TECHNICAL NOTE FOR THE TARGET ON MATERNAL MORTALITY, SHAA2030

Target 1.2 - Reduce the regional maternal mortality ratio (MMR) to less than 30 per 100,000 live births[1] in all population groups, including those at greatest risk of maternal death (i.e. adolescents, women of over 35 years of age, and indigenous, Afro-descendent, Roma, and rural women, among others, as applicable in each country) (adapted SDG target 3.1).

Technical definition:

This target measures the number of maternal deaths in a given year for a given country, territory or geographic area, according to information from the competent national health authority, as defined by the ICD-10 previously endorsed by Member States.

Maternal death is defined as the death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days after the termination of her pregnancy, regardless of the duration and place of the pregnancy, due to any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy itself or its care, but not from accidental or incidental causes. Therefore, the calculation of the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) in the numerator will not include maternal deaths due to suicide, femicide, accidents or deaths occurring after 42 days of termination of pregnancy. However, Member States are urged to continue monitoring and recording these maternal deaths, even though they are not included in the calculation of MMR.

Foundations for the target:

To establish the MMR target for the Region of the Americas, the Annual Average Reduction (AAR) of the MMR from 2010 to 2015, which was -3.5%, was considered. Based on this MMR AAR, the value of 30.7 maternal deaths per 100,000 lb is obtained for 2030, which was rounded to 30 for practical reasons and communication purposes (eg the countries of the region can "embark" on a challenge that would be called "reaching 30 in 2030", which may have a positive effect).

To set the MMR targets for the countries, four groups of countries were formed with their respective MMR values in 2010. The four groups were created as follows:

- Group 1: countries with MMR ≥ 140
- Group 2: 70 ≤ countries with MMR <140
- Group 3: 30 ≤ countries with MMR <70
- Group 4: countries with MMR <30

Each of these groups was assigned different levels of RMM AAR, considering that in countries with higher MMR, the percentage rate of reduction should and could be higher. Meanwhile, for countries with a lower MMR, the assigned MMR AAR should be lower, considering that the smaller the MMR, the AAR is more difficult. This approach is consistent with the cluster methodology used by the global group

[1] This target was set based on the analysis of the reduction of MMR in the countries of the Region between 2010 and 2015, and considering the projections of the interagency global group for maternal health (WHO, 2015); http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/153540/1/WHO_RHR_15.03_eng.pdf

to realize the projections of the global SDG target 3.1 (EPMM, 2015). The MMR AAR levels considered in each group are:

- For Group 1 the assigned MMR AAR is -5.5 (same as for the global level).
- For Group 2 the assigned MMR AAR is -4.0.
- For Group 3 the assigned MMR AAR is -2.5.
- For Group 4 the assigned MMR AAR is -2.0.

The average MMR AAR values for the four groups as a whole is -3.5%, which corresponds to the MMR AAR in the Region of the Americas used to set the regional MMR target equal to or less than 30 per 100,000 lb.

By obtaining the MMR values that countries would have to reach by 2030 and calculating the weighted average of these MMRs (shown in the attached table), the MMR value of 30 maternal deaths per 100,000 lb is obtained, which is the target established for the Region of the Americas.

Considering these projections, and based on the progress made by the Region on MDG 5, country commitments for the achievement of the SDG, and new initiatives and those under way to ensure safe motherhood, this goal is considered achievable.

If the criteria suggested by the inter-agency maternal mortality estimation group (MMR reduction by 2030 by 2/3 of 2010 figures, or its AAR equivalent of 5.5%) were applied, the Region should reach a target of RMM of 20.7 per 100,000 lb or less, based on an MMR of 62 per 100,000 lb in 2010. This target would subject those countries that have already achieved large reductions in the RMM to an extremely difficult requirement to meet.

The countries of the Region have consistently assumed global and regional commitments to contribute to the reduction of maternal mortality and to the improvement of maternal health. After the Millennium Development Goals, in September 2015, during the United Nations summit on sustainable development, the former Secretary General launched the new Global Strategy for Women, Children and Adolescents (2016-2030). This strategy seeks to expand the successes of the 2010 "Every Woman, Every Child" movement and strategy, and puts women, children and adolescents at the heart of the SDGs.

Also in 2010, noting that goal 5a of the MDGs would not be achieved, PAHO was charged with designing a Regional Plan to accelerate the reduction of maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity. This plan was unanimously approved by all the countries and territories of the Americas and will soon be completed (end of 2017). Also, in 2013, 38 countries in the Region signed the Montevideo Consensus to implement the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, which contains a series of agreements to reinforce the implementation of policies and actions that will contribute to the reduction of maternal mortality.

References:

1. WHO, 2015. Strategies toward ending preventable maternal mortality (EPMM). Available at: http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/153540/1/WHO_RHR_15.03_eng.pdf?ua=1

2. WHO, 2015. Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health, 2016-2030. Available at: http://www.who.int/life-course/partners/global-strategy/en/
3. PAHO, 2011. Plan of Action to Accelerate the Reduction of Maternal Mortality and Severe Maternal Morbidity. Available at: http://iris.paho.org/xmlui/bitstream/handle/123456789/4713/CE148.R14-e.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

Annex 1: Country Targets for Maternal Mortality Ratio

Country	MMR 2010	MMR 2015	MMR 2030 (based on groups of countries)	Estimated Births 2030 (in thousands)	Weight (% of regional births)	Proportional contribution with reduction using groups of countries
Haiti	389	359	129.5	207	0.01694	2.19319
Bolivia (Plurinational State)	253	206	84.2	212	0.01740	1.46553
Guyana	241	229	80.2	12	0.00098	0.07890
Suriname	169	155	56.3	8	0.00066	0.03688
Nicaragua	166	150	55.3	88	0.00724	0.40003
Honduras	155	129	51.6	163	0.01332	0.68713
Paraguay	139	132	46.3	114	0.00934	0.43229
Guatemala	109	88	49.0	358	0.02931	1.43566
Panama	101	94	45.4	66	0.00538	0.24424
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic)	99	95	44.5	478	0.03920	1.74386
Jamaica	93	89	41.8	33	0.00269	0.11245
Peru	92	68	41.3	473	0.03872	1.60079
Bahamas	85	80	38.2	5	0.00037	0.01409
Dominican Republic	75	92	33.7	166	0.01360	0.45847
Ecuador	75	64	33.7	268	0.02196	0.74019
Colombia	72	64	32.4	549	0.04499	1.45563
Brazil	65	44	39.4	2172	0.17799	7.01736
Trinidad and Tobago	65	63	39.4	13	0.00102	0.04039
El Salvador	59	54	35.8	87	0.00714	0.25564
Argentina	58	52	35.2	611	0.05008	1.76158
Saint Lucia	54	48	32.8	2	0.00014	0.00447

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	50	45	30.3	1	0.00010	0.00290
Mexico	45	38	27.3	1755	0.14381	3.92501
Cuba	44	39	26.7	92	0.00753	0.20086
Belize	37	28	22.4	7	0.00059	0.01318
Barbados	33	27	20.0	3	0.00022	0.00437
Costa Rica	29	25	19.4	53	0.00432	0.08391
Grenada	27	27	18.1	1	0.00011	0.00198
Chile	26	22	17.4	188	0.01544	0.26901
Uruguay	19	15	12.7	38	0.00313	0.03984
Puerto Rico	16	14	10.7	29	0.00239	0.02564
United States of America	14	14	9.4	3624	0.29704	2.78753
Canada	8	7	5.4	328	0.02685	0.14401
AMERICAS				**12202**		**30**

Group	**Average Annual % Change (AAC) in MMR**
Group 1	-5.5
Group 2	-4.0
Group 3	-2.5
Group 4	-2.0
AMERICAS	**-3.5**

Paraguay is included in group 1 due to the proximity of its MMR to 140.

Maternal Mortality Ratio – Region of the Americas

Region	MMR 2010	MMR 2015	Average Annual % Change (AAC) in MMR between 1990 and 2015	Average Annual % Change (AAC) in MMR between 2010 and 2015	MMR 2030 with AAC in MMR between 1990 and 2015	MMR 2030 with AAC in MMR between 2010 and 2015	MMR 2030 with Reduction of 2/3
AMERICAS	62	52	-2.7	-3.5	36.1	30.7	20.7
LAC	81	68.0	-2.8	-3.5	46	40	27.0