

Madagascar

Madagascar is facing the triple challenge of fast population growth, growing poverty and political instability. Fertility is high and the adolescent fertility rate is among the highest in Africa. The country has reduced maternal mortality since 1990, but the ratio remains high. Weak infrastructure, referral systems and equipment, and lack of qualified staff, make access to health care especially difficult in the provinces. The government has made maternal and newborn health a top priority, and a national plan for maternal and newborn health was launched in 2008. A policy of free care at birth that includes caesarean sections promotes institutional birth and increasing skilled attendance at birth to a target of 75 percent. The country has a total of 21 midwifery schools, but the number of graduated midwives needed is not yet being met, and in isolated facilities, auxiliaries are still the main care providers.

▶ COUNTRY INDICATORS*

Total population (000); % urban	20,146; 30
Adolescent population (15-19 yrs) (000); % of total	2,222; 11
Number of women of reproductive age (age 15-49) (000); % of total	4,811; 24
Total fertility rate (children per woman)	4.7
Crude birth rate (per 1,000 population)	36
Births per year (000)	683
% of all births registered	75
Number of maternal deaths	3,000
Neonatal mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	21
Stillbirth rate (per 1,000 births)	21
Number of pregnant women tested for HIV	140,261
Midwives are authorized to administer a core set of life-saving interventions	Yes
Density of midwives, nurses and doctors per 1,000 population	0.5
Estimated workforce shortage to attain 95% skilled birth attendance by 2015	837
Gross secondary school enrolment (male; female) %	31; 29
Literacy rate (age 15 and over) (male; female) %	77; 65

▶ MDG INDICATORS

Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births)	440
Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel (%)	51
Contraceptive prevalence rate (modern methods) (%)	27
Adolescent birth rate (births per 1,000 women age 15-19)	148
Antenatal care coverage (at least one visit; at least four visits) (%)	80; 40
Unmet need for family planning (%)	24
Under-5 mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	61

▶ MIDWIFERY WORKFORCE¹

Midwives (including nurse-midwives) ²	2,969
Other health professionals with some midwifery competencies ³	97
General practitioners with some midwifery competencies	3,071
Obstetricians	24
Community health workers with some midwifery training	–
A live registry of licensed midwives exists	No

▶ MIDWIFERY EDUCATION

Midwifery education programmes (direct entry; combined; sequential)	Yes; No; No
Number of midwifery education institutions (total); number of private	21; 15
Duration of midwifery education programmes (in months)	36
Number of student admissions (first year)	–
Student admissions per total available student places (%)	100
Number of students enrolled in all years (2009)	520
Number of graduates (2009)	–
Midwifery education programmes are accredited	Yes

▶ REGULATION

Legislation exists recognizing midwifery as an autonomous profession	Yes
Midwives hold a protected title	Yes
A recognized definition of a professional midwife exists	No
A government body regulates midwifery practice	No
A licence is required to practise midwifery	No
Midwives are authorized to prescribe life-saving medications	Yes



MIDWIFERY BAROMETER	
Midwives per 1,000 live births	4 ●
Birth complications per day; rural	304; 210 ●
Lifetime risk of maternal death	1 in 45 ●
Intrapartum stillbirth rate (per 1,000 births)	10 ●
Neonatal mortality as % of under-5 mortality	37 ●

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

A midwives association exists	Yes
Number of midwifery professionals represented by an association	-
Association(s) affiliated with ICM; ICN	No; No

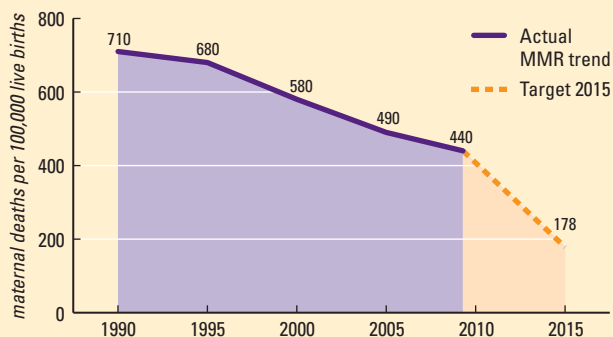
POLICIES

A national maternal and newborn health plan exists that includes the midwifery workforce	Yes
The plan is costed	Yes
The national health workforce plan specifically addresses midwifery	-
Compulsory notification of maternal deaths	Yes
Systematic maternal death audits and reviews	Yes
Confidential enquiry for maternal deaths	Yes
Compulsory registration of all births	Yes
All maternal and newborn health services are free (public sector)	Partial

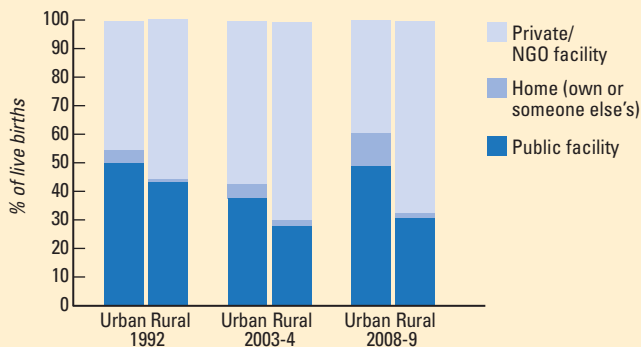
SERVICES

Number of facilities providing essential childbirth care	2,975
Number of Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (EmONC) facilities	3
Number of Comprehensive EmONC facilities	19
Facilities per 1,000 births	4

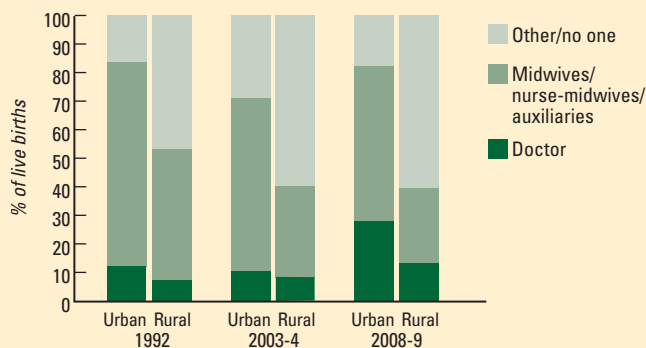
Trends in maternal mortality: 1990–2015



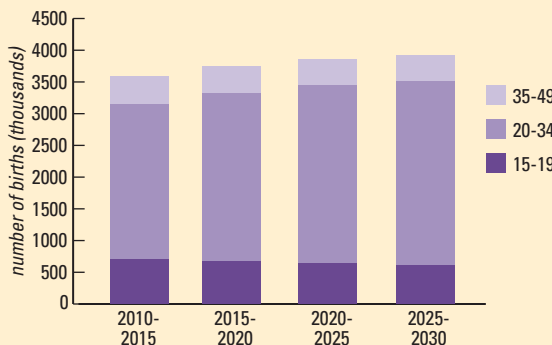
Where women give birth: urban vs. rural



Who attends births: urban vs. rural



Projected number of births, by age of mother



Explanatory notes: *Annex 2 provides a complete list of source data. All data sources are from 2008 unless otherwise stated. Where country respondents stated that data were not available, the term 'Unavailable' is used. In all other instances, '-' is used to denote a nil response or data that requires further verification. 1. 2008 estimates based on country data returns and the WHO Global Atlas of the Health Workforce. 2. Includes midwives, nurse-midwives and nurses with midwifery competencies. These figures do not necessarily reflect the number of practising midwives or the ICM definition of a midwife. 3. Auxiliary midwives and auxiliary nurse-midwives.