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# National Professional Associations in Obstetrics and Gynaecology & Maternal Health

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**Prof. D J Taylor MD FRCOG**  
**Director of FIGO Gates Initiative in MNH**

*“The poignancy of a mother’s death at the moment which should bring her and her husband the greatest joy is greater than any other bereavement. To this is due the bitterness and sense of injustice with which the public have expressed their dissatisfaction with the persistently high level of maternal mortality rate.”*



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***“Case after case showed that there had been no ante-natal care...***

***...case after case showed evidence of unnecessary and violent interference...***

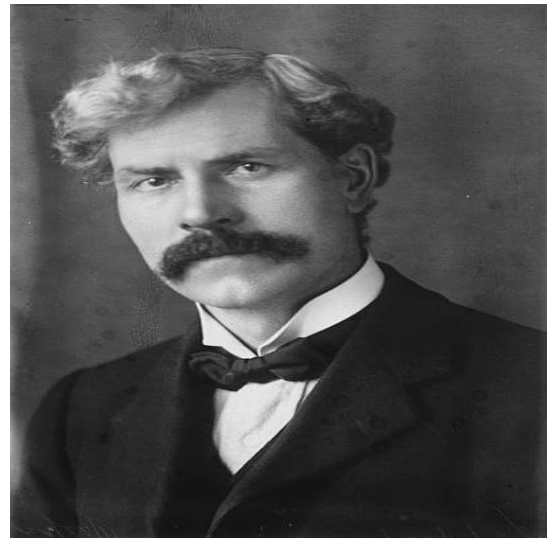
***...shock and haemorrhage following difficult labour was by far the commonest cause of death.”***

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First speech of Ramsay MacDonald, Prime  
Minister of UK (1929-1935)

committed his government to an improvement  
in maternal mortality



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***“Doctor training is lamentably inadequate.”***



# Reasons for the foundation of a Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists



1. To form a portal of training and examination through which must pass all who wished to be Consultants in Obstetrics and Gynaecology
  2. To prevent divorce of Obstetrics from Gynaecology
  3. To bind the teachers of obstetrics and gynaecology together so that they could demand adequate facilities for the teaching and examining of students
  4. To speak as the representative body of all obstetricians and gynaecologists
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*“The administrative proposal to which we take exception would place all matters in the hands of officials devoid of practical knowledge and experience of midwifery.”*

Extract from a letter to The Times from PRCOG in response to a Ministry of Health review of The Midwives Act. 1928.

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# FIGO-Gates Initiative

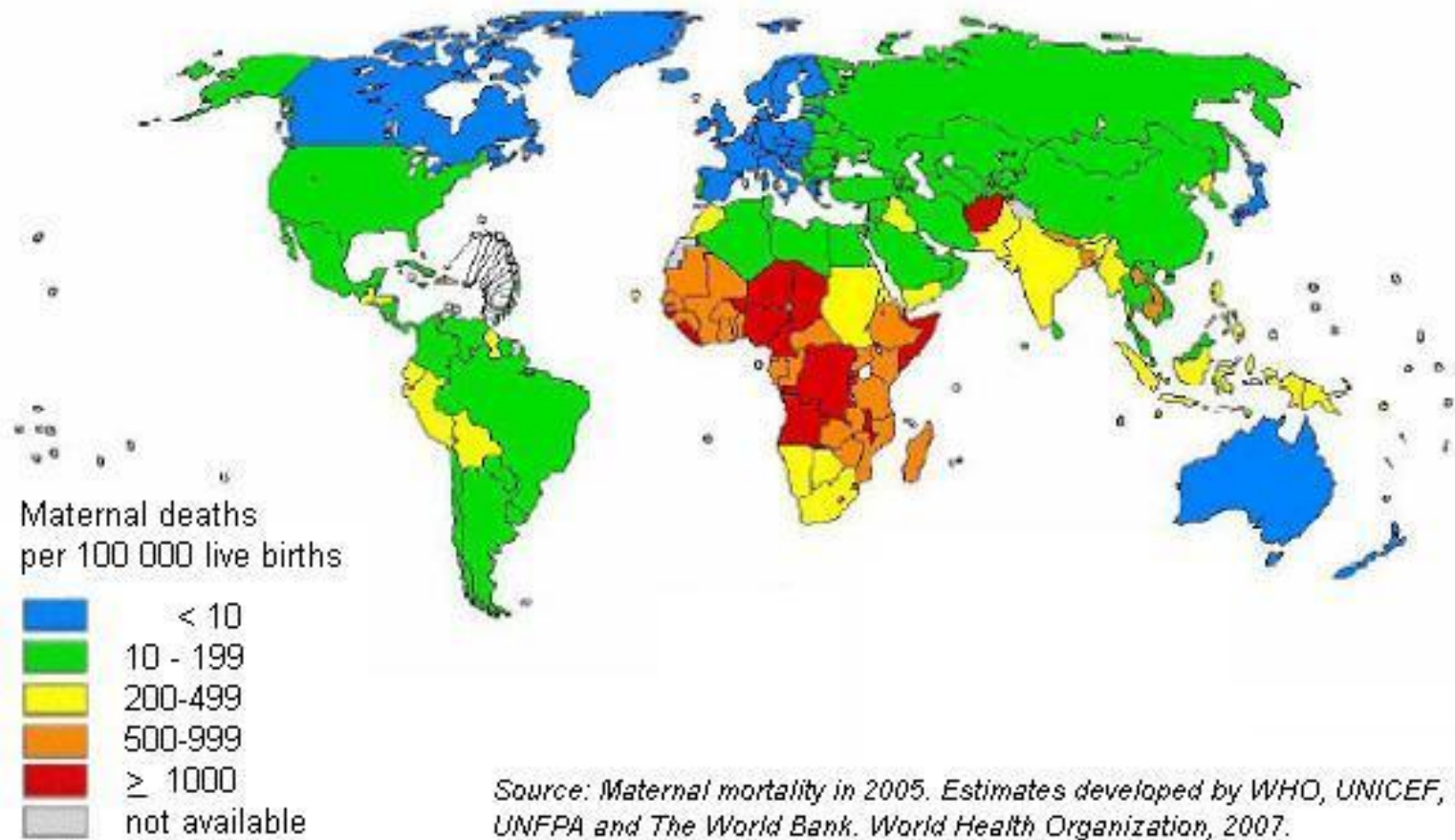


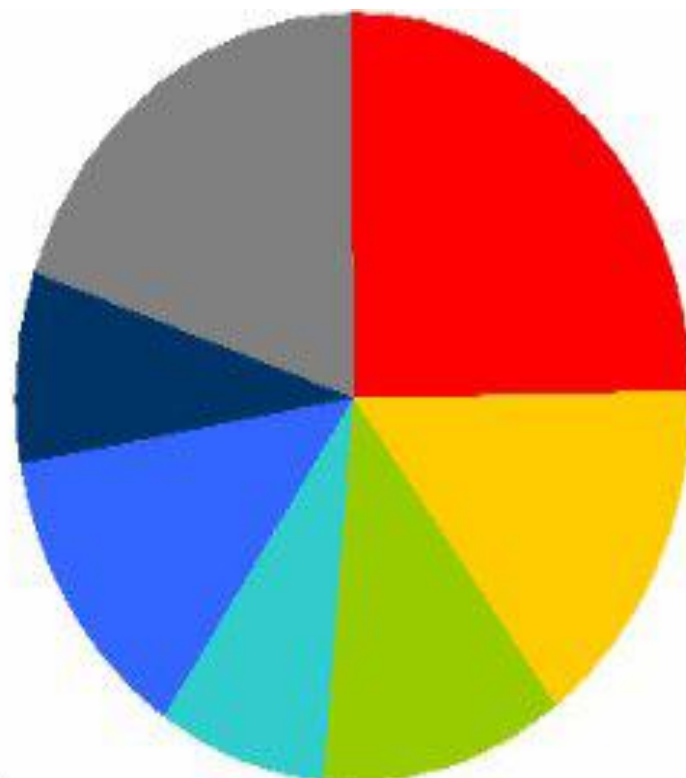
***To improve policy and practice by strengthening FIGO Member Associations, and using their position and knowledge to facilitate and contribute to these improvements, leading to better maternal and newborn health for under-served populations in low and middle resource countries.***



**BILL & MELINDA  
GATES foundation**

## Maternal mortality ratio, by country, 2005





### Causes of maternal death

- Severe bleeding (haemorrhage) 25%
- Infections 15%
- Eclampsia 12%
- Obstructed labour 8%
- Unsafe abortion 13%
- Other direct causes 8%
- Indirect causes 20%

Source: *The World Health Report 2005. Make every mother and child count.*  
Geneva, World Health Organization, 2005.

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# The Three Delays Model

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# Phase 1 delay. Delay in decision to seek care

- Failure to recognise complications
- Acceptance of maternal death
- Low status of woman
- Socio-cultural barriers in seeking care
  - inadequate education
  - beliefs and practises surrounding childbirth



# Phase 2 delay. Delay in reaching care.

- Poor roads, islands, mountains, rivers.
- Poor communications systems.



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## Phase 3 delay. Delay in receiving care.

- Inadequate facilities, supplies, personnel
- Poor training
- Poor morale of staff
- Lack of finances



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# Delay Pregnancy

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# FIGO–Gates Initiative

## Participant Countries:

- Burkina Faso
- Cameroon
- Ethiopia
- India
- Mozambique
- Nepal
- Nigeria
- Uganda



**ICM**

**ICN**

**Government**

**FIGO**

**National Project Committee**

**WHO**

**UNFPA**

**IPA**

**WFSA**

# Objectives

- **Advocacy for MNH investment**
- **Policy and Practice in MNH**
- **Organisational Capacity Development**
- **FIGO Support**
- **South-South Collaboration**



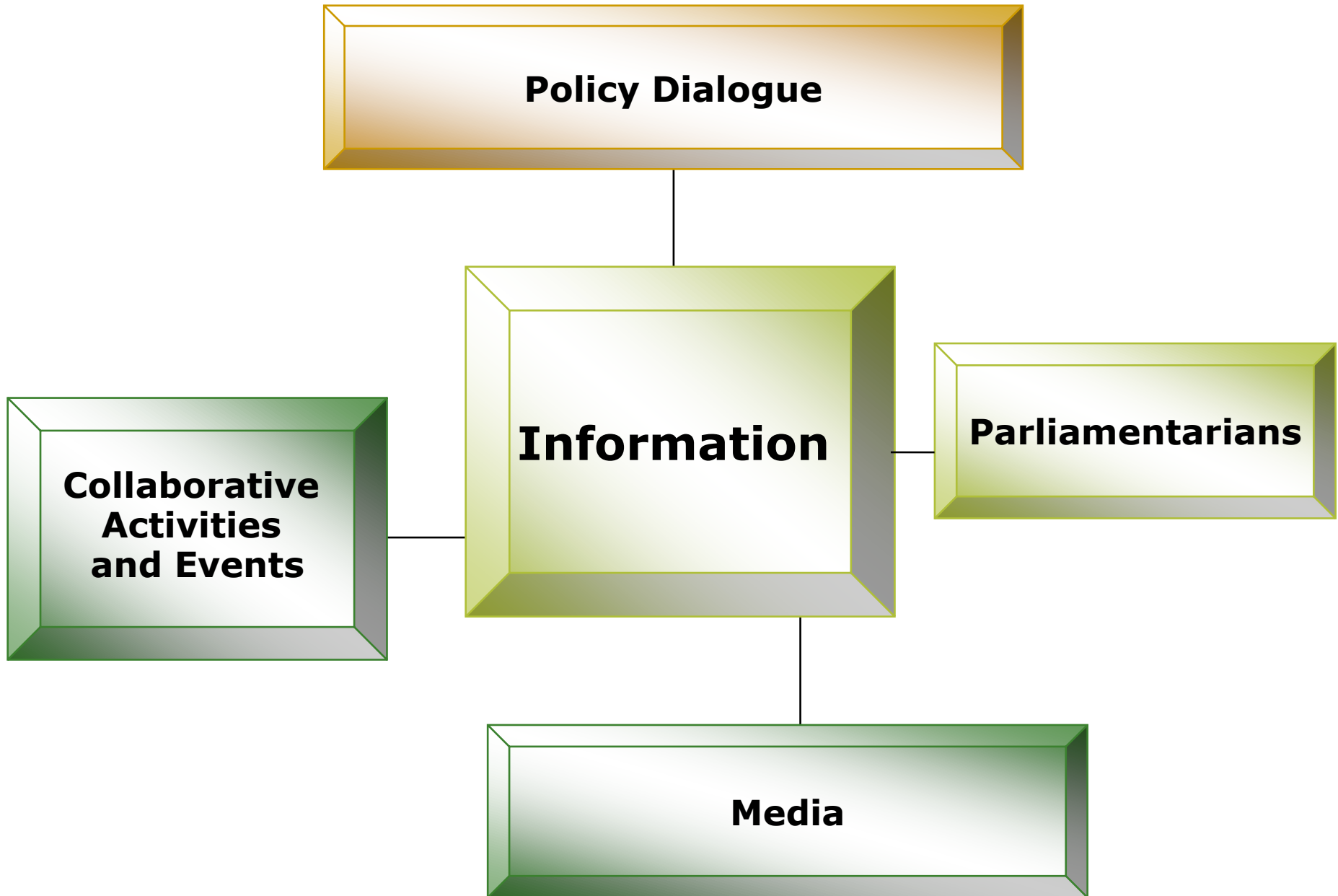
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# Objective One



**MNH Policy influenced and supported through Member Associations advocating to raise and maintain awareness of investment in MNH.**

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# Objective Two



**Member Associations active in developing evidence informed policy, strategic objectives and operational plans.**

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# Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)



**National Strategic Plan**

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graph TD; NSP[National Strategic Plan] --- SD[Service Delivery]; SD --- G[Guidelines]; SD --- MMR[Maternal Mortality Reviews];
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The diagram is a flowchart with four rectangular boxes. At the top is a gold box labeled 'National Strategic Plan'. A vertical line connects it to a light green box labeled 'Service Delivery' in the center. From the left side of the 'Service Delivery' box, a horizontal line extends to a dark green box labeled 'Guidelines'. From the right side of the 'Service Delivery' box, a horizontal line extends to a light green box labeled 'Maternal Mortality Reviews'. A vertical line then descends from the right side of the 'Maternal Mortality Reviews' box.

**Service  
Delivery**

**Guidelines**

**Maternal  
Mortality Reviews**

# Objective Three



**Member Associations strengthened to enable effective participation in national strategic and operational for a in MNH.**

**Culture**

**External Relations**

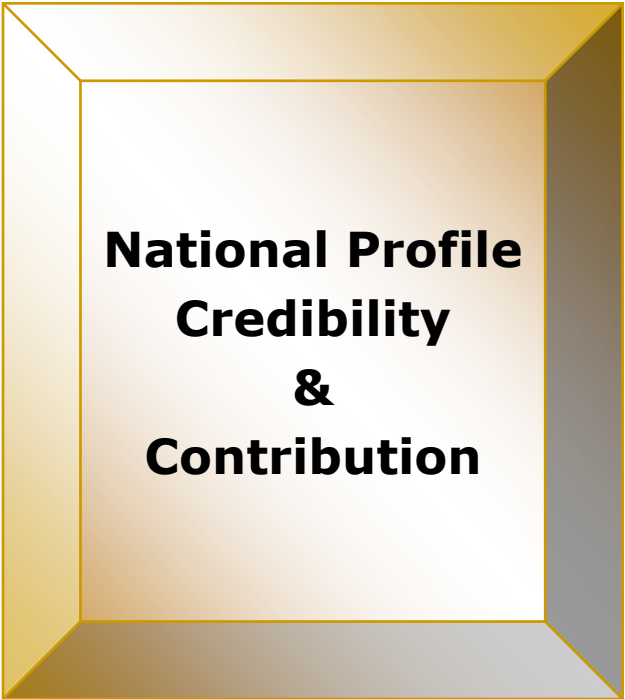
**Organisational  
Capacity**

- **Membership Services**
- **Standards of Care**
- **Advancing Practice**
- **Influencing Policy**

- **Governance**
- **Leadership**
- **Strategy**
- **Finances**
- **Human Resources**
- **Project Management**
- **Communication**
- **Infrastructure**



**Effective  
Member  
Association  
&  
Network**



**National Profile  
Credibility  
&  
Contribution**

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# Objective Four



**FIGO's facilitative role with Member Associations strengthened.**

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# Objective Five



**South-South support between Phase One and Phase Two countries to strengthen strategic advocacy and policy implementation.**

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*...we choose to go to the moon,  
not because it is easy,  
but because it is hard...*

*the challenge is  
one we are willing to accept,  
one we are unwilling to postpone,  
and one we intend to win.*

*(J.F. Kennedy 12.09.62.)*



# Next FIGO Congress... ... Rome, 2012



7<sup>TH</sup> - 12<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2012  
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ROME, ITALY

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# The FIGO-Gates Initiative in Maternal and Newborn Health



BILL & MELINDA  
GATES *foundation*

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