Maternal Health in South Asia- Progress and Challenges and Options for accelerating progress

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Outline of presentation

❑Why invest in reproductive/maternal health?

❑Well known effective interventions and yet women continue to die needlessly

❑Progress and Challenges

❑UNSG's Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health and commitments of countries

❑ Options for accelerating progress

Section 1

INVESTING IN REPRODUCTIVE /MATERNAL HEALTH- WELL KNOWN FACTS, YET INADEQUATE INVESTMENTS

Economic rationale for investing in women's health

❑ An estimated US $ 15 billion in lost productivity every year due to maternal and newborn mortality

❑ Women are the sole income earners for over 25% of households worldwide

❑ A woman's income more likely contributes towards food, medicine, education and other family needs

❑ Women's unpaid work equals about 1/3 of the world's GNP (farming, managing homes, caring for children and others)

❑ 30-50% of Asia's economic growth from 1965-90 can be attributed to improvements in reproductive health and reductions in infant and child mortality rates
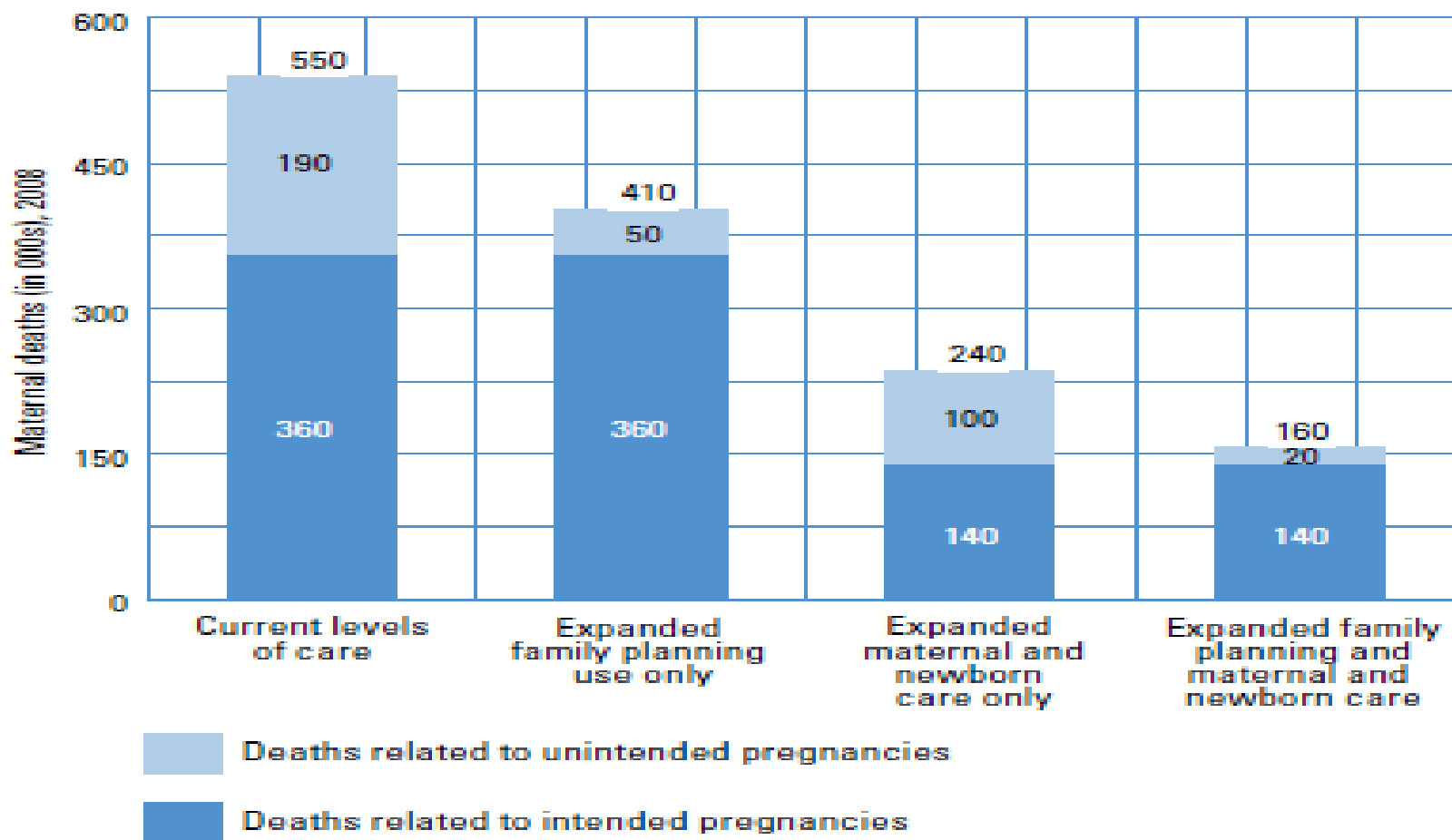
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Source: UNSG's global strategy for women's and children's health

Social and cultural rationale

❑A woman's poor health pushes her family into further poverty

❑Mother's survival is linked to the survival of her newborn or her children below five years

❑Mother's survival is essential for :

➢Instilling social and cultural values

➢Ensuring education of young girls who otherwise would take on responsibility of the family

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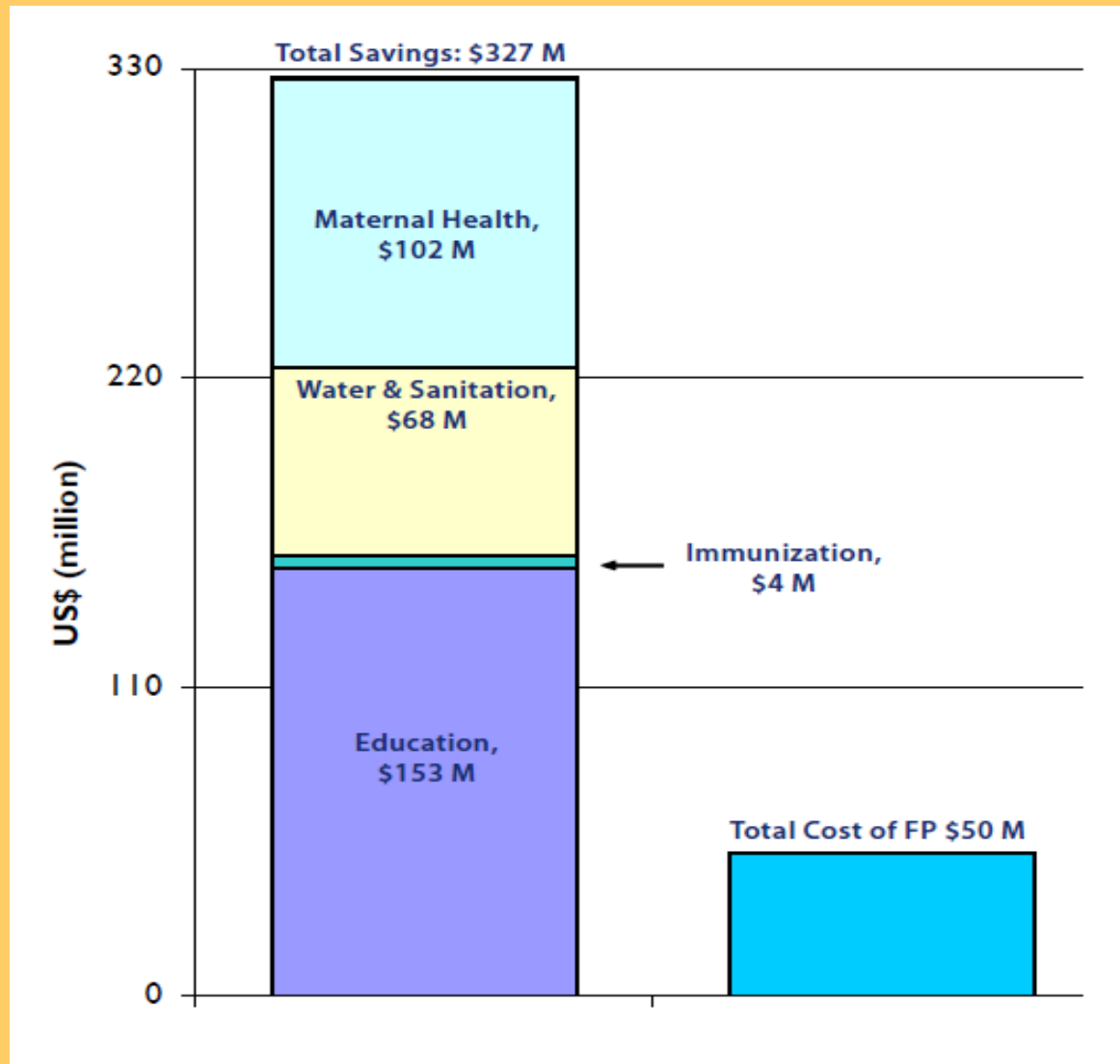Source: UNSG's global strategy for women's and children's health

Reducing unmet needs of FP is critical for reducing maternal mortality

Fulfilling unmet need for family planning and maternal health care would save women's lives.

Investing in FP saves costs in achieving other MDGs

USAID Health Policy Initiative: Achieving the MDGs- Contribution of FP in Bangladesh

Section 2

WELL KNOWN EFFECTIVE INTERVENTIONS, **YET WOMEN**