

# Health Workers: Vital to Family Planning and Reproductive Health

Regional Meeting of Southern and Eastern Africa Alliance of  
Parliamentary Committees on Health (SEAPACOH)

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# Imagine



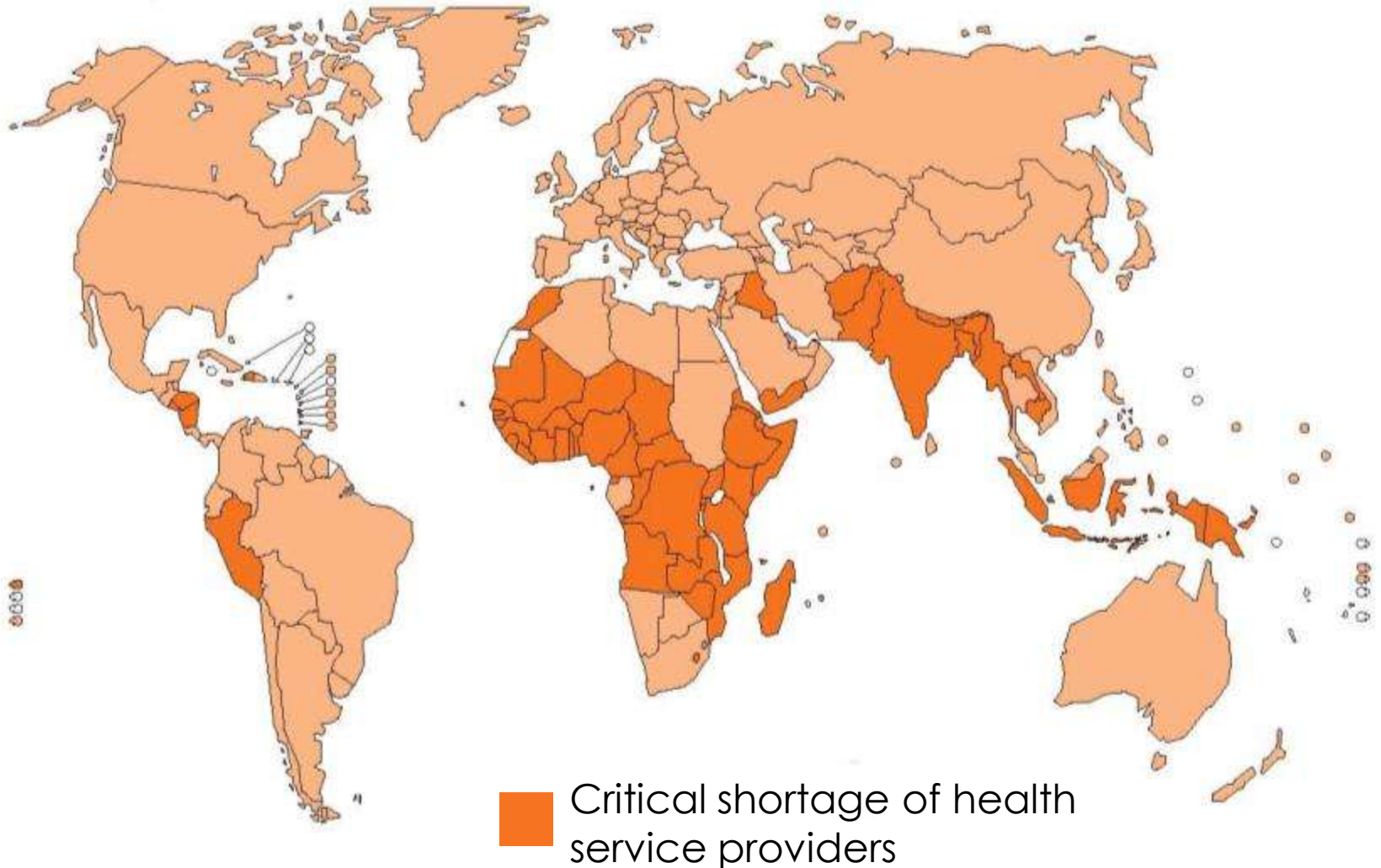
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here**



**1,000,000,000**  
people lack access to essential care

(Source: WHO, Increasing access to health workers in remote and rural areas, 2010.)

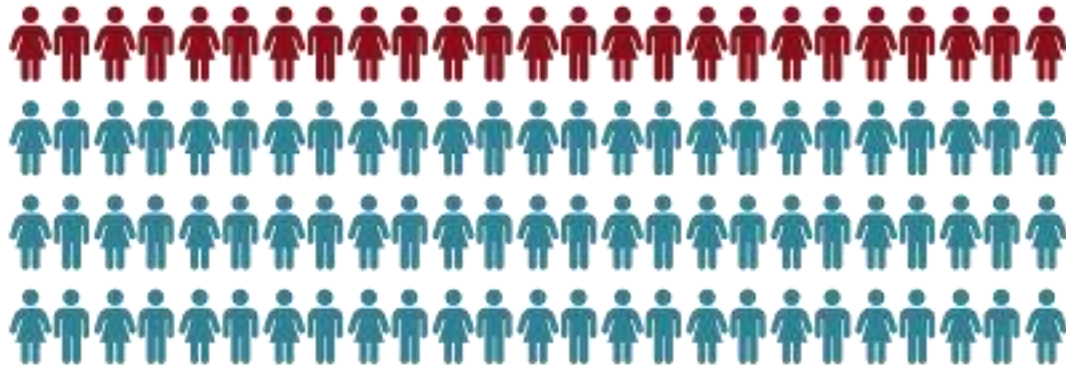
In 2006 the WHO identified **57** countries with a health workforce crisis.





**Five years later  
all 57 countries remain in crisis.**





**Sub-Saharan  
Africa** has **25%** of the  
global burden of  
disease...



but only **4%** of the  
world's health  
workers.

# Flo, the beleaguered health worker

Too few

Inequitably  
distributed



Poorly  
supported

Inadequately  
educated



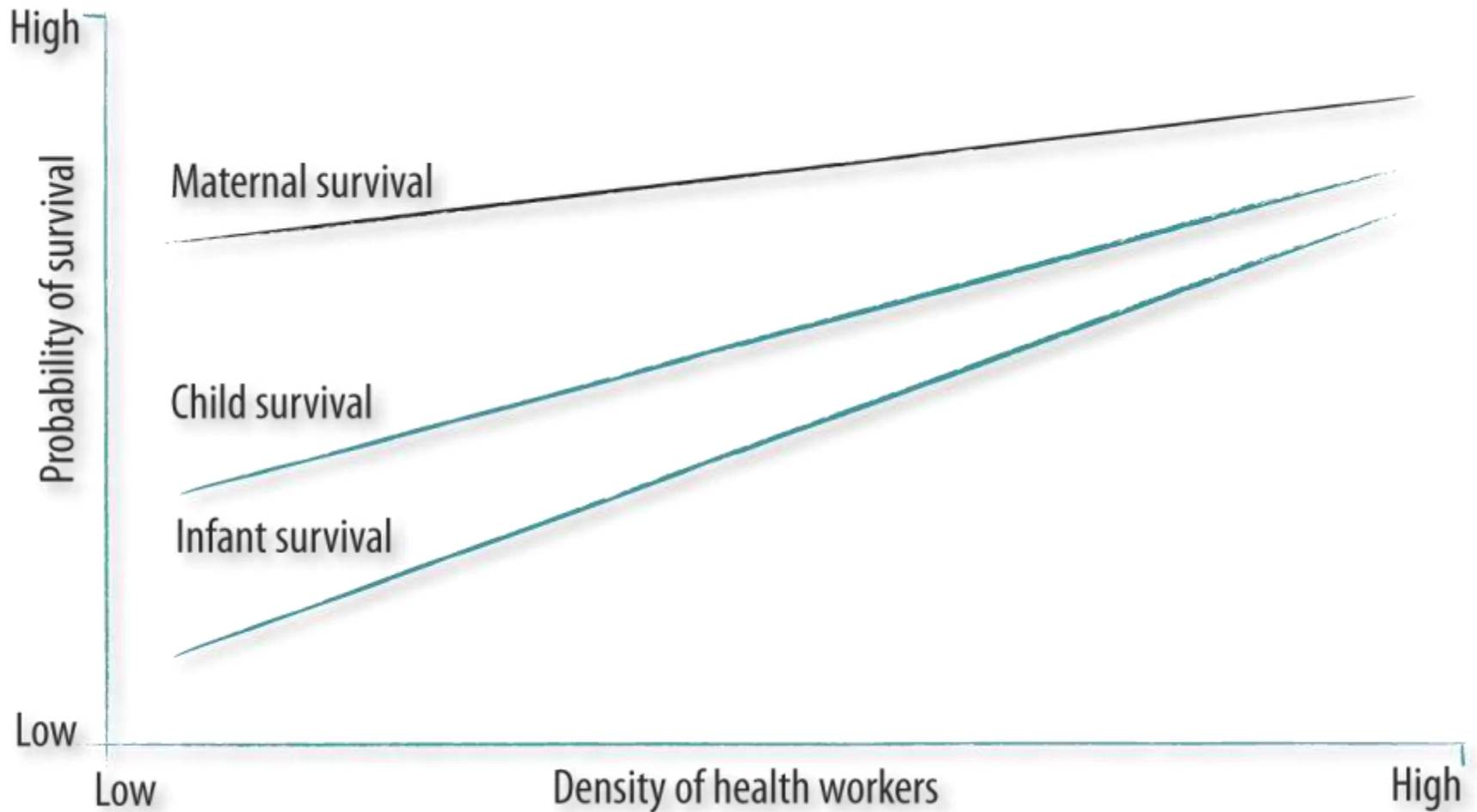


Health workers save lives.



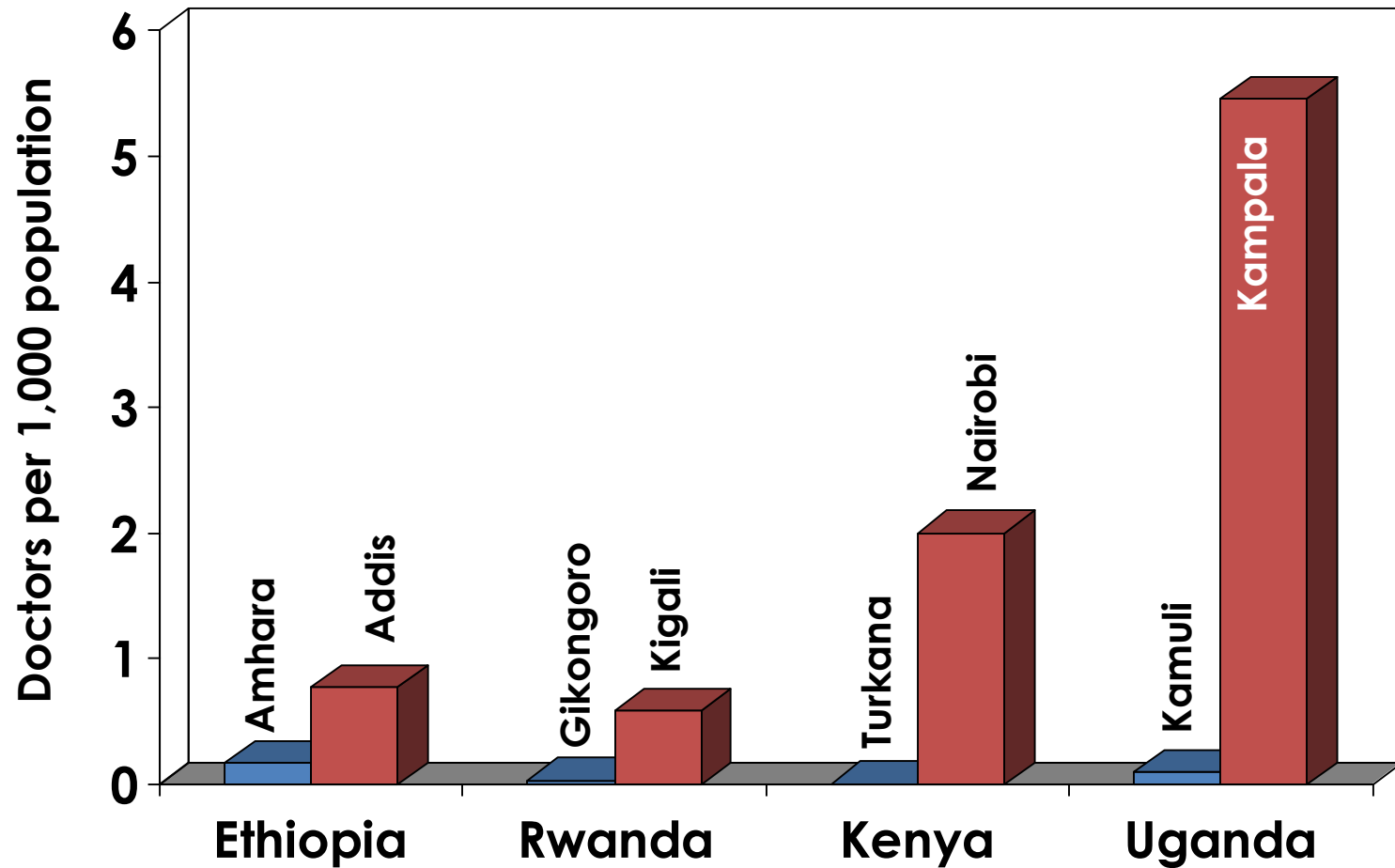


# More health workers, better health outcomes



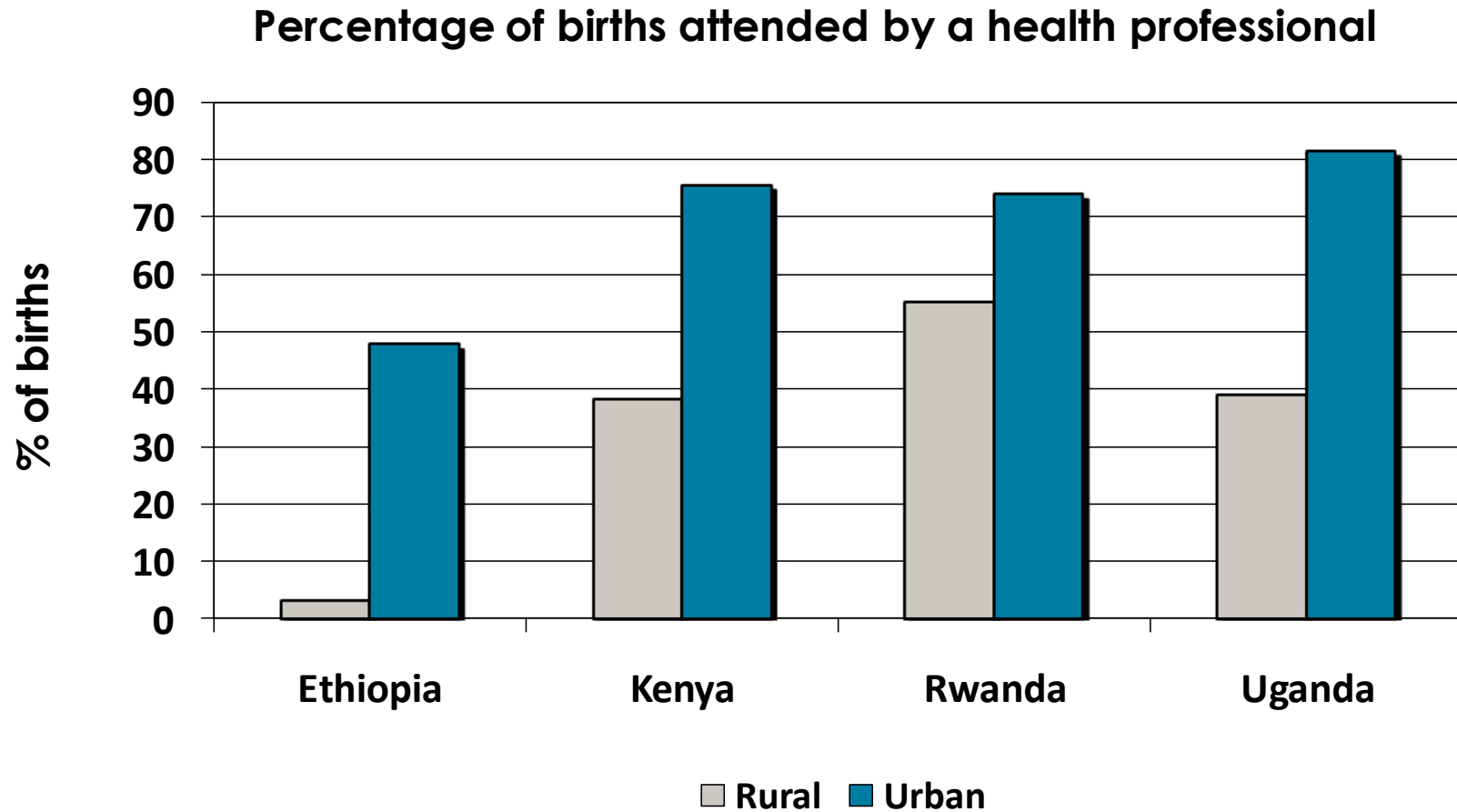
(Source: WHO, World Health Report, 2006.)

# Rural populations have less access to health workers



(Source: World Bank, Reducing Geographical Imbalances of Health Workers in Sub-Saharan Africa, 2010.)

## ...which affects health outcomes

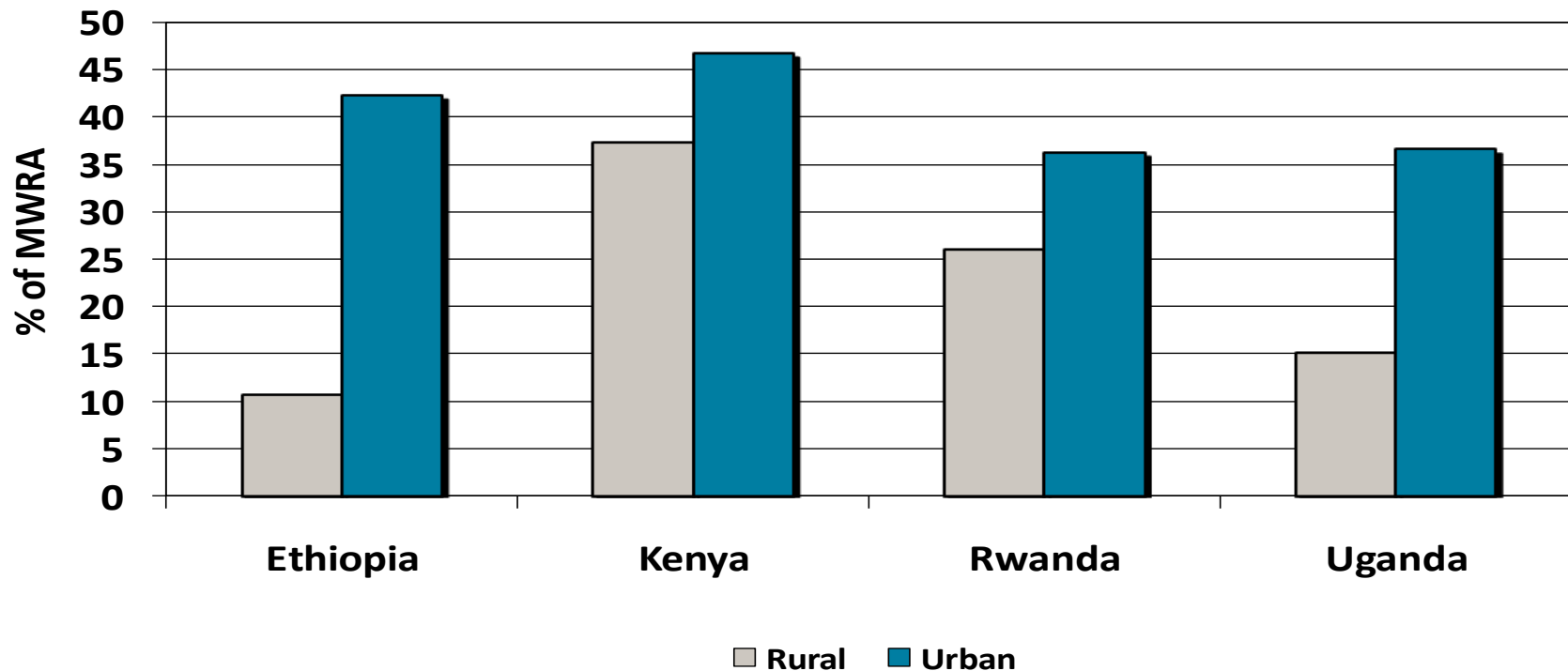


(Source: Demographic and Health Surveys: Ethiopia 2005; Kenya 2008-09; Rwanda 2007-08; Uganda 2008.)



## ...which affects health outcomes

### Modern method contraceptive prevalence



(Source: Demographic and Health Surveys: Ethiopia 2005; Kenya 2008-09; Rwanda 2007-08; Uganda 2008.)

# Health benefits of family planning

Reduces maternal, infant, and child mortality

Reduces abortion

Avoids high-risk pregnancies

(Sources: Conde-Agudelo 2005 and DaVanzo et al 2007; Rutstein 2005.)



## **Other benefits of family planning**

**Greater opportunities to invest in human capital  
(health, education)**

**Reduced pressure on land and  
water resources**

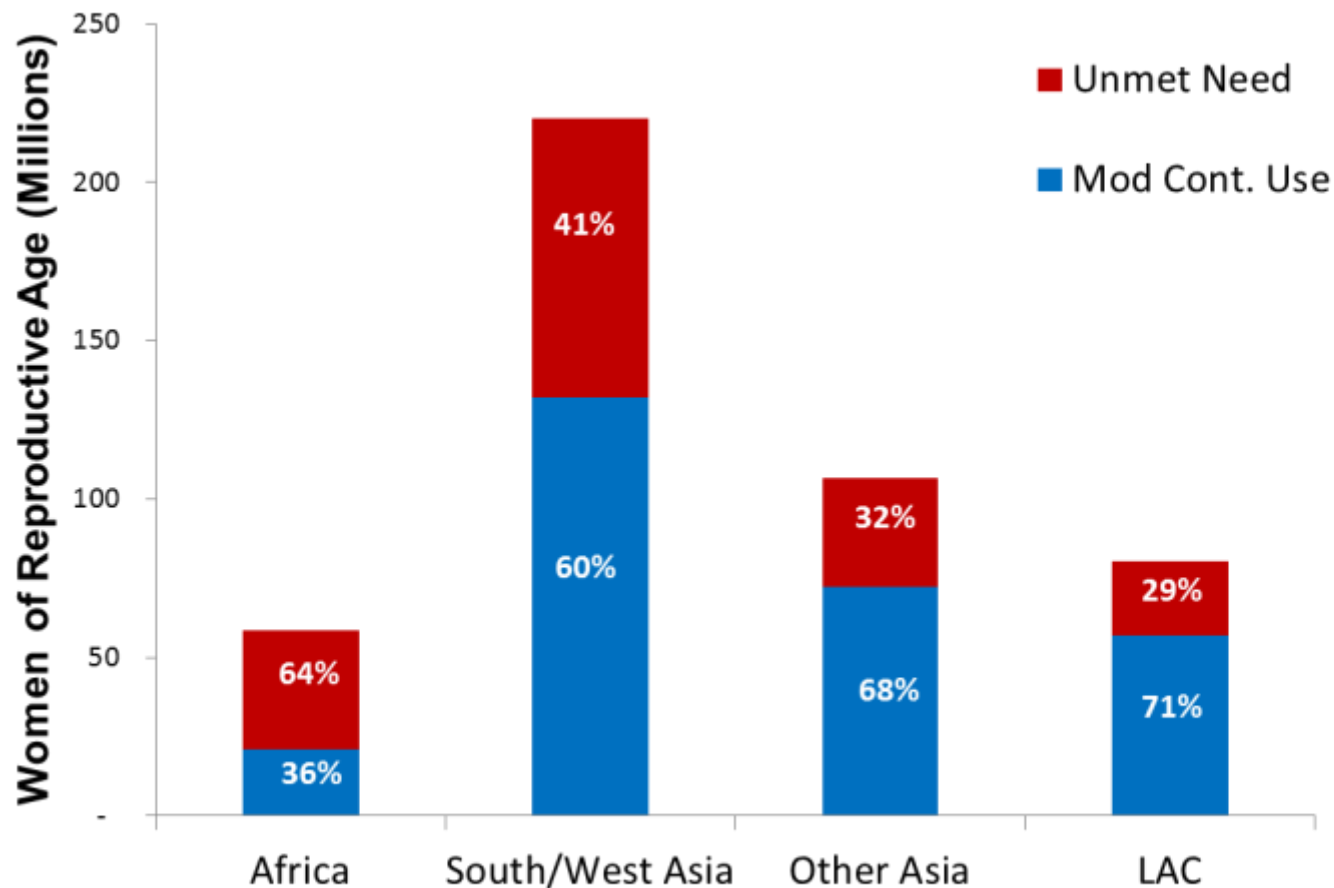
**Higher rates of per-capita GDP growth**





# High levels of unmet need

**Total Family Planning Demand  
Contraceptive Use and Unmet Need by Region**



(Sources: Guttmacher Institute 2004; Singh, Darroch, Ashford, et al. 2009, "Adding it up".)

# Strategies for expanding FP access

**Task  
shifting**

**Access  
through  
private  
sector**



**Mobile or  
short-term  
services**

**Increased role  
of community  
health  
workers**

**Integrated services**



Practical solutions





# Solutions to the health worker crisis

**Mobilize  
leaders**



# Mobilizing leaders

## Malawi Emergency HR Program

Financial incentives

Investments in local  
training institutions

53% increase in public-  
sector health workforce



# Solutions to the health worker crisis

**Mobilize  
leaders**

**Expand  
education**



# Educating health workers

## Ethiopia

**Massive expansion of  
health extension workers**

34,000 health extension  
workers trained

Dispatched to 15,000  
health posts





# Solutions to the health worker crisis

**Mobilize  
leaders**

**Expand  
education**



**Deploy where  
needed**

# Deploying health workers

## Rwanda

### Community health workers

5 community health workers in each village of 100 to 150 people

Community health workers dedicated to FP



# Solutions to the health worker crisis

**Mobilize  
leaders**

**Expand  
education**



**Strengthen  
management**

**Deploy where  
needed**

# Managing health workers

## Kenya

### Emergency Hiring Plan

Hiring system revised

Candidates applied for posts in specific areas

830 nurses placed in 200 facilities in 6 months



# Solutions to the health worker crisis

**Mobilize  
leaders**

**Expand  
education**



**Strengthen  
management**

**Deploy where  
needed**



# Agenda for action

Advocacy | Assets | Accountability



# Don't keep Flo waiting!



Partners in Population and Development (PPD)