

G8 International Parliamentarians' Conference
*“Strategic Investments in Times of Crisis.
The rewards of Making Women Health a Priority”*

Recent G8 Commitments on Women's Health

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Health related issues in past G8 Summits

global health investment

child health care and protection

maternal health/sexual and reproductive health

gender issues

HIV/AIDS

Malaria

Tuberculosis

Polio eradication

neglected tropical diseases (NTD)

health system strengthening

research and development

Maternal health/sexual and reproductive health

- Scale up efforts to reduce the gaps, in the area of [maternal and child health care and voluntary family planning](#), an estimated [US\\$ 1,5 billion](#). [50 Heilingendamm, Africa Declaration 2007]
- [Reproductive health should be made widely accessible](#).The G8 will take concrete steps to support education programs especially for girls, to promote knowledge about sexuality and reproductive health and the prevention of sexually transmitted infections. The G8 will support the nationwide inclusion of appropriate HIV/AIDS-related information and life-skills information in school curricula, in the context of nationally owned sector plans as well as prevention information with regard to malaria and other relevant health topics. [51 Heilingendamm, Africa Declaration 2007]
- Take concrete steps to work toward [improving the link between HIV/AIDS activities and sexual and reproductive health and voluntary family planning programs, to improve access to health care, including preventing mother-to-child transmission](#), and to achieve the MDGs by adopting a multisectoral approach and by fostering community involvement and participation [46c Hokkaido Declaration 2008]

Gender

- Support a [gender-sensitive response](#) by the GFATM, with the goal of ensuring that greater attention and appropriate resources are allocated by the Fund to HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and care [that addresses the needs of women and girls](#). [50 Heilingendamm, Africa Declaration 2007]
- The G8 will emphasize the importance of programs to [promote and protect human rights of women and girls](#) as well as the prevention of sexual violence and coercion especially in the context of preventing HIV/AIDS infections. [52 Heilingendamm, Africa Declaration 2007]

hiv/aids

- Scale up support to [address the rising rate of HIV infection among young people, particularly young girls and women](#) [17 St. Petersburg, 2006]
- In the overall context of scaling up towards the goal of universal access and strengthening of health systems we will contribute substantially with other donors to work towards the goal of providing [universal coverage of PMTCT programs by 2010](#). The cost to reach this target, as estimated by UNICEF, is US\$ 1,5 billion. [50 Heilingendamm, Africa Declaration 2007]

Global health investment

- Provide at least a projected **US\$ 60billion over 5 years to fight infectious diseases and strengthen health**. Some countries will provide additional resources for health systems including water [46a Hokkaido Declaration 2008]

The 2009 Summit - Health related issues - The ongoing process

G8 are engaged in increasing their [accountability \(implementation vs commitments\)](#) through the publication of the Report of the G8 Health Expert Group.

The Reports focus on priority issues and provide information mainly on G8 inputs since [outcomes and impact of G8 actions](#) can be measured by the H8 (the informal group of eight health-related organisations - WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNAIDS, GFATM, GAVI, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the World Bank - created in mid-2007). The UN system is also deeply involved in monitoring progress towards MDG targets. For MDG 4, 5 and 6, a powerful information system is available and in use: [The countdown to 2015](#) <http://www.childinfo.org/countdown.html>

The 2009 Health Expert Report focuses on 4 themes:

- 1) Promoting a comprehensive and integrated approach to health MDGs**
- 2) Strengthening health system to advance the goal of universal access to services**
- 3) Promoting health as an outcome of all policies**
- 4) Increasing the volume of aid**

For each theme the Group identifies key issues, indicates priorities and focus and provides a list of potential G8 actions. According to preliminary statements from the Presidency and following the experience made in Toyako, the Report will be published along with the Leaders Declaration on Development and Africa.

G8 perception is evolving

On health issues and priorities

Wider recognition of social determinants of health: poverty and social exclusion as main causes of ill health

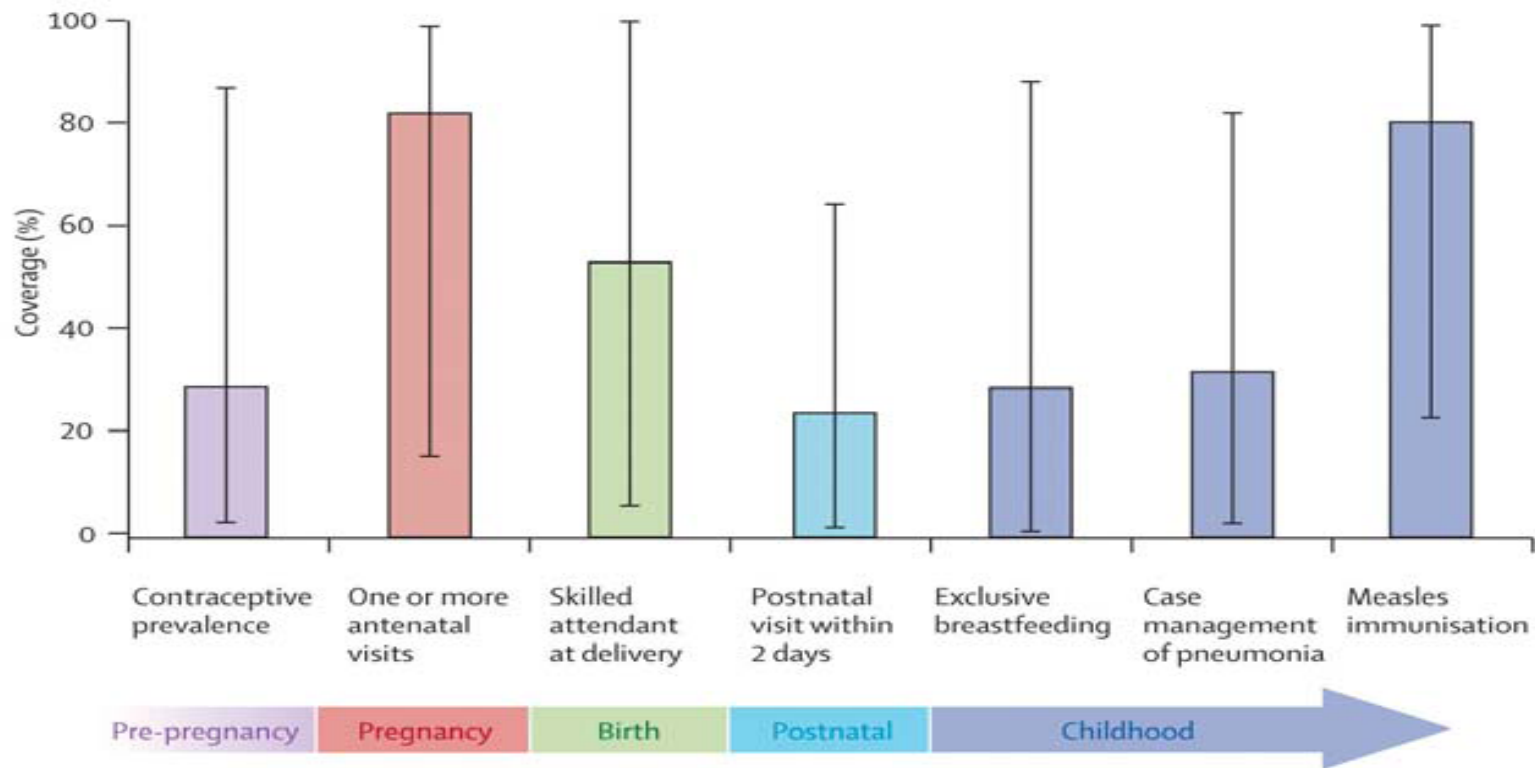
- The universal access to health services as a prerequisite for the achievement of the Health MDG targets**
- Monitoring the impact of financial crisis on health and promote mitigating actions at country and global level**

On issues and priority for women's health

- Promotion and protection of human rights of women and girls with reference to the ICPD Programme of Actions**
- Gender equality and human rights to be mainstreamed in all policies and programs**
- Priority for essential services to reduce maternal neonatal and child deaths**

Monitoring outputs /outcomes

Source: *The countdown to 2015*

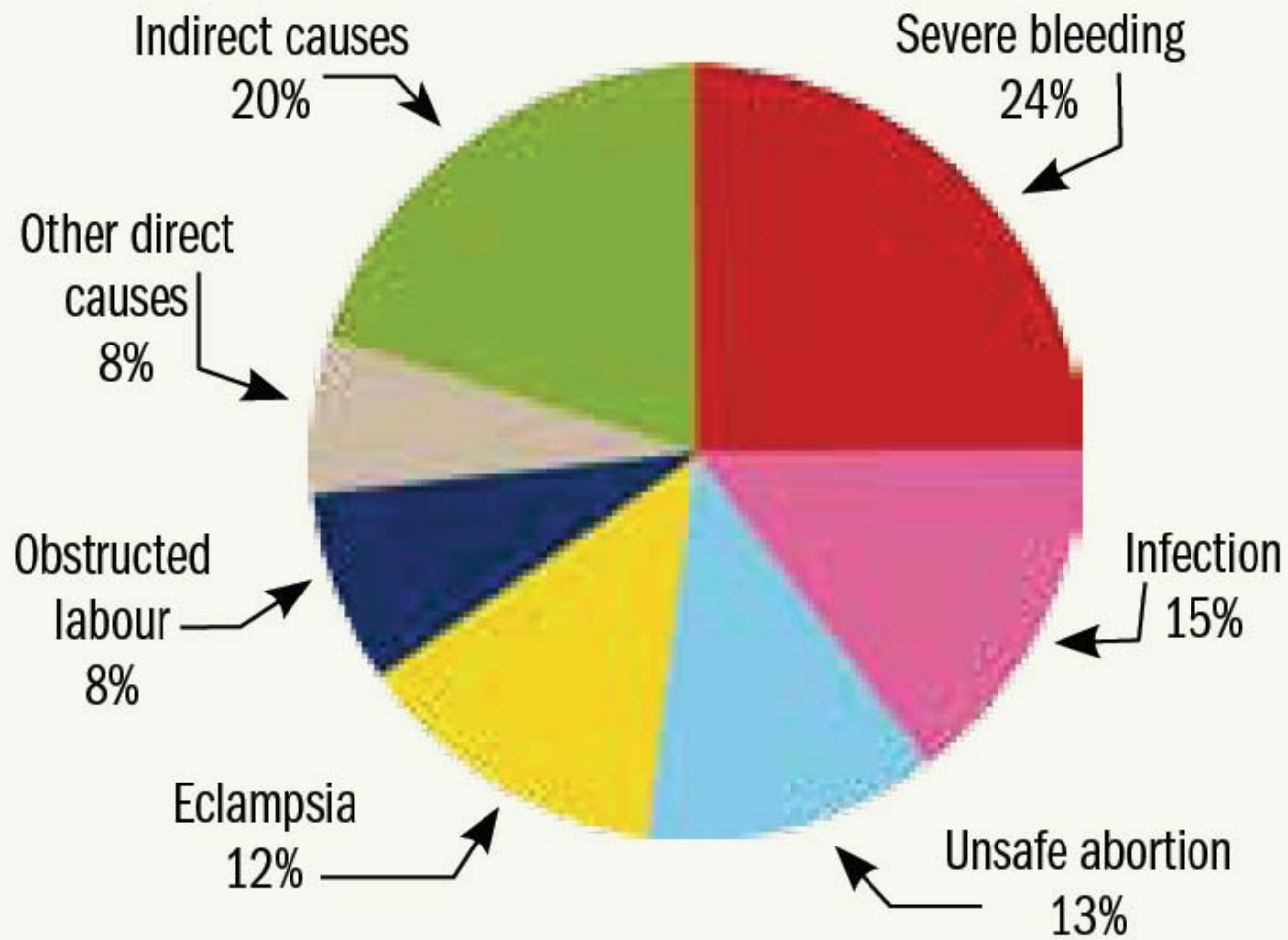


On contraception

Over 200 million women in the developing world have an unmet need for family planning, leading on an annual basis to 52 million unintended pregnancies, 22 million abortions, 1.4 million infant deaths and 142,000 pregnant-related deaths.

Source: *UNFPA*

Causes of maternal mortality in the African Region



Source: *African health monitor 2004*; vol.5(1).

On Unsafe abortion, a preventable pandemic

Every year, about 19–20 million abortions are done by individuals without the requisite skills, or in environments below minimum medical standards, or both. Nearly all unsafe abortions (97%) are in developing countries. An estimated 68.000 women die as a result, and millions more have complications, many permanent. Important causes of death include haemorrhage, infection, and poisoning.

Source *Lancet* 2006; 368: 1908–19

Some good news.....

Italian Parliament commits to increase investment in maternal and newborn health

9 JUNE 2009 | ROME - The Italian Parliament has unanimously adopted a parliamentary resolution to save the lives of mothers and children in the countries with highest burden, by increasing Italian official development assistance (ODA) for maternal, newborn and child health. The resolution comes only weeks before Italy is to host of the upcoming G8 Summit in July.

Source: The Partnership for Maternal Newborn and Child Health

And good perspectives

The Taskforce highlights the critical need to raise up to an additional US\$10 billion per year to spend on health in poor countries

Source: *The Taskforce on Innovative International Financing for Health Systems*

<http://www.internationalhealthpartnership.net/pdf/IHP%20Update%2013/Taskforce/Johansbourg/Final%20Taskforce%20Report.pdf>