Goal Three tackles the “unfinished business” of the Millennium Declaration aimed at reducing child mortality, improving maternal health and fighting HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. The goal looks more comprehensively to ensuring that all people live healthy lives free from disease and disability. Highlights of the baseline status of the region draws largely on indicators on infant and under-5 mortality and maternal mortality. Data on non-communicable diseases, including cardiovascular disease, and mental disorders, are currently much more limited in the region.

Many women in the region still die from pregnancy- and birth-related causes

The Asia-Pacific region has made the greatest regional progress in reducing maternal mortality between 2000 and 2015. During this period, the maternal mortality ratio was halved. During this same period, the demand for family planning satisfied with modern methods increased.

Nevertheless, in 2015, 86,000 women in the region died from pregnancy- and birth-related causes – 28% of the global total. The greatest risks are in South and South-West Asia where the maternal mortality ratio is 171 per 100,000 live births.

An increasing proportion of child deaths occur during the first 28 days after birth

Between 2000 and 2015, the region’s under-5 mortality rate declined by 49%. However, the mortality rate in the first 28 days of life decreased more slowly, and these ‘neonatal deaths’ now account for an increasing proportion of child deaths.

Under-5 mortality rates in the region remain highest in South and South-West Asia.
The region has had major success in combating malaria

Between 2000 and 2014, the incidence rate for malaria fell by 42% - in contrast to an eight-fold increase in the global rate.

Over this period, the incidence of tuberculosis fell by 52%, but the region still

A higher proportion of deaths are now from non-communicable diseases

As the global burden of infectious disease declines, an increasing proportion of deaths are attributable to non-communicable diseases (NCDs), such as cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases.

In 2012, NCDs accounted for 73% of deaths in Asia and the Pacific. Monitoring progress on NCDs prevalence will require continuous, reliable and accurate data on causes of death, from national civil registration and vital statistics systems (CRVS). In Asia and the Pacific, the ‘Get Every One in the Picture’

10.4 suicide mortality per 100,000 population

Asia-Pacific has the highest suicide rates among the world’s regions

Suicide rates are high for both sexes but generally higher for men than women. In North and Central Asia, the male rate is five times the female rate. Around 75% of global suicides occur in low- and middle-income countries.

Road traffic mortality 17.2 per 100,000 population Asia-Pacific region, 2013

Around 1% of all deaths in the region are due to injuries, notably from road traffic accidents. Road traffic death rates vary across the Asia-Pacific subregions. Thailand had the highest rate in 2013 in the region, with a rate of 36 per 100,000 people.

Malaria and TB incidence rates, 2000-2014

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