

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Achieving MDG 5

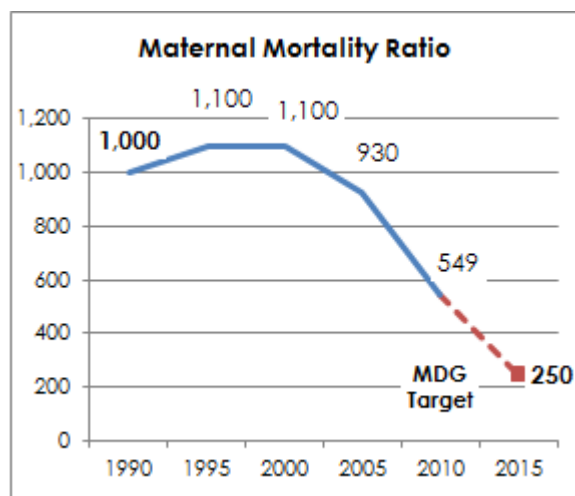
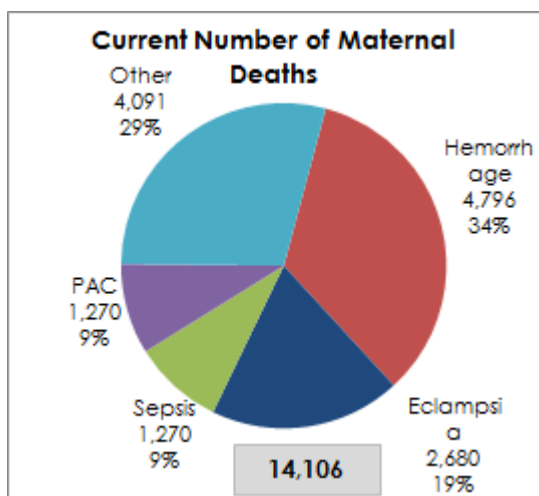
Maternal Mortality

With a population of about 68 million in 2013ⁱ, The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is the 3rd most populous country in Africa. It is also among the top ten countries in the world when it comes to maternal mortality. With an estimated 14,000 women dying in pregnancy or childbirth each year, the DRC accounts for almost 5% of the global maternal death burdenⁱⁱ.

After the maternal mortality ratio actually increased in the 1990s, the DRC in the last decade or so has finally started to make significant progress toward reaching the 75% reduction in the MMR required by the MDG5. According to the DHS 2007 survey, it had a MMR of 549 per 100,000 live births that yearⁱⁱⁱ. A concerted effort is required to keep up this trend and reach the MDG goal of 250 (or about 6,400 annual deaths) by 2015.

More than 70% of all maternal deaths in DRC are due to just four conditions - hemorrhage, eclampsia, sepsis and abortion complications^{iv}.

An estimated 14% of these deaths are among adolescents^v.



Family Planning and Maternal Health

Population:	68,000,000	(vi)
Women of Reproductive Age:	14,280,000	(vi)
% Married:	64%	(vii)
Married WRA:	9,139,000	
Total Fertility Rate:	6.6	(vi)
Contraceptive Use (Any Method):	20.0%	(viii)
Contraceptive Use (Modern Methods):	7.8%	(viii)
Number of Modern Users:	712,842	
Unmet Need:	24.2%	(viii)
Number of Women with Unmet Need:	2,211,638	
Total Number of Births:	2,569,500	(vi)
Antenatal Care Coverage (4+ Visits):	44.7%	(ix)
% of Births with Skilled Birth Attendant:	80.1%	(ix)
No. of Births with SBA:	2,058,170	
No. of Births w/o SBA:	511,331	
% of Births to Adolescents (15-19)	17%	(vi)
No. of Births to Adolescents (15-19)	436,815	(vi)

In addition to a 75% reduction in the MMR, MDG5 also calls for universal access to reproductive health care by 2015. The following shows current coverage with key reproductive services in the DRC. The indicators are mixed, with very poor scores when it comes to access to FP but relatively high coverage of delivery care.

Family Planning

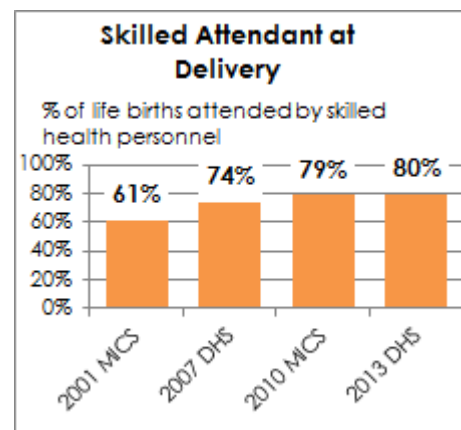
Only 7.8% of women in the DRC use modern family planning methods (DHS 2013), 24.2% have an expressed unmet need for family planning.

Antenatal Care

45% of pregnant women had at least 4 ANC visits (MICS 2010).

Skilled Delivery Care

As measured by the latest DHS survey, 80.1% of the annual 2.6 million births in the DRC were assisted by a skilled attendant.



Estimated Impact of Universal Access to Reproductive Health

Family Planning

Providing women with access to family planning and making it possible for them to decide how many children they want and when to have them, reduces the overall number of deaths by reducing the number of women dying due to pregnancies they never intended to have.

Meeting only 25% of the unmet demand for family planning in the DRC, i.e., supplying 580,000 additional women with access to family planning would reduce the number of unintended pregnancies by over 210,000 and deaths related to unintended births and abortions by 160.

Maternal Health

Most maternal deaths are preventable, as the health-care solutions to prevent or manage complications are well known. The following interventions and drugs tackle the four top causes of maternal deaths in DRC:

- Prevention and management of hemorrhage/treatment of postabortion complications - **Oxytocin/Misoprostol**:
- Prevention and management of eclampsia **with Magnesium sulfate**
- Prevention and treatment of sepsis with **Clean delivery kits** and **antibiotics**

Number of Maternal Deaths that Could be Prevented

Providing all women with the required maternal health medicines and supplies would prevent an additional 7,500 deaths, reducing the annual number of deaths to about 6,400 and the MMR to 260, just a few percentage points above the country's MDG goal of 250 deaths per 100,000 births.

In addition, these interventions would have a significant impact on child, and in particular, newborn mortality. Currently the DRC has about 110,000 neonatal deaths a year. About 13% of these, or 15,000, could be prevented by providing women with the above life-saving interventions*.

	Current Maternal Deaths	Deaths Prevented	Projected Maternal Deaths
Hemorrhage	4,796	4,346	396
Eclampsia	2,680	1,431	1,219
Sepsis	1,270	1,155	100
PAC	1,270	596	659
Other	4,091	0	4,044
All MH		7,528	
Averted by meeting 25 % of Unmet Need for FP		160	
TOTAL	14,106	7,688	6,418

Essential Drug Requirements and Costs

Maternal Health Drugs For Universal Coverage

	Units	Total Cost
Oxytocin injections	2,180,671	\$327,101
Misoprostol tablets	1,444,856	\$404,560
Magnesium sulfate injections	221,151	\$139,325
Clean delivery kits	481,619	\$1,317,227
Other sepsis prevention supplies		\$237,074
Antibiotics		\$386,081
TOTAL		\$2,811,368

Drug and commodity requirements to provide the care detailed above would cost approximately \$4.5 million, \$1.7 million for additional FP supplies and \$2.8 million for maternal health (detailed calculations are available in Annex 1).

Required health system investments

Additional investments will be necessary to strengthen countries' logistics systems and to ensure that health providers (both at facility and community level) know how to administer these drugs.

Annex 1. Methodology

The following describes the methodology used to arrive at the impact and cost estimates in the factsheet.

Maternal Mortality

The number of current annual maternal deaths was calculated using the 2007 MMR from DRC's 2007 DHS survey applied to the estimated number of births in 2013 (based on population data from the UN Population Division).

Deaths Prevented through Family Planning

The number of unintended pregnancies averted was calculated by comparing the number of pregnancies that would have happened if the 580,000 (25% of the 2.2 million women with currently unmet need in the DRC) had not been able to access contraception to the number of pregnancies that would occur if these women used contraception (i.e. only experienced pregnancies due to failure of their chosen method). It was assumed that 40% of all women would have gotten pregnant if not using contraception. The average failure rate of contraceptives was estimated to be 3%.

Based on regional data collected by the Guttmacher Institute for its 2014 update of "Adding It Up" it was estimated that only about 52% of unintended pregnancies would be carried to term, 34% would be aborted and 14% would end in a miscarriage.

	Number	Comment
Current Number of Women using FP	744,983	Women Married or in Union x Modern CPR
Additional Number of Women Using	580,000	If estimated number of number of women with unmet need available, 25% of that number, otherwise increase in current numebr of modern method users by 25%
Would have gotten pregnant	232,000	Assumption that without contraception 40% of women would get pregnant in a year
Now getting pregnant (method failure)	17,400	Assumption that 3% of women get pregnant despite using contraception (average failure rate)
Unintended Pregnancies Prevented	214,600	Pregnancies that would have occurred without FP minus births that would occur with FP
Unintended Births Prevented	112,245	Averted Pregnancies x % that would have been carried to term (about 52% of all unintended pregnancies)
Abortions Prevented	72,642	Averted Pregnancies x % that would have been aborted (34%)
Miscarriages Prevented	29,713	Averted Pregnancies x % that would have been miscarried (14%)
Deaths Prevented through Contraception	160	Number of deaths that would have occurred during childbirth/abortions

Note: Family planning reduces the absolute number of maternal deaths in a country but since it reduces both nominator AND denominator of the Maternal Mortality Ratio (defined as deaths per 100,000 live births) the reduction in maternal deaths caused by family planning is not reflected in the MMR. The estimated reduction in number of deaths required to achieve the country's MMR goal differs therefore slightly depending on the assumption made about the number of births. The estimate in the first paragraph uses the current number of births, while the estimate in the Estimated Impact paragraph is based on a lower number of births (originally projected number of births minus unintended births averted through the provision of contraception to women with unmet need).

Deaths Prevented through Maternal Health Interventions

It was assumed that half of the women currently covered by skilled birth attendance, i.e. 40%, had access to the three life-saving drugs. This coverage was then scaled up to 100%.

The following effectiveness data were used in estimating the expected reduction in maternal deaths:

Intervention	Effectiveness	Source
1. Hemorrhage Prevention - Oxytocin	62%	Prendiville WJ, Elbourne D, McDonald S. Active versus expectant management in the third stage of labour. In: The Cochrane Library, Issue 1.
2. Hemorrhage Prevention - Misoprostol	43%	30% less effective than oxytocin Gulmezoglu AM, Villar J, Ngoc NTN, et al. WHO multicentre randomized trial of misoprostol in the management of the third stage of labour. <i>Lancet</i> . 2001; 358:689-695
3. Hemorrhage Treatment - Oxytocin	80%	Pollard et al. Estimating the impact of interventions on cause-specific maternal mortality: a Delphi approach. <i>BMC Public Health</i> 2013, 13(Suppl 3):S12
4. Eclampsia Management - MgSulfate	43%	Cochrane Database Syst Rev . 2010 Nov 10
5. Sepsis Prevention - Facility Births	60%	Pollard et al. Estimating the impact of interventions on cause-specific maternal mortality: a Delphi approach. <i>BMC Public Health</i> 2013, 13(Suppl 3):S12
6. Sepsis Prevention - Home Births	60%	Pollard et al. Estimating the impact of interventions on cause-specific maternal mortality: a Delphi approach. <i>BMC Public Health</i> 2013, 13(Suppl 3):S12
7. Sepsis treatment - Antibiotics	80%	Pollard et al. Estimating the impact of interventions on cause-specific maternal mortality: a Delphi approach. <i>BMC Public Health</i> 2013, 13(Suppl 3):S12
8. PAC management - Misoprostol	50%	

The MMR after FP and MH scale-up was calculated by dividing the remaining number of maternal deaths by the number of births expected at the new contraceptive prevalence level (current 2.6 million births annually minus about 110,000 averted through increased use of family planning).

Cost Estimates Family Planning

Unit costs for the different supply methods were taken from UNFPA's RH Interchange database and multiplied by the amount required to provide one couple-year of protection (CYP). It was assumed that 15 cycles of the pill, 120 condoms or 4 injectables would provide one CYP. IUDs and Implant were assumed to provide 3.5 years of protection or CYPs. Their cost was thus divided by 3.5. The RH Interchange price for implants (\$18.80) was replaced with a cost estimate per implant of \$8.50 to reflect the recent price reduction seen, but not yet reflected in the database, due to the introduction of Sino-Implants.

Drug and supply cost for male and female sterilization came from calculations carried out by the Guttmacher Institute for its Adding It Up 3 publication using UNFPA's RHCT costing tool with updated 2013 prices.

It was assumed that new users would adopt methods based on the current modern method mix.

Cost Estimates Maternal Health Interventions

Based on WHO treatment guidelines the following drugs and supplies were costed using drug prices from both the MH International Drug Price Indicator and the UNICEF Supply Catalogue.

Hemorrhage Prevention and Treatment

Drug	Unit Costs	No. of Units Required	Total Costs	Source
Hemorrhage Prevention				
Facility births				
Oxytocin, injection, 10 IU in 1 ml	\$0.15	1	\$0.15	UNICEF
Home births				
Misoprostol, tablet, 200mcg	\$0.28	3	\$0.84	MSH
Hemorrhage Treatment				
Oxytocin, injection, 10 IU in 1 ml	\$0.15	4	\$0.60	UNICEF
<i>For atonic uterus. Not included: Syringes, IV sets, IV solutions</i>				

Sepsis Prevention and Treatment

Drug	Unit Costs	No. of Units Required	Total Costs	Source
Sepsis Prevention				
Gloves, exam, latex, disposable, pair	\$0.05	2	\$0.10	UNICEF
Soap for handwashing	\$0.01	1	\$0.01	UNICEF
Chlorhexidine for cord care	\$0.01	1	\$0.01	UNICEF
			\$0.12	
Sepsis Treatment				
Delivery Kit				
	\$2.74	1	\$2.74	UNFPA 200 FOR \$547
Non-Severe Cases				
Amoxicillin, caplet, 250 mg	\$0.05	2	\$0.10	MSH
Severe Cases				
Ampicillin, powder for injection, 500mg	\$0.14	24	\$3.46	MSH
Gentamicin, injection, 40 mg/ml in 2ml	\$0.09	6	\$0.54	MSH
Metronidazole, injection, 500 mg in 100	\$0.47	8	\$3.76	MSH
			\$7.76	

Pre-Eclampsia/Eclampsia Treatment

Drug	Unit Costs	No. of Units Required	Total Costs	Source
Pre-Eclampsia/Eclampsia Treatment				
Magnesium sulfate, injection, 500 mg	\$0.63	9	\$5.67	UNICEF
For complications				
Calcium carbonate, tablet, 600mg	\$0.02	1	\$0.02	MSH
<i>Needle for initial injection and IV set not included in costing</i>				

ⁱ UN Population Division. World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision, data for 2013

ⁱⁱ DHS 2007.

ⁱⁱⁱ DHS 2007.

^{iv} WHO and UNICEF. 2012 Countdown, Country Profiles

^v DHS 2007.

^{vi} UN Population Division. World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision

^{vii} UN Population Division. World Marriage Data 2012.

^{viii} DHS 2013/14. Preliminary Report.

^{ix} DHS 2013/14. Preliminary Report.

^x Futures Institute. Spectrum, LIST module.