

**Poverty and child mortality in different contexts:
can Mozambique learn from the decline in mortality
at the turn of the 19th century in Stockholm?**

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Background

Child mortality in sub-Saharan Africa (worsening)

Selective or comprehensive primary health care? (**Magnussen at al., Health Affairs 2004; Bryce at al., The Lancet 2003**)

Learning from history? (**McKeown 1976; Szreter, Social History of Medicine, 1998**)

The contexts being compared

- Mozambique 1973-1997; Stockholm 1878-1925
- Similarities (poverty, household environment, diseases of poverty)
- Differences (Age structure, education levels, Malaria, HIV/AIDS, cold winters)

The evidence

- Mozambique 1973-1997-Children with no toilet facility and with Well as as a source of drinking water had excess risk mortality. (Macassa at al., EAMJ 2004)
- Stockholm 1878-1925- Diarrhoea was the main cause of death and main cause of mortality decline. (**Burstrom at al., AJPH 2005**)

Table 1. Rate Ratios with CI for CMR in urban areas of Mozambique, DHS 1997

Variable	RR (UNJ)	RR (ADem)	RR (ASOC)
No toilet	2.68 (1.05-6.85)	2.55 (1.00-6.53)	2.30 (0.87-6.11)
Well	1.63 (1.10-2.42)	1.57 (1.05-2.32)	1.48 (0.97-2.26)

Table 2. Diarrhoea mortality decline, Stockholm 1878-1925

	1878-1882	1918-1925
Overall	130/1000	31/1000
Diarrhoea	59/1000	2/1000

What really happened in 19th century Stockholm?

- Three bodies : Swedish state, The Stockholm board of health, Public health movement
- **Swedish state**: universal education, laws
- **The Stockholm board of health**: enforced the political decisions and the state legislation, clean water, sanitation, HEALTH POLICE
- **Public Health movement** : NGO's- enhancing personal hygiene
- DEVELOPMENTS IN LINE WITH SZRETER, NATHASSON

What can Mozambique and other sub-Saharan African countries learn ?

- It is possible to reduce high levels of mortality (public health interventions that cover especially the poor); **Universal + Targeted interventions**
- The decline of mortality in 19th century Stockholm took time to happen, thus patience is needed when evaluating large-scale projects (**Seldom in low-income countries**)
- **Good governance and political will.**