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Subject: Re: Effect of Fertility decline on Maternal Mortality  
Posted by [Janet-DHS](#) on Wed, 12 Oct 2022 13:37:01 GMT  
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Following is a response from DHS staff member Tom Pullum:

Your question is very much worth studying. It is outside the scope of the DHS user's forum, but I will give some thoughts.

I recommend that you do the analysis with fertility and adult mortality rates, and population estimates, from the UN Population Division (Population Prospects 2022) and maternal mortality rates from WHO/UNICEF (a new report should be issued before the end of 2022). The estimates of rates for Ethiopia from those sources are based in large part on DHS surveys, but will be much easier to use and have been forced to be internally consistent. You could probably use the DHS surveys in some way but a decomposition will be much easier with the other sources. The population estimates in Population Prospects 2022 include age groups.

I agree with you that the decomposition should start with the number of maternal deaths per calendar year. You could express that as a product of (1) the number of women age 15-49, (2) the all-cause death rate for women 15-49, and (3) the proportion of deaths that are maternal. You could also express it as the product of (1) the number of women age 15-49, (2) the fertility rate for women 15-49, i.e. the GFR, and (3) the MMRatio. (I am ignoring factors of 1,000, 100,000, etc.) There are two kinds of proportionality: relative to deaths or relative to births.

I won't try to push this any further but I encourage you to proceed--with the data sources I suggested.