From The Editor In Chief

At the global level, long-term declining trends in infectious diseases continue. The prevalence of certain risk factors related to healthy ageing has decreased, and reductions in both tobacco use and alcohol consumption have been observed. Nevertheless, billions of people worldwide still lack access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene services, with access in rural areas continuing to lag behind that in urban settings. Although long-term decreases in deaths due to injuries—such as road traffic accidents, homicides, and unintentional poisonings—have been documented, substantial regional inequalities persist, and the risk associated with these causes remains consistently higher among men. Environmental risks, including air pollution, continue to account for millions of preventable deaths each year. Overall mortality increases markedly with advancing age and has been reported to be approximately ten times higher among individuals aged 85 years and older compared with younger adults (Ref: World Health Statistics 2026: Monitoring Health for the SDGs, Sustainable Development Goals. ISBN: 978-92-4-012248-2).

One of the most critical gaps in global mortality reporting is the lack of complete, timely, and disaggregated mortality data, particularly in low- and lower-middle-income countries. The availability of timely, comprehensive, and high-quality disaggregated data on mortality and causes of death is essential for monitoring health trends, developing effective policies, and preparing for future health crises. Although global mortality data reporting has improved over time, significant gaps remain, especially in resource-limited settings.

Despite these challenges, progress is expected through capacity-building initiatives, increasing digitalization, and the transition to the International Classification of Diseases, 11th Revision (ICD-11). These developments are anticipated to contribute to the gradual improvement of mortality and cause-of-death reporting, even in settings with limited resources.

Within this context, meaningful and evidence-based advances in health protection and healthy ageing strategies can be achieved.

Yeşim GÖKÇE KUTSAL