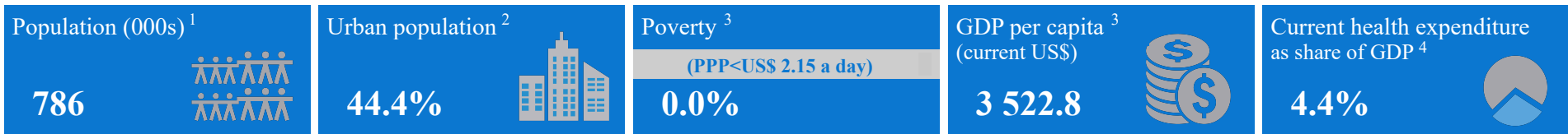


Bhutan



Monitoring the health SDG goal: Indicator of overall health and well-being

Life expectancy at birth, 2021 ⁵



Life expectancy at birth is the average number of years that a newborn is expected to live if s/he were to pass through life exposed to the sex- and age-specific death rates prevailing at the time of birth, for a specific year, in a given country, territory, or geographic area.

Healthy life expectancy (HALE) ⁵ at birth is the average number of years that a person can expect to live in full health by taking into account years lived in less than full health due to disease and/or injury.

Compared to males, females have **2.0 years of longer** life expectancy and **0.4 years of less** HALE.

Universal health coverage (UHC): at the centre of health-related SDGs

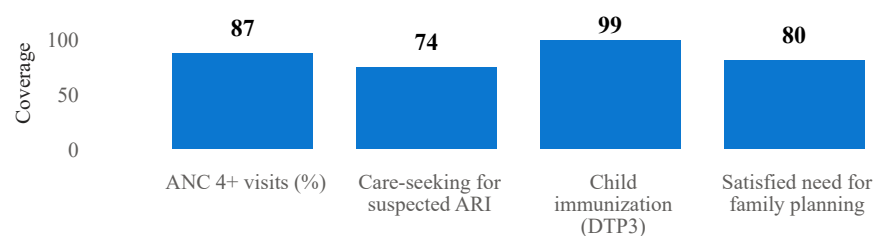
The goal of UHC (SDG3 Target 3.8) is to ensure that every individual and community, irrespective of their circumstances, should receive the health services they need without risking financial hardship. To monitor Target 3.8, two indicators are regularly estimated: 3.8.1 which captures the population coverage dimension of UHC, and 3.8.2 which captures the financial hardship dimension of UHC.

HEALTH SERVICE COVERAGE, 2023

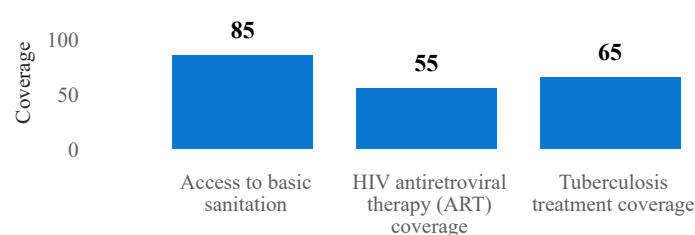
The summary measure of essential health service coverage is the *service coverage index* ⁷ of sub-indicators in four main areas:

(1) reproductive, maternal, newborn and child and adolescent health; (2) infectious diseases; (3) noncommunicable diseases; (4) service capacity, access and health security.

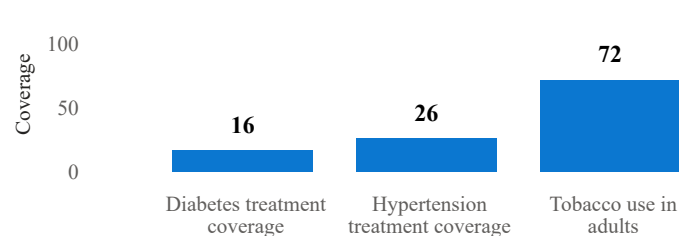
Reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health (RMNCAH) ⁷



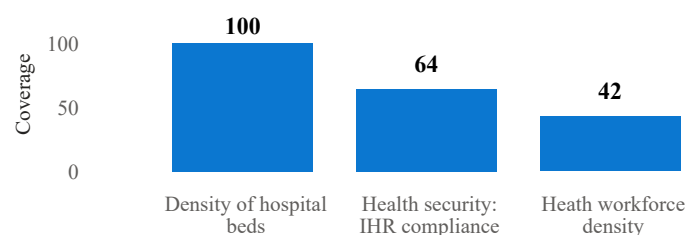
Infectious diseases ⁷



Noncommunicable diseases ⁷



Service capacity, access and health security ⁷

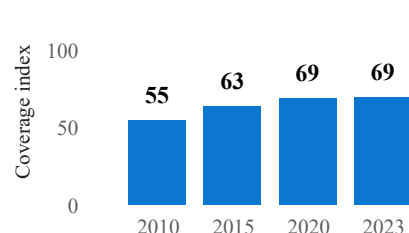


UHC service coverage index (UHC SCI) of essential health services

UHC SCI is a single indicator computed coverage index from tracer indicators of the coverage of essential services in the areas of RMNCAH, infectious disease control, NCDs and service capacity and access. Presented on a scale of 0 to 100 (full coverage), the index is constructed from geometric means of the tracer

indicators; weighted geometric mean within each of the four, and then geometric mean of the four to obtain the final summary index.

UHC service coverage index ⁷



FINANCIAL HARDSHIP

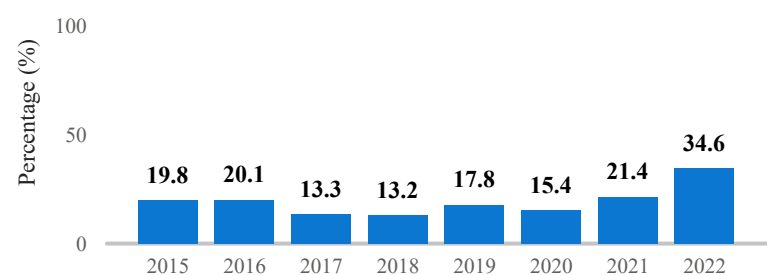
Financial hardship occurs when out-of-pocket (OOP) health spending threatens people's living standards or compromises access to needed services or household welfare.

SDG Indicator 3.8.2: Proportion of the population with positive out-of-pocket household expenditure on health exceeding 40% of household discretionary budget (*The household discretionary budget is defined as total household consumption /expenditure (or income) minus the societal poverty line (SPL).*)

9% or approximately **70 134** people faced financial hardship due to out-of-pocket health spending ⁶.

Out-of-pocket expenditure ⁴

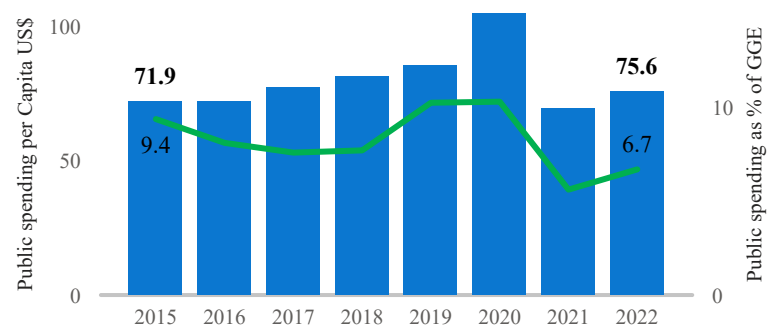
In most cases, a high percentage of out-of-pocket expenditure in current health expenditure is associated with low financial protection.



■ Out-of-pocket (OOP) as % of current health expenditure (CHE)

Public spending on health ⁴

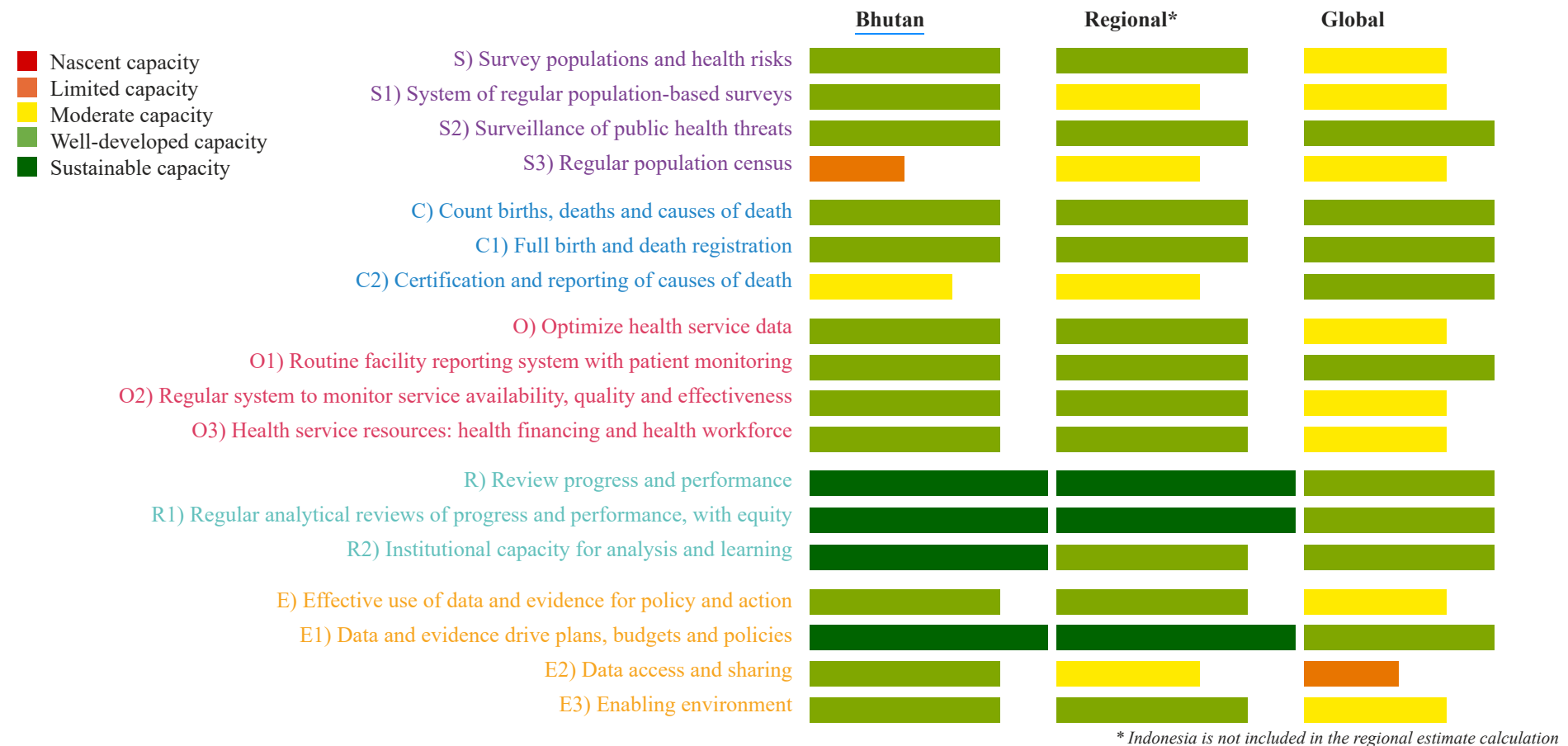
Public spending on health reflects both a government's investment and its prioritization of the health sector.



■ Public spending on health per Capita in US\$
■ Public spending on health as % General Government Expenditure (GGE)

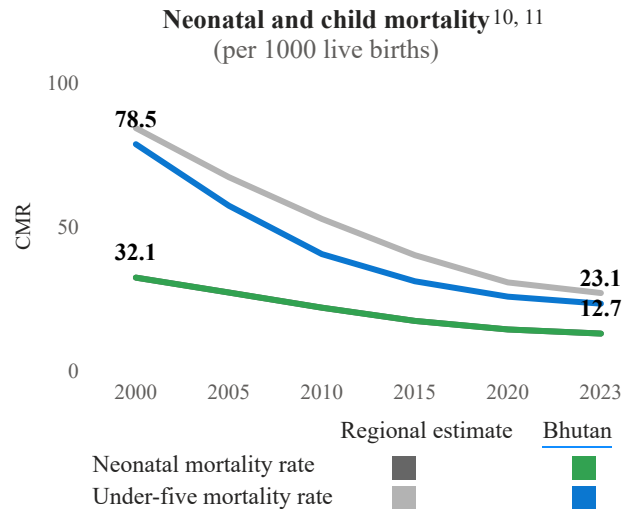
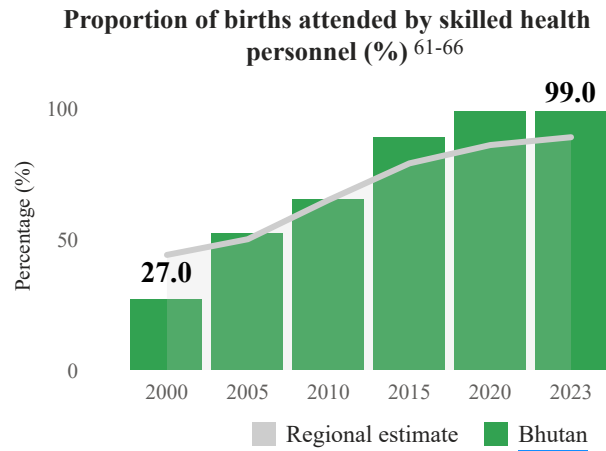
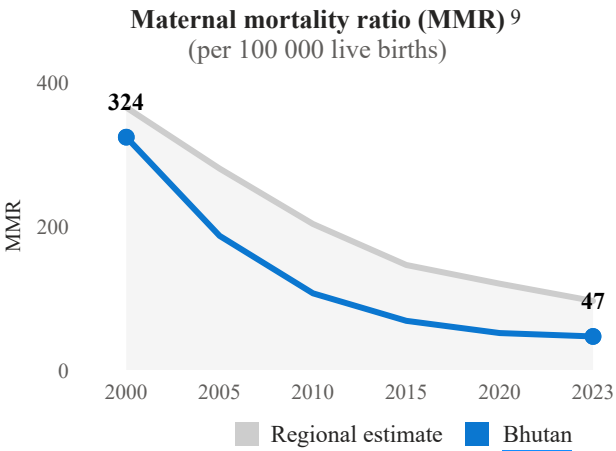
This health and health-related SDG country profile is a tool for action. It supports each country to assess progress in population health and to identify opportunities to address intervention coverage gaps and accelerate progress in improving coverage and health outcomes.

SCORE at a glance, 2024 ⁸

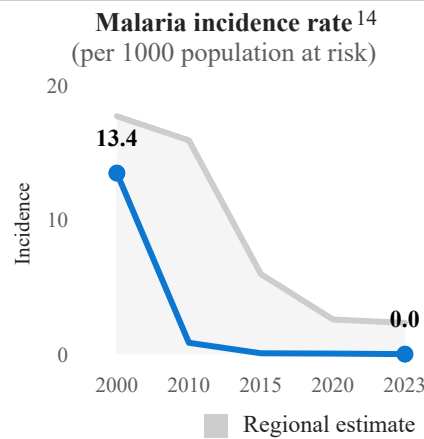
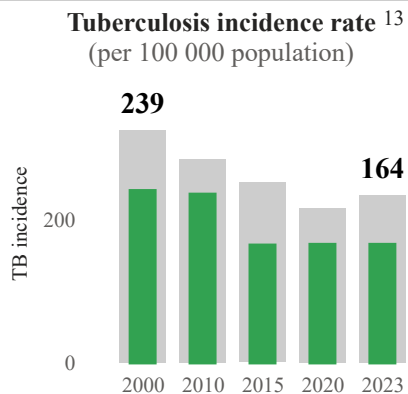
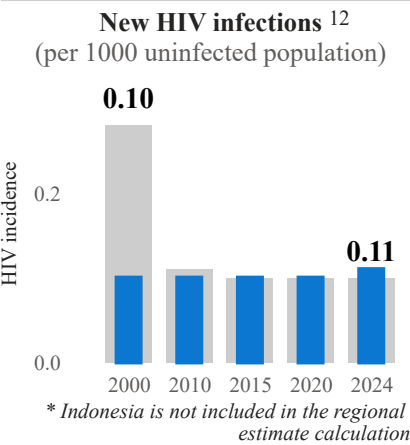


SDG 3: Health targets

Maternal, neonatal and child mortality (SDG target 3.1, 3.2)



Infectious diseases (SDG target 3.3)



Indicator	Year	Bhutan	Regional estimate
Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) prevalence among children under 5 years (%) ¹⁵	2020	0.14	0.38
Reported number of people requiring interventions against NTDs ¹⁶	2023	173 578	787 674 482

Noncommunicable diseases, substance abuse and road traffic injuries

Indicator	SDG target	Year	Bhutan		Regional estimate	
Probability of dying between the ages of 30 and 70 years from cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory diseases (%) ¹⁷	3.4.1	2010		18.0		22.8
		2021		15.9		22.3
Suicide mortality rate (per 100 000 population) ¹⁸	3.4.2	2010		5.2		12.2
		2021		4.9		10.1
Contact coverage of treatment services for alcohol use disorders (%) ¹⁹	3.5.1	—	—	—	—	—
Contact coverage of treatment services for drug use disorders (%) ²⁰	3.5.1	—	—	—	—	—
Total alcohol per capita (≥ 15 years of age) consumption (litres of pure alcohol) ²¹	3.5.2	2010		4.5		3.6
		2022		4.4		3.6
Road traffic mortality rate (per 100 000 population) ²²	3.6.1	—	—	—	—	—
		2021		12.2		16.1

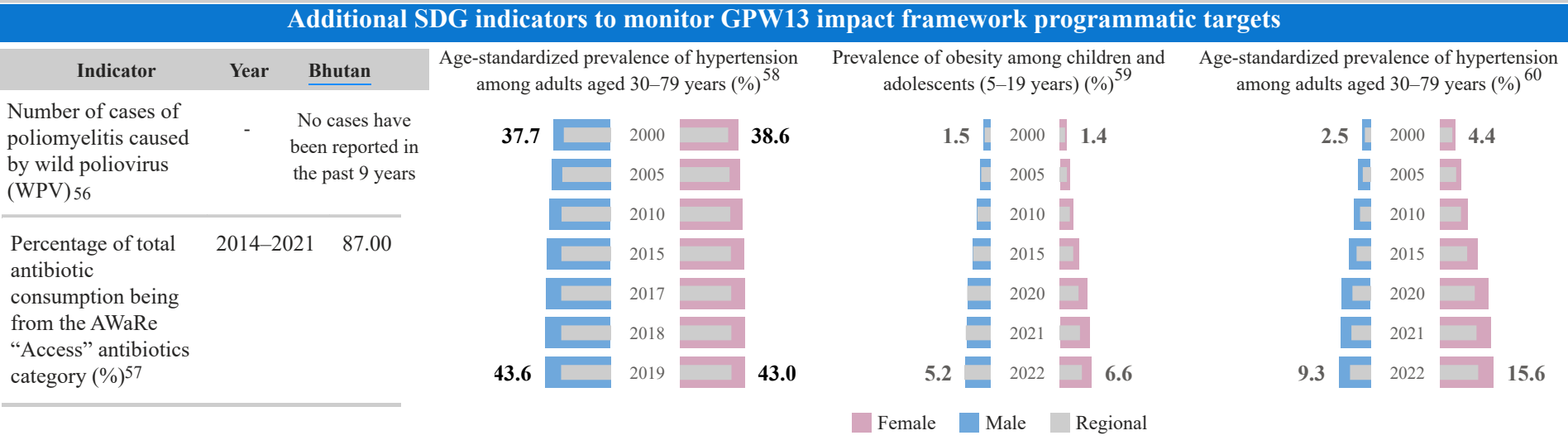
Note: En dash (–) implies relevant data are not available

Indicator	SDG target	Year	Bhutan	Regional estimate
Sexual and reproductive health				
Proportion of women of reproductive age who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods (%) ⁶³	3.7.1	2010 —	 84.6	 72.3
Adolescent birth rate (per 1000 women aged 10–14 years) ²³	3.7.2	2020 2022	0.0 0.0	0.4 0.4
Adolescent birth rate (per 1000 women aged 15–19 years) ²³	3.7.2	2016 2022	 14.2 6.1	26.5 23.1
Mortality due to environment pollution				
Age-standardized mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution (per 100 000 population) ²⁴	3.9.1	2010 2019	 87.7	 133.9
Mortality rate attributed to exposure to unsafe WASH services (per 100 000 population) ²⁵	3.9.2	— 2019	— 15.7	— 29.6
Mortality rate from unintentional poisoning (per 100 000 population) ²⁶	3.9.3	2010 2021	 0.1 0.1	 0.3 0.2
Tobacco use				
Age-standardized prevalence of tobacco use among persons 15 years and older (%) ²⁷	3.a.1	2010 2022	24.9 18.7	37.2 26.5
Essential medicines and vaccines				
Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTP3) immunization coverage among 1-year-olds (%) ²⁸	3.b.1	2010 2024	91.0 98.0	82.0 92.0
Measles-containing-vaccine second-dose (MCV2) immunization coverage by the locally recommended age (%) ²⁹	3.b.1	2012 2024	90.0 96.0	44.0 90.0
Pneumococcal conjugate 3rd dose (PCV3) immunization coverage among 1-year olds (%) ³⁰	3.b.1	2015 2024	0.0 98.0	4.0 88.0
HPV immunization coverage estimates among primary target cohort (9–14 years old girls) (%) ³¹	3.b.1	2010 2024	96.0 92.0	0.0 22.0
Total net official development assistance to medical research and basic health sectors per capita (US\$), by recipient country ³²	3.b.2	— 2023	— 5.7	— 0.5
Proportion of health facilities with a core set of relevant essential medicines available and affordable on a sustainable basis (%) ³³	3.b.3	—	—	—
Health workforce density				
Density of medical doctors (per 10 000 population) ³⁴	3.c.1	2012 2022	2.7 5.5	— —
Density of nursing and midwifery personnel (per 10 000 population) ³⁵	3.c.1	2012 2022	10.3 20.5	— —
Density of dentists (per 10 000 population) ³⁶	3.c.1	2017 2022	0.8 1.0	— —
Density of pharmacists (per 10 000 population) ³⁷	3.c.1	2012 2022	0.2 0.7	— —
Early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks				
Average of 15 International Health Regulations core capacity scores ³⁸	3.d.1	2021 2024	52.0 64.0	64.0 67.0
Percentage of bloodstream infections due methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) (%) ³⁹	3.d.2	2019 2020	20.8 11.7	— —
Percentage of bloodstream infection due to Escherichia coli resistant to 3rd-generation cephalosporin (%) ⁴⁰	3.d.2	2019 2020	56.8 53.9	— —
Other health-related SDGs				
General government health expenditure				
Domestic general government health expenditure (GGHE-D) as percentage of general government expenditure (GGE) (%) ⁴	1.a.2	2010 2022	5.6 6.7	5.9 8.4
Malnutrition in children under-five				
Prevalence of stunting in children under 5 (%) ⁴¹	2.2.1	2010 2024	32.4 17.9	41.4 29.7

Note: En dash (–) implies relevant data are not available

Indicator	SDG target	Year	Bhutan	Regional estimate
Prevalence of wasting in children under 5 (%) ^{63, 66}	2.2.2	2010	5.9	—
		2023	5.1	—
Prevalence of overweight in children under 5 (%) ⁴²	2.2.2	2010	6.6	2.9
		2024	8.0	3.3
Anaemia in women of reproductive age (15–49 years)				
Prevalence of anaemia in women of reproductive age (15–49 years) (%) ⁴³	2.2.3	2010	28.0	43.4
		2023	33.8	46.4
Intimate partner violence				
Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15–49 years subjected to physical and/or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months (%) ⁴⁴	5.2.1	—	—	—
		2018	9.0	17.0
Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15–49 years subjected to physical and/or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner in their lifetime (%) ⁴⁵	5.2.1	—	—	—
		2018	22.0	33.0
Drinking water services and sanitation				
Proportion of population using safely-managed drinking-water services (%) ⁴⁶	6.1.1	2010	26.3	—
		2022	73.3	—
Proportion of population using safely-managed sanitation services (%) ⁴⁷	6.2.1	2010	46.2	27.8
		2022	50.5	49.2
Proportion of population using a handwashing facility with soap and water (%) ⁴⁸	6.2.1	2015	86.0	63.5
		2022	93.2	75.9
Proportion of safely treated domestic wastewater flows (%) ⁴⁹	6.3.1	2020	41.0	29.1
		2024	48.8	30.9
Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance that is part of a government-coordinated spending plan (constant 2020 US\$ millions) ⁵⁰	6.a.1	2010	2.9	1156.0
		2023	17.2	1141.0
Clean household energy				
Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology (%) ⁵¹	7.1.2	2010	65.8	33.9
		2023	91.6	72.5
Ambient air pollution				
Annual mean concentrations of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) in urban areas (µg/m3) ⁵²	11.6.2	2010	20.2	50.8
		2019	16.9	46.4
Homicide and conflicts				
Mortality rate due to homicide (per 100 000 population) ⁵³	16.1.1	2010	3.3	4.4
		2021	3.0	3.7
Birth registration				
Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority (%) ⁵⁴	16.9.1	2014	82.7	—
		2023	85.1	—
Support country statistical capacity-building				
Proportion of countries that have conducted at least one population and housing census in the last 10 years (within/after year 2012) ⁵⁵	17.9.2	Last census date: 30 May – 1 June 2017		

Note: En dash (–) implies relevant data are not available



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6 These are preliminary estimates based on country consultation conducted by WHO and WB on SDG UHC indicators, as of September 2025. Final figures will be published in the Global Monitoring Report on UHC December 2025.
Method Transformation:
- Use of Discretionary budget instead of total expenditure or consumption as denominator.
- A single threshold of 40% instead of earlier two 10 % and 25%
- Single series of indicator as compared to previously two series for reporting.

7 These are preliminary estimates based on country consultation conducted by WHO on UHC indicators as of September 2025. Final figures will be published as part of Global Monitoring Report on UHC in December 2025.
Method transformation:
* Health worker density: Proxy indicator. Health workforce density is both capped at maximum thresholds, and values above this threshold are held constant at 100. These thresholds are based on minimum values observed across OECD countries.
- medical doctors per 1,000: rescaled value = minimum (100, original value / 6*100)
- nursing and midwifery personnel per 1,000: rescaled value = minimum (100, original value / 6*100)
The health workforce threshold is based on the 5th percentile among high-income countries in 2013. If the value of a transformed indicator happens to be zero or above 100, it is set to 1 (out of 100) and 100 (out of 100) respectively before computing the weighted geometric mean.

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