



Maternal mortality ratios, by country (2015)

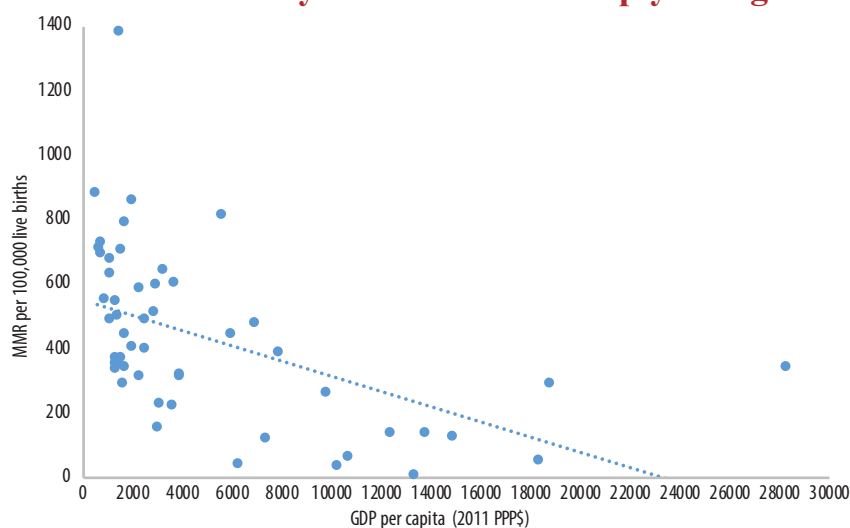
Subregion	Country	Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births)
North Africa	Algeria	140
	Egypt	33
	Libya	9
	Mauritania	602
	Morocco	121
	Sudan	311
	Tunisia	62
	AVERAGE	183
Eastern Africa	Burundi	712
	Comoros	335
	Dem. Rep. Congo	693
	Djibouti	229
	Eritrea	501
	Ethiopia	353
	Kenya	510
	Madagascar	353
	Rwanda	290
	Somalia	732
	South Sudan	789
	United Rep. Tanzania	398
	Uganda	343
AVERAGE	480	
Central Africa	Cameroon	596
	Chad	856
	Central African Republic	882
	Congo	442
	Equatorial Guinea	342
	Gabon	291
	Sao Tome and Principe	156
	AVERAGE	509
West Africa	Benin	405
	Burkina Faso	371
	Cabo Verde	42
	Côte d'Ivoire	645
	Gambia	706
	Ghana	319
	Guinea	679
	Guinea-Bissau	549
	Liberia	725
	Mali	587
	Niger	553
	Nigeria	814
	Senegal	315
	Sierra Leone	1380
Togo	368	
AVERAGE	564	

Key features:

1. Only five countries (shaded green) – Egypt, Libya, Tunisia (North Africa); Cabo Verde (West Africa); Mauritius (Southern Africa) – have MMR levels below the SDG target of 70 to be achieved by 2030.
2. On average, North Africa is the best performer with the lowest sub-regional unweighted average of 183.
3. On average, West Africa subregion has the highest unweighted average (564).
4. Sierra Leone has the highest MMR of 1380 (shaded red) – nearly 2.5 times the average of West Africa, and more than 3 times the average for Africa.
5. Africa has posted significant gains in maternal health in 2000-2015. MMR declined for all countries, except for Central African Republic and Zimbabwe, indicating women's deteriorating access to maternal and reproductive health.
6. Chad and Central African Republic (shaded yellow) have MMR levels more than twice the African average.

Subregion	Country	Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births)
Southern Africa	Angola	477
	Botswana	129
	Lesotho	487
	Malawi	634
	Mauritius	53
	Mozambique	489
	Namibia	265
	South Africa	138
	Swaziland	389
	Zambia	224
	Zimbabwe	443
	AVERAGE	339
	AFRICA	AVERAGE

Maternal mortality ratio declines sharply at high GDP per capita



Source: Data on maternal mortality ratio from ECA, 2017, *The Africa Sustainable Development Report*; data on GDP per capita from World Bank, *World Development Indicators for 2015*.

KEY FEATURES:

Maternal mortality ratio declines sharply at high levels of GDP per capita, though with some exceptions. Some examples:

- Equatorial Guinea is an outlier with MMR of 342 at GDP per capita of \$28,272.
- Rwanda's MMR (290) is less than that of Equatorial Guinea though its GDP per capita (\$1,655) is only 6 per cent that of Equatorial Guinea.

CONCLUSIONS:

High economic growth is necessary but not sufficient. There is an urgent need to ensure universal access to health, education and other basic services to make the growth inclusive and “leave no one behind”.

Specific interventions can significantly reduce maternal mortality rate in Africa. These include:

- Increasing availability of skilled birth attendants and emergency referrals especially in rural areas
- Waiving user fees on maternal health
- Expanding access to essential health care for mothers
- Increasing health expenditure and putting in place a robust social protection mechanism.