HEALTH

Globalization and its pathologies

Complete table at: **www.socialwatch.org/statistics2008**

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) / EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	MALARIA (cases per 1,000 people)	TUBERCULOSIS (cases per 100,000 people)	PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS (15-49 years old, %)	INFANT MORTALITY (per 1,000 live births)	UNDER-5 MORTALITY (per 1,000 live births)
→	Afghanistan (52)	24.7 "	231 →	<0.1	165 "	257 "
→	Albania (94)		26 →		15 →	17 →
→	Algeria (94)	<0.1 "	56 ←	<0.1 "	33 →	38 →
"	Andorra (—)		17 →		3 "	3 "
"	Angola (62)	106.9 ←	344 →	3.3 "	154 "	260 "
—	Antigua and Barbuda (—)		9 →		10	11
→	Argentina (98)	<0.1 "	48 →	0.5 "	14 →	16 →
→	Armenia (96)	<0.1 "	80 ←	0.1 "	21 →	24 →
"	Australia (99)		7 →	<0.1 "	5 "	6 →
→	Austria (—)		10 →	0.2 "	4 →	5 →
"	Azerbaijan (85)	0.1 "	87 ←	<0.1	73 →	88 →
→	Bahamas (99)		40 →	2.8 "	13 →	14 →
→	Bahrain (99)		45 →		9 →	10 →
→	Bangladesh (57)	0.4 "	391 →	<0.1	52 →	69 →
→	Barbados (99)		11 →	1.2 "	11 →	12 →
"	Belarus (99)		71 ←	0.2	12 →	13 →
→	Belgium (99)		11 →	0.2 "	4 →	4 →
→	Belize (93)	3.7 →	56 →	2.1 "	14 →	16 →
→	Benin (68)	122.0 ←	135 →	1.6 "	88 →	148 →
→	Bhutan (78)	1.7 →	96 →	<0.1	63 →	70 →
→	Bolivia (80)	2.3 "	266 →	0.1 "	50 →	61 →
→	Bosnia and Herzegovina (—)		57 →	<0.1	13 →	15 →
←	Botswana (92)	12.6 ←	454 ←	23.6 →	90 ←	124 ←
→	Brazil (92)	2.1 "	55 →	0.5 "	19 →	20 →
"	Brunei Darussalam (100)		99 →	<0.1 "	8 "	9 "
"	Bulgaria (99)		41 →	<0.1	12 "	14 →
"	Burkina Faso (64)	114.9 ←	476 ←	2.0 →	122 "	204 "
→	Burma/Myanmar (76)	14.5 →	169 →	1.0 "	74 →	104 →
"	Burundi (58)	274.0 ←	714 ←	3.1 →	109 →	181 →
→	Cambodia (66)	5.0 →	665 →	1.5 →	65 →	82 →
"	Cameroon (70)	46.0 →	237 ←	4.9 →	87 "	149 ←
"	Canada (99)		4 →	0.2 "	5 "	6 "
→	Cape Verde (93)	0.3 "	324 →		25 →	34 →
"	Central African Republic (65)	24.7 →	528 ←	10.0 →	115 "	175 "
←	Chad (42)	47.7 ←	570 ←	3.1 →	124 ←	209 ←
→	Chile (100)		16 →	0.2 "	8 →	9 →
→	China (90)	<0.1 "	201 →	<0.1 "	20 →	24 →
→	Colombia (90)	3.7 "	59 →	0.5 "	17 →	21 →
→	Comoros (79)	5.1 →	86 →	0.5	51 →	68 →
←	Congo, DR (69)	83.1 ←	645 ←	2.9 →	129 "	205 "
←	Congo, Rep. (79)	5.3 →	566 ←	4.7 "	79 ←	126 ←
→	Cook Islands (90)		24 →		16 →	19 →
→	Costa Rica (94)	0.2 "	17 →	0.2 "	11 →	12 →
→	Côte d'Ivoire (79)	24.9 →	747 ←	6.4 "	90 →	127 →

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→	Croatia (99)		64	<0.1	5	6	
→	Cuba (99)		10	<0.1	5	7	
→	Cyprus (99)		6		3	4	
→	Czech Republic (99)		10	<0.1	3	4	
→	Denmark (98)		7	0.1	4	5	
→	Djibouti (75)	7.2	1300	3.0	86	130	
‖	Dominica (97)		16		13	15	
→	Dominican Republic (88)	0.1	118	1.0	25	29	
→	Ecuador (83)	4.0	195	0.2	21	24	
→	Egypt (88)	<0.1	31	<0.1	29	35	
→	El Salvador (79)	<0.1	64	0.8	22	25	
←	Equatorial Guinea (59)		404	2.9	124	206	
→	Eritrea (67)	17.4	218	2.2	48	74	
→	Estonia (99)		40	0.9	5	7	
→	Ethiopia (54)	8.0	641	3.0	77	123	
→	Fiji (99)		30	0.5	16	18	
‖	Finland (100)		4	<0.1	3	4	
→	France (99)		11	0.3	4	4	
‖	Gabon (82)	66.8	428	6.8	60	91	
→	Gambia (70)	100.5	423	2.1	84	113	
‖	Georgia (89)	0.1	84	0.2	28	32	
→	Germany (100)		5	<0.1	4	4	
‖	Ghana (66)	169.8	379	2.2	76	120	
→	Greece (100)		16	<0.1	4	4	
→	Grenada (92)		8		16	20	
→	Guatemala (68)	2.5	103	0.8	31	41	
‖	Guinea (66)	109.5	466	1.5	98	161	
→	Guinea-Bissau (61)	134.6	313	3.5	119	200	
‖	Guyana (81)	36.1	215	2.1	46	62	
→	Haiti (—)	1.2	402	3.4	60	80	
→	Honduras (78)	1.5	95	1.4	23	27	
→	Hungary (99)		21	<0.1	6	7	
‖	Iceland (100)		3	0.5	2	3	
→	India (71)	1.7	299	0.7	57	76	
→	Indonesia (84)	1.0	253	0.1	26	34	
→	Iran (91)	0.2	28	0.1	30	34	
→	Iraq (83)	<0.1	78		37	46	
→	Ireland (100)		11	0.2	4	5	
→	Israel (100)		6		4	5	
→	Italy (99)		6	0.3	4	4	
‖	Jamaica (95)		8	1.4	26	31	
‖	Japan (99)		29	<0.1	3	4	
→	Jordan (97)		6		21	25	
→	Kazakhstan (98)		142	0.1	26	29	
‖	Kenya (71)	3.9	334	6.1	79	121	
→	Kiribati (88)		402		47	64	
—	Korea, DPR (—)	0.7	180		42		
→	Korea, Rep. (100)	<0.1	123	<0.1	5	5	
→	Kuwait (98)		25		9	11	
→	Kyrgyzstan (95)	0.1	137	0.1	36	41	
→	Lao, PDR (58)	3.3	292	0.1	59	75	
‖	Latvia (99)		60	0.5	8	9	
→	Lebanon (95)		12	0.1	26	30	
←	Lesotho (72)		513	22.7	102	132	

Summary: Current Situation (colour) / Evolution (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	MALARIA (cases per 1,000 people)	TUBERCULOSIS (cases per 100,000 people)	PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS (15-49 years old, %)	INFANT MORTALITY (per 1,000 live births)	UNDER-5 MORTALITY (per 1,000 live births)
←	Liberia (65)	301.5 ←	578 ←		157 II	235 II
→	Libya (98)		18 →		17 →	18 →
—	Liechtenstein (—)				3 →	3 →
→	Lithuania (99)		61 →	0.1 II	7 II	8 →
→	Luxembourg (97)		10 →	0.5 II	4 →	4 →
→	Macedonia (96)		33 →	<0.1 II	15 →	17 →
→	Madagascar (61)	121.5 ←	415 ←	0.5 →	72 →	115 →
→	Malawi (62)	240.4 →	322 →	12.5 →	76 →	120 →
→	Malaysia (99)	0.2 II	125 →	0.4 II	10 →	12 →
→	Maldives (86)		54 →		26 →	30 →
→	Mali (69)	62.2 ←	578 →	1.6 II	119 →	217 →
→	Malta (100)		5 →	0.5 →	5 →	6 →
→	Marshall Islands (93)		241 →		50 →	56 →
II	Mauritania (66)	59.6 ←	606 ←	0.6 II	78 →	125 →
→	Mauritius (98)	<0.1 II	40 →	0.4	13 →	14 →
→	Mexico (94)	<0.1 II	25 →	0.2 II	29 →	35 →
→	Micronesia (—)		109 →		33 →	41 →
II	Moldova (96)		154 ←	0.8	16 →	19 →
→	Monaco (—)		2 →		3 →	4 →
→	Mongolia (95)		191 →	<0.1 II	34 →	43 →
—	Montenegro		49		9 →	10 →
→	Morocco (79)	<0.1 II	79 →	<0.1	34 →	37 →
II	Mozambique (66)	269.7 ←	624 ←	14.4 ←	96 →	138 →
→	Namibia (85)	223.4 →	658 →	17.7 →	45 →	61 →
—	Nauru (—)		134 →		25	30
→	Nepal (65)	0.4 II	244 →	0.4 II	46 →	59 →
→	Netherlands (100)		6 →	0.1 II	4 II	5 →
→	New Zealand (98)		9 →	<0.1 II	5 →	6 →
→	Nicaragua (72)	1.2 →	74 →	0.2 II	29 →	36 →
→	Niger (52)	59.1 →	314 →	1.0 II	148 →	253 →
→	Nigeria (63)	21.0 ←	615 ←	3.5 →	99 →	191 →
—	Niue (—)		85 →			
→	Norway (100)		4 →	<0.1 II	3 →	4 →
→	Oman (99)	<0.1 →	14 →		10 →	12 →
→	Pakistan (64)	0.8 II	263 →	<0.1 II	78 →	97 →
→	Palau (99)		51 →		10 →	11 →
→	Panama (91)	2.9 ←	43 →	0.8 II	18 →	23 →
→	Papua New Guinea (68)	12.3 →	513 →	1.6 ←	54 →	73 →
→	Paraguay (85)	0.2 II	100 →	0.3 II	19 →	22 →
→	Peru (86)	2.9 II	187 →	0.5 II	21 →	25 →
→	Philippines (77)	0.5 II	432 →	<0.1 II	24 →	32 →
→	Poland (100)		27 →	<0.1	6 →	7 →
→	Portugal (99)		24 →	0.4 II	3 →	5 →
II	Qatar (96)		73 →		18 II	21 →
II	Romania (96)		140 ←	<0.1	16 →	18 →
II	Russian Federation (98)		125 ←	0.8 II	14 →	16 →
→	Rwanda (53)	102.1 →	562 ←	3.1 →	98 →	160 →
→	Samoa (97)		25 →		23 →	28 →
→	San Marino (—)		5 →		3 →	3 →
→	Sao Tome and Principe (82)	393.5 →	252 →		63 II	96 →
→	Saudi Arabia (97)	<0.1 II	62 →		21 →	25 →
II	Senegal (71)	119.3 ←	504 ←	0.8 II	60 →	116 →
—	Serbia		41		7	8
→	Seychelles (—)		56 →		12 →	13 →

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←	Sierra Leone (61)	95.4 ←	977 ←	1.4	159 →	270 →
→	Singapore (91)		25 →	0.2 ‖	2 →	3 →
→	Slovakia (97)		18 →	<0.1	7 →	8 →
→	Slovenia (99)		15 →	<0.1 ‖	3 →	4 →
⟶	Solomon Islands (82)	189.9 ⟶	194 ⟶		55 ⟶	73 ⟶
⟶	Somalia (—)	2.4 ‖	293 →	0.9	90 ⟶	145 ⟶
‖	South Africa (89)	0.3 ‖	998 ←	16.6 ⟶	56 ←	69 ←
→	Spain (99)		24 →	0.4 ‖	4 ‖	4 →
→	Sri Lanka (98)	0.6 →	80 →	<0.1 ‖	11 →	13 →
→	St Kitts and Nevis (95)		17 →		17 →	19 →
→	St Lucia (98)		22 →		12 →	14 →
→	St Vincent and Grenadines (93)		47 →		17 ‖	20 →
→	Sudan (76)	91.8 ⟶	419 ←	1.5 ‖	61 →	89 ⟶
→	Suriname (86)	33.7 ←	95 →	1.6 ‖	29 →	39 →
←	Swaziland (77)	34.0 ←	1084 ←	34.5 ⟶	112 ←	164 ←
‖	Sweden (100)		5 →	0.1 ‖	3 ‖	3 →
→	Switzerland (97)		5 →	0.3 ‖	4 ‖	5 →
→	Syria (94)	<0.1 ‖	40 →		12 ⟶	14 →
→	Tajikistan (85)	0.9 ‖	298 ←	0.1	56 ⟶	68 ⟶
⟶	Tanzania (73)	289.7 ⟶	459 ←	5.9 ⟶	74 ⟶	118 ⟶
⟶	Thailand (96)	0.6 →	197 ⟶	1.1 ‖	7 →	8 →
⟶	Timor-Leste (60)	40.9	789 ⟶		47 ⟶	55 ⟶
⟶	Togo (71)	92.1 ⟶	787 ←	2.9 →	69 ⟶	108 ⟶
→	Tonga (95)		34 →		20 →	24 →
‖	Trinidad and Tobago (95)		10 →	2.5 ‖	33 ‖	38 ←
⟶	Tunisia (95)		28 →	0.1 ‖	19 ⟶	23 →
⟶	Turkey (92)	0.1 ‖	32 →		24 ⟶	26 →
⟶	Turkmenistan (—)	<0.1 ‖	78 →	<0.1	45 ⟶	51 ⟶
⟶	Tuvalu (89)		504 ⟶		31 →	38 →
‖	Uganda (59)	477.9 ←	561 ←	6.3 ←	78 →	134 ⟶
‖	Ukraine (99)		114 ←	1.0 ‖	20 ‖	24 ‖
→	United Arab Emirates (99)		24 →		8 →	8 →
‖	United Kingdom (99)		12 →	0.1 ‖	5 ‖	6 →
→	United States of America (99)		3 →	0.5 ‖	6 →	8 →
→	Uruguay (96)		31 →	0.4 ‖	11 →	12 →
→	Uzbekistan (—)	<0.1 ‖	145 ←	0.2 ‖	38 ⟶	43 ⟶
⟶	Vanuatu (87)	71.9 ⟶	65 ⟶		30 →	36 →
→	Venezuela (95)	1.2 ‖	52 →	0.6 ‖	18 →	21 →
⟶	Vietnam (90)	0.5 ‖	225 ⟶	0.4 ‖	15 ⟶	17 ⟶
—	West Bank and Gaza (—)				20 →	22 →
⟶	Yemen (61)	13.2 ←	132 ⟶		75 ⟶	100 ⟶
→	Zambia (73)	190.2 →	568 →	15.8 →	102 ‖	182 ‖
←	Zimbabwe (80)	97.6 ←	597 ←	19.2 ⟶	68 ←	105 ←

DEFINITION OF INDICATORS:

Malaria (cases per 1,000 people): Total number of malaria cases reported to the World Health Organization by countries in which malaria is endemic, per 1,000 people. Many countries report only laboratory-confirmed cases, but many in Sub-Saharan Africa report clinically diagnosed cases as well.
Last available data: 2003; evolution since 1990.

Tuberculosis (cases per 100,000 people): Total number of tuberculosis cases reported to the World Health Organization per 100,000 people. A tuberculosis case is defined as a patient in whom tuberculosis has been bacteriologically confirmed or diagnosed by a clinician. Last available data: 2005; evolution since 1990.

People living with HIV/AIDS (15-49 years old, %): Percentage of adults (15-49 years) living with HIV/AIDS. Last available data: 2005; evolution since 2001.

Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births): Number of infants dying before reaching one year of age, per 1,000 live births in a given year. Last available data: 2006; evolution since 1990.

Under-5 mortality (per 1,000 live births): Probability of dying between birth and exactly five years of age expressed per 1,000 live births. Last available data: 2006; evolution since 1990.

Methodological notes and guidelines at the end of the section.

Globalization and its pathologies

T he 2007 World Health Organization (WHO) Report[1] highlights the efforts made to obtain relatively stable global sanitary safety during the last 57 years, as from the publication of the first legally binding regulations[2] to prevent the propagation of international diseases.

In spite of the efforts and knowledge accumulated since then, the present scenario evinces complexities unforeseeable over half a century ago. According to recent estimates, in 2006 some 2 billion passengers travelled by airplane. This indicator of the astonishing mobility that technological progress affords nowadays, is at the same time, and from a different angle, a potential threat to global sanitary safety. That number of passengers can allow an epidemic occurring in one part of the world to reach, in a matter of hours, the other side of the globe.
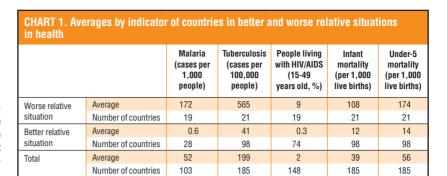
The Report also warns about other elements that challenged the world sanitary system. In the last 30 years diseases have been identified at an unprecedented rate. "There are now nearly 40 diseases that were unknown a generation ago. In addition, during the last five years, WHO has verified more than 1100 epidemic events worldwide."[3]

To the above elements can be added others derived from big accidents, climate change, reappearance of new and more resilient illnesses which were considered controlled or even eradicated, and the appearance of new diseases. Many of these are the unwanted consequences of progress at global level, even of achievements related to health.

Global risk, unequal problems

These scenarios are proof of the global reach of the different threats. The only way to effectively face the new challenges is by articulating the efforts made by each country separately with the implementation and development of global policies in which developed countries must help developing countries, in particular the poorest, not only to repair injustices between North and South but also because developed countries cannot achieve security in their territories if they disregard what is happening in the rest.

Nevertheless, the fact that the risk is global does not imply an egalitarian distribution of problems: once again, asymmetry, inequity and
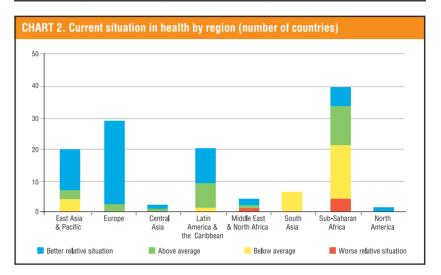
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1   World Health Organization (WHO) (2007). *The World Health Report. A safer future: global public health security in the 21st century.*

2   International Health Regulations (IHR), adopted in 1951. A new expanded and revised IHR came into force in June 2007.

3   WHO, *op. cit.*

CHART 1. Averages by indicator of countries in better and worse relative situations in health

		Malaria (cases per 1,000 people)	Tuberculosis (cases per 100,000 people)	People living with HIV/AIDS (15-49 years old, %)	Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births)	Under-5 mortality (per 1,000 live births)
Worse relative situation	Average	172	565	9	108	174
	Number of countries	19	21	19	21	21
Better relative situation	Average	0.6	41	0.3	12	14
	Number of countries	28	98	74	98	98
Total	Average	52	199	2	39	56
	Number of countries	103	185	148	185	185

CHART 2. Current situation in health by region (number of countries)

Legend: Better relative situation · Above average · Below average · Worse relative situation

CHART 3. Current situation and evolution in health (number of countries)

	←	←	❙❙	→	→	Total
Worse relative situation	1	7	6	5	2	21
Below average	0	2	8	10	12	32
Above average	0	0	7	10	18	35
Better relative situation	0	0	16	70	11	97
Total	1	9	37	95	43	185

injustice between developed countries and the rest of the planet make global threats in the short run much more harmful to the more impoverished and more unequal societies. The summary in Chart 1 shows the averages for different illnesses in countries in the better and the worse sanitary situation. In the case of malaria, nearly one out of five people in the less favoured group have suffer illness, while in the more favoured group there is less than one case per 1,000 inhabitants. Tuberculosis is 15 times more prevalent in the countries in the worse relative situation than in the group of the more privileged countries.

Finally, a comparison of the trend for the HIV/AIDS pandemic between last year's and this year's report shows that the situation in the less advantaged countries has remained constant, with 9% of carriers in the 15 to 49 age bracket, whereas there was a slight improvement in countries in the better

relative situation, which moved from 0.4% to 0.3% for the reference population.

Other crucial indicators for understanding the global situation are infant mortality (under 1 year) and mortality in under -5. For many years the infant mortality rate was widely used as an indicator linked to the general development rate of a country. Lately, the implementation of focalized policies has led to a certain progress in infant mortality, with no correlation in progress to the general development of the country. But reducing mortality in children under the age of 5 tends to be more difficult, since this requires more long-term changes in access to health services and quality of life. This is why mortality in the first few years of life is still a useful indicator of the general sanitary situation of a country. Data for this variable show a relatively stagnant situation, if compared with last year's report. Also unchanged is the gap between countries in the

better and the worse situation: mortality in under fives is still 13 times greater in the latter group.

If the behaviour of countries in different geographical zones is analyzed for the indicators in that area, Chart 2 is more than eloquent in revealing the distressing situation faced by Sub-Saharan Africa.

With respect to overall health progress, the comparison between the current situation and recent progress (Chart 3), the picture is more encouraging, at least for the countries that can provide information. Of these 185 countries only 10 regressed, while 3 out of 4 evinced slight or significant progress. However the values for Equatorial Guinea show that there is still significant regression. ■

The figures for infant mortality in countries in the worse relative situation are alarming. In this subgroup, the average infant mortality is 108 children for every 1,000 live births, 9 times higher than for the subgroup in a better relative situation. There are also large differences within the less advantaged subgroup. Eleven countries double these values, with over 200 deaths for every 1,000 live births: 1 infant dies out of 5 live births.

Countries	Infant mortality (per 1.000 live births)	Countries	Infant mortality (per 1.000 live births)	Countries	Infant mortality (per 1.000 live births)
Sierra Leone	270	Liberia	235	Congo, DR	205
Angola	260	Mali	217	Burkina Faso	204
Afghanistan	257	Chad	209	Guinea-Bissau	200
Niger	253	Equatorial Guinea	206	**Average for the 185 countries**	**39**