

NEWSLETTER SPECIAL ISSUE

2021–2023 iAHO Knowledge Products

Better Information. Better Action on Health.



25 July, 2023

Contents

Universal Health Coverage

2023

- [Buruli ulcer](#)
- [Data-Driven Development: How Rwanda is Pioneering Health Information Systems for Improved SDG Monitoring](#)
- [Diabetes in Africa](#)
- [Diabetes](#)
- [Female genital mutilation](#)
- [Health equity profiles in the life course](#)
- [Hepatitis](#)
- [Malaria continues to pose a significant challenge in the African Region](#)
- [Malaria](#)
- [Maternal mortality in Africa ... a head cracking matter](#)
- [Maternal mortality](#)
- [Mortality](#)
- [Nursing and midwifery workforce](#)
- [Optimizing the Ethiopian health extension programme: strategies to address workforce challenges](#)
- [Tuberculosis](#)
- [Reimagining health sector coordination in Zimbabwe: innovation for UHC](#)
- [Unmasking the Silent Epidemic: Hepatitis in Africa](#)
- [Women's health](#)

2022

- [Ageism](#)
- [Assessing the functionality of districts in Ghana](#)
- [Atlas of African Health Statistics 2022 – Report](#)
- [Atlas of African Health Statistics 2022 – Country Profiles](#)
- [Cervical cancer](#)
- [Early childhood development](#)
- [Framework of actions](#)
- [Green light for the first malaria vaccine](#)
- [Health system investments](#)
- [Healthy life expectancy](#)
- [HIV AIDS](#)
- [Human analogy for the health system](#)
- [Life course key interventions coverage](#)
- [Noncommunicable diseases](#)
- [Suicide](#)
- [Need for increased research and financial investment to achieve the goal of eradicating TB by 2030](#)
- [Tracking Universal Health Coverage](#)
- [Universal Health Coverage](#)
- [What is a health system?](#)
- [What is UHC?](#)

2021

- [Better health information for better health](#)
- [Blood safety](#)
- [Malaria](#)
- [Ending preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age](#)
- [Malaria incidence per 1,000 population at risk](#)
- [Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population](#)
- [Reducing mortality from NCDs](#)
- [Reducing the global maternal mortality ratio](#)
- [Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population](#)
- [Vaccination coverage in the WHO African Region in the context of COVID-19](#)

Contents

Health Emergencies

2022

- Antimicrobial resistance
- Communicating science during health emergencies
- Containment strategies: Lessons from early COVID-19 responses in five African countries
- Coordinating action: Lessons from early COVID-19 responses in five African countries
- Effective evidence-based decision making for COVID-19 in Africa
- Essential health care service disruption due to COVID-19: Lessons for sustainability in Nigeria
- Handling endemics, epidemics and humanitarian crises in the African region in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Nutrition, food safety and food crises
- Sahel zone
- The Sahel, a forgotten zone despite ongoing convergent crises

2021

- More doses needed to curb the third wave of COVID-19 in Africa

Healthier Populations

2023

- Air Pollution in the African Region
- Air pollution
- Climate change
- NCD risk factors
- No Tobacco in Africa
- Tobacco
- WASH

2022

- Suicide in the African Region, an alarming situation
- Clean water and sanitation
- Violence, injuries and disabilities (VID) including rehabilitation

2021

- Prevention and treatment of substance abuse
- Halving deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents

Universal Health Coverage





ANALYTICAL FACT SHEET

Buruli ulcer



Year of publication:
2023

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BLOG

Data-Driven Development: How Rwanda is Pioneering Health Information Systems for Improved SDG Monitoring



Year of publication:
2023

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BLOG

Diabetes in Africa



Year of publication:
2023

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Analytical Fact Sheet
 March 2023

Diabetes, a silent killer in Africa

Rationale
 Demographic, sociocultural, and economic transitions are driving increases in the risk and prevalence of diabetes and other noncommunicable diseases. To achieve the SDG targets, African countries are tackling multidimensional challenges from communicable diseases and increasing trends of noncommunicable diseases. Diabetes imposes an economic burden on Africa, including catastrophic spending in controlling the disease at the individual level. Diabetes is the priority disease that must be tackled to achieve the SDG target of reducing by one third premature mortality from noncommunicable diseases by 2030.

Key messages

- Globally, an estimated 537 million adults aged 20–79 years are currently living with diabetes. This represented 10.5% of the world's population in this age group in 2021.
- An estimated 24 million people were living with diabetes in Africa* in 2021, predicted to increase by 129% to 55 million by 2045.
- Africa* had the second lowest diabetes-related expenditure (US\$ 13 billion), accounting for 1% of global diabetes-related expenditure. In Africa, diabetes spending is health care-associated for drugs, diagnosis, medical supplies and consultation.
- More than half (54%) of people living with diabetes in the African Region* are undiagnosed.
- Between 2011 and 2021, the Region recorded a five-fold rise in type 1 diabetes among children and teenagers below 19 years, with cases surging from four per 1000 children to nearly 20 per 1000.
- Only 36% of countries in the African Region have essential medicines for chronic diseases in public hospitals, according to a 2019 WHO survey.

Africa * = International Diabetes Federation (IDF) African Region

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ANALYTICAL FACT SHEET

Diabetes



Year of publication:
2023

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Analytical Fact Sheet
 March 2023

Female genital mutilation is a human rights violation: Let's stop it by 2030

Rationale
 More than 200 million girls and women alive today have undergone female genital mutilation (FGM) in countries where the practice is concentrated. Female genital mutilation has no health benefits. It can lead to immediate health risks and long-term complications for women's physical, mental and sexual health and well-being. As part of the Sustainable Development Goals, the global community has set a target to end the practice of female genital mutilation by 2030. This fact sheet provides an overview of the status of female genital mutilation in the African Region.

Key messages

- For the period 2012–2020, about 35% of girls and women aged 15–49 years had undergone FGM in the African Region, including about 16.7% of girls aged 0–14 years.
- Over the period 2013–2021, approximately 72% of girls and women aged 15–49 years in the African Region reported their opposition to the continuation of FGM.
- In more than half of the countries in the African Region where information is available, more than 50% of the boys, girls, women and men surveyed (period 2013–2021) were opposed to the continuation of FGM.
- The top 10 affected countries (for girls and women aged 15–49 years) in the Region are Guinea (94.5%), Mali (88.6%), Sierra Leone (83%), Eritrea (83%), Burkina Faso (75.8%), Gambia (72.6%), Mauritania (66.6%), Ethiopia (65.2%), Guinea-Bissau (52.1%) and Côte d'Ivoire (36.7%).
- The most common risk factors for either undergoing FGM or forcing a girl to undergo the procedure are cultural, religious and social.
- Health-care providers should not perform any type of FGM in any setting – neither should they perform infibulation after delivery or in any other situation. They should provide care for girls and women suffering from complications associated with FGM, including special care during childbirth for women who have already undergone FGM.

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ANALYTICAL FACT SHEET

Female genital mutilation



Year of publication:
2023

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Analytical Fact Sheet
 June 2023

Reducing inequities in health across the life course

Rationale
 Inequities in reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health (RMNCAH) throughout the world indicate that certain population subgroups have systematically worse health outcomes and poorer access to services and interventions. Addressing inequities in RMNCAH is central to achieving universal health coverage, protecting human rights, advancing gender equality, combating discrimination, and improving the social determinants of health. Acknowledging and ensuring that health inequity is measured – within countries and globally – is a vital platform for action. National governments and international organizations, supported by WHO, should embed national and global health equity surveillance systems in routine monitoring, for active tracking of health inequity and the social determinants of health, while evaluating health equity impact on policy and action.

Key messages

- The composite coverage index (CCI) of key RMNCAH interventions of the Region has a positive relationship with the level of household wealth. It increases significantly as the household's economic status improves, rising from 50% in households in the poorest quintile to 69% in the richest, a difference of 19%.
- The CCI of key RMNCAH interventions shows a 15-point variation between women with secondary education or higher and women with no education.
- Women aged 20–49 use modern methods of contraception 1.6 times more than teenagers aged 15 to 19 years.
- Disparities in the coverage of key RMNCAH interventions are accentuated and to the advantage of urban dwellers over rural dwellers.
- The adolescent birth rate in rural areas (142 children per woman) is almost double that observed in urban areas (76 children per woman).
- The adolescent birth rate decreases significantly as the standard of living of the household improves, dropping from 173 children per woman in the households of the poorest quintile to 50 in the richest.
- The total fertility rate is 1.6 times higher in rural areas, where it is on average equal to six children per woman, compared to urban areas, which is on average equal to four children per woman.
- The prevalence of obesity and overweight is higher in households where the woman has secondary education or higher than in households where the woman has no education.

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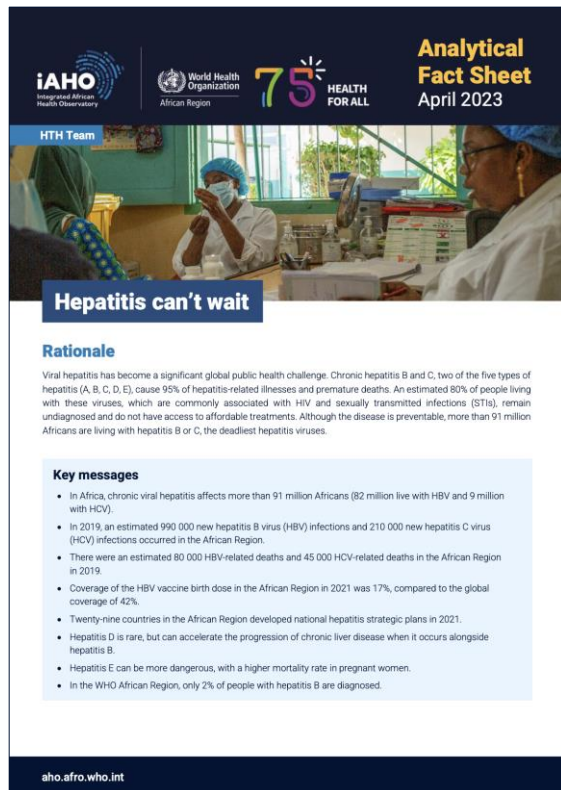
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Health equity profiles in the life course



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ANALYTICAL FACT SHEET

Hepatitis



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Malaria continues to pose a significant challenge in the African Region



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ANALYTICAL FACT SHEET

Malaria



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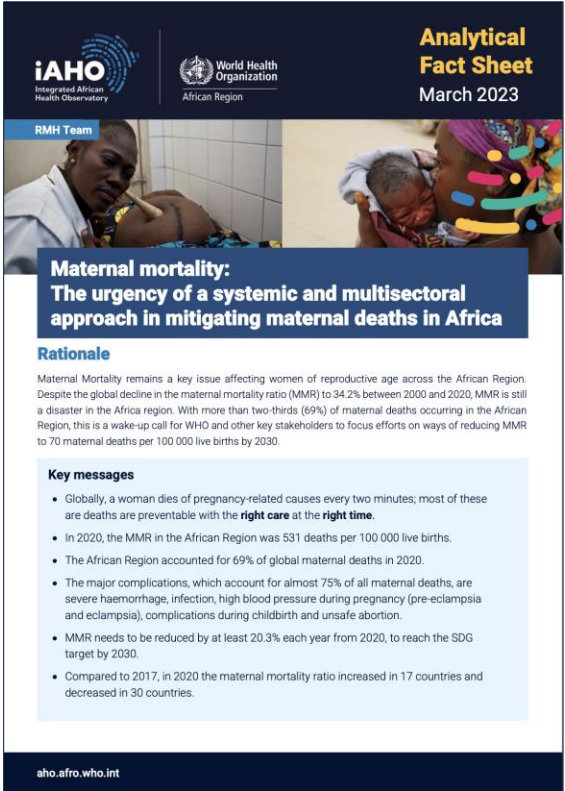
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Maternal mortality in Africa ... a head cracking matter



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Maternal mortality



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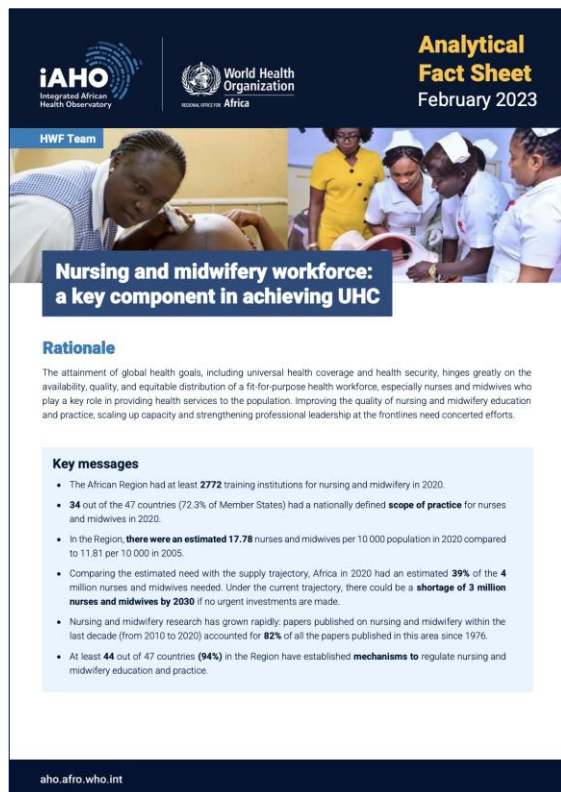
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Mortality



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Nursing and midwifery workforce



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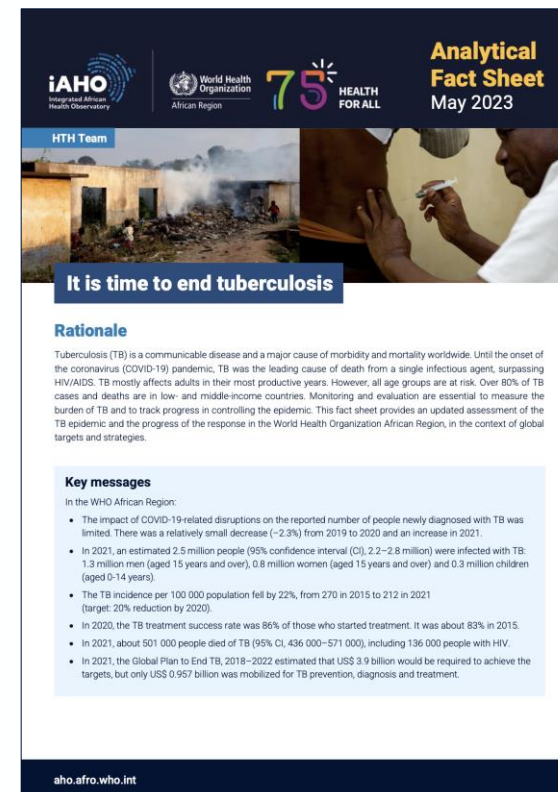
POLICY BRIEF

Optimizing the Ethiopian health extension programme: strategies to address workforce challenges



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Tuberculosis



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BLOG

Reimagining health sector coordination in Zimbabwe: innovation for UHC



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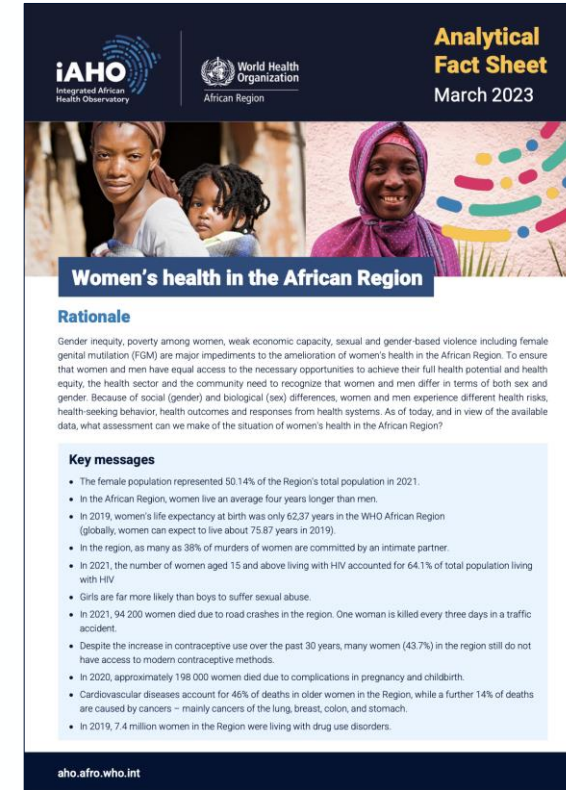
BLOG

Unmasking the Silent Epidemic: Hepatitis in Africa



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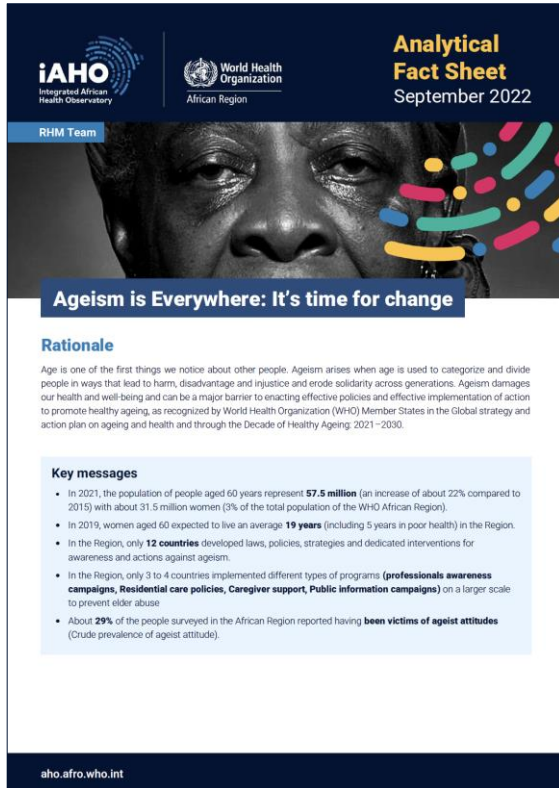
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Women's health



Year of publication:
2023

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ANALYTICAL FACT SHEET

Ageism



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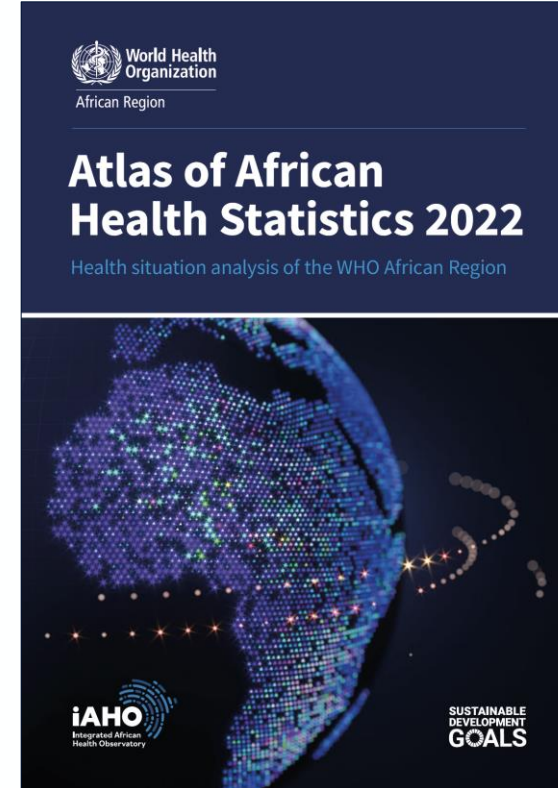
BLOG

Assessing the functionality of districts in Ghana



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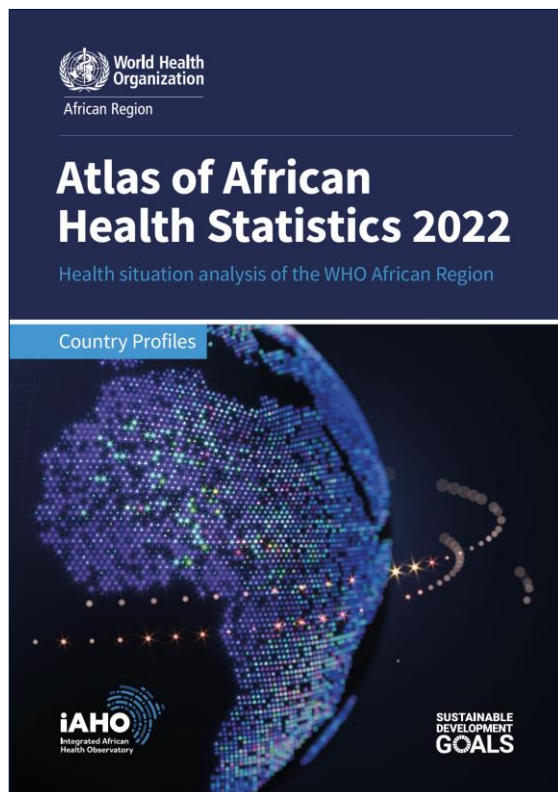
REPORT

Atlas of African Health Statistics 2022



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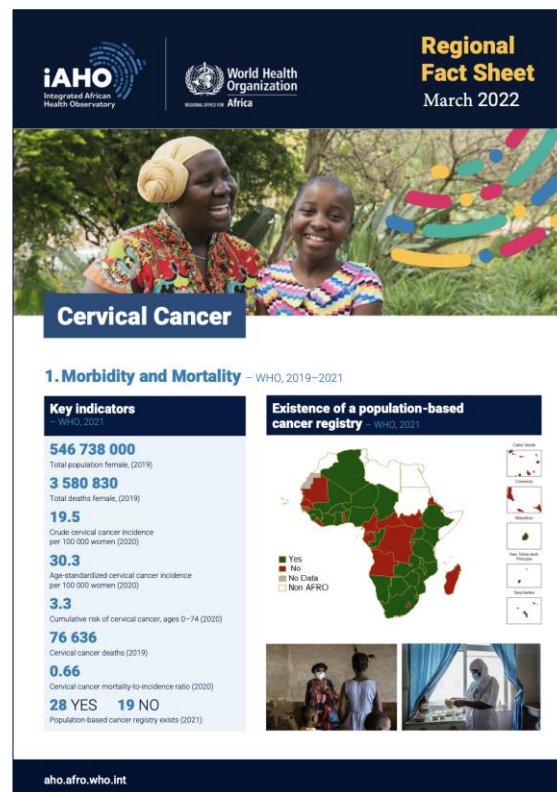
COUNTRY PROFILES

Atlas of African Health Statistics 2022



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Cervical cancer



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ANALYTICAL FACT SHEET

Early childhood development



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KNOWLEDGE FACT SHEET
Framework of actions



Year of publication:
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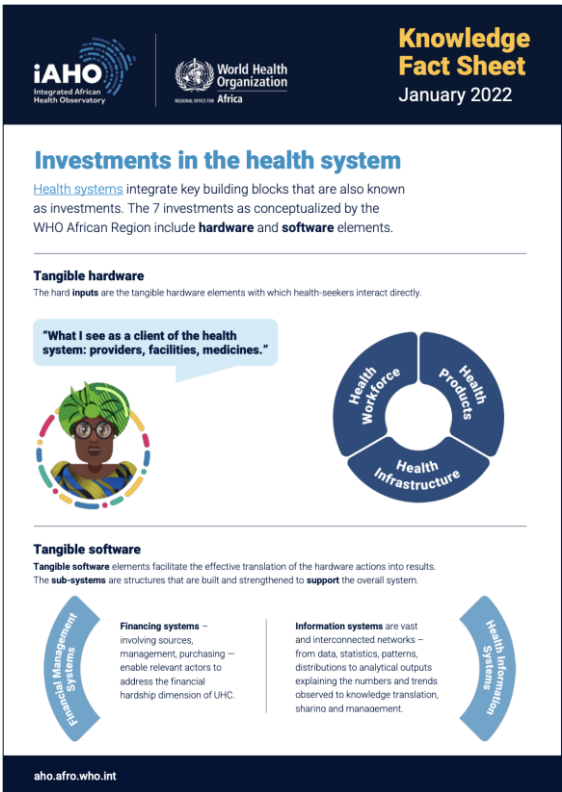


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Green light for the first malaria vaccine



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KNOWLEDGE FACT SHEET
Health system investments



Year of publication:
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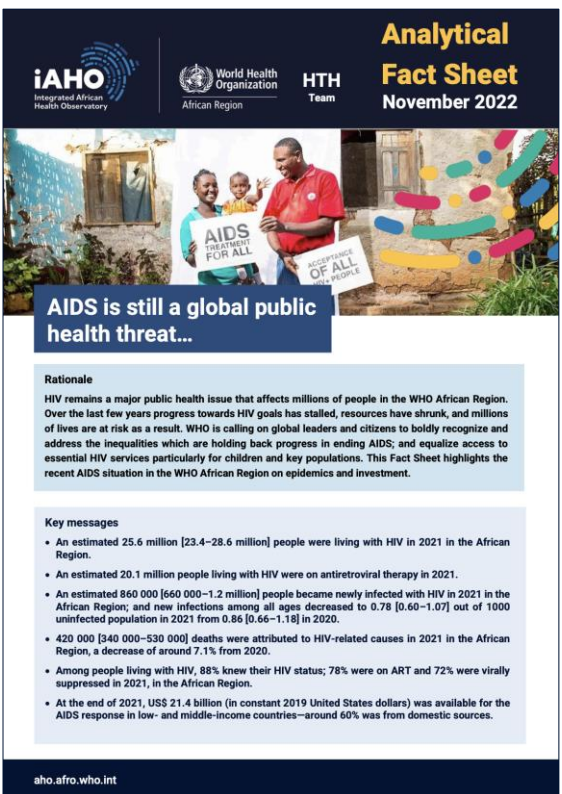


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Healthy life expectancy



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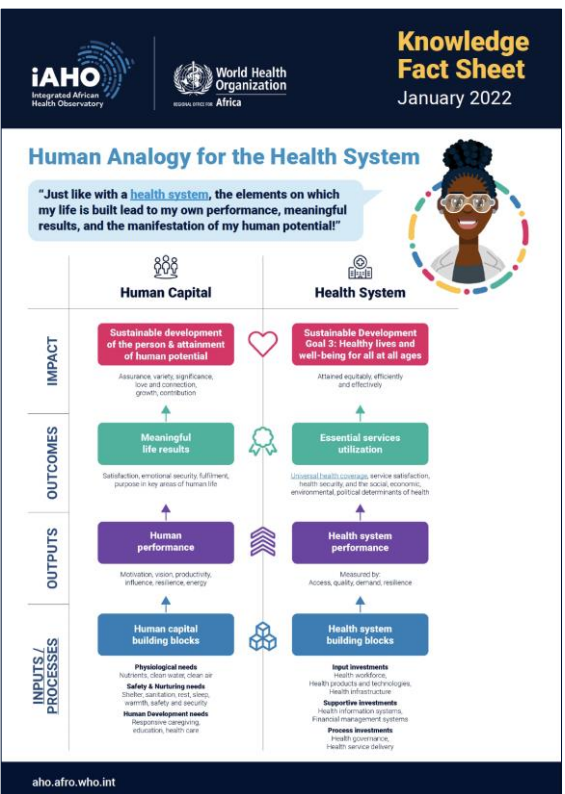


ANALYTICAL FACT SHEET
HIV AIDS



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KNOWLEDGE FACT SHEET
Human analogy for the health system




Year of publication:
2022

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Analytical Fact Sheet
 April 2022



Coverage of Key Health Interventions along the Life Course

Rationale
 Analyzing key indicators along the life course allows for a better understanding of health trends over several generations. Indeed, investments that are not made or are poorly made at one stage of life will have unmistakable consequences at another level, sometimes with more serious consequences for the development of the country. The life course approach allows us to better understand how social inequalities in health are perpetuated and transmitted, and how they can be mitigated or alleviated through the generations. This Dashboard presents an assessment of the evolution of the coverage of selected key health interventions by age cohort over the life course. A comparison is made between two periods (2015 and 2020) and with the average intervention coverage in the WHO African Region by period and by stage of life. We can better see the structural imbalance between interventions in the different age groups of the life cycle and the investment efforts that need to be made today. A life course approach requires holistic, long-term, policy and investment strategies that promote better health outcomes for individuals and greater health equity in the population.

Key messages

- In the African Region, the key interventions with the highest coverage (on average) per stage of life in descending order are: Pregnancy (64%), Infancy (55%), Postnatal (49%), Childhood (47%), Adolescence (46%), Pre-pregnancy (41%), Adulthood (29%), Birth (27%) and Ageing (23%). In general, for almost all countries, the key interventions with the lowest coverage are the Adulthood and Ageing (post Adulthood) stages.
- Eastern and Southern Africa has the highest coverage of key health intervention in the Life Course, followed by Western Africa and then Central Africa, which has the lowest coverage.
- Pre- and during Pregnancy as well as Birth with an impact on the survival and health of children, remain low in the Region. This is particularly so for interventions that need to be continuously available 24 hours / 7 days a week, which on average are below 50%.
- The regional average of the composite indicator during the Birth stage is 27%. The rate was close to the SDG target (90%) in six countries (Algeria, Botswana, Cabo Verde, Congo, Sao Tome and Principe, South Africa) in 2015 against 10 countries (including Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda and Seychelles) in 2020.
- Data reports low Postnatal indicator coverage with a regional index coverage below 50%. In 2020, the rate was higher than the regional average estimated at 49% in 28 countries, with only Eritrea having reached the target with 91%.
- The regional average of Childhood tracer indicators is 47% in 2020, and this value is limited within an interval of 23 to 77%.
- Only two countries have rates near or above 80% as a target for all the interventions in the Adolescence stage of life.
- The regional Adulthood index is 29%, all the countries of the Region have an average coverage lower than 50% in this stage.
- For the Ageing (post Adulthood) stage, very few countries have data available. The index is very low and equal to 23%. Only 10 countries (Algeria, Botswana, Cabo Verde, Gabon, Mauritania, Mauritius, Namibia, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, South Africa) have rates above the average.

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ANALYTICAL FACT SHEET

Life course key interventions coverage




Year of publication:
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Analytical Fact Sheet
 December 2022



Noncommunicable diseases in Africa: The invisible epidemic

Rationale
 In the WHO African Region, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases, haemoglobinopathies (sickle cell disease), mental and neurological conditions represent a significant development challenge. This invisible epidemic is an under-appreciated cause of poverty and hinders the economic development of many countries. The burden is growing – the number of people, families and communities affected is increasing. So, what is the status in WHO African Region? This fact sheet will cover the mortality and morbidity due to the four major categories of NCDs as well as Sickle cell disease and oral diseases and describe the strategies the Region is addressing to NCDs.

Key messages

- In 2019, NCD killed about **2.8 million people** in the African Region (about **37% of all deaths**).
- Each year, more than **1.6 million people die from an NCD before the age of 70** (Premature deaths) in the African Region.
- NCD premature deaths represents **63% of all NCD deaths** in the Region.
- Cardiovascular diseases, cancers, diabetes mellitus and respiratory diseases account for over **70% of all NCD deaths**.
- In the African Region, over the last 10 years, **cardiovascular diseases are more deadly** than cancers, chronic respiratory diseases, and diabetes mellitus combined, with rates respectively being 294, 144, 48 and 45 deaths per 100 000 population in 2019.

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ANALYTICAL FACT SHEET

Noncommunicable diseases




Year of publication:
2022

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Analytical Fact Sheet
 August 2022



Suicide in Africa, a neglected reality.

Rationale
 The reduction of suicide mortality is considered by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a public health priority. To this end, the reduction of suicide mortality is included as an indicator in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDG) under target 3.4.
By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being.
 Africa must break the taboo around suicide, which can affect anyone regardless of gender, age, culture and religion. Suicide is defined as the act of deliberately killing oneself. Although most of the available statistics present the deaths by suicides, these are likely underestimates, and the reality is much more serious if we consider the attempted suicides. This document aims to raise awareness of the public health importance of suicide and attempted suicide in Africa. "We cannot... and we must not" ignore suicide.

Key messages

- Today 1 in 100 deaths in the world is a suicide death.
- The suicide rate in the African Region is the highest in the world, estimated at **11.2** per 100,000 population in 2019, compared to the Global average of 9.0 per 100,000 population.
- The WHO African Region male suicide rate is the highest of all Regions at **18** per 100,000 population, compared to the global average of 12.4 per 100,000 population.
- Suicide can occur at any point in life. In 2019, suicide was the fourth leading cause of death in this age group.
- Suicide is not only a phenomenon in high-income countries. It was estimated in 2019 that **77% of suicides occurred in low- and middle-income countries**.
- Several countries in the African Region stand out as having the highest suicide age adjusted rates in the world, namely **Lesotho, Eswatini, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Mozambique, Central African Republic, Botswana, Eritrea, Cameroon, and Côte d'Ivoire**. All have rates above 15 per 100,000 population, with peaks of 87.5 and 40.5 per 100,000 population respectively for Lesotho and Eswatini.
- Globally, the availability and quality of data on suicide and suicide attempts is poor. It is likely that under-reporting and misclassification are greater problems for suicide than for most other causes of death.

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ANALYTICAL FACT SHEET

Suicide



Year of publication:
2022

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BLOG

Need for increased research and financial investment to achieve the goal of eradicating TB by 2030



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REPORT

Tracking Universal Health Coverage



Year of publication:
2022

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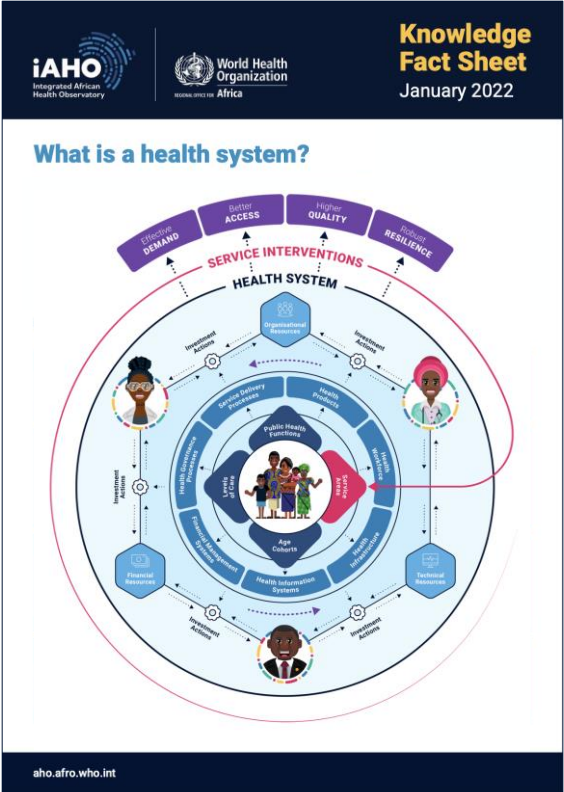
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Universal Health Coverage



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KNOWLEDGE FACT SHEET

What is a health system?



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KNOWLEDGE FACT SHEET

What is UHC?



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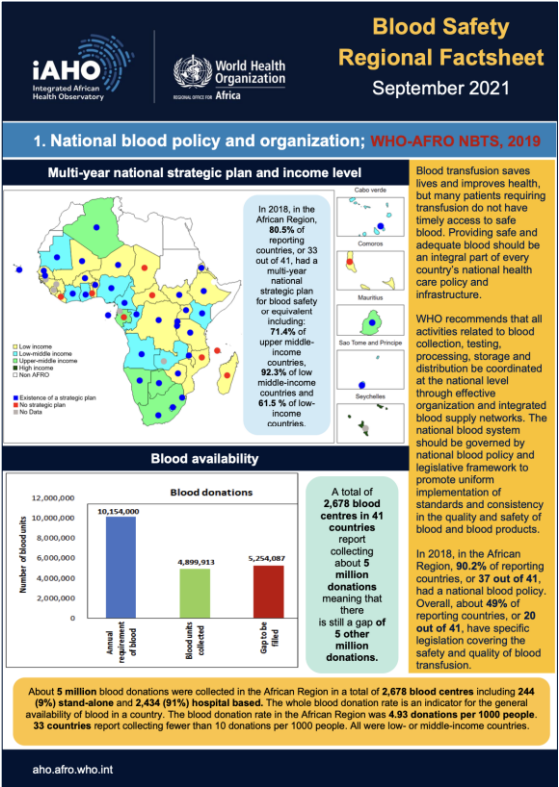
BLOG

Better health information for better health



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2021

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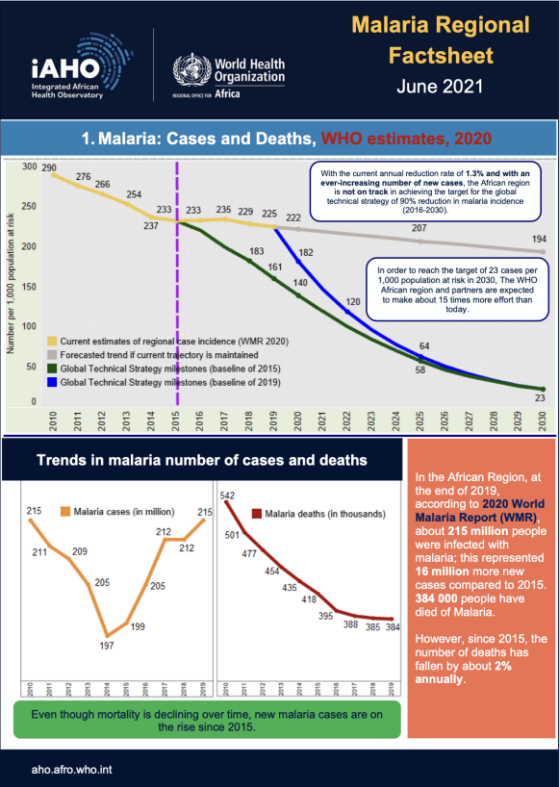
ANALYTICAL FACT SHEET

Blood safety



Year of publication:
2021

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ANALYTICAL FACT SHEET

Malaria



Year of publication:
2021

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ANALYTICAL FACT SHEET | Year of publication: 2020

Ending preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age

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ANALYTICAL FACT SHEET | Year of publication: 2020

Malaria incidence per 1,000 population at risk

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ANALYTICAL FACT SHEET | Year of publication: 2020

Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population

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ANALYTICAL FACT SHEET | Year of publication: 2020

Reducing mortality from NCDs

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ANALYTICAL FACT SHEET | Year of publication: 2020

Reducing the global maternal mortality ratio

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ANALYTICAL FACT SHEET | Year of publication: 2020

Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population

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INFOGRAPHIC | Year of publication: 2020

Vaccination coverage in the WHO African Region in the context of COVID-19

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Health Emergencies





ANALYTICAL FACT SHEET

Antimicrobial resistance



Year of publication:
2022

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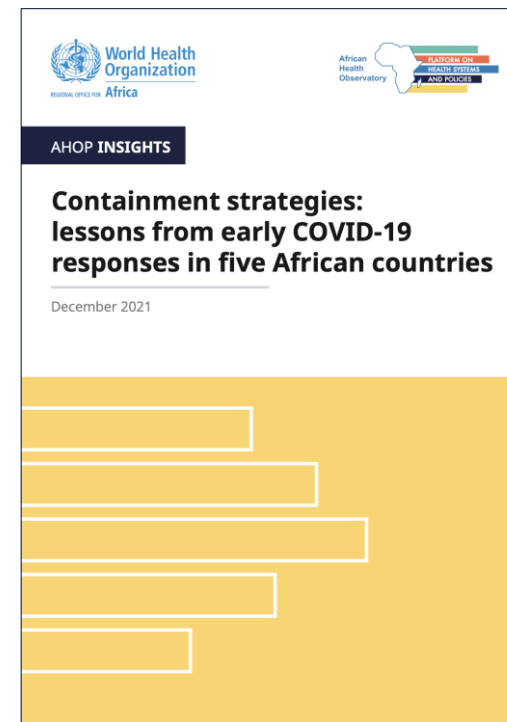
BLOG

Communicating science during health emergencies



Year of publication:
2022

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REPORT

Containment strategies: Lessons from early COVID-19 responses in five African countries



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REPORT

Coordinating action:
Lessons from early COVID-19
responses in five African countries



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BLOG

**Effective evidence-based
decision making for
COVID-19 in Africa**



Year of publication:
2022

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REPORT

**Essential health care service
disruption due to COVID-19:**
Lessons for sustainability in Nigeria



Year of publication:
2022

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BLOG

Handling endemics, epidemics and humanitarian crises in the African region in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic



Year of publication:
2022

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ANALYTICAL FACT SHEET

Nutrition, food safety and food crises



Year of publication:
2022

[Open Link](#)



ANALYTICAL FACT SHEET

Sahel zone



Year of publication:
2022

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BLOG

The Sahel, a forgotten zone despite ongoing convergent crises



Year of publication:
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BLOG

More doses needed to curb the third wave of COVID-19 in Africa



Year of publication:
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Healthier Populations





BLOG

Air Pollution in the African Region



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ANALYTICAL FACT SHEET

Air pollution



Year of publication:
2023

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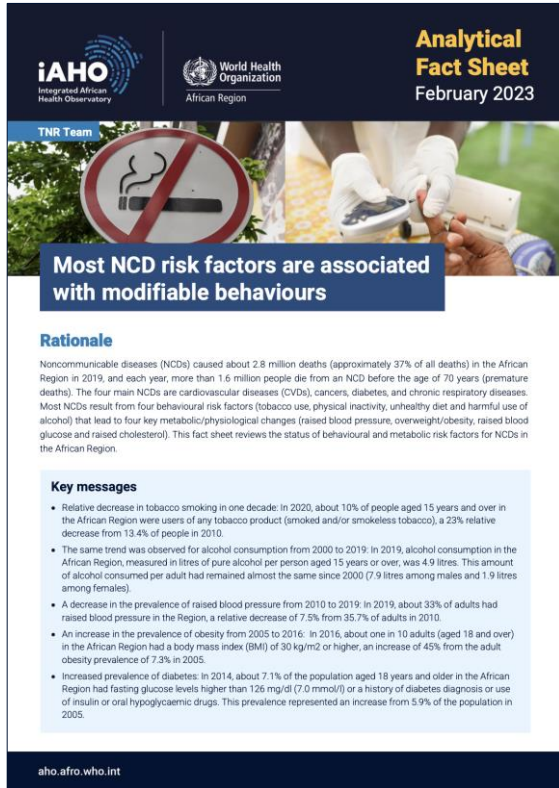
ANALYTICAL FACT SHEET

Climate change



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ANALYTICAL FACT SHEET
NCD risk factors



Year of publication:
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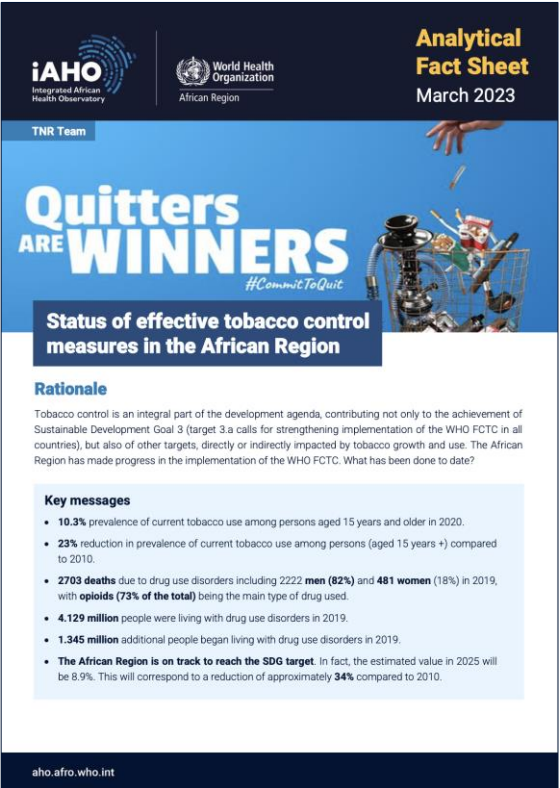


BLOG
No Tobacco in Africa



Year of publication:
2022

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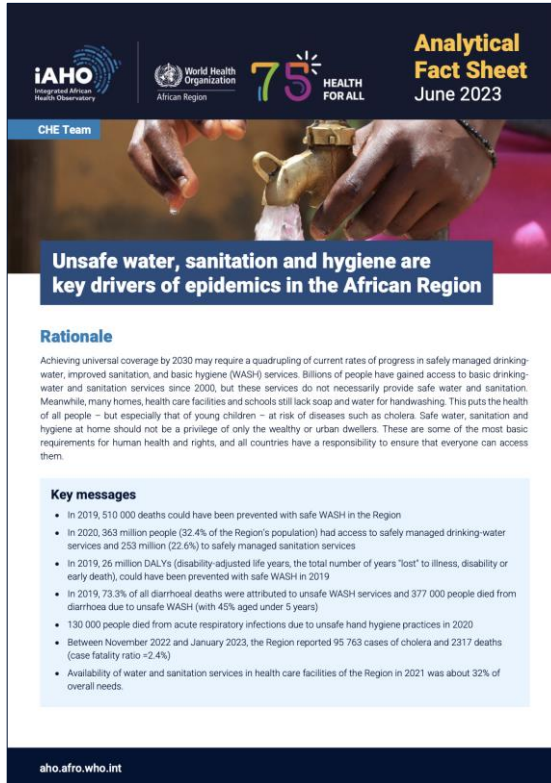


ANALYTICAL FACT SHEET
Tobacco



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2023

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ANALYTICAL FACT SHEET

WASH



Year of publication:
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BLOG

**Suicide in the African Region,
an alarming situation**



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INFOGRAPHIC | **Year of publication: 2021**

Clean water and sanitation

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ANALYTICAL FACT SHEET | **Year of publication: 2021**

Violence, injuries and disabilities (VID) including rehabilitation

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ANALYTICAL FACT SHEET | **Year of publication: 2020**

Prevention and treatment of substance abuse

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ANALYTICAL FACT SHEET | **Year of publication: 2020**

Halving deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents

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African Region



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