

# For Those Who've Had Enough:

What do we know about women  
with an intent to limit?

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Photo by E. Uphoff / EngenderHealth



THE  
**respond**  
PROJECT

**Managing Partner: EngenderHealth;** Associated Partners: FHI 360; Futures Institute;  
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Center for Communication Programs;  
Meridian Group International, Inc.; Population Council



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



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- The proportion of women who want no more children is a strong predictor of CPR and TFR (Westoff & Bankole, 2000)
- Fertility intention (for both spacing and limiting) is an important predictor of reproductive behavior (Islam et al, 2003; Roy et al, 2003)
- Increasing contraceptive use among limiters reduces high-parity births and maternal mortality (Stover & Ross, 2009)





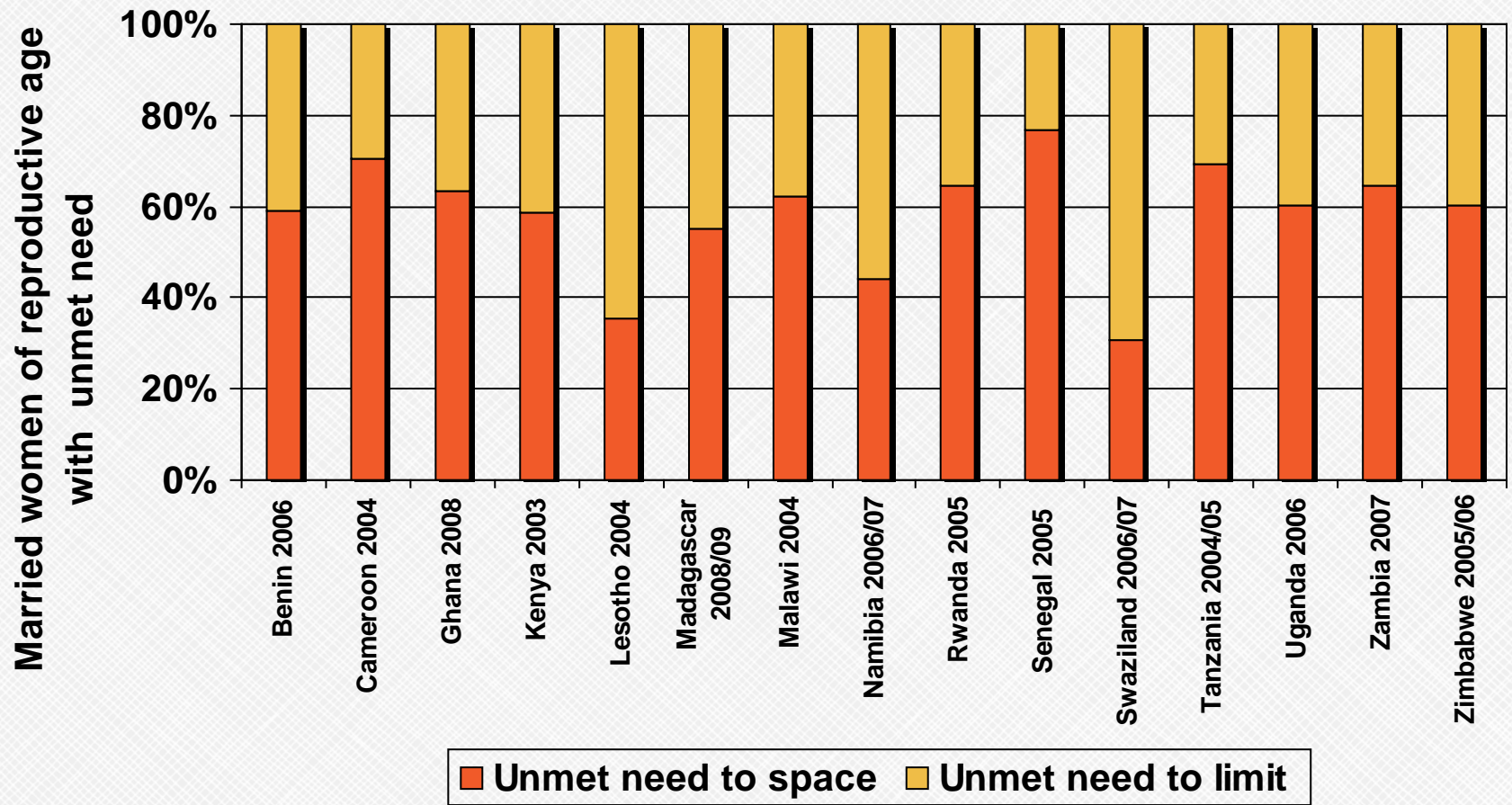
Country	Survey Year
Benin	2006
Cameroon	2004
Ghana	2009
Kenya	2003
Lesotho	2004
Madagascar	2009
Malawi	2004
Namibia	2007
Rwanda	2005 & 2007/8
Senegal	2006
Swaziland	2007
Tanzania	2005
Uganda	2006
Zambia	2007
Zimbabwe	2006

- 15 African countries with DHS surveys after 2000
- Part of larger global secondary analysis of 37 countries
- Countries excluded if LA or PM method use was >25
- All women 15-49 included—analysis done using STATA & SPSS

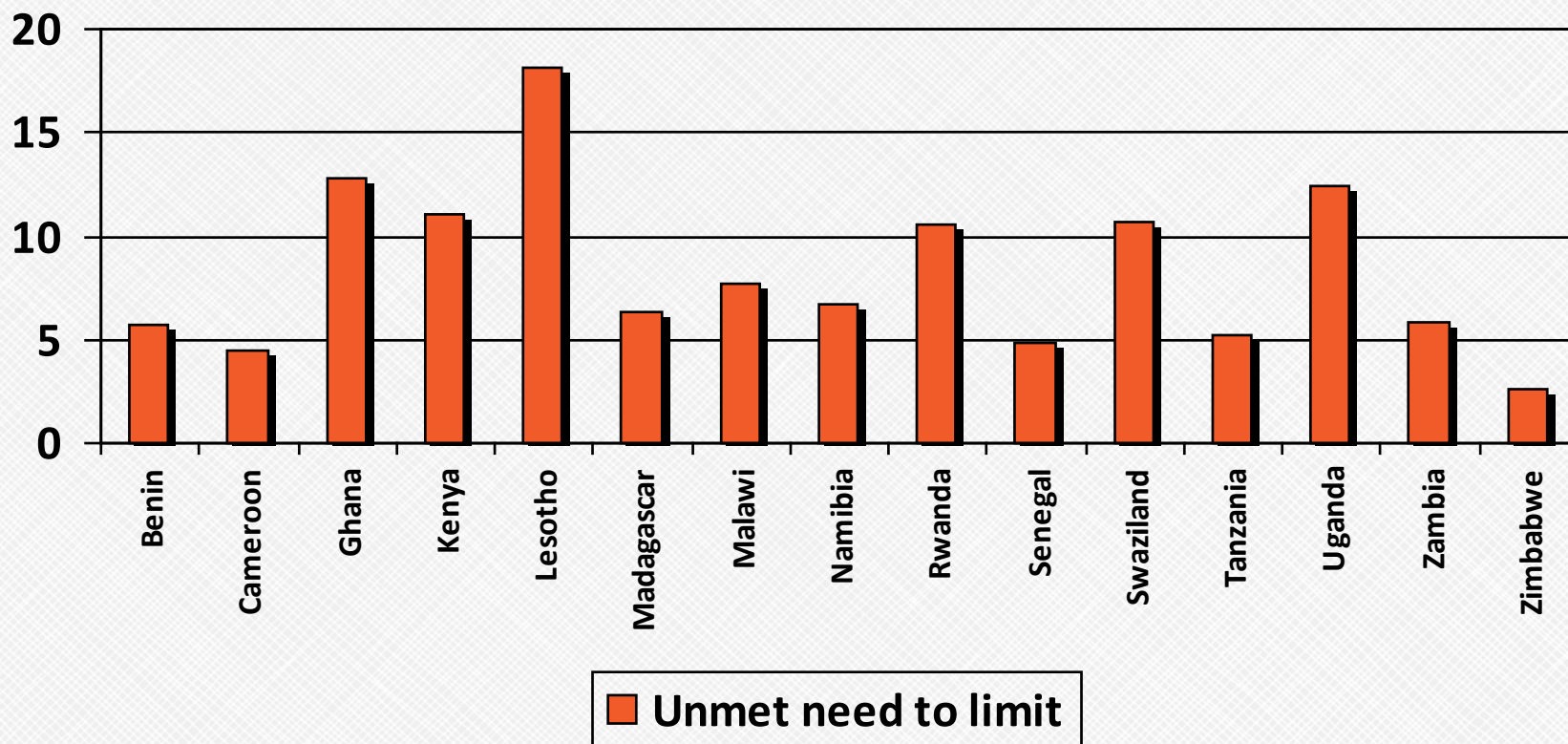




## Unmet need for limiting versus spacing



## Unmet need for limiting among postpartum women







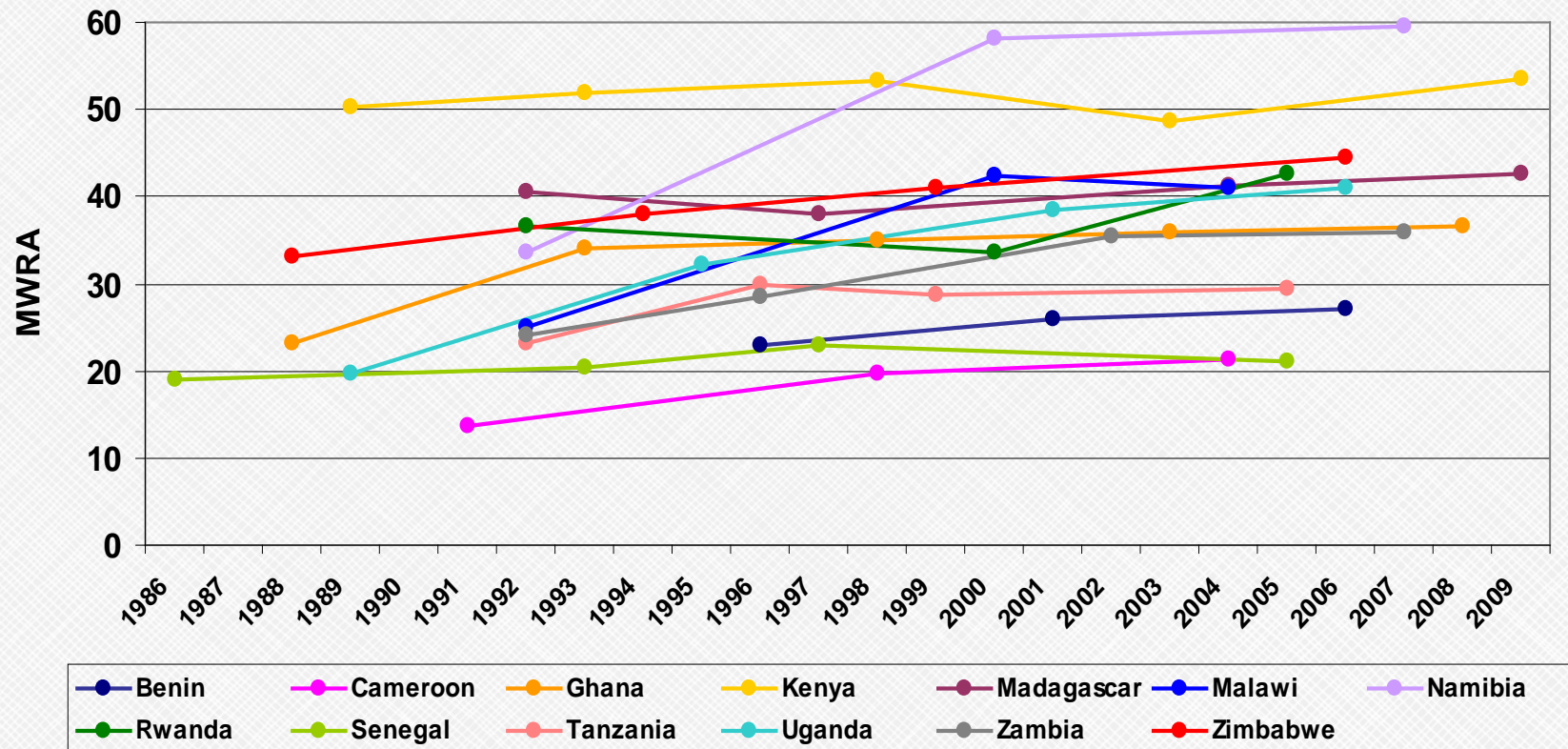
- Many assume Africa has low demand for limiting—data suggest otherwise
  - 20.4% women in Anglophone Africa wanted no more children at last birth
  - Despite generally high fertility desires, data suggest many women do indeed have need to limit
- Demand for limiting has remained **strong** or **increased** in nearly all analysis countries over past 20 years



Photo by W. Betemariam / EngenderHealth



## Desire to limit births







## Younger African Women Want to Limit

- As age increases, demand to limit begins to exceed demand to space
- Demand to limit “crossover” begins at:
  - 31.3 years in AA
  - 34.3 in FA
- Demand for limiting often associated with older women, however, demand to limit exists among younger women
  - Namibia: 31.7% of MWRA 15-29 have a demand for limiting
  - Lesotho: 26.37%
  - Kenya: 14.43%
  - Malawi: 12.77%
  - Pattern not limited Southern Africa
- Counters claim that only older high-parity MWRA have demand for limiting

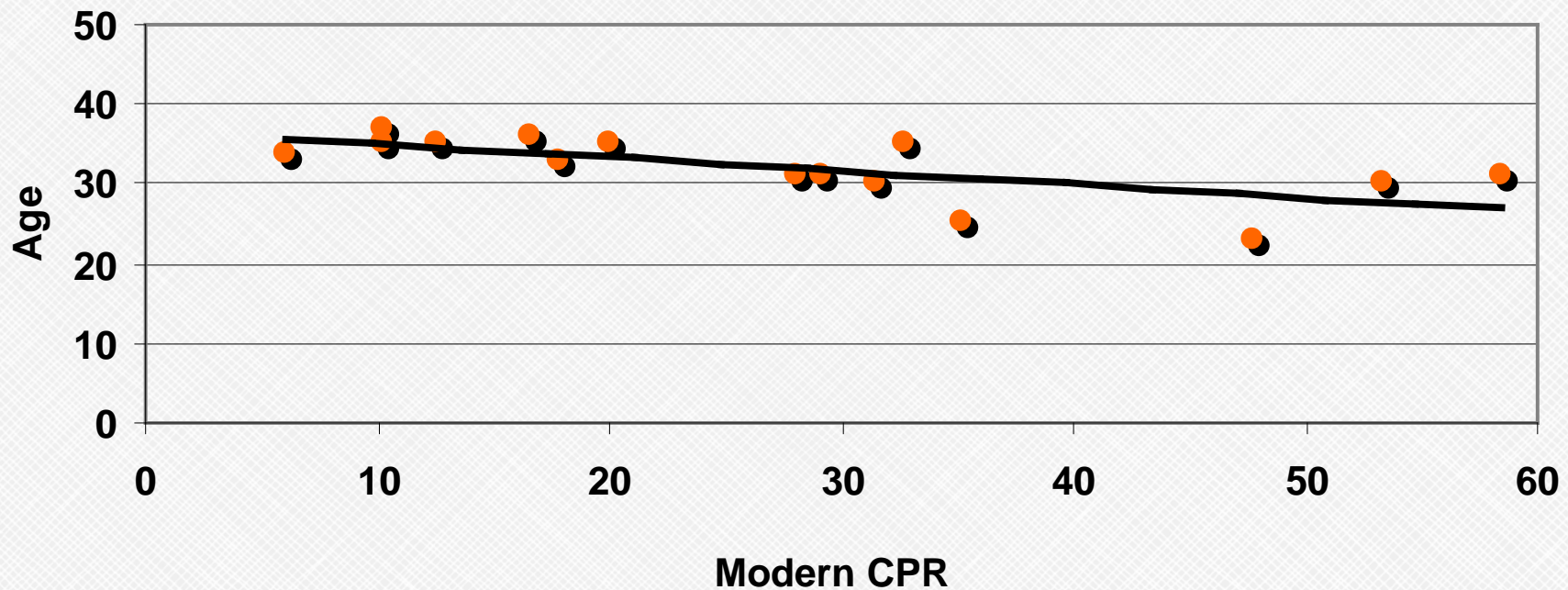


Photo by N. Rajani / EngenderHealth



## “Crossover Age” decreases as CPR increases

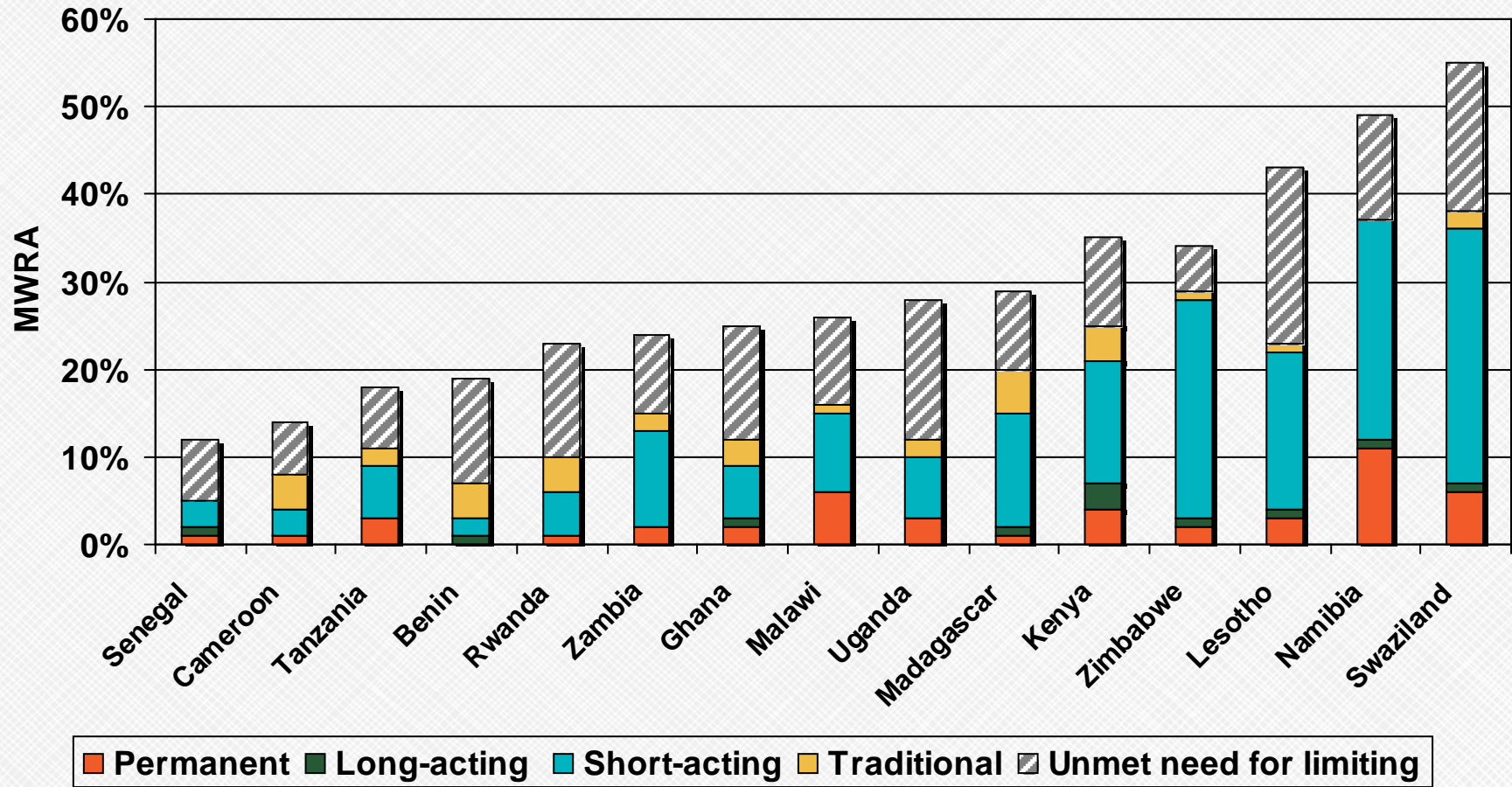
Age at which demand for limiting meets or exceeds  
demand for spacing







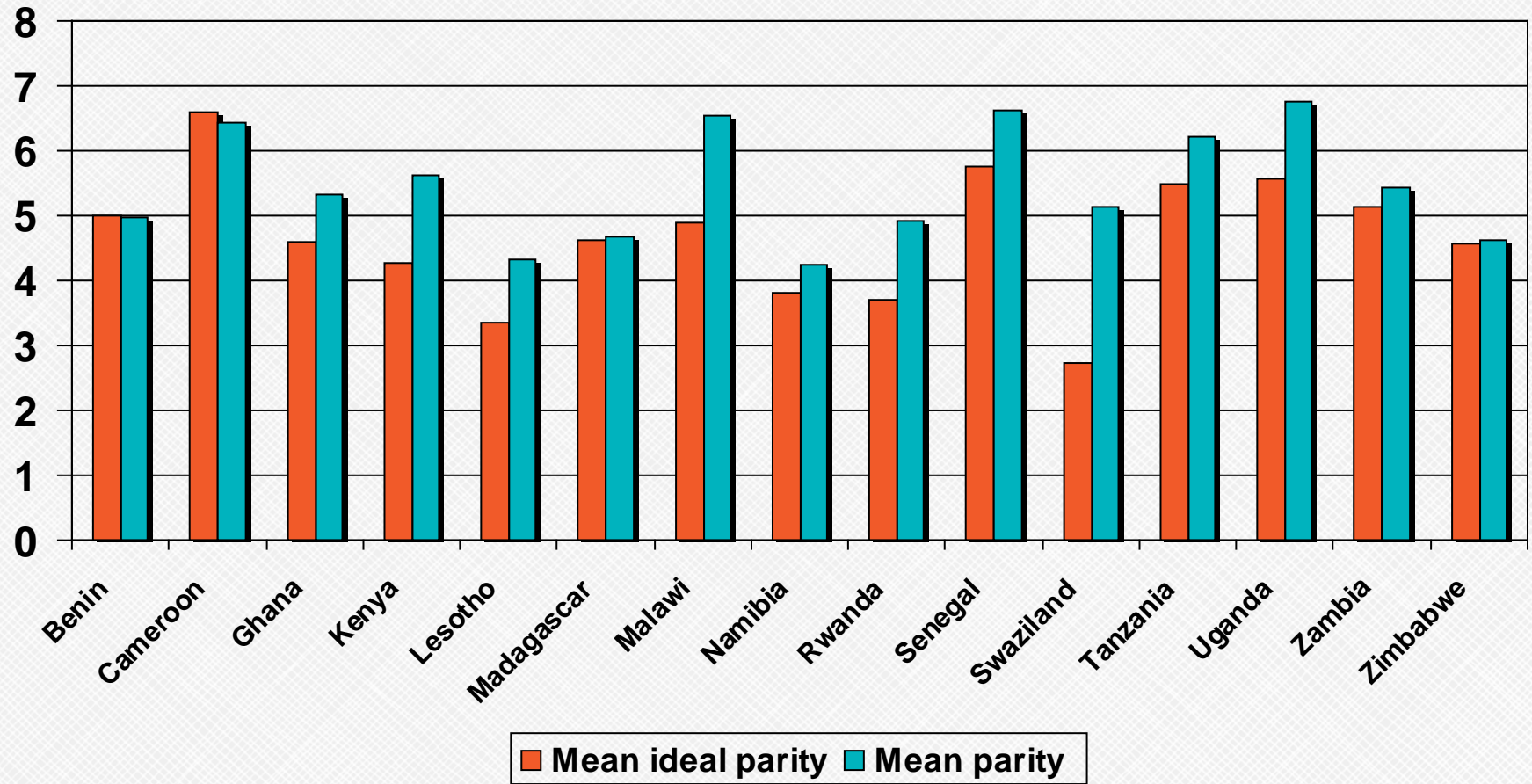
### Family planning use and non-use among women with a demand to limit births





## African Women Exceeding Desired Parity

Mean and ideal parity among permanent method users







- Unmet need for limiting exists in Africa
- Demand for limiting exists in Africa
- Younger cohorts desire to limit future childbearing
- Large # exceed desired fertility
- Remember....spacers eventually become limiters



Photo by C. Svingen / EngenderHealth

How will FP programs respond to their needs?