



**The Role of Parliamentarians in enhancing South – South  
collaboration in Reproductive Health and Family Planning  
programmes**

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Indices	
Population	1 billion (2010)
Population Growth Rate	2.4%
Infant Mortality Rate	74
Maternal Mortality Ratio	900 (sub-Saharan Africa)
Skilled Attendance at Birth	47% (sub-Saharan Africa)
Total Fertility Rate	4.8
Contraceptive Prevalence Rate	28% all (23% modern methods)



# Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)(1990 –2015)

- •Goal1:Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- •Goal2:Achieve Universal Primary Education
- •Goal3:Promote gender equality and empower women
- •Goal4:Reduce child mortality
- •Goal5:Improve maternal health
- •Goal6:CombatHIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- •Goal7:Ensure environmental sustainability
- •Goal8:Develop a global partnership for development



# Abuja Declaration - 2001

Set a target of allocating at least **15%** of annual national budgets to the health sector



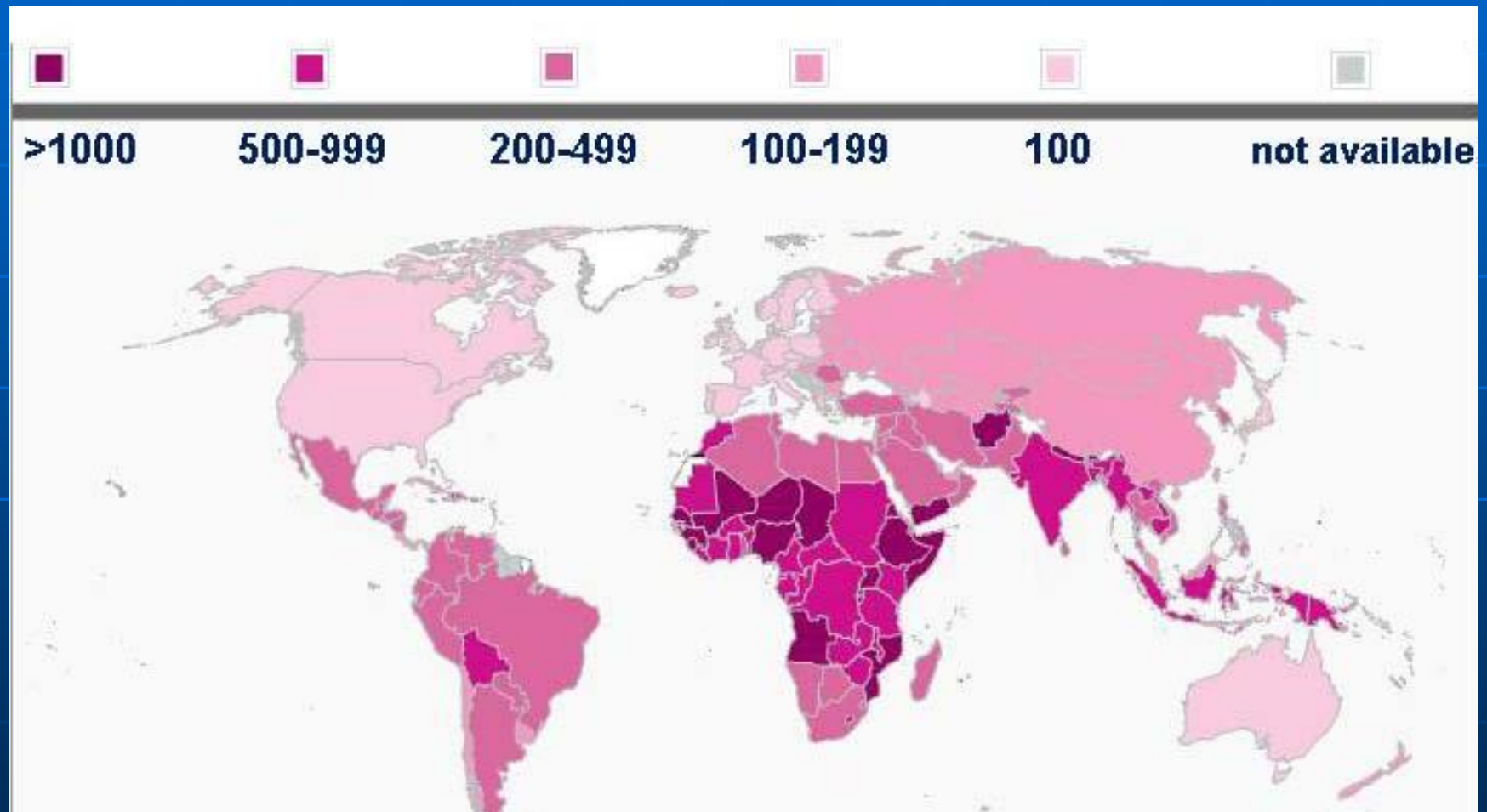


# Maputo plan of action

**The ultimate goal of the Maputo Plan of Action is for African Governments to effectively implement the continental policy framework of universal access to sexual and reproductive health by 2015 in all countries in Africa.**



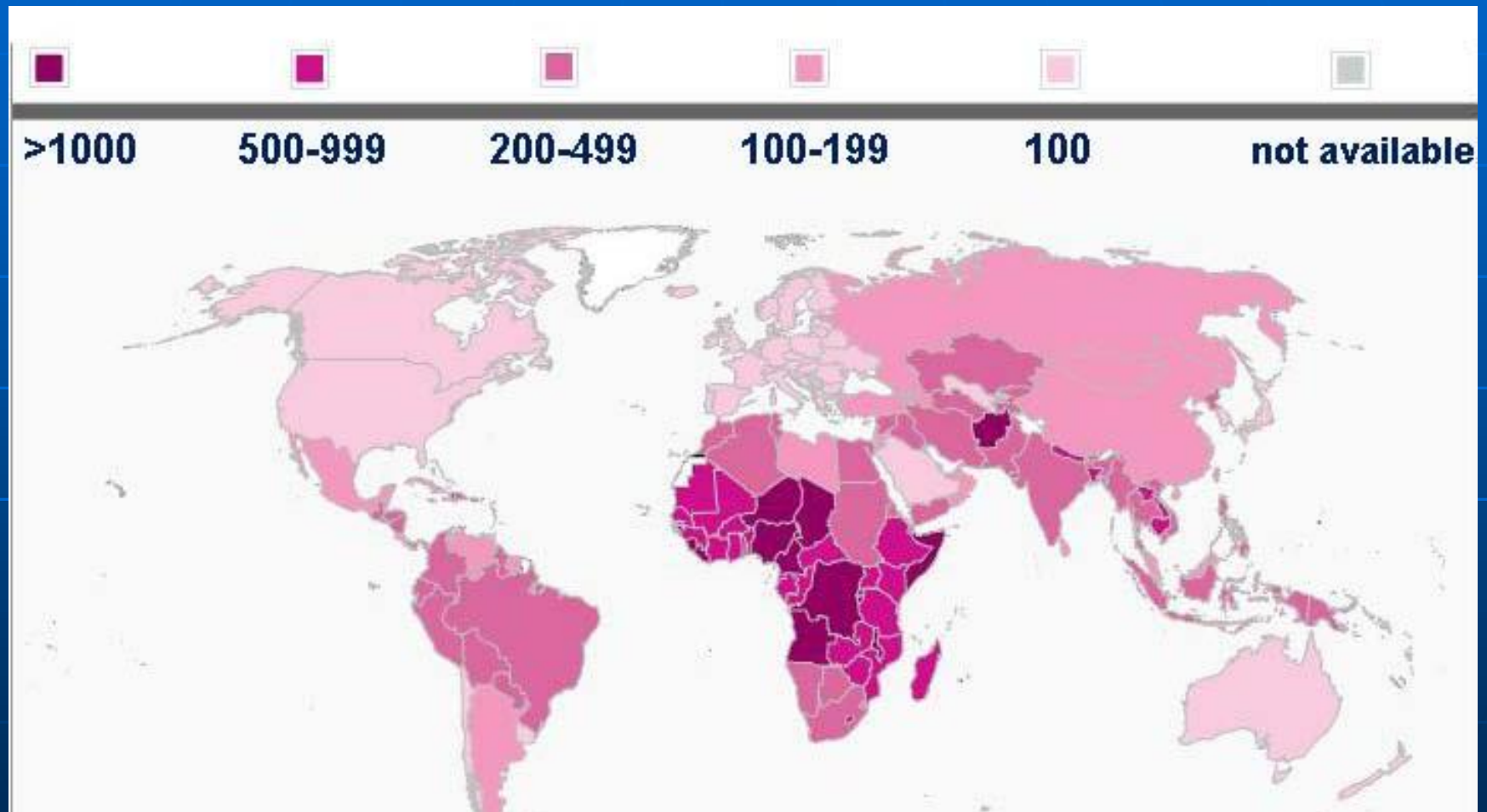
# Maternal mortality







# Maternal mortality





# Every minute ----



- **1 woman dies from a pregnancy-related complication**
- **380 women become pregnant**
- **190 get unplanned pregnancies**





# Risk of maternal death

exist in Africa

- In Africa, on average, the life time risk of death in pregnancy and child birth is **1 in 14**. It is **1 in 7** in Niger.
- This is in stark contrast to **1 in 17, 400** in Sweden



# Maternal morbidity



For every woman who dies, there are 30 who sustain chronic injuries that can be debilitating or crippling e.g.

- fistula
- chronic pelvic pain



# Role of Parliamentarians

- As **representatives** of the people, MPs can reflect the voices and concerns of all the people
- As **lawmakers**, MPs can enact, adopt and oversee the implementation of legislation that protects human rights and advances access to sexual and reproductive health services



# Role of Parliamentarians

- As **overseers** of government activity, MPs can ensure that government commitments on sexual and reproductive health and rights are respected and also ensure that there is **accountability** for the resources
- As **overseers** of national **budget** appropriations, MPs can ensure that adequate and cost effective funding is provided to SRH programmes



# Role of Parliamentarians...

- As **opinion leaders** and **decision makers**, MPs can promote issues of sexual and reproductive health and rights, and can also encourage and direct informed debate on the same issues. MPs' open support for SRH services motivates their supporters to use the services.

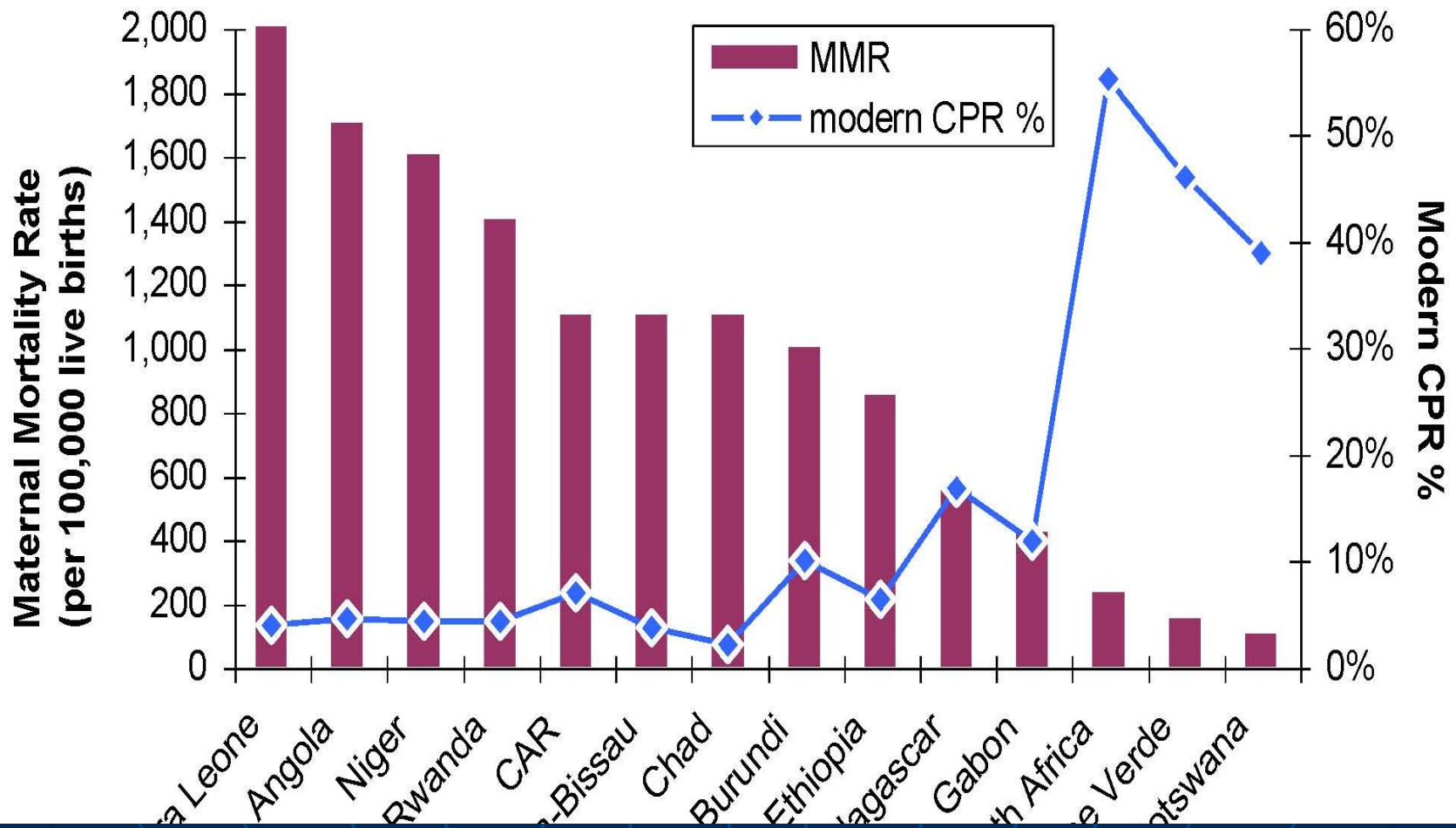




# Lessons

## Mortality Rates

Family Planning Reduces Maternal Death Up to **40%**





# Lessons

**Investment of \$1 in family planning (FP)  
saves expenditures of \$2-4 on maternal  
and newborn health**





# Lessons....

- High maternal death rates are an indicator of inadequate health care system, which is clearly **a direct violation of women's fundamental rights to life, health, and self determination.**
- Every year, **the world loses US \$15 billion to lost productivity** by letting women die in pregnancy and childbirth.





# Lessons

- MP's are of paramount importance in creating political will and ensuring accountability
- A strong and coordinated group of parliamentarians creates positive change





## What is needed...

- **There is need to build the capacity of Parliamentarians including sharing experiences and learning from each other in the context of South to South collaboration**
- **Need for Parliamentarians and other elected leaders to openly speak out on Maternal and Child health issues in order to influence change and facilitate transformation**
- **Need to meaningfully involve Parliamentarians in post ICPD and post 2015 discussions**





# What is needed..

Need for sustained commitment of leaders at all levels

Plan for an increasing population and develop human capital, address youth and gender issues

Increase funding /efficient use/integration to leverage resources

Improve quality and access to affordable maternal and child health services



# Parliamentary networks

- Network of African Parliamentary Committees of Health (NEAPACOH)
- Africa Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development

Together, we can make life  
**BRIGHTER** and **BETTER**



THANK YOU

