

Sierra Leone

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SIERRA LEONE

GUINÉE



Sierra Leone

- Population
 - Nearly 6,000,000
- Life Expectancy
 - Men 37
 - Women 40
- Adult Literacy
 - Less than 30%

Sierra Leone

- Adult mortality rate
 - Probability of dying between the ages of 15 and 60
 - Men 579/1000
 - Women 497/1000
- Children under age 5 mortality rate
 - Probability of dying before age 5
 - M/F 283/1000

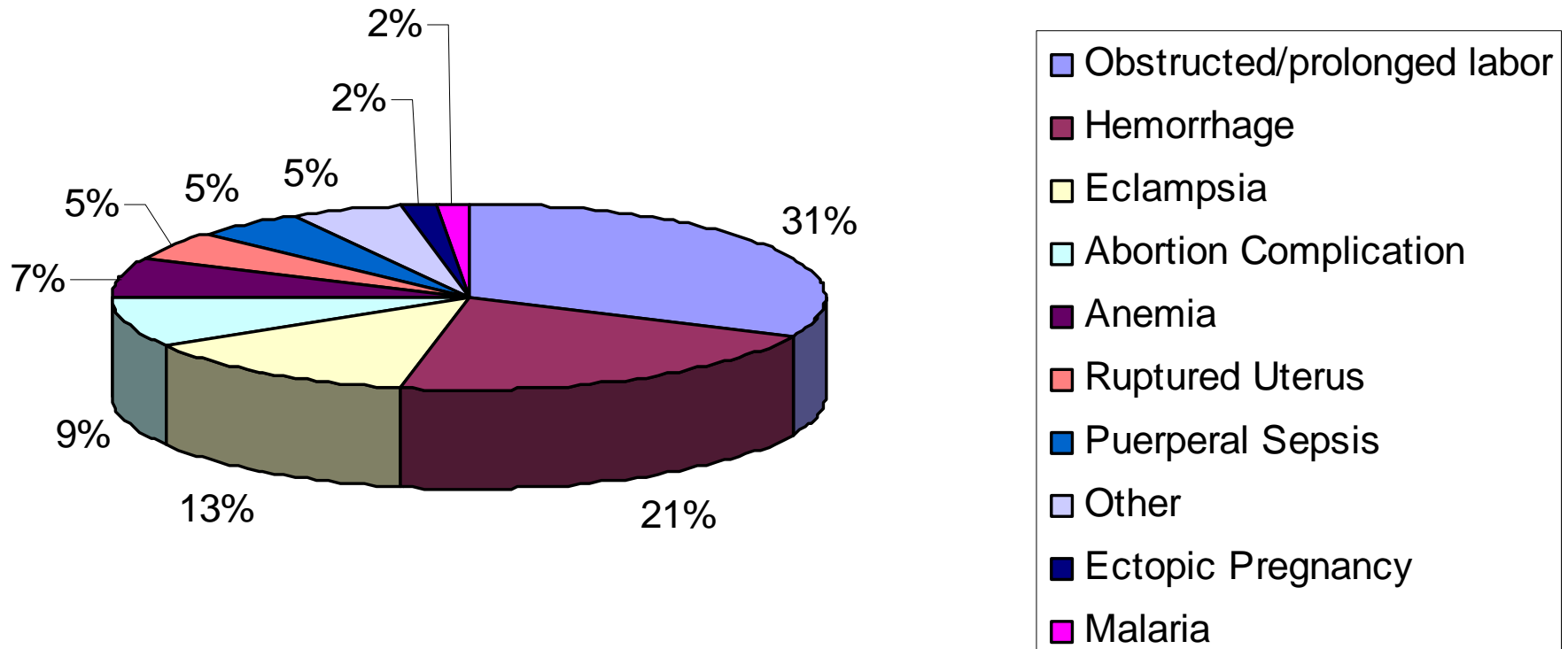
Sierra Leone

- Access to Health Care
 - 168 Physicians
 - 3 Obstetricians
 - 1841 Nurses
 - SECHN
 - RN
 - Midwife
 - BSN
 - 5 Dentists

Childbearing Women

- Maternal mortality rate
 - 2000/100,000
- 42% of births attended by skilled professional
- Overall cesarean section rate of 2%

Reasons Women Die in Childbirth



DELAY as Significant Factor

- Delay in recognition of danger signs
- Delay in deciding to seek care
- Delay in reaching appropriate care
- Delay in receiving appropriate care

Reasons for Delay

- Delay in recognition of danger signs *and* Delay in deciding to seek care
 - Occurs at the family and community level
 - Low literacy, poverty, inadequate access, cultural barriers (approval of chief)
- Delay in reaching appropriate care
 - Poor road conditions, no hospitals in rural areas, no transportation
- Delay in receiving appropriate care
 - Healthcare facilities unprepared to handle emergencies, lack resources, lack training, lack personnel

Government Hospital

- PCMH
- Jan-June 2008
 - 28% stillbirth rate
 - 9% maternal death rate
 - Deliver approximately 200/mo

Government Solutions

- January 2008
- 10 nurse midwives to Nigeria for 6 months for training to become midwife teachers
- Easier access for nurses to get into midwife training
- Educate TBA's on danger signs in pregnancy and earlier referral to healthcare facilities

TBA Houses

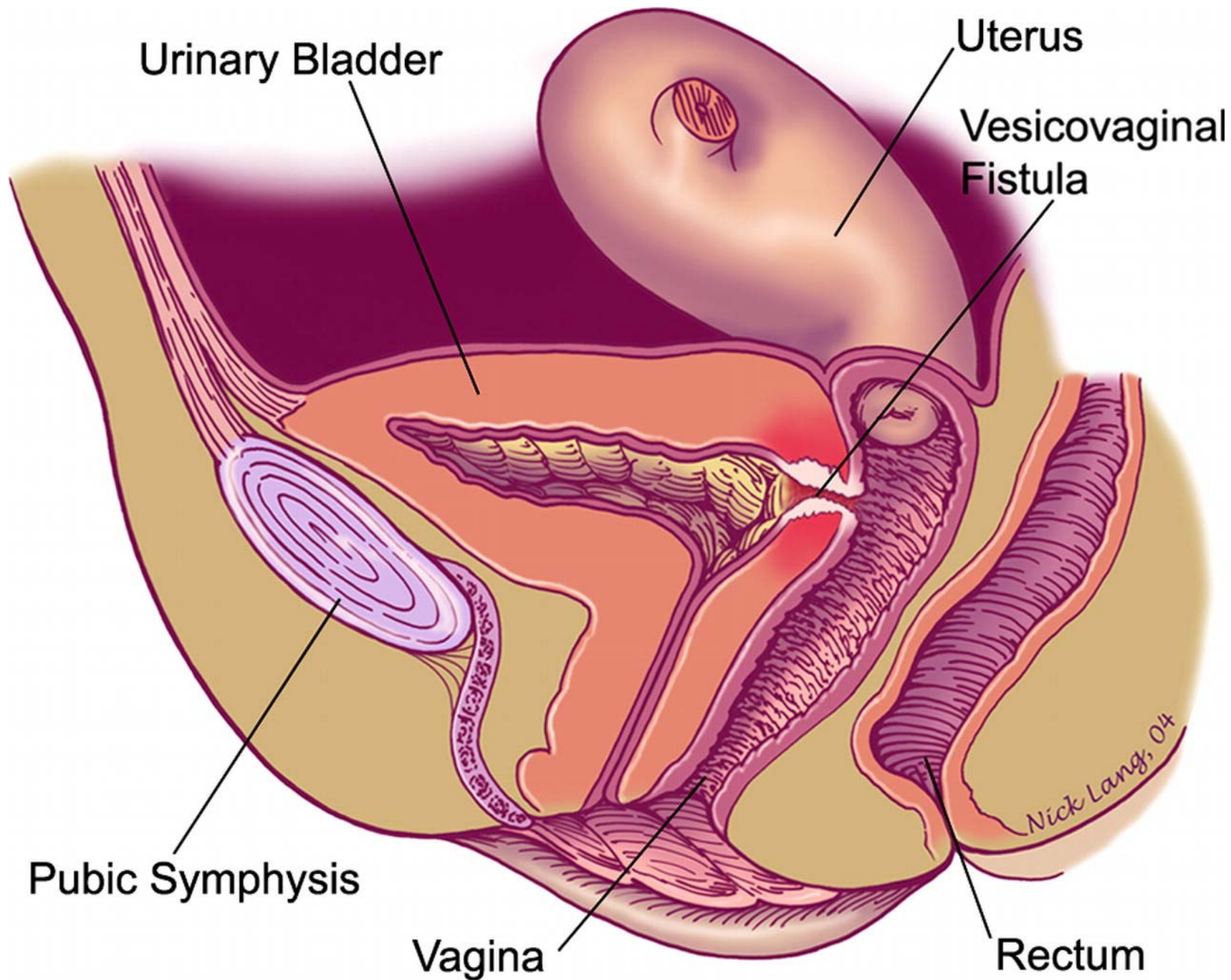
- Remote villages
- Untrained or poorly trained TBA's
- Only medical care

NGO's

- MSF (Doctors without Borders)
 - www.msf.org
- Mercy Ships
 - www.mercyships.org
- Freedom from Fistula Foundation
 - <http://www.freedomfromfistula.org.uk/>
- Unicef
 - www.unicef.org
- World Vision
 - www.worldvision.org
- Health Unlimited
 - www.healthunlimited.org
- UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund)
 - www.unfpa.org

Mercy Ships and Freedom from Fistula Foundation

- AWAFC
 - 45 bed fistula hospital
 - 500 surgeries per year
 - Screening team up country each week gathering patients
- Social stigma is significant
- Suicide rate is high among these women



In the Woman's Words

“me bele hat for 5 days”

“de pekin be die”

“den pulan na me bele”

“na pis problem i get”

Hawa

- 16 years old
- Unable to walk
- 3 days in labor
- Stillborn baby
- VVF
- RVF

Hawa

- Using splints and a cane
- Colostomy for at least 1 year
- Go home to gain weight and recover from colostomy surgery
- VVF will be repaired first in 6 months
- RVF will be repaired next
- Colostomy reversed in 12-18 months
- Mercy Ships will pay for 1 cesarean

Mercy Ships and Freedom from Fistula Foundation

- Three areas of fistula care
 - Treatment
 - Prevention
 - Rehabilitation
- Prevention plans
 - Maternity Services

MSF

- Bo
- Meeting with all 12 tribal chiefs in the area
- Talked about importance of prenatal care and safe delivery
- Agreement with chiefs to build a birthing house with hostel waiting house
 - Reluctance to allow women to be gone at end of pregnancy
 - Realization that a woman gone for a short time is better than a woman gone forever
- Chiefs donated 2 men from each village
- Every prenatal visit, women bring handful of sand or rocks
- When the pile of rocks and sand was big enough, MSF provided the concrete and the roof

Reading List

- Sierra Leone
 - ***A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*** by Ishmael Beah
 - ***The Devil that Danced on the Water: A Daughters Memoir*** by Aminatta Forna
- VVF
 - ***The Hospital by the River*** by Catherine Hamlin
- The power of one person
 - ***Mountains Beyond Mountains*** by Tracy Kidder