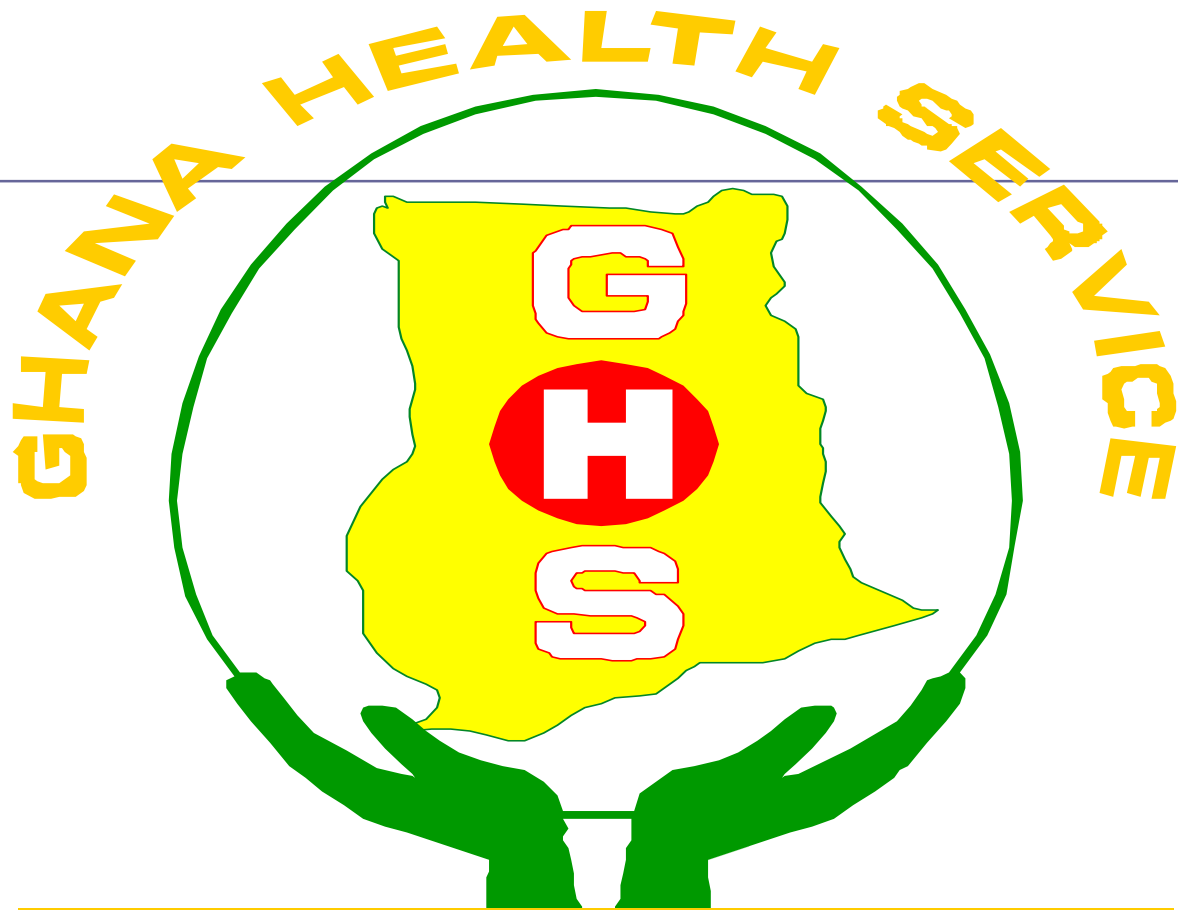




Maternal Mortality

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Your Health • Our Concern

DID YOU KNOW?

- Worldwide over **500,000** women and girls die from complications related to pregnancy every year??

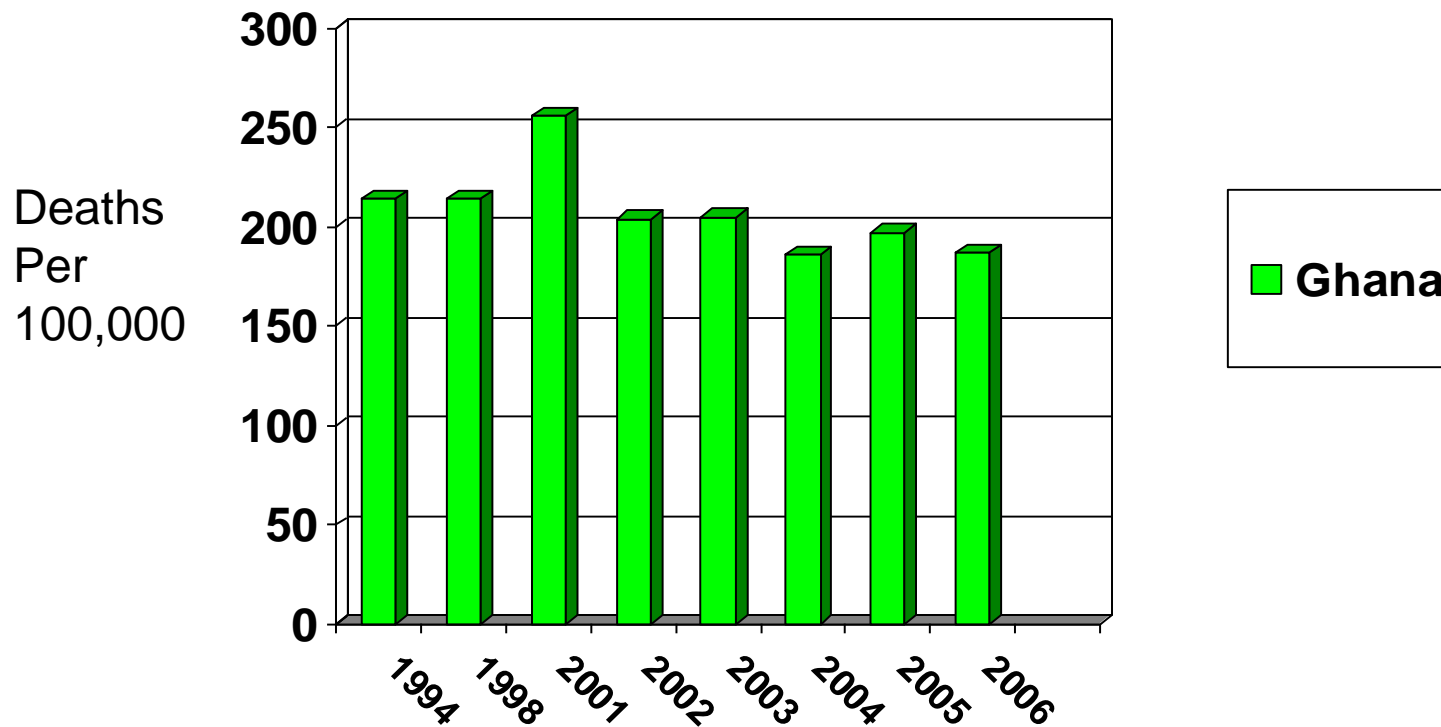
What is Maternal Mortality

- Maternal mortality refers to those deaths which are caused by complications due to pregnancy or childbirth
 - These complications may be experienced during pregnancy or delivery itself, or may occur up to 42 days following childbirth

Top 5 Causes of M.M. in the world

- Hemorrhage – 25%
- Infection – 15%
- Unsafe Abortion – 13%
- Eclampsia – 12%
- Obstructed Labor – 8%

Maternal Mortality in Ghana



Top Causes of Maternal Mortality in Ghana

- Hypertension – 19%
- Bleeding – 17%
- Anemia – 12%
- Unsafe Abortion – 11%
- Infections – 10%

Why are so many women dying?

- In Ghana as well as in many other developing nations deaths during pregnancy and childbirth are most often linked to three obstacles

Seeking care

- Lack of information and inadequate knowledge
- Low status in society
- Lack of access to and control over resources
- Lack of decision making power
- Certain cultures and traditions that maintain that women must wait for approval from male relatives before seeking help

Health Facility Access

- Limited services – especially in rural areas
- Weak referral linkages between community, health centers and district hospitals
- Poor roads
- Poor communication networks
- Lack of transportation
- Inadequate community support

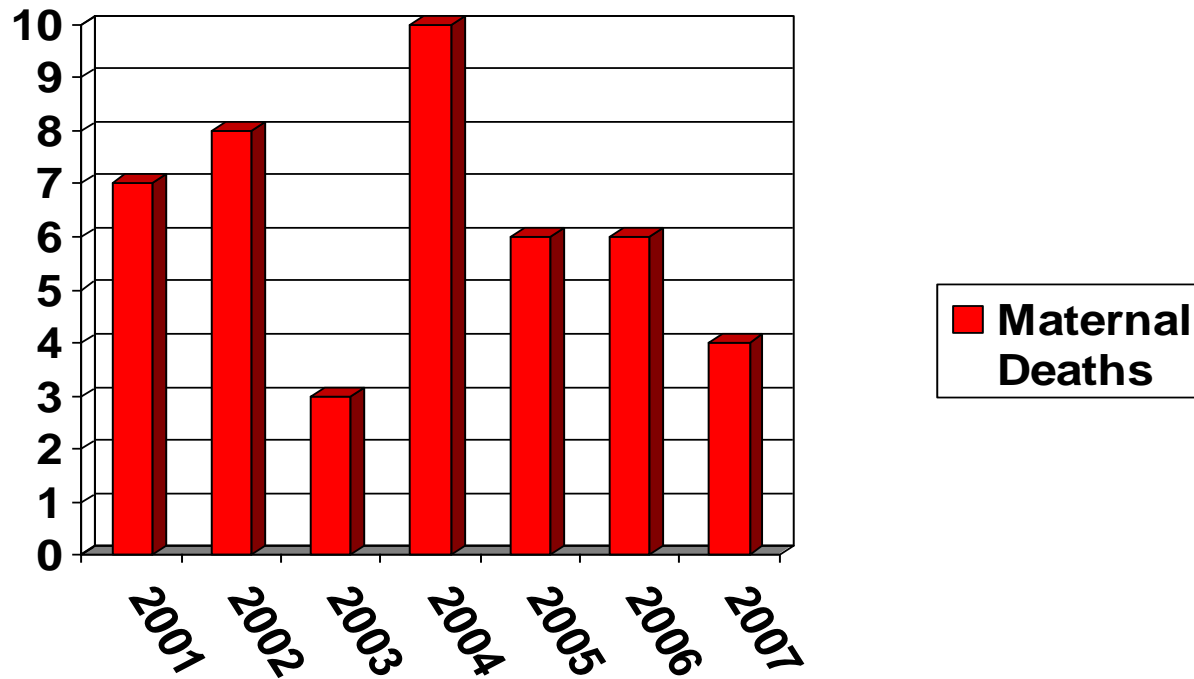
Health Facility Quality of care

- Inadequate preparedness to respond to obstetric emergencies
 - Lack of skilled attendants
 - Lack of equipment
 - Supply and drug shortages
 - Lack of motivated staff

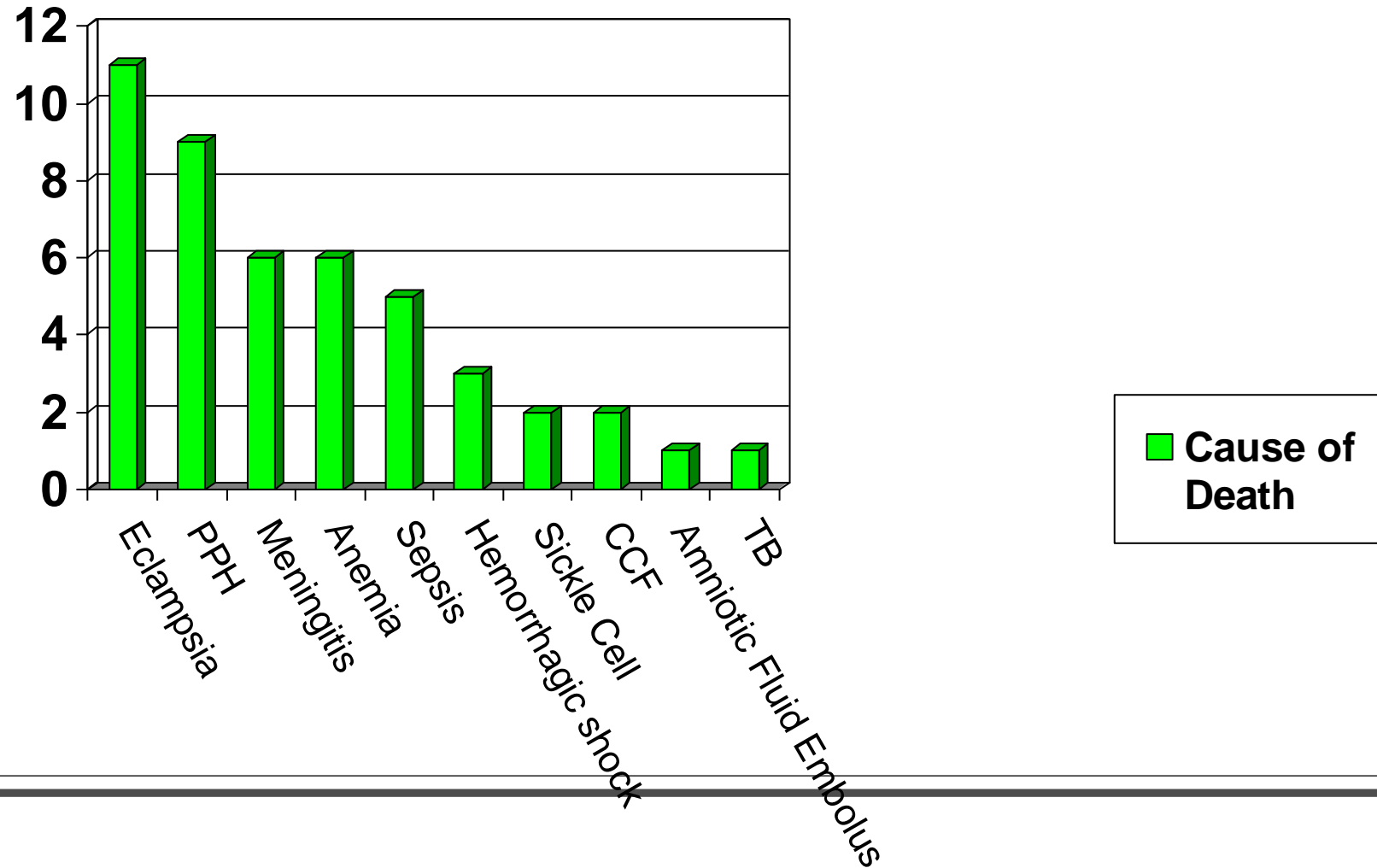
Other Contributing Factors

- Early age of marriage
- Early age of first pregnancy
- High number of births per woman
 - Increasing risk of complications
- Despite high antenatal attendance more than half of pregnant women deliver outside the health facility and don't get postnatal care

Gomoa District



Causes for Maternal Mortality in Gomoa District 2001-2007



Steps taken to reduce Maternal Mortality

■ 2004-2005

- Free Deliveries in Gomoa District from Training of Midwives in Life Saving Skills in 2005/2006

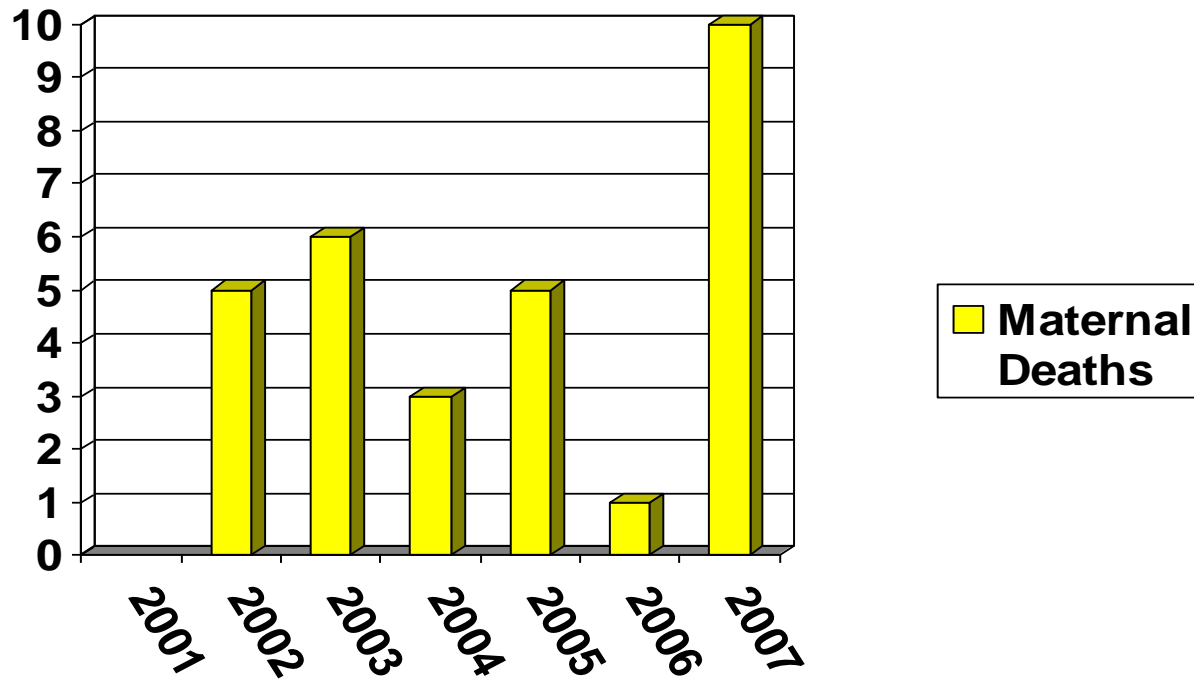
■ 2007/2008

- Training of Midwives in Emergency Obstetric Care
- Free Ante-natal care

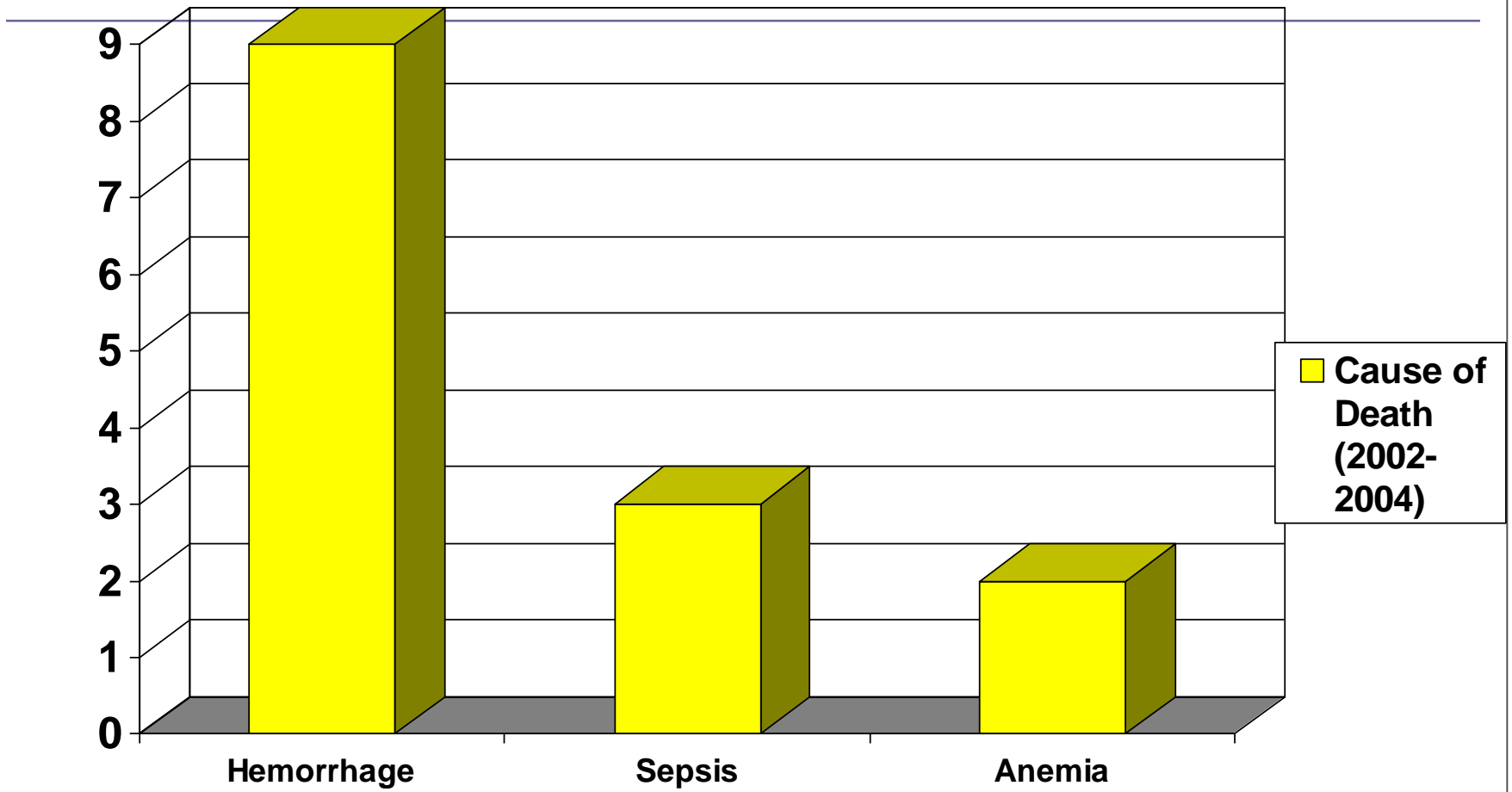
Steps taken to reduce Maternal Mortality

- 2007-2008 cont.
 - Signing of Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU)
 - Between private transport owners and Gomoa District
 - Instant Coverage of pregnant women who register for National Health Insurance

Sekyere West District



Maternal Mortality in Sekyere West



Steps taken to Reduce Maternal Mortality in Sekyere West

■ 2006

- In-service training of forty midwives public and private on Emergency obstetric care
- Training of community based surveillance volunteers and TBAs on danger signs in antenatal care, labor and post natal.
- Sensitization of chiefs and opinion leaders, queen mothers and transport owners on maternal child health
- Distribution of laminated ANC cards

Medical Officers have to say...

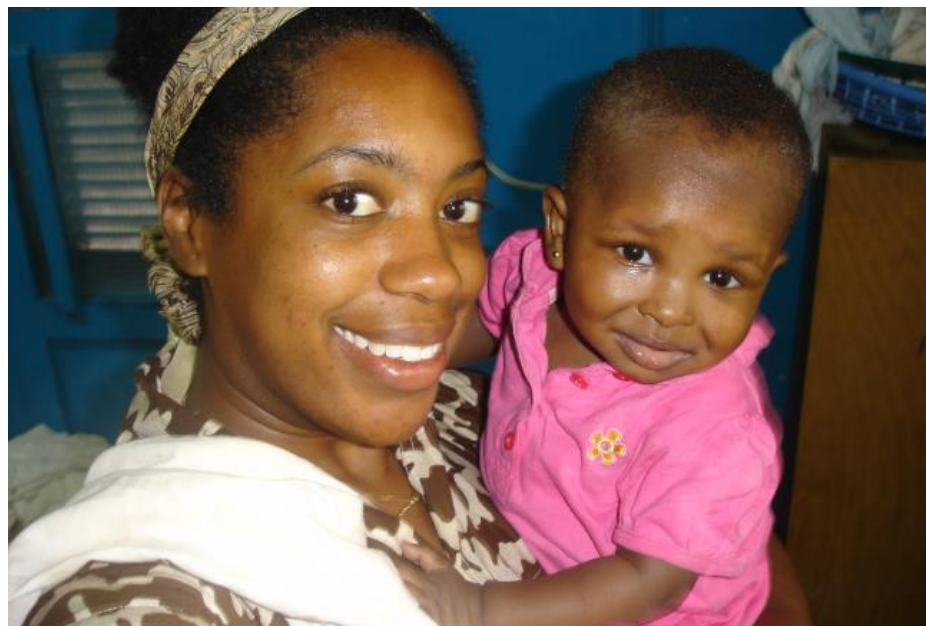
- Better Roads
- Maternity Houses
- More training of Midwives
- Increased incentives to have an institutional birth
- Improved Transportation

Future Steps

- Legalization of abortion
- Increased communication between districts
- Community education on the importance of Maternal Health
- Improved transportation and roads
- District wide guidelines on patient reporting

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Thank You!!!

