

**“Enhancing Interprofessional
Collaboration and Learning for
Strengthening Primary Health Care”**

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| Title | IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON MATERNAL HEALTH IN AFRICA: A CRITICAL REVIEW |
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| 1st Author | EPHRAIM KUMI SENKYIRE |
| Co-Authors | Margaret Dunlea, Magdalena Ohaja |
| Country | GHANA |
| Abstract N ^o | TUFH716 |
| Content | <p>Background: Africa as a continent has often faced various epidemics, which resulted in many deaths, including Lassa fever, polio, measles, tuberculosis, and human immunodeficiency virus, and Ebola disease. Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest rates of maternal deaths globally. Women from marginalized groups have limited access to good quality care. It can be argued that COVID-19 is evolving, therefore accurate data on its impact is lacking. Aim: The aim of this study is to analyze the impact of COVID-19 on maternal health in Africa. Methods: A search on Google scholar, African Journals Online, and WHO websites was performed using the following key terms: COVID-19; Africa; pandemic; Afrocentric perspective; maternal health; health system. Our search was limited to publications between March 2020 and September 2020 and a gender-based framework was used for the analysis. Findings: The analysis is presented under four themes namely: 1. maternal health in the context of COVID-19, 2. effects of lockdown measures, 3. reduced attendance at antenatal care, 4. reduced facility-based births. Conclusion: The need to support countries with high maternal mortality rates is more critical now than ever if the negative impact of the current global pandemic is to be reduced. The effort is to be made to ensure that basic maternal health needs of women such as access to up to date information, quality care, and availability of transportation, among others. Most importantly, there is a need for an Afrocentric perspective, and integration of a gender-based framework when responding to this evolving pandemic in Africa.</p> |