
World Report on Social Determinants of Health Equity

Dr Sudhvir Singh

Unit Head, Equity and Health

WHO Department of Social
Determinants of Health

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World Health
Organization



All for Equity

Commission on Social Determinants of Health

The 2008 Commission on SDH set out **three overarching recommendations:**

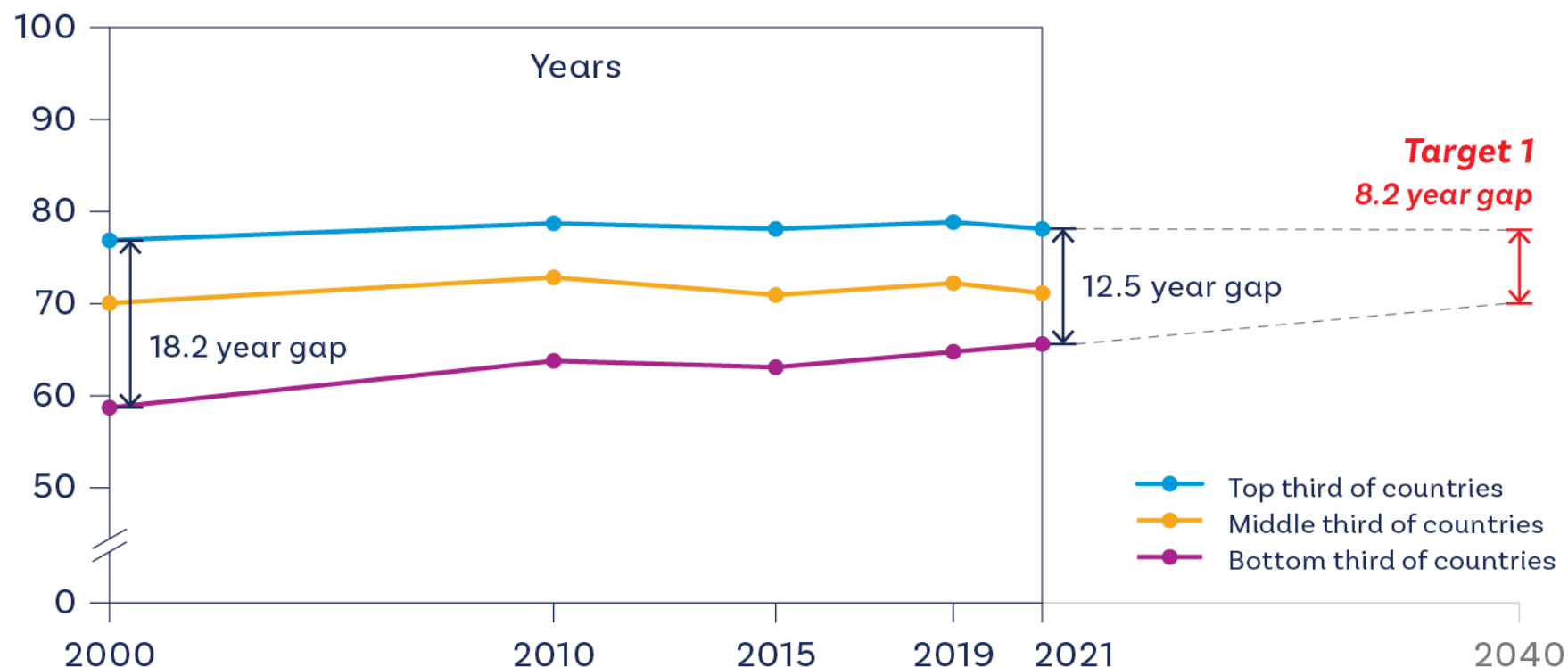
1. Improve daily living conditions
2. Tackle the inequitable distribution of power, money and resources
3. Measure and understand the problem and assess the impact of action.

And set the aspiration to **close the gap in a generation**



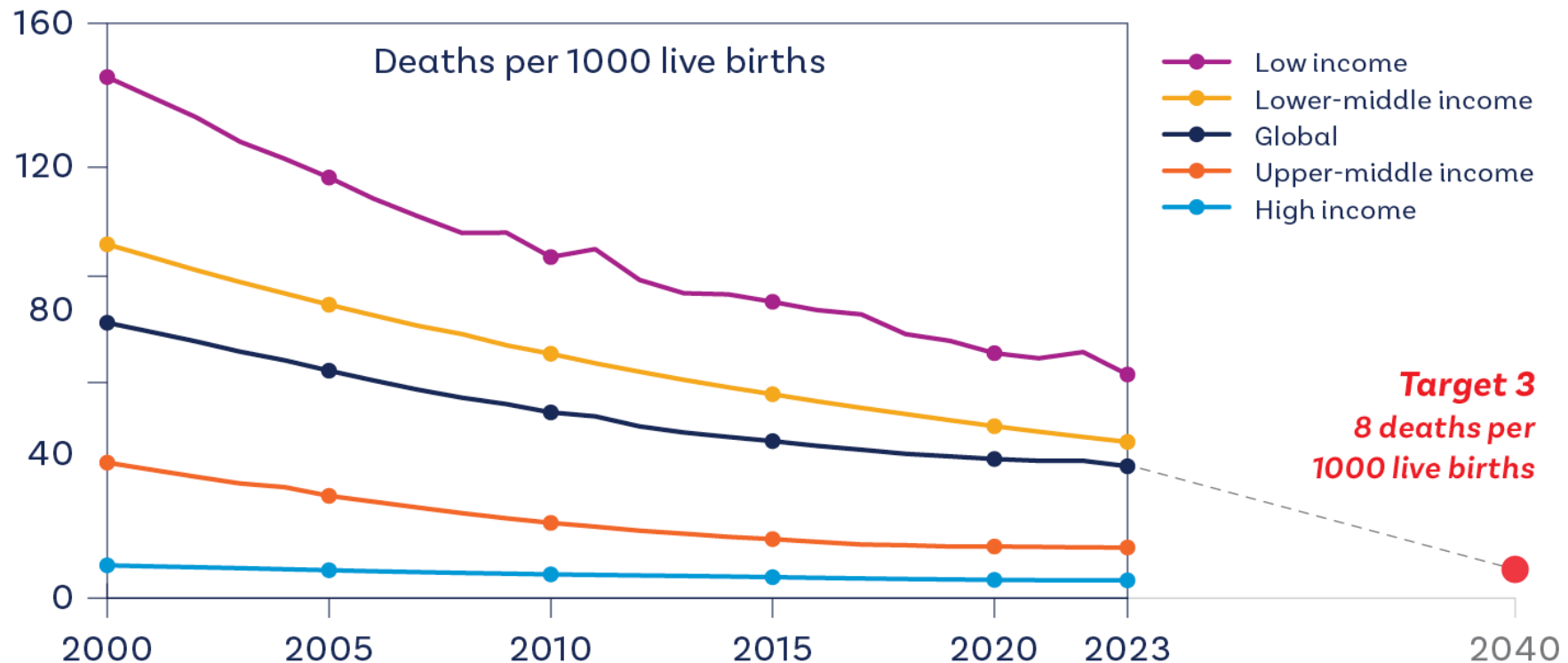
Progress against the Commission's targets: Halve the gap in life expectancy at birth

Life expectancy at birth (years) among the top and bottom thirds of countries (WHO estimates, 2000-2021)



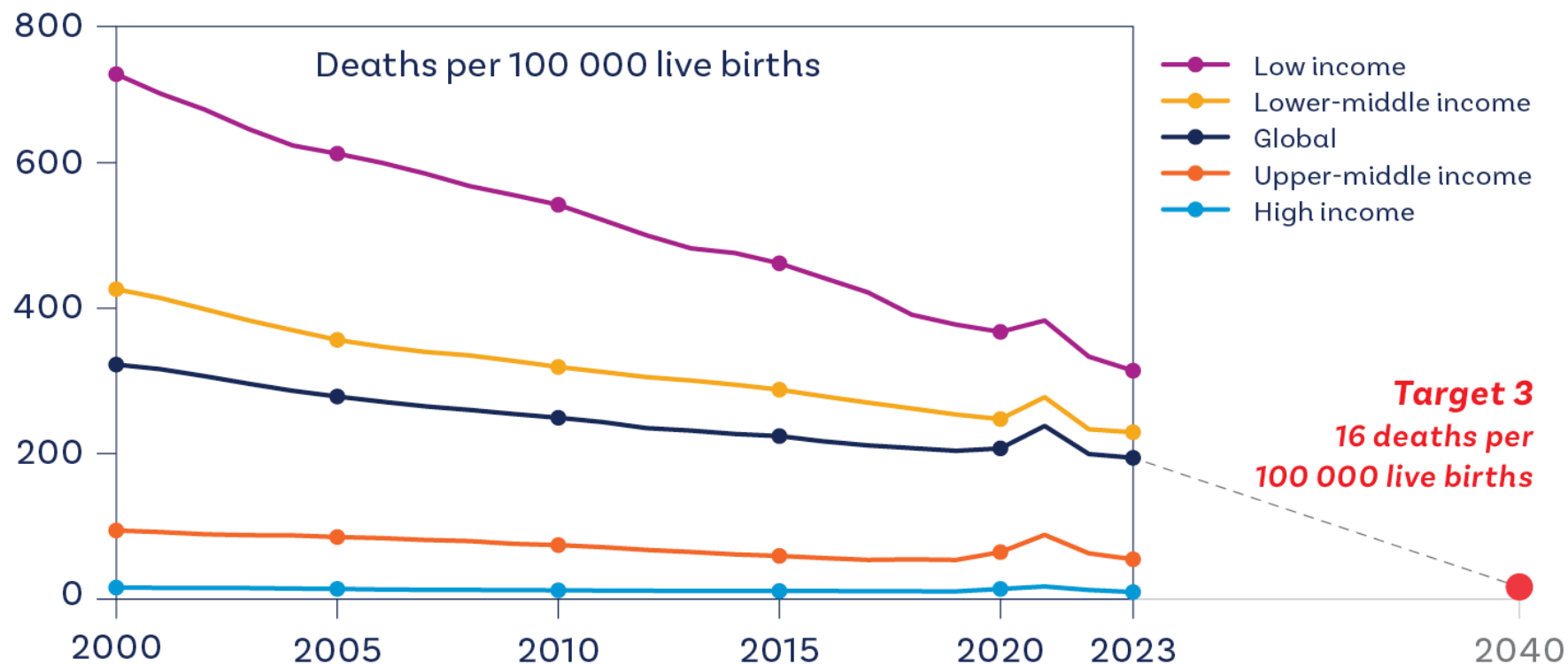
Progress against the Commission's targets: Reduce under-five mortality by 90%

Under-five mortality rate (deaths per 1000 live births) globally and by World Bank income grouping (UN IGME estimates, 2000-2023)



Progress against the Commission's targets: Reduce maternal mortality by 95%

Maternal mortality ratio (per 100 000 live births) globally and by World Bank income grouping (Maternal Mortality Estimation Inter-Agency Group estimates, 2000–2023)



World Report - Key findings on health inequities

- There has been **some progress** towards closing health gaps between countries, but **progress is stalling**.
- Health inequities are **widening between social groups within** many countries.



World Report - Key findings on social determinants

- **Income inequality** within countries has increased.
- **Fiscal space:** Inadequate resources for universal public services.
 - **Weak taxation systems:** depriving 3.8 billion people worldwide of social protection coverage.
 - **Debt distress:** The total value of debt interest payments made by the world's 75 poorest countries has quadrupled.
- **Climate change, rising conflict and displacement**
 - The number of forcibly displaced people has tripled to 122 million.

Structural Determinants of Health



**Economic
systems**

**Social
infrastructure**



**Structural
discrimination**

**Conflict, forced
migration**



**Megatrends:
Climate change
Digitalization**

Structure
→

Conditions of Daily Life

Early child development,
education

Work & employment

Food environments

Housing & basic amenities
(water, sanitation, energy)

Transport & mobility

Social connection

Action Area 1: Address economic inequality and invest in universal public services

Recommendations



Tackle **economic inequality** and fund universal public services



International cooperation to create fiscal space



Address the **commercial determinants of health**



Expand coverage of universal **social protection**



Action Area 2: Tackle structural discrimination and the determinants and impacts of conflict and forced displacement

Recommendations



Take action against **structural
discrimination**



Safeguard the social determinants of
health equity during **emergencies,
migration and conflict**



Action Area 3: Steer mega-trends towards health equity: climate action and the digitalization

Recommendations



Accelerate **climate action** and
the preservation of biodiversity



Ensure **digital transformation**
promotes health equity

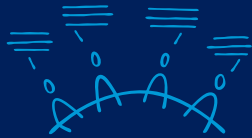


Action Area 4: Bringing about change through new governance approaches

Recommendations



Equip **local**
governments



Support
community
engagement and
civil society



Reach **universal**
health coverage



Build and retain a
health and care
workforce



Monitor social
determinants of
health equity



Strengthen focus
on social
determinants in
policy platforms



Key numbers

4 years of work

10 evidence reviews

20 consultations

33 positive country examples

36 external experts convened

100+ WHO staff involved

1000+ scientific references



Thank You!

For more information, please contact:

WHO Equity and Health Unit

equityandhealth@who.int

singhsu@who.int



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