

Eleventh Session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

*“Driving job creation and economic growth through sustainable,
inclusive, science-and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda
and Agenda 2063”*

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Kampala, (hybrid)

Towards a Healthier Africa: Progress on SDG 3

World Health Organization

[Exact delivery date]



Nine SDG 3 Targets and 13 Indicators

3.1. Maternal mortality

By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100 000 live births.

3.2. Neonatal and child mortality

By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1000 live births.

3.3. Infectious diseases

By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases, and combat hepatitis, waterborne diseases and other communicable diseases.

3.4. Noncommunicable diseases

By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from noncommunicable diseases through prevention and treatment, and promote mental health and well-being.

3.5. Substance abuse

Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol.

3.6. Road traffic

By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents.

3.7. Sexual and reproductive health

By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes.

3.8. Universal health coverage

Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services, and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.

3.9. Environmental health

By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination.

Nine SDG 3 Targets and 13 Indicators

3.1. Maternal mortality ratio per 100,000 live births (Median value): 2000: 269; 2020: 276

3.2. Neonatal and child mortality per 1000 live births:
Neonatal mortality rate: 2000: 38; 2022: 25

Under-five mortality rate: 2000: 139; 2022: 65

3.3. Infectious diseases
Number of New HIV cases: 2000: 1.9 million; 2022: 633,660

Number of TB cases: 2010: 3 million; 2023: 2.7 million

3.4. Noncommunicable diseases
Proportion of deaths attributable to NCD: 2000: 24%; 2023: 37%

3.5. Substance abuse: a reduction of nearly 32% in tobacco use among children ages 15 years and older expected in Africa

3.6. Road traffic Injuries (WHO African Region)
17% increase from 192,721 in 2010 to 225,484 in 2021

3.7. Sexual and reproductive health:
Demand for family planning: 2015: 55%; 2024: 60

Unmet need for family planning: 2015: 19%; 2024: 18%

3.8. Universal health coverage: UHC
Service coverage Index: 2015: 45; 2021: 48

Out-of-pocket expenditure (range):
2015: 4 – 79%; 2022: 4 – 76% (no significant change)

3.9. Environmental health:
Ambient air pollution attributable death rate (per 100 000 population, age-standardized):
2015 (range; median): 30 – 118; 67
2019 (range; median): 28 – 105; 65

- Africa' faces unique challenges and opportunities in safeguarding the health and wellbeing of its people.
- While notable progress has been made in ensuring healthy lives and promoting wellbeing, significant disparities in healthcare access and progress toward SDG 3 remain.
- Barriers: Inadequate funding, health personnel shortages, political instability, high burden of diseases like malaria, HIV/AIDS, and tuberculosis, along with emerging threats from non-communicable diseases, mental health issues, and climate change.

Where are we – Key highlights from the SDG 3 report



- **Life expectancy & Healthy life expectancy:** Average life expectancy improved marginally from 62 years in 2015 to 64 years in 2021, and so did Healthy Life Expectancy: improving from 55 years in 2015 to 56 years in 2021 – we are living longer and in better health, but wide disparities remain across countries.
- **Maternal Mortality:** From 2000 to 2020, the median maternal mortality ratio in Africa decreased by 51%, from 569 to 276 deaths per 100,000 live births. While reductions have been made, the maternal mortality ratio remains alarmingly high in some countries, with preventable causes still prevalent.
- **Child Mortality:** Under-five mortality rate has reduced by 45% from 139 in 2000 to 65 in 2022, but the progress is insufficient to meet SDG targets.
- **Immunization:** Mixed picture – some countries (e.g., Morocco, Tunisia, Seychelles, Mauritius and Egypt) have near-universal coverage, while others (e.g., Central African Republic, Somalia, Guinea, Sudan and Angola) have alarmingly low vaccination rates.

Where are we – Key highlights from SDG 3 report



- **Infectious Diseases:** Significant reductions in HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria cases, but still remain a major burden in Africa. For instance:
 - The number of new HIV infections in Africa has decreased by 68%, from 1,990,000 in 2000 to 633,660 in 2023
 - The number of TB cases decreased by 10% from 3 million in 2010 to 2.7 million in 2023
- **Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs):** Increasing mortality from NCDs, which now account for 37% of all deaths, compared to 24% in 2000.
- **Progress toward UHC:** The pace of progress remains too slow to achieve UHC by 2030. UHC Service Coverage Index, which tracks countries' advancement toward UHC, is projected to reach only 61 out of 100 points by 2030.
- **Others:** The rising incidence of substance abuse, road traffic injuries and deaths, and negative consequences of climate change.

- Increase health financing, optimize resource allocation, and reduce inefficiencies. Expand national health insurance to cover vulnerable groups.
- Strengthen the health workforce through training, retention, and equitable distribution.
- Adopt a primary healthcare approach to improve access to services.
- Strengthen data systems for tracking progress toward SDGs, including investing in digital health.
- Enhance political commitment and foster multi-sectoral collaboration for sustainable development.

Call to Action – For Development Partners



- Provide expertise in improving health systems, focusing on primary healthcare, human resources, and service delivery.
- Assist in designing sustainable financing models, including health insurance schemes and innovative mechanisms.
- Assist strengthening the health information systems and in tracking progress toward Health SDGs.
- Assist in training healthcare workers.
- Help in developing and promoting SDG 3-oriented policies and strategies.
- Harmonize/align support to countries for maximum impact.



THANK YOU!

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Ideas
to
Action