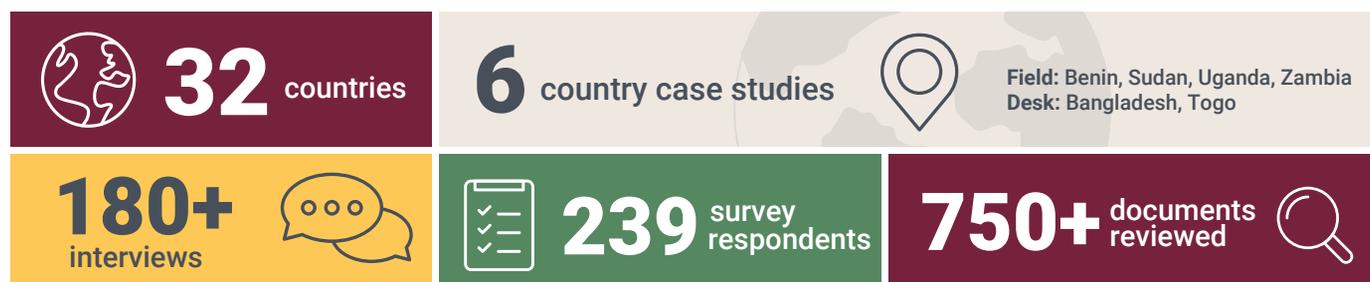


Ending preventable maternal deaths is one of the three transformative results of UNFPA and includes an emphasis on integration of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) with maternal and newborn health (MNH) services. The Maternal and Newborn Health Thematic Fund (MHTF) delivers **technical and financial support** in 32 high burden countries to create **catalytic and accelerated progress** in midwifery, emergency obstetric and newborn care, maternal and perinatal death surveillance and response processes, and the prevention and treatment of fistula and other obstetric morbidities.

This evaluation assesses the extent to which the MHTF Phase 3 has contributed to **strengthening health systems, improving quality of care, and advancing equity, human rights and accountability to stakeholders** in partner countries, as well as its ability to **scale up integration** of SRHR-MNH services.

DATA COLLECTION METHODS



CONCLUSIONS

- With the MHTF, UNFPA is a partner of choice providing **visible and valued support** to critical MNH priorities, with midwifery as the anchor of its interventions
- The MHTF **delivers value for money** for individual countries and enables UNFPA to influence the MNH agenda globally
- The MHTF is **not clearly positioned** within a holistic UNFPA MNH strategic framework
- If not addressed, **critical gaps** (such as community engagement and quality of care measurement) will limit the relevance and sustainability of the MHTF investments
- The MHTF leverages its limited financial resources effectively, but has not yet been **fully designed to deliver its 'catalytic effect'** systematically
- The MHTF **addresses gender equality, human rights and equity**, especially among adolescents, but unevenly
- The MHTF successes contrast with its low profile at UNFPA where its **significant and multifaceted contribution** to MNH remains insufficiently tapped.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 As the key UNFPA vehicle for SRHR-MNH integration and support, **continue and expand the MHTF** into a new phase
- 2 Position the MHTF within a **comprehensive UNFPA maternal health strategy and action plan**
- 3 **Champion quality of care at the point of delivery**, including respectful care
- 4 Be more **systematic about integrating community engagement** across all MHTF activities
- 5 **Engage partners**, especially donors, more actively in the MHTF progress
- 6 **Improve the strategic coherence and responsiveness** of the MHTF
- 7 **Embed the focus on midwifery and the health workforce environment** across the MHTF
- 8 **Invest more in MHTF core added values**: SRHR-MNH integration and promoting catalytic results
- 9 **Refine results monitoring** to improve understanding and communication about the MHTF added value in different contexts
- 10 **Invest in innovative funding approaches** to attract an expanded donor base.