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MATERNAL HEALTH SERIES

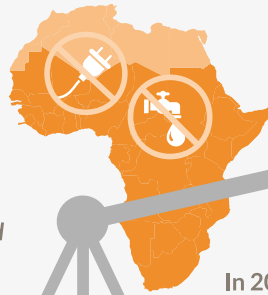
Every woman, every newborn, everywhere has the right to good quality care

For women using services, some receive excellent care but too many experience one of two extremes:

too little, too late or **too much, too soon**



In four of seven sub-Saharan African countries studied, **two-thirds of facility births** were in sites that lacked basic infrastructure, like water or electricity



In 2010, an estimated **1-1.3 million caesarean sections** were needed but not performed in low-income countries

Too little, too late: when women receive care that is insufficient, or not timely

In some countries an **episiotomy rate of**

92%

was measured: this practice should not be routine

Too much, too soon: marked by over medicalisation and excessive use of unnecessary interventions



In 2010, an estimated **3.5-5.7 million unnecessary caesarean sections** were performed in high- and middle-income countries

Growing numbers of low- and middle-income countries now straddle two extremes. It is critical to find the right balance to improve global maternal health.

References

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