



Quality, Equity, Dignity

A Network for Improving Quality of Care  
for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health

# Addressing inequalities through the MPDSR system: Lessons learned from Sierra Leone

Tuesday, 8 March 2022

1pm Freetown, 2pm Geneva, 6:30pm New Delhi



# Addressing inequalities through the MPDSR system: Lessons learned from Sierra Leone

INTRODUCTION

8 March 2022



**Ms Francesca Palestra,**  
Technical Officer, Maternal Health Team  
Department of Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health and Ageing (MCA)  
WHO Geneva



# Addressing inequalities through the MPDSR system: Lessons learned from Sierra Leone

**Introduction:** Ms Francesca Palestra, Technical Officer, Department of Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health and Ageing, WHO Geneva

**Part 1: Sierra Leone's experience in implementing the MPDSR system:**

**Dr Francis Moses**, Programme Manager, Reproductive Health and Family Planning Programme  
Ministry of Health and Sanitation, Sierra Leone

**Part 2: Panel Discussion:**

**Matron Margaret Mannah**, Programme Manager, National Quality Management Programme

**Dr James Squire**, Programme Manager, National Disease Surveillance Programme  
Ministry of Health and Sanitation, Sierra Leone

**Questions & Answers**

**Closing remarks:** Ms Francesca Palestra, WHO Geneva

# Addressing inequalities through the MPDSR system: Lessons learned from Sierra Leone

## QUESTIONS

For the Questions & Answers we invite questions from all participants.

Please place your questions in the CHATBOX



# Country Experience: Addressing Preventable Maternal and Perinatal Deaths During Pregnancy and Childbirth by Implementing The Maternal And Perinatal Death Surveillance And Response (MPDSR) System



**Dr Francis Moses**  
Program Manager for Reproductive Health and Family Planning  
Ministry of Health and Sanitation, Sierra Leone





# Content

01 Background

02 Current MDSR System

03 Behind the numbers

04 Challenges, Way forward and  
Recommendations

# Key Health and Demographic Statistics



**7.5+ Million  
Population**



**51 Hospitals**



**1,250+  
Primary Health Care Units**



**0.34/1000  
Doctors/Nurse/Midwives Density**



**250,000+  
Annual Deliveries**



**250,000+  
Estimated number of Live Births**

# Key Maternal and Child Health Statistics



**ANC1 (98%)  
ANC4 (76%)**



**83%  
Institutional Birth Rate**



**87%  
Skilled Birth Attendant  
Rate**



**54.5  
Early Initiation of Breast  
Feeding**



**81%  
Newborn Dried After  
Birth**



**21%  
Modern Contraceptive  
prevalence rate**



# Key Impact Indicators



**717/100,000**  
**Maternal Mortality**  
**Rate**



**24/1000**  
**Stillbirth Rate**



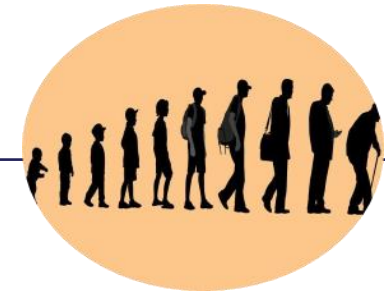
**31/1000**  
**Neonatal Mortality Rate**



**122/1000**  
**Under-five Mortality Rate**



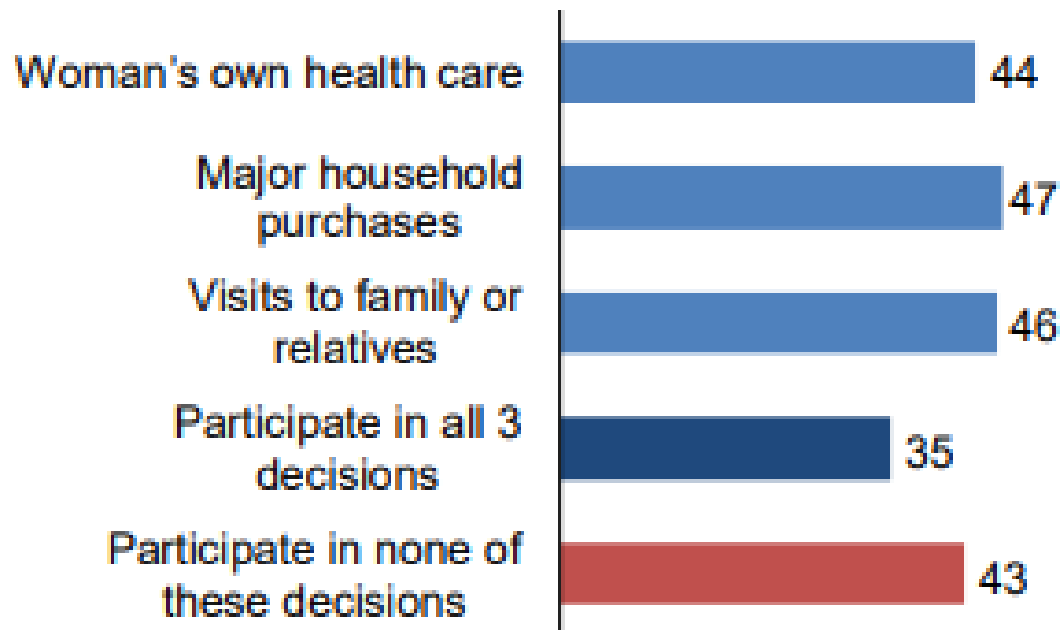
**106/1000**  
**Adolescent Birth Rate**



**54.3**  
**Life Expectancy at Birth**

# Gender Related Statistics

*Percentage of married women participating in decision making*



*Percentage of women participating in decision Making for Family Planning among current user of FP*

Background characteristic	Mainly wife	Wife and husband jointly	Mainly husband	
<b>Age</b>				
15-19	55.6	36.8	7.5	0.0
20-24	43.6	38.0	18.4	0.0
25-29	50.6	32.9	16.5	0.0
30-34	46.5	38.1	15.3	0.1
35-39	52.8	35.2	12.0	0.0
40-44	53.3	32.7	13.9	0.0
45-49	46.2	39.2	14.6	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>49.7</b>	<b>35.5</b>	<b>14.8</b>	<b>0.0</b>

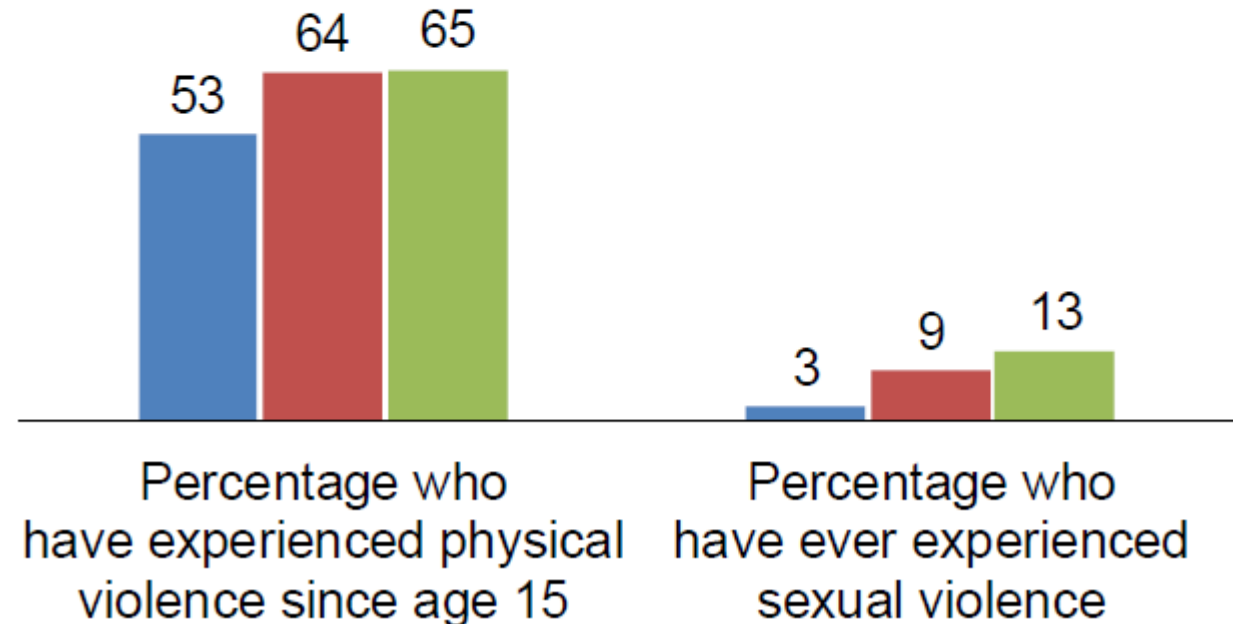
# Key Gender Related Statistics

Women's Experience of Violence by Marital Status (DHS 2019)

■ Never married    ■ Married or living together    ■ Divorced/separated/widowed

## GBV

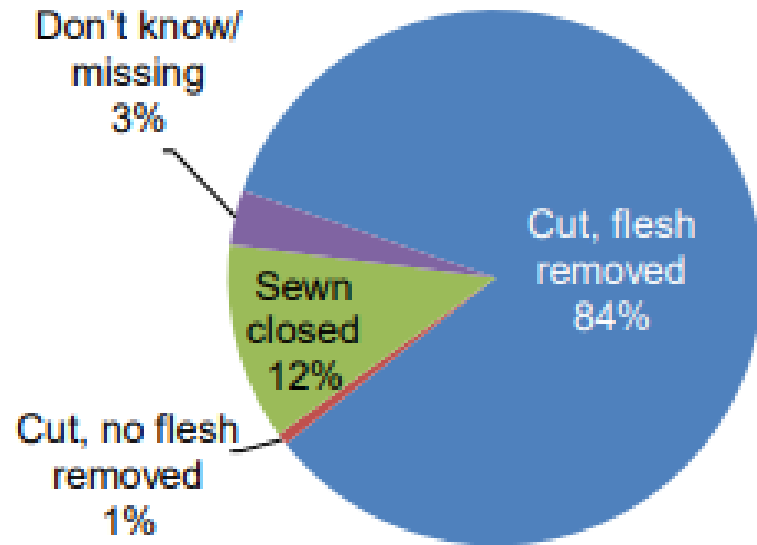
*Overall, 61% of women aged 15 to 49 have experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence since age 15.*



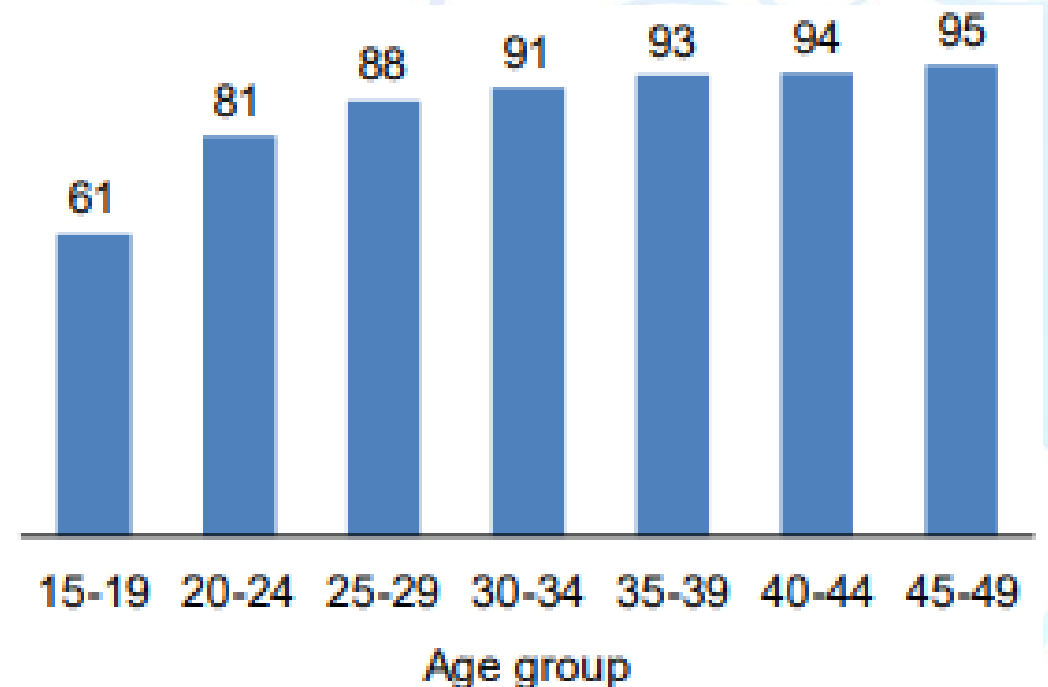
# Prevalence of Female Genital Cutting

83% of women age 15-49 are circumcised

Types of female genital cutting



Female genital cutting by age





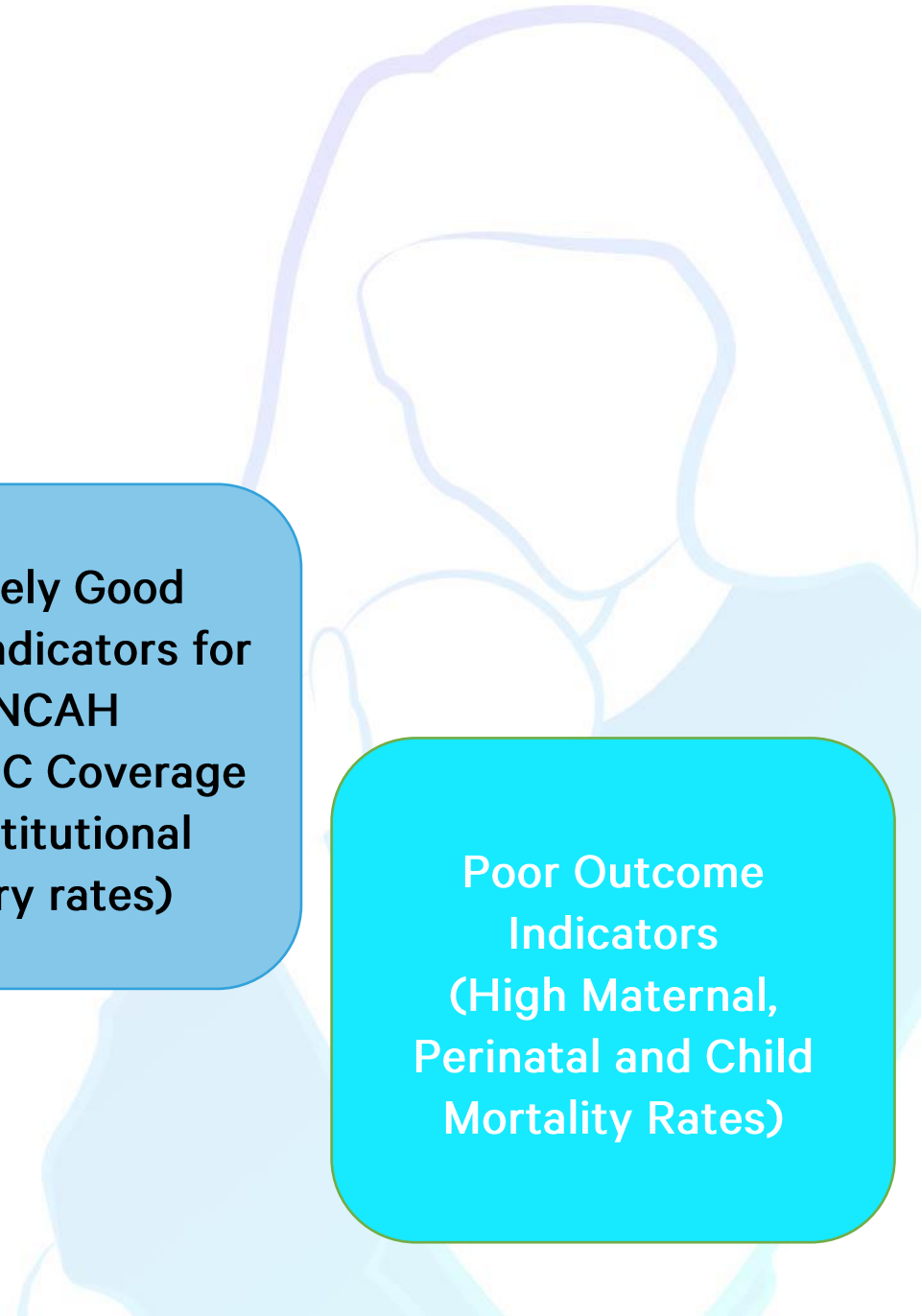
# In Summary

Poor Gender and  
Women's  
Empowerment  
Indicators

Inadequate Skilled  
Human Resources for  
Health

Relatively Good  
Process Indicators for  
RMNCAH  
(Good ANC Coverage  
and Institutional  
delivery rates)

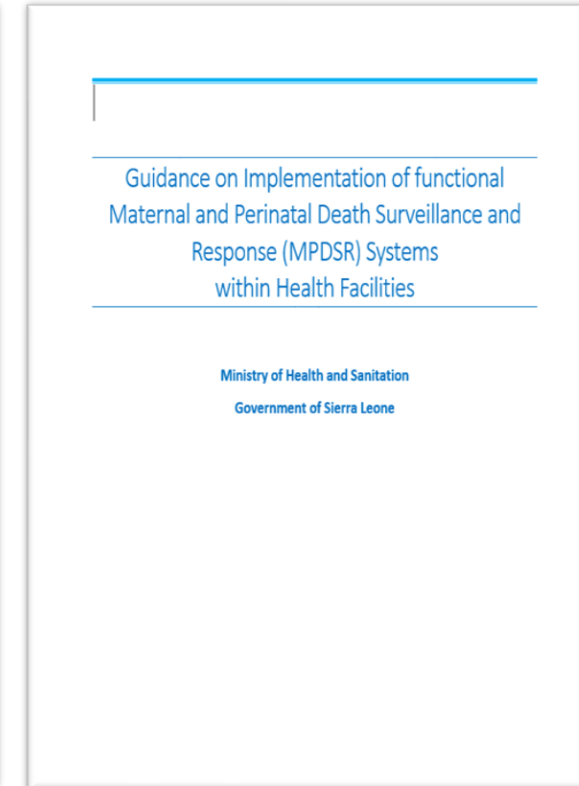
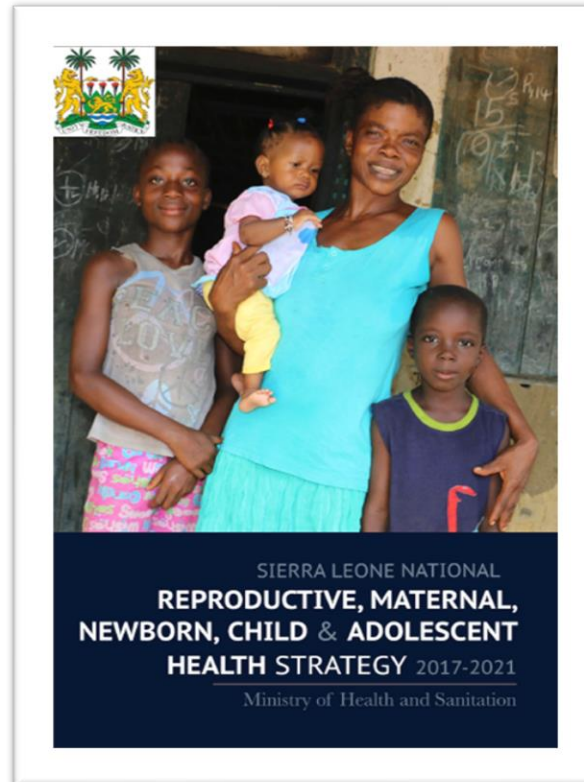
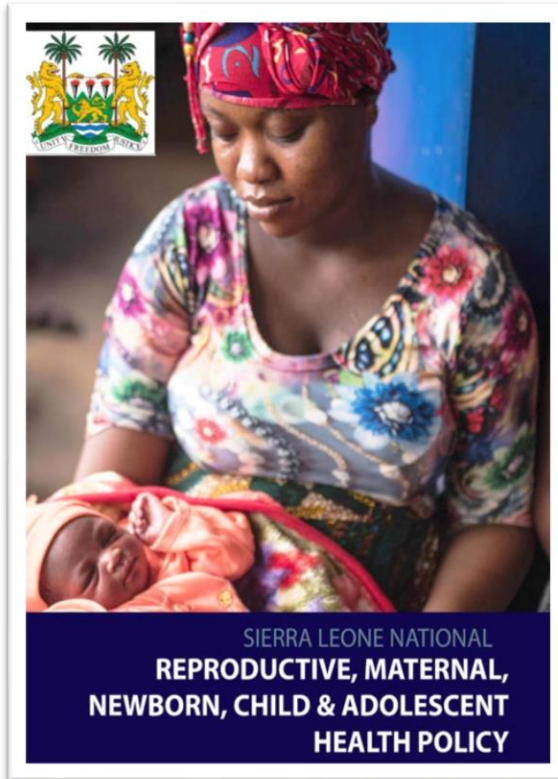
Poor Outcome  
Indicators  
(High Maternal,  
Perinatal and Child  
Mortality Rates)



# Goals of RMNCAH Investment Case and Midterm Development Plan

- Achieve **gender equity and equality** in all sectors and enable women to take their rightful position in national development, and political leadership and decision-making;
- Eliminate all forms of **GBV and Discrimination**
  - Drastically reduce (**by more than 50 percent**) the number of women experiencing GBV
- **Health Systems Strengthening** for RMNCAH
  - Accelerate reduction of preventable deaths of women, children and adolescents and ensure their health and well being.

# Institutionalization of MPDSR in Sierra Leone



MPDSR is embedded in Sierra Leone's  
National Policy and Strategy for RMNCAH

MDSR  
Nationwide

PDSR  
In 13 Hospitals  
with SCBUs

# MPDSR System Objective



## Reporting System

To generate accurate and timely maternal and perinatal mortality data



## Review System

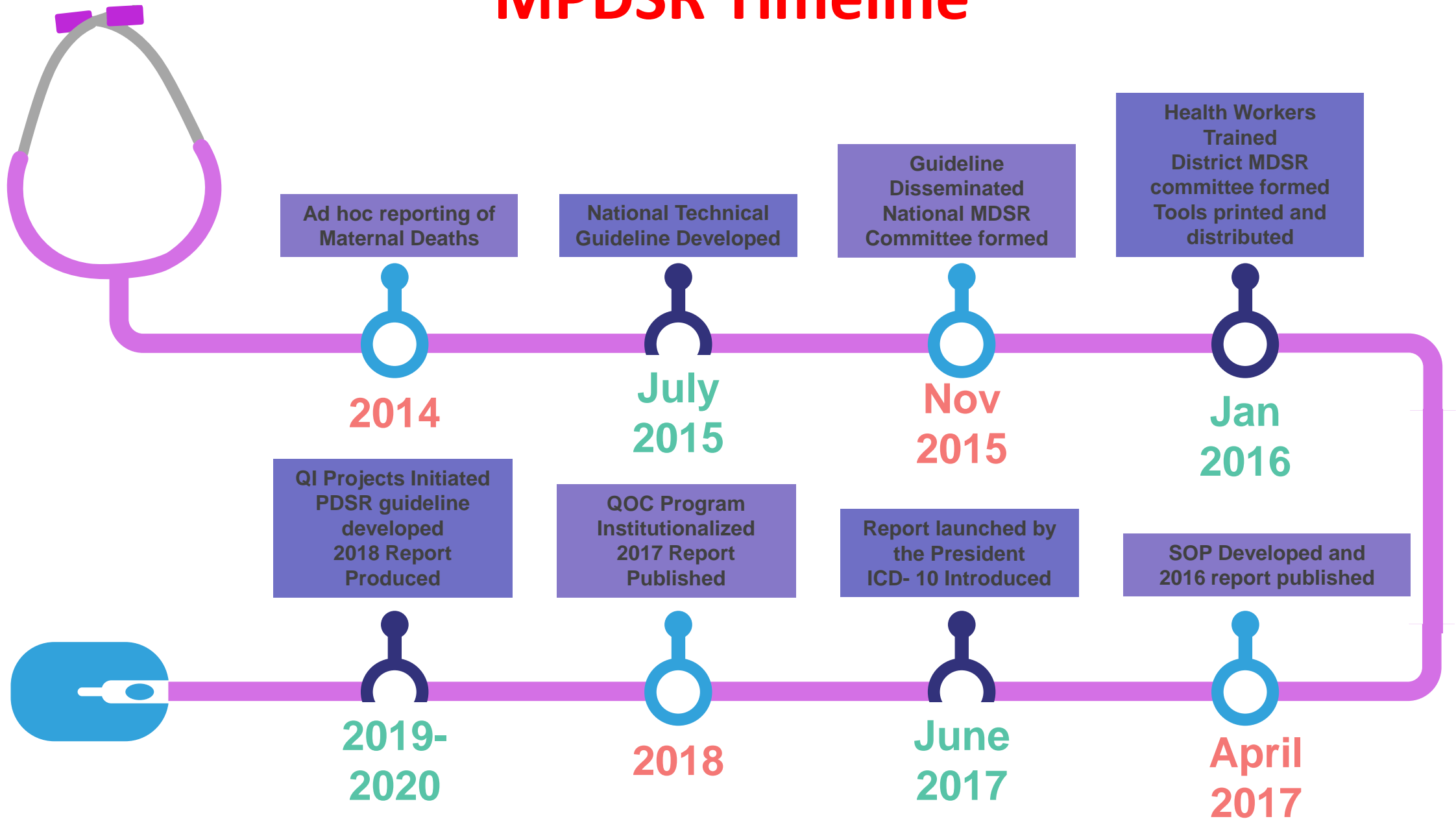
To **identify** major medical and non-medical causes of maternal and perinatal death.

To formulate appropriate **interventions** to address these causes.

To institute **improvements** in the service delivery system.



# MPDSR Timeline



# Surveillance System for MPDSR

## Maternal and Perinatal Death Screening, Notification and Reporting



MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SANITATION  
REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

### TECHNICAL GUIDELINES FOR INTEGRATED DISEASE SURVEILLANCE AND RESPONSE



THIRD EDITION

JANUARY 2020

Disease	Week:	
	Cases	Deaths
Acute Flaccid Paralysis		
Acute Viral Haemorrhagic Fever		
Acute jaundice syndrome syndrome		
Adverse events following immunization		
Animal bite – Dog		
Animal Bite – Snake		
Bacterial Meningitis		
Cholera		
COVID-19 (Suspected)		
Diarrhoea with severe dehydration in < 5 years		
Dracunculiasis (Guinea worm)		
Dysentery (Bloody diarrhoea)		
Measles		
Malnutrition severe		
Total Clinical Malaria cases		
Total Malaria cases tested		
Total Malaria cases positive		
<b>Maternal death</b>		
Monkey Pox		
Neonatal Tetanus		
Non-Neonatal Tetanus		
<b>Perinatal and Neonatal Death – Stillbirth</b>		
<b>Perinatal and Neonatal Death - Early Neonatal</b>		
<b>Perinatal and Neonatal Death - Late Neonatal</b>		
<b>Pneumonia severe</b>		
Typhoid Fever		
Yellow Fever		

### Monthly Summary Reproductive Health Services - HF3

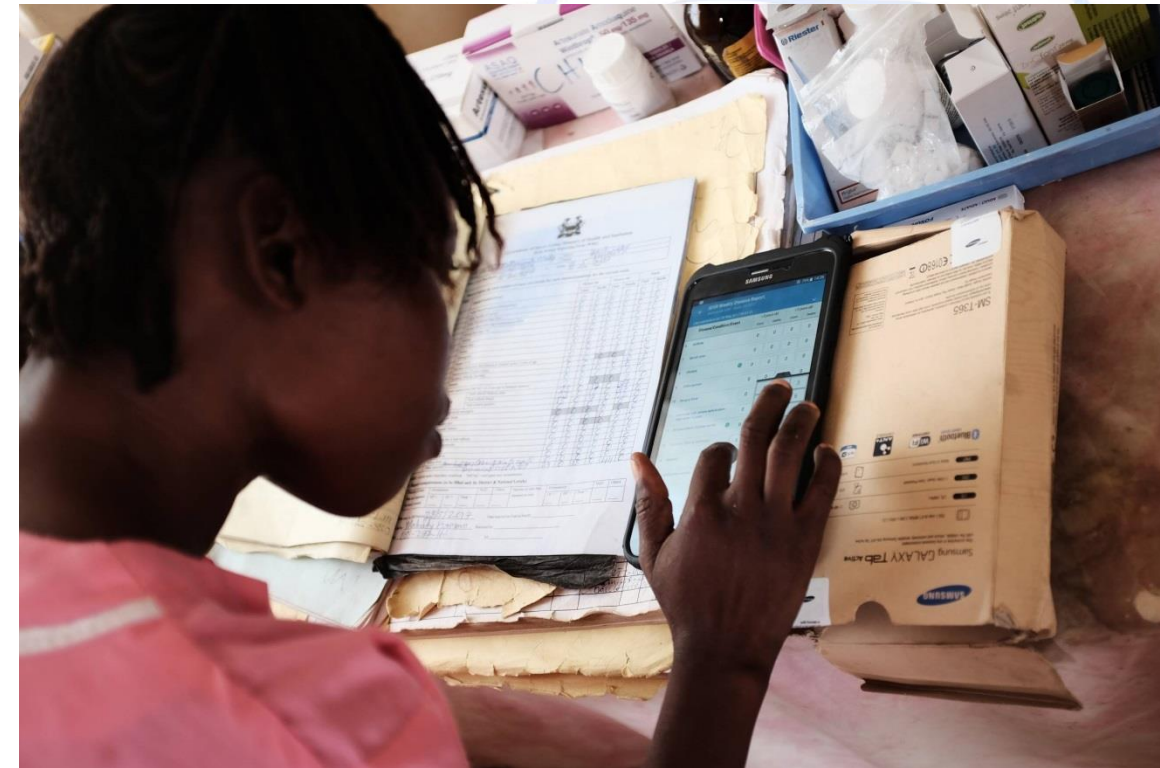
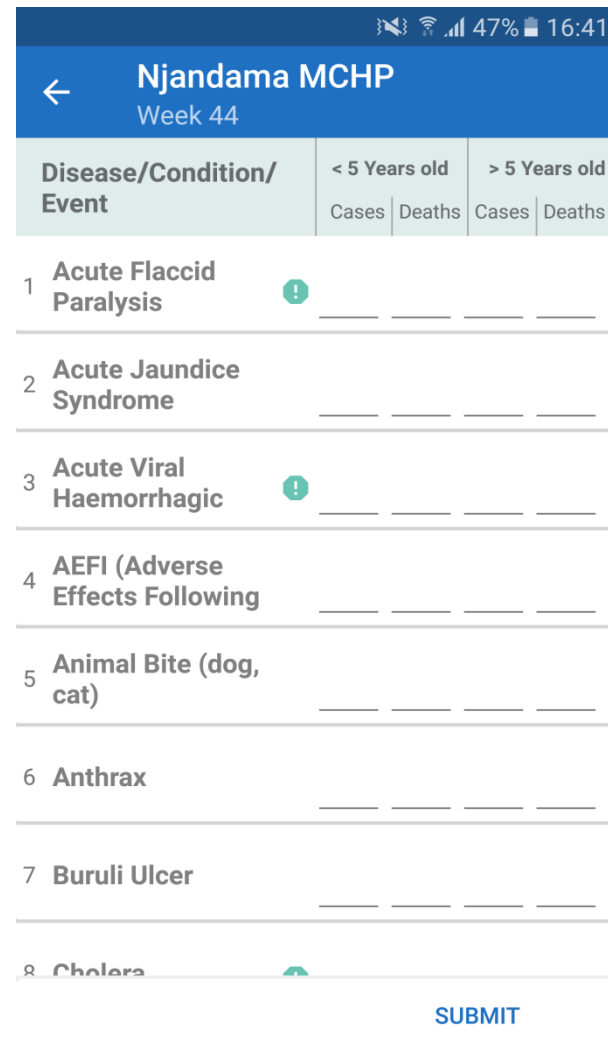
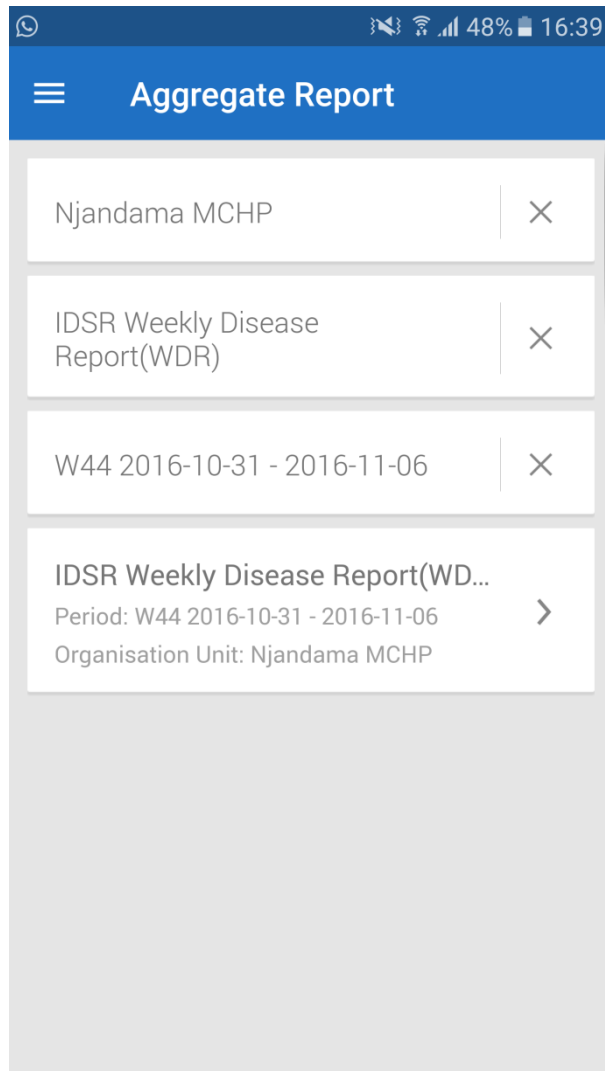
Facility name and type:				Chiefdom:	
Reporting Officer:				Signature:	
ANC Iron Folic Acid supplementation 3rd repeat				Outcome of delivery in facility (ref Deliv Reg)	HPV 1st dose
				Live birth in facility	HPV 2nd dose
ANC deworming medication				Still birth fresh in facility	
ANC 1st visit - screened for syphilis				Still birth macerated in facility	
ANC IPTp 1st dose				Birth weighed within 24 hours	
ANC IPTp 2nd dose				Birth weight under 2.5 kg	Normal Delivery
ANC IPTp 3rd dose				Live birth <=36 weeks gestation	Assisted Vaginal Deliv
				Breastfed within 1 hour of birth	Caesarian Section

Maternal cases and death in facility	Cases	Death				
		All ages	10-14 yrs	15-19 yrs	20-24 yrs	
Obstetric - pregnancy abortive						
Obstetric - pregnancy induced hypertension						Misoprostol ONLY
Obstetric - Haemorrhage						Combined (Misopros
Obstetric - Pregnancy related infection						Manual Vacuum Aspi
Obstetric - Ruptured uterus						Surgical (Dilatation an
Obstetric - ectopic pregnancy						
Obstetric - obstructed labor						
Indirect - Malaria						
Indirect - Anaemia						
Indirect - other obstetric complications						Postpart
Obstetric - Other complications						Postpartum woman p
Unknown or undetermined						Postpartum woman p

NOTE: Any maternal death in community must be reported on form HF4 and NOT here

# Electronic Data Entry for IDSR

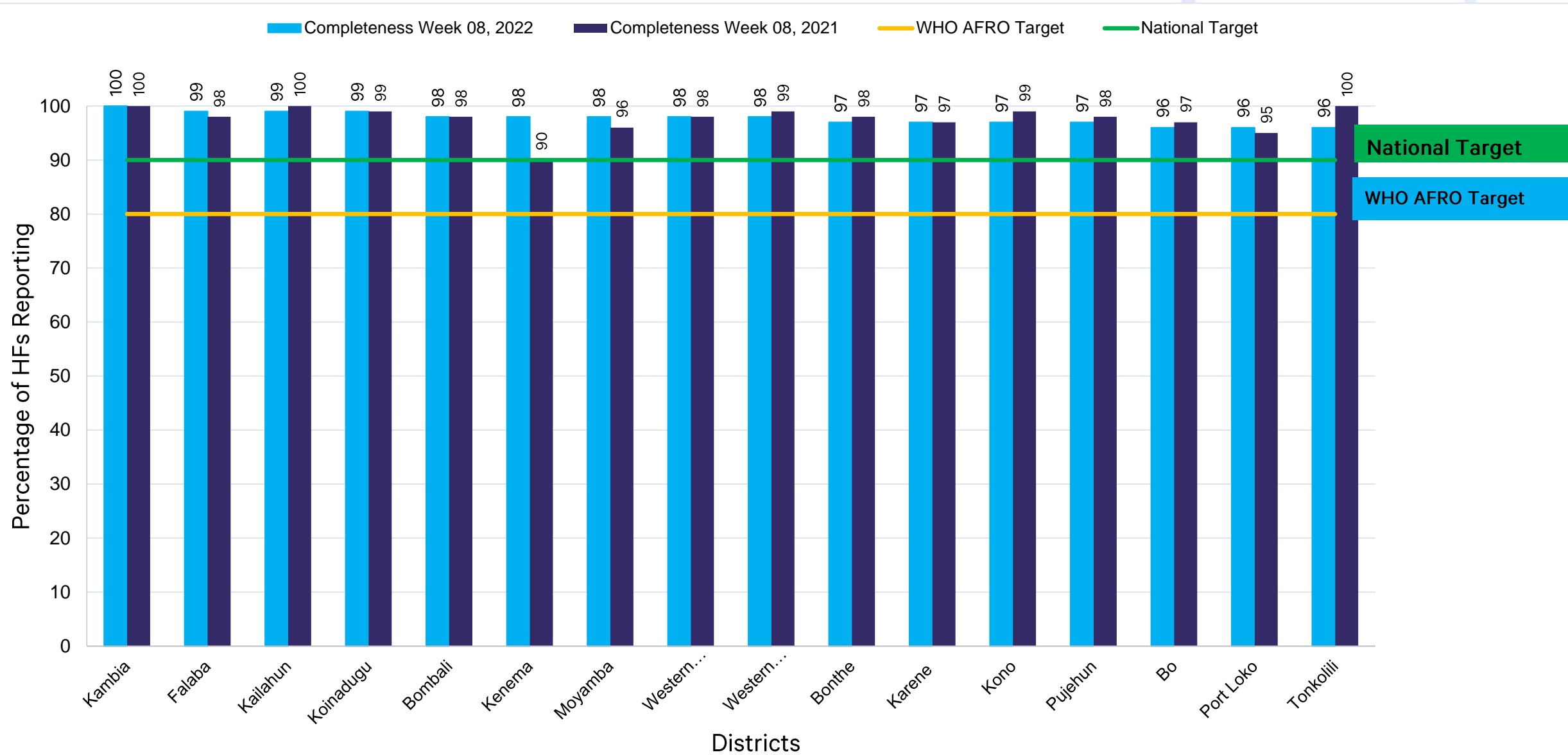
Easier, Faster... Hence more compliance to reporting weekly data



A frontline health worker spends few minutes on Monday morning to transmit weekly surveillance data



# Health Facility Weekly IDSR Reporting Rate





# Notification and Surveillance for Maternal Death



**MMR (2019 DHS): 717 (CI:615 - 1,099)**  
*Estimated Number of Maternal Deaths*  
**2,081 (CI:1,785 – 3,190)**

**2016**

**706**

**2017**

**551**

**2018**

**599**

**2019**

**581**

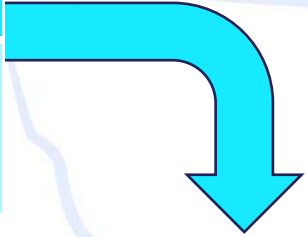
**2020**

**546**

Registered  
Deliveries on  
DHIS2 in 2020  
**221,458**

**MMR (Carshon-Marsh et al, 2021): 510 (CI:483 -538)**  
*Estimated Number of Maternal Deaths*  
**1,480 (CI:1,402 – 1,562)**

MMR Estimate Carshon-Marsh et al, 2021	Expected Maternal Deaths	Reported Maternal Deathss	% Reported	Unreported (Gap?)
<b>510</b> (CI:483 -538)	1,480 (CI:1,402 – 1,562)	546	37% (35% - 39%)	63% ( 61% - 65%)



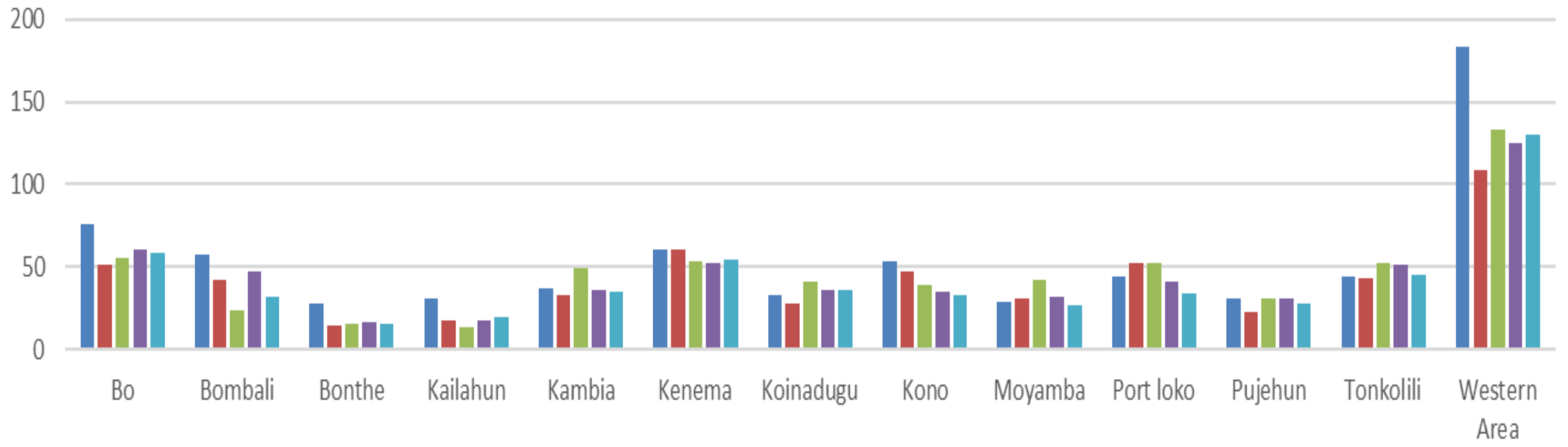
**60% of  
Maternal  
Deaths  
unknown**



# Reported Maternal Death by District (2016-2020)



Count of District



Year

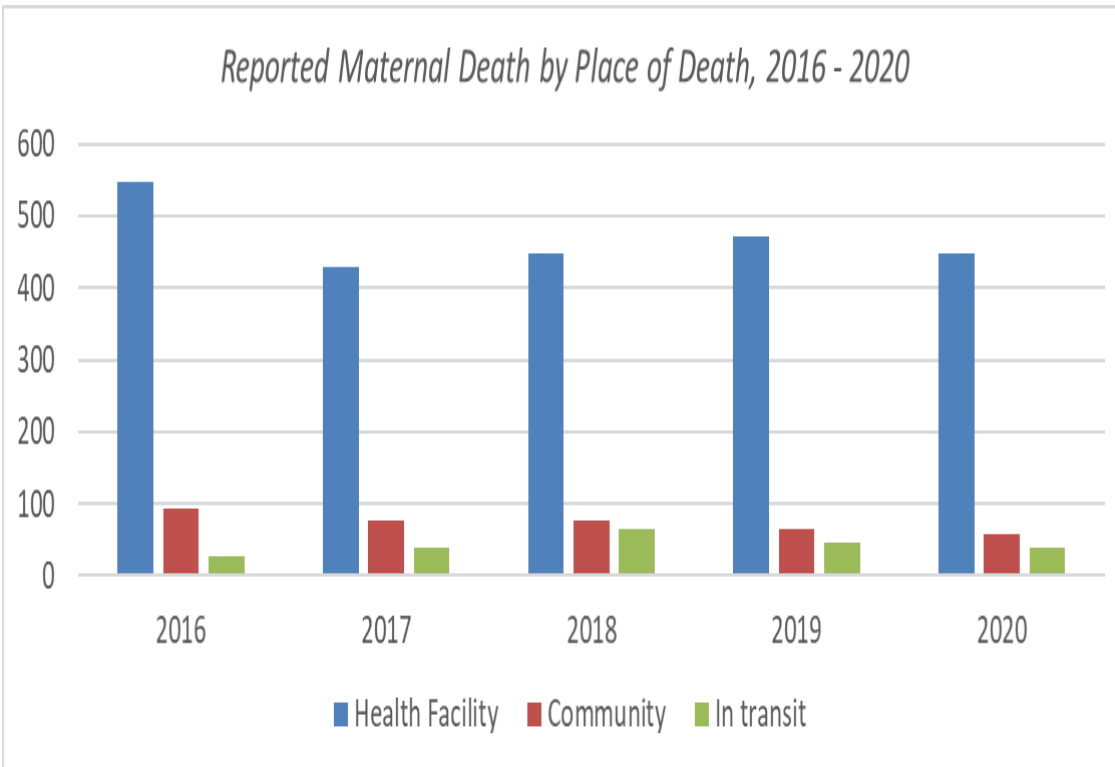
2016 2017 2018 2019 2020

District

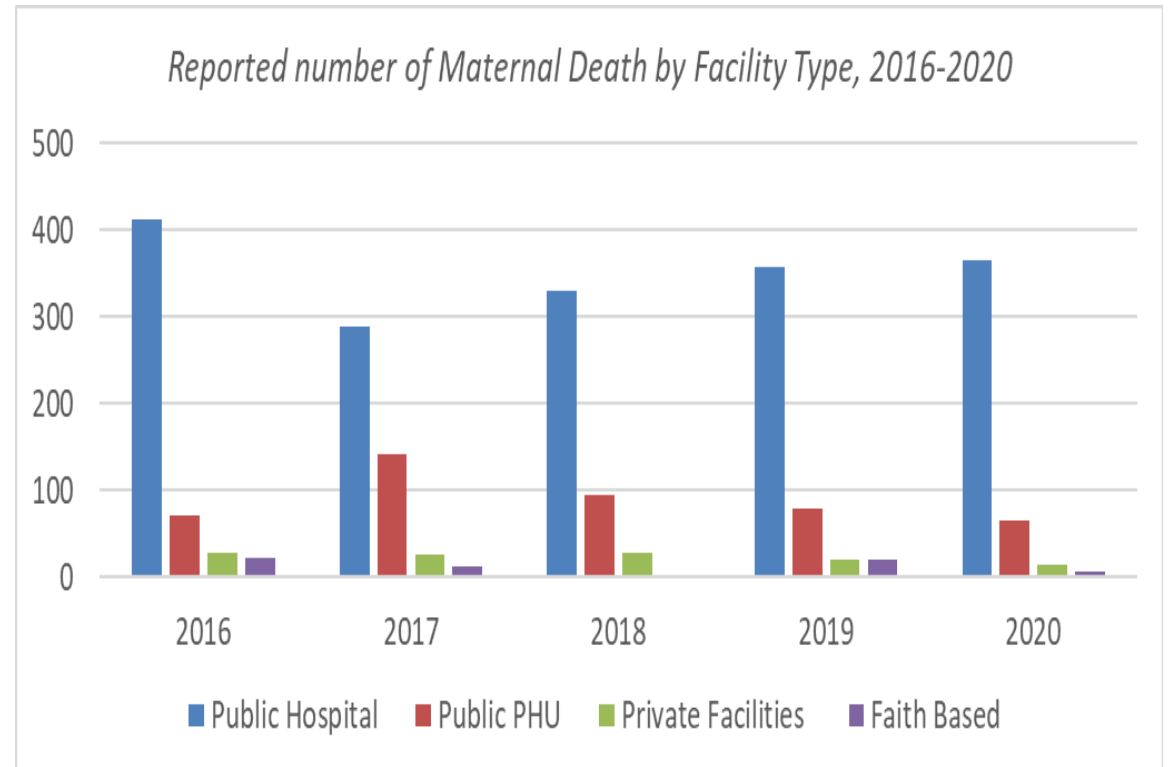
# Place of Maternal Death, 2016 - 2020



*Reported Maternal Death by Place of Death, 2016 - 2020*

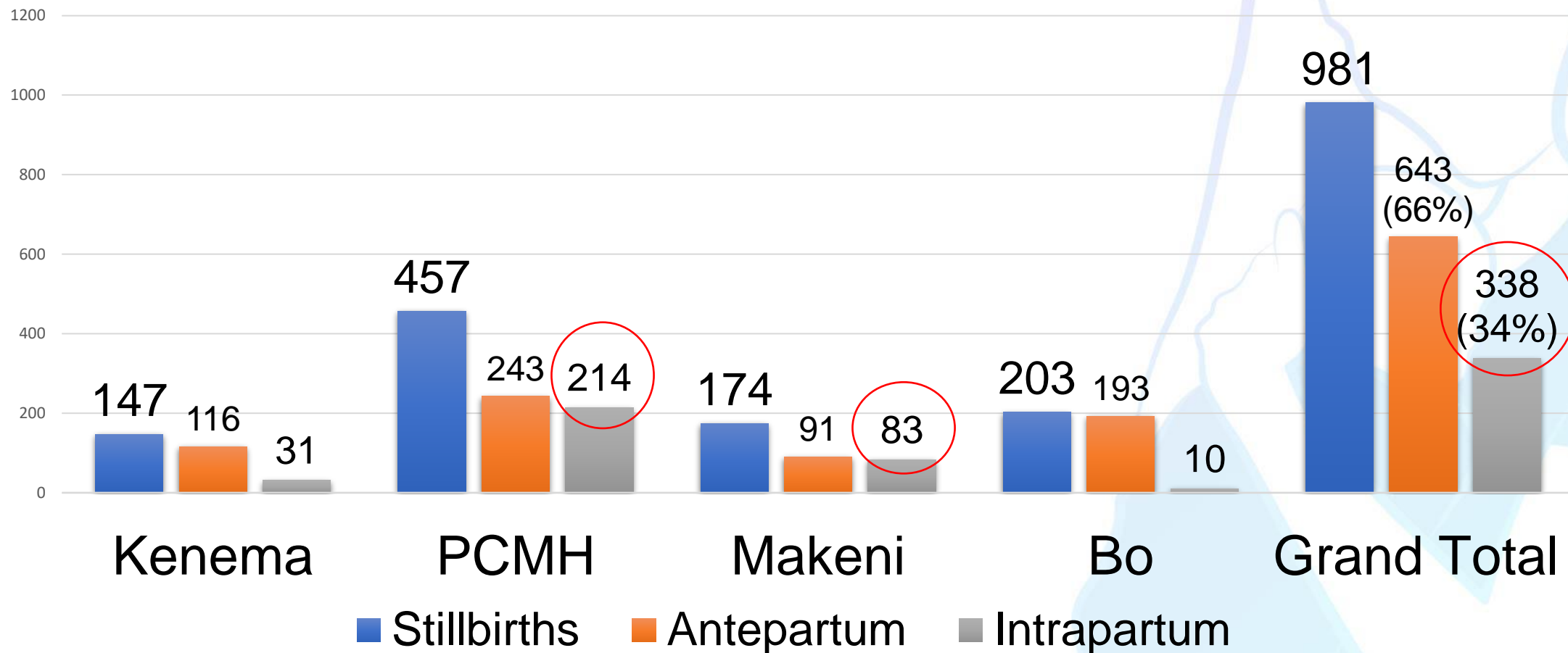


*Reported number of Maternal Death by Facility Type, 2016-2020*



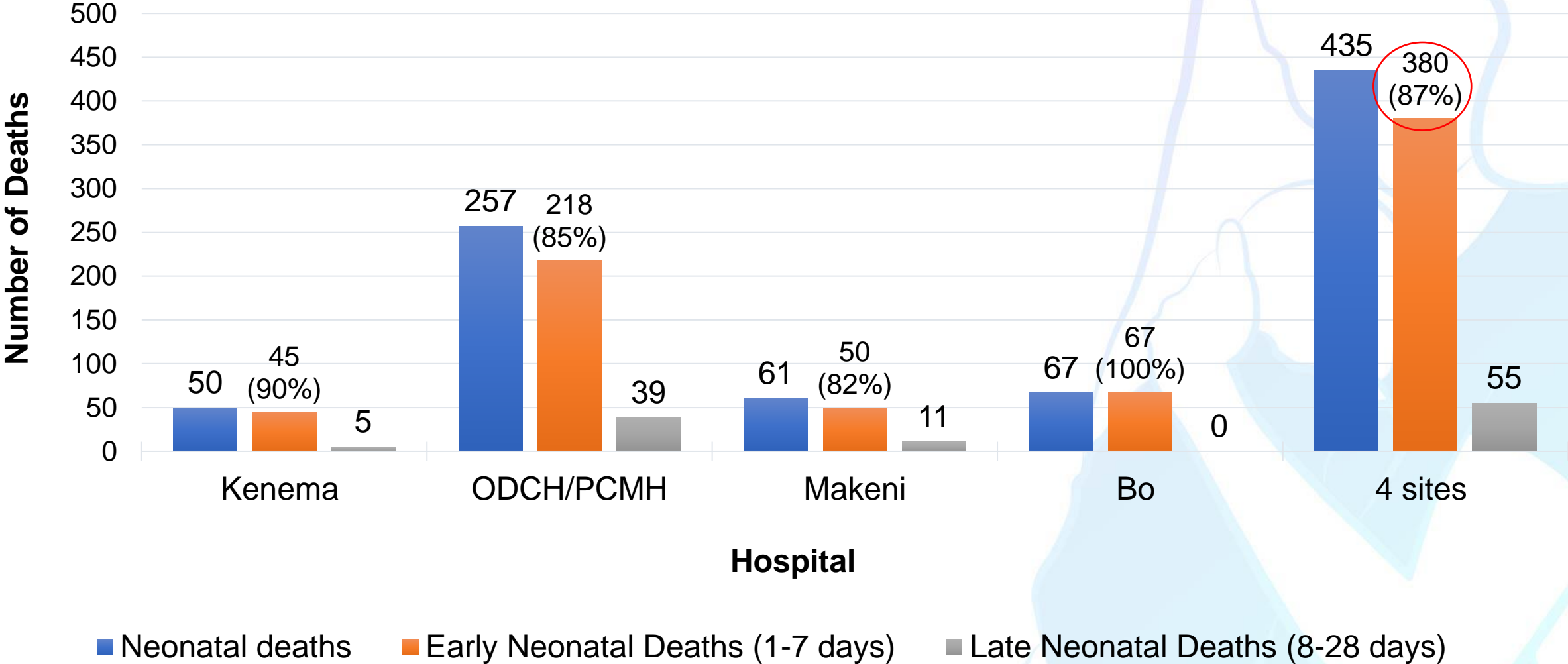
# 2021 Data from 4 Hospitals (PCMH, BGH, KenGH, MakGH)

## Perinatal Deaths



# 2021 Data from 4 Hospitals (PCMH, BGH, KenGH, MakGH)

## Neonatal Deaths





MMR Estimate Carshon-Marsh et al, 2021	Expected Maternal Deaths	Reported Maternal Deaths	% Reported	Unreported (Gap?)
<b>510</b> (CI:483 -538)	1,480 (CI:1,402 – 1,562)	546	37% (35% - 39%)	63% ( 61% - 65%)



**40% of  
expected  
Maternal  
Deaths  
Reported**

**What do we do?**

**Comprehensive  
Maternal Death  
Investigation and  
Review**



# Who Conducts the Maternal Death Investigations and Reviews?

- **Investigation Team**

- *District Disease Surveillance Officer*
- *MDSR Coordinator*
- *Midwife Investigator*

- **Review Committee**

- *National Committee – meets quarterly*
- *District Committee – meets monthly*
- *Hospital Committee – meets weekly/fortnightly/monthly*



# Comprehensive Maternal Death Investigation and Reviews

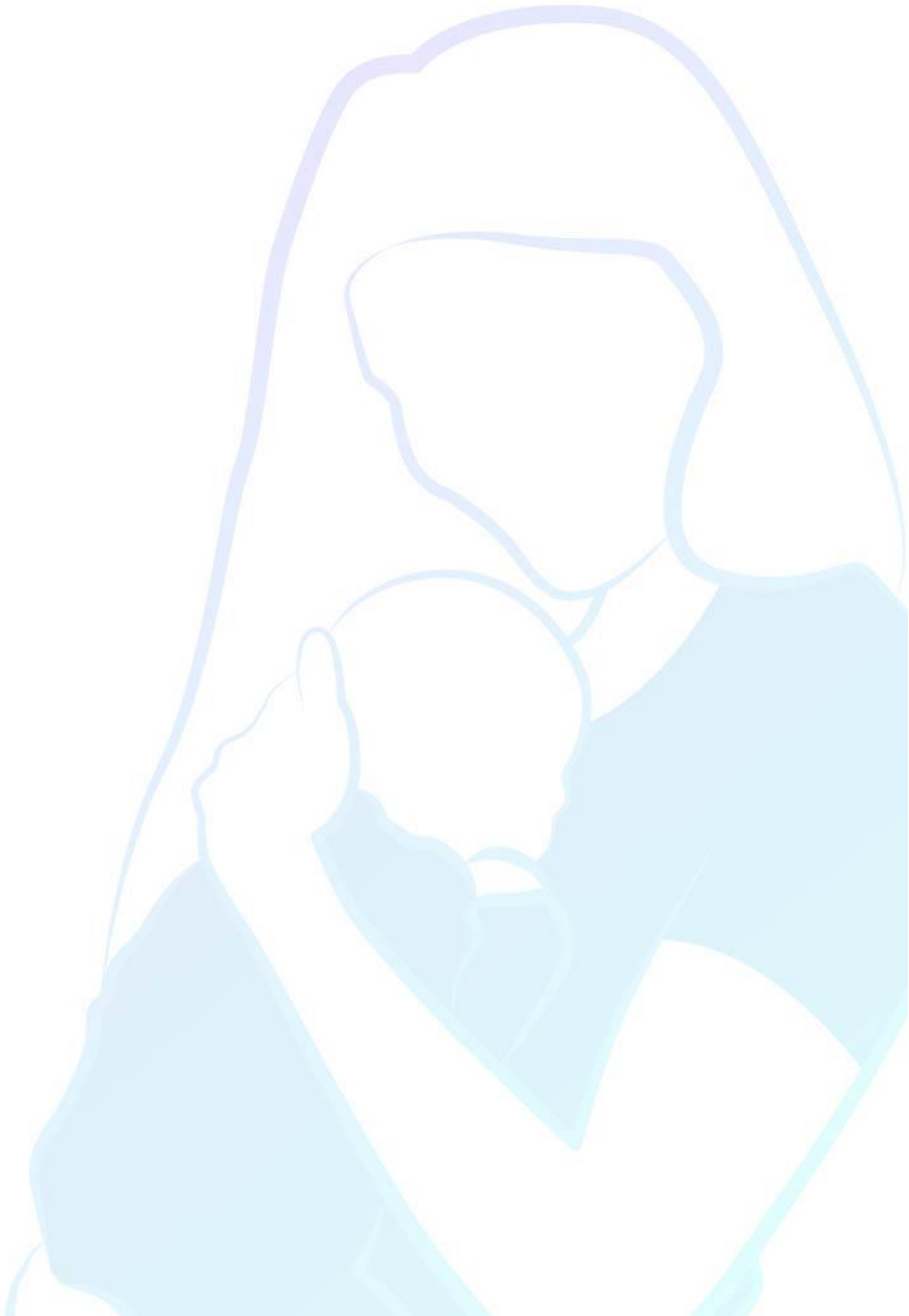




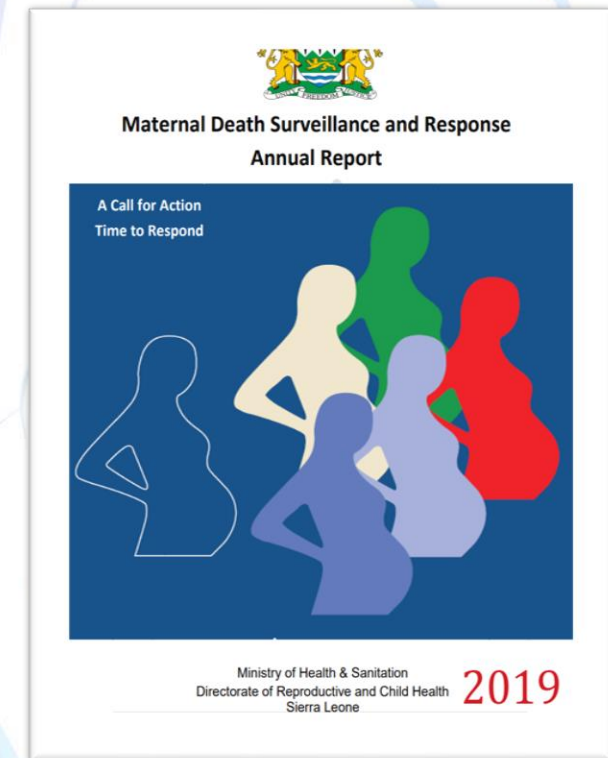
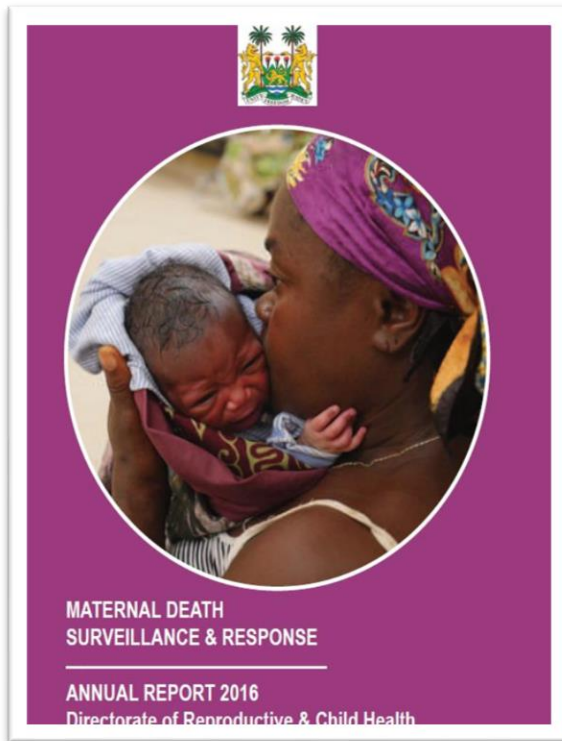
# Maternal Death Line List – Online Form Created in DHIS2 (2022)

Sno	Date death occurred	Epi_Week_Death Occurred	Age (Year)	District of Death	District of Residen	Chiefdom /Ward N	Place of residence: Town OR Village OR Street Address	(Total No. of Pregnancies included	(No. of previous deliveries liv	No. of ANC Contacts O->	Mode of delivery. Select from me	mother died (During Pregnancy During	Maternal death (Community In transit,	deaths select category of facility (Govt.Hospit	For health facility deaths, specify Name of facility	Date of admission (For health facility deaths)(Month / Day /Year)	admission (For health facility deaths) 24 hr System e.g.	Date of death (For health facility deaths)(Month / Day /Year)	(For health facility deaths)24 hr System e.g.	Reason for Admission	Referred From	Cause of Maternal Death (ICD-10 Code)	cause of death not listed in previous		
37	17 September 2018	38	35	Bo	Bo	Kakua	konia	11	10	1	Undelivered	After Delivery	In transit									(O72.1)			
38	17 September 2018	28	27	Bo	Bo	Booma	Yakaji	3	2	3	Undelivered	After Delivery	In transit										(O72.1)		
52		52		Bo	Bo								Health Facility												
53		52		Bo	Bo								Health Facility												
54		52		Bo	Bo								Health Facility												
55		52		Bo	Bo								Health Facility												
81	16 March 2018	11	28	Bonthe	Bonthe	Sognei	Tihun	6	5	3	Normal SVD	After Delivery	Community										Puerperal Sepsis (O85)		
82	13 May 2018	19	32	Bonthe	Bonthe	Jong	Moswie	5	4	3	Undelivered	During Labour	In transit										Placenta (O45.3)		
83	26 May 2018	21	20	Bonthe	Bonthe	Kwame Bai Krim	Fulwakun	2	1	3	Normal SVD	After Delivery	In transit										(O72.1)		
84	4 July 2018	27	26	Bonthe	Bonthe	Dema	Moigbo	6	5	2	Undelivered	During Labour	In transit										APH (O46)		
103	14 October 2018	41	28	Kailahun	Kailahun	Luswa	Sandia	5	4	0	Miscarriage/Abortion	During Pregnancy	In transit		In transit					No			Pregnancy or Abortion (O08.1)		
105	01 November 2018	44	19	Kailahun	Kailahun	Jawei	Folu	1	1	1	Normal SVD	After Delivery	Community										(O72.1)		
160		52	27	Tonkolili	Tonkolili	Yoni	Mile 31	3	2	>4	Normal SVD	After Delivery	In transit		In transit				PPH	In transit			(O72.1)		
270		52	25	Moyamba	Moyamba	Kaiyamba	No. 10 Cole street, Salina	4	3	0	Miscarriage/Abortion	During Pregnancy	Community											Malaria (O98.6)	
333	28 January 2018	4	34	Western Urban	Western Urban		MAWEL STREET WELLINGTON		1			After Delivery	In transit											Rupture of Uterus (O71.0)	
351	25 April 2018	17	42	Western Urban	Western Urban		ALLEN TOWN	4	4		Normal SVD	After Delivery	In transit						PPH	ALLEN TOWN MCHP			(O72.1)		
419	27 January 2018	4	26	Kambia	Kambia	Samu	Camp D	7	6	>4	Normal SVD	After Delivery	In transit		In transit				In transit	Kassoria CHC			(O72.1)		
430	5 June 2018	23		Kambia	Kambia	Mambolo	Matsie						Community	Community					Community	Community					
439	6 November 2018	45		Kambia	Kambia	Magbema	Bamoi Luma		1		Undelivered	During Pregnancy	Health Facility	Govt. Hospital	Kambia Govt Hospital	06/09/18									
500		52		Port loko	Port loko	Bakeh Loko							Health Facility	Govt. Hospital	Port Loko Govt Hospit	08/12/18	16:45:00								
512		52	18	Port loko	Port loko	Kaifu Bullom		1	0		After Delivery	Health Facility	Govt. Hospital	Lungi Govt Hospital	07/01/18										
584		52		Western Urban	Western Urban								Health Facility	Private Facility	Aberdeen Women Centre										
585		52		Western Urban	Western Urban								Health Facility	Private Facility	Aberdeen Women Centre										
586		52		Western Urban	Western Urban								Health Facility	Private Facility	Aberdeen Women Centre										
587		52		Western Urban	Western Urban								Health Facility	Private Facility	Aberdeen Women Centre										
588	2 May 2018	18		Western Urban	Western Urban								Health Facility	Govt. Hospital	Military 34									(O72.1)	

# Analysis and Reporting

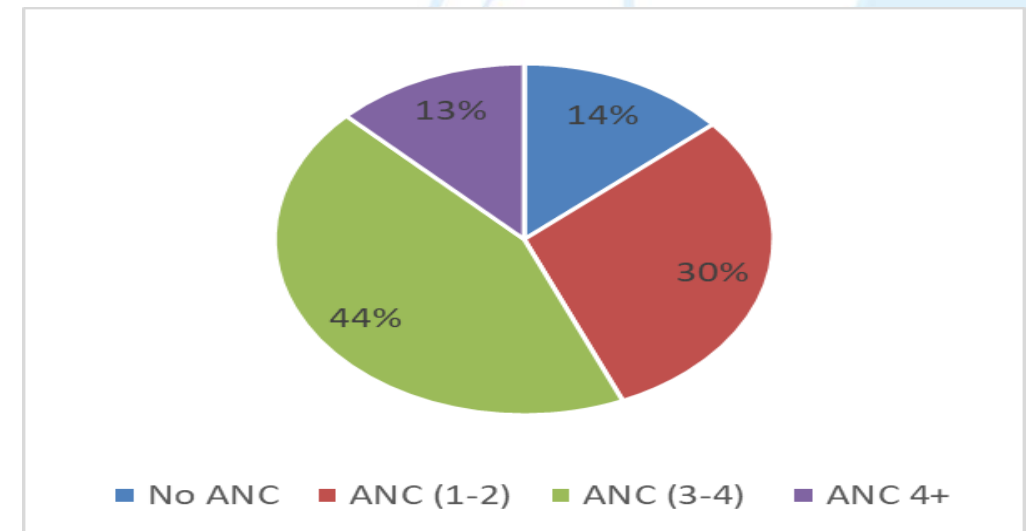
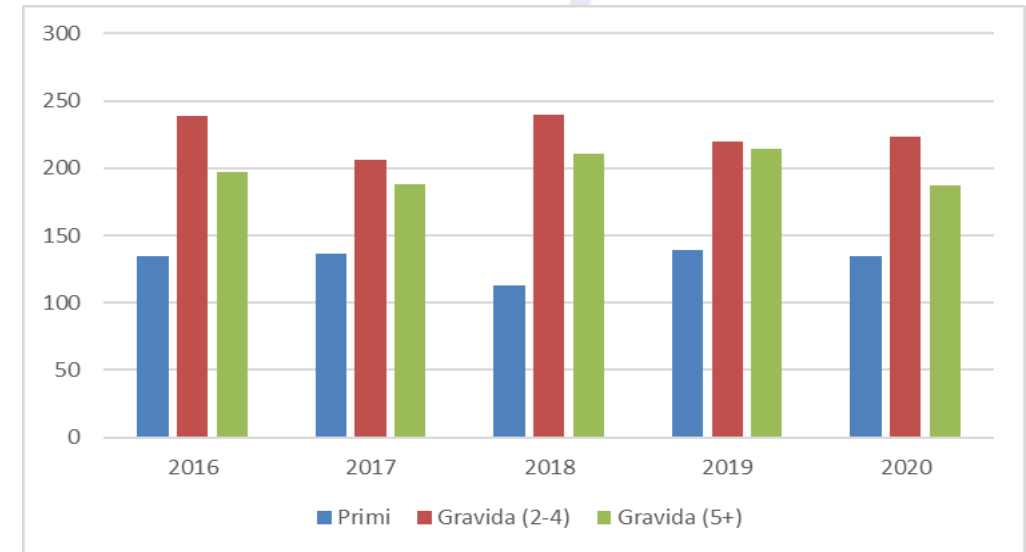
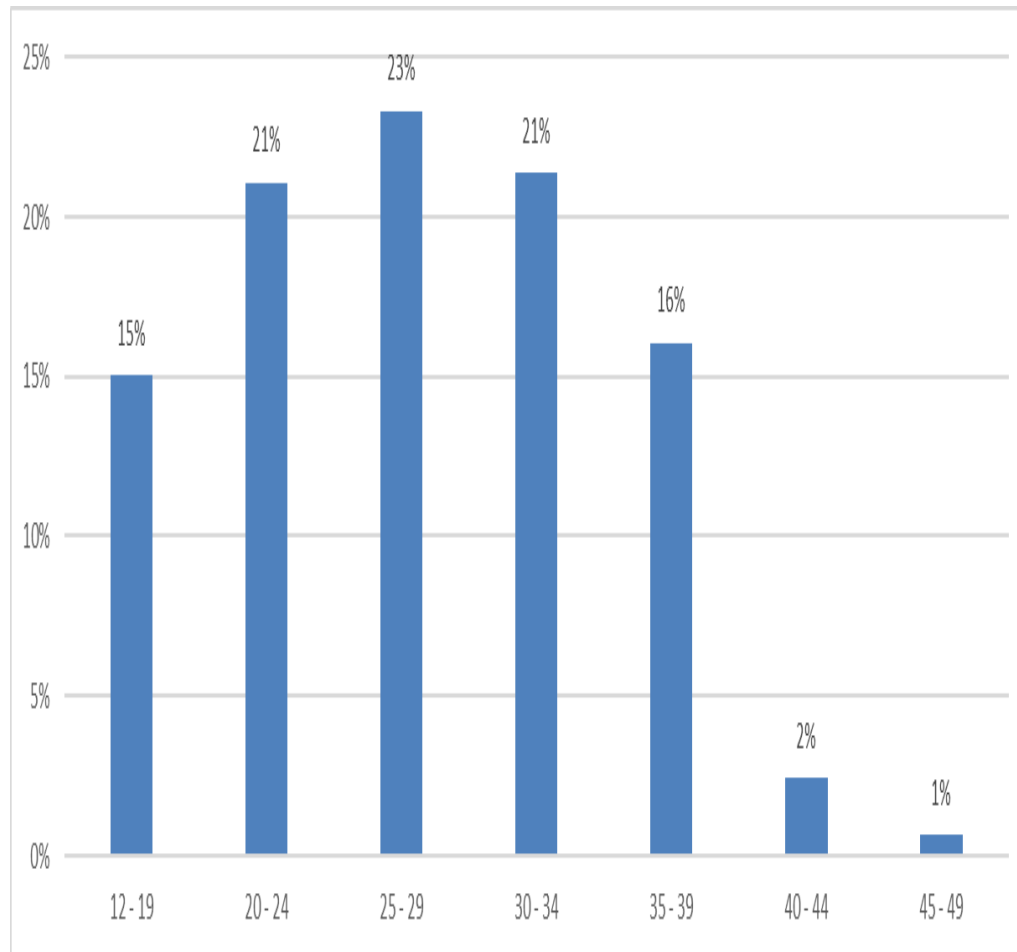


# Documentation – Annual MDSR Report



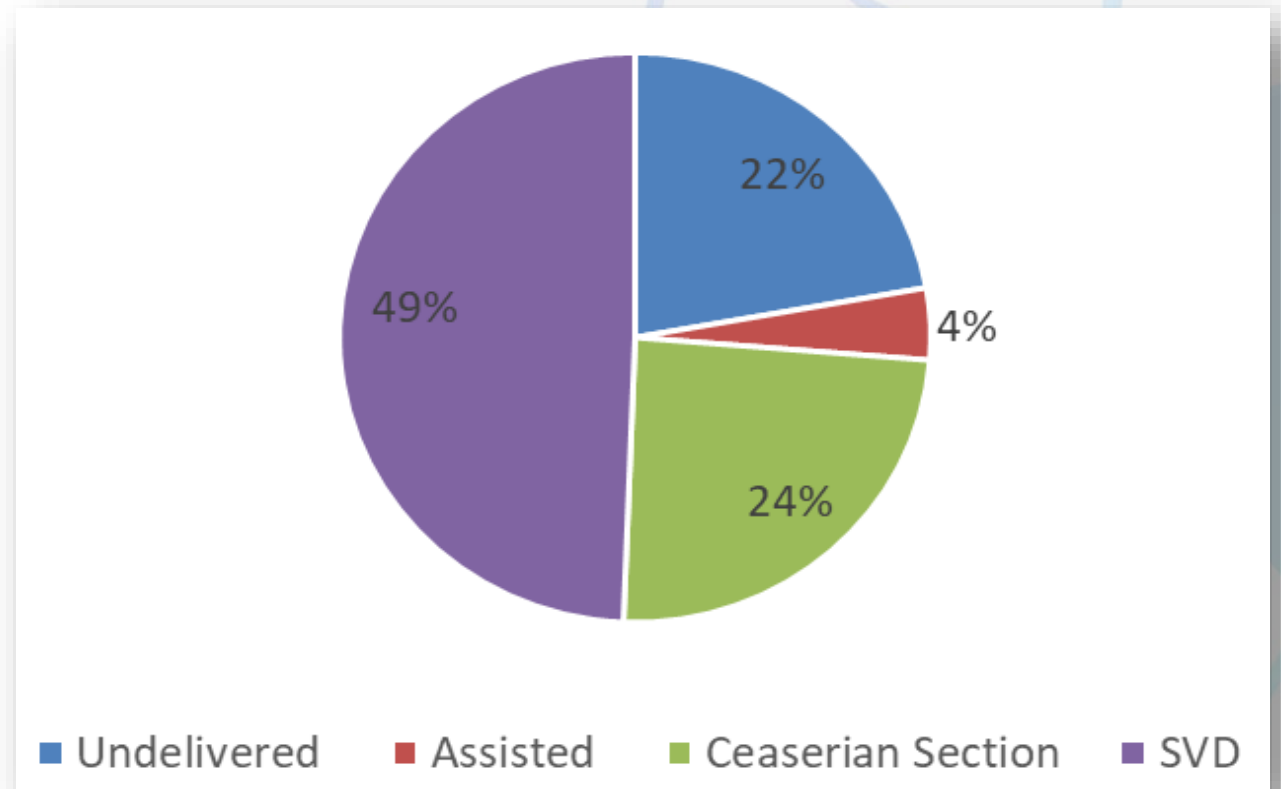
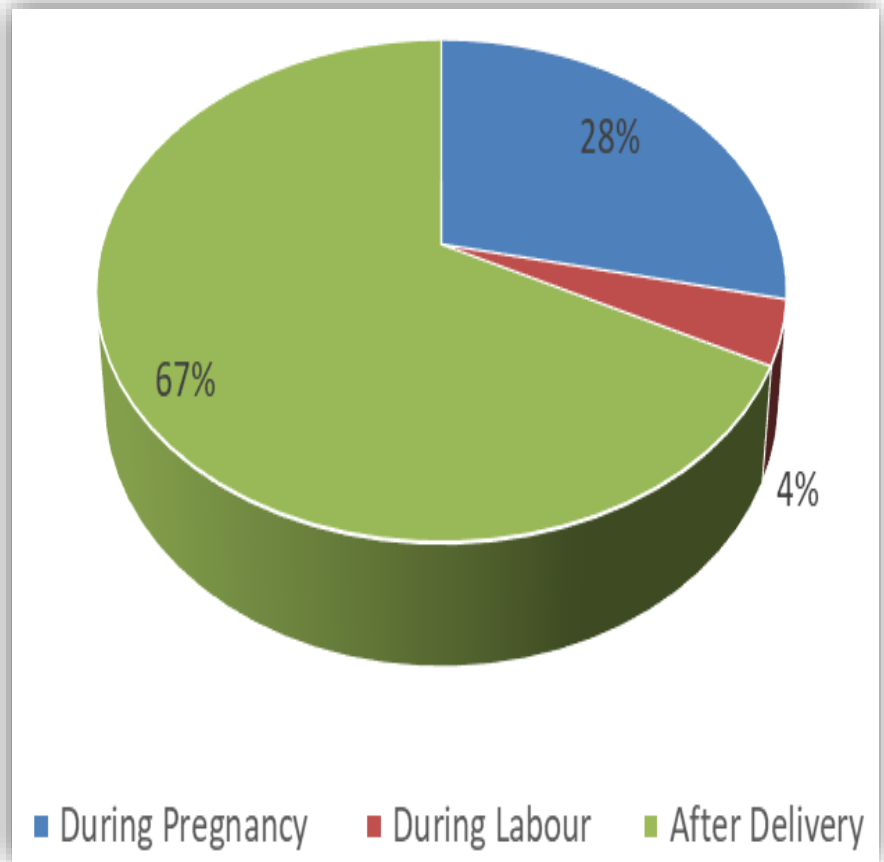


# Maternal Death by Age, Gravity, ANC, 2016-2020

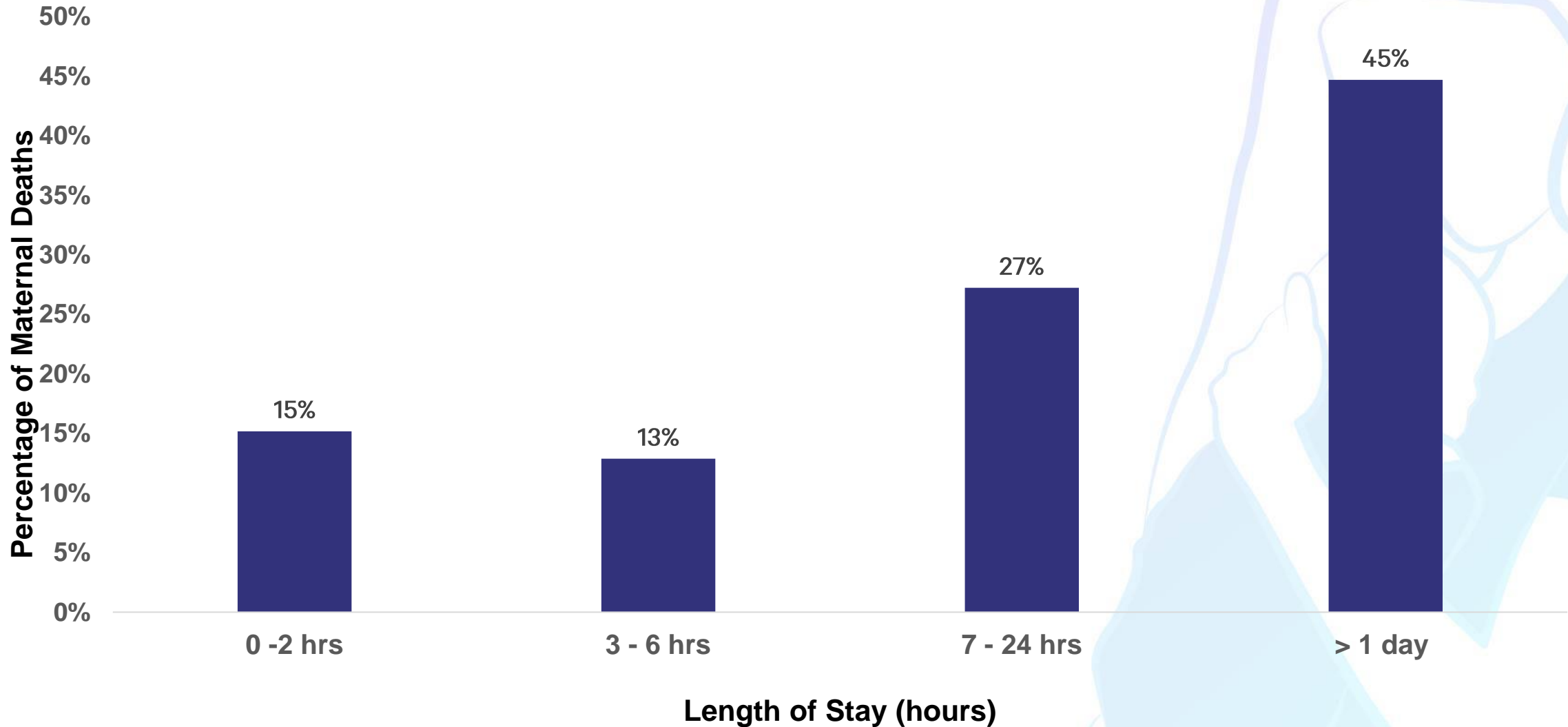


# Maternal Death by Stage of Pregnancy and Mode of Delivery, 2016 – 2020

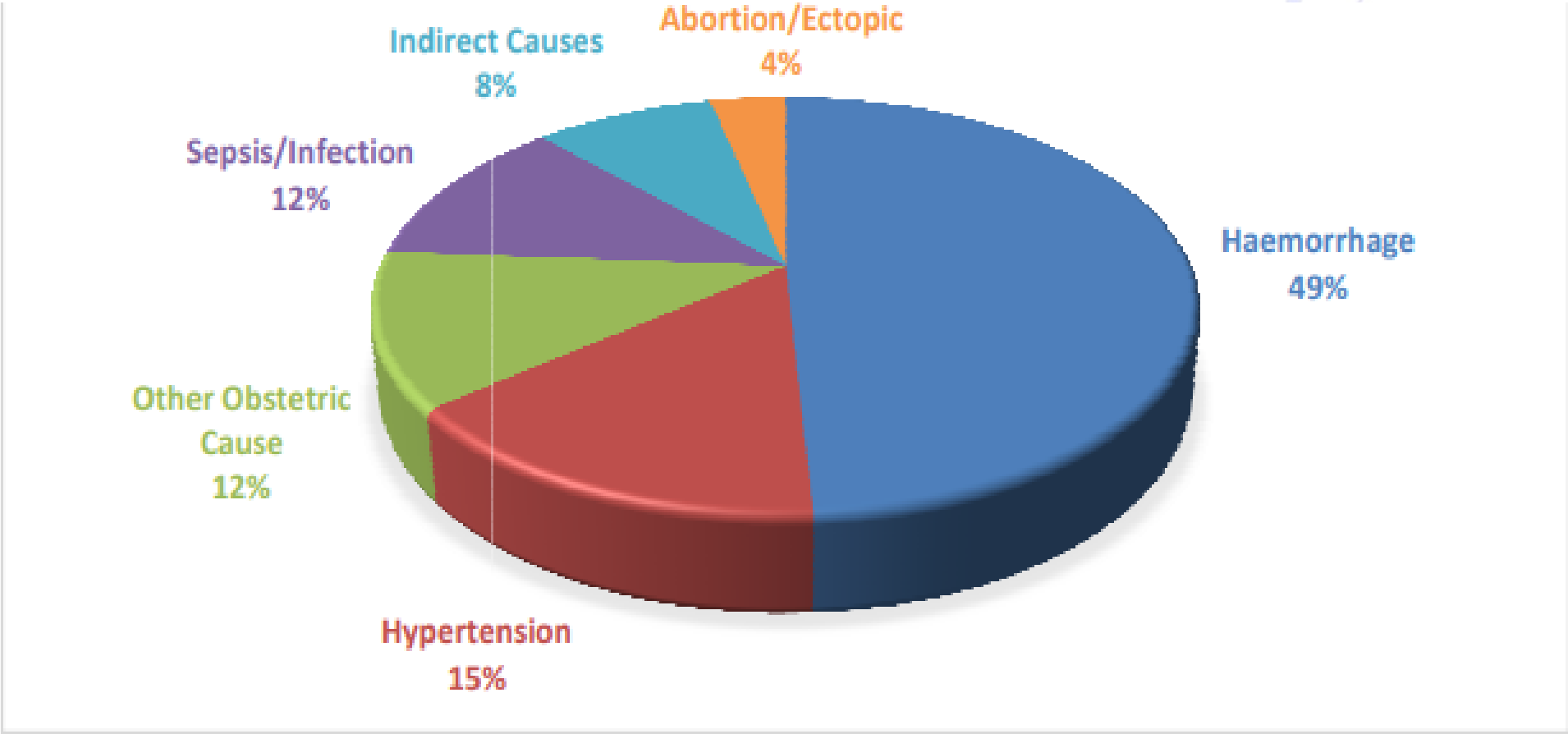
Two-thirds of maternal deaths occurred after delivery



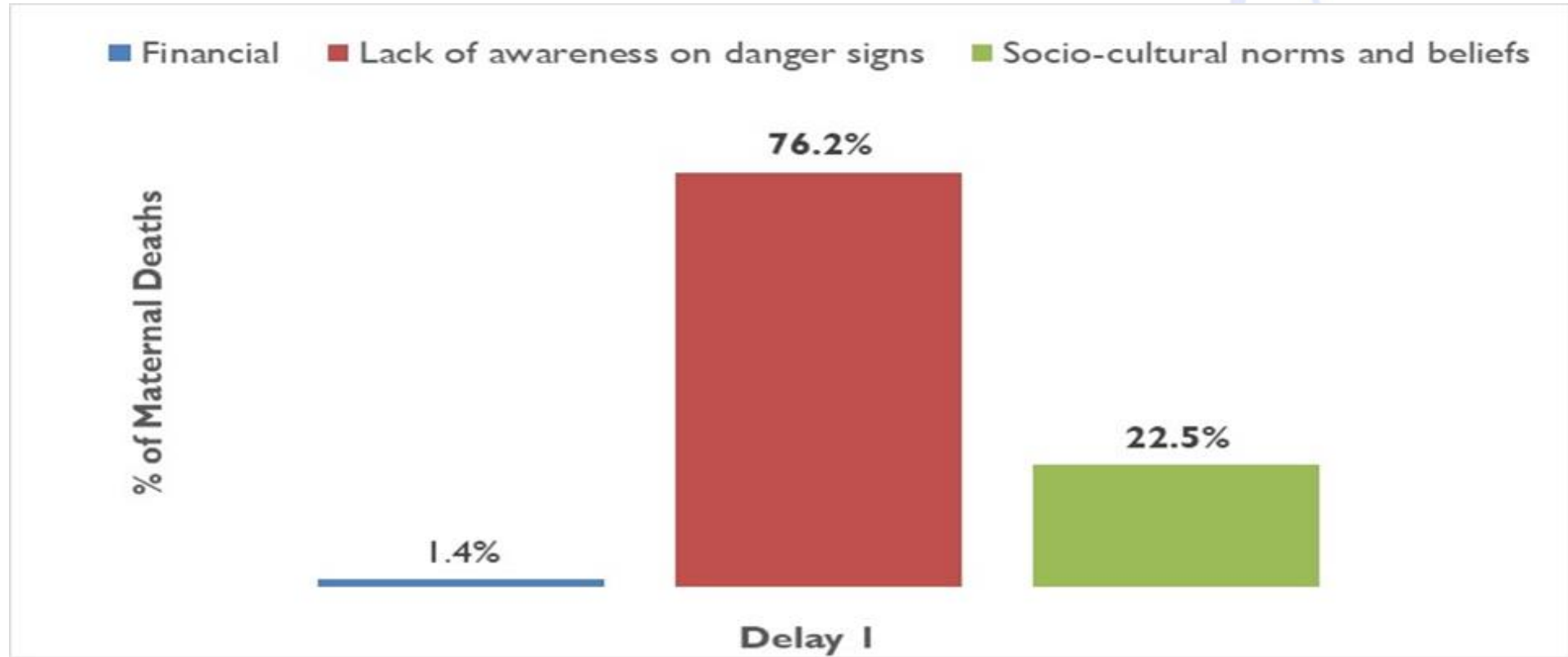
# Average Length of Stay in Hospital Before Pronounced Dead, 2016 – 2020



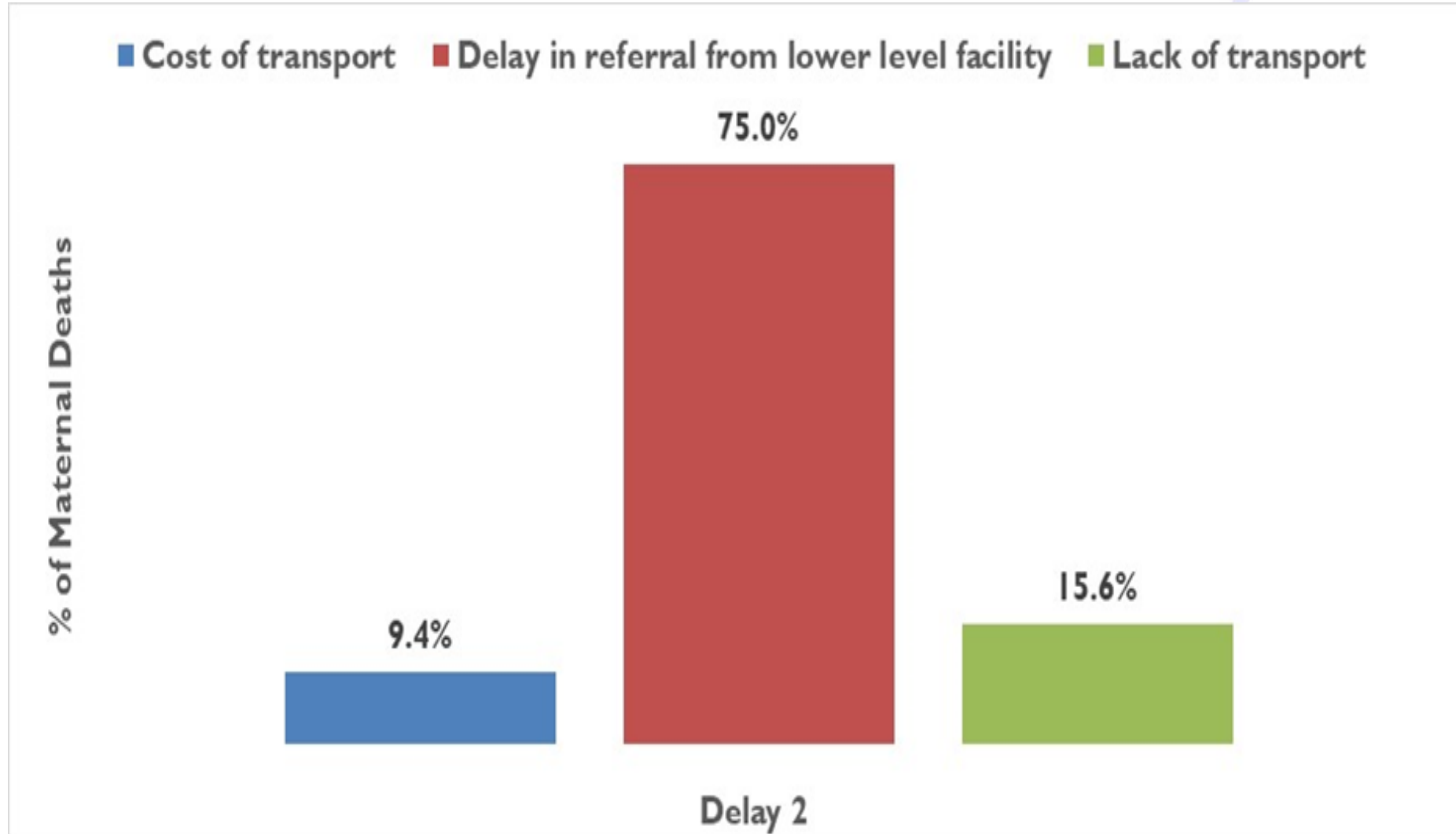
# Maternal Death by Cause of Death, 2016 – 2020



# Contributing Factors

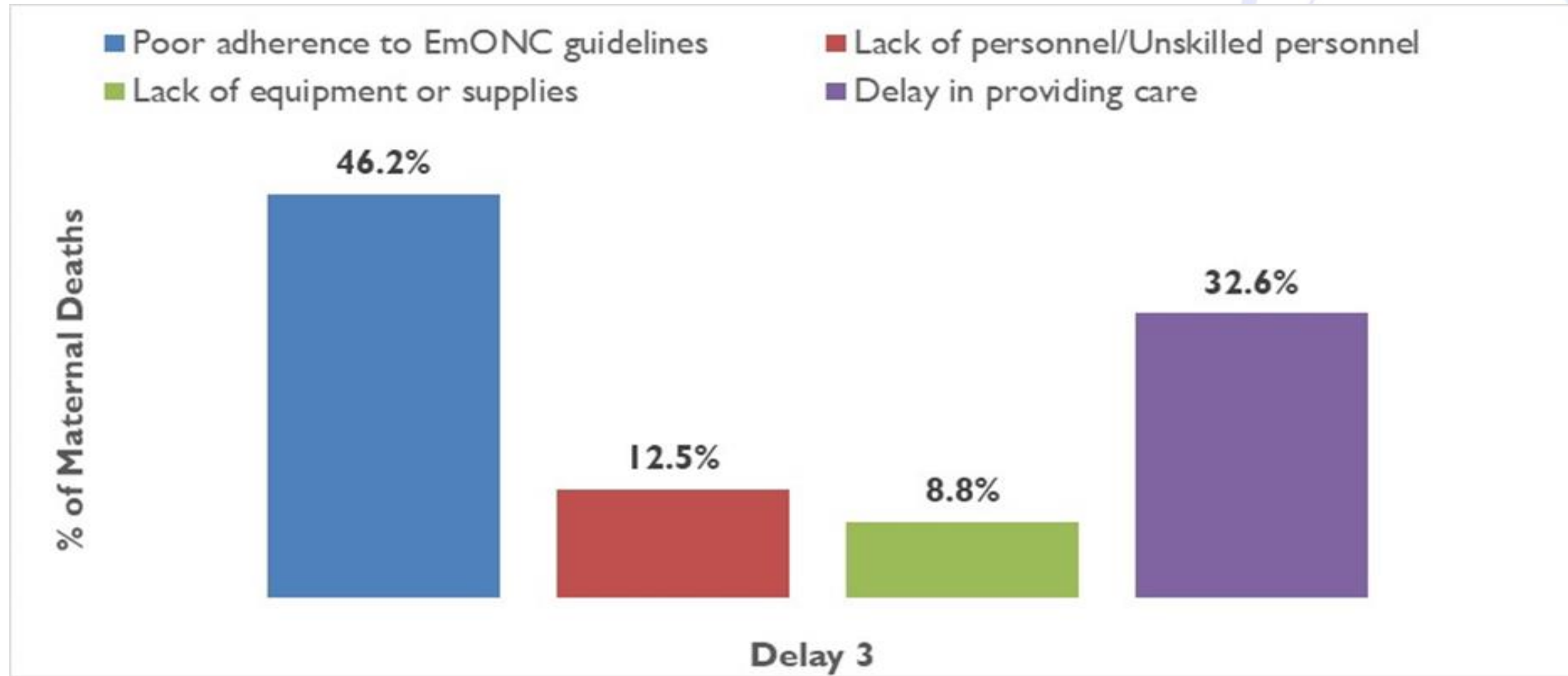


# Contributing Factors





# Contributing Factors





**We know now women's stories**



**What are we doing?**

# Response and Best Practices

## Health Systems Strengthening

### Building Human Resource Capacity

- ✓ Midwifery education
- ✓ Postgraduate training of specialists
- ✓ In-service training
- ✓ Supportive supervision and mentorship

### Strengthening referral systems

- ✓ National Ambulance service
- ✓ Strengthening community referral mechanisms

### Strengthening response to SGBV

- ✓ New laws against rape and child marriage
- ✓ Community engagement and CSE in schools

### Legal and policy environment for SRHR

- ✓ Safe motherhood and reproductive health bill in progress

## Quality of Care – Improvement Science at Point of Care

### Change packages in hospitals for addressing the causes of

- ✓ Maternal Deaths (Sepsis, hemorrhage, PIH)
- ✓ Perinatal Deaths (Stillbirth, asphyxia, sepsis)

### Improving women's experience of care

### Piloting in learning facilities for nationwide scale up





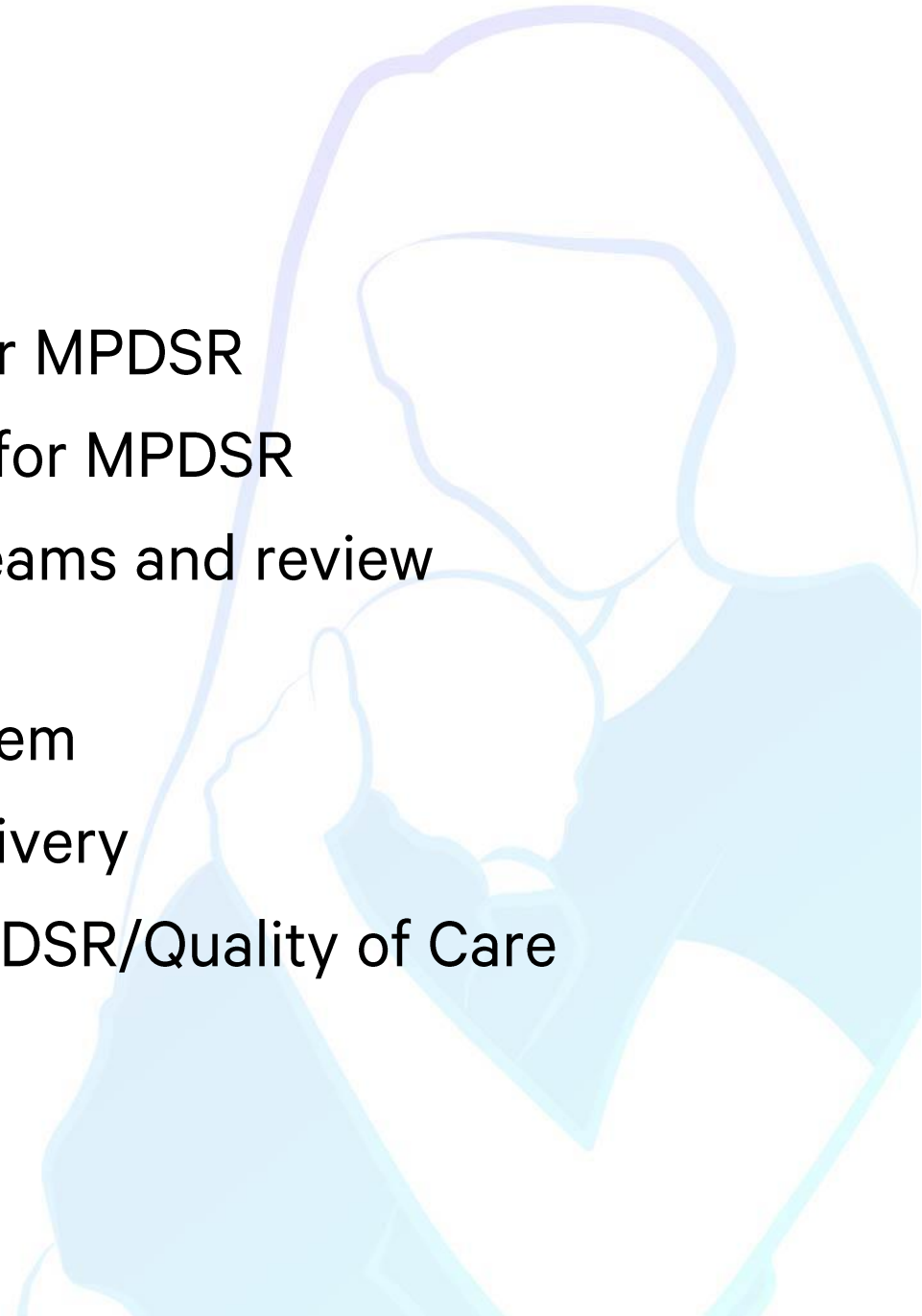
# Challenges

- Blame culture/punitive measures
- Data discrepancy between various sources
- Quality of Investigation and Reviews
- Issues around documentation
- Legal and policy environment
- Inadequate capacity of community based surveillance



# Next Steps

- Create friendly policy and legal environment for MPDSR
- Strengthen Quality Improvement Approaches for MPDSR
- Strengthen capacity of MPDSR investigation teams and review committees
- Strengthen community based surveillance system
- Create an enabling environment for service delivery
- Strengthen leadership and coordination for MPDSR/Quality of Care



# Panel Discussion and Q&A



**Matron Margaret Mannah,**  
Programme Manager,  
National Quality Management  
Programme  
Ministry of Health and Sanitation,  
Sierra Leone



**Dr James Squire,**  
Programme Manager,  
National Disease  
Surveillance Programme  
Ministry of Health and  
Sanitation, Sierra Leone



# What's next?

- We are working with our regions, countries, the MPDSR TWG and partners for an implementation support plan at country level
- [WHO website](#) for other materials
- Recording & slides are available at:  
<https://www.qualityofcarenetwork.org/webinars/series-7-webinar-7-maternal-and-perinatal-death-surveillance-and-response-materials>
- Please visit [Quality of Care Network website](#).
- If you are interested to implement this in your country and context, please reach out to:

**Ms Francesca Palestra,**  
Technical Officer, MCA WHO Geneva  
Email: [palestraf@who.int](mailto:palestraf@who.int)



Quality, Equity, Dignity

A Network for Improving Quality of Care  
for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health

# Addressing inequalities through the MPDSR system: Lessons learned from Sierra Leone

Tuesday, 8 March 2022

1pm Freetown, 2pm Geneva, 6:30pm New Delhi

THANK YOU!

