

MOTHERHOOD IN SUB SAHARAN AFRICA

NYAMTEMA AS,



MOTHERHOOD

- ❑ Should be a time of expectation and joy for a woman, her family and her community.
- ❑ However, the reality of motherhood is often grim.
- ❑ Is often marred by unforeseen complications of pregnancy and childbirth.



MATERNAL MORTALITY

Pregnancy is not a disease.

But still it is associated with more deaths and life-long disabilities than any other condition of poor women in the world.



MAGNITUDE OF MATERNAL MORTALITY

- Approx. 529,000 women die yearly worldwide from complications of pregnancy and childbirth.
 - Approx 99% of these deaths occur in developing countries, mainly - sub Saharan Africa

- For every maternal death that occurs worldwide, an estimated 30 additional women suffer pregnancy-related health problems that can be permanently debilitating.



**The magnitude of the problem of
pregnancy-associated deaths:**

**Four million stillbirths are directly
caused by maternal disease
and poor delivery care.**



The magnitude of the problem of pregnancy-associated deaths:

Three million early neonatal deaths are directly caused by maternal disease and poor delivery care:

- Preterm birth (1 million)**
- Asphyxia (1 million)**
- Congenital infection (1 million)**

Comparison of pregnancy related deaths vs other major causes of deaths

Pregnancy related deaths

1. Maternal deaths 0.5 Mil
2. Stillbirths 4 Million
3. ENDS 3 Million

Total = 7.5 million

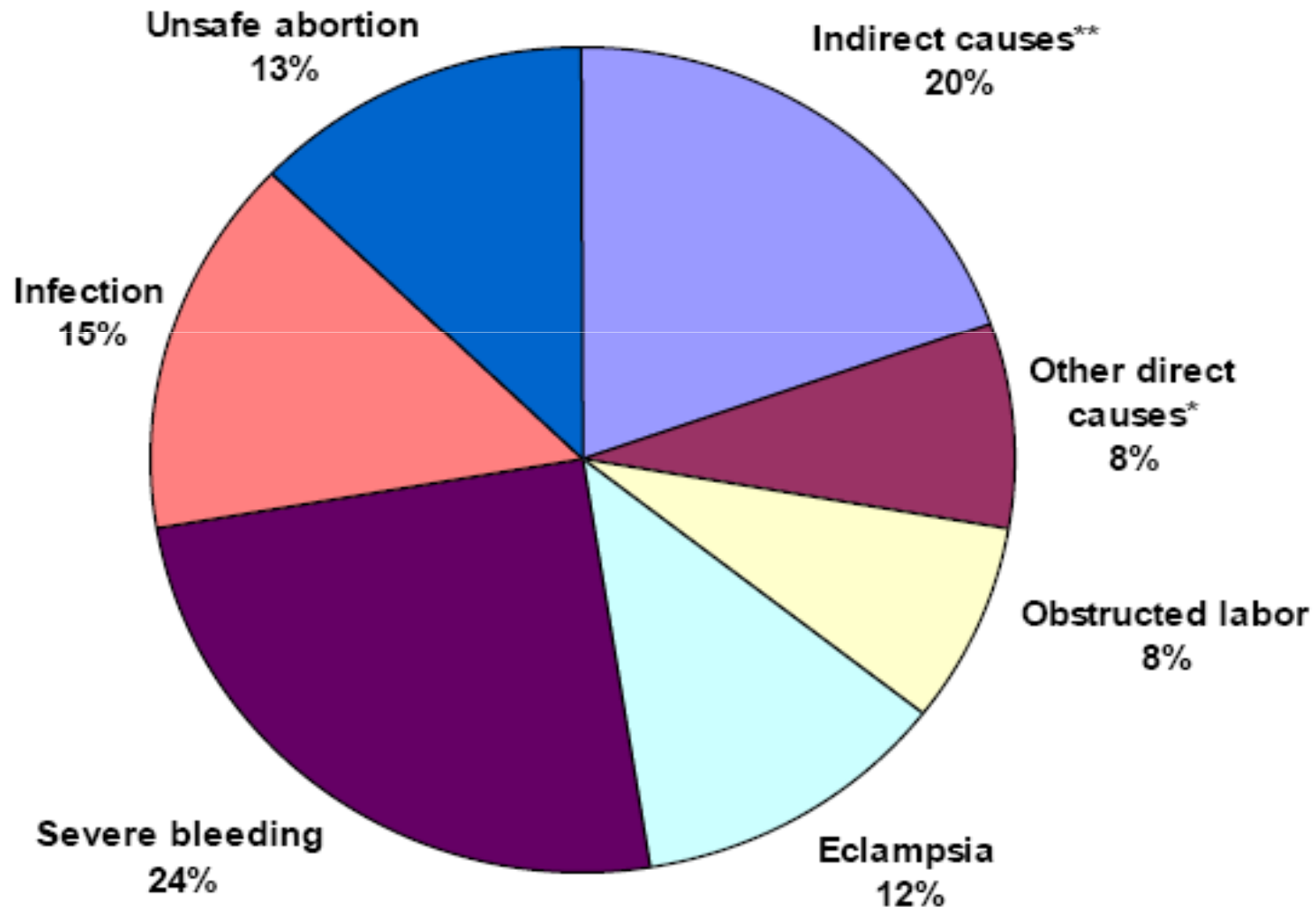
Other major causes of deaths

- AIDS: 2.1 million
- TB: 1.6 million
- Malaria: 1.3 million

Total = 5.0 million

Tinker A, Koblinsky M, with contributions from Daly P, Rooney C, Leighton C, Griffiths M, Zahidul A, and Kwast, B. (1993) *Making motherhood safe* (World Bank Discussion Paper, No. 202). Washington, DC: The World Bank.

GLOBAL CAUSES OF MATERNAL DEATHS





SAFE MOTHERHOOD INITIATIVE

- Where is the “M” in MCH? *Maine & Rosenfield 1985*
 - MCH programs in developing countries were almost exclusively for the benefit of the child, with almost no attention to the factors that were causing women to die.
- 1985- WHO announced that half a million women were dying each year from obstetric complications.



SAFE MOTHERHOOD INITIATIVE

- To respond to this challenge raised about the problem of high maternal deaths and morbidities the international conference that convened in Nairobi, Kenya in 1987, launched the SMI.
- Prime goal (*an international call*)
 - To reduce the number of maternal deaths by half by 2000.




REAFFIRMATION OF THE SMI GOAL

- The goal of reducing maternal deaths by half by 2000 was reaffirmed at a series of international conferences during the 1990s. These included:
 - World Summit for Children - 1990, organized by the UNICEF in New York,
 - International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), -1994, organized by UNFPA in Cairo,
 - Fourth World Conference on Women – 1995, organized by the UN in Beijing.
- In July 1999, the five-year review of progress since the ICPD, reaffirmed the commitment to reducing maternal mortality as a health sector priority.




Lessons Learnt

- Quality obstetric care is the single most important intervention to prevent maternal mortality and morbidity.
- The quickest and most cost-effective way to reduce maternal deaths is to improve the quality of the existing maternal health care that leading to provision of appropriate and timely emergency obstetric care.
 - This requires health facilities, adequate trained skilled staff, regular supply of drugs, equipments and supplies, and a well functioning referral system.



How Do We Know
Which Women
Will Experience Complications?

WE DON'T



...But we do know that of any population of pregnant women at least 15% will experience an obstetric complication



Most Obstetric Complications

Can Neither

Be Predicted

Nor Prevented...

But if Women Receive
Effective Treatment
in Time,

...Almost All Can Be Saved



”All pregnant women are at risk!”

Therefore we must have life-saving skills for all pregnant women when the unforeseeable complications occur



MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- The importance of maternal survival was reinforced in 2000, when it was included as one of the eight MDGs
 - An international commitment to reducing maternal mortality
- Reduce, by 75%, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio