

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

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Burkina Faso: Maternal mortality fact sheet

1. Every year, more than 2,000 women die in Burkina Faso from complications of pregnancy and childbirth according to the Burkina Faso Ministry of Health (2007)
2. Burkina Faso is ranked as one of the poorest countries in the world (UNDP 2009 Human Development Report)
3. 46.4 per cent of its population living below the national poverty line and 80 per cent living in rural areas where the infrastructure is often inadequate (UNDP 2009 Human Development Report)
4. In 2007, the literacy rate for women and girls was only 21 per cent, compared to 36.7 per cent for men and boys according to Burkina Faso's National Institute of Statistics and Demography
5. In rural areas the fertility rate is 6.9 children per woman, as compared with 3.7 in urban areas. The national average is 6.2 (Demographic and Health Survey 2003)
6. An official study recently found that the age of marriage was most often between 10 and 19, although the majority of teenagers living as a household were married when they were between 14 and 19 (Joelle Palmieri *Burkina: intensifier la lutte contre les mariages précoces*, 2009)
7. Young women in rural areas are more likely to bear children, with 157 per thousand rural adolescents becoming mothers, compared with 64 per thousand in urban areas (Demographic and Health Survey 2003)
8. The proportion of the national budget allocated to health grew from 6.3 per cent in 2001 to 8.42 per cent in 2008 according to Burkina Faso's Ministry of Health. This far behind the 15 per cent goal set by the African Heads of State at the AU Summit in Abuja in 2001
9. The average distance to a health facility reduced from 9.4km in 2000 to 7.5km in 2008 according to Burkina Faso's Ministry of Health
10. The Burkina Faso government estimates that 42.4 per cent of married women had an unmet need for contraception (2004)