

Supplementary Table 3 Opening of window of opportunity

Country	Window of opportunity
Islamic Republic of Iran	Although the maternal mortality issue has been considered since 1985, after publishing the results of RAMOS study in 1997, the maternal mortality issue was put at the centre of attention (12).
Bhutan	The maternal mortality issue has been considered as a problem since 1990; however, the issue attracted attention through developing the mother and child health improvement programme and the safe motherhood and reproductive health programme in 1997, and after publishing the first progress report on MDGs in 2002 it was put at the centre of attention (14).
East Timor	Maternal mortality reduction was considered an issue since 2001 along with publishing the first progress report on MDGs. However, after holding a two-day training workshop in March 2003, it was put at the centre of attention. This workshop was held aiming at raising public awareness about MDGs, the current situation analysis and the assessment of relationship between goals of the national development plan with MDGs and challenges ahead to achieve the MDGs (6).
Rwanda	Although the agenda setting process had been started in 2000, the issue was put at the centre of attention through announcing the campaign of "accelerating maternal mortality reduction in Africa" in Rwanda on 7 October 2009 by the first lady of the country and holding a meeting with high level officials (26).
Cabo Verde	Although the agenda setting process had been started in 2000, the issue of maternal mortality was put at the centre of attention through launching the national campaign to achieve MDGs in 2003 (15).
Cambodia	The agenda setting process had been started in 1990 and the issue was put at the centre of attention after publishing results of the analysis of maternal health status in 1997 (13).
Lao People's Democratic Republic	While the problem stream had been considered since 1995 and various programmes were developed to reduce maternal mortality from 1995 to 2004, it seems that the window of opportunity for maternal mortality reduction opened after the development of the comprehensive reproductive health plan in 2004 and publishing the national progress report on MDGs (19).
Maldives	The agenda setting process started in 1990. In 1997, the window of opportunity for maternal mortality reduction was opened along with launching maternal mortality audit and consequently several actions were taken to reduce maternal mortality. Again, in 2009, when maternal mortality rate increased, a new window of opportunity was opened that led to revising the maternal mortality assessment system and establishing a special committee to assess mortality and morbidity. Special attention was paid to the issue of maternal mortality and a series of new actions were shaped (9).
Mongolia	It seems that the agenda setting process started in 1990 and through developing the maternal mortality reduction strategy (2001-2004), the maternal mortality issue was put at the centre of attention (27).