

**2022** SPECIAL REPORT

**New threats to human security  
in the Anthropocene**  
Demanding greater solidarity



# Human Security in the Anthropocene



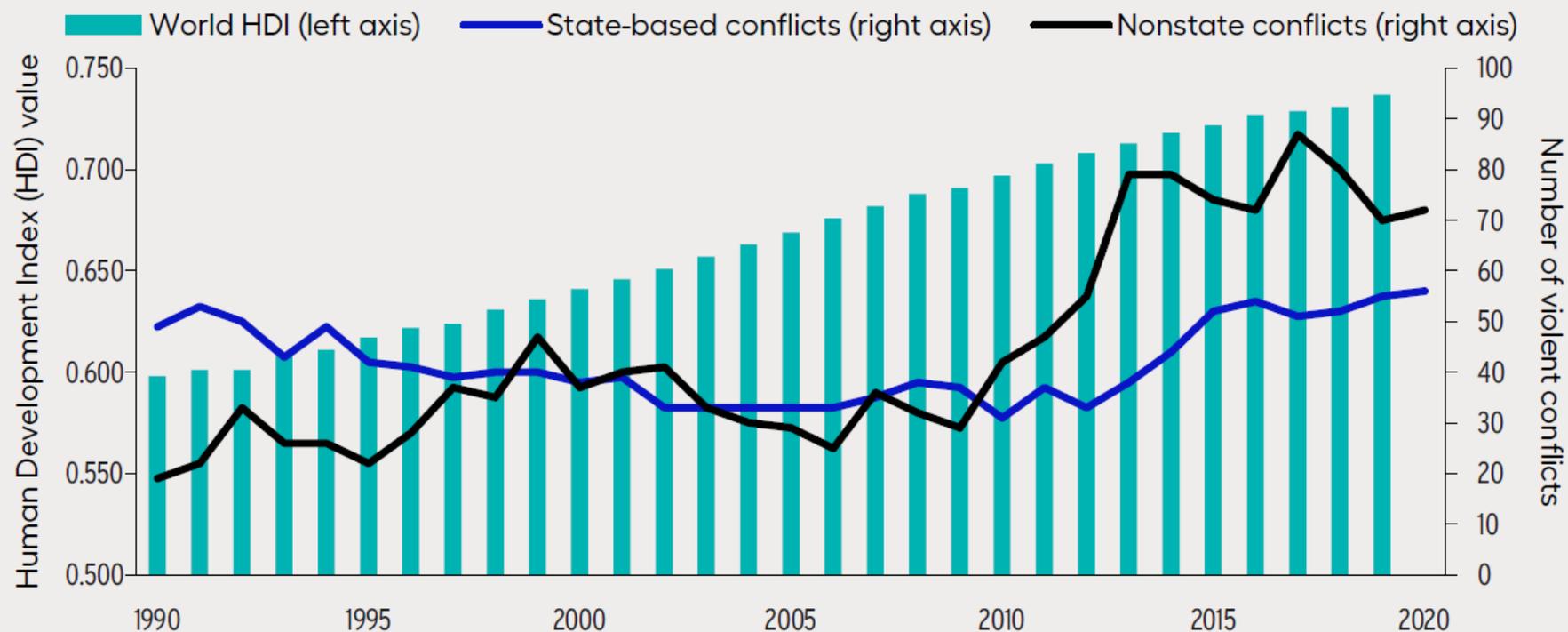
People are worried about:

A graphic consisting of a white circle with a red border, which is itself inside a larger teal circle. The text 'Violent conflict' is centered within the white circle.

Violent  
conflict

About 1.2 billion people live in **conflict-affected areas**, with almost half of them (560 million) in countries not usually considered to be **fragile**.

# Violent conflict is increasing in parallel with average progress in wellbeing achievements



Source: Human Development Report Office based on Uppsala Conflict Data Program/Peace Research Institute Oslo Armed Conflict Dataset version 21.1 and Uppsala Conflict Data Program Non-State Conflict Dataset version 21.1.

# Violent conflict in the Anthropocene

“ Planetary disruptions interact with conflict dynamics, inequalities and technological innovation to create new arenas for conflict and violence... [I]n the Anthropocene context risks may heighten conflict tensions, and conflicts are closely linked to horizontal inequalities, the concentration of political and economic power among a few and the exclusion of many.



# Violence and human security threats that hinder solidarity and trust

- Proliferation of small arms
- Slow progress on internationally agreed disarmament commitments
- Unintended impacts of post-conflict reconciliation programmes
- Lack of accountability for conflict-related violence
- Polarization

# Violent Conflict from a Human security lens



## *Interlinked threats for violent conflict*

- Climate change is a threat multiplier
- Military use of emerging technologies e.g. AI
- Horizontal inequalities

## *Impact of violent conflict on human insecurity*

- Physical integrity & mental health impacts
- Well-being achievements at risk – education, health, material standard
- Perceptions of insecurity - fears

## *Expanding traditional metrics*

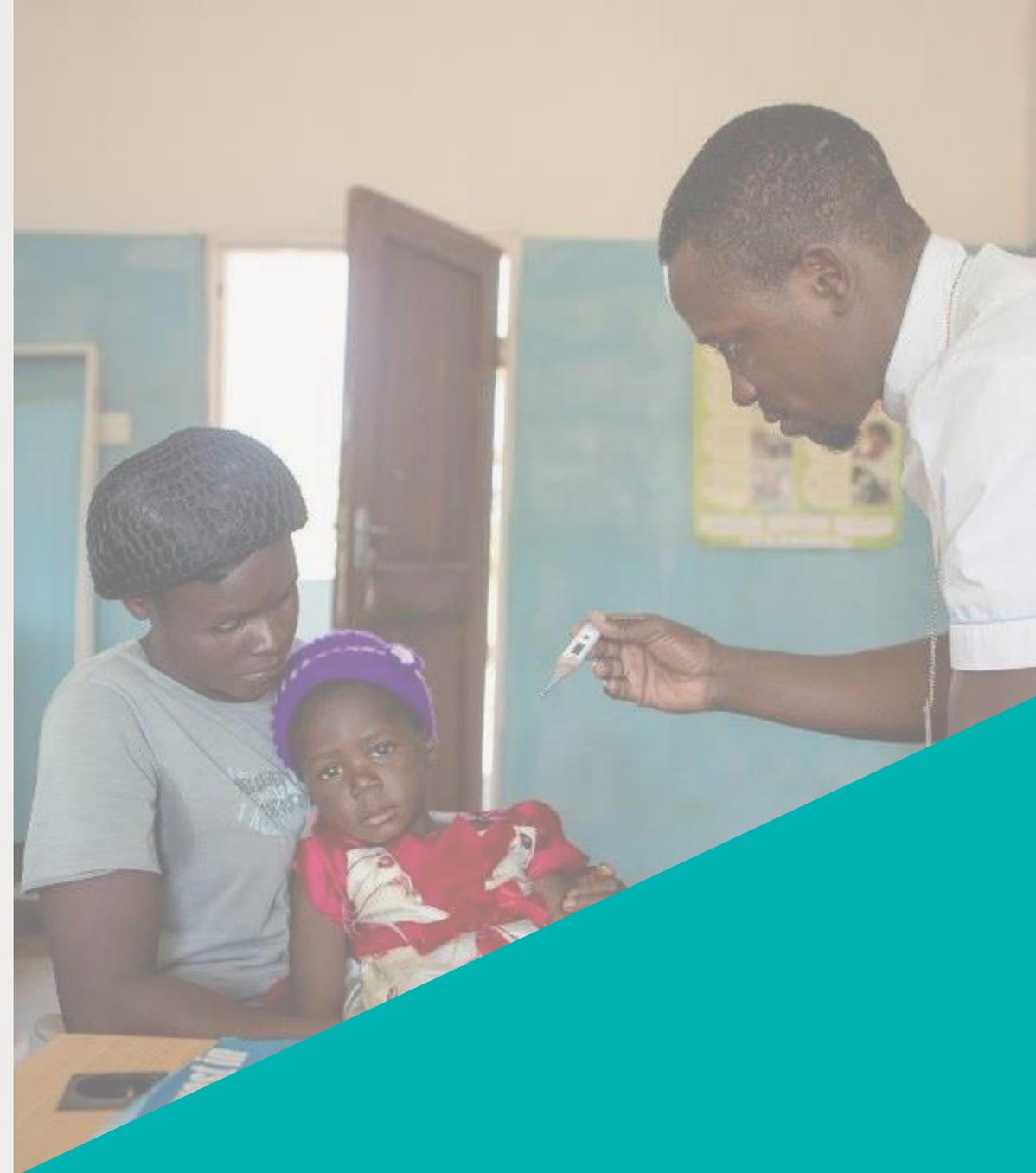
- Population affected by conflict

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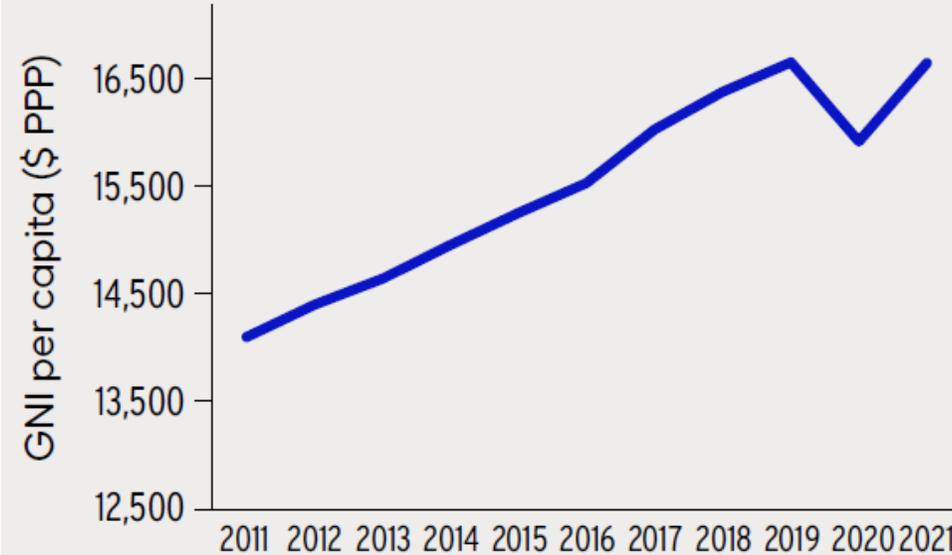
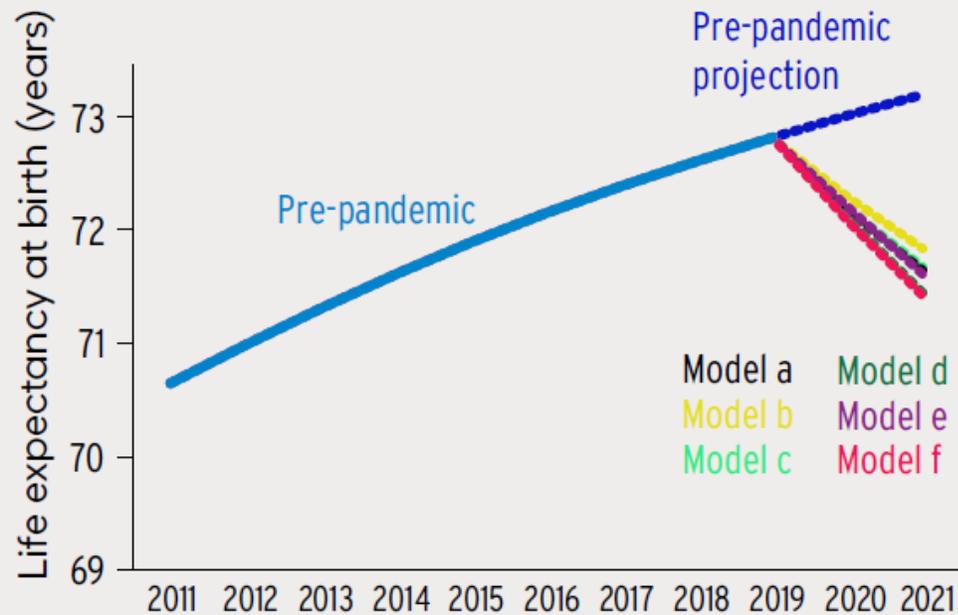
Global **life expectancy** at birth declined again in 2021 because of COVID 19, even though vaccines were more readily available in most countries.



# Healthcare systems outmatched by new human security challenges



The global economy is recovering, but people's health is not



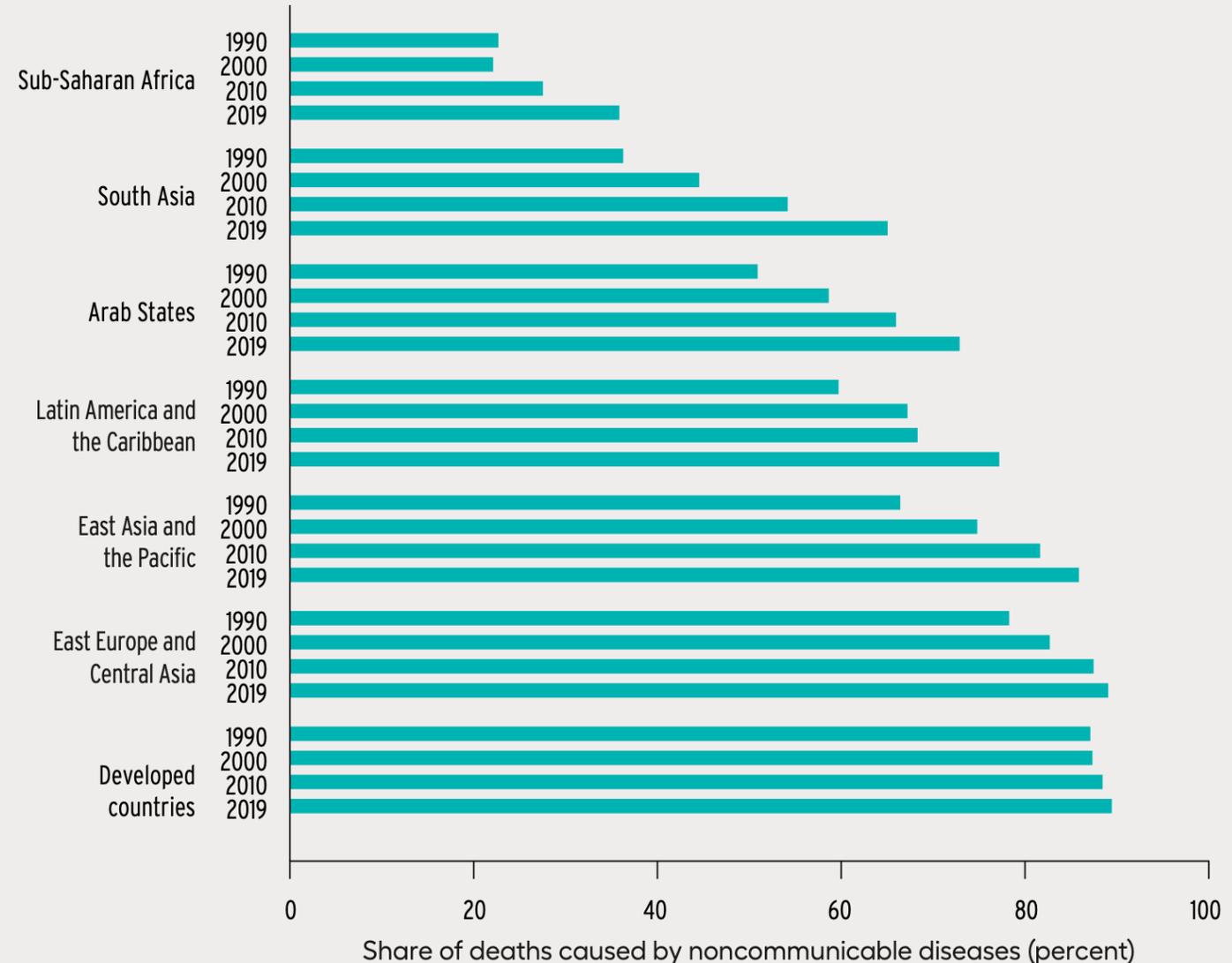
Note: Estimates and projections of life expectancy at birth are based on excess mortality data linked to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Source: Human Development Report Office based on data from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Human Mortality Database.

# Human security threats in health



- Uneven impact and recovery from COVID-19
- Increase in noncommunicable disease
- Inadequate and unaffordable health care systems, even in high HDI countries



Source: Human Development Report Office based IHME (2020).

# Reinforcing human security through enhanced healthcare systems



- Moving towards universalism in healthcare would directly enhance human security
- But healthcare universalism is weaker and improving less rapidly in developing countries compared to developed countries.
- Less universal healthcare systems affect the wellbeing and agency of people in developing countries, as well the world's response to human security threats in the Anthropocene



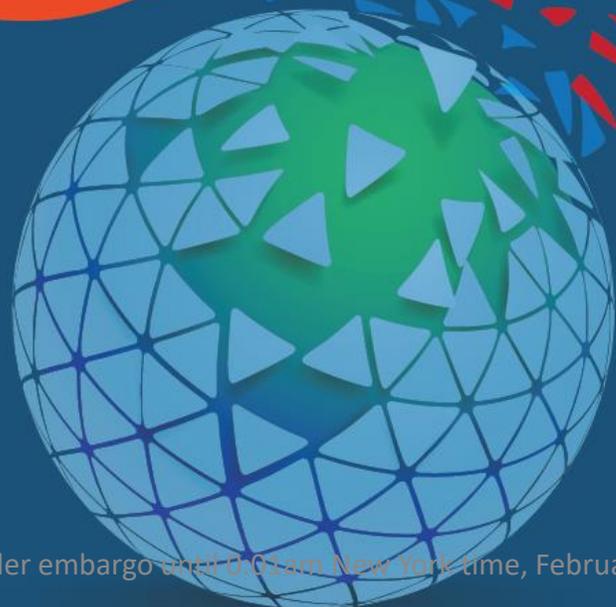
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