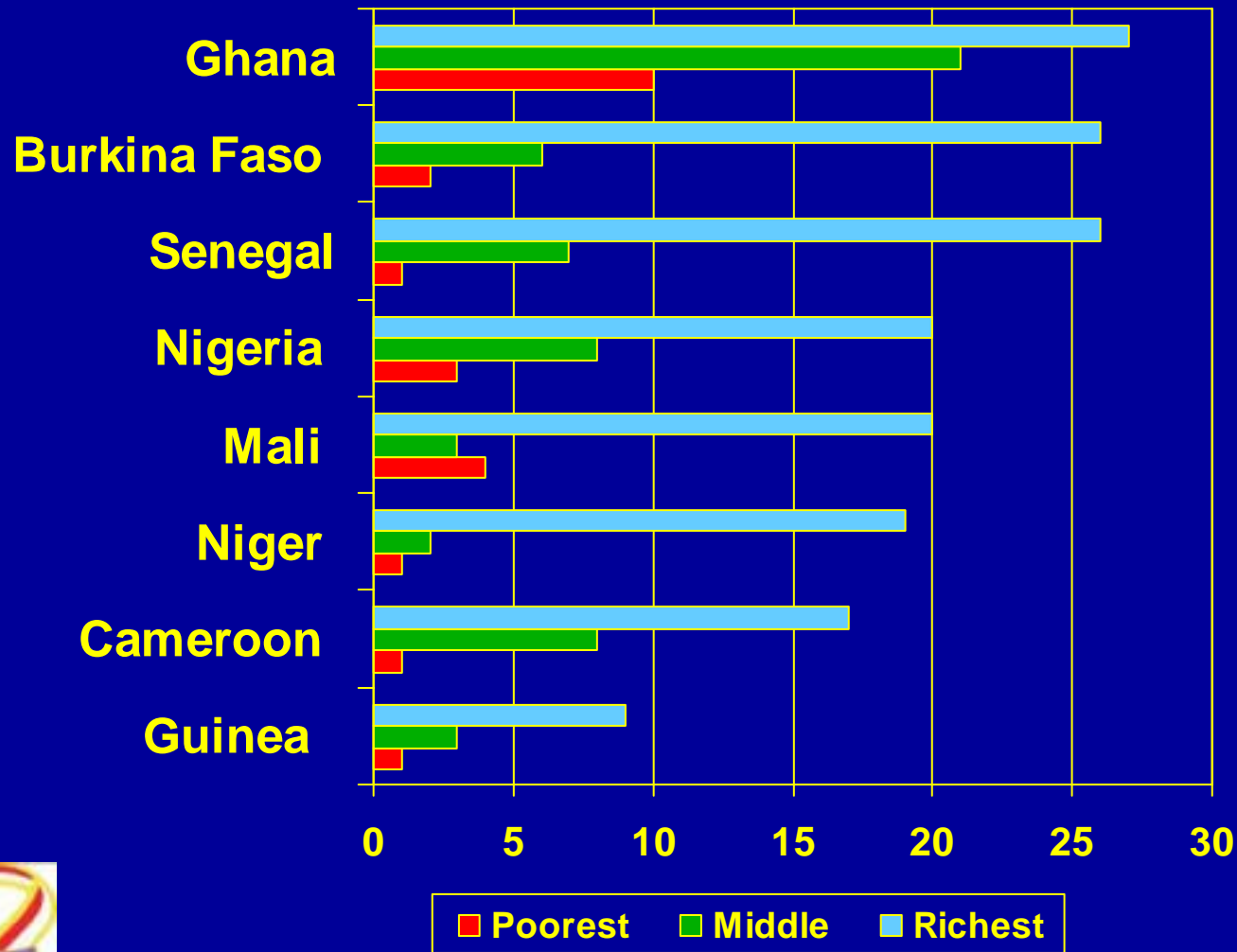
# TOTAL FERTILITY RATES (Quintiles)



# Teenage Women (15-19) who have given birth in last year (Quintiles)

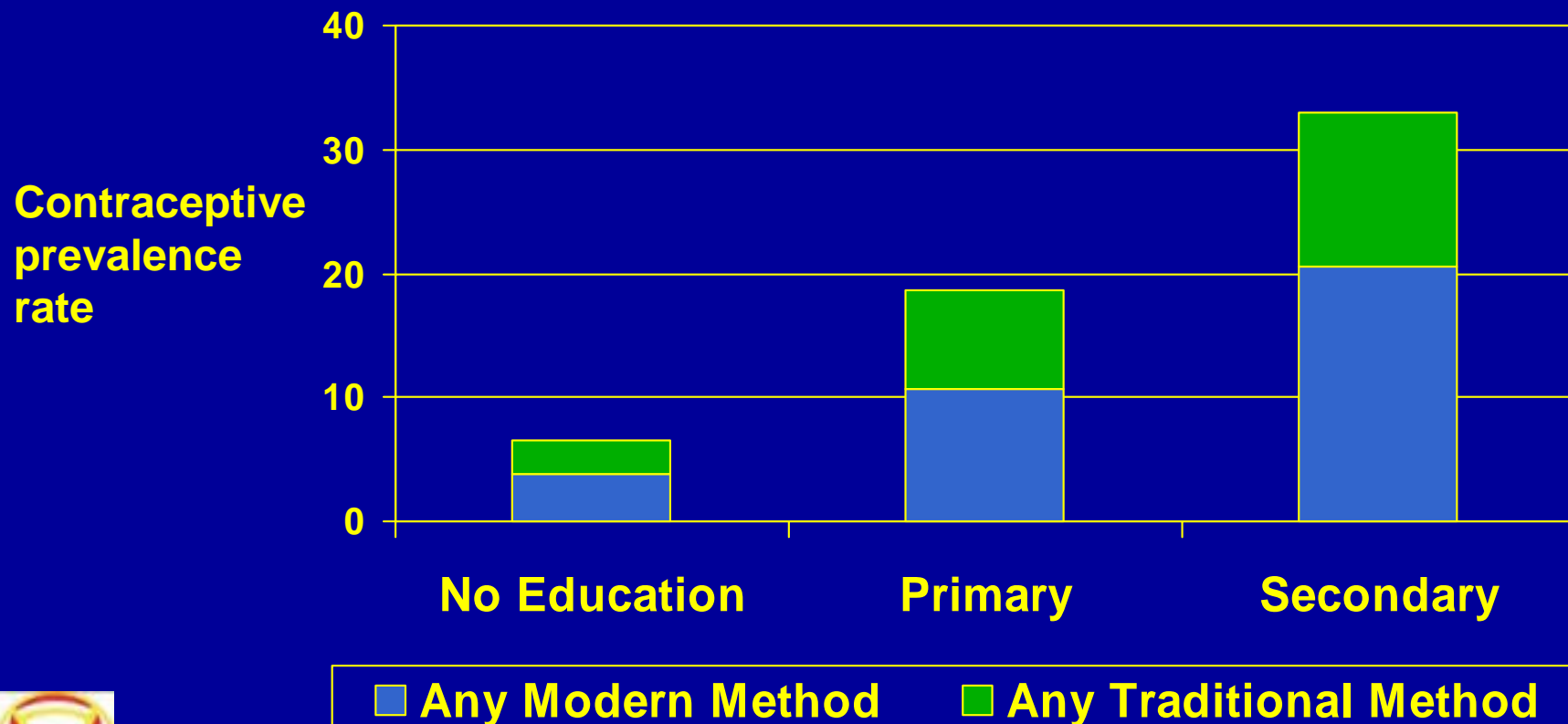


# Wealthier women are more likely to use modern FP methods

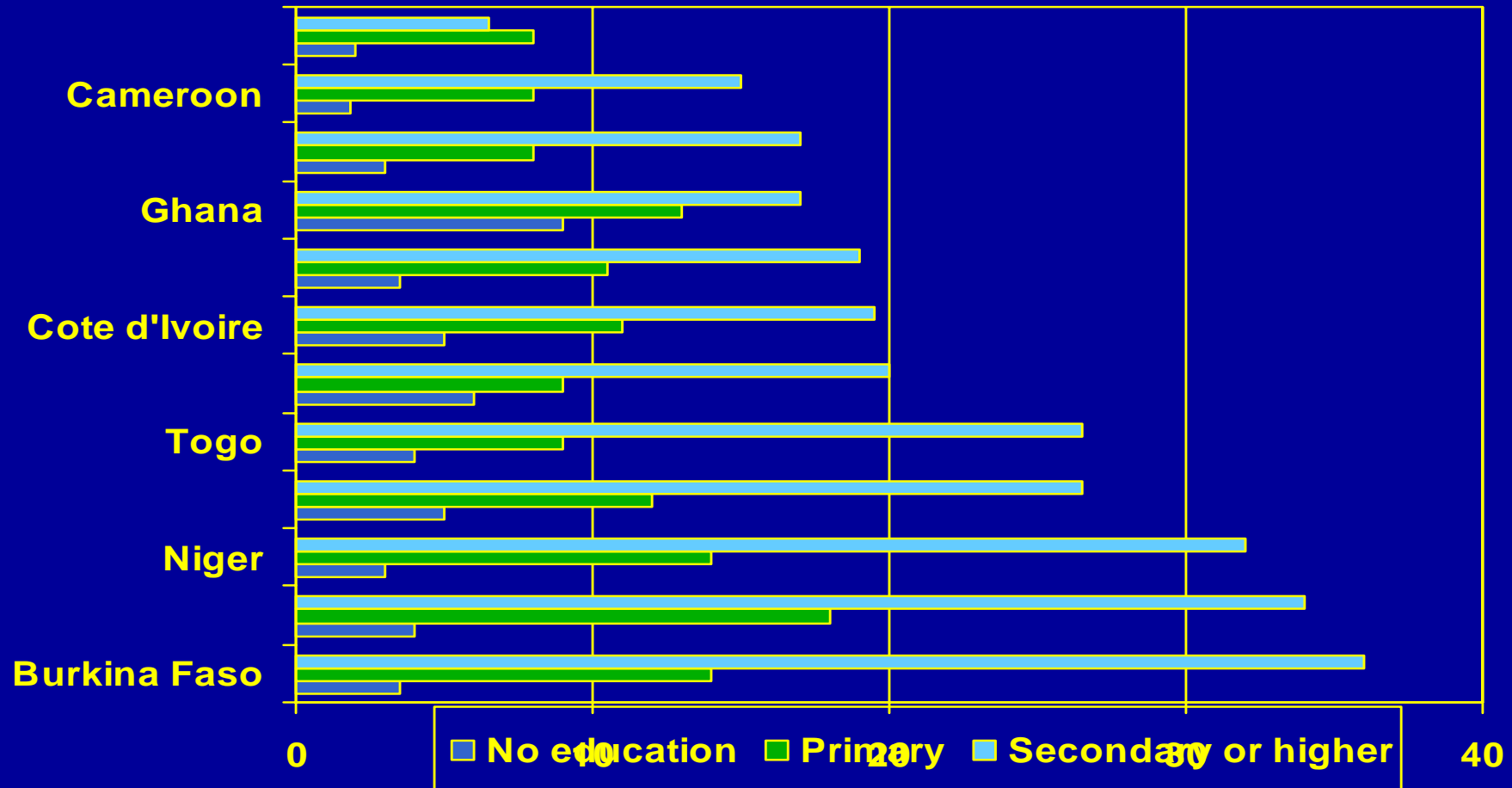


# Higher education corresponds with higher contraceptive prevalence

## CPR and Education Level



# This is true for all countries in West Africa

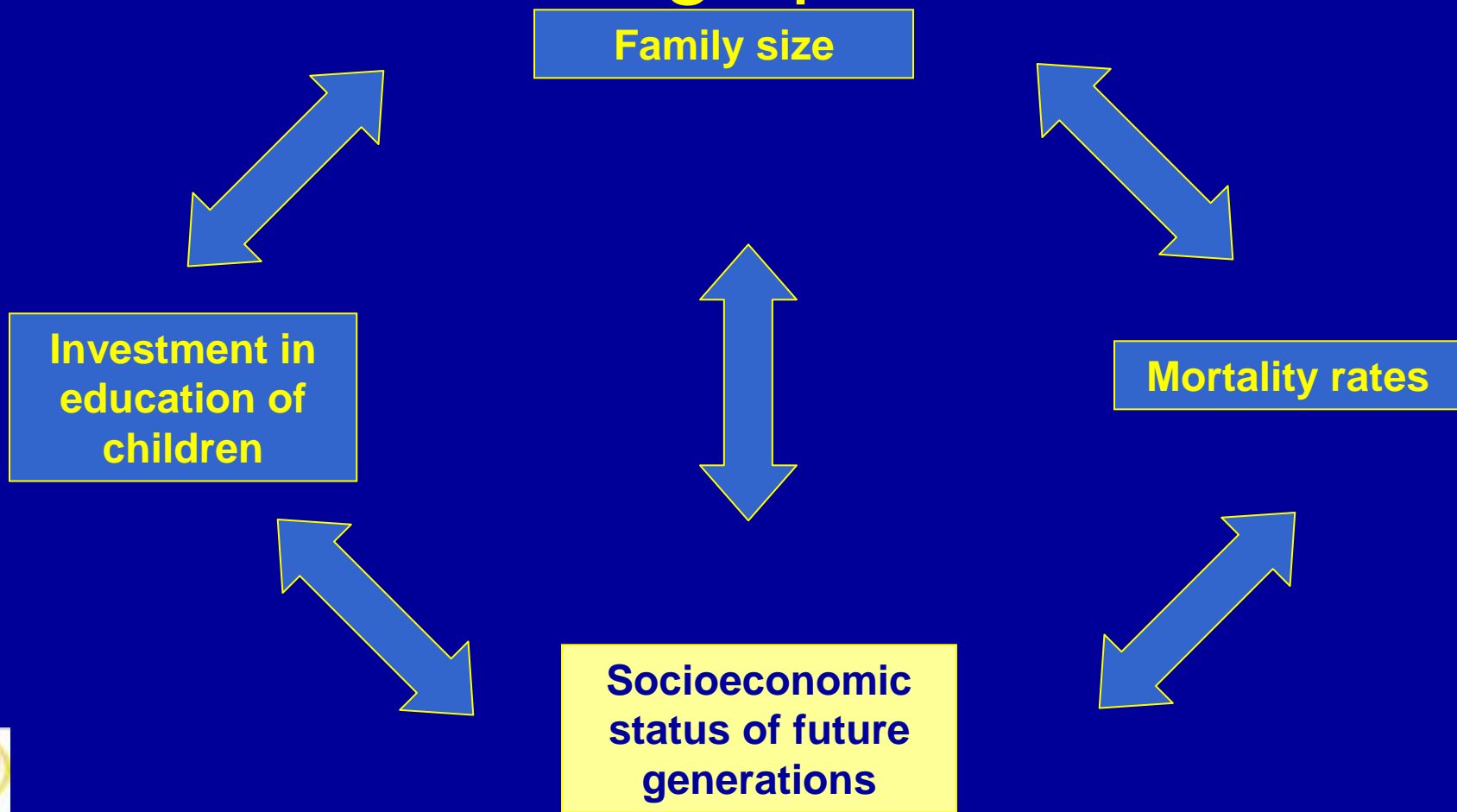


# FP leads to improved distribution of economic opportunities

- FP acceptance can accelerate upward or downward mobility
  - Education
  - Income
- Upward mobility= larger investment in human capacity and greater opportunities
- Benefits and opportunities continue as intergenerational influence of RH behavior



# Families w/ higher education & income benefit from this cycle in moving up further



# RFP = Reduction in Disparities

- Strong FP programs can work under adverse social and economic conditions, and facilitate economic opportunities for the poor (ex: Bangladesh, Malawi, Ghana)

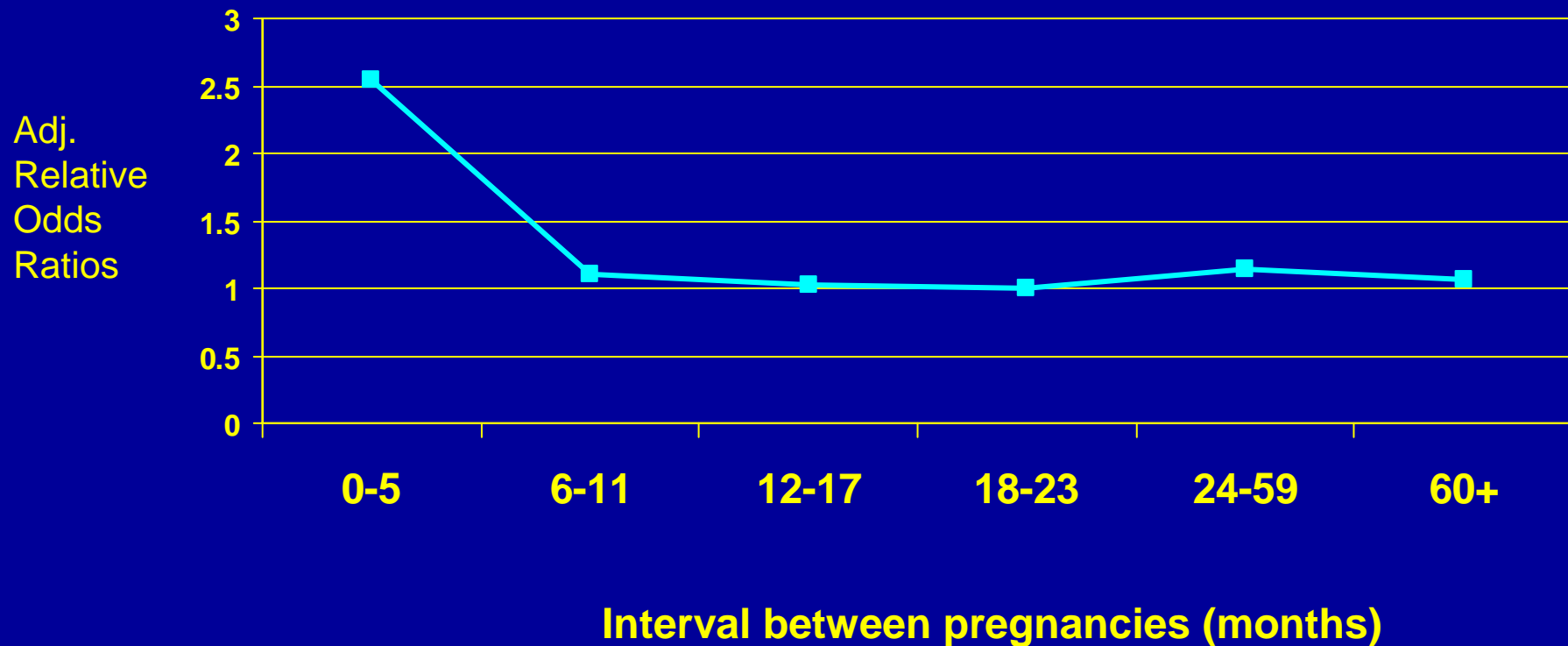


# **Harnessing Youth's Potential RFP improve Life Expectancy**



# FP makes motherhood safer

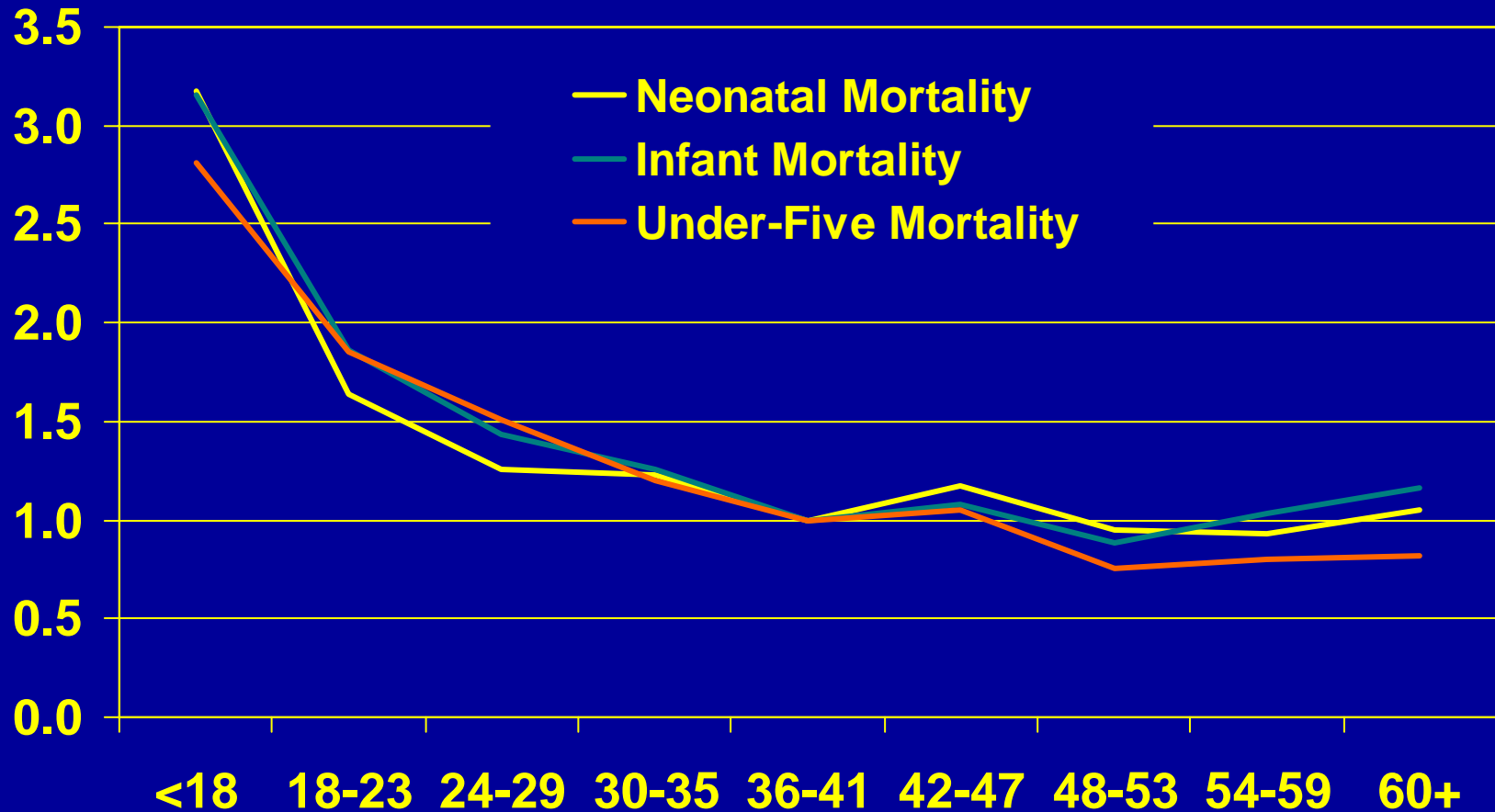
Short birth intervals <14 months significantly increase the risk of maternal death. (one study, sample - 450,000 women)



Conde-Agudé and Belizán, 2000

# Birth Spacing Saves Children's Lives

Relative risk of mortality



Birth Interval (months)

Source: Rutstein, 2003



# Harnessing Youth's Potential

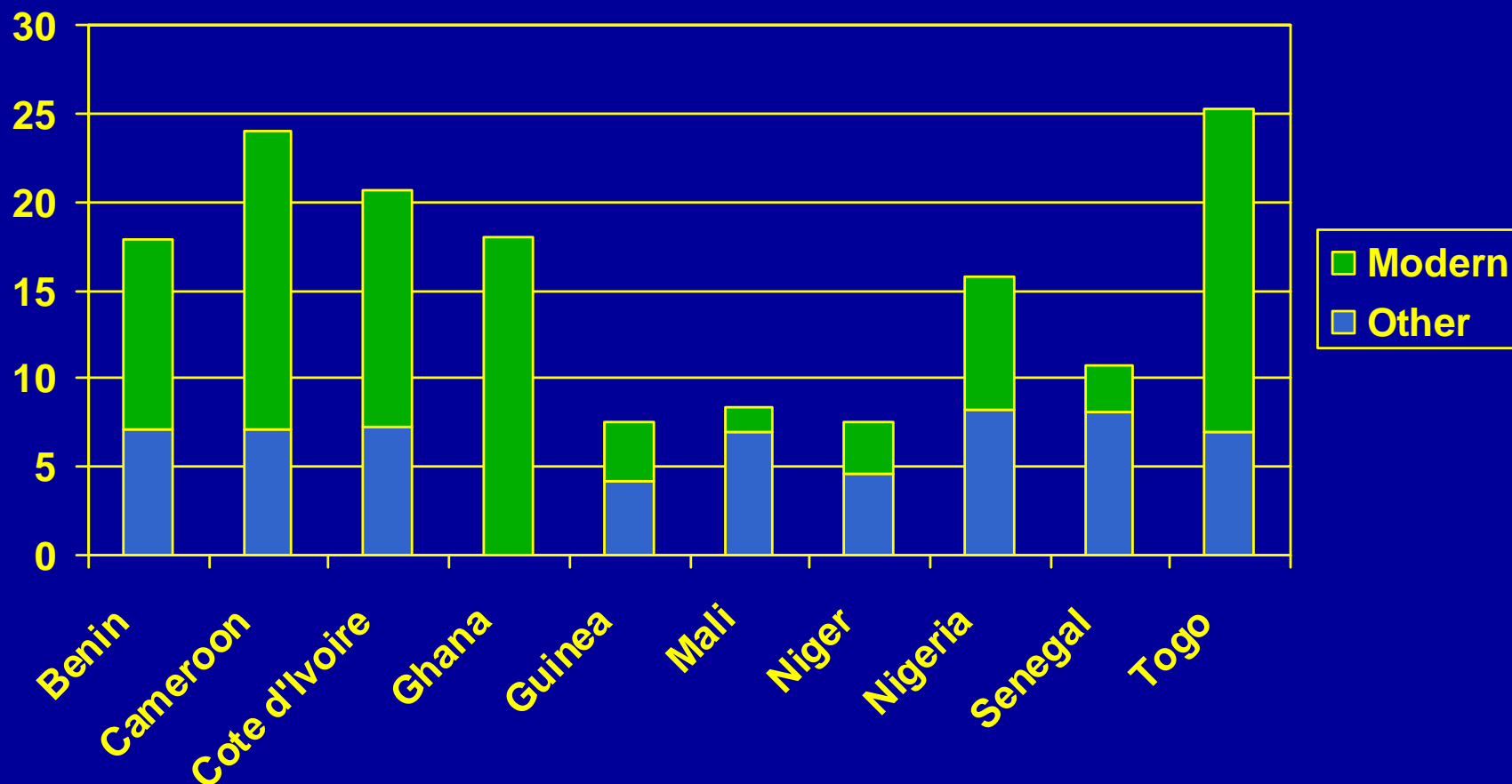
## RFP will improve RH behavior

- Low contraceptive use
- High unmet demand



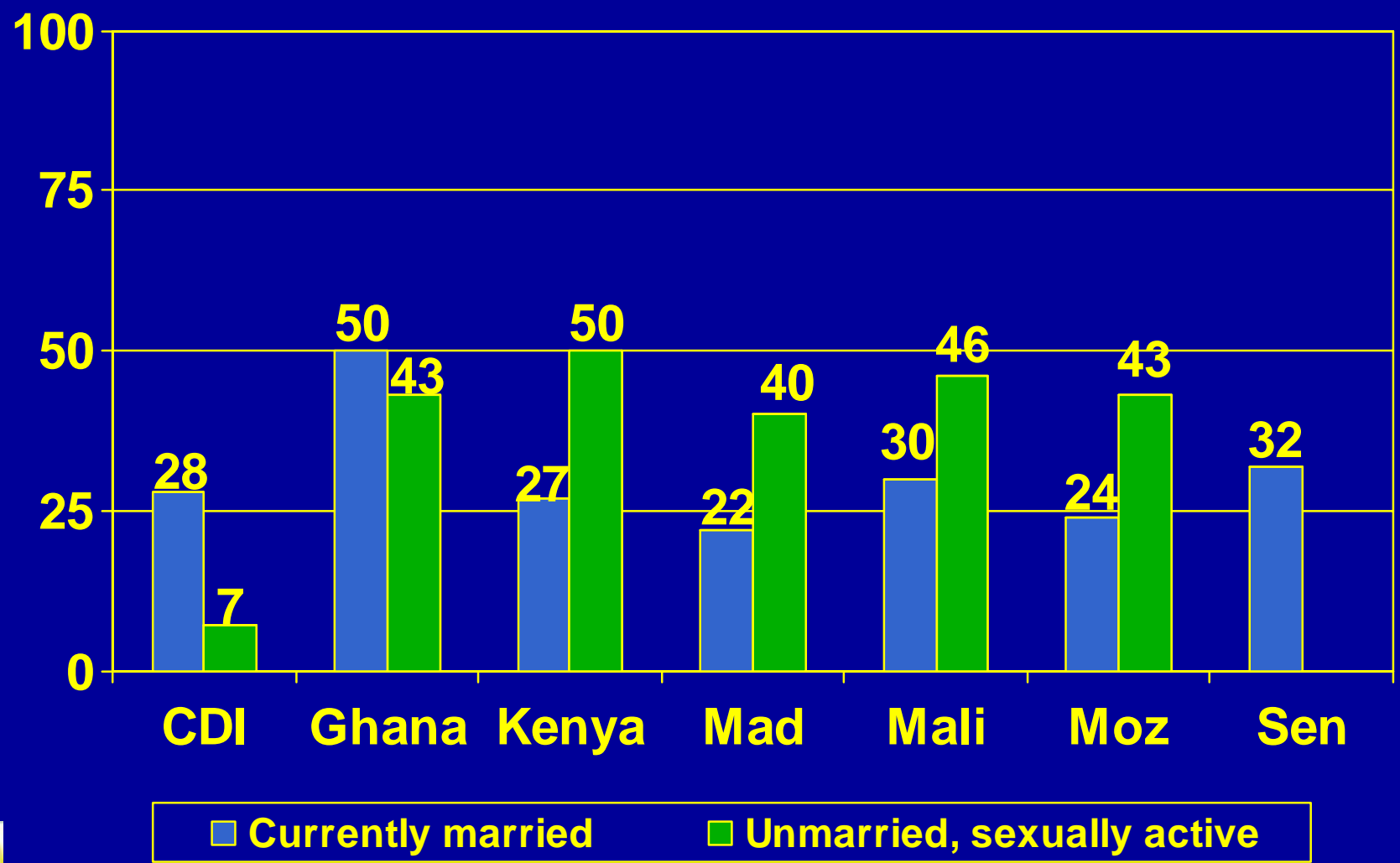
# CPR remains low in West Africa

## CPR and Modern Method Use



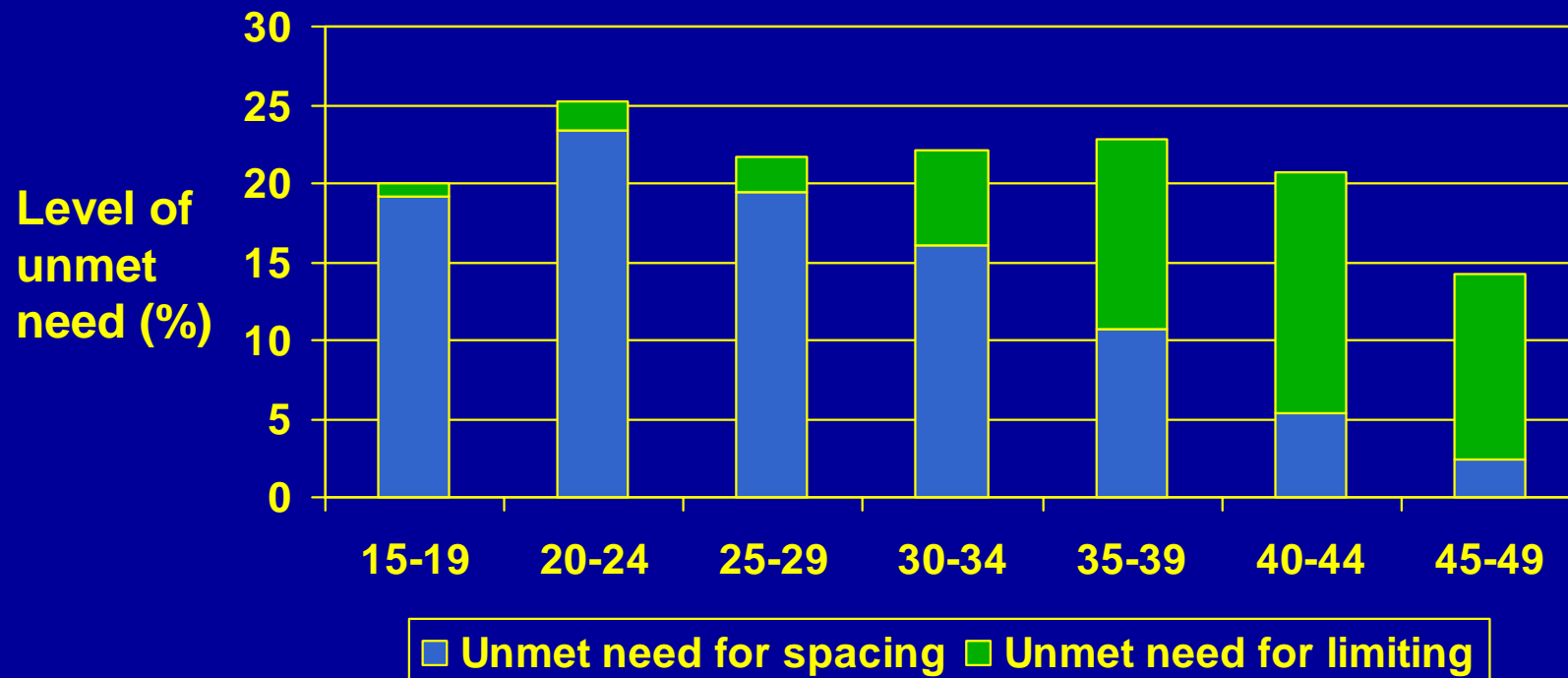
# Unmet need for contraception among women 15-19 by marital status

Percent



# Unmet need is high among all women in West Africa

Unmet need among different age groups in Africa



# ACTIONS FOR HARNESSING YOUTH'S POTENTIAL THROUGH RFP



# Actions to RFP for Youth All Stakeholders



**Empower youth by  
making them  
partners in  
decisionmaking**

**Share knowledge**

**Invest in youth for a  
better now and  
tomorrow**



# Actions to RFP for Youth

## Youth to Youth

- Champions
- Community Mobilization
- Commitment
- Concerted and coordinated action
- Cost-effectiveness for scale-up



# Actions to RFP for Youth Other Stakeholders

## MOFP

- Investment in youth (income-generating employment)
- Implementation of poverty-reduction strategies
- Long-term planning in partnership w/youth



# Actions to RFP for Youth Other Stakeholders

## MOE

- Promotion of girls' education
- Provision of life skills education in formal and non-formal settings
- Link education with livelihood



# Actions to RFP for Youth Other Stakeholders

## MOH:

- Provision of youth friendly services
- Access to services especially for marginalized youth
- Employment of youth in health services
- Involvement of youth in planning and decision making



# Actions to RFP for Youth Other Stakeholders

## NGOs & FBOs

- Provide youth-friendly services
- Motivate to increase FP acceptance & use
- Provide correct FP information



# Actions to RFP for Youth Other Stakeholders

## Private Sector

- Expand livelihood opportunities & link with FP education and services
- Provide FP and STI/HIV counseling and services at workplace



# Actions to RFP for Youth Other Stakeholders

## Donors

- Develop youth-focused strategies
- Invest in youth-focused human capacity development
- Strengthen youth-oriented FP





**Merci pour votre aimable attention**

