Global landscape in maternal and newborn health

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Maternal Mortality Ratio, 2000-2017 with projections to 2030

Estimated 295,000 maternal deaths in 2017. The global maternal mortality ratio is declining at an average annual rate of reduction or 2.9%, need to accelerate progress to achieve SDG target.

Numbers of Newborn Deaths, 1990-2019

Estimated 2.4 million neonatal deaths in 2019.

Neonatal mortality declining, but slower than under-five deaths. Almost half of under-five deaths were during the neonatal period in 2019.

Preventing Stillbirths, 2000-2019

Stillbirth rate by country, 2019

Stillbirths are an increasingly important global health problem, with an estimated 2 million stillbirths in 2019.

Many stillbirths are invisible.

Disruptions to health services due to COVID-19 pandemic threaten global progress in preventing illness and deaths

Source: Second round of national pulse survey on continuity of essential health services during the COVID-19 pandemic, January-March 2021
Maternal and newborn mortality are the «tip of the iceberg»

For every woman or baby who dies of childbirth-related causes, many more will suffer from morbidity, disabilities and long-term ill-health.

Sources:
Quality care improves birth outcomes

Over 50% less deaths
It is estimated that about half of the maternal deaths and 58% of the newborn deaths could be averted with quality health care

Source:
WHO recommendations on antenatal, intrapartum, and postnatal care


https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/97603/9789241506649_eng.pdf;jsessionid=A6725B48A7064B22ED0F8783917F6876?sequence=1
Dual burden of under- and over-use of medical interventions

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) are key components of quality care

Source:
WASH: https://washinhcf.org/
Guidelines on IPC https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241549929
Launching today Module 1!

https://www.who.int/teams/integrated-health-services/infection-prevention-control

Training package on IPC standards & practices integrated within the key steps of the care pathway for women and newborns from the pre-natal to the post-natal period
High impact neonatal interventions

• No separation from the mother
• Promotion and protection of breastfeeding
• Basic resuscitation
• Prevention and management of infection
• KMC for preterm and LBW babies
• Optimal nutrition
• Comfort and nurturing care
• Safe management of illness
Scaling up Kangaroo Mother Care

- “Kangaroo mother care,” a type of newborn care involving skin-to-skin contact with the mother or other caregiver, reduces mortality in infants with low birth weight.

- A recent research shows that starting Kangaroo Mother Care soon after birth improves survival of babies with birth weight less than 1800 grams by 25%, when compared to the current recommendation of starting KMC after stabilization.

Source: WHO Immediate KMC Study Group, Immediate “Kangaroo Mother Care” and Survival of Infants with Low Birth Weight, New England Journal of Medicine, 2021