

Country consultations for the Global Health Estimates & Estimates of excess mortality associated with COVID-19 pandemic

Member States Information Session

31 October 2022

## Agenda



Steve MacFeely, Director, Department for Data and Analytics, Opening remarks and objectives Division of Data, Analytics and Delivery for Impact **Country consultation process** Saki Narita, Technical Officer Updates to the Global Health Estimates & Bochen Cao, Technical Officer & 03 excess mortality estimates William Msemburi, Technical Officer Feedback and discussions Facilitated by Saki Narita Haidong Wang, Unit Head, Monitoring, Forecasting & Next steps and closing **Inequalities Unit** 



## **Opening**

Dr. Steve MacFeely
Director, Department for Data and Analytics

## **Topics**

- Quantifying COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 deaths and disability for 2020 and 2021
- Country consultation process
- Updates to the estimates
- Next steps
- References



# Country consultation process

Dr. Saki Narita Technical Officer

## Country consultation process

- Circular Letter (Ref: C.L.38.2022) sent to Member States in August 2022 calling for country focal point nomination and confirmation for consultations of:
  - Global Health Estimates
  - Estimates of excess mortality associated with COVID-19 pandemic
- Nominated national focal point/s will receive access to Country Portal, an online country consultation platform on WHO's World Health Data Hub
- Preliminary country estimates and methods will be shared securely through the Country Portal with respective national focal points



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Ref.: C.L.38.2022

The World Health Organization (WHO) presents its compliments to Member States and has the honour to inform them of the planned publication of the Global Health Estimates for 2020 and updated estimates of excess mortality associated with COVID-19 pandemic for the period January 2020 – December 2021.

WHO's Global Health Estimates¹ provide the latest available data on causes of death, life expectancy and burden of diseases globally, by region and country, and by age, sex and income group. They provide key insights on mortality and morbidity trends to support informed decision-making on health policy and resource allocation. The forthcoming update will include an assessment of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemix.

In May 2022, WHO published the national, regional and global estimates of excess mortality associated with COVID-19 pandemic<sup>2</sup> for the period January 2020 – December 2021. These estimates are a comprehensive measure that accounts for both the direct and indirect impacts of the pandemic on mortality. Incorporating newly available data, the next publication will update age-sex distribution of the estimates for January 2020 – December 2021 and will not include new estimates for 2022.

Publication of these estimates is scheduled for early 2033. In an effort to simplify and streamline country consultation processes, online consultations will be held via WHO's Country Portal in the World Health Data Hub. This will allow active technical exchanges between Member States and WHO Secretariat for review of (i) national primary data sources, (ii) methodology, and (iii) preliminary individual country estimates derived from the statistical model applied to national primary data (where national data has been made available to WHO).

Reference is made to C.L. 29.2021 concerning nomination of a technical focal point(s) for the previous country consultation. Member States are requested to either confirm their focal point(s), change the designation, or nominate one if they have not done so. Confirmation, change or designation of focal point(s), together with contact details (full name, title, affiliation and email address), should be sent before 31 October 7022 to the Secretariat at healthstat@who.int. Newly designated focal point(s) will then receive instructions on how to access the Country Portal. Member States may have the same or separate focal point(s) for each of the respective consultations ie. the Global Health Estimates and excess mortality estimates.

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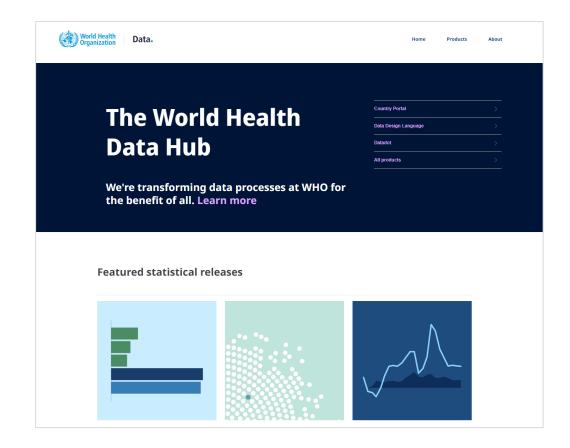
<sup>1</sup> https://www.who.int/data/global-health-estimates

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://www.who.int/data/stories/global-excess-deaths-associated-with-covid-19-january-2020-december 2021/

## Country Portal in the World Health Data Hub

Helping everyone access, trust and act on health data

- Country Portal provides country-specific engagement spaces for Member States (nominated focal points) and all three levels of WHO
  - ✓ User access
  - File sharing
  - ✓ Secure conversational spaces
  - ✓ Multilingual
- 141 countries have engaged in a Country Portal consultation



## Timeline - Online country consultation process



#### Nomination of focal points

Circular Letter (Ref: C.L.38.2022) Shared with MS in August 2022, calling for country focal points

Deadline 31 October extended to 30 November

# Opening of Country Portal for nominated focal points

#### MS focal points will:

- review methods, preliminary estimates including data sources
- share feedback
- provide advice on primary data sources that may not have been previously reported or used
- interact with WHO technical team

# Closing of country consultation & Finalization of estimates

Following MS feedback, WHO will finalize the estimates for publication

Planned release in April 2023



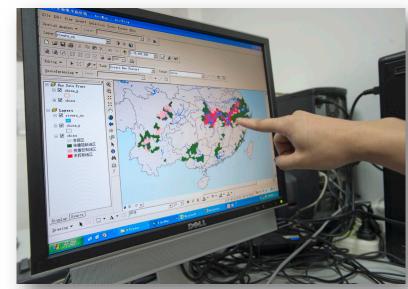
## Updates to the Global Health Estimates

Dr. Bochen Cao Technical Officer

## What are Global Health Estimates (GHE)?



- WHO's official estimates of mortality and loss of health by country, sex, age, year, and cause.
- Report on annual health outcomes for over 160 diseases and injuries for WHO Member States from 2000 to 2021.
- Consolidates and harmonizes best available data from multiple sources, including national vital registration data, latest estimates from WHO technical programmes, UN partners and interagency groups, Global Burden of Disease and other scientific studies.
- Uses a variety of demographic, statistical and epidemiological methods based on the best scientific evidence.



## Important use of the GHE data

- Monitor numerous health-related indicators pertinent to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and WHO's 13th General Programme of Work (GPW13).
  - healthy life expectancy (HALE)
  - child mortality
  - maternal mortality
  - premature mortality due to non-communicable diseases
  - suicide mortality
  - mortality due to road traffic injuries
  - mortality due to homicide, natural disasters and conflict
  - mortality attributable to poisoning, air pollution and WASH
- Guide decision-making and resource allocation
- Inputs to WHO flagship publications and external products by the academic community and general public
  - World Health Statistics
  - Global Monitoring Report for UHC

#### GHE & COVID-19

- COVID-19 has had profound impacts on population health and has become one of the leading causes of deaths in 2020 and 2021.
- Accurately measuring the impacts of COVID-19 on population-level mortality and morbidity is critical for informing decision making.
- GHE 2021 will provide the most recent globally comparable data for the direct and indirect impact of COVID-19 on population health outcomes in 2021, by age and sex, at national, regional and global levels

## Key updates in data and methods

- New data inputs:
  - Updated death registration data from countries up to 2021
  - Updated input mortality estimates for COVID-19 excess deaths, child mortality, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and cause fractions of mortality from the Global Burden of Diseases 2021 (GBD 2021).
  - Updated estimates of disability from GBD 2021.
- Updated methods:
  - Improved methods for assessing the completeness of vital registration data
  - Improved methods for estimating age-specific all-cause mortality

#### GHE launch

Date: April 2023

- Upgraded GHE website
  - access to the dataset and detailed technical documents
  - improved transparency, adhere to the Guidelines for Accurate and Transparent Health Estimates Reporting (GATHER)
  - highlighted key messages
  - interactive visualization tools



# Updates to the estimates of excess mortality associated with COVID-19 pandemic

Dr. William Msemburi Technical Officer

## Excess mortality associated with the COVID-19 pandemic

- Global, regional and country estimates for January 2020 to December 2021
- Age- and sex-disaggregated estimates
- Reported by WHO regions and World Bank income groups
- Point estimates and range

### Methods to estimate excess deaths by country, disaggregated by age and sex

- 1. Expected deaths were calculated using regression models that take annual and seasonal trends into consideration
- 2. The relationships between excess mortality and country-specific variables such as the reported COVID-19 rate are estimated using statistical models applied to the countries with reported data
- 3. The estimated relationships are used to predict excess mortality in the countries without reported data
- 4. Standard age- and sex-profiles for excess mortality are also established for 2020 and 2021 using data from the countries with reported data and applied to the countries without

Methodology available for download <u>here</u>

## Methodology follows best practices

- Adherence to the Guidelines for Accurate and Transparent Health Estimates Reporting (GATHER)
- Enables Member States to replicate estimates as well as use country-specific input data for estimates
- Transparent process, methodology and code
- Technical Advisory Group serves as a peer review mechanism
- Interactive country consultation process

# Welcome feedback from Member States



## Next steps

Dr. Haidong Wang
Unit Head, Monitoring, Forecasting & Inequalities Unit

## Next steps

- Confirmation/nomination of national focal points to <a href="mailto:healthstat@who.int">healthstat@who.int</a>
- Nominated focal points will be notified of the opening/closing of country consultations
- Release date will be communicated (Spring 2023)
- WHO will continue supporting countries to strengthen data and health information systems

## Monitoring progress towards SDGs



#### References

- Global Health Estimates:
   <a href="https://www.who.int/data/global-health-estimates">https://www.who.int/data/global-health-estimates</a>
- Global excess deaths associated with COVID-19 pandemic: <a href="https://www.who.int/data/stories/global-excess-deaths-associated-with-covid-19-january-2020-december-2021/">https://www.who.int/data/stories/global-excess-deaths-associated-with-covid-19-january-2020-december-2021/</a>
- Global excess deaths associated with COVID-19 pandemic FAQ: <a href="https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/global-excess-deaths-associated-with-the-COVID-19-pandemic">https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/global-excess-deaths-associated-with-the-COVID-19-pandemic</a>
- World Health Data Hub: https://data.who.int/

Please contact us @ <a href="mailto:healthstat@who.int">healthstat@who.int</a>