Maternal Mortality Estimates

Objectives and Background

Maternal mortality is widely regarded as a key indicator of population’s health and social and economic development. It is often viewed as a sentinel indicator of the quality of a health care delivery system because with appropriate medical surveillance and intervention, maternal deaths are almost entirely preventable.

The United Nations recognized the unique significance of maternal mortality as part of the Millennium Declaration issued by the UN General Assembly in September 2000. As part of a broader set of Millennium Development Goals, the UN Member States called for the reduction by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, of the maternal mortality ratio (the number of maternal deaths per 100 000 live births) in all countries and regions where the risk of maternal death remained unacceptably high in 1990. Ending preventable maternal mortality is a proposed target in the Sustainable Development Goal Framework.

Geographic Location

Global

Main deliverables

To produce global, regional and country level trends and estimates of maternal mortality.

Partners

WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Population Division and The World Bank created the Maternal Mortality Estimation Inter-agency Group along with a group of collaborating consultants including world-renowned academicians. The group is also advised by an independent Technical Advisory Group.

Sources of funding

USAID, HRP

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