

Evidence Based Practice: ***Strengthening Maternal and Newborn Health***

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OUTLINE

- **Introduction**
- **Challenges facing Maternal and Newborn Health**
- **Global Maternal and Neonatal health care**
- **Evidence based practice**
- **Conclusion**





Introduction

**World Health Assembly
resolution 64.7:**

...recognizing the crucial contribution of the nursing and midwifery professions to strengthening health systems, to increasing access to comprehensive health services for the people they serve, and to the efforts to achieve the internationally agreed health-related development goals...and those of the World Health Organization's programmes...

Introduction...

- Health care is a human right including maternal and new born care
- A growing body of evidence links improvements in health care to evidence based practice
- Poor maternal and neonatal indicators still exist
- Nursing and midwifery professions are core to strengthening health care systems – **HEART BEAT**



The Heart Beat



Health Systems and MDG's 4&5



Skilled Birth Attendance
Emergency Obstetric Care
Health Systems for MDGs

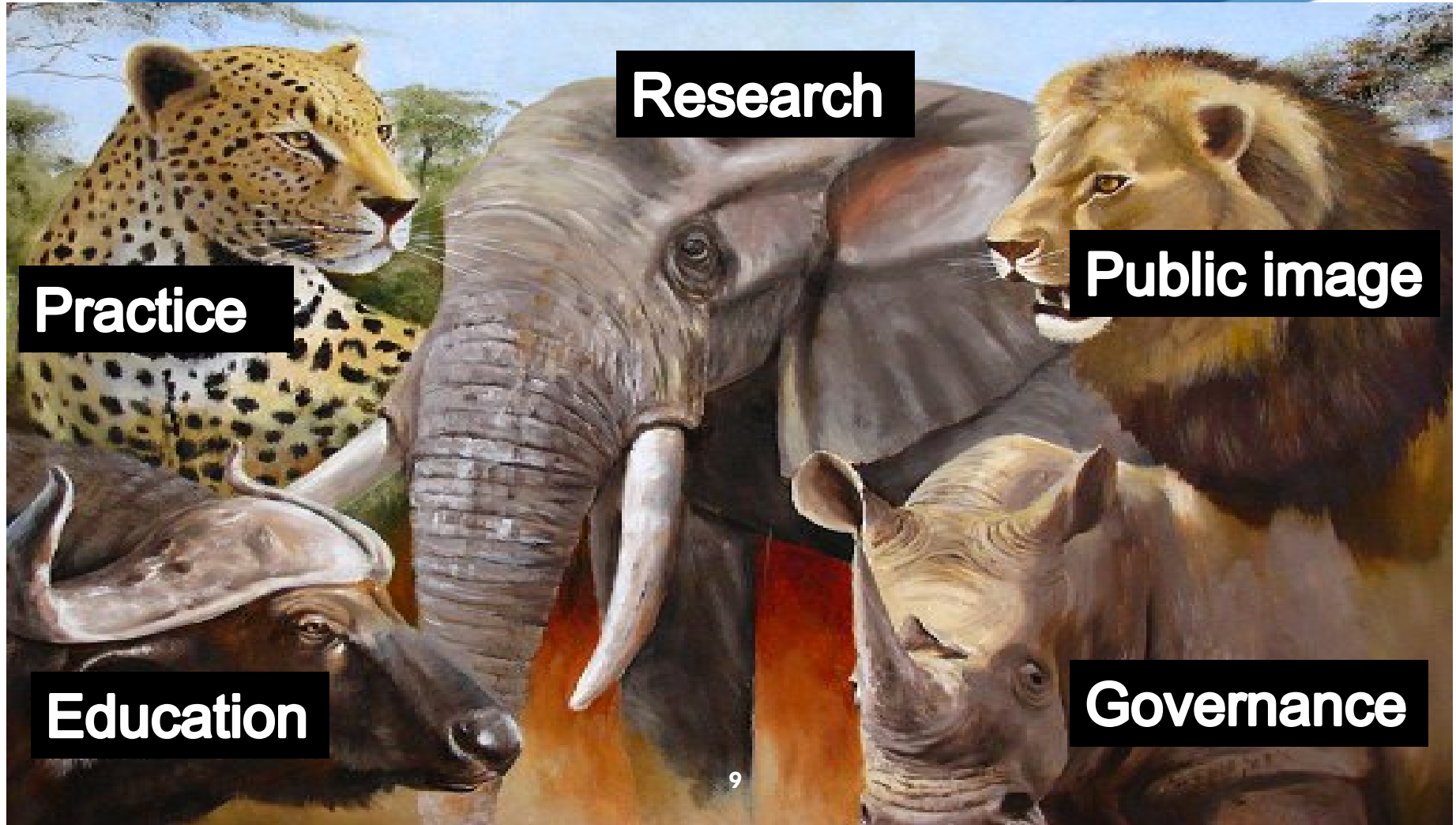
But.....

Health system preparedness?

Health system effectiveness?

Health system capacity?

Challenges facing Maternal and Newborn Health: The Big Five



Challenges facing MNH practice

- WHO estimates - 59.2 million workforce
- An estimated shortage over 4 million midwives, nurses, doctors
- Over 57 countries, mostly in sub-Saharan Africa, have critical shortage



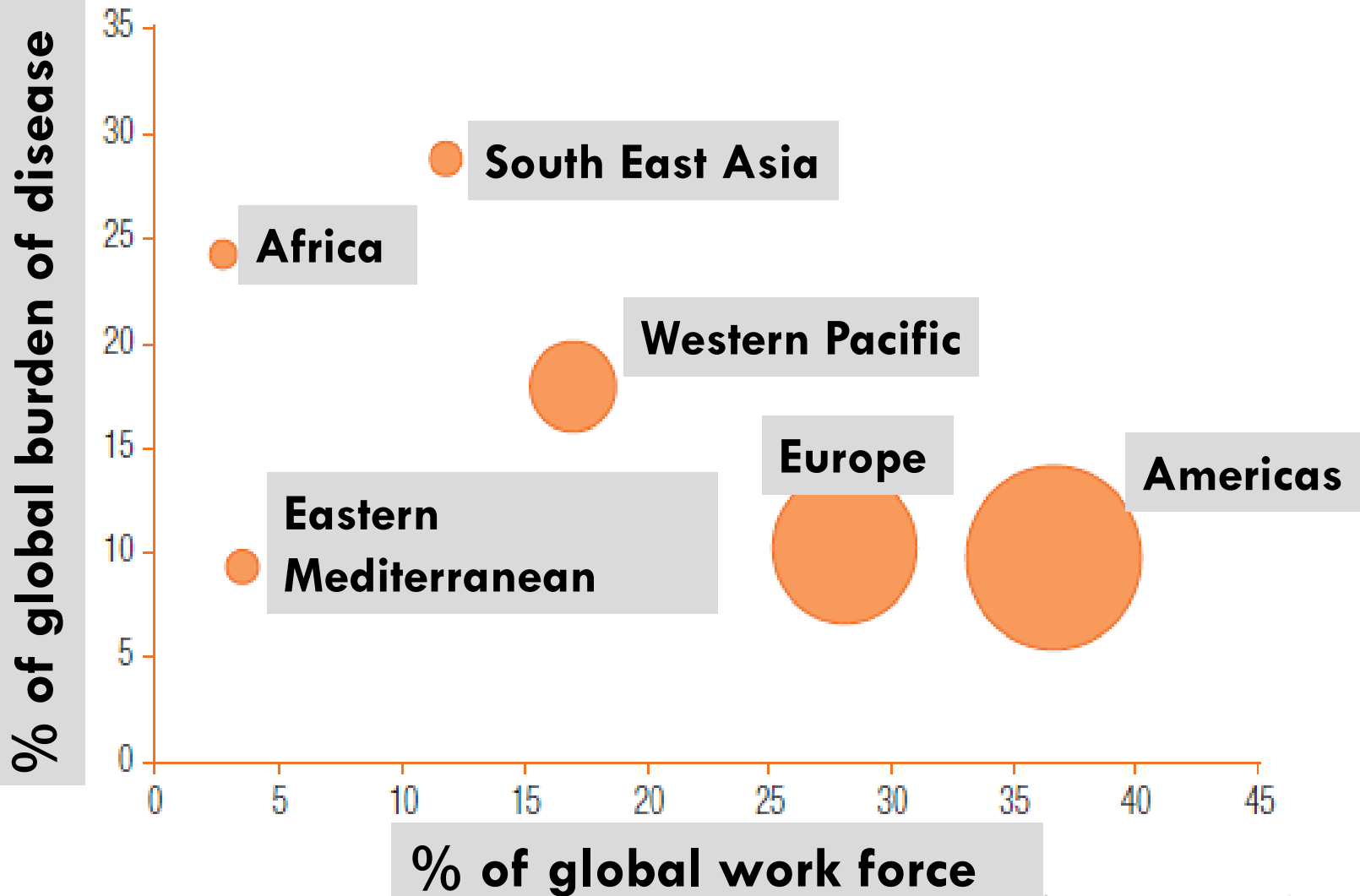


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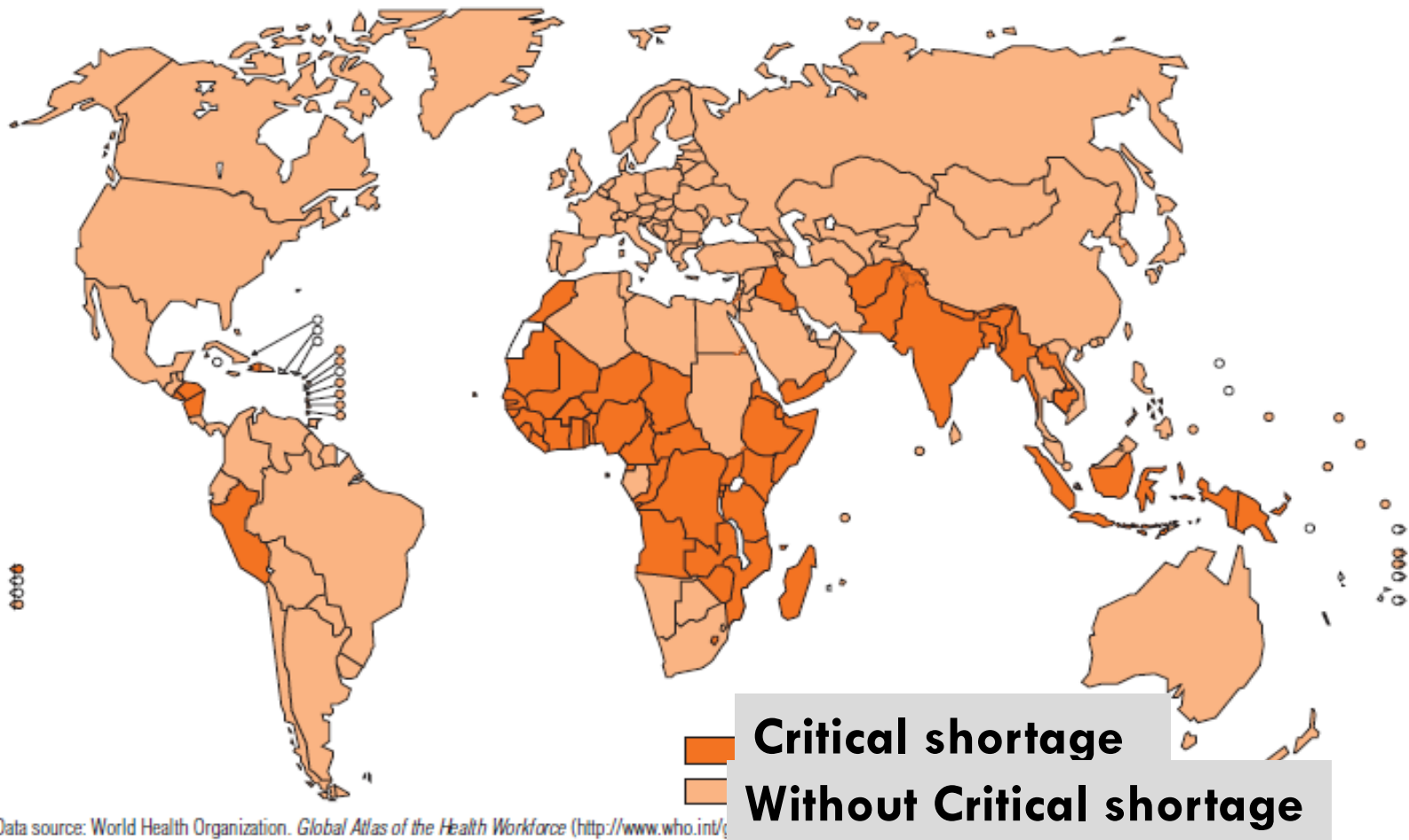
- Only 4 out of 73 countries have adequate midwifery personnel to provide quality reproductive, maternal and newborn health care (ICM, SoWM report)
- Many countries have a low percentage of health workers but a high global disease burden



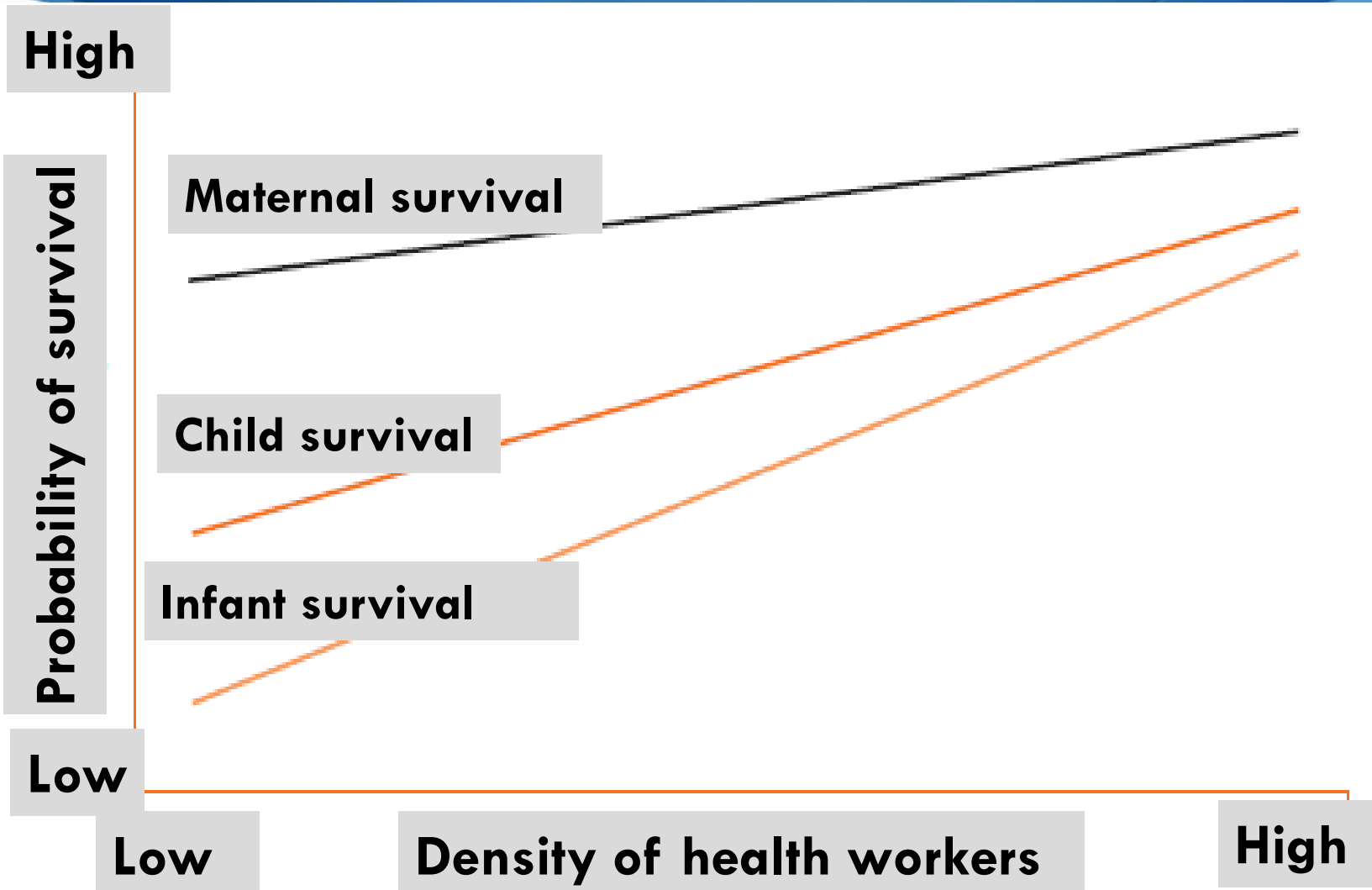
Global Health Care Worker Crisis



Atlas of the Health Care Workforce



Linking survival with density of health workers



Challenges related to Practice: Disease burden

- Communicable diseases, maternal & nutritional deficiencies
- Non communicable conditions
- Injuries

MALAWI

80%

15%

5%

ZAMBIA

78%

16%

6%

MOZAMBIQUE

73%

20%

7%

TANZANIA

71%

21%

8%

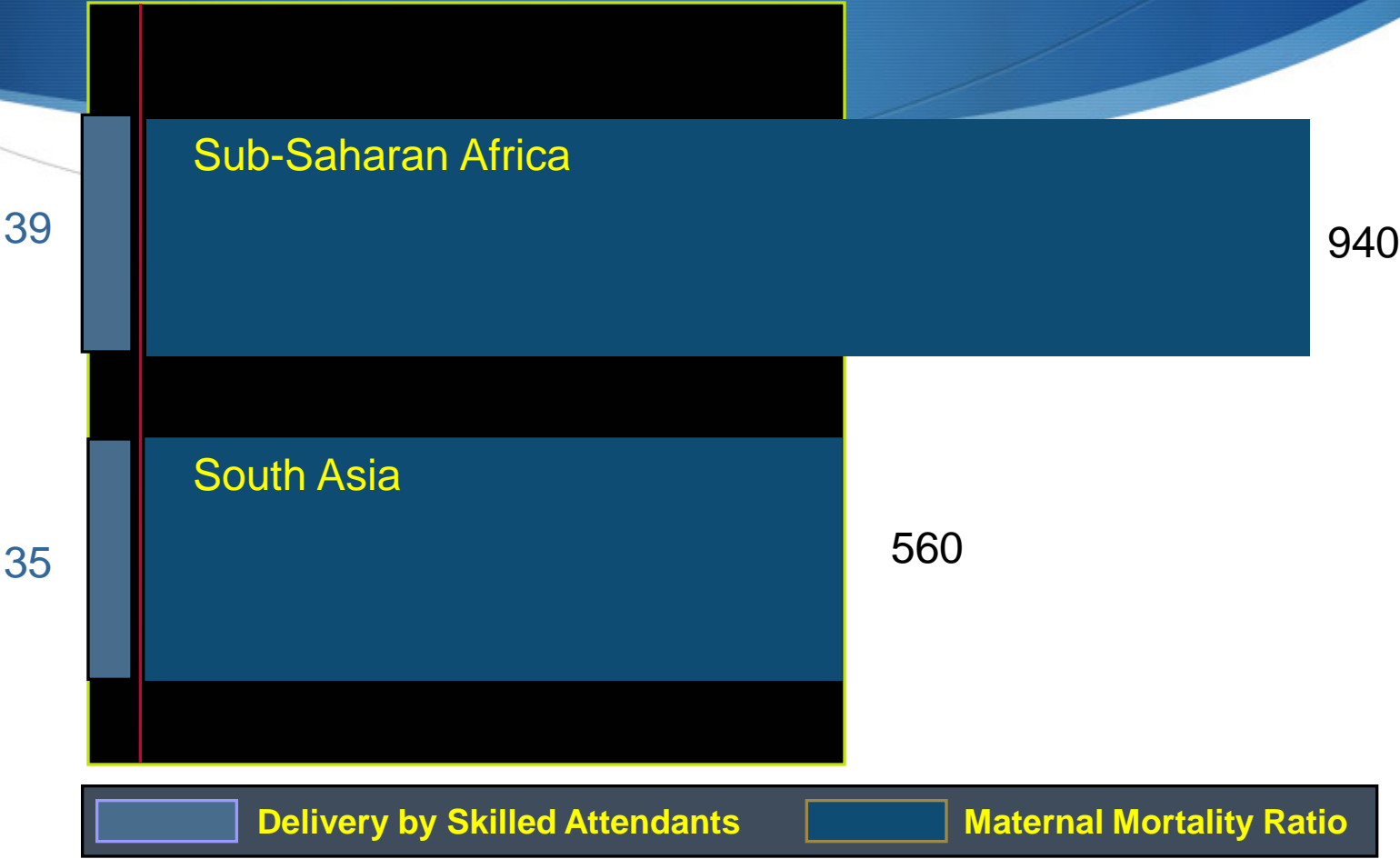
AFRICAN REGION

71%

21%

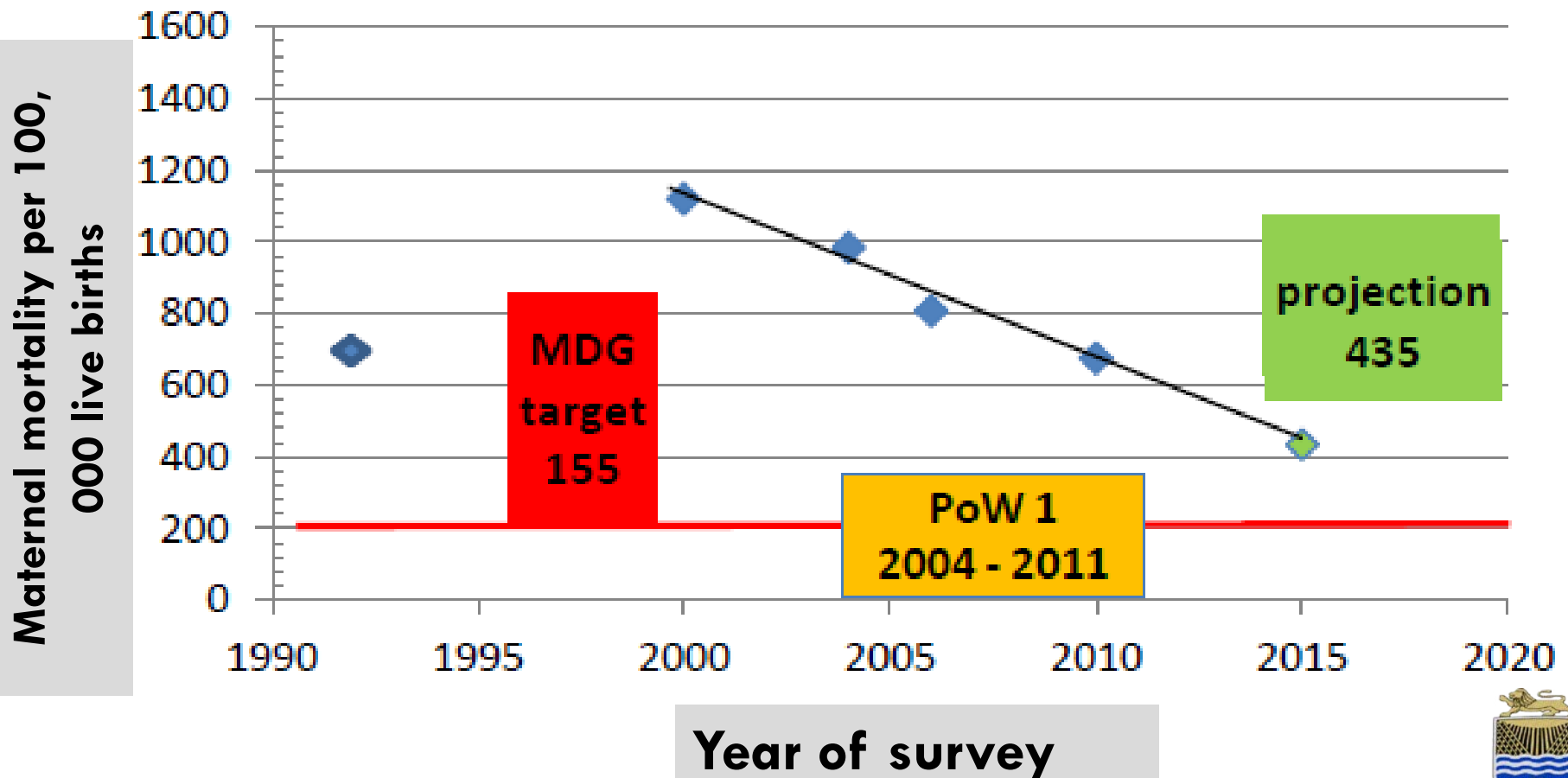
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The Paradox



Maternal Mortality

Maternal mortality in Malawi – trend and projection



Challenges facing MNH practice

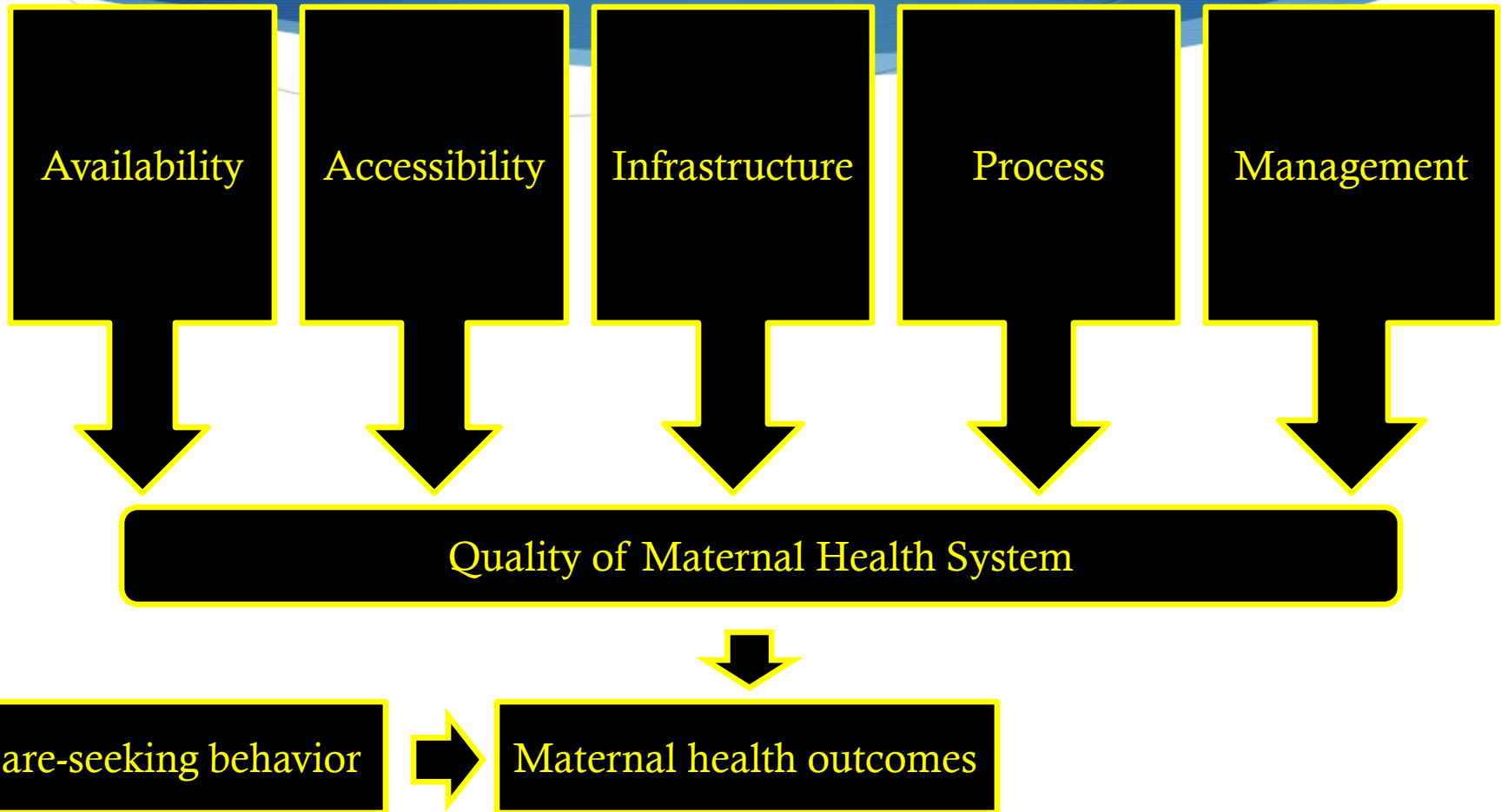
- ◆ Quality of care provided to individuals, families and communities
- ◆ Accessibility, Availability, Infrastructure, process and management
- ◆ Failures in maternal health care seeking process



Challenges facing MNH practices

- ◆ Deficiencies in service availability especially at lower levels of health system
- ◆ Weaknesses in patient monitoring and emergency care
- ◆ Variation in case fatality rates due to poor quality of patient care and management of services
- ◆ Poor infection prevention practices

Quality of Maternal Health System



Challenges related to MNH practice

- ◆ Poor remuneration and lack of incentives
- ◆ Migration – internal and international migration
- ◆ High turnover, Urban vs rural deployment

Challenges facing MNH practice

- ◆ Poor work environment linked to lack of resources
- ◆ Negative attitude and Burnout

*Viva, C, Sundby, J. & Malata, A., (2012).
Piercing Together the maternal death puzzle
through narratives...*

Public Image of Midwifery

💧 Gender factors

- Women entering nursing and midwifery professions
- Men entering nursing and midwifery professions-
Acceptability

💧 Socioeconomic factors

- Access to education for girl child
- Cost of education
- Opportunities for professional growth

Challenges facing Education

- ◆ Developing countries has made tremendous progress in Nursing and Midwifery Education
*Birch, A., Tuck, J., & Malata, A. (2013).
Assessing Global partnerships in Graduate Nursing...*
- ◆ Inadequate resources for theoretical and clinical teaching (Faculty, infrastructure, clinical sites and cases)

Challenges facing Education

- ◆ Quality vs Quantity- large intakes in colleges
- ◆ Curriculum overload and competency based
– ICM/ICN Guidelines
- ◆ Globalization and internationalization
- ◆ Slow educational progress

Challenges facing Midwifery Research

- ◆ MNH and Midwifery research has been developing over the last decade
- ◆ However, there is still limited capacity
- ◆ Limited utilization of findings – not impacting practice, policy & education-gathering dust
- ◆ Limited Research funding



Investing in MNH Research

- Increasing resources for practice
- Developing and strengthening regulatory systems
- Pre-service and continuous education – “A BEST BUY” in Primary Health Care
- Research – resources & capacity building

What should Evidence Based Practice for MNH strive to do?

- 🟢 Remove barriers to maternal health care seeking
- 🟢 Improve quality of patient care at health facilities
- 🟢 Strengthen quantity and quality of human resources
- 🟢 Improve management of maternity services

Conclusion

*“Where is the **E** in maternal and child health care?”*



There is need to ACT NOW

Great partnerships — share common goals.





Ban Ki-moon

“We have made much progress, but there is still along way to go, especially in improving well-being for the hardest to reach”

**Commenting on EVERY
WOMAN EVERY CHILD
INITIATIVE**

Acknowledgements

- 🟢 **The First Lady of Tanzania**
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