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**Life expectancy in Africa grows by 10 years – 8th August, 2022**

## Level 4

Life expectancy in Africa rose by nearly 10 years from 2000 to 2019. The average age an African died at rose from 46 to 56. The rise was the biggest of anywhere in the world. However, it was far below the global average of 64 years. The WHO says the improvement is because of better maternal and child healthcare. Advances in fighting infectious diseases, like malaria and HIV, and easier access to health services also helped.

The WHO urged African nations to keep the momentum going, so life expectancy rates keep rising. It called for more investment in healthcare to deal with future challenges. There will be more pressure on hospitals from growing populations. The WHO said there was a big increase in the numbers of Africans with high blood pressure and diabetes. It added: "Unless countries enhance measures...the health gains could be jeopardized."

## Level 5

Life expectancy in Africa rose by nearly 10 years in the years between 2000 and 2019. The average age an African could expect to live to be rose from 46 to 56. The WHO said the rise was the best of anywhere in the world. However, it was still far below the global average of 64 years. The figures are from the WHO's State of Health in Africa report. This says the improvement is because of better maternal and child healthcare, advances in fighting infectious diseases (such as malaria and HIV), and easier access to health services.

The WHO report urged African nations to keep the momentum going, to ensure life expectancy rates continue to rise. It called for more investment in healthcare systems so that they can deal with future challenges. These include an added pressure on hospitals from growing populations, and the growth of non-communicable diseases. The WHO said there is a worrying increase in the numbers of Africans with high blood pressure and diabetes. The WHO said: "The progress must not stall. Unless countries enhance measures...the health gains could be jeopardized."

## Level 6

People's life expectancy in Africa rose by nearly 10 years in the first two decades of this century. In the year 2000, the average African could expect to live to be 46. That rose to 56 in 2019. The World Health Organization said the rise was the best of any region in the world over the same period. However, the WHO said Africa was still considerably below the global average of 64 years. The statistics are from the WHO's State of Health in Africa report, which was issued on Thursday. It attributes the improvement to better maternal, newborn and child healthcare, advances in fighting infectious diseases (such as TB, malaria and HIV), and the easier access to essential health services.

The WHO report urged African nations to keep the momentum going to ensure life expectancy rates continue on their upward trend. It called for greater investment in health care systems so that they are better equipped to deal with the challenges ahead. These include an added strain on hospitals from a growing population, and the growth of non-communicable diseases like cancer. The WHO said there is a worrying spike in the numbers of Africans experiencing hypertension and diabetes. The WHO's Regional Director for Africa said: "The progress must not stall. Unless countries enhance measures...the health gains could be jeopardized."