

2013 Statistical snapshot Child Mortality



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Under-five mortality: Levels, trends and causes

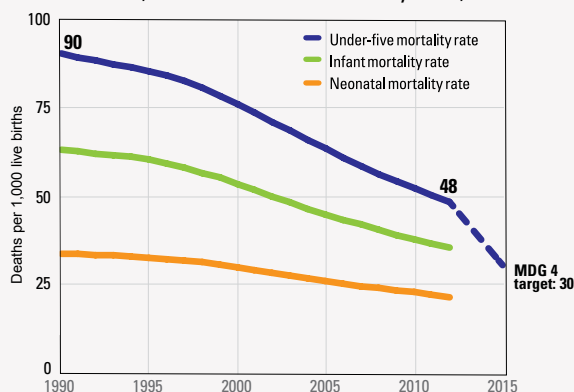
Global progress in reducing child deaths since 1990 has been very significant. The under-five mortality rate has declined by nearly half—from 90 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 48 per 1,000 in 2012.

The estimated annual number of under-five deaths has fallen from 12.6 million to 6.6 million over the same period.

Put another way, 17,000 fewer children died each day in 2012 than did in 1990, but still 18,000 children died each day in 2012.

The global under-five mortality rate has almost halved since 1990

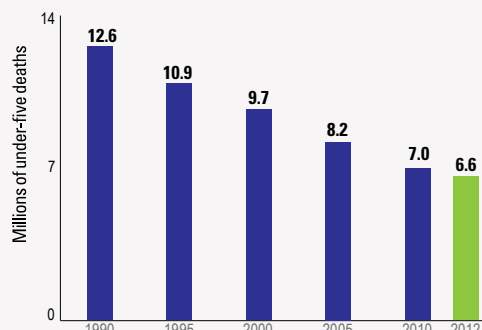
Global under-five, infant and neonatal mortality rates, 1990–2012



Source: UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (IGME) 2013.

The global burden of under-five deaths has fallen steadily since 1990

Global under-five deaths, 1990–2012



Source: IGME 2013.

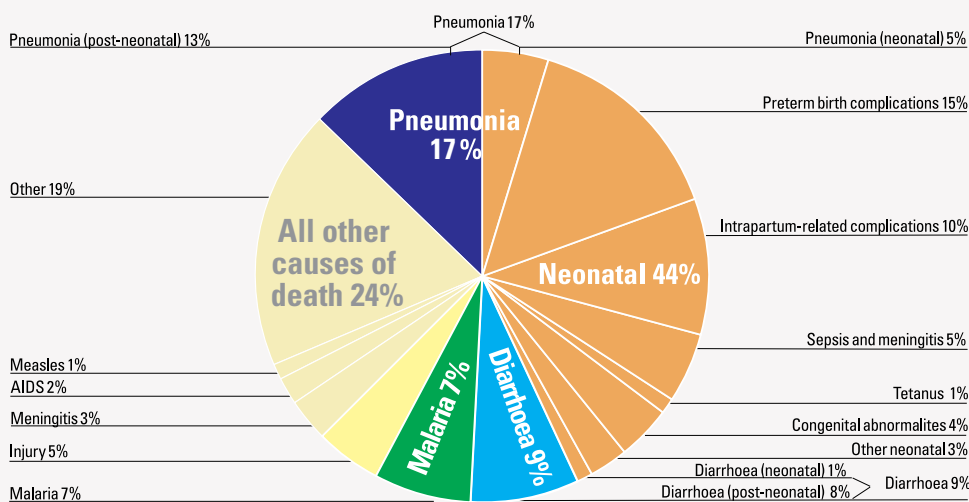
Around 44% of deaths in children under-5 occur during the neonatal period and nearly three-quarters occur in the first year of life.

Of the 6.6 million under-five deaths in 2012, most were from preventable causes such as pneumonia, diarrhoea or malaria.

Many under-five deaths occur in children already weakened by undernutrition, which is a contributing factor in around half of global under-five deaths.

Infectious diseases such as pneumonia, diarrhoea and malaria are the leading killers of children under age 5; roughly 44% of deaths in children under 5 occur during the neonatal period

Global distribution of deaths among children under age 5, by cause, 2012



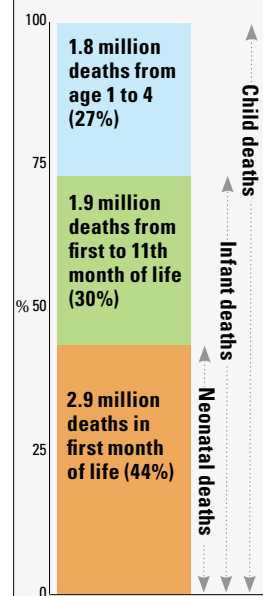
Globally, nearly half of all deaths among children under 5 are attributable to undernutrition

Estimates are rounded, and therefore may not sum to 100%.

Source: UNICEF analysis based on IGME 2013, WHO and CHERG 2013.

Three quarters of the child deaths occur in the first year of life

Deaths of children under five by different age groups, 2012

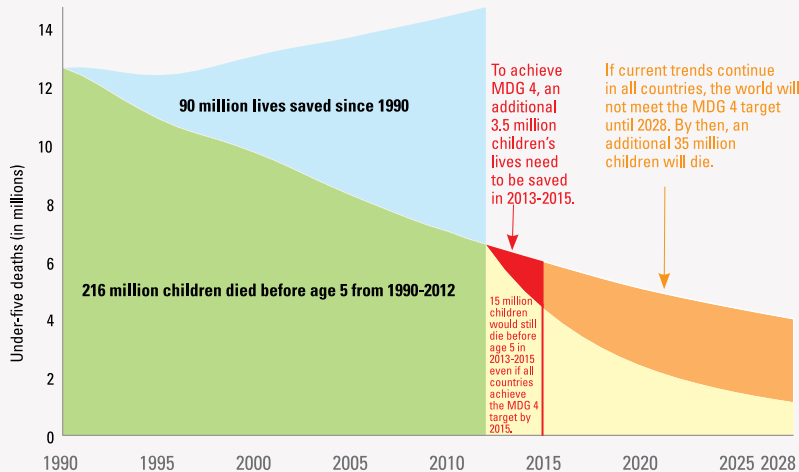


Source: UNICEF analysis based on IGME 2013.

Lives lost, saved and to be saved

Progress in improving child survival has saved 90 million children's lives since 1990; additional millions of children must be saved if all countries are to meet MDG 4 on time

Number of lives saved since 1990 among children under age 5, and number of lives to be saved in order to achieve MDG 4



Source: UNICEF analysis based on IGME, WHO and CHERG 2013.

Since 1990, 90 million children's lives have been saved.

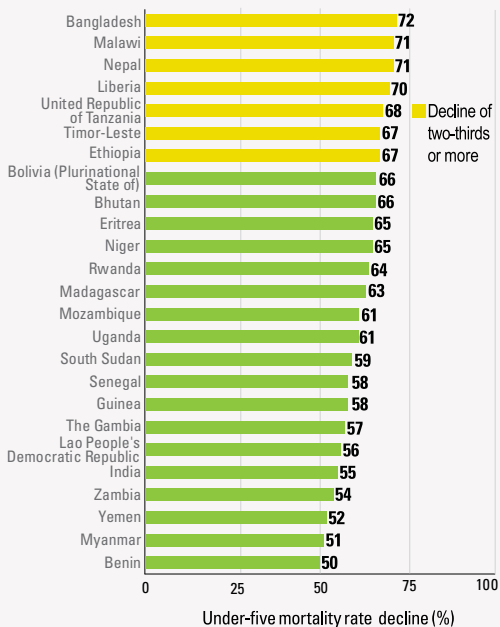
However, 216 million children have died before their fifth birthday during this period.

Based on current projections, an additional 35 million children will die between 2015 and 2028 – children who could have lived, had we met MDG 4 on time and sustained the progress.

To achieve MDG 4 by 2015, an additional 3.5 million children's lives must be saved between 2013 and 2015 above the current trend rate. Two-thirds of these lives need to be saved in sub-Saharan Africa and about one-quarter in South Asia.

Many countries have made, and are still making, tremendous strides in lowering child mortality

High-mortality countries* with greatest percentage declines ($\geq 50\%$) in under-five mortality rate from 1990–2012

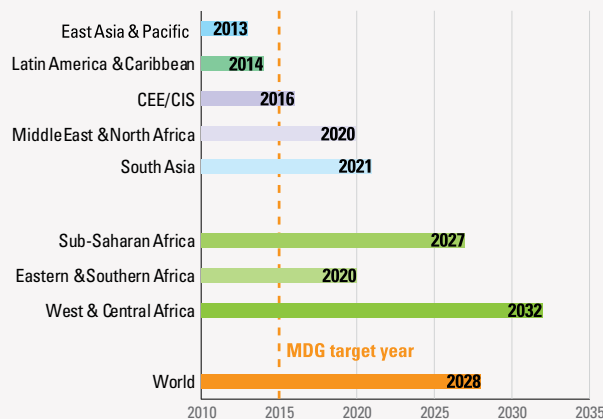


*Countries with an under-five mortality rate of 40 or more deaths per 1,000 live births in 2012.

Source: IGME 2013.

Unless progress in saving lives accelerates across several regions, global achievement of MDG 4 will only occur in 2028

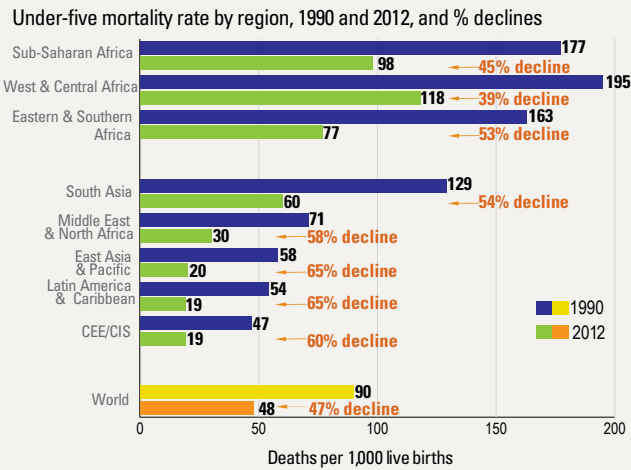
Achievement of MDG 4 by year, globally and by region, if current trends continue in all countries



Source: UNICEF analysis based on IGME 2013.

Accelerating progress in reducing child mortality

Most regions have reduced their under-five mortality rates by more than 50% since 1990



All regions with the exception of West and Central Africa and sub-Saharan Africa as a whole have at least halved their rates of under-five mortality since 1990.

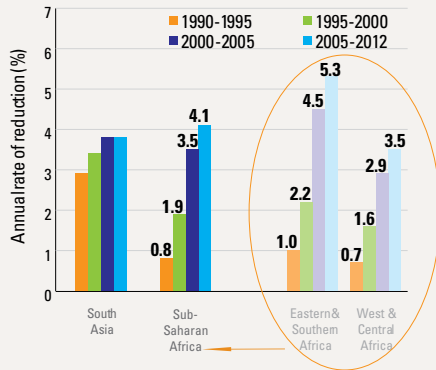
The global annual rate of reduction has steadily accelerated since 1990-1995, when it stood at 1.2%, more than tripling to 3.9% in 2005-2012.

Both sub-Saharan African regions — particularly Eastern and Southern Africa but also West and Central Africa — have seen a consistent acceleration in reducing under-five deaths, particularly since 2000.

By mid-century, it is estimated that 37% of the world's children under 5 will live in sub-Saharan Africa; and close to 40% of all live births will take place in that region.

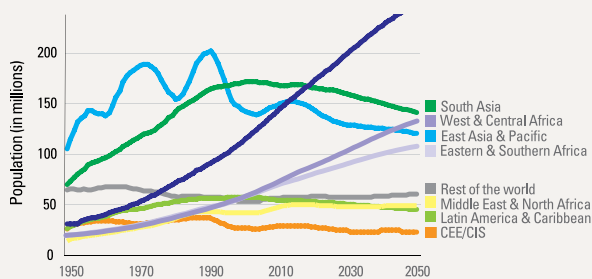
Since 1990 sub-Saharan Africa has experienced continuing acceleration in the decline of under-five mortality

Annual rates of reduction (ARR) in the under-five mortality rate, %, by region, since 1990



Fast progress in reducing the number of under-five deaths in sub-Saharan Africa is imperative as its child population soars

Number of children under age 5, by region, 1950-2050



Source: UNICEF analysis based on World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision, United Nations Population Division, New York, 2013.



Disparities in under-five mortality

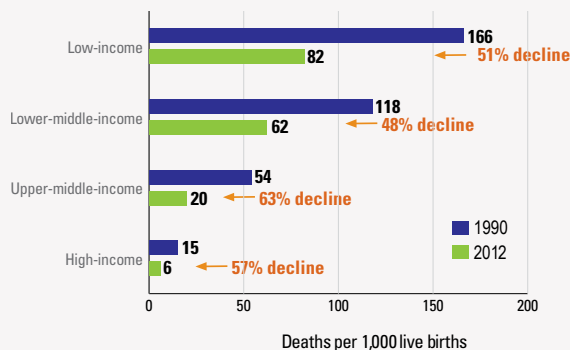
Since 1990, countries at all income levels reduced child mortality. Gains in some low- and middle-income countries have been substantial.

The gaps in under-five mortality between the richest and poorest households within most regions narrowed from 1987 to 2008, with the exception of sub-Saharan Africa.

The unequivocally good news is that under-five mortality rates have decreased even among the poorest in all regions of the world.

Upper-middle-income countries have registered the greatest percentage decline in the under-five mortality rate since 1990

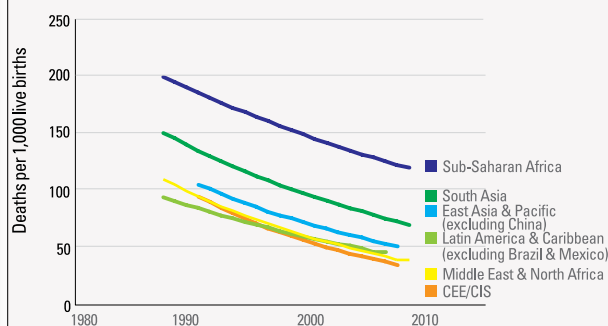
Under-five mortality rate by country income levels, 1990 and 2012, and % declines



Source: UNICEF analysis based on IGME 2013.

Under-five mortality rates have declined globally even among the poorest households in all regions

Under-five mortality rate among the poorest households, by region, 1987–2008

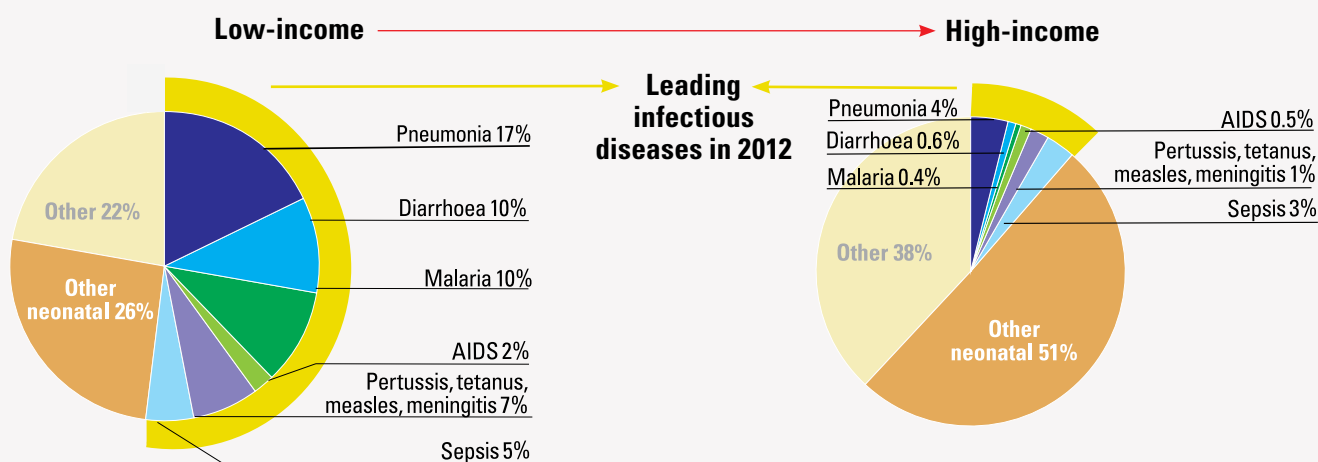


Source: UNICEF analysis based on Pedersen, J., et al., Levels and Trends in Inequality and Child Mortality: Evidence from DHS and MICS surveys, working paper, forthcoming, 2013.

The causes of under-five death vary by national income level. Leading infectious diseases are the greatest cause of under-five mortality in low-income countries. Their share diminishes with higher levels of national income.

Preventable infectious diseases are still a major cause of under-five deaths in low- and lower-middle-income countries

Distribution of deaths among children under 5, by cause, low- and high-income countries, 2012

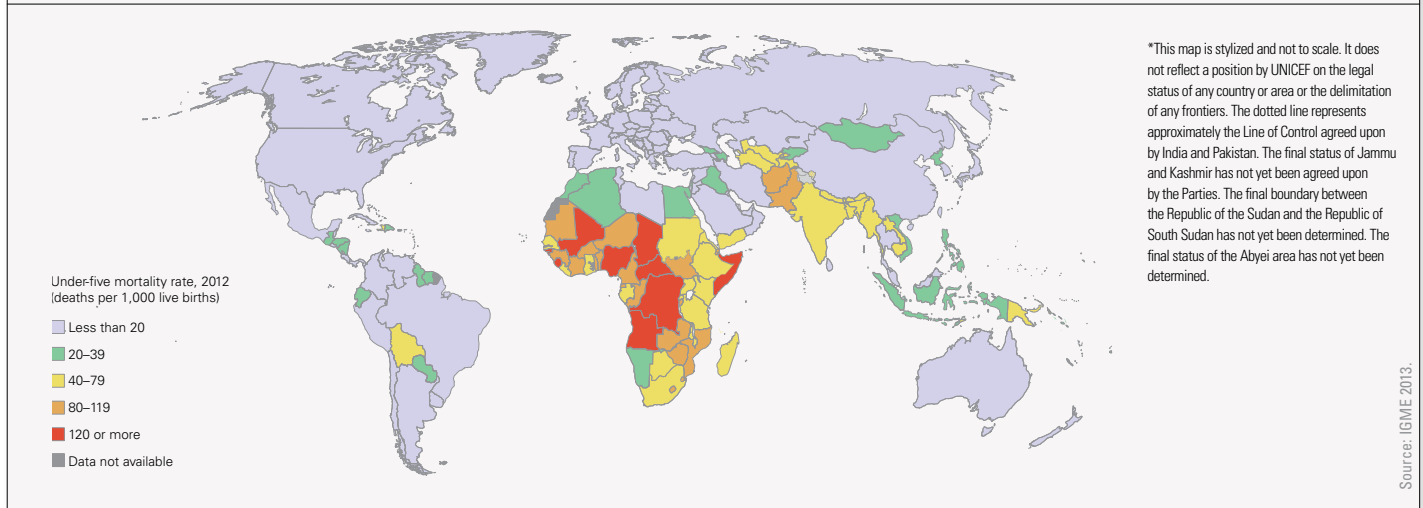


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Source: UNICEF analysis based on IGME 2013, WHO and CHERG 2013.

Under-five mortality rate at country level

Children in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia face a higher risk of dying before their fifth birthday

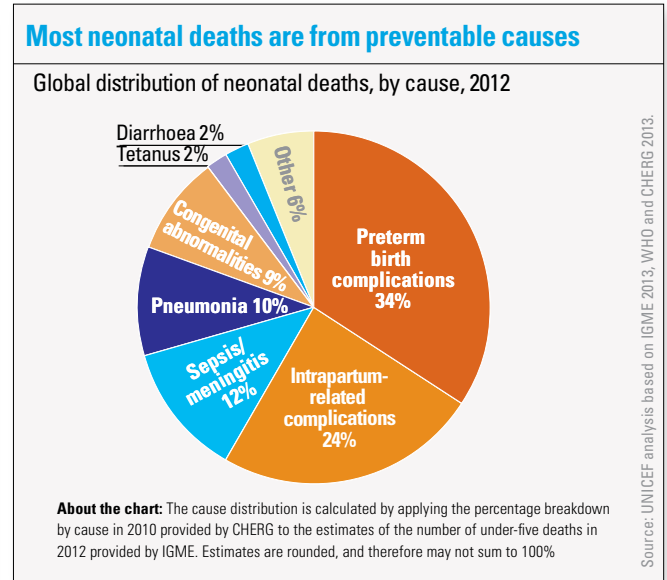
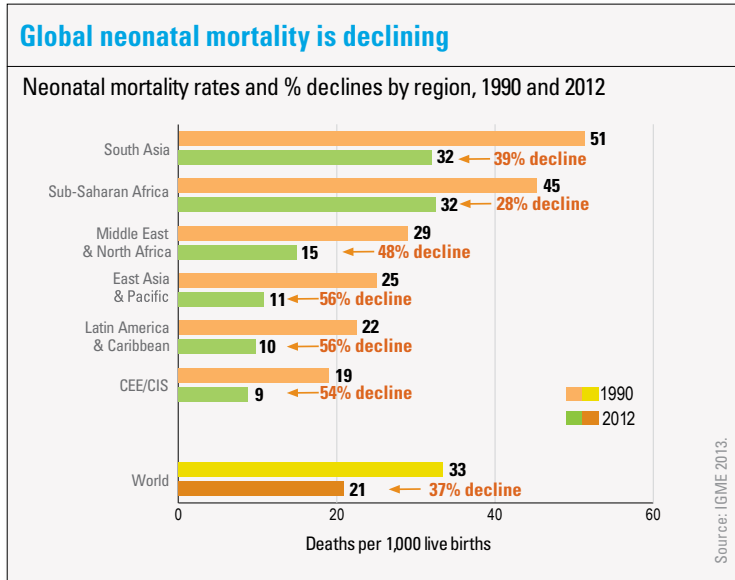


Neonatal deaths

Neonatal mortality is on the decline globally. The world's neonatal mortality rate fell from 33 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 21 per 1,000 in 2012. However, neonatal deaths account for an increasing proportion of under-five deaths, rising from 37% in 1990 to 44% in 2012.

The number of neonatal deaths fell from 4.6 million in 1990 to 2.9 million in 2012. Of the 2.9 million, around 1 million died during their first day of life.

Children who die before they complete 28 days of life often do so as a result of diseases and conditions that are readily preventable or treatable with proven, cost-effective interventions.



This statistical snapshot summarizes the key findings from *Committing to Child Survival: A Promise Renewed Progress Report 2013*. The findings indicate that although there have been substantial gains in reducing global child deaths since 1990, child survival remains an urgent concern and immediate action is needed to redouble efforts to end preventable child deaths.