

International Women's Day 2009

*“Women and Men:
United to End Violence
Against Women”*

**Reducing Maternal Deaths—
Addressing Neglect,
Exploitation & Violence**

June Kunugi
Director, UNICEF Tokyo
Tokyo, 6 March 2009

For every child
Health, Education, Equality, Protection
ADVANCE HUMANITY



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Millennium Development Goals on Maternal & Child Health

Goal4 Reduce child mortality	Target 4-A: Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate
Goal5 Improve maternal health	Target 5-A : Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate Target 5-B : Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health

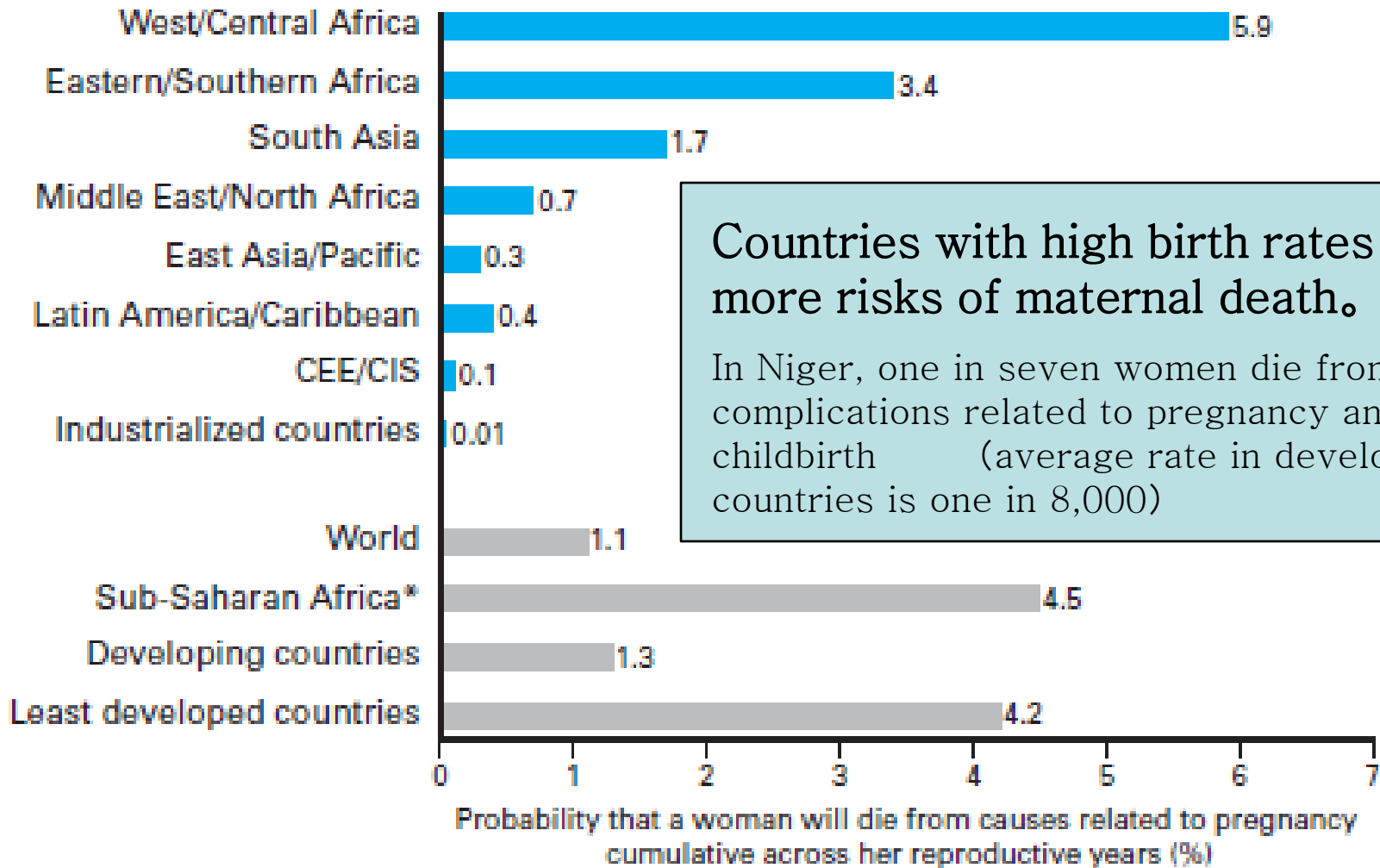
Maternal and child health closely related to MDGs on eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, elimination of gender discrimination, achievement of universal primary education, reduction of infectious diseases

Current Situation

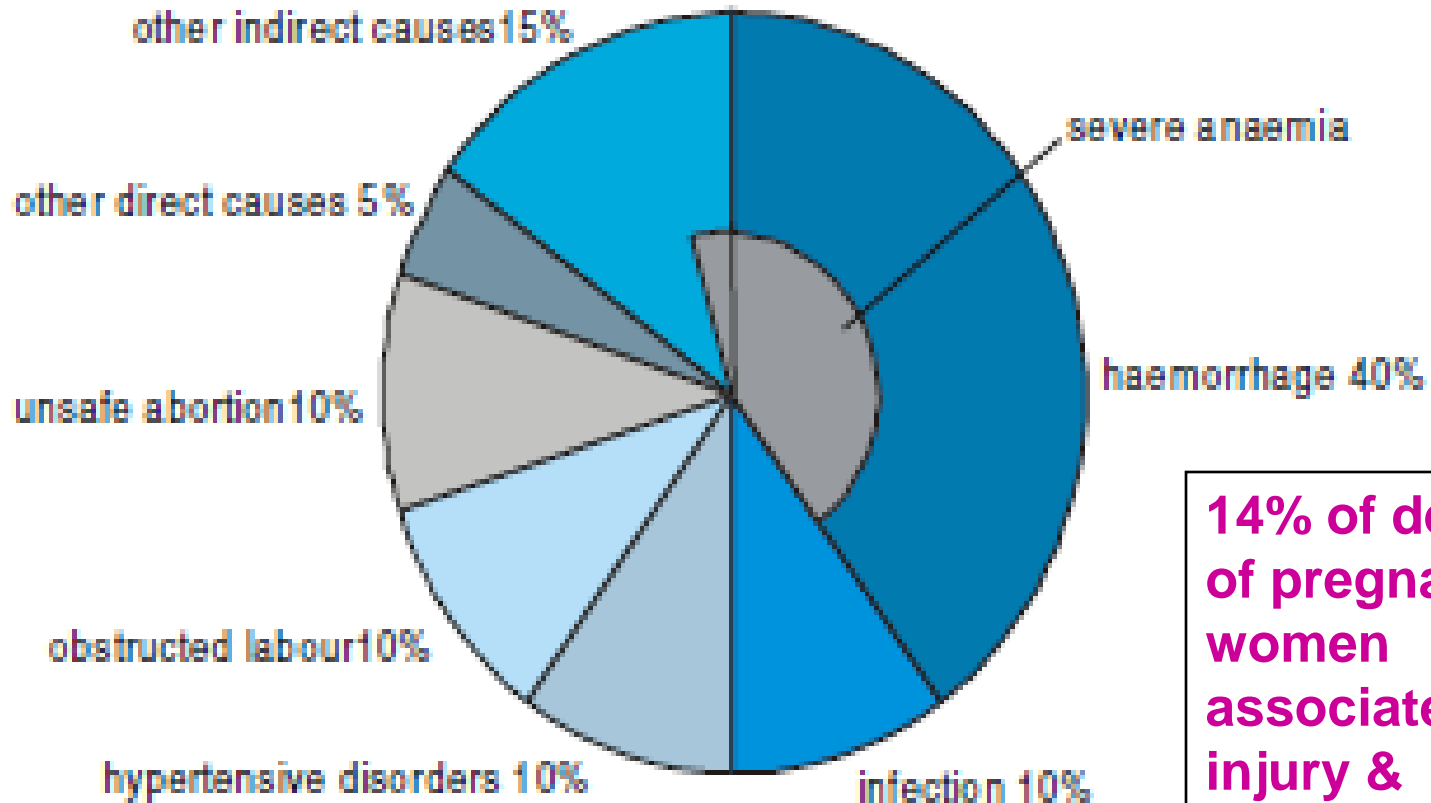
More than 500,000 maternal deaths every year from complications related to pregnancy and childbirth

- 1,500 women die from maternal-related complications every day
- Regional distribution: about 50% of such deaths in Sub-Saharan Africa and 35% in South Asia
- **No substantial improvement since 1990**
- The biggest gap between developing countries and developed countries among various index mortality rates

Lifetime risk of maternal death, 2005



OBSTETRIC CAUSES OF MATERNAL DEATH IN SOUTH ASIA³

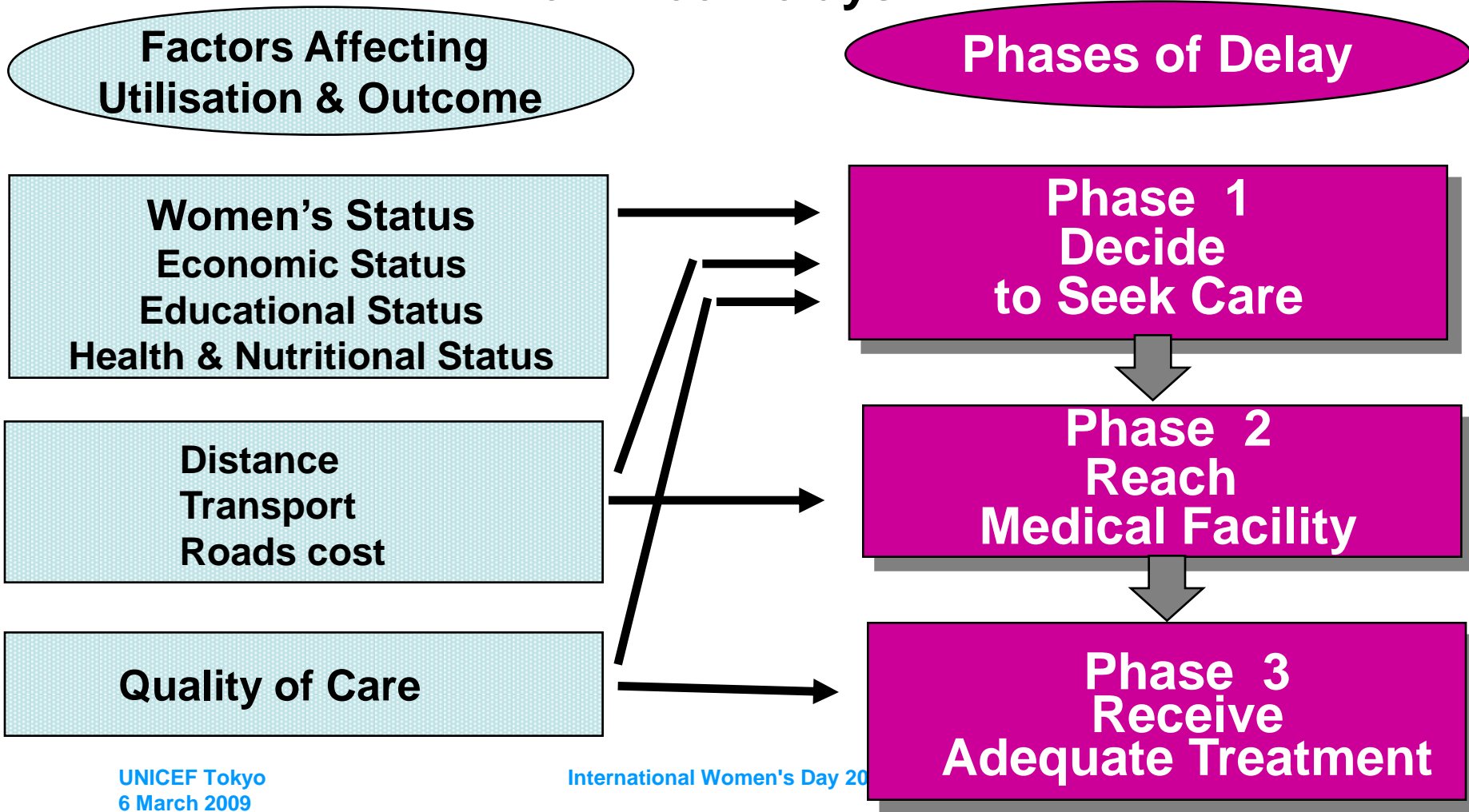


Source: UNICEF

*Bangladesh Maternal Health Services and Maternal Mortality Survey, 2001

What lies between a woman and Emergency Obstetric Care?

The Three Delays





Reducing Maternal Deaths— A Call to Rights-based Action

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Steps to Rights-based Action

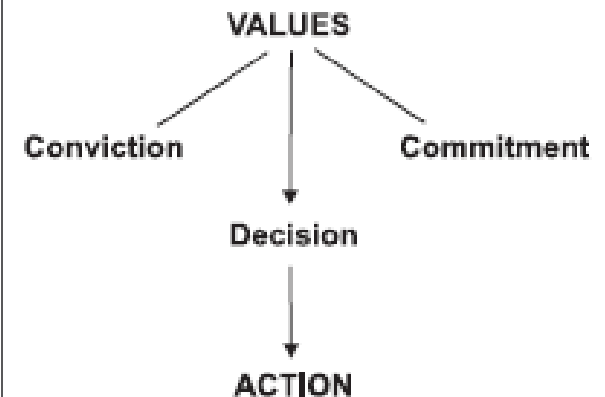
- Create a supportive environment for maternal health and gender equality: **UNITE WOMEN AND MEN**
- Ensure a continuum of care across time and location
- Strengthen health systems to improve maternal health
- Work together—collaborate with partners, maintain & strengthen political commitments

Aligning values and actions

- Bangladesh Women-Friendly Hospital Initiative
 - Call upon values of human dignity, right to life & development, participation, accountability, interdependence
 - Mobilise men, women, communities
 - Support risk-taking champions
 - Improve access to & quality of services
 - Set new norms (technical & social, policies)



FROM VALUES TO ACTION²



THANK YOU



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