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Determinants of Mortality Change and Differentials in Developing Countries

The Five-Country Case Study Project



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PREFACE

For more than a decade the Population Division of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and the Division of Health Statistics of the World Health Organization (WHO) have been co-operating on a series of studies of mortality and health issues in developing and developed countries. A selected list of recent publications includes *Levels and Trends of Mortality Since 1950*,¹ *Data Bases for Mortality Measurement: Papers of the Meeting of the United Nations/World Health Organization Working Group on Data Bases for Measurement of Levels, Trends and Differentials in Mortality*,² and *Sex Differentials in Mortality: Trends, Determinants and Consequences*.³

In 1981 the United Nations and WHO initiated a series of case studies of mortality determinants in five developing countries: Bangladesh, Guatemala, Kenya, Senegal and Sri Lanka. The purpose of the case studies

was to examine the factors related to levels, trends and differentials in mortality in diverse populations in order to illustrate the options facing Governments for setting strategies for reducing mortality and improving health. The present publication is the result of those studies. The case studies were carried out with the collaboration of a number of investigators for the countries concerned. The United Nations and WHO would like to thank the following investigators for their willingness and desire to share their information and expertise among themselves and with the United Nations and WHO: S. D'Souza and S. Zimicki (Bangladesh); H. Delgado, E. Hurtado and V. Valverde (Guatemala); D. Ewbank, R. Henin, J. Kekovole and W. H. Mosley (Kenya); P. Cantrelle, I. L. Diop, M. Garenne, M. Gueye and A. Sadio (Senegal); and S. A. Meegama (Sri Lanka). Throughout the study period S. H. Preston provided continuing advice and guidance to the project investigators as well as to the United Nations and WHO. His commitment helped lead the studies to a successful conclusion. Acknowledgement is due the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, which made the present publication possible through a grant for mortality studies.

¹ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.XIII.3.

² United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.XIII.3.

³ Published by the Australian National University Press, Canberra, 1983.

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Explanatory notes

The term "country" as used in the text and tables of this publication also refers, as appropriate, to territories or areas.

The designations "developed" and "developing" economies are intended for statistical convenience and do not necessarily express a judgement about the stage reached by a particular country or area in the development process.

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

The following symbols have been used in the tables throughout the report:

Two dots (. .) indicate that data are not available or are not separately reported.

A dash (-) indicates that the amount is nil or negligible.

A hyphen (-) indicates that the item is not applicable.

A point (.) is used to indicate decimals.

A slash (/) indicates a crop year, a school year or a financial year, e.g. 1981/82.

Use of a hyphen (-) between dates representing years, e.g., 1981-1983, signifies the full period involved, including the beginning and end years.

Reference to "dollars" (\$) indicates United States dollars, unless otherwise stated.

Annual rates of growth or change, unless otherwise stated, refer to annual compound rates.

Details and percentages in tables do not necessarily add up to totals, because of rounding.

