Childhood Mortality and Stillbirth

Prelims – *Economic and Social Development.*

Mains (GS II & III) – *GS II (Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources) | GS III (Inclusive growth and issues arising from it).*

Why in news?

The United Nations Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UNIGME) in its recent report has lauded India for its effort in mitigating childhood mortality and stillbirth.

- The United Nations Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UNIGME) recently published its "Levels and Trends in Child Mortality" report.
- It is an annual report that provides data for 195 countries.
- **Child mortality** – It is also known as ***under-five mortality rate***.
- It is the number of children who die by the age of 5 years, per 1000 live births.
- **Stillbirth** – A baby who dies after 28 weeks of pregnancy, but before or during birth, is classified as a stillbirth.

Key findings of the report

- While the world has made progress in reducing child mortality, the *rate of improvement is slowing down*.
- Millions of children still die from preventable causes, often due to unequal access to healthcare, nutrition, and protection, especially in vulnerable areas.
- **India** – *India is on 7th position* among the top 10 countries in highest reduction of stillbirths in the range of 60-70%.
- Between 2000 and 2023, India achieved a *70% decline in the under-five mortality rate* and *61% decline in the neonatal mortality rate*.
- Stillbirth in India is reduced 60.4% in between 2000-2023 in comparison to 37% global reduction.

United Nations Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME)

• UN IGME was *formed in 2004* to *share data on child mortality*, improve methods for child mortality estimation.
• It also reports on progress towards child survival goals and enhance country capacity to produce timely and properly assessed estimates of child mortality.
• UNIGME is a *collaborative effort led by*:
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF),
- World Health Organization (WHO),
- The World Bank Group and
- The United Nations Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.
• UN IGME *updates its child mortality estimates annually* after reviewing newly available data and assessing data quality.
• The web portal contains the latest UN IGME estimates of child mortality at the country, regional and global levels and the data used to derive them.

References

1. Business standard | childhood mortality and stillbirth
2. UN IGME | About UN IGME

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