Since 1970, the number of infant deaths per thousand live births worldwide has been reduced by 51. Infant deaths are when babies die during their first year of life. This means that 6.8 million children born in 2002, reached the age of one, who would not have done if the infant mortality rate had remained at 1970 levels.

The biggest improvements in infant mortality rates between 1970 and 2002 have been in the Middle East and Eastern Europe. Every territory with data available recorded reduced infant mortality over this period.

Territory size shows the proportion of all reduction in infant mortality worldwide, between 1970 and 2002, that has occurred there. The map shows the children born in 2002 who will reach their first birthday, when their counterparts in 1970 did not.

“We thought it was evil spirits that made our babies sick ... we have been taught it is the lack of clean water and the absence of cleanliness.”

Zeytu, 2004

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