

# **The Effect of the Early First Visit on the Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes among Palestinian Refugee Pregnant Women in Syria**

**Research Proposal**

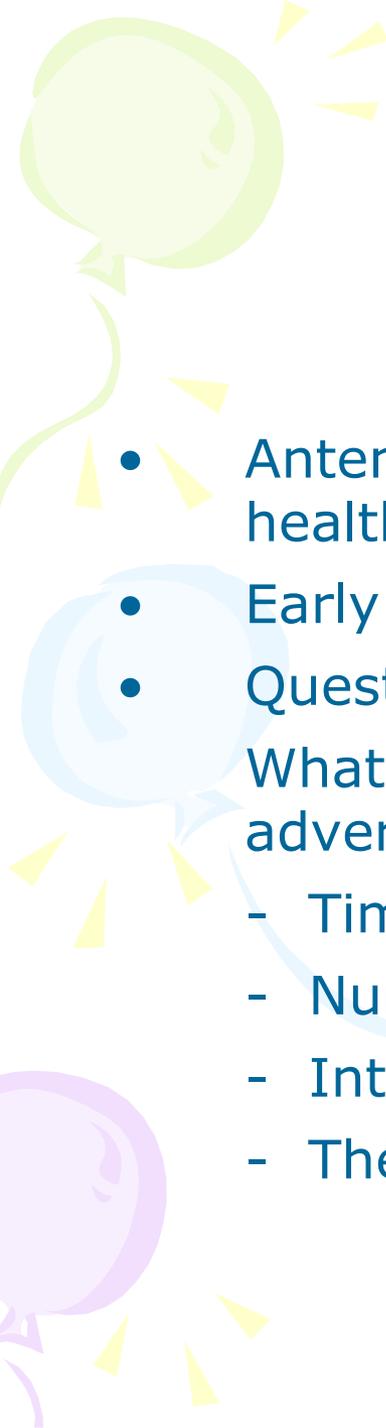
**By**

**Dr. Mona Al Haj Hussain**

**Training Course in Reproductive Health Research**

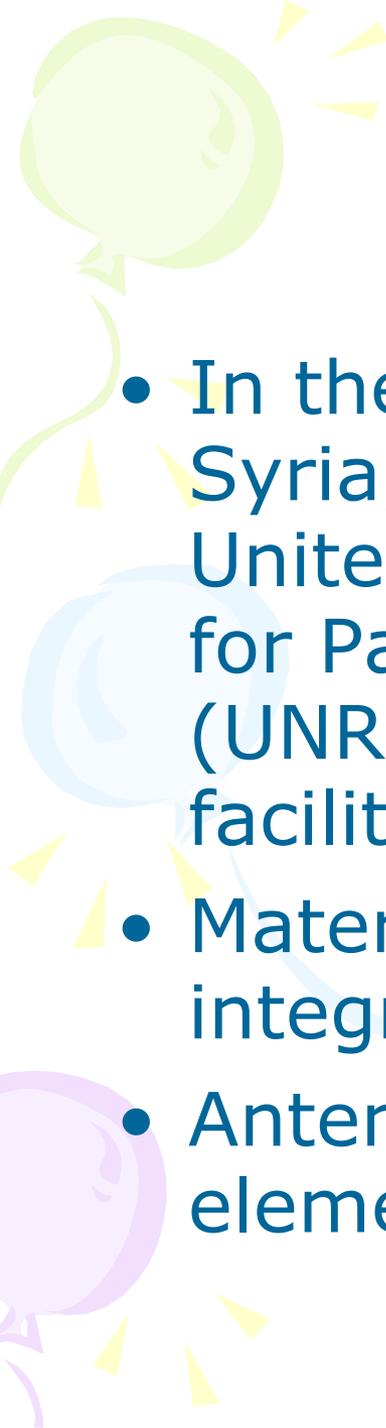
**WHO 2008**

**WHO Scholarship**



# Background

- Antenatal care is proved to be successful in maintaining healthy outcomes for mothers and babies.
- Early first visit is recommended by WHO.
- Questions to be addressed:
  - What attributes contribute effectively to the reduction of adverse pregnancy outcomes?
    - Timing of the first visit?
    - Number of visits?
    - Interventions during the ANC visits?
    - The effective follow up?



# Background

(continue...)

- In the Palestine Refugees' community in Syria, health services are provided by United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) through primary health care facilities.
- Maternal and child health care is integrated.
- Antenatal care constitutes the basic element.



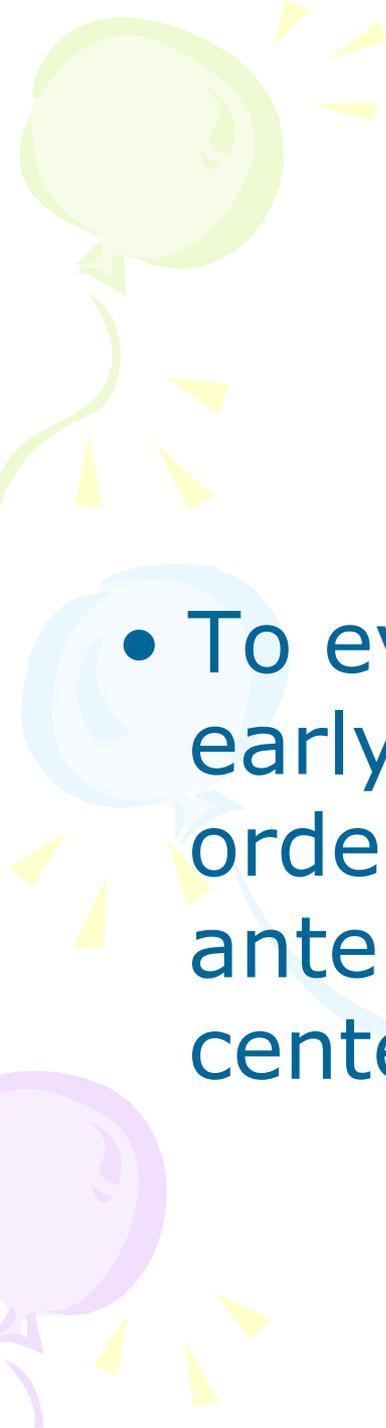
# Why this research?

- Concerns about the increasing percentage of women who visit antenatal clinics during the first trimester.
- Effectiveness of antenatal programme, and in particular the early first antenatal visit on adverse pregnancy outcomes, is still not clear in UNRWA health facilities.



# What are the Research Questions?

- Does early first visit contribute to the reduction of the onset of adverse pregnancy and perinatal outcomes (PPO)?
- Are other variables associated to the early first visit determining the pregnancy and perinatal outcomes?



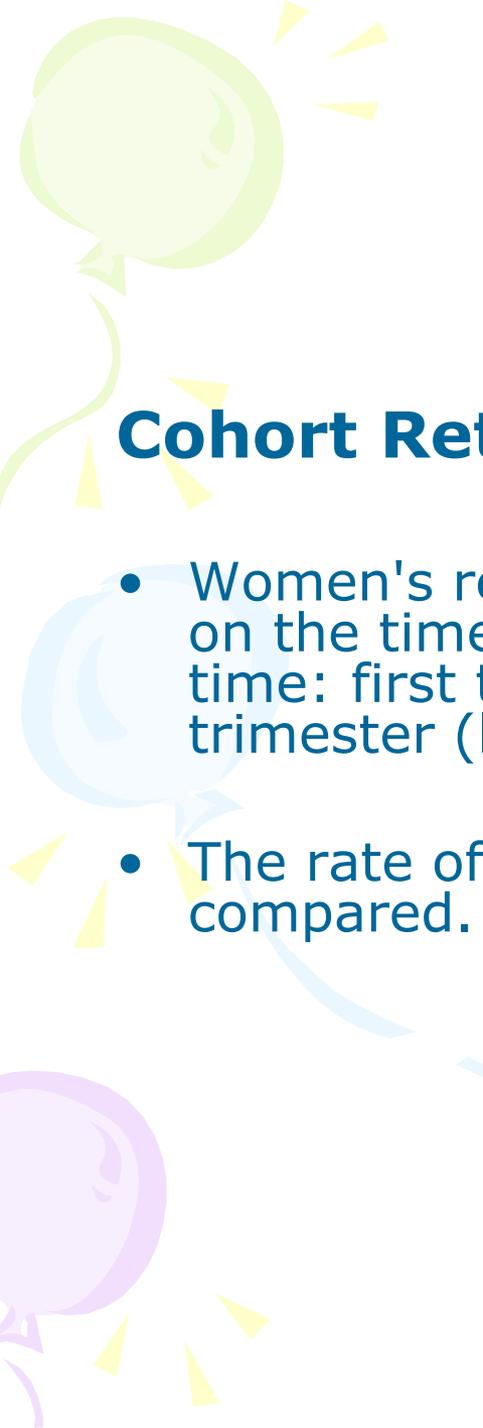
# Aim

- To evaluate the effectiveness of the early first antenatal visit (ANV) in order to improve the quality of antenatal program in UNRWA health centers.



# Objectives

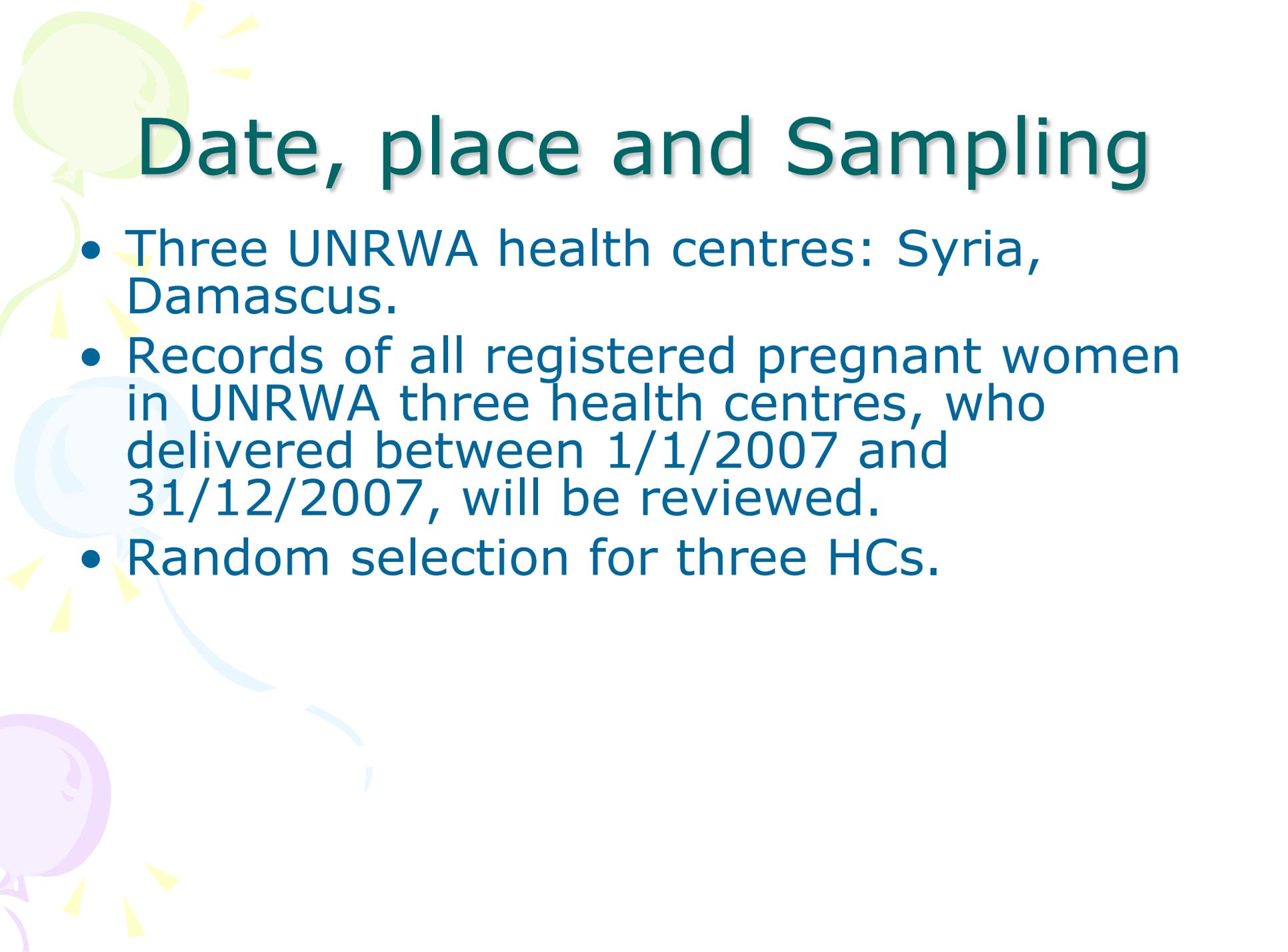
- To assess the relation between early first ANV and the adverse PPO.
- To evaluate the effectiveness of the early first visit in detecting and managing the upcoming risk factors leading to negative outcome.
- To assess the association between early first ANV and other factors (age, education, work, compliance).
- To identify the associated variables affecting adverse PPO.



# Study Design

## **Cohort Retrospective Study:**

- Women's records will be divided into two groups depending on the time of presenting to the antenatal care for the first time: first trimester (early first visit), and second/third trimester (late first visit).
- The rate of adverse PPO in the two groups will be compared.



# Date, place and Sampling

- Three UNRWA health centres: Syria, Damascus.
- Records of all registered pregnant women in UNRWA three health centres, who delivered between 1/1/2007 and 31/12/2007, will be reviewed.
- Random selection for three HCs.



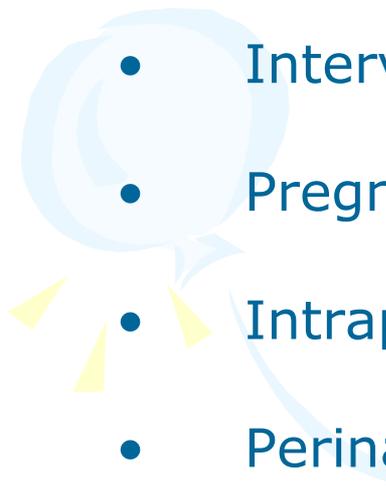
# Key Definition

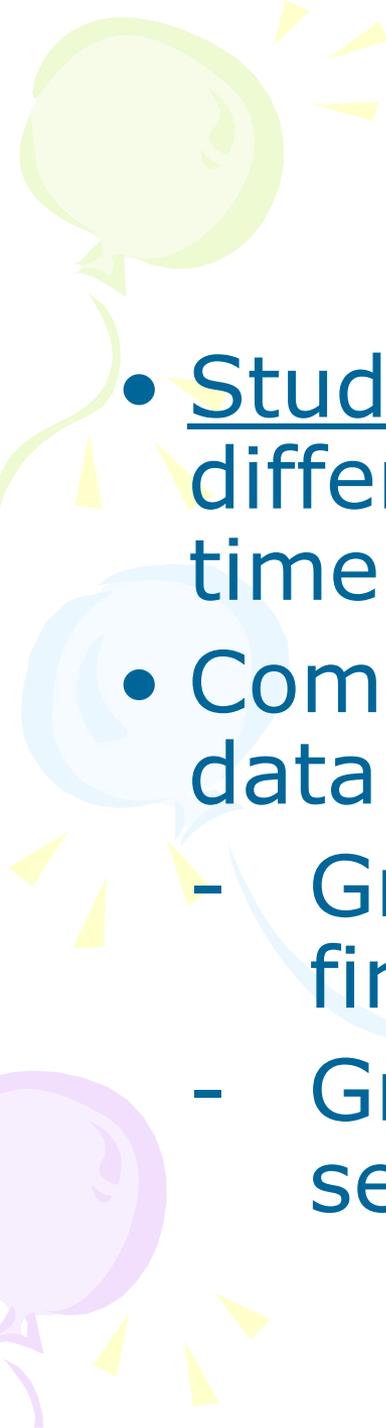
## Early first antenatal visit:

First presenting to the health centre for antenatal clinic until the end of 12 gestational weeks.



# Data to be collected

- General information
  - Intervention information
  - Pregnancy outcome
  - Intrapartum and postpartum maternal complications
  - Perinatal outcome
  - The risk factors and findings in the first visit
- 
- 



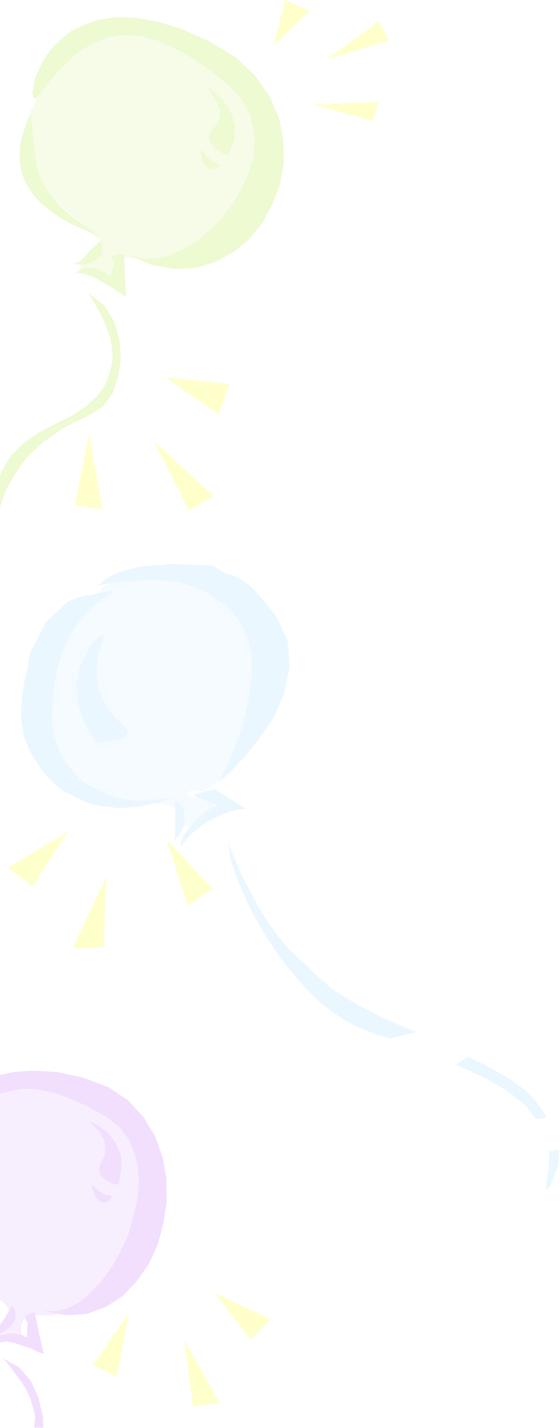
# Data Analysis

- Study hypothesis: there will be different outcomes depending on the time of the first visit.
- Comparison of the different sorts of data between two groups:
  - Group 1: early first visit (during first trimester).
  - Group 2: late first visit (during second and third trimester).



# References

- Abou-Zahr C L, Wardlaw T M. (2003). Antenatal care in developing countries; promises, achievements and missed opportunities: an analysis of trends, levels and differentials, 1990-2001. WHO/UNICEF. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2003.
  - Bere M, Ravindran T, eds. (1999). Safe motherhood initiatives: critical issues. Oxford, Blackwell Science for Reproductive Health Matters, 1999.
  - Carroli G, Villar J, Piaggio G, Khan-Neelofur D, Gulmezoglu M, Mugford M et al. WHO systematic review of randomised controlled trials of routine antenatal care. Lancet, 2001, 357:1565–1570.
  - Di Mario S et al. (2005). *What is the effectiveness of antenatal care? (Supplement)*. Copenhagen, WHO Regional Office for Europe (Health Evidence Network report; <http://www.euro.who.int/Document/E87997.pdf>, accessed [27-02-2008]).
  - United Nations Works and Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Middle East (UNRWA). (2005). Annual Report of the Department of Health.
  - WHO, 2005. The World Health Report (2005), Great Expectations: making pregnancy safer, Chapter three. [http://www.who.int/whr/2005/whr2005\\_en.pdf](http://www.who.int/whr/2005/whr2005_en.pdf), accessed [25-02-2008].
- 



Thank You

**All**