The landscape of caesarean sections in low-resource settings:

Who, where, and why?

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November 15, 2017
Methods

• Nationally representative Demographic & Health Surveys (2002-2016)
• Countries: 34 sub-Saharan Africa, 10 South/Southeast Asia
• Sample of women age 15-49
• Women’s self-report of most recent live birth

• Additional questions in Bangladesh 2014
• Tanzania Service Provision Assessment (SPA) 2014-15
Where? Locations and rates

Vertical error bars represent variation between urban and rural areas
Difference in rates by sector

Non-public sector higher

Public sector higher
Who performs caesarean sections?

Distribution of caesarean sections by category of provider
Bangladesh time trends

Bangladesh caesarean section rates by wealth (poorest/richest)

- Richest 12.3%
- Poorest 0.4%
- Richest 19.1%
- Poorest 0.2%
- Richest 40.9%
- Poorest 2.7%
- Richest 54.1%
- Poorest 7.3%

Annual number of csections
National csection rate
Day and time of caesareans

Public facilities

Non-public facilities

% caesareans

12am-9am 9am-6pm 6pm-12am

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday
Trends over time

Tanzania caesarean section rates by wealth (poorest/richest)

- Richest 16.6%
- Poorest 2.9%
- Richest 12.9%
- Poorest 2.3%
- Richest 8.9%
- Poorest 1.5%
- Richest 8.0%
- Poorest 1.0%
- Richest 5.5%
- Poorest 0.9%

Annual number of csections
National csection rate
Caesareans by facility type

- Public hospital: 65
- Private hospital: 4
- FBO hospital: 5
- Health centres: 26
## Staffing & infrastructure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Facilities reporting to provide caesareans</th>
<th>Full-time doctor (%)</th>
<th>24hr provider and anaesthetist (%)</th>
<th>Piped water and consistent electricity (%)</th>
<th>All general anaesthesia equipment (%)</th>
<th>All CEmOC signal functions (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public hospital</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private hospital</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FBO hospital</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>41</td>
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<tr>
<td>All hospitals</td>
<td>227</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All health centres</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall (facilities)</td>
<td>271</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall (caesareans)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Minimum readiness by zone

Percent facilities meeting 3 minimum criteria

Percent caesareans in facilities meeting 3 minimum criteria