# ‘Levels and Trends in Child Mortality’ Report, 2025

***Prelims:*** *Current events of national and international importance | Reports & Indices*

## Why in News?

*The report titled ‘Levels and Trends in Child Mortality’ for 2025 was released recently.*

- **Released by –** United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME),
- **Collaboration –** Led by UNICEF, WHO, the World Bank, and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (Population Division).
- **Also known as** – The United Nations Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME), Report 2025.

## Key Findings

### Global trend

- **Global Child Mortality** – An estimated 4.9 million deaths in 2024, including 2.3 million newborns (nearly 50% of all under-five deaths)
- **Children & youth** – An estimated 2.1 million children, adolescents and youth aged five-24 years died in 2024.
- **Trend** – Under-five deaths globally have fallen by more than half since 2000; however, since 2015, the pace of reduction in child mortality has slowed by more than 60%.
- **Regional burden** – In 2024, sub-Saharan Africa accounted for 58% of all under-five deaths.
- **Leading Causes of Death**
- **Newborns** – Complications from preterm birth (36%), and complications during labour and delivery (21%), infections, including neonatal sepsis and congenital anomalies.
- **Children (1–59 months)** – Pneumonia, diarrhoea, malaria (the single largest killer) and malnutrition (Estimated directly for the first time).
    - **Malaria trend** – It declined between 2000 and 2015, but *progress slowed* in recent years.
- **Malnutrition** – It found *more than 1,00,000 children* aged 1-59 months or 5% died from it in 2024, it weakens children’s immunity and increases their risk of dying from common childhood diseases.
    - Countries with the highest direct malnutrition deaths are Pakistan, Somalia, and Sudan.
- **Adolescents** – Injuries, infectious diseases, mental health-related causes.

### India's Context

- **Under 5 Mortality Rate** – Witnessed a sharp fall — from 92 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2000 to *nearly 32 in 2024*, reflecting sustained progress in child health outcomes.
- **Neonatal Mortality Rate (NMR)** – Recorded a decline from 1990, in 1990, India had an NMR of 57 per 1,000 live, which fell to *17 in 2024*.
- **Regional role** – India has played a pivotal role in reducing child mortality in the South Asia region, which has witnessed a *76% decline in under-five deaths* since 1990 and *68% decline since 2000*.
- **Key drivers of success**
  - Targeted public health interventions for preventable conditions such as Pneumonia, Diarrhoea, Malaria, etc.
  - Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP),
  - Facility-based newborn care,
  - Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses (IMNCI).

### References


1. The Hindu | UN Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UNIGME) Report 2025
2. DD News | (UNIGME) Report 2025



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