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Global Health Estimates 2019: WHO

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Why in News

Recently, the World Health Organization's (WHO) released the **2019 Global Health Estimates**.

- The **WHO Global Health Estimates** provide a comprehensive and comparable assessment of mortality and loss of health due to diseases and **injuries for all regions** of the world.
- The new data of **Global Health Estimates** cover the period from **2000 to 2019**.
- The Estimates are in consonance with the report **Ten Threats to Global Health in 2019** by **WHO**.

Key Points

- **Key Findings of the Global Health Estimates 2019:**

- **Top Ten Causes of Death:** Ischaemic heart disease, Stroke, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, Lower respiratory infections, Neonatal conditions, Trachea, bronchus and lung cancers, Alzheimer disease and other dementias, Diarrhoeal diseases, Diabetes mellitus, Kidney diseases.
- **Non-communicable diseases:** Make up **7 of the world's top 10 causes of death, an increase** from 4 of the 10 leading causes in **2000**.
 - **Heart disease** : It now represents **16% of total deaths** from all causes and the number of **deaths from heart disease increased by more than two million** since 2000 to nearly 9 million in 2019.
 - **Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia:** Ranked 3rd in both the Americas and Europe in 2019.
 - Women are disproportionately affected:** globally, 65% of deaths from Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia are women.
 - **Diabetes:** Deaths from **diabetes increased by 70%** globally between 2000 and 2019, with an **80%** rise in deaths among males.
 - In the **Eastern Mediterranean**, deaths from diabetes have more than doubled and represent the greatest percentage increase of all WHO regions.
- **Communicable diseases:** They still take in low-income countries: 6 of the top 10 causes of death in low-income countries are still communicable diseases, including **malaria** (6th), **tuberculosis** (8th) and **Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)** (9th).
 - **Pneumonia and other lower respiratory infections:** These were the deadliest group of communicable diseases and together **ranked as the fourth** leading cause of death.
 - However, compared to 2000, **lower respiratory infections were claiming fewer lives than in the past**, with the global number of deaths decreasing by nearly half a million.
 - The reduction is **in line with a general global decline in the percentage of deaths caused by communicable diseases**.
 - **AIDS** : It dropped from the **8th leading cause of death in 2000 to the 19th in 2019**, reflecting the success of efforts to prevent infection, test for the virus and treat the disease over the last two decades.
 - It remains the **fourth leading cause of death in Africa**, the number of deaths has dropped by more than half, falling from over 1 million in 2000 to 435 000 in 2019 in Africa.
 - **Tuberculosis** : It is no longer in the global top 10, falling from **7th place in 2000 to 13th in 2019**, with a **30%** reduction in global deaths.
 - However, it remains among the **top 10 causes of deaths** in the **African and South-East Asian regions**, where it is the 8th and 5th leading cause respectively.

- More **non-communicable diseases** are now causing deaths worldwide, there has been a global decline in deaths from **communicable diseases**, which however still remain a **major challenge in low- and middle-income countries**.
- **Longevity**: The estimates confirm the **growing trend for longevity as in 2019**, people were living more than 6 years longer than in 2000.
 - Global average of longevity was **73 years in 2019 compared to nearly 67 in 2000**.
 - The new projections state that people are living longer but with more disability.

Disability, however, is on the rise.
- **Suggestions:**
 - There is a need for an **intensified global focus on preventing and treating cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases**, as well as tackling injuries, in all regions of the world, as set out in the agenda for the **Sustainable Development Goals**.
 - The world needs to rapidly **step up prevention, diagnosis and treatment of non-communicable diseases**.
 - There is an urgency to improve primary health care **equitably and holistically**. **Strong primary health care** is clearly the **foundation on which everything rests**, from combating non-communicable diseases to managing a global pandemic.
 - **Governments and stakeholders need to urgently invest** in data and health information systems to **support timely and effective decision-making**.
- **Indian Initiatives to Improve Health sector:**
 - **Ayushman Bharat**: It is a flagship initiative that attempts to move away from the sectoral and segmented approach of service delivery to a **comprehensive need-based health care service**.

Aim: It has been launched by the government with an aim to move towards a provision of universal healthcare in the country.
 - **POSHAN Abhiyaan**: It aims to **ensure service delivery and interventions** by use of technology, behavioural change through convergence and lays-down specific targets to be achieved across different monitoring parameters.
 - **National Digital Health Mission**: It is a complete **digital health ecosystem**. The **digital platform** will be launched with four key features — **health ID, personal health records, Digi Doctor and health facility registry**.

Source:IE