Maternal mortality in humanitarian crises and in fragile settings is 1.9 times the world average, and the number of maternal deaths in these countries represent 61 per cent of the total number of maternal deaths worldwide.

The number of maternal deaths in the 35 countries currently affected by a humanitarian crisis or fragile conditions is estimated as 185,000 in 2015, which is 61 per cent of the global estimate of maternal deaths (303,000). This equates to an estimated ratio of 417 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births, which is 1.9 times higher than the global estimate of 216.

### Number of Maternal Deaths, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Maternal Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Global</td>
<td>303,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Central Africa</td>
<td>127,476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arab States</td>
<td>15,132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern and Southern Africa</td>
<td>68,078</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia and the Pacific</td>
<td>84,649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America and the Caribbean</td>
<td>1,783</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Europe and Central Asia</td>
<td>1,491</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developed regions</td>
<td>1,153</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Maternal Mortality Ratio (per 100,000 live births), 2015

- **World**: 216
- **Countries in humanitarian crisis and in fragile settings**: 417
- **West and Central Africa (W&CA)**: 679
- **Humanitarian countries in W&CA**: 746
- **Eastern and Southern Africa (E&SA)**: 407
- **Humanitarian countries in E&SA**: 500
- **Arab States (AS)**: 162
- **Humanitarian countries in AS**: 234
- **Asia and the Pacific (AAP)**: 127
- **Humanitarian countries in AAP**: 187
- **Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)**: 68
- **Humanitarian countries in LAC**: 124
- **Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA)**: 25
- **Humanitarian countries in EECA**: 19
- **Developed regions**: 9
“Many of these countries with high maternal death rates will make little progress, or will even fall behind over the next 15 years, if we don’t improve the current number of available midwives and other health workers with midwifery skills. If we don’t make a big push now, in 2030 we’ll be faced, once again, with a missed target for reducing maternal deaths.”

– Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin
Executive Director, UNFPA

By the end of 2015, about 99 per cent of the world’s maternal deaths will have occurred in developing regions, with countries affected by a humanitarian crisis or fragile conditions accounting for almost 2 in 3 (61 per cent) cases.

The new Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health aims to help countries achieve the ambitious target of ending preventable maternal deaths by 2030, included in the Sustainable Development Goals. This translates into reducing maternal deaths to fewer than 70 per 100,000 live births. Reaching this goal will require advancing the pace of progress – from the 2.3 per cent annual improvement that was recorded between 1990 and 2015 to 7.5 per cent per year beginning next year.