

# **New Challenges in Reproductive Health**

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**“ After Cairo: Issues and Challenges for the Next Conference on Population and  
Development”**

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# ICPD Paradigm Shift

- ❖ The broader Reproductive Health Agenda-*bringing forth new areas of concern and treading risqué areas*
- ❖ Emphasis on improvement of gender equality in education, health, economic opportunities-*recognizing important inter linkages with reproductive health*
- ❖ Shift away from macro concerns such as reductions in population growth and achievement of stabilization - *to recognizing individual needs and rights*

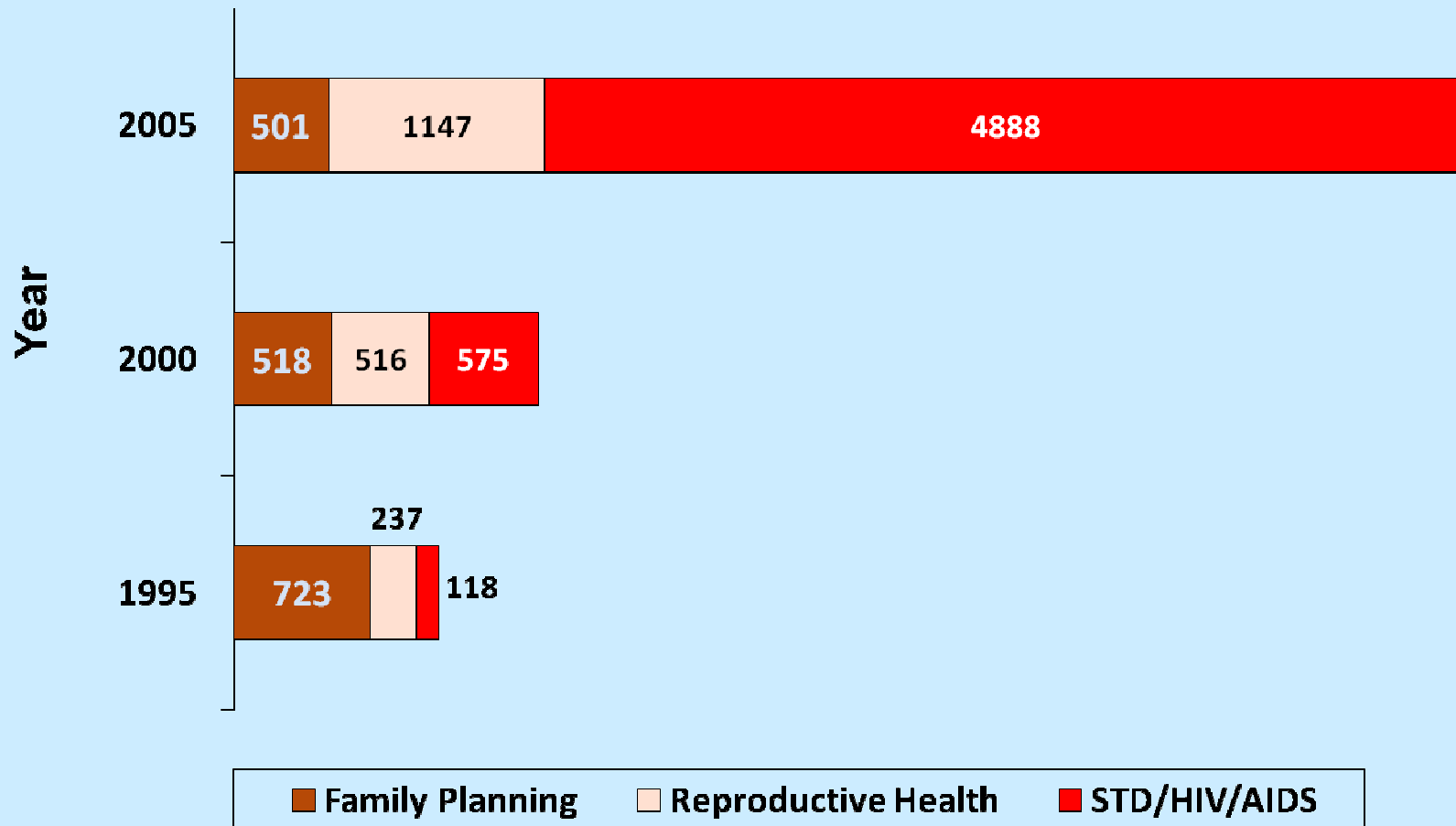
## How Real a Shift?

- ❖ The Population Agenda *was forced to expand*
- ❖ Sensitive topics *did enter official dialogue*-female genital cutting, abortion rights, gender violence
- ❖ Government policies *had to reckon with rights, reproduction and sex*

### But Alas...

- ❖ All countries *did not adopt* the changes equally
- ❖ Funds *did not follow* priorities
- ❖ ICPD brought forward the science---later *politics got in the way*

# Expenditure by ICPD Category of Total Population Assistance (in millions \$)



Source: UNFPA. Financial Resource Flows for Population Activities in 2006.

# HIV/AIDS – The Good News

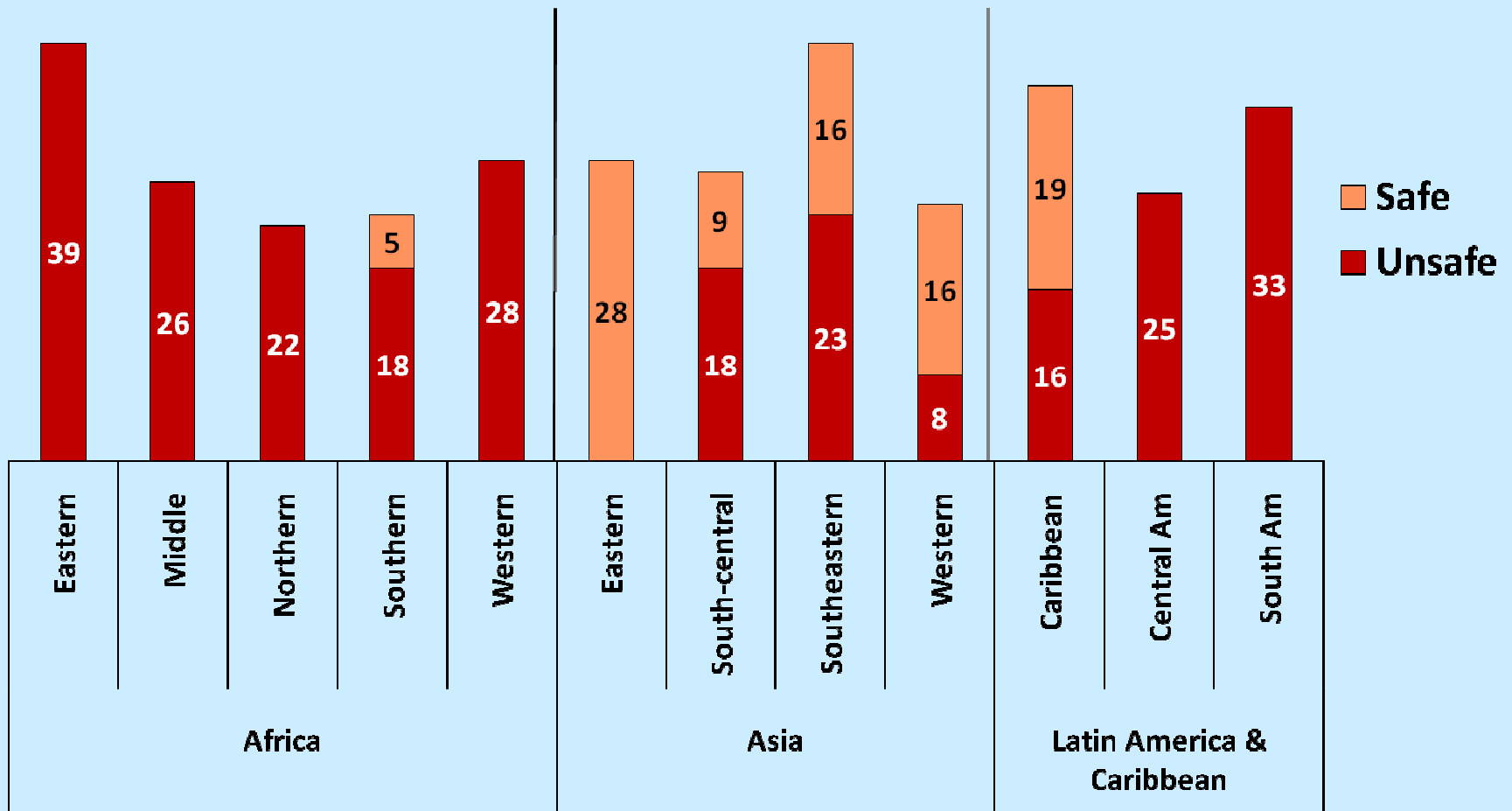
- ❖ **Six-fold increase in financing for HIV activities in low- and middle-income countries**
- ❖ **Signs of major progress in the HIV response have become apparent.**
- ❖ **The annual number of AIDS deaths has declined in the past two years from 2.2 million to 2.0 million(2005-2007)**
- ❖ **Global prevalence not increased since 2001 – 0.8 %**
- ❖ **Prevalence in Sub-Saharan Africa has decreased from 5.7 % (2001) to 5.0% (2007)**

# Adolescent Reproductive Health – Mixed News

- ❖ Sensitivity about young persons especially sexual activity outside marriage remains an obstacle to services
- ❖ Rights--difficult to ensure with gate keepers
- ❖ Religious and cultural conservatism pervasive in most regions
- ❖ Young women lowest in the age- sex hierarchy suffer discrimination in access to information and services

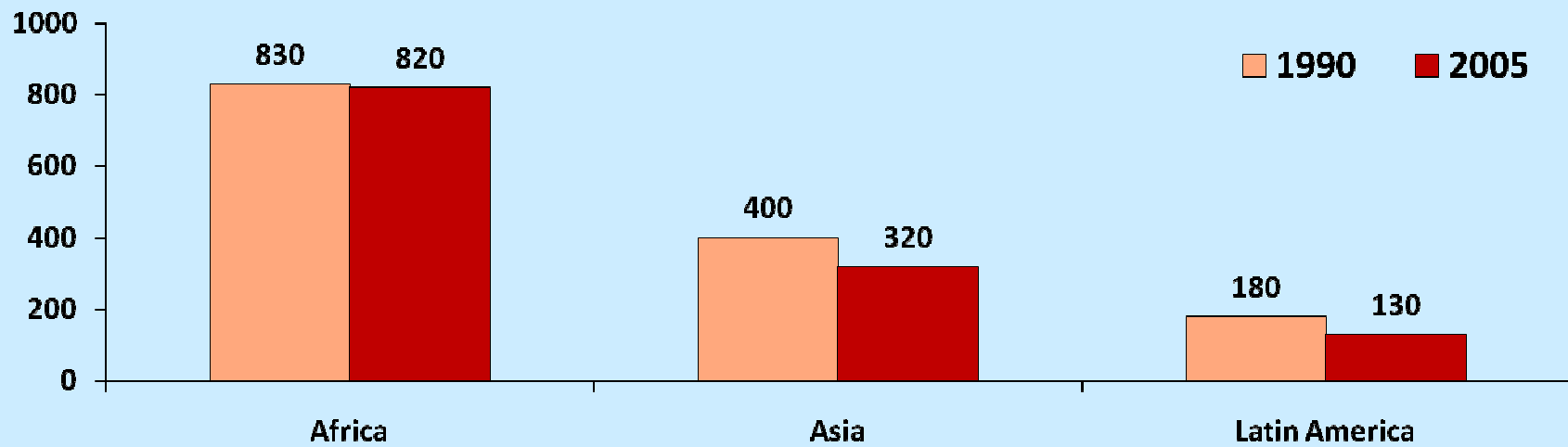
# Abortion Still Unsafe Almost Everywhere Except Eastern Asia:

Total Abortion Rate (per 1000 women 15-44) by Type and Region, 2003

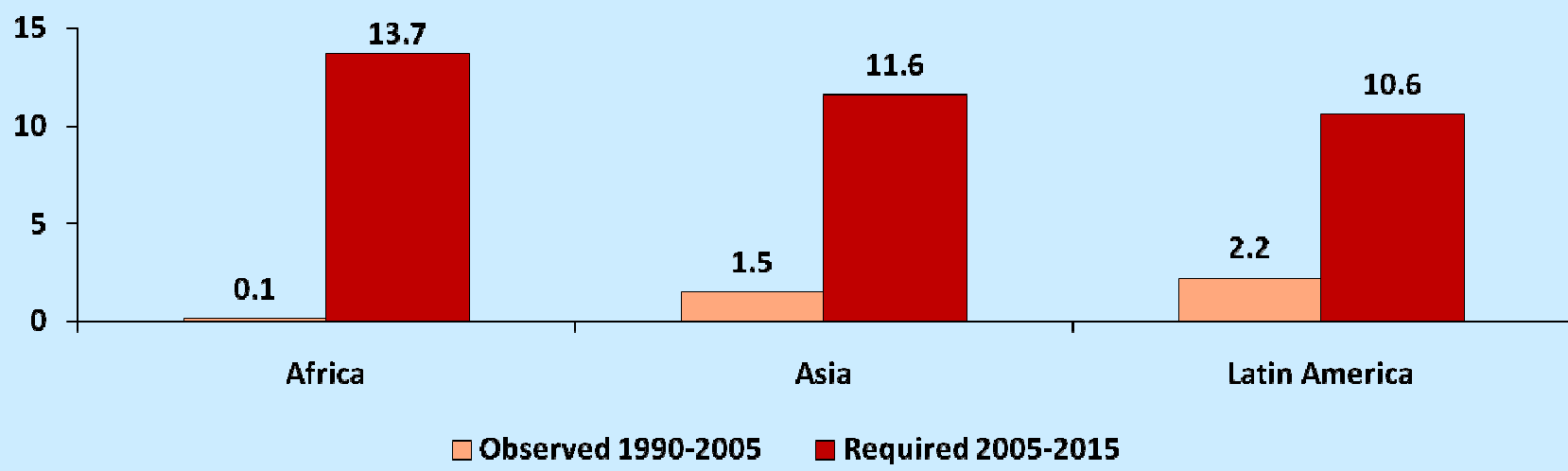


Source: Guttmacher Institute 2007, Induced Abortion: estimated rates and trends worldwide

## Maternal Mortality Ratios and Observed % Changes by Major Area – 1990 and 2005

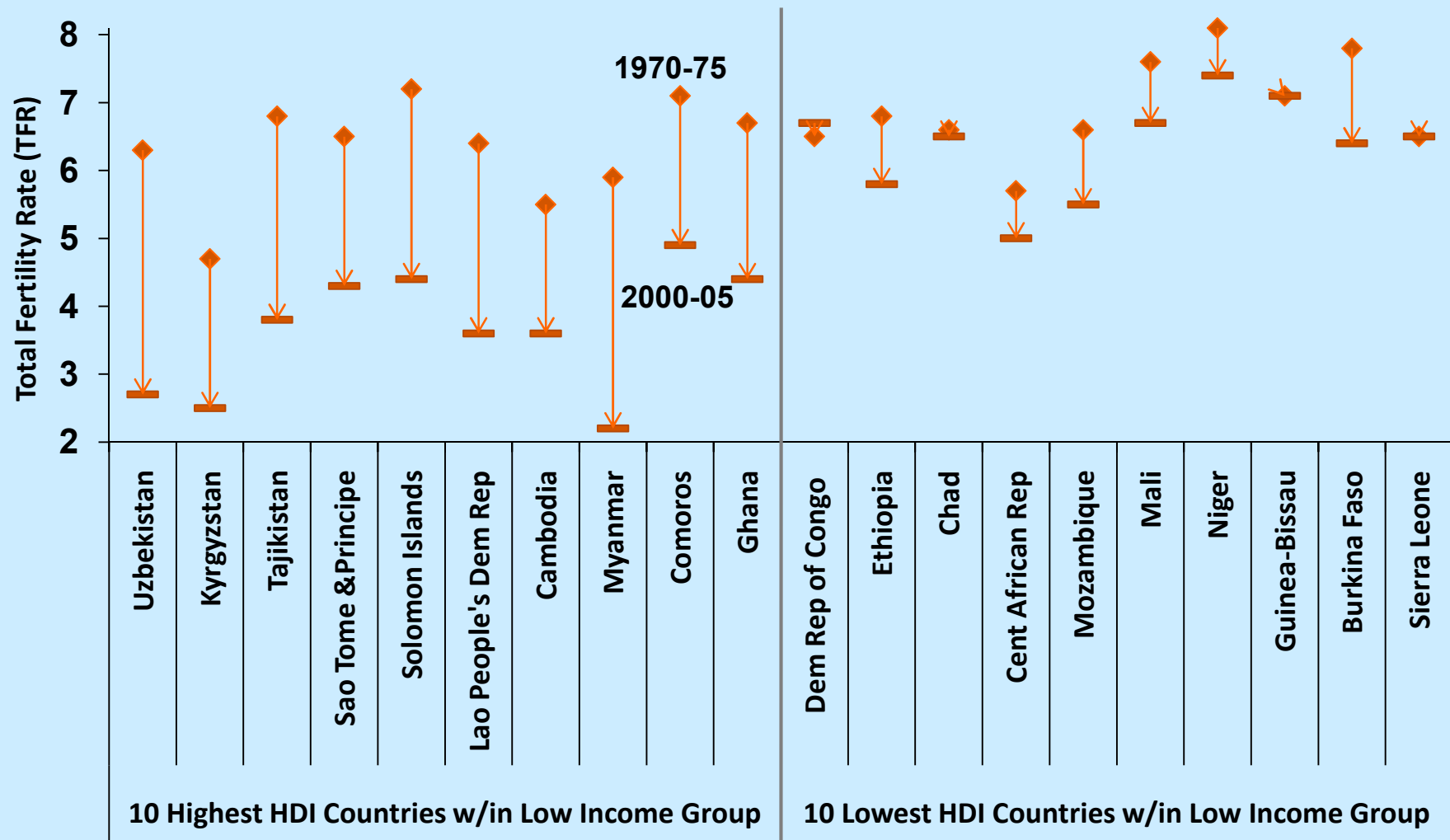


## Average Annual Rate of Reduction (%)

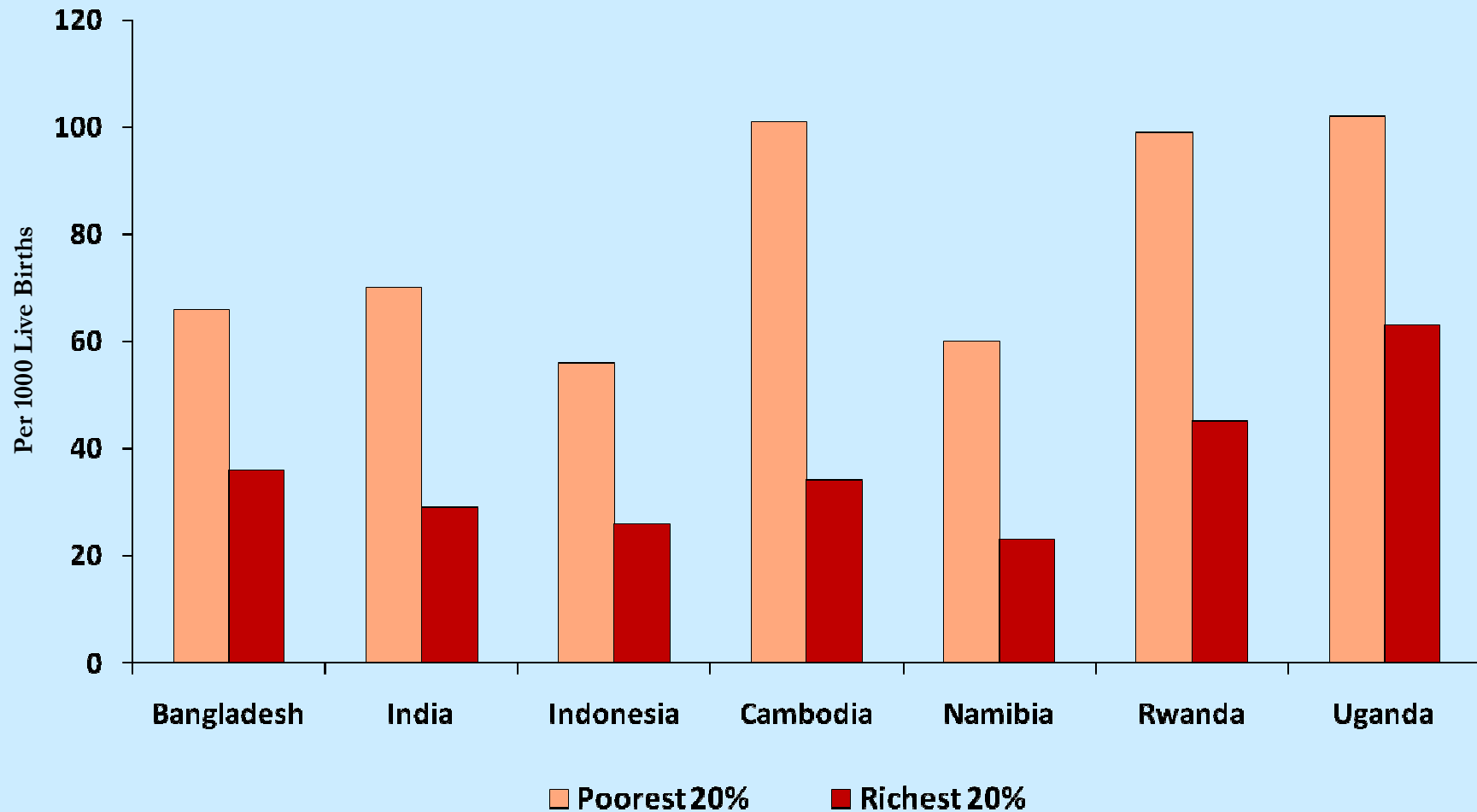




# Low Income Countries – TFR Over Time 1970-75 to 2000-05



# Inequality in Infant Mortality Rates by Wealth Quintiles

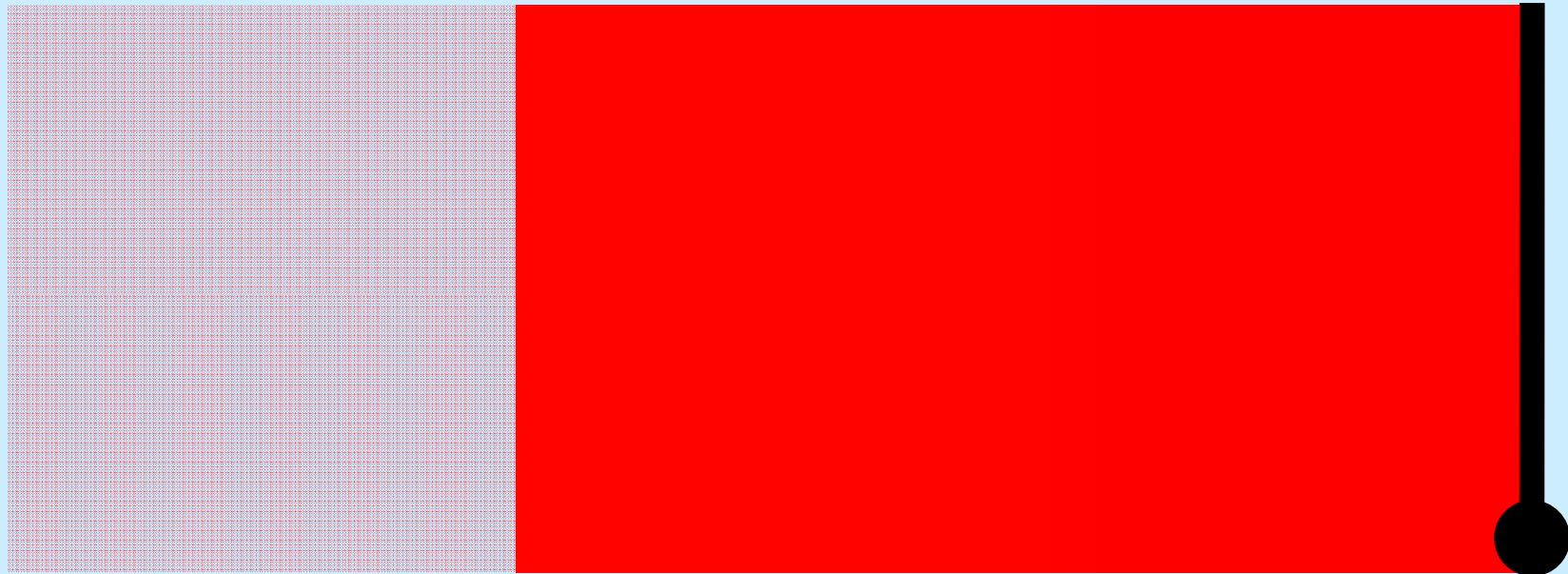


Source: DHS Country Reports 2005 – onwards.

# World Population Conferences: How Strongly Family Planning Featured

Weak Support

Strong Support



**1994 - Cairo**

Back to the Broader  
Development  
Agenda

**1974**

Bucharest  
"Development is the  
best Contraceptive"

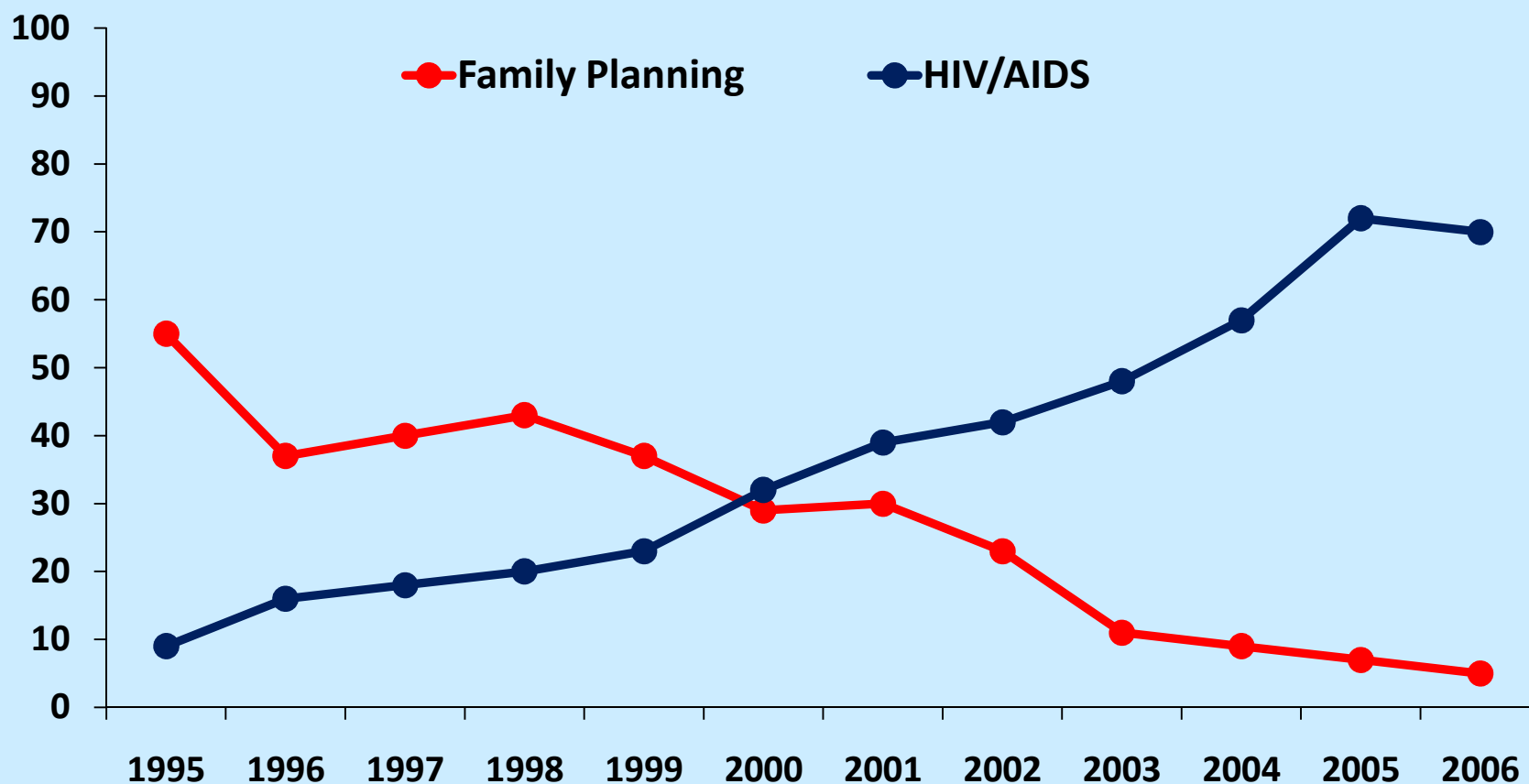
**1984 - Mexico**

US wants Development  
Third World wants  
Family Planning

**1965**

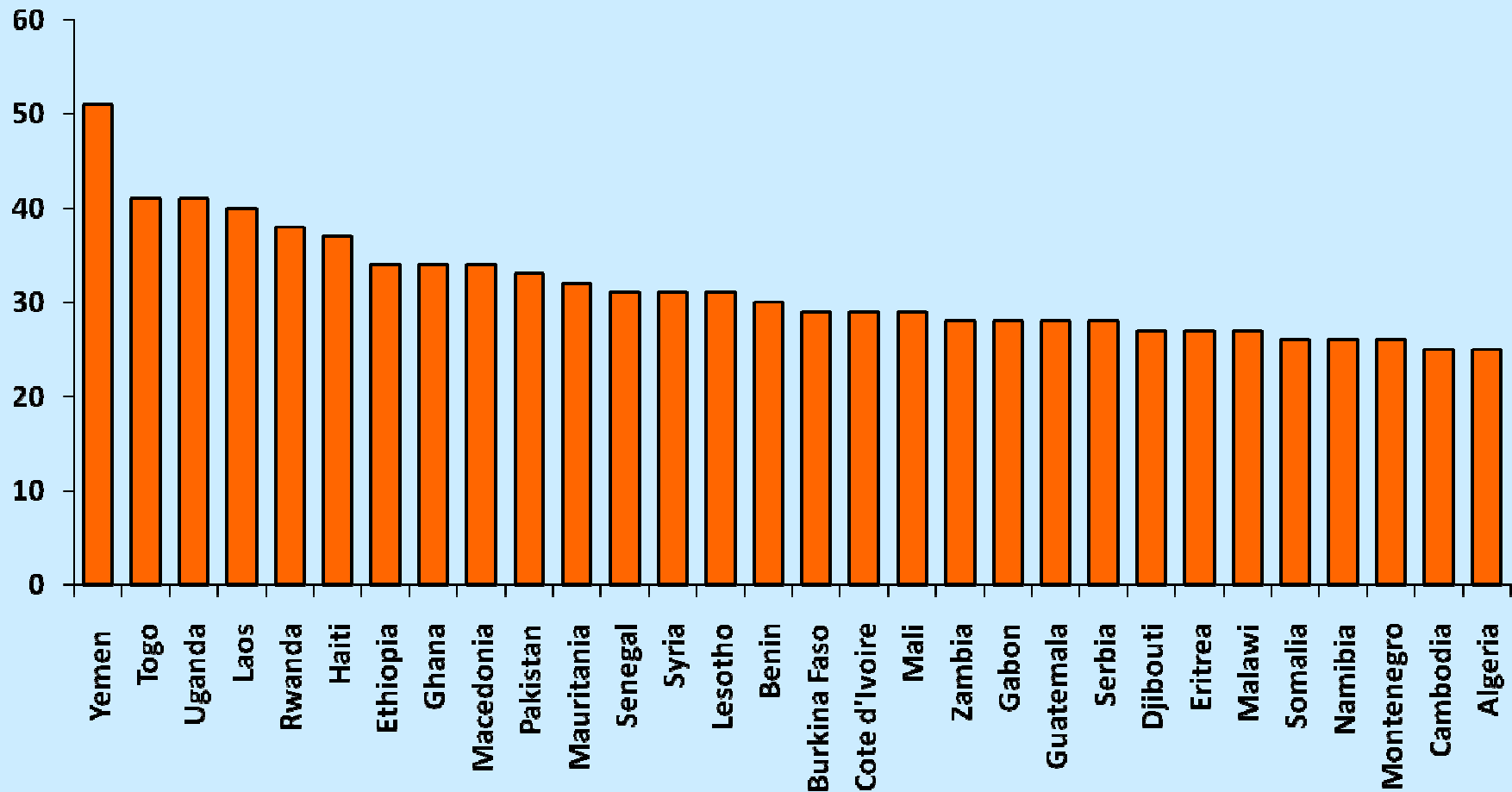
Emergence of  
Population  
Control

# Expenditure of Family Planning and HIV /AIDs as Percentage of Total Population Assistance, 1995 - 2006



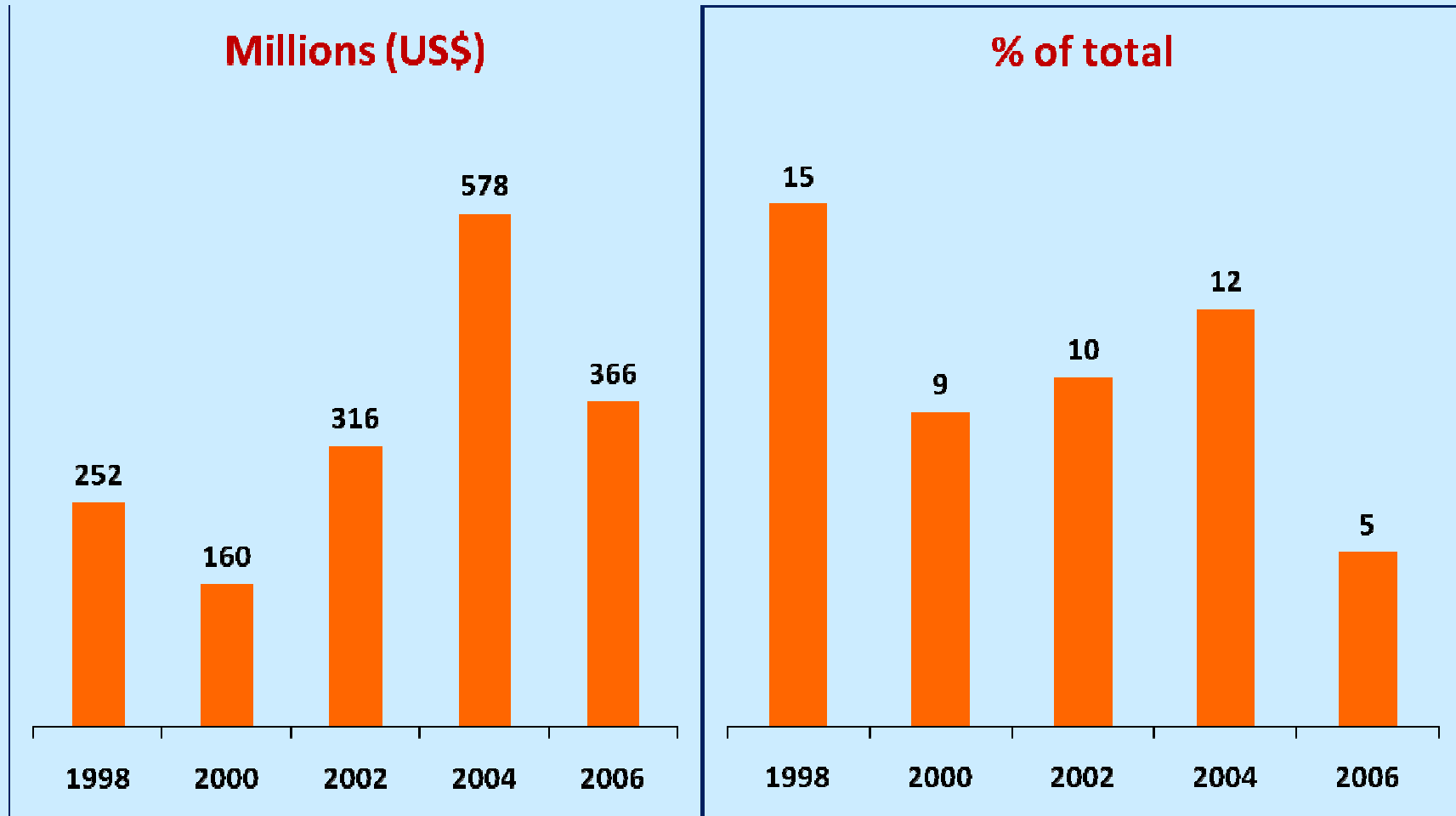
Source: UNFPA. Financial Resource Flows for Population Activities in 2006.

# Unmet Need for Family Planning –High in almost all regions



Source: Population Reference Bureau 2008.

# Donor Expenditure (total and %) on Research, Data, and Policy Analysis



# Conclusions

- ❖ **Ensure renewed commitment to quality family planning services especially in the poorest regions**
- ❖ **Revisit and emphasize action on neglected sensitive issues like gender violence, sex selective abortions, and abortion policies**
- ❖ **Fund high quality research and build capacity of national researchers**
- ❖ **Generate evidence for periodic and consistent assessment of progress and to define priorities for 2014**

# Thanks