



Health and WaSH

Impact of the Demographics and Health scenario on infant mortality and life expectancy

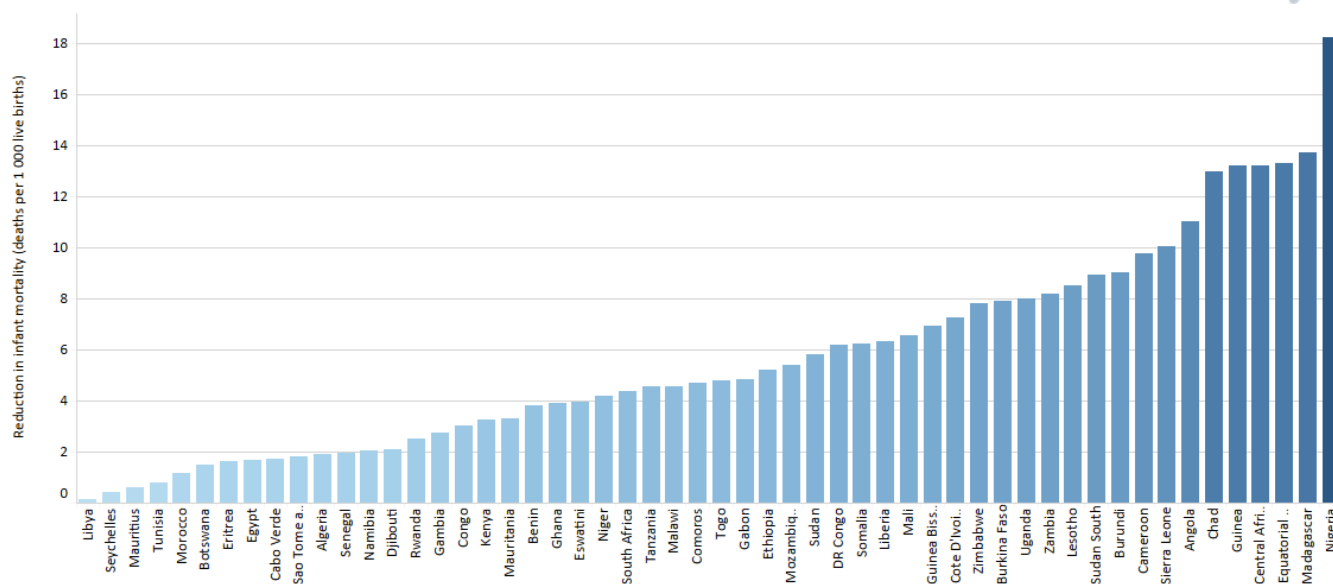
Jakkie Cilliers

Last updated 27 October 2023 using IFs 7.84

Impact of the Demographics and Health scenario on infant mortality and life expectancy

Africa is already on its way to reducing infant mortality significantly from its 2019 average: from almost 47 deaths per 1 000 live births to 36 by 2030 and to 26 by 2043. The Demographics and Health scenario reduces those rates to 28 in 2030 and to 17 in 2043. The reduction in country-level rates is presented in Chart 17. Libya gains the least by 2043 and Nigeria the most, followed by Madagascar and Guinea.

Chart 17: Reduction in infant mortality rate due to Demographics and Health scenario, 2043

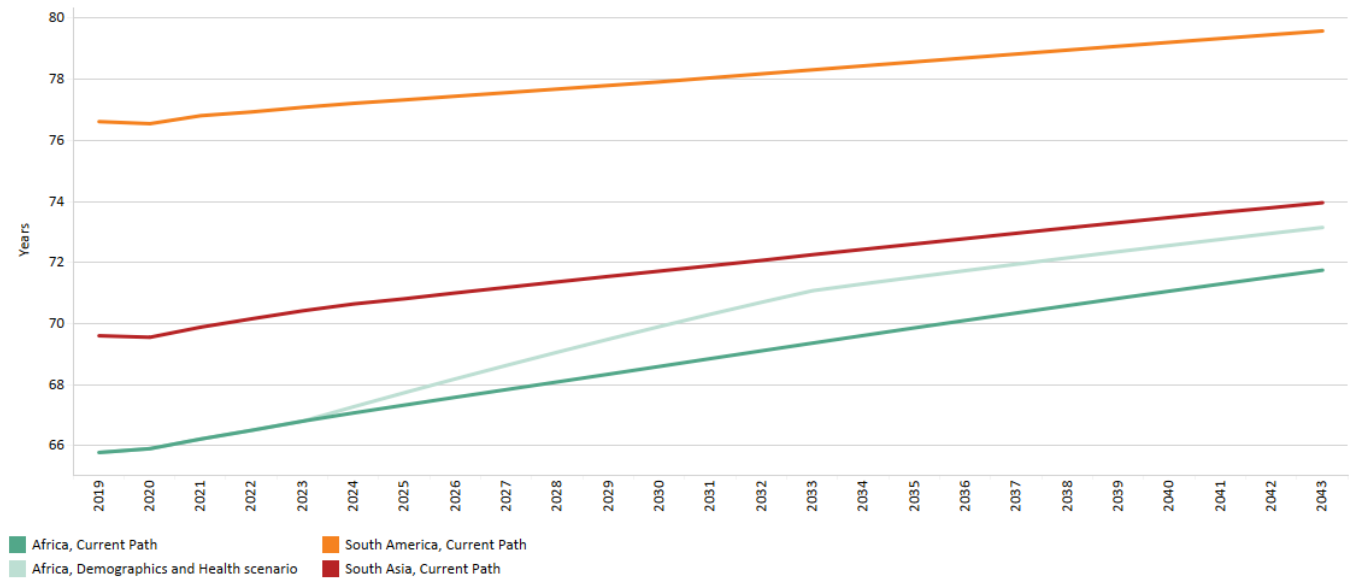


Source: IFs 7.84 initialised from IHME GBE data

By 2043, almost 11 million fewer Africans will be born in the Demographics and Health scenario compared to the Current Path forecast for that year. In fact, the scenario would cumulatively see 131 million fewer births over the forecast horizon.

Chart 18 shows the expected life expectancy in Africa, with trends for South Asia and South America added for comparison. In the Current Path forecast, life expectancy in Africa is projected to improve from 65.8 years in 2019 to 71.8 years in 2043. In the Demographics and Health scenario, life expectancy increases to 73.3 years. Lesotho gains the most (an increase of more than 2.2 years), followed by South Africa, Nigeria, South Sudan and Chad. The countries that gain the least are Comoros, Djibouti and The Gambia, the last of which gains only 6 months.

Chart 18: Life expectancy in Africa, South America and South Asia according to the Current Path forecast and Demographics and Health scenario, 2019–2043



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About the authors

Dr Jakkie Cilliers is the ISS's founder and former executive director of the ISS. He currently serves as chair of the ISS Board of Trustees and head of the African Futures and Innovation (AFI) programme at the Pretoria office of the ISS. His 2017 best-seller *Fate of the Nation* addresses South Africa's futures from political, economic and social perspectives. His three most recent books, *Africa First! Igniting a Growth Revolution* (March 2020), *The Future of Africa: Challenges and Opportunities* (April 2021), and *Africa Tomorrow: Pathways to Prosperity* (June 2022) take a rigorous look at the continent as a whole.

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