133 million babies were born in the year 2000. In territories with the fewest births per person, more people are dying than are being born. As with all population statistics, even this vital one, figures are rough estimates.

More children are born each year in Africa than are born in the Americas, all of Europe and Japan put together. Worldwide, more than a third of a million new people will be born on your birthday this year.

“The birth of a baby is an occasion for weaving hopeful dreams about the future.”

Aung San Suu Kyi, 1997