



February 2009

FACT SHEET

Theme: NEONATAL and MATERNAL MORTALITY

2007, the 20th Anniversary of SAFE MOTHERHOOD INITIATIVE provides UNFPA and her partners with an opportunity to emphasize the importance of maternal health and the achievements of MDG 5.

Worldwide on Neonatal Mortality ...

- Four million babies die in the newborn period
- Infant mortality stands at 74%
- Neonatal mortality stands at 29%
- Post-neonatal mortality stands at 45%

Each day in Africa ...

- 3.100 newborns die
- 2.400 babies are stillborn
- 9.600 children die after their first month and before their first birthday

Every year in Sub-Saharan Africa ...

- 1.16 million babies die in the first month of life, and
- Another million babies are stillborn
- Up to half a million babies die on the day they are born
- 14% of babies are born with low birth weight
- Up to 800.000 newborn lives could be saved each year

Cameroon's Roadmap for Reduction of Maternal and Neonatal Mortality 2006 – 2015 points out the fact that each year, there are:

- 1.4 million stillborn babies
- Between 1.5 and 2.5 million new born babies die during the first week due to pregnancy and birth related complications

The causes of newborn deaths in Africa are;

- Infection 28%
- Preterm (premature) ... 25%
- Asphyxia ... 24%
- others ... 7%
- tetanus ... 6%
- congenital ... 6%
- diarrhoea ... 3%

Worldwide on Maternal Mortality ...

- Every minute, 1 woman dies in pregnancy or childbirth
- Every minute, 20 women suffer from childbirth injuries that may severely affect their lives
- More than 500.000 women die from pregnancy and childbirth related complications

Every year in Africa ...

- 30 million women become pregnant
- 700 women die due to pregnancy –related causes
- 18 million out of this give birth at home without skilled care

Other contributing factors...

As regards health personnel, the 2006-2015 health Roadmap states that the population/health personnel ratio stands at;

- 1 doctor for 10.083 inhabitants
- 1 pharmacist for 250.000 inhabitants
- 1 nurse for 2.242 inhabitants
- 1 midwife for 200.000 inhabitants
- 1 assistant midwife for 200.000 inhabitants
- 1 nursing aid for 3.100 inhabitants

“NO WOMAN SHOULD DIE GIVING LIFE”

Watch Out!

International Conference on ‘WOMEN DELIVER’ – London 18 – 20th
October 2007

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