

## WHO Multi-Country Survey on Abortion



*Principal investigators Meeting for Phase I (African Region)*

The World Health Organization (WHO) held a meeting between 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> March 2016 in Geneva Switzerland on a Multi-Country Survey on Abortion. According to W.H.O., abortion accounts for 8% [4.7-13.2] of maternal mortality worldwide.

However, capturing accurate information on abortion is a challenge especially in settings where abortion is legally restricted. In 2010, the WHO Multi-Country survey (MCS) on Maternal and Newborn Health collected data on over 300,000 women who were admitted in health facilities to receive pregnancy related care across 29 countries. Concerning abortion, the MCS only collected data on women with severe maternal outcomes (i.e. near miss or maternal deaths). The MCS abortion related data suggests underreporting of the abortion related morbidity and mortality and emphasizes the need for providing evidence-based abortion services, which is in line with recent literature.

Building on the experiences of the prior MCS, the survey intends to better capture the burden and severity of abortion-related complications and management among women presenting to the facilities. The survey will capture data on both spontaneous and induced abortion. In addition, the research will explore the abortion safety according to the WHO Safe Abortion guidelines and experience of care as reported by women