

**The global picture**

* 1 million children die each year from the complication of premature birth, and globally, it’s a leading cause of death in children under 5.1,2

**Premature birth**

* Around the world 15 million babies are born prematurely every year.1
* 60 per cent of these births take place in Africa and South Asia.1
* The three countries with the highest rate of preterm birth are (the numbers below are the numbers of babies who were born premature out of 100 babies born alive)1:

1. Malawi- 18.1
2. Comoros- 16.7
3. Congo- 16.7

**Neonatal mortality – the number of babies who die within their first 28 days of life**

* The country with the highest neonatal mortality rate in the world is Pakistan, at a rate of 44.2 per 1,000 live births.3
* Other countries with high rates of neonatal mortality are in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. These include Central African Republic, South Sudan, Afghanistan and Somalia.3
* Countries with the lowest rates include Japan (0.9 per 1,000 live births), and Iceland (1 per 1,000 live births).3
* The UK ranks well globally, however, whilst the rate of neonatal mortality has improved since 1990, latest figures stand at 2.6 per 1,000 live births.3

1. World Health Organisation, fact sheet on preterm birth. Retrieved from:

<https://www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/preterm-birth>

1. Liu et al (2016). Global, regional, and national causes of under-5 mortality in 2000-15: an updated systematic analysis with implications for the Sustainable Development Goals. The Lancet. Retrieved from:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5161777/>

1. Levels and Trends in Child Mortality. United Nations Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation. Report (2018 on 2017 data). Retrieved from:

<https://data.unicef.org/resources/levels-and-trends-in-child-mortality/>

Also reported by The World Bank:

<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.DYN.NMRT?year_high_desc=false>