

Decomposing global disparities in life expectancy

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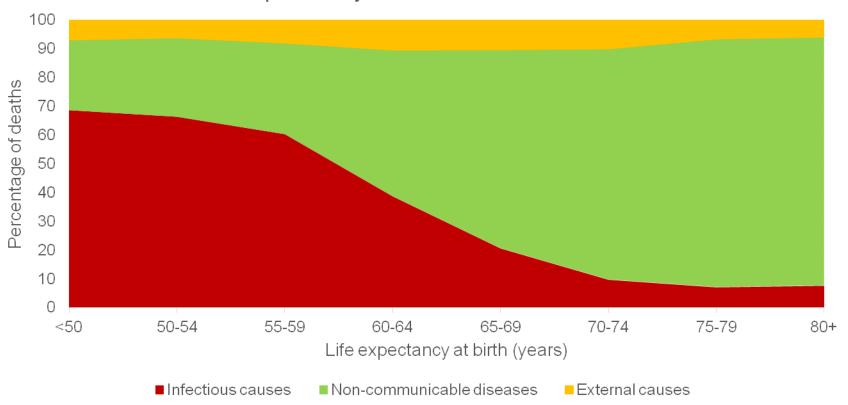
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division

Presentation to the expert group meeting on Priorities for Improved Survival: ICPD Beyond 2014

21 October 2013

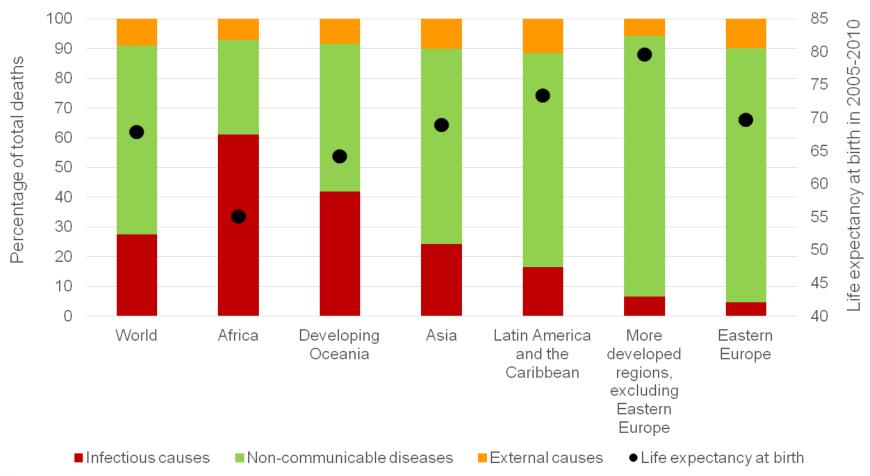
Improvements in life expectancy are associated with a declining share of deaths due to infectious causes

Distribution of deaths by cause in 2008 classified by life expectancy at birth in 2005-2010





Infectious causes continue to account for more than half of all deaths in Africa





"Survival gaps" describe the shortfall in life expectancy relative to the longest-lived populations





Two sources of mortality estimates were united to decompose survival gaps



World Population
Prospects: the
2010 revision



Percentage distribution of deaths by cause in 2008

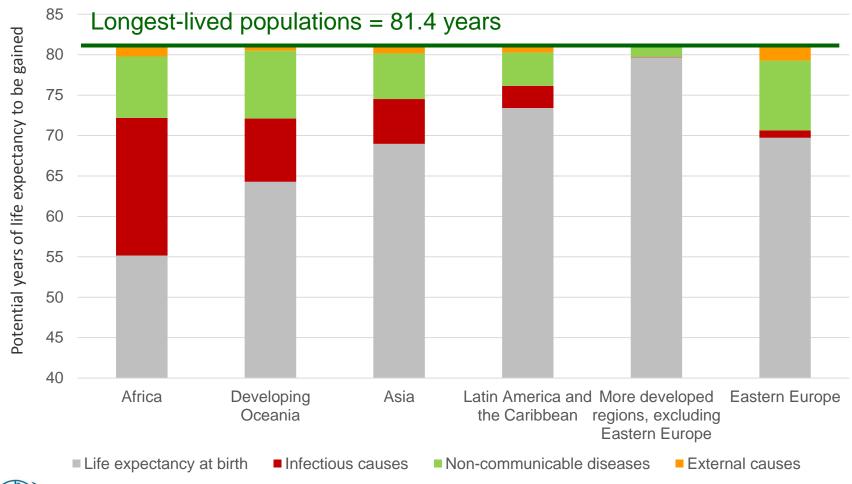
WHO estimates

Method:

Beltran-Sanchez, Preston and Canudas-Romo (2008). An integrated approach to cause-of-death analysis: cause-deleted life tables and decomposition of life expectancy. *Demographic Research* 19:1323-50.

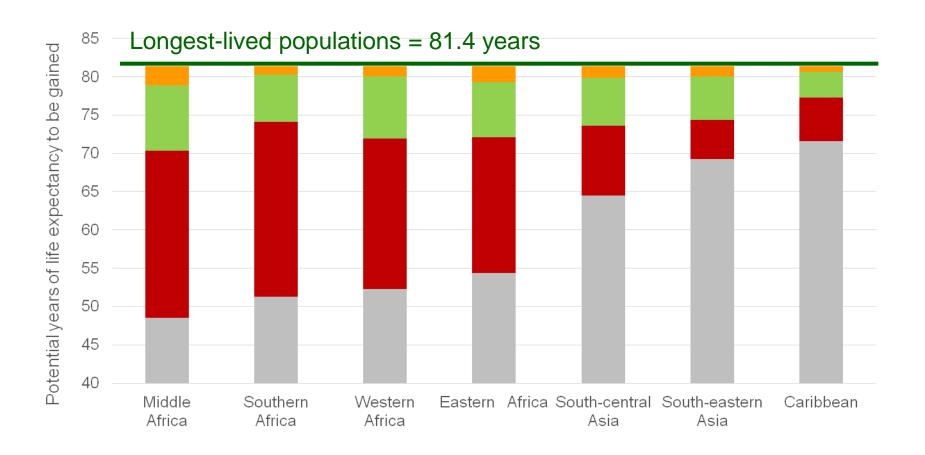


Infectious causes of death contribute to survival gaps in Africa, developing Oceania, Asia and LAC



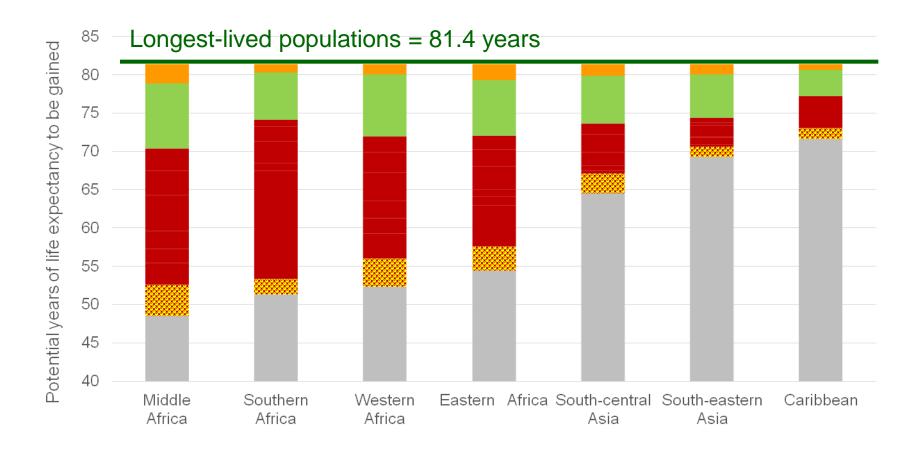


Focus on the sub-regions where infectious causes contribute most to survival gaps



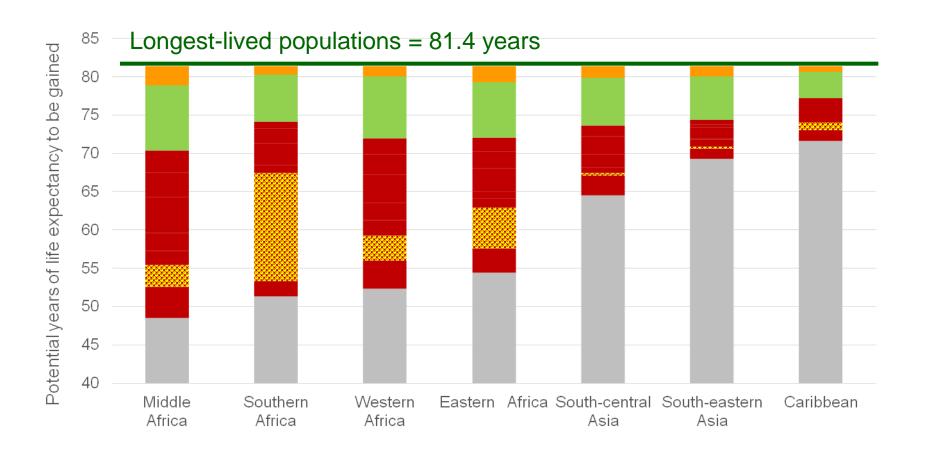


Neonatal conditions caused 2.4 million deaths in 2011, accounting for one third of under-five mortality



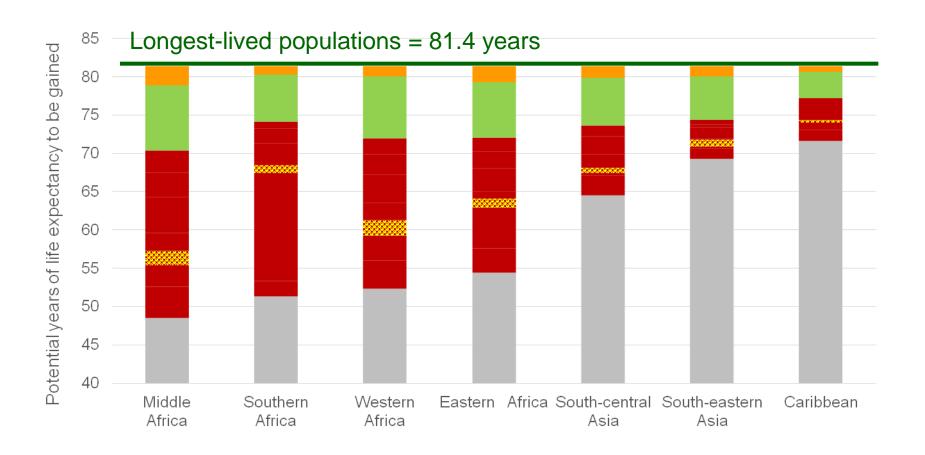


HIV/AIDS causes 1.6 million deaths each year



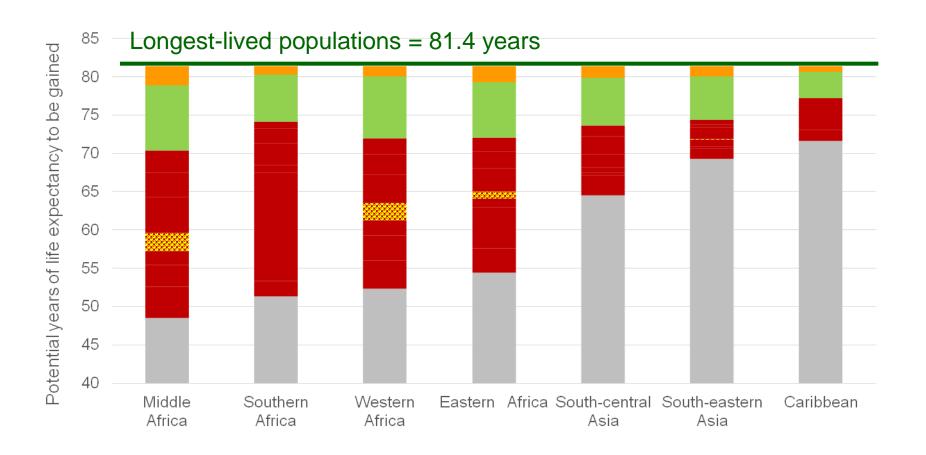


Tuberculosis causes close to 1 million deaths annually



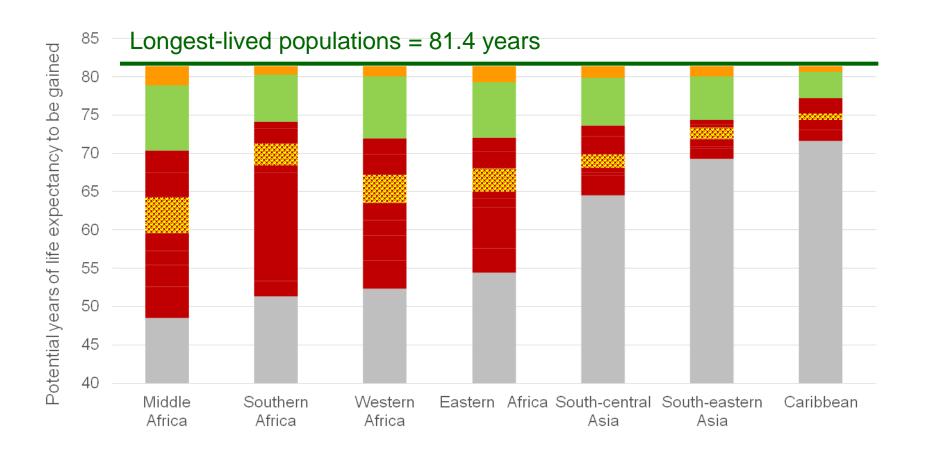


Malaria causes about 590,000 deaths annually



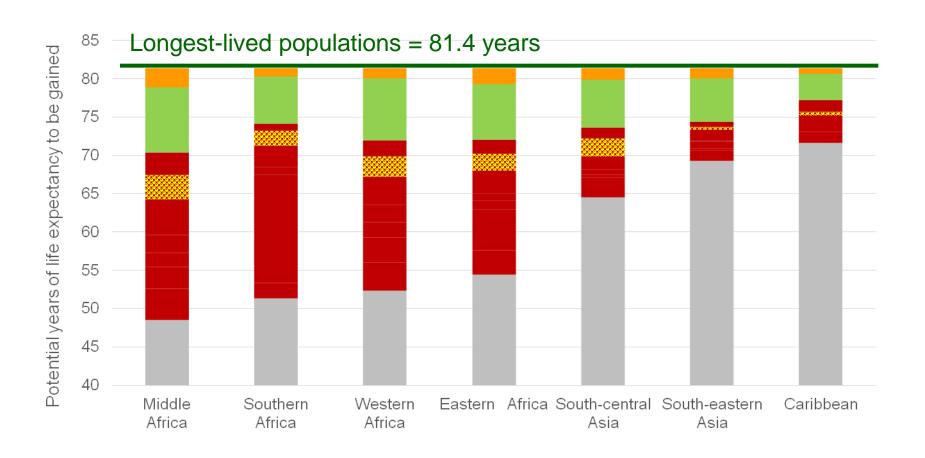


Pneumonia caused 3.2 million deaths in 2011, down just 9 per cent since 2000





Diarrhoeal diseases caused 1.9 million deaths in 2011, down 22 per cent since 2000





Which causes of death impede progress towards ICPD survival targets?

- Pneumonia and diarrhoeal diseases produce large survival deficits, as does HIV/AIDS
- Non-communicable diseases suppress longevity in developing countries
- For more information:
 - Changing Levels and Trends in Mortality: the role of patterns of death by cause (2012)

