



5th Annual Nossal Global Health Forum 2009

**Millennium Development
Goal: How are we
delivering?**

Country profile-Sierra Leone



- Population 5.8 million
- 70% of its population living below poverty line
- Had civil war for 11 years
- Tens of thousands died and more than 2 million displaced
- 78 doctors for 5.8 million people
- Ranking 176th position on the UNDP human development index

Sierra Leone's maternal health care situation

- Total fertility rate 6.5
- MMR 1800 per 100,000 live births per year
- 1 in 8 chance of a woman dying during childbirth or pregnancy
- Approx. 80% of women give birth at home
- Attended by TBAs or family members



Magnitude of the problem

- The 11 years civil war forced emigration of skilled manpower
- 80% of health care facilities destroyed during the war
- In six of the 13 districts there isn't one single hospital that provides EmOC
- Lack of skilled birth attendants
- Hospitals lack basic equipment and medications
- Women have little decision-making powers over their reproductive lives
- Factors such as poverty, lack of transportation and roads make every pregnancy a gamble

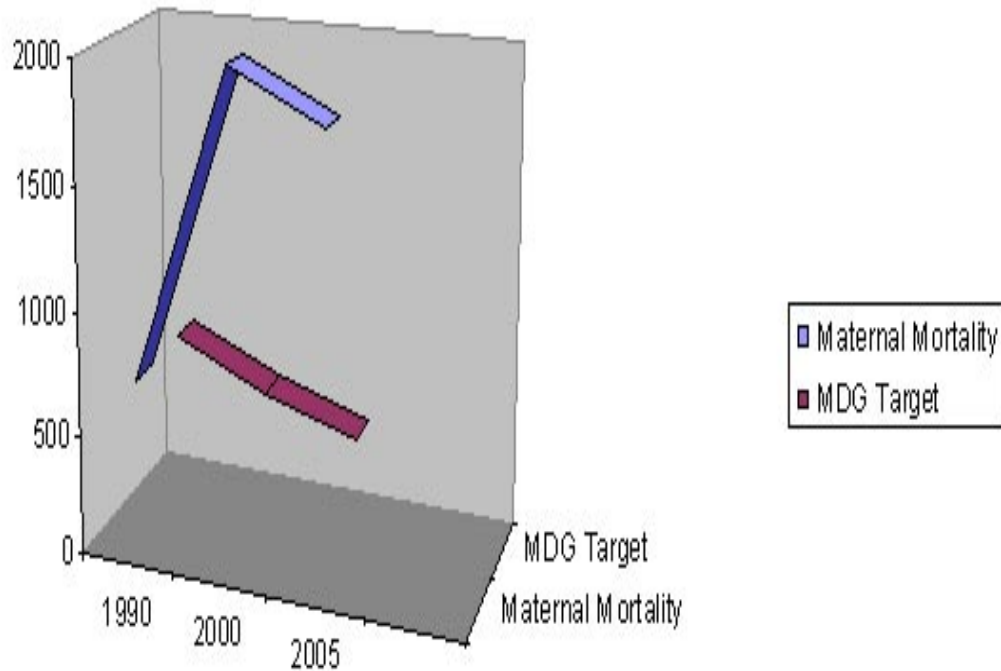
Example 1



- 17 yr old Patient's suffer from eclampsia
- Her seizure has caused to bite her tongue
- Nurses jammed stick between her teeth
- Tragically, patient's twins passed away after three days because they couldn't suck


MDG 5's statistics for SaLone

MATERNAL MORTALITY TARGET



- 1990- 1800 MMR
- 1995- 2100 MMR
- 2000- 2000 MMR
- 2009- 1800 MMR

**MDG 5's target
reduction
450/100,000 live
birth**



Sierra Leone's maternal mortality rate is a "human rights emergency

BMJ 2009; 339: b3908

References

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