



Photo by Patrick Farrell

Implementation of safe abortion
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Introduction MSF ... some data (2015)

- Close to 30% of MSF projects offers obstetric care:
 - 103 projects, close to 220.000 deliveries
- 25% offer care for victims of sexual violence:
 - 89 projects, 11.200 patients
- Post abortion care is considered part of emergency obstetrics in all projects with obstetric care
 - Over 12.000 cases of abortion related complications

Internal

Political decision (2004) reinforced 2012

“Unsafe abortion and unwanted pregnancy contribute significantly to the burden of ill health, suffering and maternal mortality in the contexts where we work”

Reproductive health and sexual violence care Policy 2014

Safe abortion care as one of the 4 action **with a direct impact on maternal mortality**

“MSF will respond to girls’ and women’s needs for the termination of pregnancy on request (TPR); it is part of the organization’s actions aimed at reducing maternal mortality and preventing unsafe abortion.”

Abortion leaflet – internal document

Explaining the rational (medical), relation to countries legal context, responsibility of national and international staff,

Training (technical)

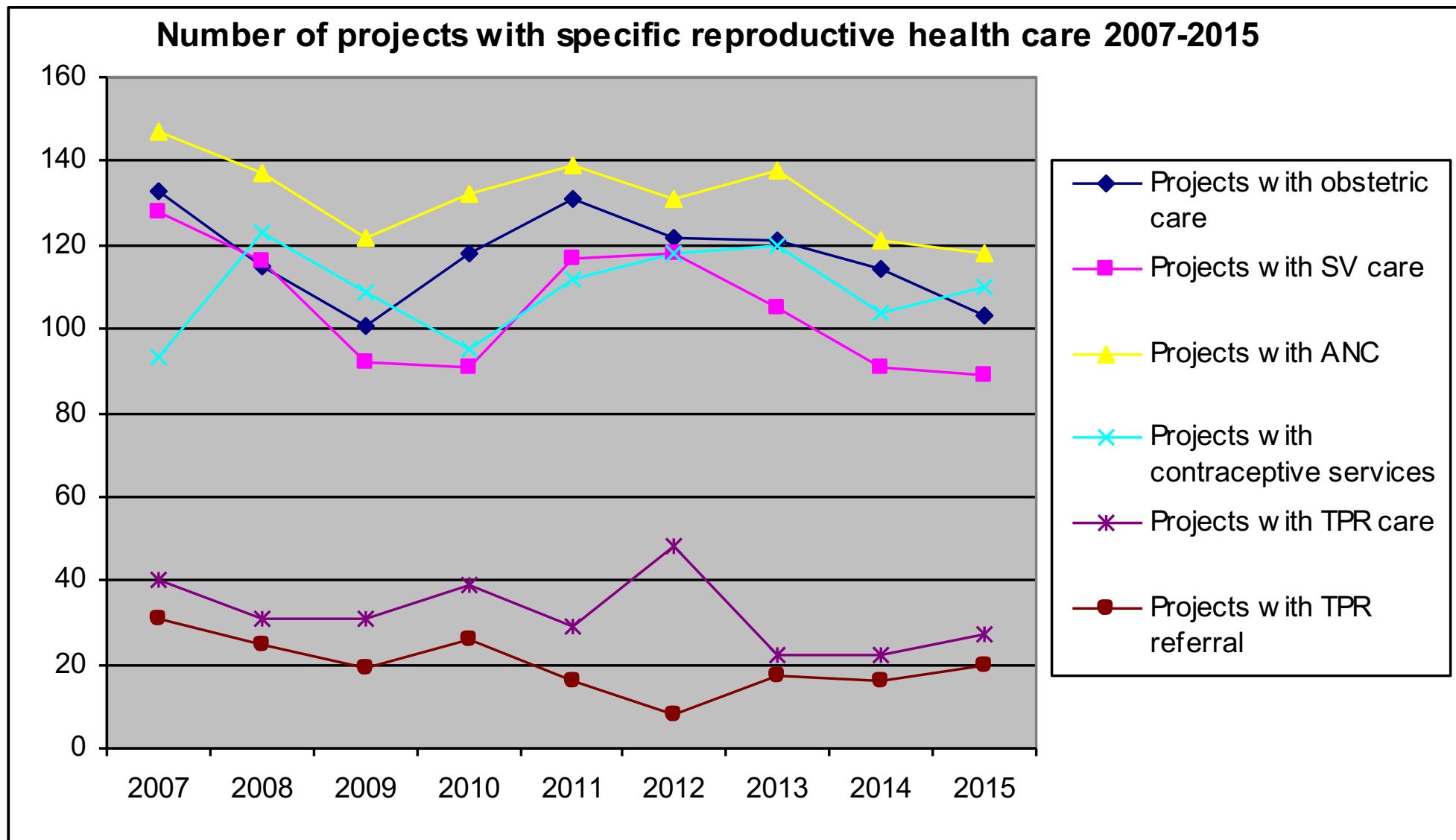
Main barriers

Main barriers are **internal**

- Lack of knowledge
 - PH problem, mortality/suffering
 - Technical means (medical abortion !!!)
 - Legal frame
 - MSF policy
- Personal resistance

Result: very humble advances over the past years

Field reality regarding TPR



Address the issue at all levels and will all staff

- Knowledge:
 - Relevant internal and external communication at all levels
- Recruitment and management
 - Willingness to provide TPR is hard recruitment criteria for some professions (midwives, OBGYN ...?)
 - Agreement with MSF policy on abortion is required from ALL staff
- Training – Value clarification and attitude transformation
- Targeted direct field support to accompany teams in specific contexts. Create practical experience

Public information/position

Publicly available

Technical guidance 2015

MSF Essential obstetrics and newborn care <http://refbooks.msf.org/>
Chapter 12: Termination of pregnancy on request

Communication project: Because tomorrow needs her

Website on women's health issues including a chapter on abortion
<http://womenshealth.msf.org/>

MSF International activity report (2014)

Addressing women's health needs <http://activityreport2013.msf.org/#/>

Recent Publication

Conflict and health "Why MSF provides safe abortion care and what that involves"
<https://conflictandhealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13031-016-0086-5>