

# Capacity building – self-defeating or beneficial?

Strengthening the health workforce in the face of huge challenges

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# Definition of "capacity"

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- "...capacity is the combination of people, institutions and practices that permits countries to reach their development goals. ... capacity building is... investment in human capital, institutions and practices" (World Bank, 1998)

# Definition of "capacity building"

- “Capacity building is a process by which individuals, groups, institutions, organizations and societies enhance their abilities to identify and meet development challenges in a sustainable manner.” (CIDA, 1996)

# What is the health workforce?

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*The health workforce is "people engaged in actions whose primary intent is to enhance health"*

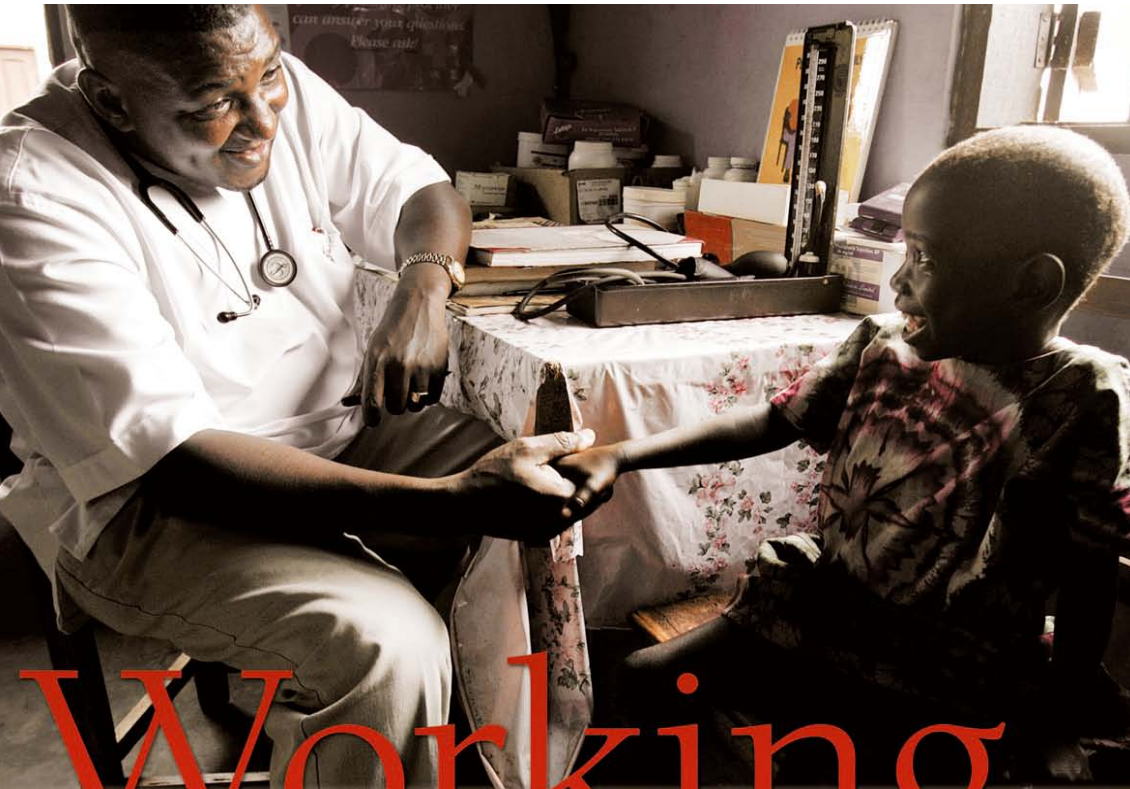
Source: WHO (2006). *The World Health Report 2006 – Working Together for Health*. Geneva, World Health Organization

# Why build the capacity of the health workforce?

*"We have to work together to ensure access to a motivated, skilled, and supported health worker by every person in every village everywhere."*

Dr LEE Jong-wook, late Director-General, World Health Organization





*Health  
workers  
save  
lives.*

**Working**  
*together*  
for health

The World Health Report 2006

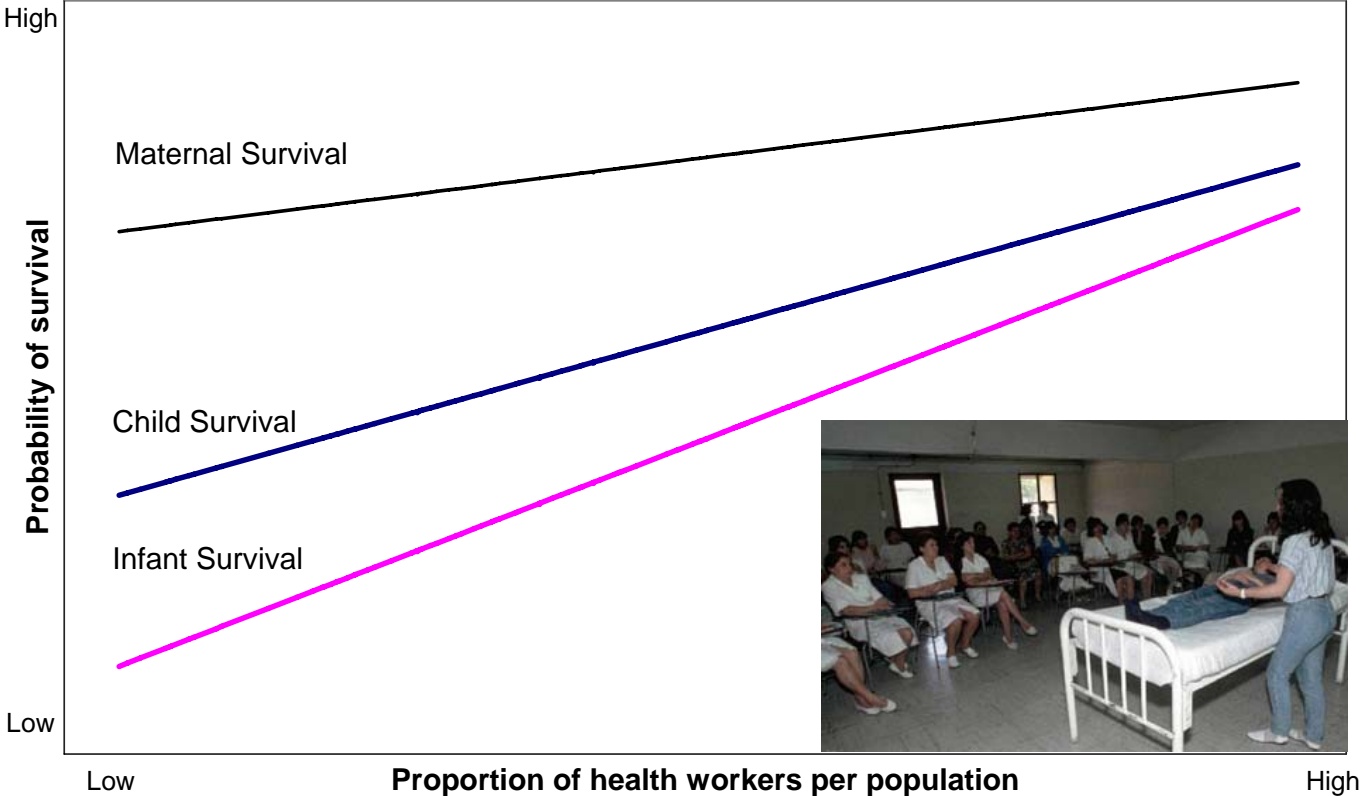


World Health  
Organization



World Health  
Organization

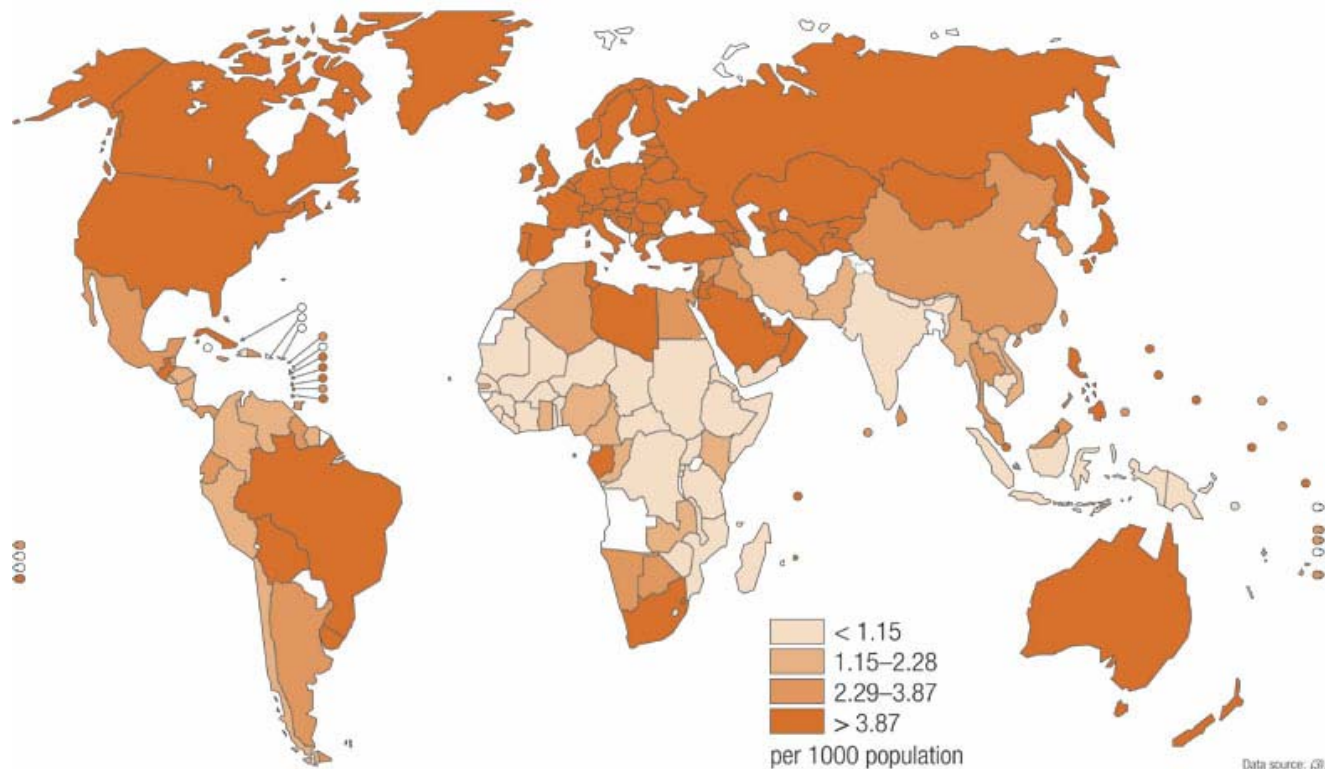
# Educated and well-trained health workers save lives!



Source: WHO (2006). *The World Health Report 2006 – Working Together for Health*. Geneva, World Health Organization

# We need to address shortages of health workers worldwide

## Distribution of the global health workforce



Source: WHO (2006). *The World Health Report 2006 – Working Together for Health*. Geneva, World Health Organization

# Global burden of disease versus % global health workforce



Source: WHO (2006). *The World Health Report 2006 – Working Together for Health*. Geneva, World Health Organization