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Iron-Folic Acid Distribution and Consumption through Antenatal Care: Identifying Barriers across Countries

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Iron Supplementation

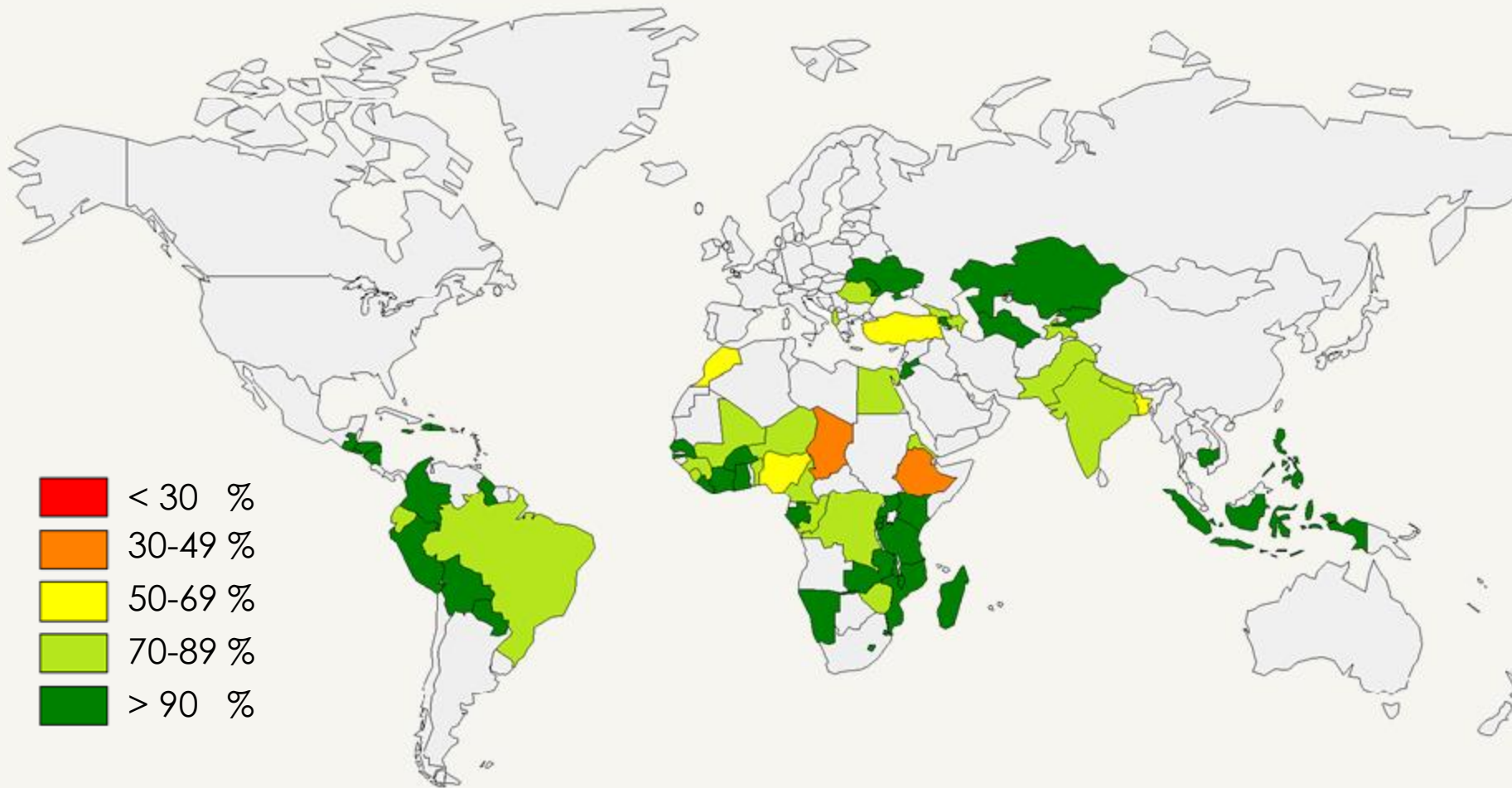
- Two considerations suggest that iron supplementation programs will be part of the solution to reducing the global prevalence of anemia among women of reproductive age by 50% by 2025:
 1. Roughly half of the episodes of anemia that women of reproductive age suffer can be corrected by iron supplementation
 2. Globally, the most common micronutrient supplementation program implemented at national scale is iron supplementation for pregnant or non-pregnant women

Rationale

- 🍃 Antenatal care (ANC) coverage has improved dramatically over the past few decades
- 🍃 Although the majority of countries have iron-folic acid (IFA) supplementation policies for pregnant women, IFA coverage has not kept up

What are the barriers to IFA distribution through ANC?

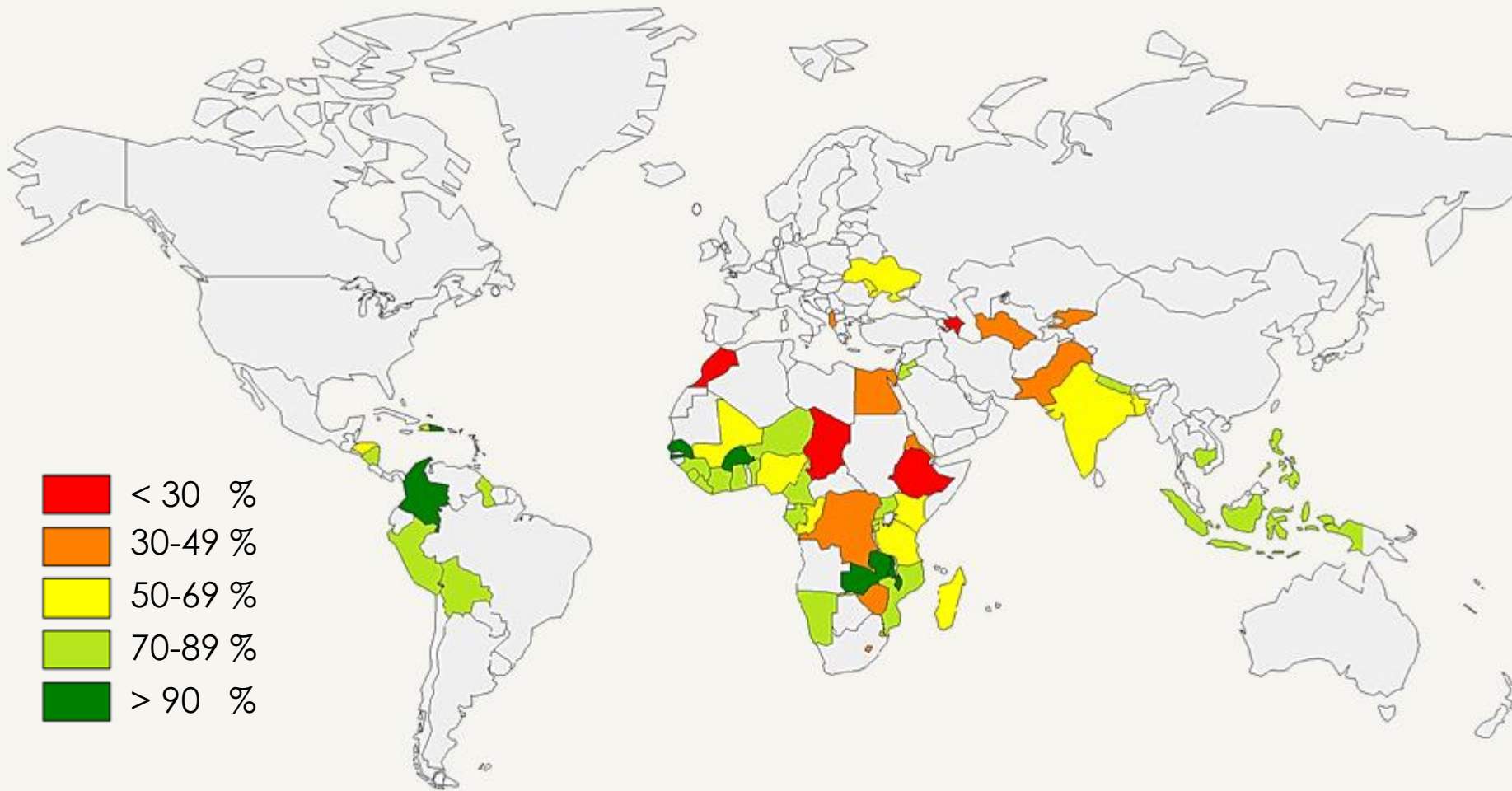
ANC Coverage (1+ ANC visits) According to Most Recent DHS



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IFA Coverage (Consumption of 1+ IFA) According to Most Recent DHS



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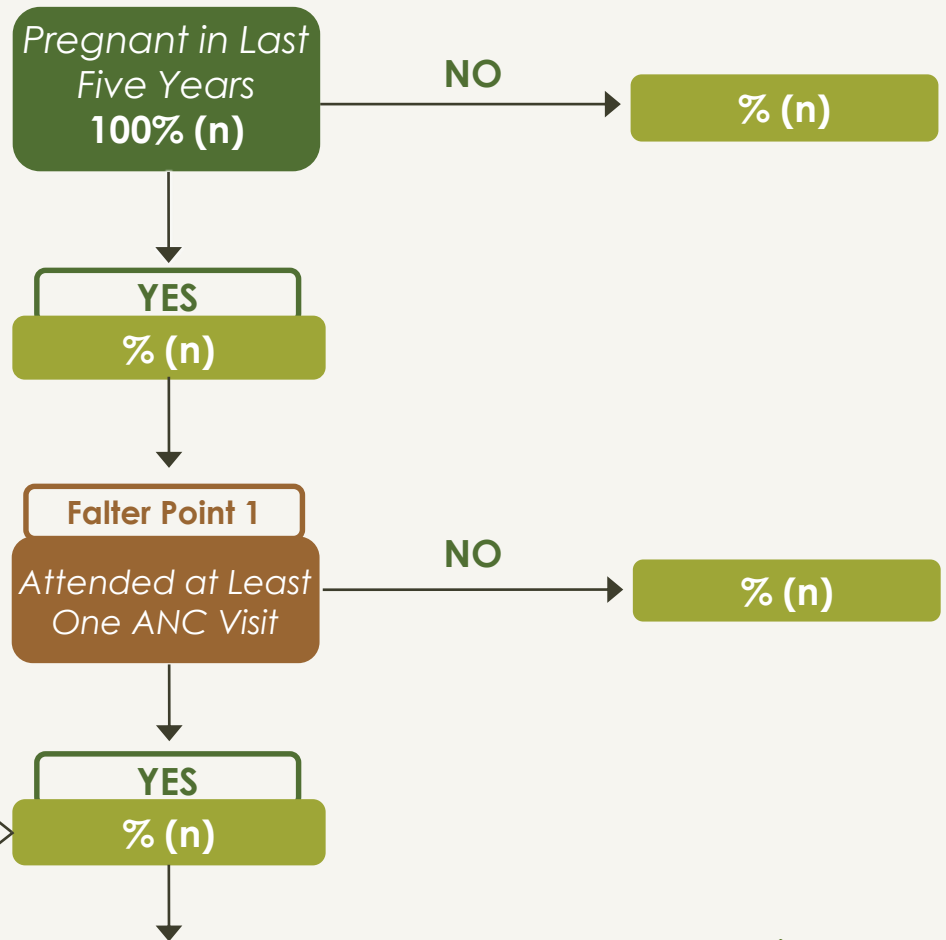
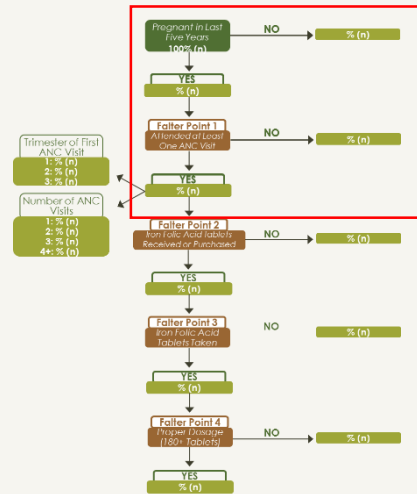
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Analysis

- Demographic and Health Survey data from 22 countries with high burdens of undernutrition were used to identify four sequential “falter points” that may inhibit women from obtaining and consuming an ideal of 180 IFA tablets during pregnancy
- Looking at:
 - Women who received ANC
 - Women who received IFA tablets (or syrup)
 - Women who consumed IFA tablets
 - The number of tablets consumed

Falter Point 1

Percentage of pregnant women who did not attend at least one ANC visit



Trimester of First ANC Visit

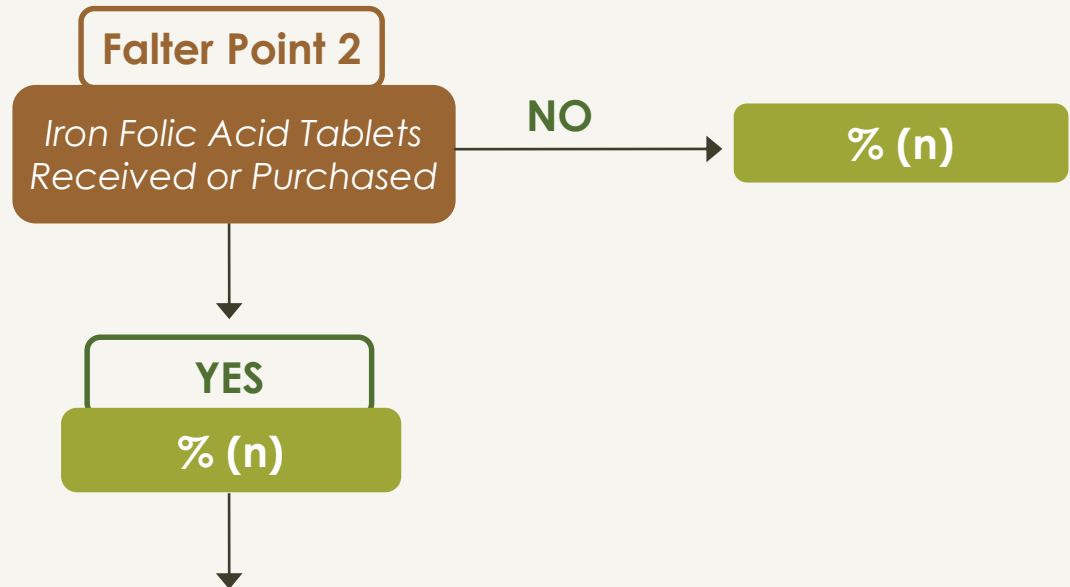
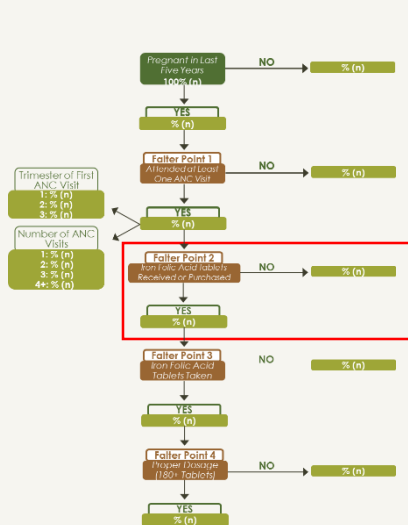
- 1: % (n)
- 2: % (n)
- 3: % (n)

Number of ANC Visits

- 1: % (n)
- 2: % (n)
- 3: % (n)
- 4+: % (n)

Falter Point 2

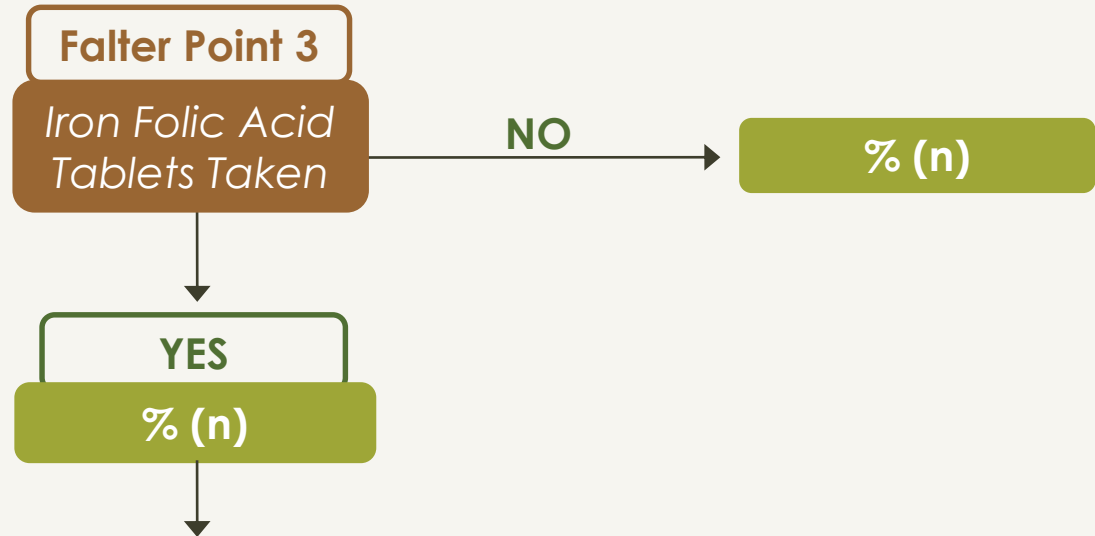
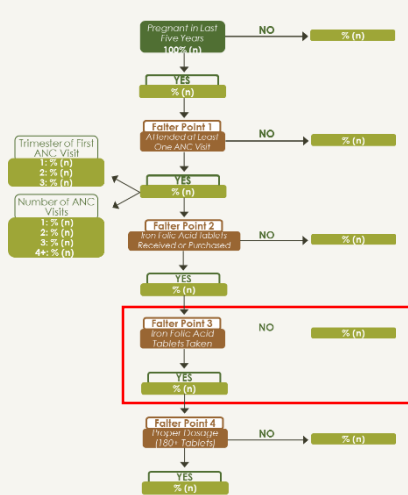
Percentage of pregnant women who attended at least one ANC visit but did not receive or purchase IFA tablets



421	<p>During this pregnancy, were you given or did you buy any iron tablets?</p> <p>SHOW TABLETS.</p>	<p>YES 1</p> <p>NO 2</p> <p>(SKIP TO 423) ←</p> <p>DON'T KNOW 8</p>
422	<p>During the whole pregnancy, for how many days did you take the tablets?</p> <p>IF ANSWER IS NOT NUMERIC, PROBE FOR APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF DAYS.</p>	<p>NO. OF DAYS ... <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p> <p>DON'T KNOW 998</p>

Falter Point 3

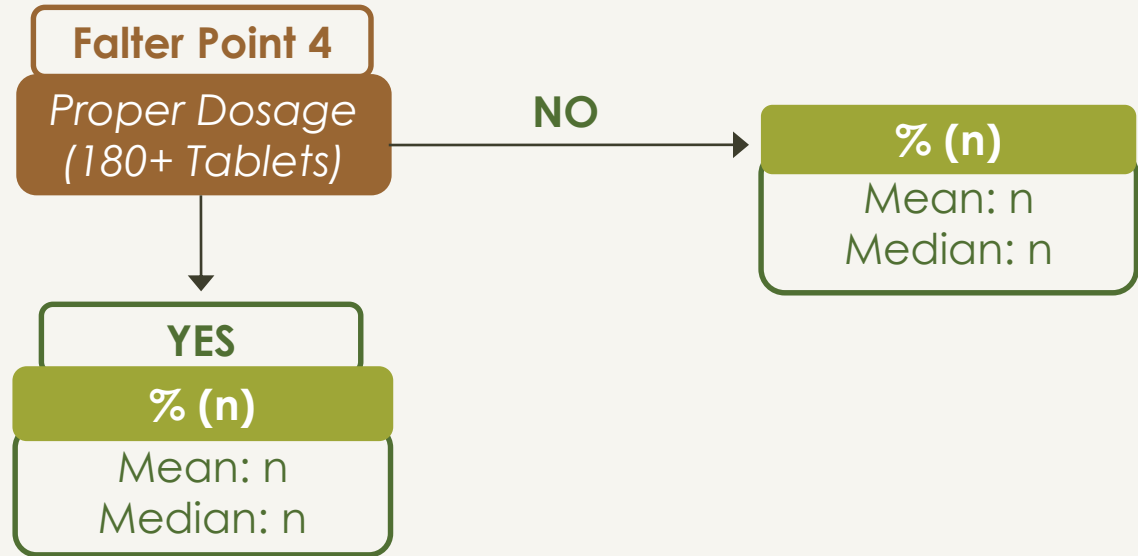
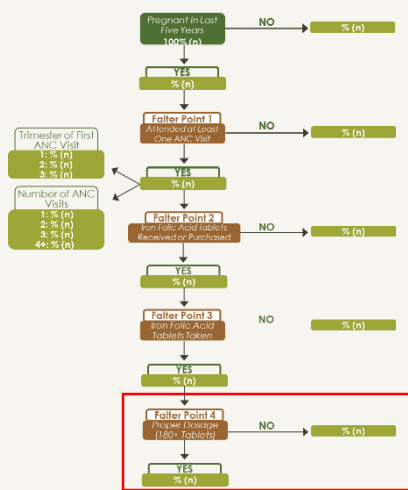
Percentage of pregnant women who attended ANC, received or purchased IFA tablets, but did not consume at least one IFA tablet



421	During this pregnancy, were you given or did you buy any iron tablets? SHOW TABLETS.	YES 1 NO 2 (SKIP TO 423) ← DON'T KNOW 8
422	During the whole pregnancy, for how many days did you take the tablets? IF ANSWER IS NOT NUMERIC, PROBE FOR APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF DAYS.	NO. OF DAYS ... <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> DON'T KNOW 998

Falter Point 4

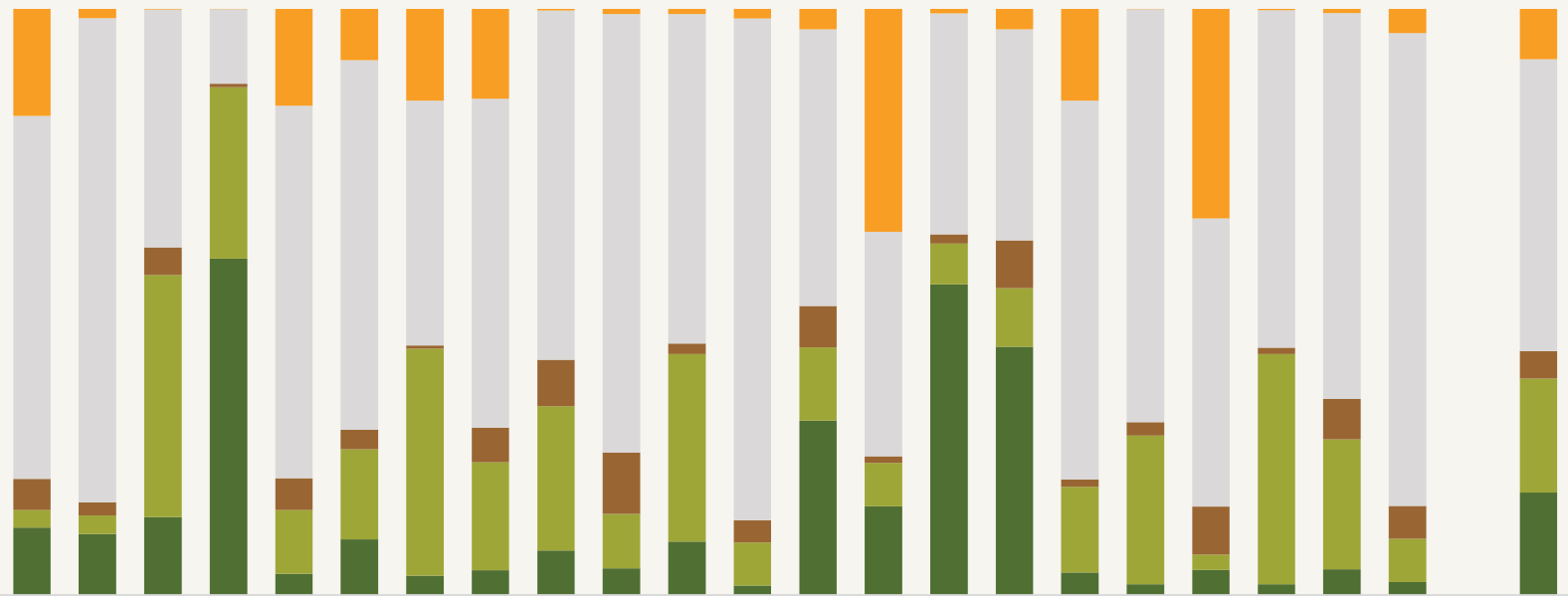
Percentage of pregnant women who attended ANC, received or purchased IFA tablets, consumed at least one, but did not consume 180+ tablets



421	During this pregnancy, were you given or did you buy any iron tablets? SHOW TABLETS.	YES 1 NO 2 (SKIP TO 423) ← DON'T KNOW 8
422	During the whole pregnancy, for how many days did you take the tablets? IF ANSWER IS NOT NUMERIC, PROBE FOR APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF DAYS.	NO. OF DAYS ... <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> DON'T KNOW 998

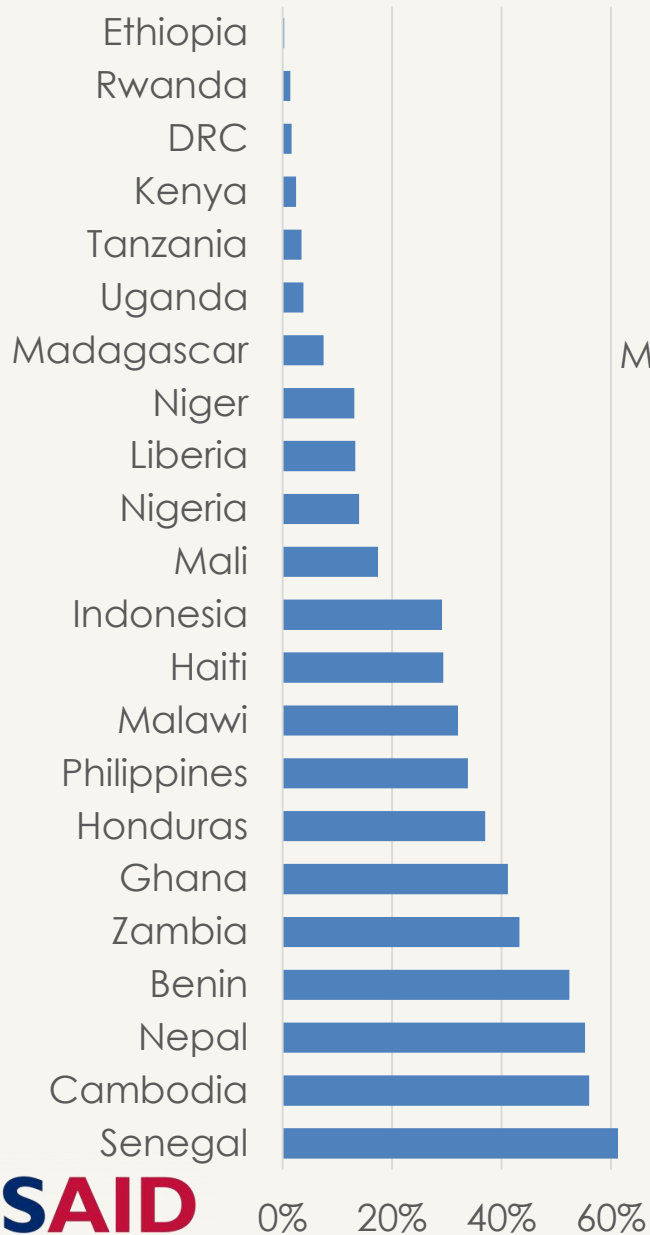
The Relative Importance of the Four Falter Points among All Pregnant Women

■ Falter Point 1
 ■ Falter Point 2
 ■ Falter Point 3
 ■ Falter Point 4
 ■ Did Not Falter

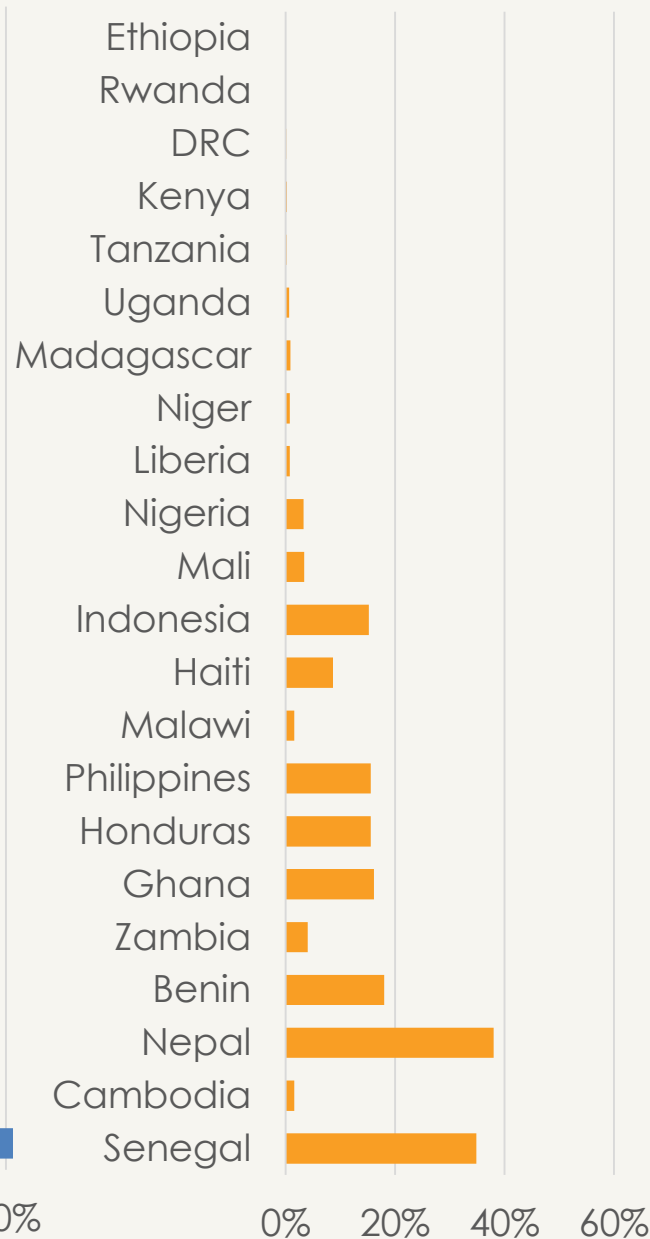


Benin/2006
 Cambodia/2010
 DRC/2007
 Ethiopia/2011
 Ghana/2008
 Haiti/2012
 Honduras/2011
 Indonesia/2007
 Kenya/2008
 Liberia/2008
 Madagascar/2007
 Malawi/2008
 Mali/2010
 Mali/2006
 Nepal/2011
 Niger/2006
 Nigeria/2008
 Philippines/2008
 Rwanda/2008
 Senegal/2010
 Tanzania/2011
 Uganda/2010
 Zambia/2011
 Zambia/2007
 Weighted Average*

Took 90+ tablets



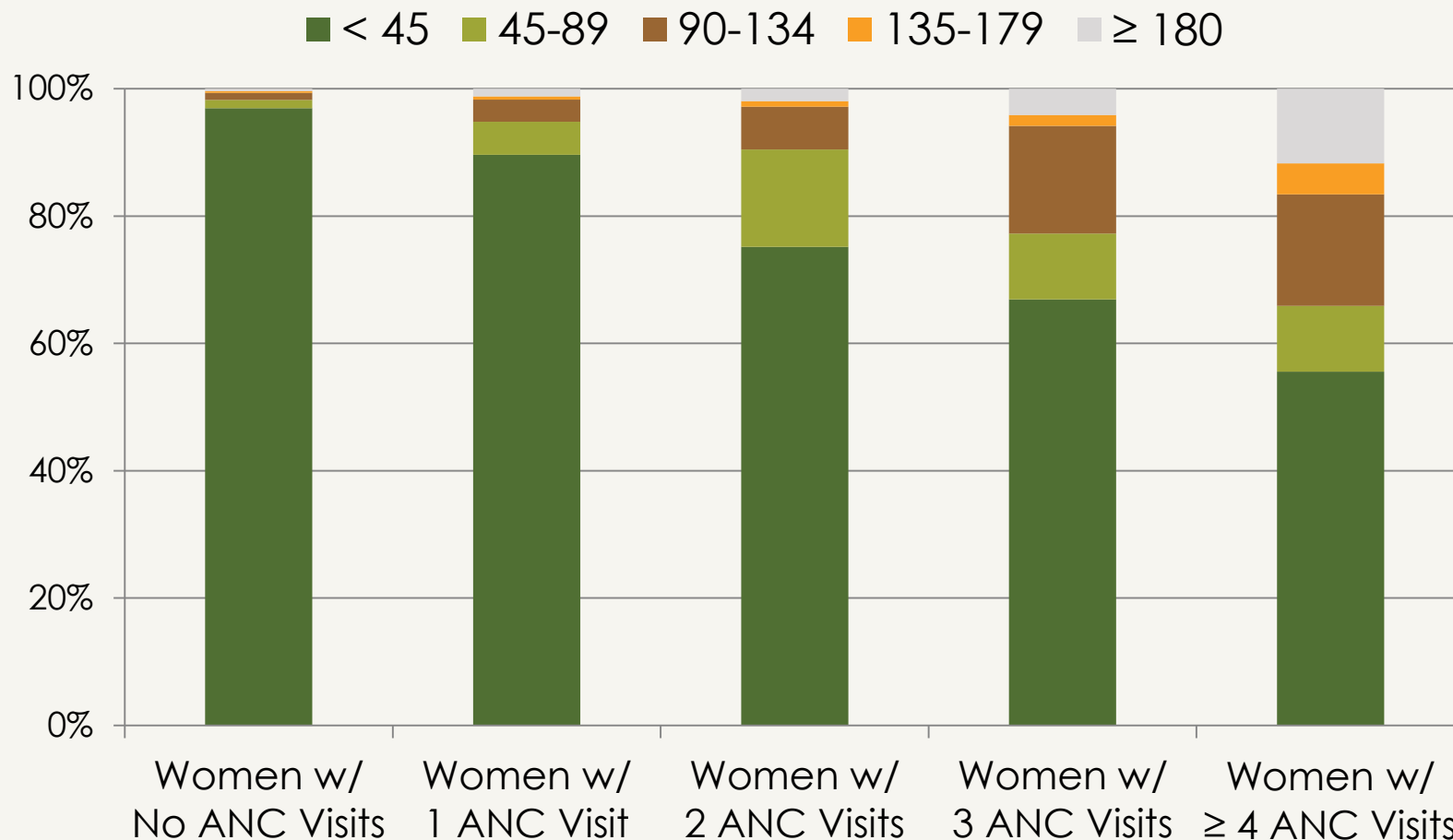
Took 180+ tablets



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Number of IFA Tablets Increases with the Number of ANC Visits



Conclusion

- IFA supplementation is recommended during pregnancy whether or not anemia remains a problem
 - Why is faltering so common, when ANC coverage is so high?
 - How do we determine the unique supply chain and/or demand side constraints within each country?
- Addressing these issues requires understanding:
 - How the ANC program functions within the health system
 - The knowledge, attitudes, motivations and behaviors of ANC providers and patients

Thank You

Questions or Comments?

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