

Gender and Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights : Key to Programs

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Presentation outline

- Current status of SRH in selected African
- Factors responsible for the situation
- Gender parameters Key areas for programming
- Conclusion

HIV Status Sub-Saharan Africa

	2001	2008
Adults and children living with HIV	19.7 Million	22.4 Million
Adults newly infected	2.3million	1.9 million
Adult prevalence	5.2	5.8

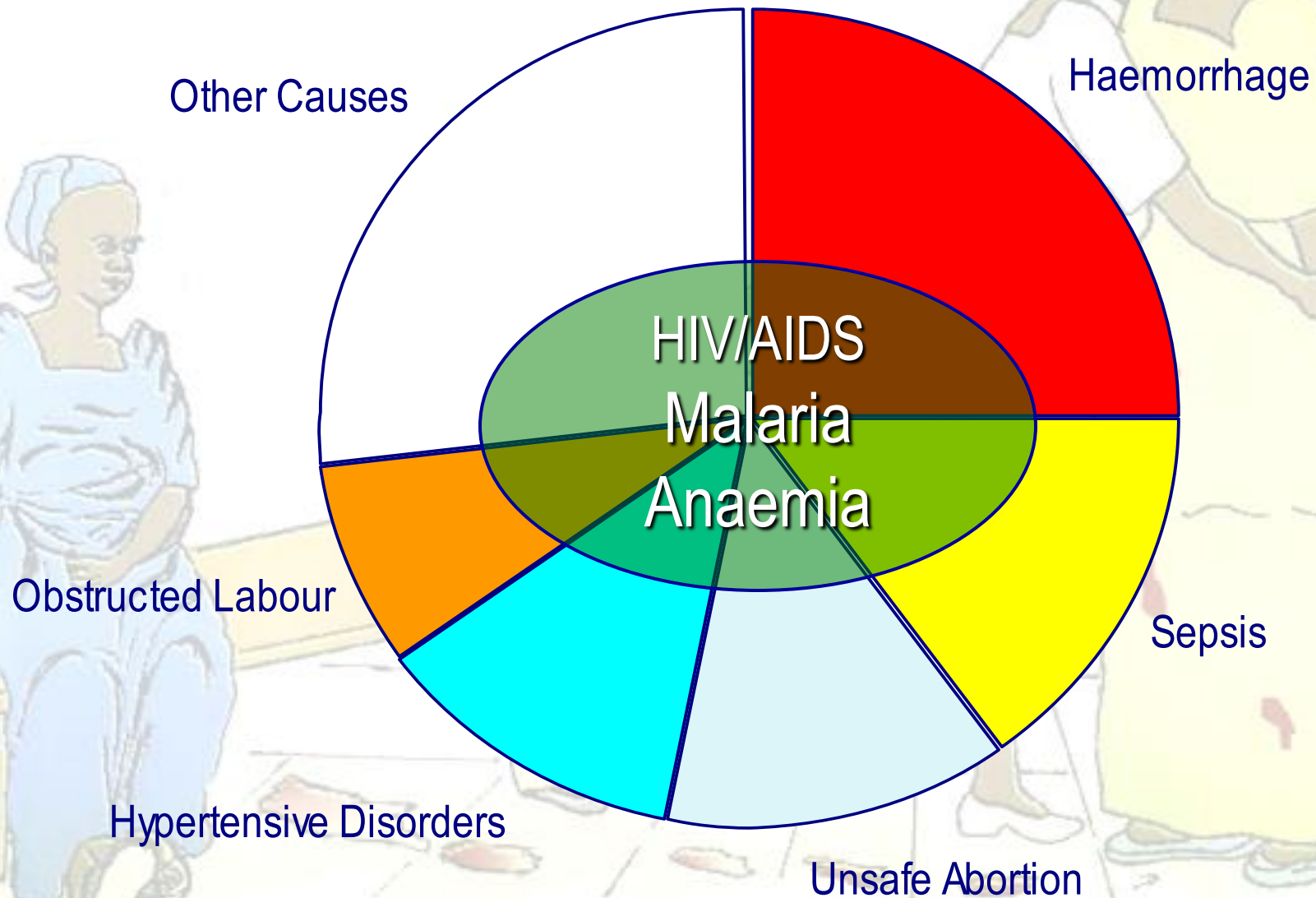
- Peak HIV prevalence for women 30-34 years
- Men late 30s –early 40s
- Young women between 15-19 are 3 times more likely to be infected than their male counter parts
- Women aged 20-24 are 5.5 likely to be living with HIV than the men of their cohort(Kenya 2009)
- Married women /divorced/separated most at risk

Maternal health

Maternal Deaths	1990	2005
SS Africa	920	900
Southern Asia	620	490
S E Asia	450	430
North Africa	250	160
Developed countries	11	9


- The main MDG target that may not be met by most African countries is **Goal 5 Improve maternal health: reduce by there quarters between 1990-2015 the maternal mortality ration**
- Lifetime risk of maternal death is 1 in 22 in SS Africa
- 1 in 8000 in industrialized countries

Major Causes of Maternal Mortality




Maternal health

- Fewer than half of pregnant women in developing countries have the benefit of adequate prenatal care
- Access to contraception..expands but unmet needs remain high



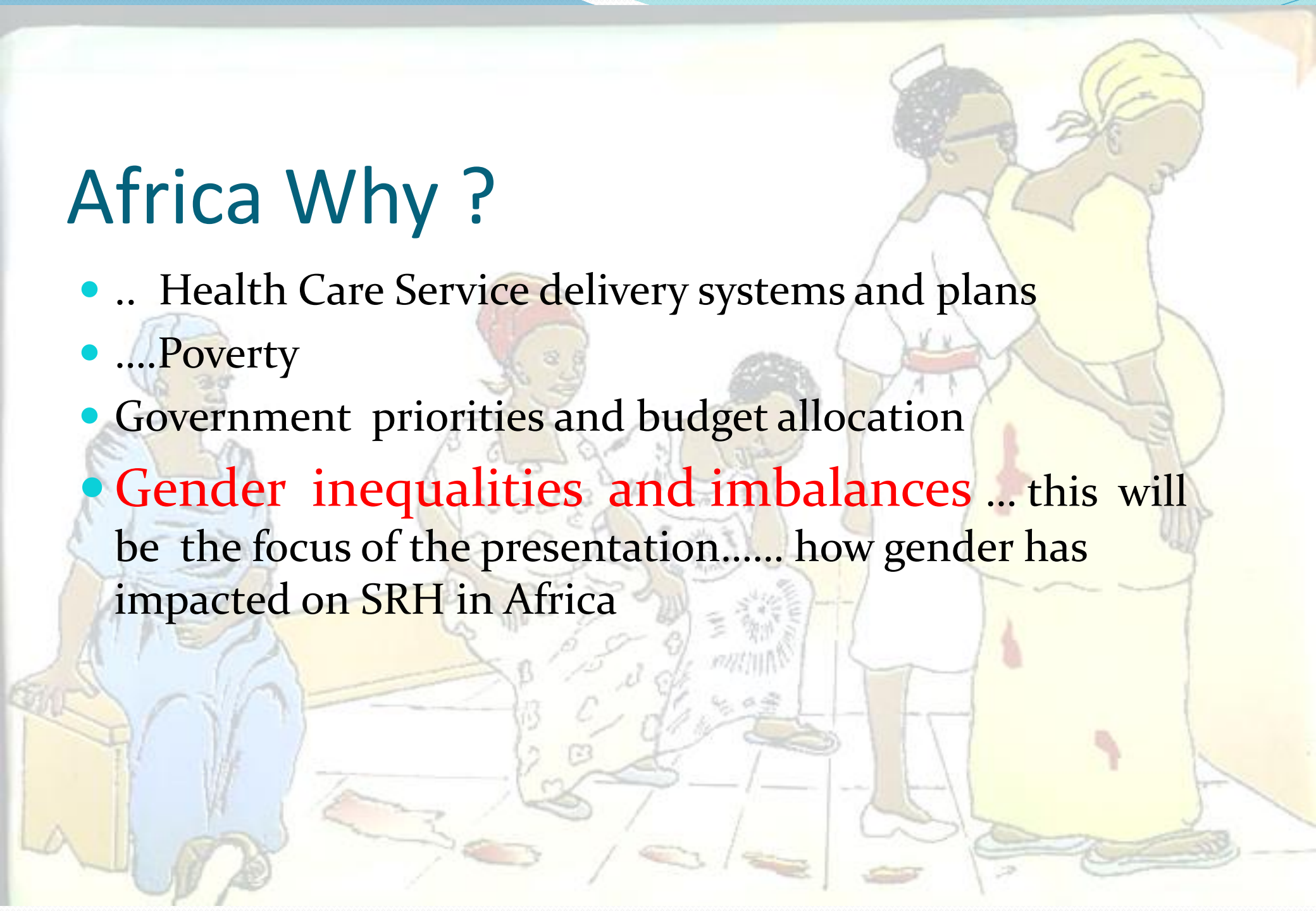
Region	ANC(%)
SSA	36
North africa	56
Latin America	83
South-Eastern Asia	74



Region	Use of contraceptive any method	
	1990	2005
SSA	12	22
North Africa	44	60
Southern Asia	39	54

Africa Why ?

- .. Health Care Service delivery systems and plans
-Poverty
- Government priorities and budget allocation
- **Gender inequalities and imbalances** ... this will be the focus of the presentation..... how gender has impacted on SRH in Africa



Understanding Gender

- Because of different roles – men and women have *different needs*;
- Due to the social construct of gender women and men have *different access to and control over resources*.



Gender issues

- Gender based/inequalities
... Sexual violence ,
- Differential rights
entitlements
- Religious restrictions
- Low levels of inter spousal
communications
- Conflict situations..
Violations of women's
rights
- Poverty

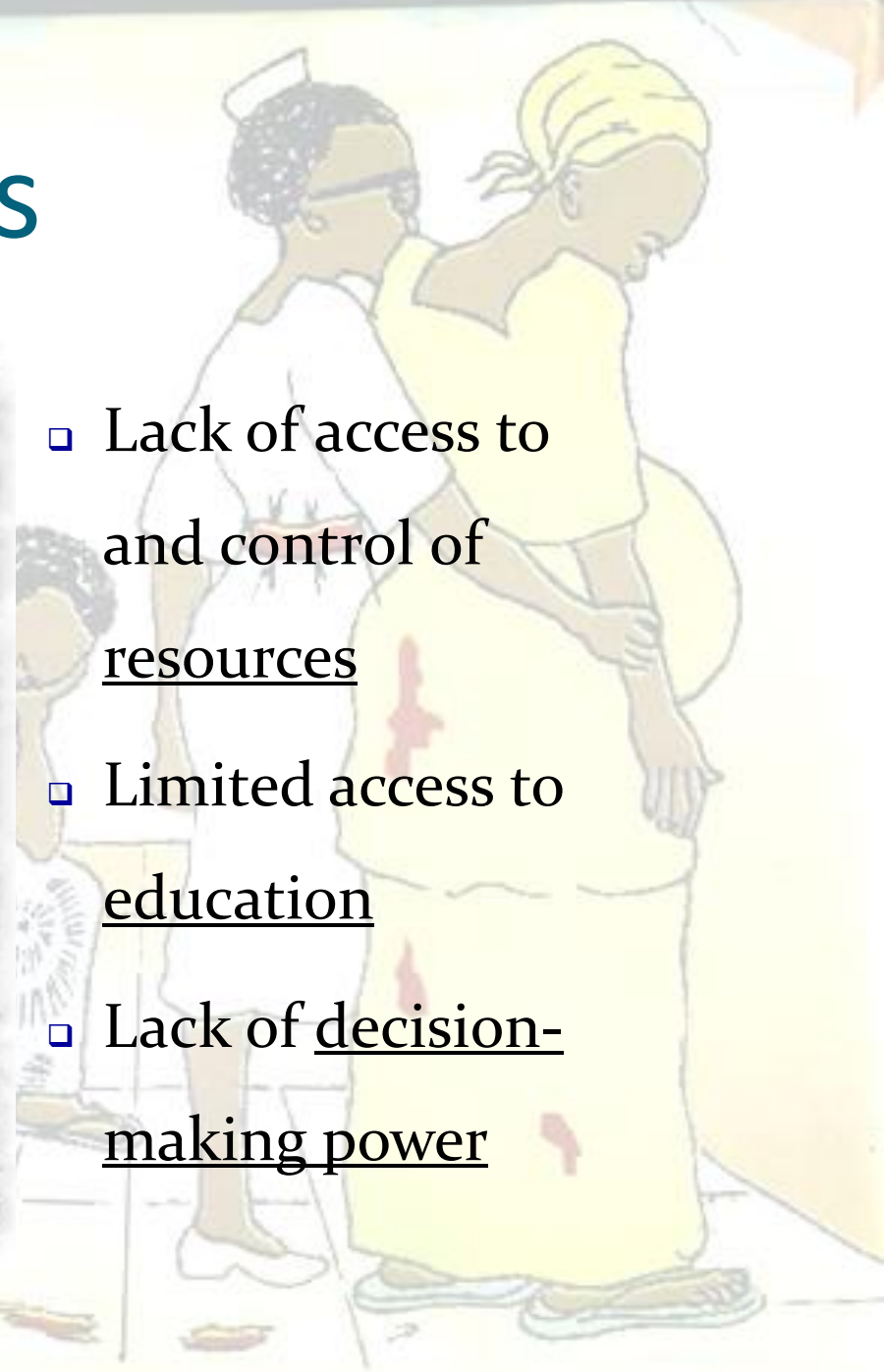


Women's Low Status



Jorge Moreiro

- ❑ Lack of access to and control of resources
- ❑ Limited access to education
- ❑ Lack of decision-making power



General Low Status of women in Africa

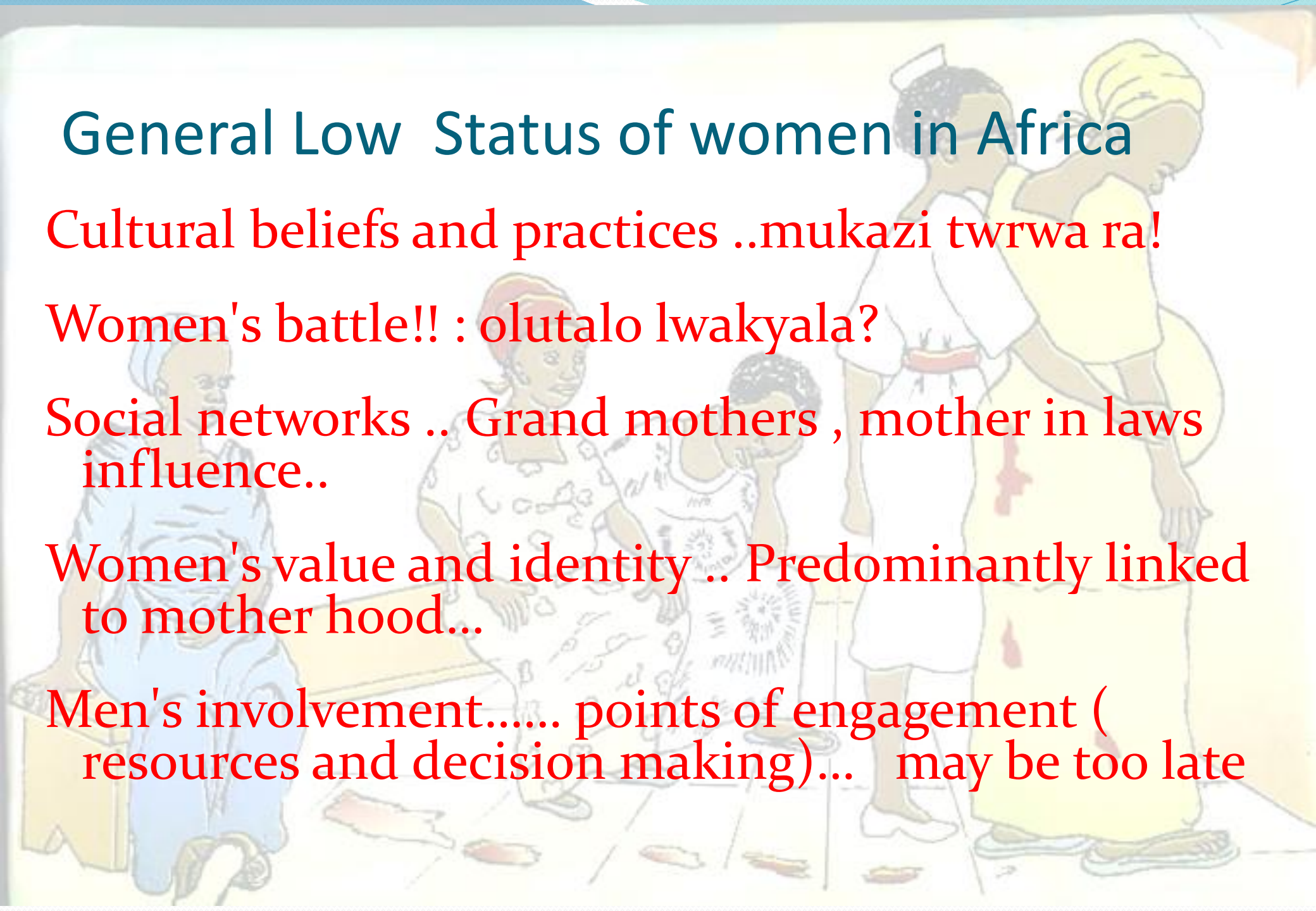
Cultural beliefs and practices ..mukazi twrwa ra!

Women's battle!! : olutalo lwakyala?

Social networks .. Grand mothers , mother in laws influence..

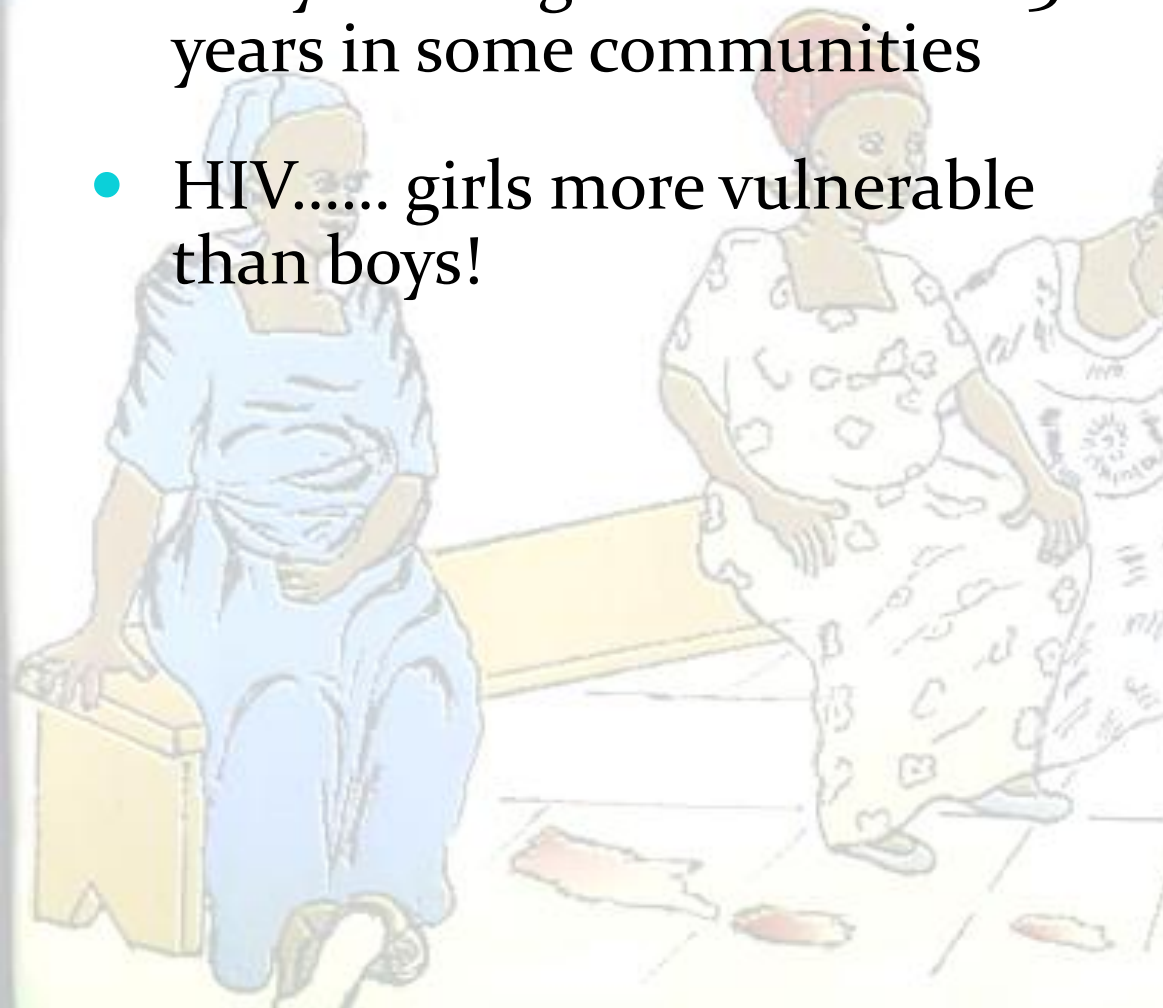
Women's value and identity .. Predominantly linked to mother hood...

Men's involvement..... points of engagement (resources and decision making)... may be too late



Low Status of Women

- Early marriages ... as low as 13 years in some communities
- HIV..... girls more vulnerable than boys!



Power relations ... maternal health

The Three Delays

1st Delay

Delay in the Home



2nd Delay

Delay in Accessing
the Health Facility



3rd Delay

Delay in receiving
care at the health
facility



The First Delay

Delay in deciding to seek care at the household level due to:

- Lack of information and inadequate knowledge about danger signals during pregnancy and labour
- Cultural /traditional practices that restrict women from seeking health care
- Lack of money



The Second Delay

Delay in accessing health facilities due to:

- Distant health facilities
- Poor roads and communication network
- Poor community support mechanisms



The Third Delay

Delay in receiving care at the health facility due to:

- **Insensitivity to women's needs, privacy, dignity by health workers**
- Inadequate skilled attendants
- Inadequate equipment, supplies and drugs
- Poorly motivated staff



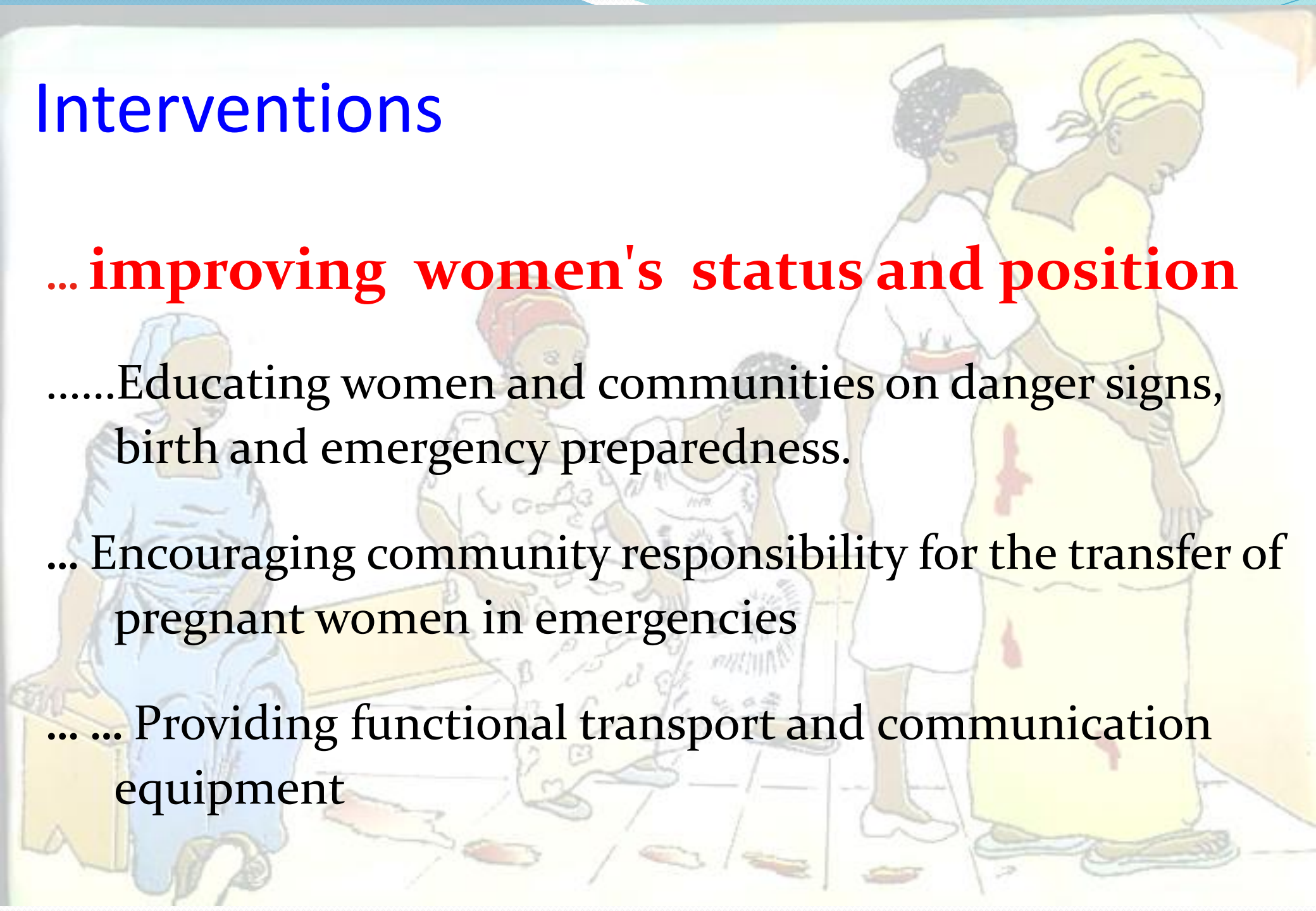
Interventions

...improving women's status and position

.....Educating women and communities on danger signs, birth and emergency preparedness.

... Encouraging community responsibility for the transfer of pregnant women in emergencies

... .. Providing functional transport and communication equipment



Conditions Needed

- Strong political commitment at all levels to maternal and newborn survival
- Strengthening the weak health system to respond to critical needs of pregnant women and newborns
- Community involvement and participation
- Resource mobilization and Partnership



Conditions Needed cont.

- Male involvement and participation in Reproductive Health issues and services key.



Conclusion

- *“Investing in women is the right thing to do ;it is also the smart thing” (Dr Jotham Musinguzi 2010)*
- *Improving sexual and reproductive health is among the most cost effective of all development investments reaping personal, social and economic befits (DFID 2009)*

Thank you

To guarantee the ***RIGHT*** of AFRICAN women and newborns to health and life, they must have access to ***quality reproductive health services, including skilled attendance at birth in an environment that promotes gender equality and justice***





WOMEN HAVE A RIGHT TO SURVIVE