



# *WOMEN'S HEALTH IS SOCIETY'S WEALTH*

*Dr. Padmini Murthy MD, MPH, MS, CHES  
Medical Women's International Association*

*Webinar  
Feb 1 2014*

# *Learning Objectives*

- *1. Discuss the link between women's health and factors influencing their health status during their life span.*
- *2. Discuss why women's health is society's wealth with a focus on the economic advantages in the community.*
- *3. Discuss policies and recommendations to promote women's health across her life span.*
- *4. Highlight Role of Beijingplatform , Cities for CEDAW and Post 2015 in advancing women's health*



# *Introduction*

- *Globalization has changed the fabric of society, while the health and human rights of women are remaining stagnant or growing worse in many parts of the world. Some of what the statistics document is so ugly as to seem incompatible with the word civilization.*
- *Women in this day and age are denied their fundamental right to enjoy a complete state of health as defined by the World Health Organization.*



# *Equality in Society Myth or Reality?*

- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UaCwOdNeA7k&feature=em-share\\_video\\_user](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UaCwOdNeA7k&feature=em-share_video_user)



# *Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Women's Health*

- *Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations (UN) in 1948, states that “*
- *Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family,” and “Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. <sup>1</sup>*



# *Cairo Programme of Action*

- *Violence against women represents a significant barrier to human development, as stated in the Cairo Programme of Action.*
- *“In a number of countries, harmful practices meant to control women’s sexuality have led to great suffering. Among them is the practice of female genital mutilation, which is a violation of basic rights and a major lifelong risk to women’s health”<sup>2</sup>*

*(para. 7.35)*



# Health and Human Rights

## Examples of the links between Health and Human Rights



# *Women's Health A Missing Link?*

- *Gender, societal roles and women's rights have drastic impact on women's health, especially reproductive health*
- *This is a missing link in many societies where there is an unmet need for contraception , lack of access to safe mother hood and lack of gender equity.*





# *A Portrait of Women*

- *Women in developing countries face a number of challenges to their health and well-being*
- *Over 300, 000 women die each year from complications during pregnancy and childbirth, the vast majority of them in Africa and Asia. <sup>3</sup>*
- *This includes nearly 70,000 deaths from unsafe abortion*



# Staggering Statistics

- *According to studies, between 10% and 69% of women report having been assaulted by an intimate male partner at some time in their lives.<sup>4</sup>*
- *A study conducted by Buvinic, Morrison, and Shifter found that in Latin America the proportion of women who were assaulted by their partners is between 10% and 35%, while in sub-Saharan Africa, it is between 13% and 45 %<sup>4</sup>*

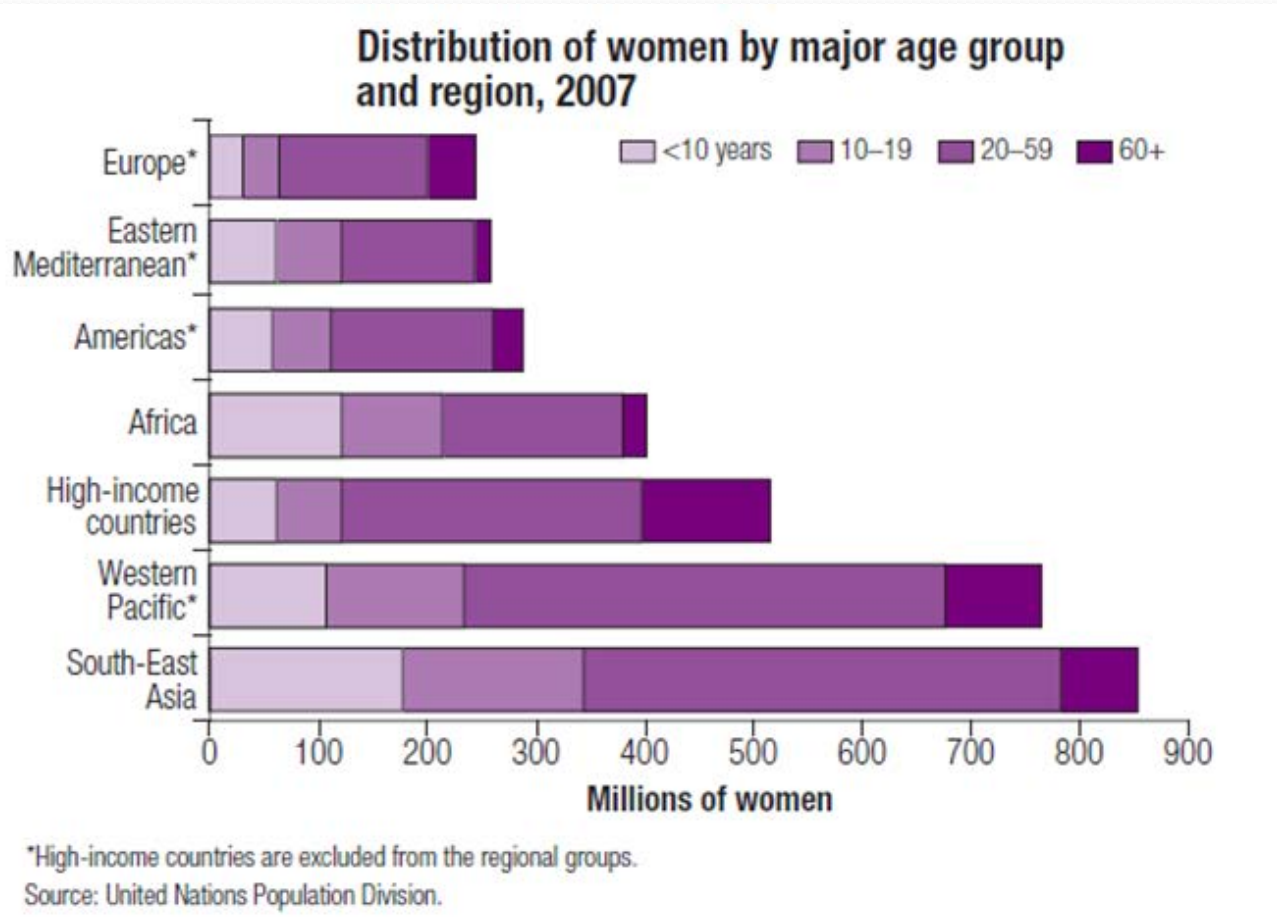


# *Strategies to address gender based violence*

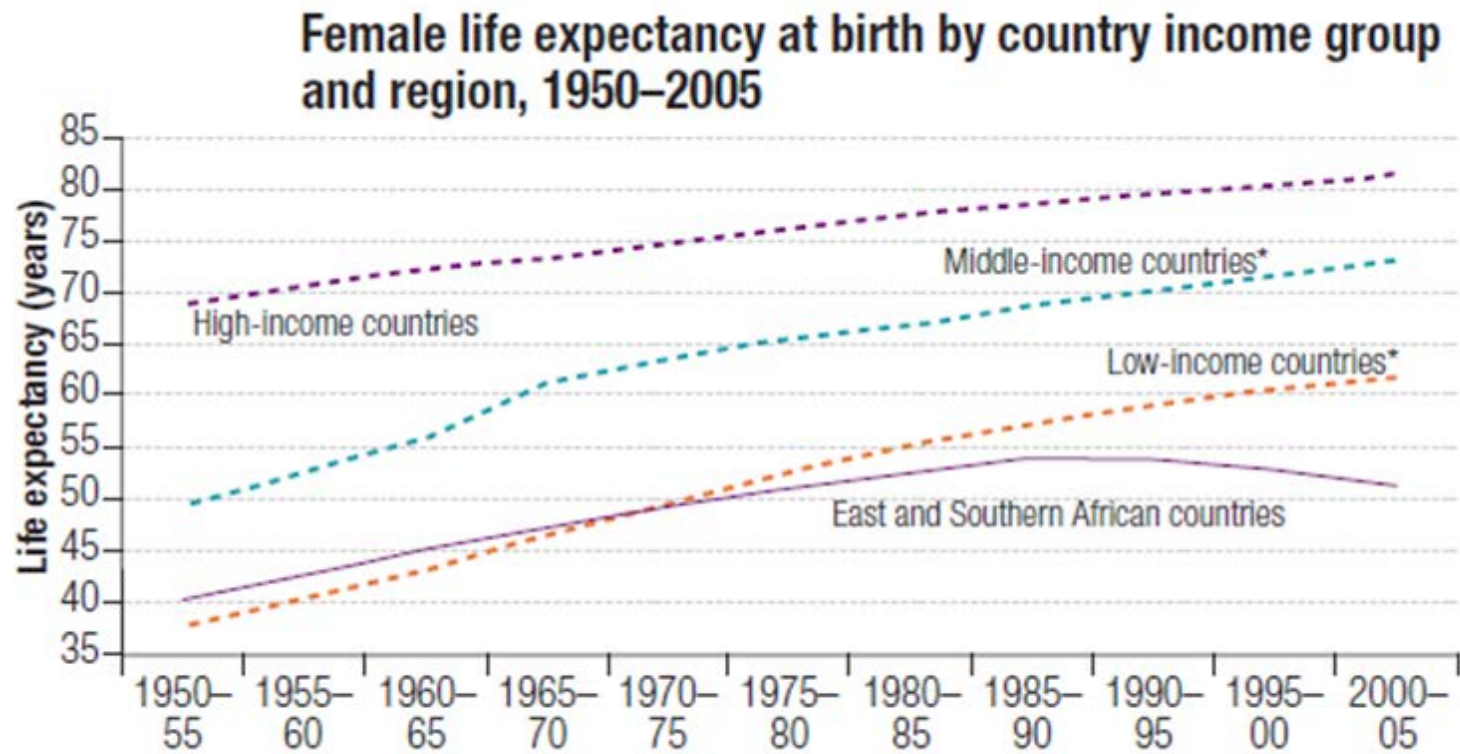
- *Male involvement and input when implementing programs to prevent violence against women has shown to be effective.*
- *Treatment programs for abusers*
- *Women Police Stations*
- *Stringent punishment for abusers* <sup>5,6</sup>



# Women Worldwide



# Differences between High and Low Income Countries



\* Excluding East and Southern African countries.

Source: United Nations Population Division.



# *10 Leading Causes of Death for Women*

World			
Rank	Cause	Deaths (000s)	%
1	Ischaemic heart disease	3371	12.2
2	Stroke	3051	11.1
3	Lower respiratory infections	2014	7.3
4	COPD*	1405	5.1
5	Diarrhoeal diseases	1037	3.8
6	HIV/AIDS	1013	3.7
7	Diabetes mellitus	633	2.3
8	Prematurity and low birth weight	567	2.1
9	Neonatal infections**	546	2.0
10	Hypertensive heart disease	530	1.9

Source: World Health Organization



# 10 Leading Causes of Death for Women <sup>7</sup>

Low-income countries			
Rank	Cause	Deaths (000s)	%
1	Lower respiratory infections	1397	11.4
2	Ischaemic heart disease	1061	8.7
3	Diarrhoeal diseases	851	7.0
4	Stroke	749	6.1
5	HIV/AIDS	742	6.1
6	Maternal conditions	442	3.6
7	Neonatal infections**	426	3.5
8	Prematurity and low birth weight	405	3.3
9	Malaria	404	3.3
10	COPD*	404	3.3

Source: World Health Organization



# *10 Leading Causes of Death for Women <sup>7</sup>*

Middle-income countries			
Rank	Cause	Deaths (000s)	%
1	Stroke	1842	16.4
2	Ischaemic heart disease	1659	14.8
3	COPD*	875	7.8
4	Lower respiratory infections	451	4.0
5	Hypertensive heart disease	319	2.8
6	Diabetes mellitus	309	2.8
7	HIV/AIDS	264	2.4
8	Breast cancer	231	2.1
9	Stomach cancer	201	1.8
10	Trachea, bronchus and lung cancers	191	1.7

Source: World Health Organization





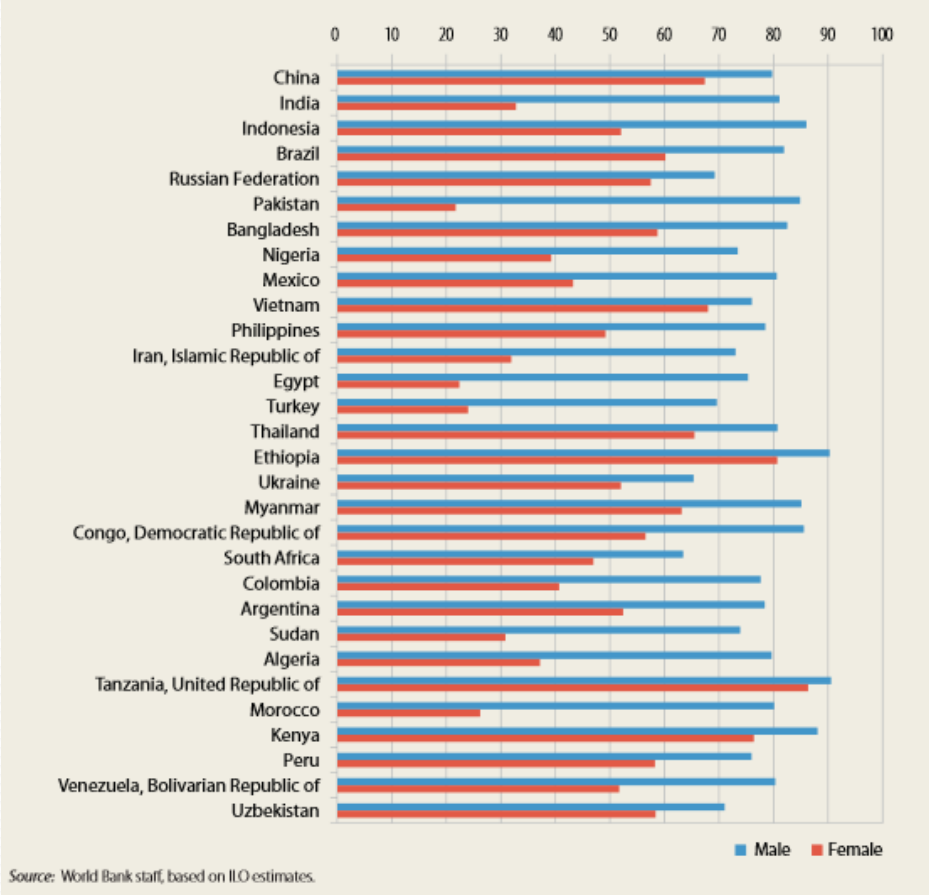
# *10 Leading Causes of Death for Women <sup>7</sup>*

High-income countries			
Rank	Cause	Deaths (000s)	%
1	Ischaemic heart disease	650	15.8
2	Stroke	459	11.2
3	Alzheimer and other dementias	195	4.7
4	Lower respiratory infections	165	4.0
5	Breast cancer	163	4.0
6	Trachea, bronchus and lung cancers	159	3.9
7	Colon and rectum cancers	130	3.2
8	COPD*	126	3.1
9	Diabetes mellitus	123	3.0
10	Hypertensive heart disease	91	2.2

Source: World Health Organization



**FIGURE 4** Labor force participation by gender of the 30 largest developing countries



# *Examples of Gender Based Violence*

- *Prebirth—Sex-selective abortion*
- *Infancy—Female infanticide, physical abuse, neglect, poor nutrition, and lack of immunization and medical care*
- *Girlhood—Child marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM), trafficking, child prostitution, sexual abuse, poor nutrition, lack of immunizations and medical care, and minimal or lack of educational opportunities <sup>5,6</sup>*



# *What can we do to stop violence*

**WHEN  
MEN GATHER,  
IT'S NOT ALWAYS  
TROUBLE.**

**TREAT WOMEN  
WITH RESPECT.  
MAKE A PROMISE.**

BELL < YOUR PROMISE > TO 56767 | FOLLOW @BELL\_BAJAO , #RINGTHEBELL | FACEBOOK.COM/BELLBAJAO | BELLBAJAO.ORG

**RING  
THE BELL**



# *Campaigns against VAW using Apps*

<http://vimeo.com/38802136#>



# *Post 2015 Agenda*

- *Envisioning a new Global Partnership*  
*“We agreed on the need for a renewed Global Partnership that enables a transformative, people-centered and planet-sensitive development agenda which is realized through the equal partnership of all stakeholders.*



# *Post 2015 Agenda*

- *Such partnership should be based on the principles of equity, sustainability, solidarity, respect for humanity, and shared responsibilities in accordance with respective capabilities.”*

*Bali Communiqué of the High-Level Panel, March 28, 2013*

*(source: United Nations, 2013)*



# *From Vision to Reality*

*From Vision to Reality*

*Leave no one Behind*

*Put sustainable Development at the core*

*Transform Economies for jobs and inclusive growth*

*Build peace and open and accountable public institutions*

*Forge a new global partnership (source: United Nations, 2013)*





# *POST 2015 UNIVERSAL GOALS*



*Goal 1- End Poverty*



*Goal 2- Empower Girls and Women and Achieve Gender Equality*



*Goal 3- Provide Quality Education and Lifelong Learning*



*Goal 4- Ensure Healthy Lives*



*Goal 5- Ensure Food Security and Good Nutrition*



# *POST 2015 UNIVERSAL GOALS*



*Goal 6- Achieve Universal Access to Water and Sanitation*



*Goal 7- Secure Sustainable Energy*



*Goal 8- Create Jobs, Sustainable Livelihoods, and Equitable Growth*



*Goal 9- Manage Natural Resource Assets Sustainability*



# *Key Players in Post 2015/ Beijing Platform*

- *National governments*
- *Local authorities*
- *International institutions*
- *Private Sector*
- *Foundations*
- *NGOs*
- *Academia /Scientific community*
- *Practitioners*



# *Cross Cutting Issues*

- *Peace*
- *Inequality*
- *Climate Change*
- *Cities*
- *Girls and Women*
- *Young people*



# *Strategies /Results*

- *Gender equality leads to better human development outcomes for future generations*
- *Breaking normative barriers to empower women and girls*
- *Changing incentives for gender equality*
- *Impressive gains in women's rights and investments in education and health services in many countries have made the world a more equal place for men and women.*
- *Microcredit and micro pension schemes* <sup>8</sup>



# *Beijing Platform*

- *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action\**
- *The Fourth World Conference on Women,*
- *Having met in Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995,*
- *1. Adopts the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which are annexed to the present resolution;*
- *2. Recommends to the General Assembly of the United Nations at its fiftieth session that it endorse the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action as adopted by the Conference. ( source: United Nations)*



# *Beijing Plus 20*

- *Beijing Plus 20 in 2015 is a golden opportunity to “scale up and speed up” implementation of the*
- *Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)*
- *This campaign has four “C”s.*
- *Commitments*
- *Capacity Building*
- *Communications for change*
- *Cities for Sustainable Development and Human Rights*
- *( source CoNGO)*



# Conclusion

- *To improve women's health and society's wealth we must address not only the biological differences but also gender based health inequalities.*
- *By reforming the legal mechanism and policies*
- *Creating public policies and programs to address health and education for women*
- *Provide gender based training for service providers*
- *Raise the public's awareness of gender bias and promote change* <sup>8</sup>





# References

- **1. Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 25. 1948.**  
<http://www.un.org/Overview/rights.html>
- **2. Report on the International conference of population and development 1994**  
[http://www.unfpa.org/webdav/site/global/shared/documents/publications/2004/icpd\\_eng.pdf](http://www.unfpa.org/webdav/site/global/shared/documents/publications/2004/icpd_eng.pdf)
- **3. Morgan, Foreman , Naghavi et al . Maternal mortality for 181 countries, 1980—2008: a systematic analysis of progress towards Millennium Development Goal 5**  
<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736%2810%2960518-1/abstract>
- **4. International Center for Research on Women. Violence against women must stop. 2005.**  
[http://www.icrw.org/docs/2005\\_brief\\_mdg-violence.pdf](http://www.icrw.org/docs/2005_brief_mdg-violence.pdf)
- **5. Interactive Population Centre. Violence against girls and women.**  
<http://www.unfpa.org/intercenter/violence/intro.htm>
- **6. World Health Organization. (2009). Women and health: Today's evidence tomorrow's agenda. Geneva: WHO Press. doi: 9789241563857**
- **7. World Bank Group. (2012). Getting to equal: Promoting gender equality through human development**
- **8. United Nations 2013 The Report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.**
- Retrieved from <http://www.post2015hlp.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/UN-Report.pdf>

Images from Amnesty International , Google images and UNICRIT

