

HEALTH

A scenario of vulnerability

References

CURRENT SITUATION
(latest available data)

- Better situation
- Above average
- Below average
- Worse situation
- Insufficient data

EVOLUTION
(since 1990 or closest available year)

- Significant progress
- Slight progress
- Stagnant
- Slight regression
- Significant regression

Complete table at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2007

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	MALARIA (cases per 1,000 people)	TUBERCULOSIS (cases per 1,000 people)	PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS (15-49 years old)	INFANT MORTALITY (per 1,000 live births)	UNDER-5 MORTALITY (per 1,000 live births)			
→	Afghanistan (—)	24.7		661	→	165		257	
→	Albania (95)			31	→	16	→	18	→
→	Algeria (95)	<0.1		54	→	0.1		34	→
→	Andorra (—)			17	→	3		3	
	Angola (—)	106.9	←	310	→	3.7		154	
→	Antigua and Barbuda (—)			10	→	11		12	
→	Argentina (94)	<0.1		53	→	0.6		15	→
→	Armenia (96)	<0.1		98	→	0.1		26	→
	Australia (99)			6		0.1		5	
→	Austria (99+)			11	→	0.3		4	→
	Azerbaijan (91)	0.1		90	→	0.1		74	→
→	Bahamas (—)			50	→	3.3		13	→
→	Bahrain (99)			50	→			9	→
→	Bangladesh (57)	0.4		435	→	<0.1		54	→
→	Barbados (99)			12	→	1.5		11	→
	Belarus (97)			68	→	0.3		10	→
→	Belgium (99+)			10	→	0.3		4	→
→	Belize (91)	3.7	→	59	→	2.5		15	→
→	Benin (73)	122	←	142	→	1.8		89	→
→	Bhutan (69)	1.7	→	184	→	<0.1		65	→
→	Bolivia (80)	2.3		290	→	0.1		52	→
→	Bosnia and Herzegovina (—)			53	→	<0.1		13	→
←	Botswana (91)	12.6	→	553	←	24.1	→	87	←
→	Brazil (89)	2.1		77	→	0.5		31	→
	Brunei Darussalam (97)			63	→	<0.1		8	
	Bulgaria (97)			36	→	<0.1		12	
→	Burkina Faso (71)	114.9	→	365	→	2	→	96	→
	Burundi (56)	274	←	564	←	3.3	→	114	
→	Cambodia (59)	5	→	709	→	1.6	→	98	→
	Cameroon (70)	46	→	227	→	5.4	→	87	
	Canada (99)			4	→	0.3		5	
→	Cape Verde (92)	0.3		314	→			26	→
→	Cayman Islands (—)			6	→				
	Central African Republic (—)	24.7	→	549	←	10.7	→	115	→
←	Chad (43)	47.7	→	566	←	3.5	→	124	→
→	Chile (99)			16	→	0.3		8	→
→	China (93)	<0.1		221	→	0.1		23	→
→	Colombia (89)	3.7		75	→	0.6		17	→
→	Comoros (72)	5.1	→	95	→	<0.1		53	→
←	Congo, DR (—)	83.1	←	551	←	3.2	→	129	
	Congo, Rep. (80)	5.3	→	464	←	5.3		81	
→	Cook Islands (—)			51	→			17	→
→	Costa Rica (96)	0.2		15	→	0.3		11	→
←	Cote d'Ivoire (77)	24.9	→	651	←	7.1		118	→
→	Croatia (97)			65	→	<0.1		6	→
→	Cuba (99)			12	→	0.1		6	→

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→	Cyprus (99+)		4 →		4 →	5 →
→	Czech Republic (99)		11 →	0.1 =	3 →	4 →
→	Denmark (99+)		6 →	0.2 =	4 →	5 →
→	Djibouti (78)	7.2 =	1137 →	3.1 =	88 →	133 →
=	Dominica (94)		23 →		13 =	15 =
→	Dominican Republic (85)	0.1 =	118 →	1.1 =	26 →	31 →
→	Ecuador (81)	4 →	196 →	0.3 =	22 →	25 →
→	Egypt (90)	0 =	35 →	<0.1 =	28 →	33 →
→	El Salvador (80)	<0.1 =	74 →	0.9 =	23 →	27 →
←	Equatorial Guinea (59)		322 →	3.2 =	123 ←	205 ←
→	Eritrea (67)	17.4 →	437 →	2.4 =	50 →	78 →
→	Estonia (99)		49 →	1.3 =	6 →	7 →
=	Ethiopia (50)	8 ←	533 ←		109 →	164 →
→	Fiji (99)		41 →	0.1 =	16 =	18 →
=	Finland (99+)		7 →	0.1 =	3 =	4 =
→	France (99+)		10 →	0.4 =	4 =	5 →
—	French Polynesia (—)		56 →			
=	Gabon (82)	66.8 ←	339 →	7.9 ←	60 =	91 =
→	Gambia (70)	100.5 →	329 →	2.4 ←	97 →	137 →
=	Georgia (95)	0.1 =	89 →	0.2 =	41 =	45 =
→	Germany (99+)		6 →	0.1 =	4 =	5 →
→	Ghana (66)	169.8 ←	376 →	2.3 →	68 →	112 →
→	Greece (99+)		17 →	0.2 =	4 →	5 →
→	Grenada (92)		8 =		17 →	21 →
—	Guam (—)		91 →			
→	Guatemala (72)	2.5 =	107 →	0.9 =	32 →	43 →
→	Guinea (68)	109.5 ←	410 →	1.5 →	98 →	150 →
→	Guinea-Bissau (—)	134.6 ←	306 →	3.8 =	124 →	200 →
→	Guyana (81)	36.1 ←	185 →	2.4 =	47 →	63 →
→	Haiti (—)	1.2 =	387 →	3.8 →	84 →	120 →
→	Honduras (76)	1.5 →	97 →	1.5 =	31 →	40 →
→	Hungary (97)		30 →	0.1 =	7 →	8 →
→	Iceland (99+)		2 →	0.2 =	2 →	3 →
→	India (71)	1.7 =	312 →	0.9 =	56 →	74 →
→	Indonesia (85)	1 =	275 →	0.1 =	28 →	36 →
→	Iran (91)	0.2 =	35 →	0.2 =	31 →	36 →
←	Iraq (79)	<0.1 =	200 →		102 ←	125 ←
→	Ireland (99+)		9 →	0.2 =	5 =	6 →
→	Israel (99+)		7 →		5 →	6 →
→	Italy (99)		6 →	0.5 =	4 →	4 →
=	Jamaica (95)		9 →	1.5 =	17 =	20 =
=	Japan (99+)		39 →	<0.1 =	3 =	4 =
→	Jordan (99)		5 →		22 →	26 →
←	Kazakhstan (95)		160 →	0.1 =	63 ←	73 ←
=	Kenya (68)	3.9 →	888 →	6.1 →	79 ←	120 ←
→	Kiribati (88)		59 →		48 →	65 →
—	Korea, DR (—)	0.7 =	178 →			
→	Korea, Rep. (99)	<0.1 =	125 →	<0.1 =	5 =	5 →
→	Kuwait (99)		30 →		9 →	11 →
=	Kyrgyzstan (96)	0.1 =	137 →	0.1 =	58 →	67 →
→	Lao, PDR (58)	3.3 =	318 →	0.1 =	62 →	79 →
=	Latvia (99)		71 →	0.8 =	9 →	11 →
→	Lebanon (96)		12 →	0.1 =	27 →	30 →
←	Lesotho (69)		544 →	23.2 →	102 ←	132 ←
←	Liberia (—)	301.5 ←	447 →		157 =	235 =
→	Libya (—)		20 →		18 →	19 →
—	Liechtenstein (—)				3 →	4 →

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	Lithuania (97)		67		0.2		7		9	→	
→	Luxembourg (97)		9	→	0.2		4		5	→	
→	Macedonia, FYR (97)		34	→	<0.1		15	→	17	→	
→	Madagascar (63)	121.5	←	351	→	0.5		74	→	119	→
→	Malawi (63)	240.4	→	501	←	14.1		79	→	125	→
→	Malaysia (98)	0.2		133	→	0.5		10	→	12	→
→	Maldives (86)		57	→			33	→	42	→	
→	Mali (66)	62.2	←	578	→	1.7		120	→	218	→
→	Malta (99+)		5	→	0.1		5	→	6	→	
→	Marshall Islands (94)		59	→			51	→	58	→	
→	Mauritania (75)	59.6	←	502	→	0.7		78	→	125	→
→	Mauritius (99)	<0.1		135	→	0.6		13	→	15	→
→	Mexico (94)	<0.1		43	→	0.3		22	→	27	→
→	Micronesia (—)		59	→			34	→	42	→	
	Moldova (96)		214	←	1.1		14	→	16	→	
	Monaco (—)		2				4		5	→	
→	Mongolia (96)		209	→	<0.1		39	→	49	→	
→	Morocco (78)	<0.1		105	→	0.1		36	→	40	→
	Mozambique (61)	269.7	←	635	←	16.1	←	100	→	145	→
→	Myanmar (73)	14.5	→	180	→	1.3		75	→	105	→
→	Namibia (86)	223.4	→	586		19.6	→	46	→	62	→
—	Nauru (—)		35	→			25		30		
→	Nepal (55)	0.4		257	→	0.5		56	→	74	→
→	Netherlands (99+)		6	→	0.2		4		5	→	
—	New Caledonia (—)		117	→							
	New Zealand (99+)		11		0.1		5		6	→	
→	Nicaragua (74)	1.2	→	80	→	0.2		30	→	37	→
→	Niger (55)	59.1	→	288	→	1.1		150	→	256	→
→	Nigeria (63)	21	←	531	←	3.9	→	100	→	194	→
—	Niue (—)		57	→							
—	Northern Mariana Islands (—)		68	→							
→	Norway (99+)		4	→	0.1		3	→	4	→	
→	Oman (97)	<0.1	→	12	→			10	→	12	→
→	Pakistan (60)	0.8		329	→	0.1		79	→	99	→
→	Palau (—)		91	→			10	→	11	→	
→	Panama (91)	2.9	←	45	→	0.9		19	→	24	→
→	Papua New Guinea (73)	12.3	→	448	→	1.8	←	55	→	74	→
→	Paraguay (85)	0.2		107	→	0.4		20	→	23	→
→	Peru (86)	2.9		216	→	0.6		23	→	27	→
→	Philippines (77)	0.5		463	→	<0.1		25	→	33	→
→	Poland (99+)		32	→	0.1		6	→	7	→	
→	Portugal (99+)		35	→	0.4		4	→	5	→	
—	Puerto Rico (—)		6	→							
	Qatar (97)		77				18		21	→	
	Romania (96)		188	←	<0.1		16	→	19	→	
	Russian Federation (97)		160	←	1.1		14	→	18	→	
	Rwanda (51)	102.1	→	660	←	3.1	→	118	←	203	←
	Samoa (97)		43	←			24	→	29	→	
→	San Marino (—)		5	→			3	→	3	→	
→	Sao Tomé and Príncipe (78)	393.5	→	253	→			75		118	
→	Saudi Arabia (95)	<0.1		55	→			21	→	26	→
	Senegal (72)	119.3	←	451	←	0.9		77	→	136	→
→	Seychelles (—)		83	→			12	→	13	→	
←	Sierra Leone (—)	95.4	←	847	←	1.6		165	→	282	→
→	Singapore (—)		41	→	0.3		3	→	3	→	
→	Slovakia (—)		23	→	<0.1		7	→	8	→	
→	Slovenia (99)		17	→	<0.1		3	→	4	→	

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→	Solomon Islands (—)	189.9 →	59 →		24 →	29 →
→	Somalia (—)	2.4	673 →	0.9	133	225
←	South Africa (87)	0.3	670 ←	18.8 →	55 ←	68 ←
→	Spain (99+)		20 →	0.6	4 →	5 →
→	Sri Lanka (—)	0.6 →	91 →	<0.1	12 →	14 →
→	St. Kitts and Nevis (99)		15 →		18 →	20 →
→	St. Lucia (96)		21 →		12 →	14 →
	St. Vincent and Grenadines (95)		39 ←		17 →	20 →
→	Sudan (81)	91.8 →	370 →	1.6	62 →	90 →
→	Suriname (85)	33.7 ←	98 →	1.9	30 →	39 →
←	Swaziland (77)	34 ←	1120 ←	33.4 →	110 ←	160 ←
	Sweden (99+)		3	0.2	3	4
→	Switzerland (99+)		6 →	0.4	4	5 →
→	Syrian Arab Republic (87)	<0.1	51 →		14 →	15 →
→	Tajikistan (86)	0.9	277 ←	0.1	59 →	71 →
→	Tanzania (70)	289.7 →	479 ←	6.5 →	76 →	122 →
→	Thailand (—)	0.6 →	208 →	1.4	18 →	21 →
→	Timor-Leste (—)	40.9	692 →		52 →	61 →
→	Togo (70)	92.1 →	718 →	3.2 →	78 →	139 →
→	Tonga (94)		42 →		20 →	24 →
→	Trinidad and Tobago (98)		12 →	2.6	17 →	19 →
→	Tunisia (95)		24 →	0.1	20 →	24 →
→	Turkey (92)	0.1	45 ←		26 →	29 →
	Turkmenistan (—)	<0.1	83 →	<0.1	81	104 ←
—	Turks and Caicos Islands (—)		31 →			
→	Tuvalu (89)		57 →		31 →	38 →
	Uganda (63)	477.9 ←	646 ←	6.7 ←	79 →	136 →
	Ukraine (97)		151 ←	1.4	13 →	17 →
→	United Arab Emirates (98)		26 →		8 →	9 →
	United Kingdom (99)		9		5	6 →
→	United States of America (99)		4 →	0.6	6	7 →
	Uruguay (95)		33 ←	0.5	14 →	15 →
	Uzbekistan (—)	<0.1	156 ←	0.2	57 →	68 →
→	Vanuatu (85)	71.9 →	64 →		31 →	38 →
	Venezuela (94)	1.2	52 ←	0.7	18 →	21 →
→	Viet Nam (90)	0.5	232 ←	0.5	16 →	19 →
→	West Bank and Gaza (96)		36 →		21 →	23 →
→	Yemen (64)	13.2 ←	144 ←		76 →	102 →
	Zambia (75)	190.2 →	707 ←	17	102	182
←	Zimbabwe (76)	97.6 ←	673 ←	20.1 →	81 ←	132 ←

Sources: Malaria: World Malaria Report 2005, UNICEF and WHO (www.rbm.who.int/wmr2005/).
Tuberculosis: Communicable Disease Global Atlas Database, WHO (www.who.int/GlobalAtlas).

People living with HIV/AIDS: 2007 Report on the global AIDS epidemic, UNAIDS.

Infant mortality: The State of the World's Children 2007, UNICEF (www.unicef.org/sowc07).

Under-5 mortality: The State of the World's Children 2007, UNICEF (www.unicef.org/sowc07).

For more detailed information on the reference years of the data see complete tables at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2007

DEFINITION OF INDICATORS:

Malaria (cases per 1,000 people): Total number of malaria cases reported to the World Health Organization by countries in which malaria is endemic, per 1,000 people. Many countries report only laboratory-confirmed cases, but many in Sub-Saharan Africa report clinically diagnosed cases as well.
Last available data: 2003; evolution since 1990.

Tuberculosis (cases per 100,000 people): Total number of tuberculosis cases reported to the World Health Organization per 100,000 people. A tuberculosis case is defined as a patient in whom tuberculosis has been bacteriologically confirmed or diagnosed by a clinician.
Last available data: 2004; evolution since 1990.

People living with HIV/AIDS (15-49 years old, %): Percentage of adults (15-49 years) living with HIV/AIDS.
Last available data: 2005; evolution since 2001.

Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births): Number of infants dying before reaching one year of age, per 1,000 live births in a given year.
Last available data: 2005; evolution since 1990.

Under-5 mortality (per 1,000 live births): Probability of dying between birth and exactly five years of age expressed per 1,000 live births.
Last available data: 2005; evolution since 1990.

HEALTH

A scenario of vulnerability

The asymmetries and contradictions of today's world are especially visible in the sphere of health. Thanks to scientific and technical progress millions of people can live longer and have a better quality of life, but at the same time there are glaring inequalities in many parts of the world that impede progress and have even caused regression in the field of health. As the World Health Organization (WHO) has pointed out, the new viruses that have appeared are just one more element in the complicated situation, and avian influenza or 'bird flu', for example, is just one aspect of a world scenario plagued by new problems and challenges. Economic globalization, the increase in trade and capital flows and the increasing mobility and movement of people have contributed to helping illnesses to spread faster and faster.

These inequalities are present in a scenario of universal vulnerability stemming from deficiencies in habitat and the distribution of resources, and people's eating habits and lifestyles. But the capabilities of different countries to deal with these problems are markedly different depending on the level of social development in each case.

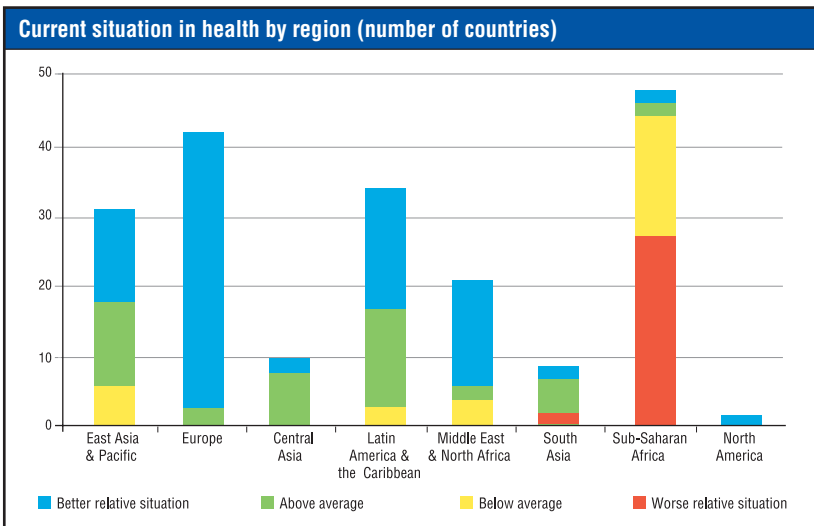
The HIV/AIDS pandemic is a still a crucial problem for health services in the world, although in 2006 progress was made in expanding treatment coverage in low- and middle-income countries. At the end of last year, more than two million people with HIV/AIDS were receiving treatment in these countries, which amounts to an increase of more than 50% over the 1.3 million who were being treated a year before.¹

As initiatives like Global Health Watch have made clear, the biggest health epidemic threatening the global community is poverty. There is no doubt that poverty lies behind the most serious statistics on maternal and child mortality, malnutrition, deaths due to HIV/AIDS, and vulnerability to illnesses in general. This whole scenario is made worse by the fact that national health systems are often ineffective when it comes to improving care for the population.

The root of this problem is not that there are insufficient resources in the world to rectify extreme deficiencies or premature death. What is needed is change to existing structures, actors, laws and policies so that national health systems will be able to function effectively. There would have to be a suitably robust international cooperation policy to help provide solid foundations for these changes.

The gap separating the group of countries in the better situation from those in the worse situation is highly significant. For example, malaria is concentrated in the countries in the worse situation, where on average it affects 149 people per 1,000, but it is hardly present at all in the countries in the better position. The situation with regard to tuberculosis is

		Malaria (cases per 1,000 people)	Tuberculosis (cases per 100,000 people)	People living with HIV/AIDS (15-49 years old) (%)	Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births)	Under-5 mortality (per 1,000 live births)
Worse relative situation	Average	149	565	9	110	178
	Number of countries	25	27	23	27	27
Better relative situation	Average	0.7	37	0.4	12	14
	Number of countries	11	91	52	91	91
Total	Average	60	197	3	41	60
	Number of countries	88	190	127	190	190



	←	↶		↷	→	Total
Countries in worse situation	1	8	8	8	2	27
Countries below average	0	3	5	11	8	27
Countries above average	0	1	10	12	22	45
Countries in better situation	0	0	19	62	7	88
Total	1	12	42	93	39	187

Central African Republic	10.7
Malawi	14.1
Mozambique	16.1
Zambia	17.0
South Africa	18.8
Namibia	19.6
Zimbabwe	20.1
Lesotho	23.2
Botswana	24.1
Swaziland	33.4

similar, although in this case the gap is not so wide. As to the HIV/AIDS pandemic, in the countries where this is most prevalent more than 9% of people in the 15 to 49 age bracket are infected, whereas in the countries that are more developed in terms of health care, the figure is less than half of a percentage point. The 10 countries in the worst situation with respect to this pandemic are all in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Infant mortality is a key indicator for measuring a country's development, and there is a huge gap between the best and worst average rates. Children born in countries in the better situation are 10 times less likely to die in the first year of life and 13 times less likely to die before the age of five than those born in the most disadvantaged countries.

The latest data available shows that the health situation in the world varies widely from one region to another. Most of the countries in Sub-Saharan Africa are in the worse relative situation group, which highlights the fact that they are in an ongoing emergency in terms of health. The most high-profile aspect of this situation is the HIV/AIDS pandemic. On the other hand, all the countries in Central Asia, Europe and North America are above the world average.

Progress in this area is a matter of life and death, yet nearly one third of the countries in the world have made no recent progress at all. Most of these have stagnated, but in 13 the health care situation has worsened, and one of these countries, Equatorial Guinea, has regressed significantly. ■

1 World Health Organization (2007). "Towards universal access: scaling up priority HIV/AIDS interventions in the health sector". Progress report, April. Geneva: WHO / UNAIDS / UNICEF. Available from: <www.unicef.ca/portal/Secure/Community/502/WCM/WHATWEDO/hiv/Towards_Universal_Access_Part_one.pdf>.