**Annex B. Global and Country-Level Preterm Birth Estimates**

**The Global Burden of Preterm Birth**

Preterm birth affects families in every country. While more than 60 percent of preterm births occur in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, the problem is universal. In fact, the United States and Brazil are among the top 10 countries with the highest number of preterm births (Table 1).

| **Table 1. Top ten countries with the largest numbers of preterm births in 2015** |
| --- |
|  | **# Preterm Births** | **# Deaths from preterm birth complications** |
| India |  3,254,300  |  329,900  |
| China |  1,206,200  |  33,200  |
| Nigeria |  855,200  |  87,600  |
| Pakistan |  848,700  |  101,600  |
| Indonesia |  846,400  |  27,800  |
| United States |  457,900  |  6,690  |
| Bangladesh |  446,900  |  23,600  |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo |  372,200  |  38,200  |
| Philippines |  349,600  |  11,000  |
| Ethiopia |  318,200  |  23,100  |
| Sources: Preterm birth rates from 2010 applied to live births in 2015; deaths from preterm birth complications by the WHO and Maternal and Child Epidemiology Estimation Group (MCEE) 20151 estimates are rounded and can be accessed [here](http://apps.who.int/gho/data/view.main.ghe1002015-CH10?lang=en) |

Preventing deaths among babies born too soon is a major challenge for many countries. But the most urgent action to prevent, diagnose and manage preterm birth is needed in the 10 countries that account for nearly two-thirds of all deaths from preterm birth complications (Table 2).

| **Table 2. Top ten countries with the highest numbers of under-5 children deaths from preterm birth complications in 2015** |
| --- |
|  | **# Deaths from preterm birth complications** | **# Preterm Births** |
| India |  329,900  |  3,254,300  |
| Pakistan |  101,600  |  848,700  |
| Nigeria |  87,600  |  855,200  |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo |  38,200  |  372,200  |
| China |  33,200  |  1,206,200  |
| Indonesia |  27,800  |  846,400  |
| Bangladesh |  23,600  |  446,900  |
| Ethiopia |  23,100  |  318,200  |
| Angola |  21,200  |  136,500  |
| Egypt |  15,800  |  203,700  |
| Sources: Preterm birth rates from 2010 applied to live births in 2015; deaths from preterm birth complications by the WHO and Maternal and Child Epidemiology Estimation Group (MCEE) 20151 estimates are rounded and can be accessed [here](http://apps.who.int/gho/data/view.main.ghe1002015-CH10?lang=en) |

**Global and Country-Level Preterm Birth Estimates**

Country-level estimates for the number of preterm births and the number of deaths related to preterm birth complications were updated for the year 2015 and are provided in the table and excel icon below. The preterm death estimates were published in *The Lancet* medical journal on November 11, 20161 and are also available for download on the World Health Organization’s Global Health Observatory [here](http://apps.who.int/gho/data/view.main.ghe1002015-CH10?lang=en). The estimates for the number of preterm births in 2015 have been calculated using the preterm birth rates published in 2012[[1]](#endnote-1) and the live births estimated in 2015.1

The [Healthy Newborn Networks’ Newborn Numbers](http://www.healthynewbornnetwork.org/numbers/) page provides a full list of maternal and newborn health indicators. You can use these estimates in your press release or infographics to raise awareness about the burden of preterm birth in your country.



| **Countries and territories** | **Number of babies born preterm (<37 weeks)** | **Number of under-5 deaths due to direct preterm birth complications (0-59 months)** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Afghanistan |  117,400  |  13,700  |
| Albania |  4,100  |  130  |
| Algeria |  70,500  |  5,320  |
| Andorra |   |  <5  |
| Angola |  136,500  |  21,200  |
| Antigua and Barbuda |  90  |  <5  |
| Argentina |  60,900  |  2,440  |
| Armenia |  4,500  |  140  |
| Australia |  22,700  |  230  |
| Austria |  9,000  |  70  |
| Azerbaijan |  19,900  |  1,750  |
| Bahamas |  550  |  20  |
| Bahrain |  3,000  |  30  |
| Bangladesh |  446,900  |  23,600  |
| Barbados |  300  |  8  |
| Belarus |  5,200  |  120  |
| Belgium |  10,000  |  80  |
| Belize |  880  |  24  |
| Benin |  39,900  |  4,780  |
| Bhutan |  1,300  |  90  |
| Bolivia (Plurinational State of) |  22,100  |  1,760  |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina |  2,500  |  50  |
| Botswana |  8,700  |  540  |
| Brazil |  295,700  |  9,900  |
| Brunei Darussalam |  930  |  14  |
| Bulgaria |  4,500  |  160  |
| Burkina Faso |  74,900  |  6,780  |
| Burundi |  52,800  |  4,760  |
| Cabo Verde  |  1,200  |  60  |
| Cambodia  |  37,500  |  1,680  |
| Cameroon  |  103,300  |  7,390  |
| Canada  |  28,800  |  490  |
| Central African Republic  |  20,700  |  2,280  |
| Chad |  79,300  |  8,370  |
| Chile |  16,600  |  500  |
| China |  1,206,200  |  33,200\*  |
| Colombia |  65,800  |  2,500  |
| Comoros |  4,400  |  370  |
| Congo |  27,400  |  1,130  |
| Cook Islands |   |  <5  |
| Costa Rica |  9,300  |  180  |
| Côte d'Ivoire |  116,400  |  11,000  |
| Croatia |  2,100  |  26  |
| Cuba |  7,500  |  110  |
| Cyprus |  1,900  |  9  |
| Czech Republic |  6,800  |  90  |
| Democratic People's Republic of Korea |  40,500  |  2,030  |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo |  372,200  |  38,200  |
| Denmark |  3,500  |  70  |
| Djibouti |  2,600  |  280  |
| Dominica |  130  |  <5  |
| Dominican Republic |  23,400  |  1,810  |
| Ecuador |  16,600  |  1,510  |
| Egypt |  203,700  |  15,800  |
| El Salvador |  13,400  |  360  |
| Equatorial Guinea |  4,700  |  350  |
| Eritrea |  20,300  |  820  |
| Estonia |  700  |  <5  |
| Ethiopia |  318,200  |  23,100  |
| Fiji |  1,700  |  70  |
| Finland |  3,200  |  27  |
| France |  52,600  |  600  |
| Gabon |  8,400  |  450  |
| Gambia |  11,500  |  830  |
| Georgia |  5,000  |  180  |
| Germany |  63,800  |  710  |
| Ghana |  130,100  |  8,260  |
| Greece |  7,000  |  170  |
| Grenada |  210  |  5  |
| Guatemala |  34,200  |  1,800  |
| Guinea |  63,600  |  4,250  |
| Guinea-Bissau |  7,300  |  760  |
| Guyana |  2,300  |  130  |
| Haiti |  36,300  |  2,350  |
| Holy See |   |   |
| Honduras |  19,700  |  650  |
| Hungary |  7,500  |  200  |
| Iceland |  280  |  <5  |
| India |  3,254,300  |  329,900  |
| Indonesia |  846,400  |  27,800  |
| Iran (Islamic Republic of) |  174,400  |  4,710  |
| Iraq |  79,900  |  8,370  |
| Ireland |  4,300  |  60  |
| Israel |  14,100  |  150  |
| Italy |  30,900  |  440  |
| Jamaica |  4,100  |  180  |
| Japan |  61,700  |  240  |
| Jordan |  29,700  |  1,040  |
| Kazakhstan |  34,600  |  960  |
| Kenya |  186,900  |  9,670  |
| Kiribati |  270  |  24  |
| Kuwait |  7,400  |  170  |
| Kyrgyzstan |  18,000  |  650  |
| Lao People's Democratic Republic |  18,700  |  1,600  |
| Latvia |  840  |  19  |
| Lebanon |  8,100  |  230  |
| Lesotho |  7,400  |  810  |
| Liberia |  21,000  |  1,210  |
| Libyan Arab Jamahiriya |  10,300  |  360  |
| Liechtenstein |   |   |
| Lithuania |  1,800  |  27  |
| Luxembourg |  540  |  <5  |
| Madagascar |  116,800  |  5,140  |
| Malawi |  113,700  |  5,270  |
| Malaysia |  67,800  |  910  |
| Maldives |  620  |  16  |
| Mali |  84,000  |  9,170  |
| Malta |  240  |  6  |
| Marshall Islands |  160  |  9  |
| Mauritania |  20,300  |  2,150  |
| Mauritius |  1,800  |  50  |
| Mexico |  174,000  |  6,290  |
| Micronesia (Federated States of) |  260  |  17  |
| Monaco |   |  <5  |
| Mongolia |  9,600  |  280  |
| Montenegro |  630  |  10  |
| Morocco |  48,100  |  4,590  |
| Mozambique |  174,400  |  10,100  |
| Myanmar |  113,900  |  9,150  |
| Namibia |  10,800  |  530  |
| Nauru |   |  <5  |
| Nepal |  77,500  |  3,980  |
| Netherlands |  14,400  |  160  |
| New Zealand |  4,500  |  90  |
| Nicaragua |  11,100  |  470  |
| Niger |  89,600  |  9,380  |
| Nigeria |  855,200  |  87,600  |
| Niue |   |  <5  |
| Norway |  3,600  |  30  |
| Oman |  11,600  |  210  |
| Pakistan |  848,700  |  101,600  |
| Palau |   |  <5  |
| Panama |  6,100  |  240  |
| Papua New Guinea |  13,700  |  1,790  |
| Paraguay |  10,500  |  650  |
| Peru |  45,700  |  2,050  |
| Philippines |  349,600  |  11,000  |
| Poland |  24,300  |  650  |
| Portugal |  6,400  |  60  |
| Qatar |  3,000  |  60  |
| Republic of Korea |  42,100  |  510  |
| Republic of Moldova |  5,100  |  130  |
| Romania |  12,100  |  450  |
| Russian Federation |  136,500  |  4,480  |
| Rwanda |  32,100  |  2,070  |
| Saint Kitts and Nevis |   |  <5  |
| Saint Lucia |  310  |  13  |
| Saint Vincent and the Grenadines |  190  |  11  |
| Samoa |  250  |  19  |
| San Marino |   |  <5  |
| Sao Tome and Principe |  660  |  40  |
| Saudi Arabia |  37,000  |  2,330  |
| Senegal |  56,400  |  3,870  |
| Serbia |  6,200  |  260  |
| Seychelles |  190  |  5  |
| Sierra Leone |  21,800  |  2,840  |
| Singapore |  6,200  |  24  |
| Slovakia |  3,400  |  130  |
| Slovenia |  1,600  |  22  |
| Solomon Islands |  2,100  |  70  |
| Somalia |  53,300  |  4,960  |
| South Africa |  81,100  |  5,120  |
| South Sudan |  57,200  |  4,600  |
| Spain |  27,600  |  370  |
| Sri Lanka |  33,400  |  670  |
| State of Palestine |   |   |
| Sudan |  170,600  |  12,200  |
| Suriname |  860  |  50  |
| Swaziland |  5,100  |  250  |
| Sweden |  6,700  |  60  |
| Switzerland |  6,400  |  100  |
| Syrian Arab Republic |  46,000  |  1,130  |
| Tajikistan |  28,700  |  1,890  |
| Thailand |  88,900  |  2,220  |
| The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia |  1,700  |  60  |
| Timor-Leste |  6,300  |  290  |
| Togo |  33,300  |  2,250  |
| Tonga |  190  |  8  |
| Trinidad and Tobago |  1,500  |  90  |
| Tunisia |  18,700  |  750  |
| Turkey |  168,200  |  4,950  |
| Turkmenistan |  11,200  |  1,040  |
| Tuvalu |   |  <5  |
| Uganda |  215,800  |  9,830  |
| Ukraine |  28,300  |  1,070  |
| United Arab Emirates |   |  180  |
| United Kingdom |  59,400  |  1,160  |
| United Republic of Tanzania |  234,800  |  11,500  |
| United States |  457,900  |  6,690  |
| Uruguay |  4,900  |  90  |
| Uzbekistan |  58,100  |  5,260  |
| Vanuatu |  870  |  34  |
| Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) |  48,800  |  2,200  |
| Viet Nam |  148,300  |  7,930  |
| Yemen |  108,700  |  6,350  |
| Zambia |  79,800  |  4,220  |
| Zimbabwe |  90,400  |  5,450  |
|   |   |   |
| **World** | **15,504,500** | **1,055,200** |

Sources: Preterm birth rates from 2010 are applied to live births in 2015; deaths from preterm birth complications by the WHO and Maternal and Child Epidemiology Estimation Group (MCEE) 2015 available for download [here](http://apps.who.int/gho/data/view.main.ghe1002015-CH10?lang=en); \*WHO GHO estimate used and not consistent with Liu et al 2016. Numbers have been rounded.

1. Blencowe H et al. 2012. National, regional and worldwide estimates of preterm birth rates in the year 2010 with time trends since 1990 for selected countries: a systematic analysis and implications. Lancet. 379(9832): 2162-72. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)