

Part 1 Output - 2/21/2018

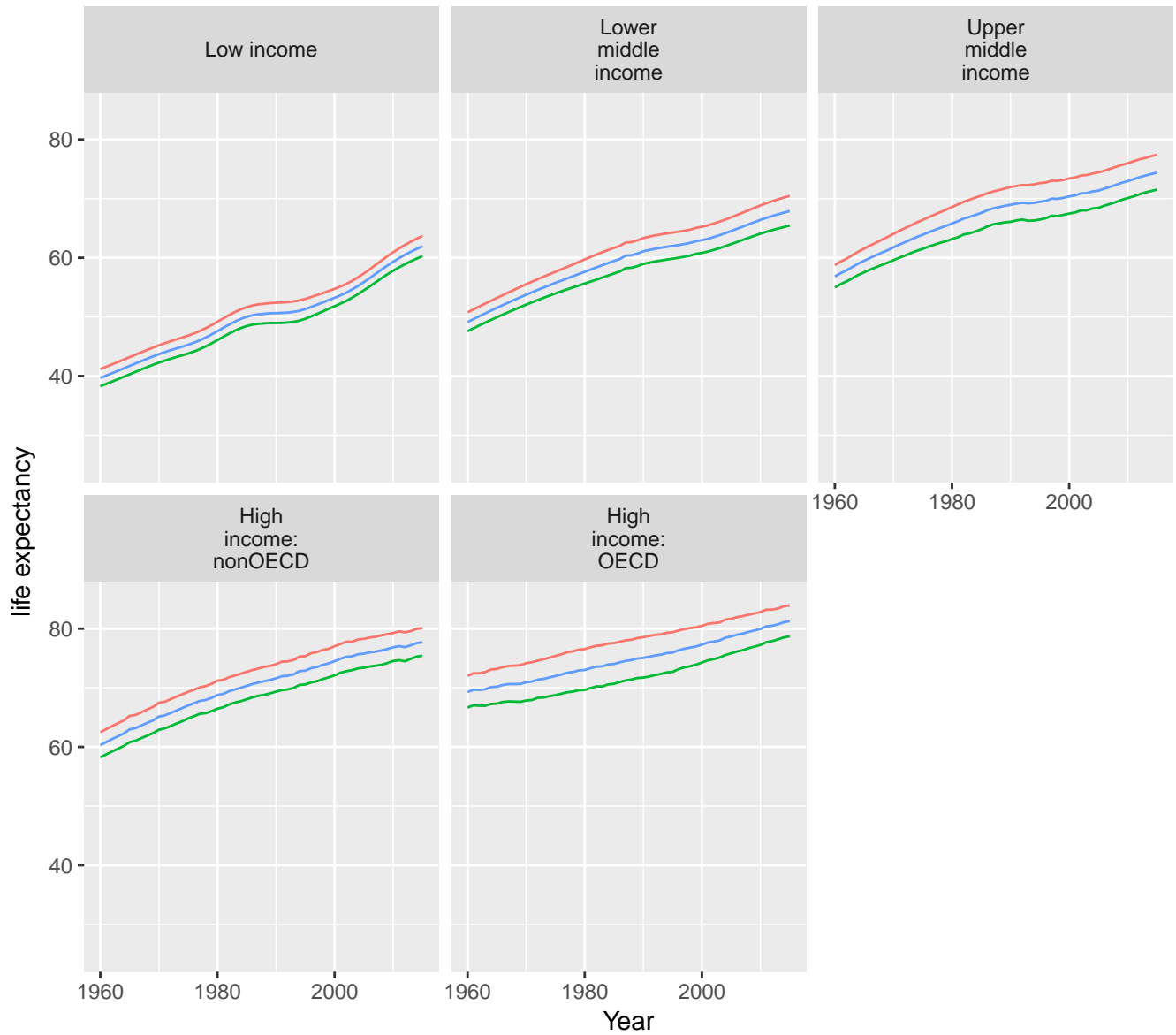
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Life expectancy at birth is calculated as *the number of years a newborn infant would live if prevailing patterns of mortality at the time of its birth were to stay the same throughout its life*. (compiled from UN, Eurostat and other national sources). This statistic synthetically captures the overall health status of a population, its exposure to diseases and other forms of vulnerability that can affect living standards. This analysis explored the global, historical trends of this indicator [1960 - 2015], demonstrated its close correlation to **income**, and highlighted its responsiveness to the status of countries as **fragile and conflict affected situations**.

Key findings

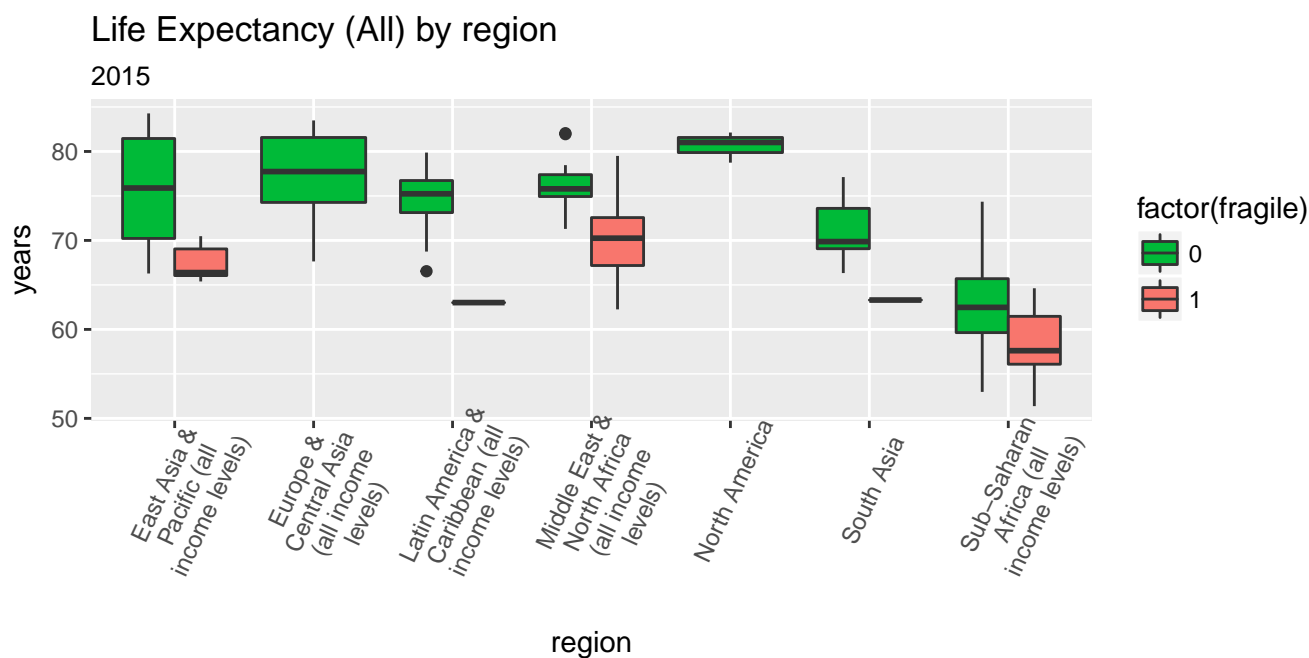
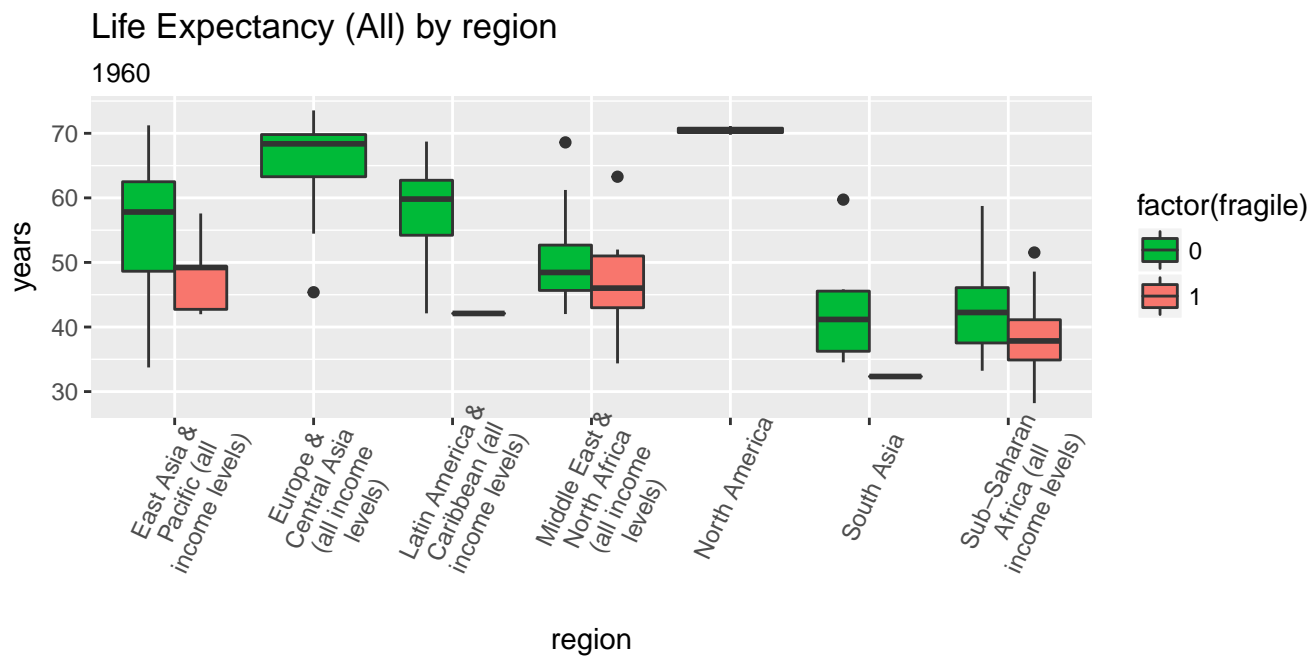
- From 1960 to 2015, life expectancy has grown across countries and income levels
 - In 1960 it ranged from a minimum of 28 years (in Mali) to a maximum of 73 years (in Norway). In 2015 from a much higher minimum of 51 years (in Central African Republic) to the highest bound of 84 (in Hong Kong)
 - South Asia registered the biggest improvement, since life expectancy grew on average from 41 (1960) to 70 years (2015)
 - Women’s life expectancy is consistently higher over time and across regions; more significantly so in high income countries (where women live some 5 yrs more than men on average).
- Life expectancy shows a high, positive correlation with **GDP per capita** (also validated by statistical tests). It is interesting to see that countries that have been in a high income bracket longer (e.g. OECD ones) registered a slower growth rate in life expectancy.
 - A possible explanation is that achieving the living standards of the most productive economies can make a big difference for the population’s life prospects, at least to jump closer to the limits imposed by nature and scientific progress.
- Another interesting insight is that living in countries classified as “**Fragile and conflict affected**” (FCS) has a striking negative effects on life expectancy. This was consistently seen comparing FCS countries with both their regional and income level peers (see figure in Annex).
 - This finding corroborates the emphasis that the WBG puts on supporting these countries because such vulnerable status has a tremendous cost in terms of human lives.

Life Expectancy changes across income levels between 1960 and 2015



Groups — Female Life Expectancy — Male Life Expectancy — Total Life Expectancy

ANNEX



Notes

- In order to flag the individual countries that are classified as FCS, I used the World Bank list of economies (as of June 2017) found here