

Women's health in the context of Social Development Goals

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What are Sustainable development Goals (SDGs)?

- A framework of 17 goals and 169 targets across social, economic and environmental areas of development for the next 15 years(2015-2030)
- They are about people-centred development and inclusivity-
 - Leaving no one behind as the overarching principle
- The 2030 agenda includes targets and reference to gender equality and women's/and girls empowerment, sexual and RH rights-- going beyond the commitments of MDGs
- Make specific reference to FP in goal 3(Health) and Gender equality and women's empowerment in goal 5

In Kenya the SDGs are implemented through the existing planning framework - Vision 2030's Medium Term Plans

The Regional Context

- Africa has the highest burden of maternal and child deaths
- Health systems struggle to provide safe care for mothers and children
- High population suffers from malnutrition
- Climate change responsible for widespread famine

These challenges cast a cloud on Africa's ability to meet SDG3.

Kenya Policy Environment

Aligned to SDG Agenda 2030

- Alignment to the constitution and vision 2030 through the social pillar
 - *aimed at transforming the country into a globally middle- income economy by the year 2030. In this strategic policy document, the role of the health sector is underscored – in ensuring a healthy and productive population for the economic development of the country.*
- Reproductive Health Policy(2017 under revision)
- National Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy
- NCD prevention and control strategic plan (2015- 2020)
- Cancer Prevention and Control Strategy (2017-2022)
- Treatment guidelines for cancer and cardiovascular diseases as key strategic documents to guide the fight against NCDs in the country.

Kenya Policy Environment

- The Kenya Health Policy 2012-30, which was developed in line with the Constitution of Kenya 2010 and the Kenya Vision 2030, highlights six priority policy objectives
 - Eliminating communicable diseases
 - Reducing the burden of non-communicable diseases
 - Reducing the burden of injuries from violence and accidents
 - Providing essential health services
 - Reducing the health risk exposures
 - Strengthening health sector collaboration with other sectors

What do SDGs mean for women's health?

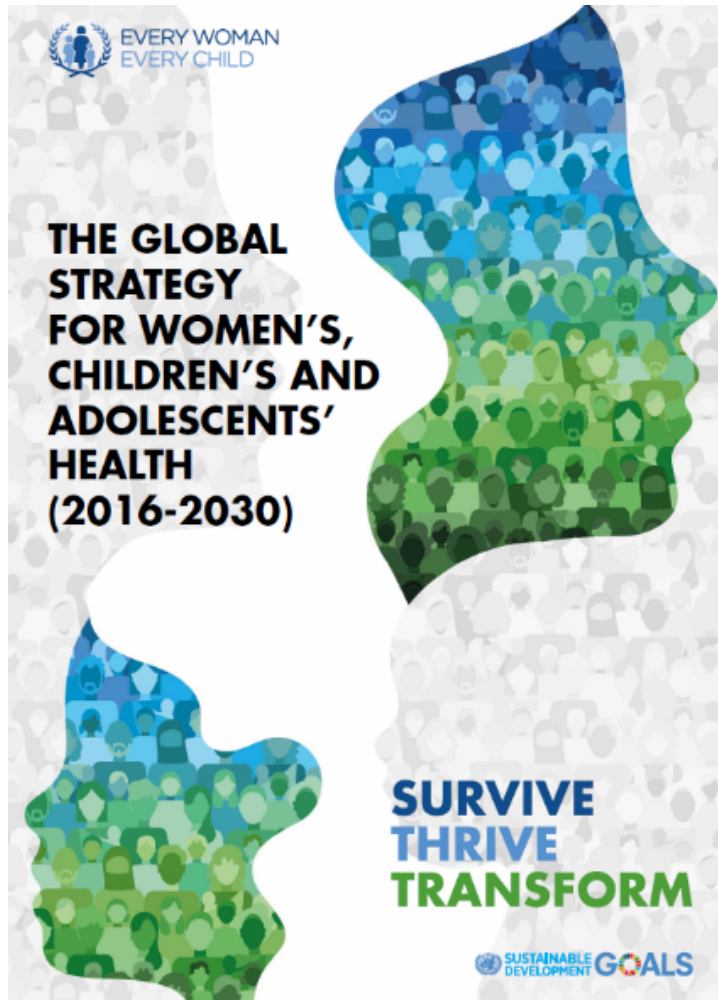
Women's health is affected by each of the 17 SDGs

- Health is both a determinant and outcome of sustainable development interventions
- Women's health intersects with all the SDGs- thus achieving the goals of SDGs would also mean an overall improvement in women's health
 - Many women, children and adolescents worldwide still have little or no access to essential, good-quality health services, education, clean air and water, adequate sanitation and good nutrition.
- Yet- Women and girls can/will be key in achieving each of the SDGs based on their traditional roles as:
 - Caregivers/nurturers
 - Producers in agriculture- food security
- Investment in programmes that enhance access to relevant services and participation by women is key

SDG2- End hunger and secure food security

- Globally, almost one third of employed women work in agriculture (more than 60 per cent of all working women in South Asia and Africa are in agriculture)
- Only 13 per cent women are landholders.
- Not having equal access to land or credit, technology and markets leaves many on the margins of subsistence agriculture.
- When times are tough, gender discrimination means women and girls may be the first to eat less, even as they work harder to secure food for their households.
- For pregnant and lactating women, inadequate food and poor nutrition imposes a risk of anaemia, a leading cause of death during childbirth.
 - This calls for leveraging on the mutually reinforcing nature of SRH and nutrition programming to increase access to iron and folic acid, nutrition education and counselling services

Women Health and Sustainable Development Goals



Objectives

1. SURVIVE

End preventable deaths



2. THRIVE

Ensure health and well-being



3. TRANSFORM

Expand enabling environments

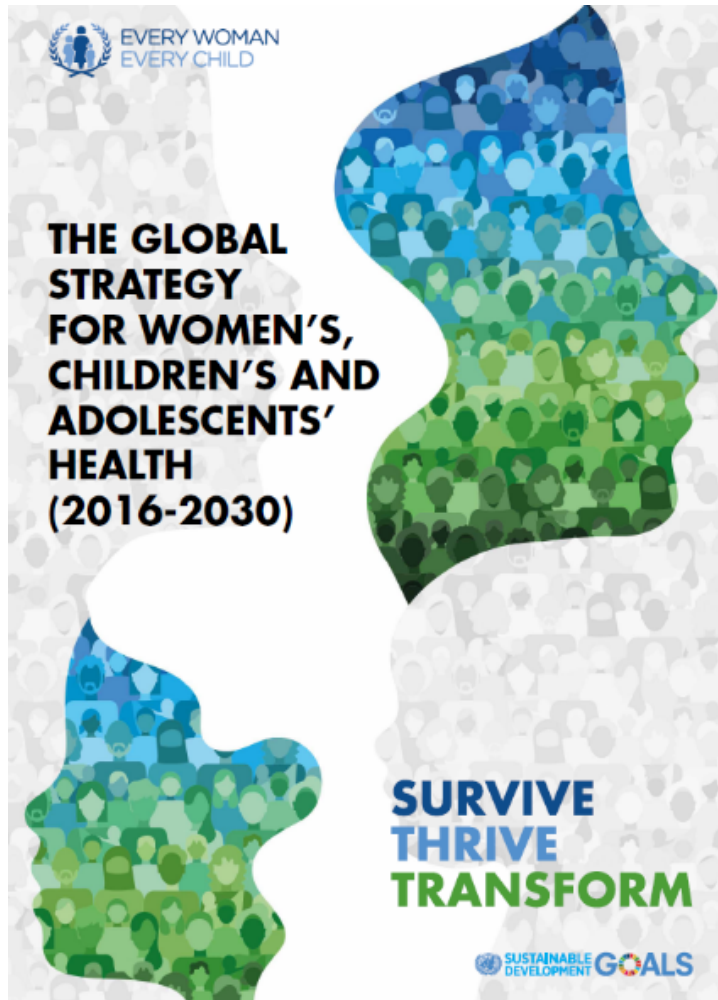
Sustainable Development Goal 3

- Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Targets(13)

- By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births
- By 2030, reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births
- End epidemics of AIDS, TB, malaria, NTDs combat hepatitis, waterborne diseases and other communicable diseases
- Achieve Universal health coverage

Women Health and Sustainable Development Goals



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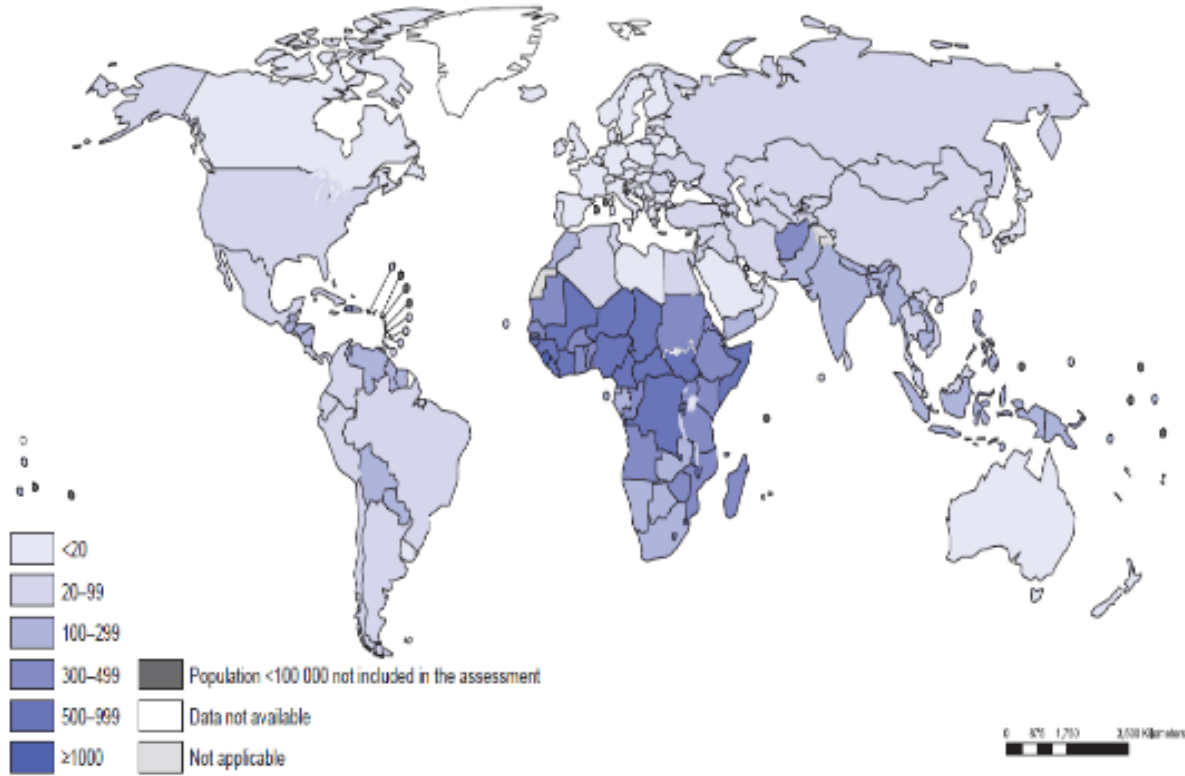
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Expand enabling environments

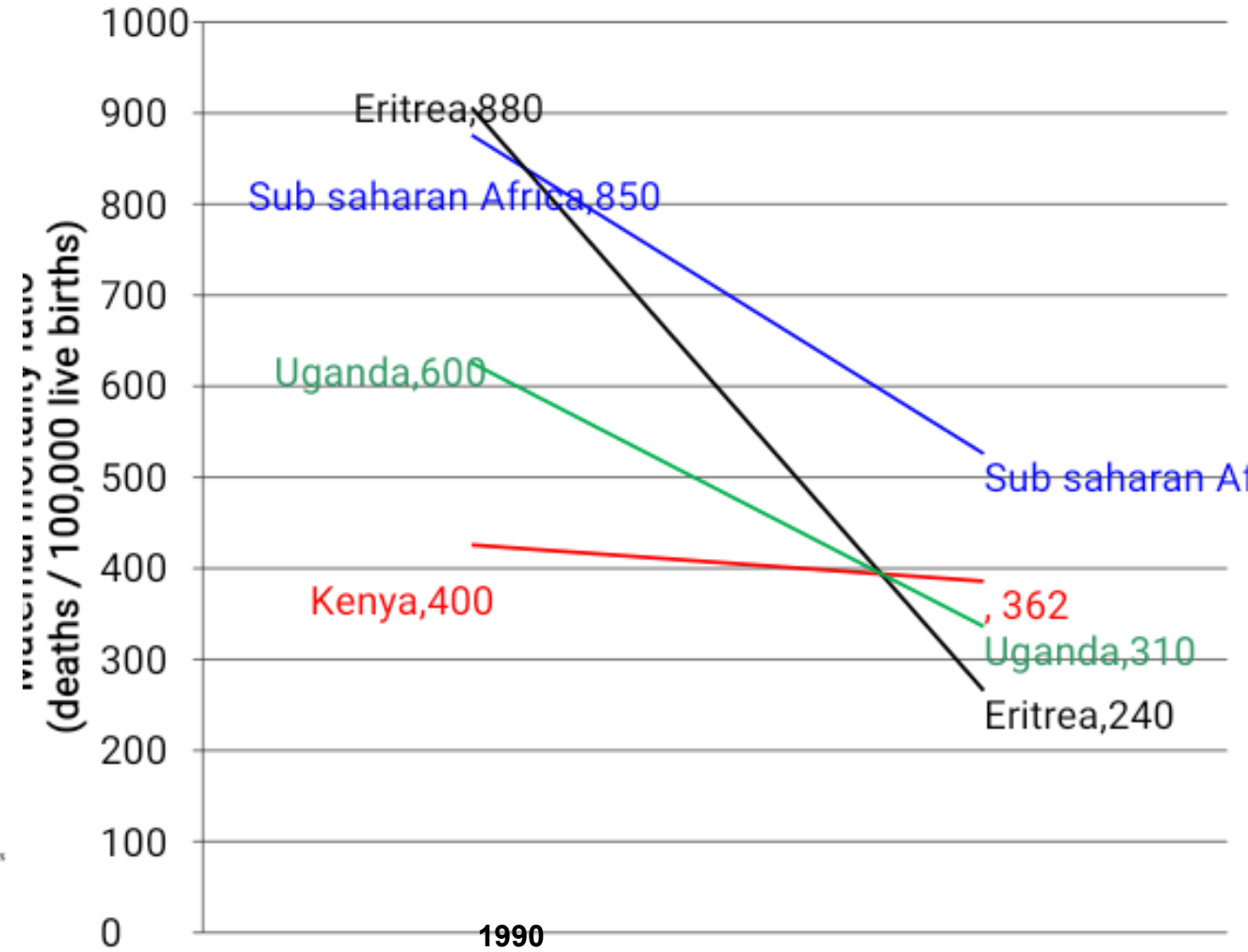


Global maternal mortality

Figure 1. Map with countries by category according to their maternal mortality ratio (MMR, death per 100 000 live births), 2013

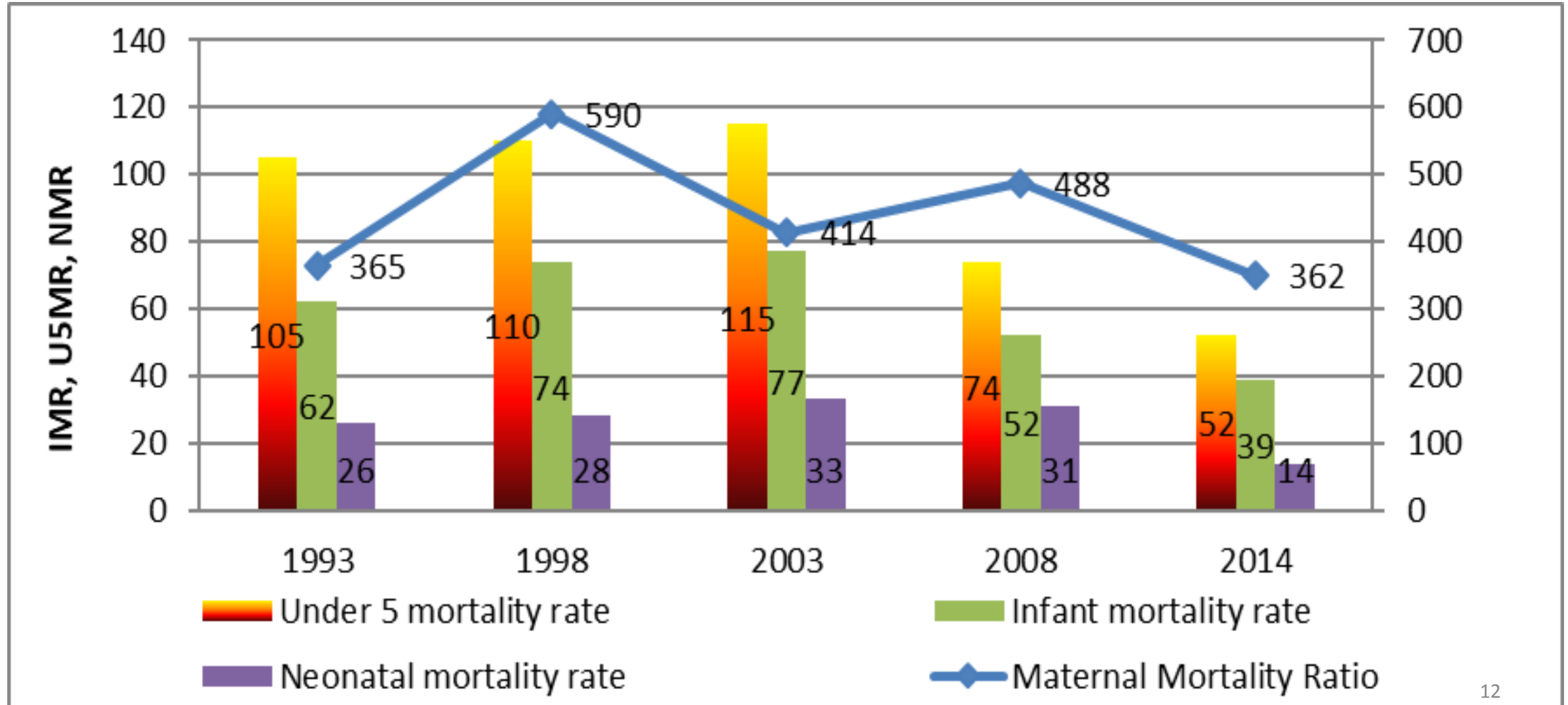


Regional maternal mortality



Trends in Maternal and Child Health Indicators

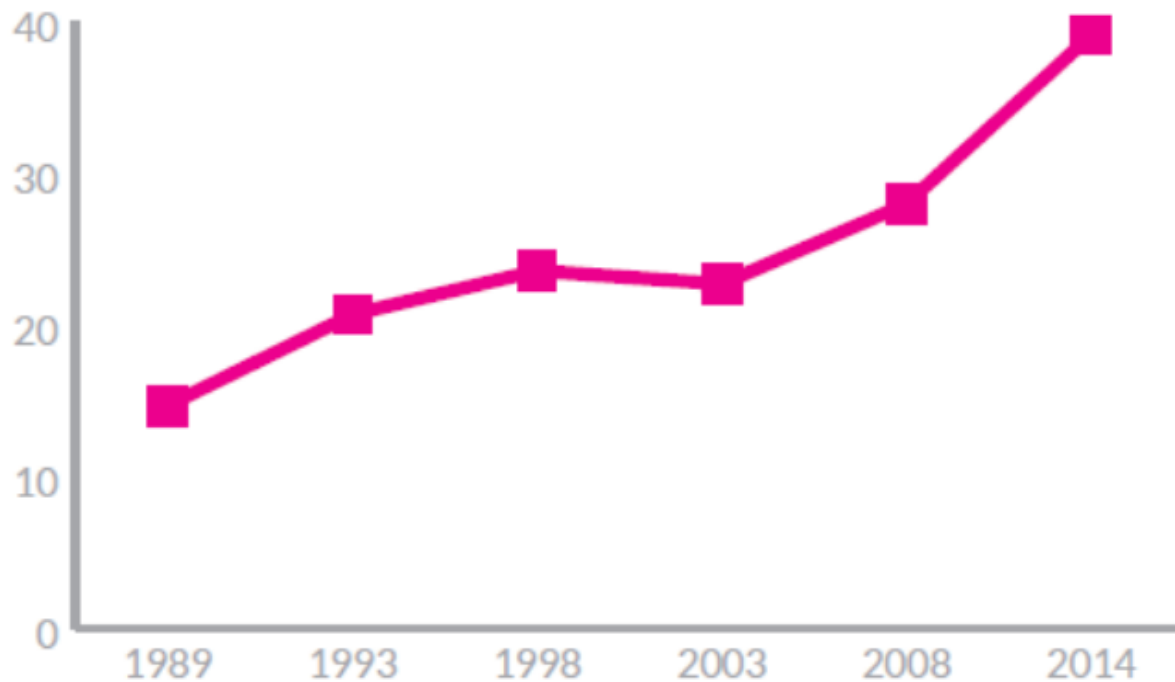
Kenya Health Policy 2014-2030



Maternal Health

- Childbearing begins early in Kenya, with almost one-quarter of women giving birth by age 18 and nearly half by age 20.
- Adolescents are least likely to have discussed family planning either with a fieldworker or at a health facility (KDHS 2014).
- A majority of mothers in Kenya are adolescents who receive least RH information

Percent of Kenya women using a modern contraceptive method



Modern contraception use has increased by **24 percentage points** in two and a half decades.

Kenya's great gains in meeting the FP needs of women are at risk of reversing if more funds are not allocated to support FP programming.

In 2017 alone, **1,472,000** unintended pregnancies were averted due to modern contraceptive use

Funding is insufficient to implement policies

The Kenya RMNCAH Investment Framework outlines a strategy to increase contraceptive use among married women to **70%** and decrease teenage pregnancies to **11%** by 2020

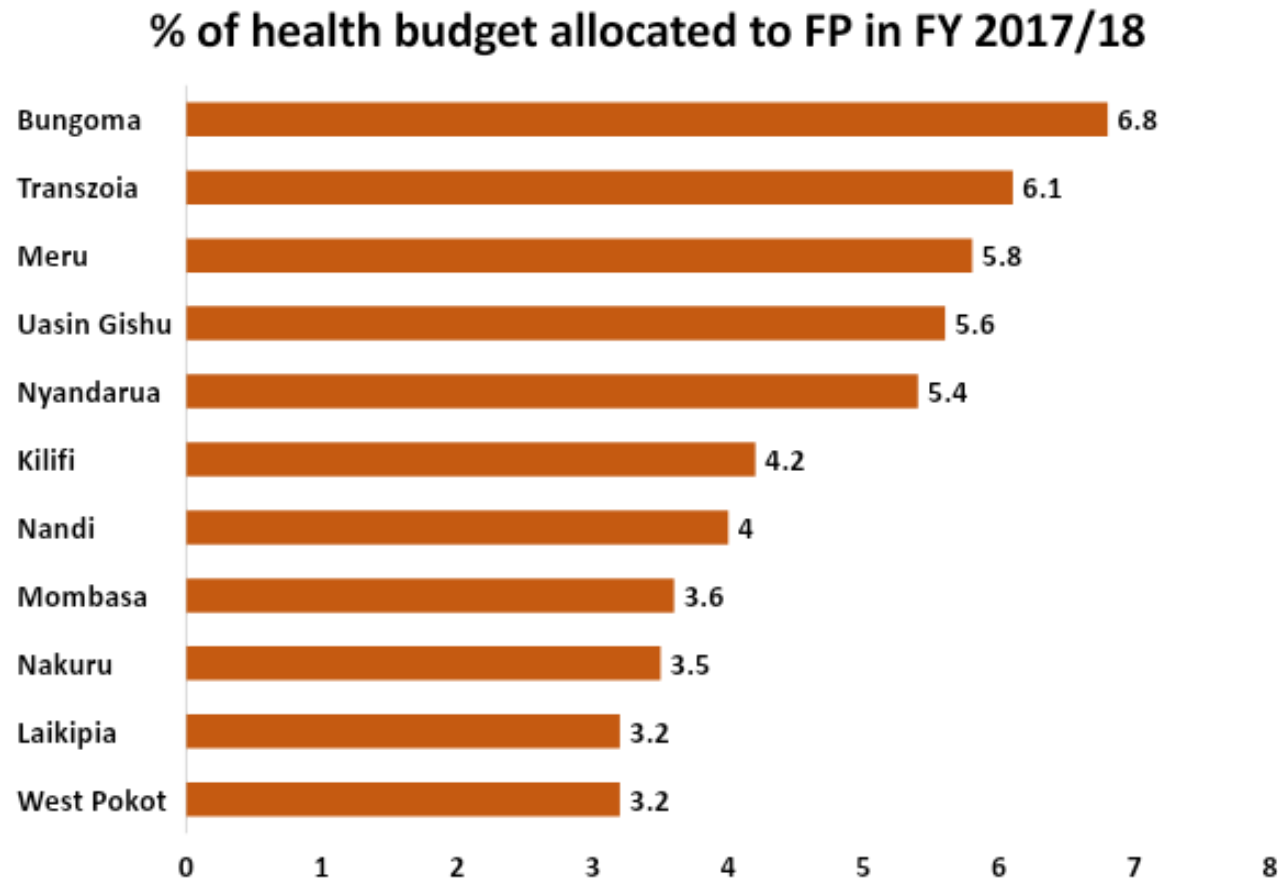


The plan estimated **3.5 Billion KSH** was needed to implement the FP activities in 2017/18, however the national government only allocated **293 million KSH** for FP in that fiscal year

Reserve a specific amount of funding under the Preventive, Promotive & RMNCAH program allocation.



County action is needed to achieve National FP Goals



- All **47 counties** expected to have a costed implementation plan (CIP) and FP budget line by 2020.
- Among 11 counties surveyed in DSW's 2017 FP budget analysis, **only 2 of the counties** have a budget line for FP and **9 counties** have CIPs

Encourage county governments to create county CIPs and FP budget lines.

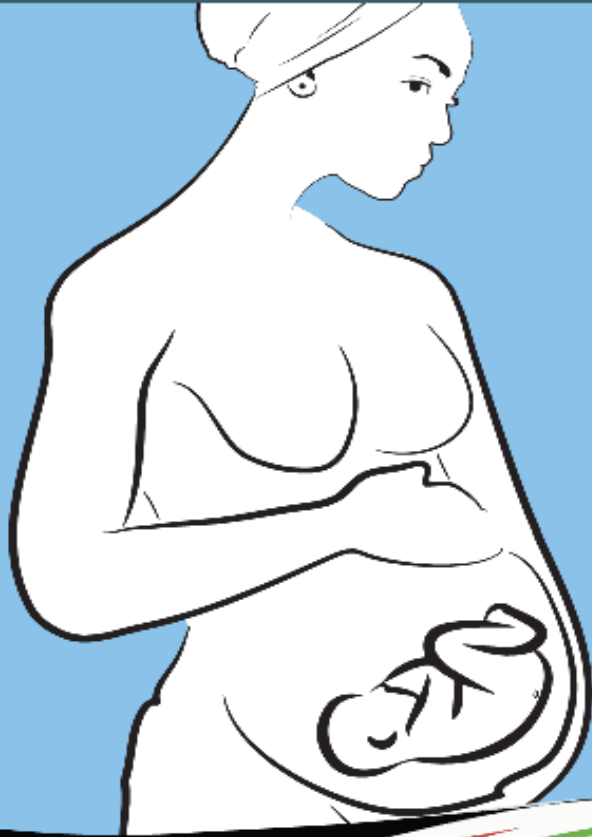
REPUBLIC OF KENYA



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Saving Mothers Lives

Confidential Enquiry into Maternal Deaths in Kenya

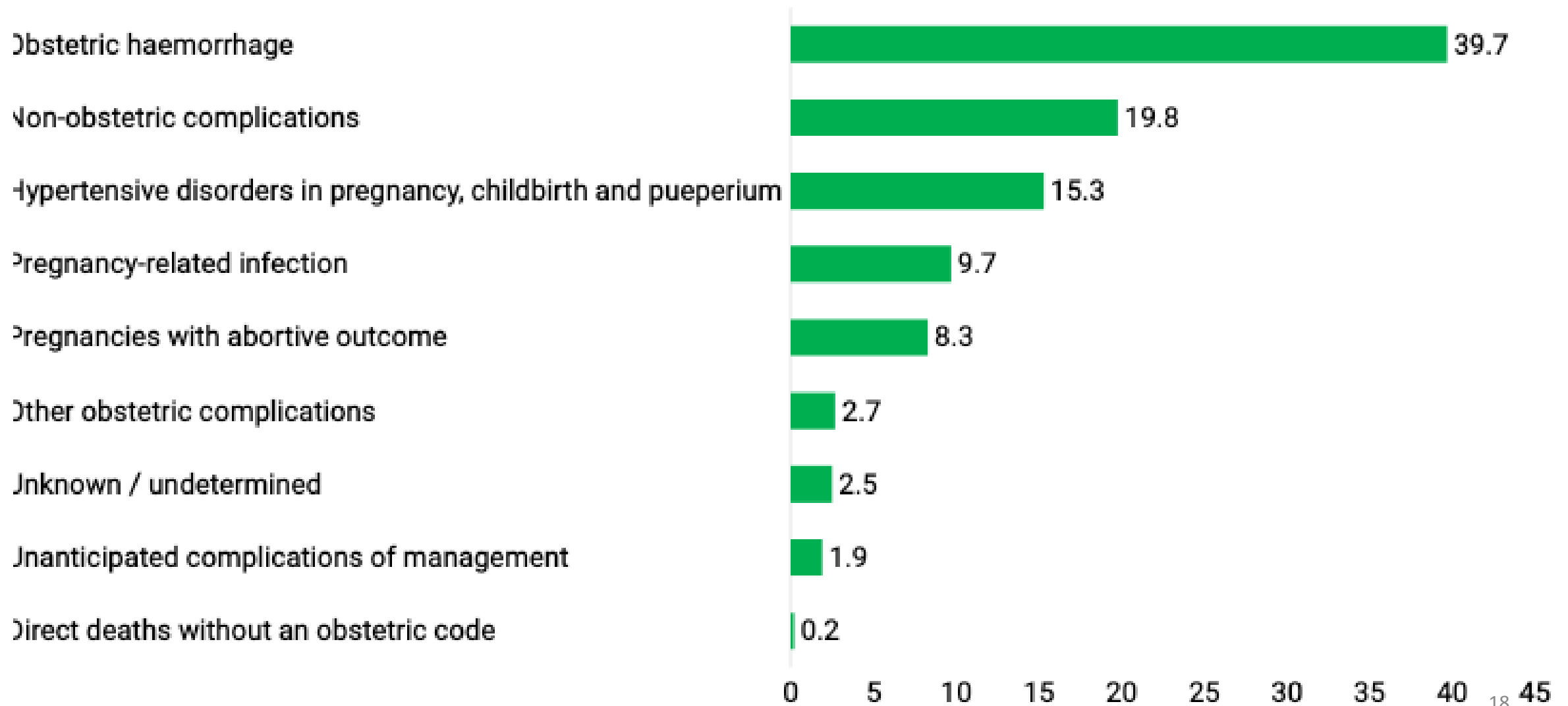


First Report
2017

Confidential Enquiry into Maternal Deaths

For maternal deaths that
occurred in 2014

Underlying causes of Maternal Death



Assessment of quality of care

9 out of 10 records showed that women who died received sub-standard care

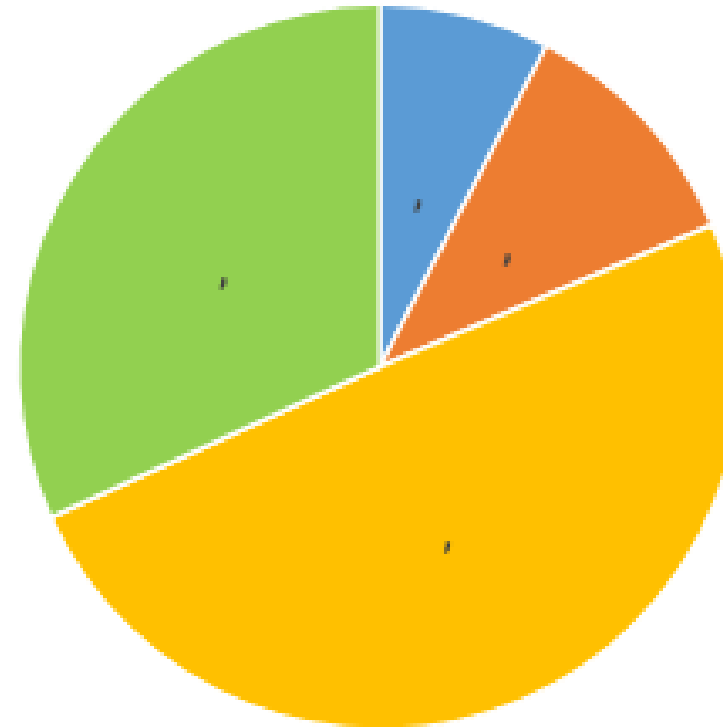
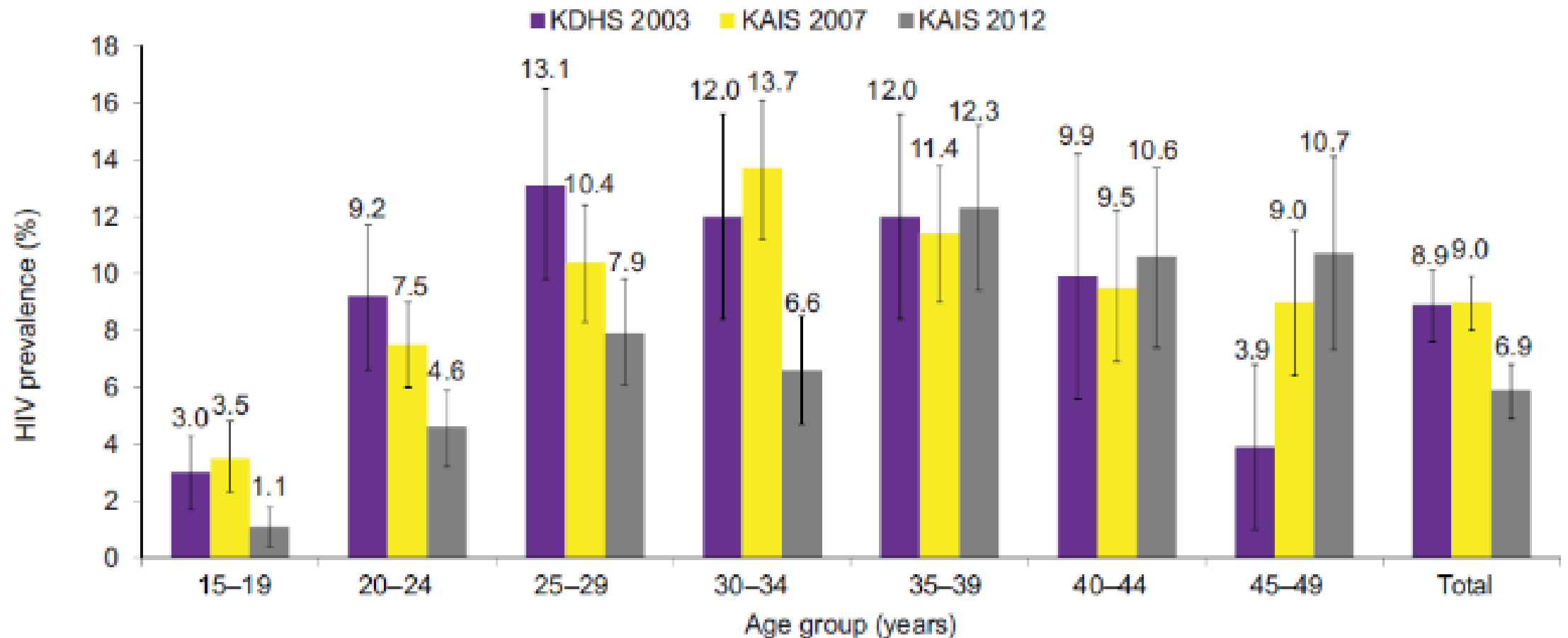
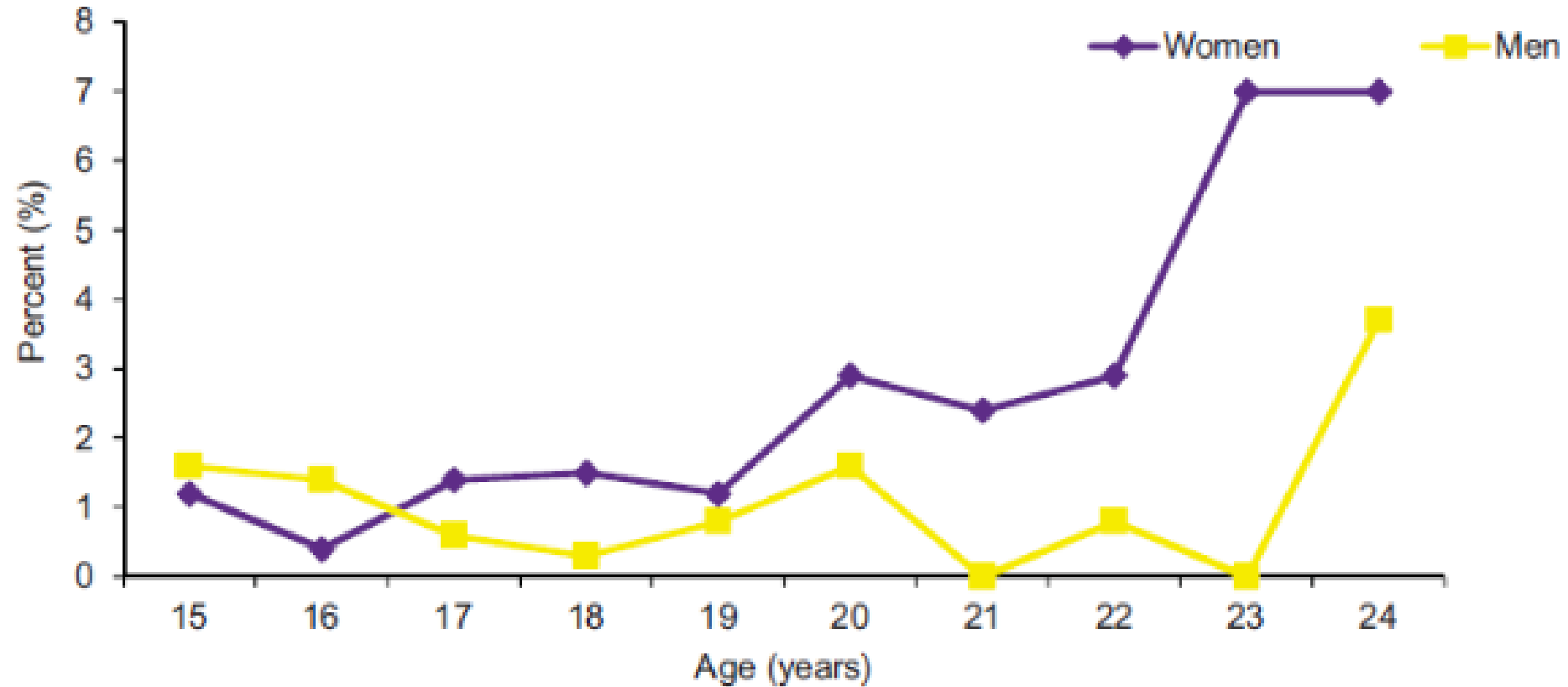


Figure 4.4a: HIV prevalence among women aged 15–49 years: KDHS 2003, KAIS 2007, and KAIS 2012



Among women, there has been a decline in HIV prevalence in younger women aged 15-34 years since 2007.

Figure 3.3b: HIV prevalence among women and men aged 15-24 years, KAIS 2012



Among female youth, HIV prevalence increased linearly with increasing age. Among male youth, HIV prevalence was stable and low until age 24 years.

Non-Communicable Diseases

- First National Survey on NCD Risk Factors (STEPS survey) in 2015.
- 25% of the population is neither on treatment or unknowingly living with high blood pressure and other heart diseases
- Cervical cancer screening has remained quite low. In the KDHS 2014, only 18.8% of women 25-49 years had ever had cervical cancer screening.
- In STEPS 2015, cervical cancer screening coverage rates were similarly low, with 14.2% of women 25-49 years ever screened.
- **Integrated Delivery of Care for NCDs Kenya Country Initiative;** a guideline that adopts a multi-sectoral approach towards combating NCDs to be piloted in Trans-Nzoia, Uasin Gishu and Busia Counties in the next three years (Launched in March 2018).
 - For lifestyle diseases (related to diet) women can play a key role in prevention- as primary decision-makers in food selection and preparation

SDG5: Gender Equality

- A stand alone goal- this is significant
- It is also crosscutting/intersecting with all the other SDGs
- Many of the targets (9) under Goal 5 of the SDGs are embedded in cultural and social norms and values which pose a challenge to change.
- Women's empowerment as a pre-condition for addressing key challenges: poverty (SDG1), inequality and violence against women
- Enhancing gender equality and empowering women is critical to achieving a broad range of the sustainable development
- Empowering women and girls through education also allows them to be involved in decisions at all levels and influence the allocation of resources

Goal 5: Gender Equality

Aim

- To empower women and girls to reach their full potential which requires eliminating all forms of discrimination and violence against them, including harmful practices.
- Seeks to ensure that they have every opportunity for sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights;

Issues to address

Harmful practices

- FGM- male driven
- Early marriage
- Sexual Gender based violence
- Food taboos/disproportionate division of food at household level by gender
- Unmet need for FP
- Teenage pregnancy

SDG 7: Access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy

- Women are primary energy managers in the household
- At one level women contribute to deforestation/environmental destruction in search of energy but also suffer the consequences of poor energy
- Globally, more than 3 billion people cook with wood, dung, coal and other solid fuels on open fires or traditional stoves.
- Africa continues to largely depend on unsustainably harvested traditional biomass energy in the form of charcoal and firewood as cooking fuels, both of which result in many deaths from indoor air pollution.
 - responsible for respiratory infections among children
 - Indoor pollution is also responsible for increased pregnancy loss
- Indoor air pollution from using combustible fuels for household energy caused 4.3 million deaths in 2012, with women and girls accounting for 6 out of every 10 of these(UN Women, 2018)

Advocacy for clean energy

- If 50 per cent of people who use solid fuels indoors gained access to cleaner fuels, health-system cost savings would amount to US\$165 million annually.
- Gains in health-related productivity would range from 17 to 62 per cent in urban areas and 6 to 15 per cent in rural areas
- As part of rural technology that works for women:
 - Advocate for clean energy: cooking gas, electricity
 - More apt- Invest in solar energy for cooking (solar jiko) and lighting
- Investment in clean energy is a plus for women's health and frees time for engagement in productive activities
- Clean energy safeguards the environment to halt deforestation (SDG 15)

What Opportunities to improve women's health?

- Universal health care- but what does this mean for women?
 - Engagement with the county government for accountability
- Advocacy
 - Health literacy
 - Advocacy for food security and good nutrition
- Investment in FP as a 'best buy intervention' in development and health outcomes(SDG 3/5)
- Social Protection programmes
 - Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) - what do we do to ensure access?
- Free Education- but what must we do to keep girls in school to improve transition and retention?(SDG4)
- Gender responsive budgeting- to assure inclusivity(SDG 5)

What needs to be done

- While the SDGs provide a framework for action, the capacity to use them to deliver results at the national level will depend on various factors, including:
 - Political commitment and resource mobilization
 - Allocation of adequate resources and the implementation of effective policies and programmes.
 - Monitoring in order to ensure that global commitments become a reality for women and girls on the ground:
 - A clear implementation and monitoring framework needs to be in place so that “no one is left behind”
- Building and strengthening health system accountability:
 - more efficient and inclusive health accountability systems
 - Develop **platforms for advocacy to improve** health literacy among community members
 - Investment in Improving health system data capacity