

“Using Data to Advance Children's Rights”

Doha, October 2023



The SDGs, children and their rights

The SDGs are universal in scope, and their call to leave no one behind **puts the most vulnerable and marginalized people – including children – at the top of the agenda.**

The realization of child rights and of the SDGs are inextricably linked and mutually reinforcing.

The Convention on Rights of the Child (CRC) puts forth all the rights that Governments must respect, protect and fulfil for all children under their jurisdiction, while the SDG is a universal, timebound call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030. The two frameworks have a strong potential for mutual advocacy and implementation.

Child-related SDG indicators and UNICEF's role

- **Children represent a substantial share of the population (37% of the population of Arab countries); the Sustainable Development Agenda cannot be achieved without focusing on children, boys and girls (and young people) and progressing towards the realization of children's rights.**
- **The SDG framework includes specific indicators and targets for children, and calls for the age and sex disaggregation of many indicators and targets.**
- **48 SDGs indicators relate directly to children (under SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 13, 16, 17)**
- **UNICEF is the global custodian or co-custodian of 19 SDG indicators, providing support to countries in generating, analyzing and using data for these indicators, with methodological work, developing standards, and maintaining global databases**
- **Annual SDG consultations with National Statistical Offices to collect data on these SDG indicators.**

SDGs indicators for which UNICEF is custodian or co-custodian

<p>SDG 2 – Zero Hunger 2.2.1 Stunting 2.2.2 Wasting</p>	<p>SDG 5 – Gender equality 5.2.1 Sexual violence by an intimate partner 5.2.2 Sexual violence by a non intimate partner 5.3.1 Early marriage (*) 5.3.2 FGM/c (*)</p>	<p>SDG 16 – Peace and Justice 16.2.1 Child discipline (*) 16.2.3 Sexual violence against children (*) 16.9.1 Birth registration (*)</p>
<p>SDG 3 – Good health 3.1.2 Skill birth attendance 3.2.1 Under-5 mortality (*) 3.2.2 Neonatal mortality (*) 3.b.1 Full vaccination coverage</p>	<p>SDG 6 – Clean water and sanitation 6.1.1 Safely managed drinking water 6.2.1 Safely managed sanitation and hygiene</p>	<p>SDG 1 – No poverty 1.b.1 Pro-poor social spending</p>
<p>SDG 4 – Quality education 4.2.1 Early Childhood development (*)</p>	<p>SDG 8 – Decent work 8.7.1 Child labour</p>	

<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataContacts/?selectIndicator=&selectAgency=UNICEF>

Other examples of child-relevant SDGs indicators

<p>SDG 1 – No Poverty</p> <p>1.2.1 Monetary poverty by age and sex</p> <p>1.2.2 Multidimensional poverty by age and sex, according to national definitions</p> <p>1.3.1 Coverage of social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, ..., persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, etc</p>	<p>SDG 4 – Quality Education</p> <p>4.1.1 – Learning: children reaching the minimum proficiency in reading and mathematics by sex</p> <p>4.1.2 Education completion</p> <p>4.2.2 Preprimary school attendance</p> <p>4.a.1 Schools offering basic services</p>	<p>SDG 10 – Inequalities</p> <p>10.3.1 Reporting having personally felt discriminated</p> <p>SDG 13 – Climate Action</p> <p>13.1.1 deaths, missing persons and affected persons attributed to disasters</p>
<p>SDG 3 – Good Health</p> <p>3.7.2 Adolescent birth rate</p> <p>3.8.1 Coverage of essential health services</p> <p>3.9.1 Mortality attributed to air pollution</p>	<p>SDG 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy</p> <p>7.1.2 Use of clean fuels</p> <p>SDG 8 – Decent work</p> <p>8.6.1 Youth not in education, employment or training</p>	<p>SDG 16 – Peace and Justice</p> <p>16.1.1 Victims of homicide</p> <p>16.1.2 Conflict-related deaths</p> <p>SDG 17 – Partnership</p> <p>17.8.1 Access to the internet</p> <p>17.19.2 Census and vital registration</p>

<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataContacts/?selectIndicator=&selectAgency=UNICEF>

Disaggregation of indicators and analysis and the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) principle

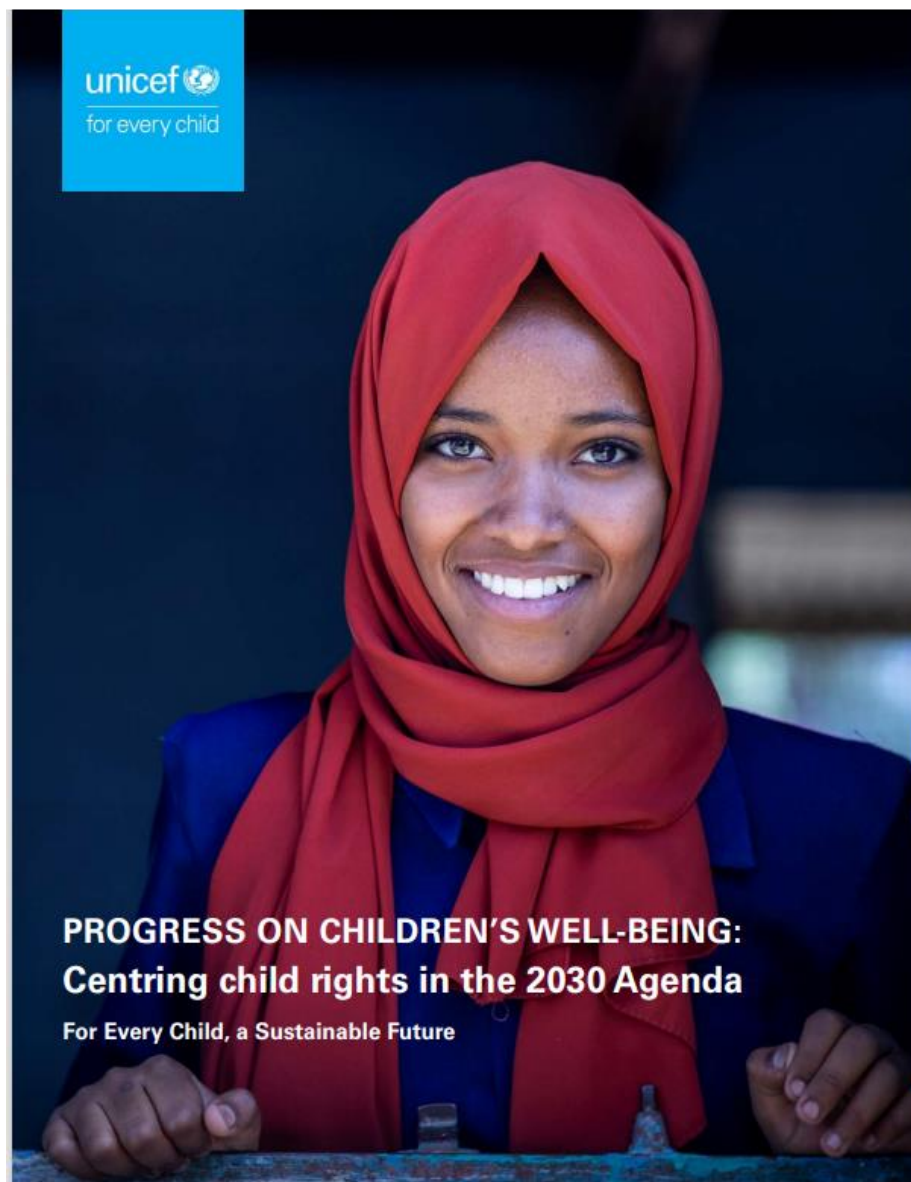
- **Leave no one behind (LNOB) is the central, transformative pledge of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda**
- It not only entails reaching the poorest of the poor but requires combating discrimination and inequities between and within countries, addressing their root causes.
- **Importance of data and analysis disaggregation** by, for example:
 - Sex
 - Age
 - Disability status
 - Migration status, refugee and asylum seeker status
 - Residence (regional, urban/rural)
 - Socio-economic status etc.

Progress on Child-related SDGs: September 2023

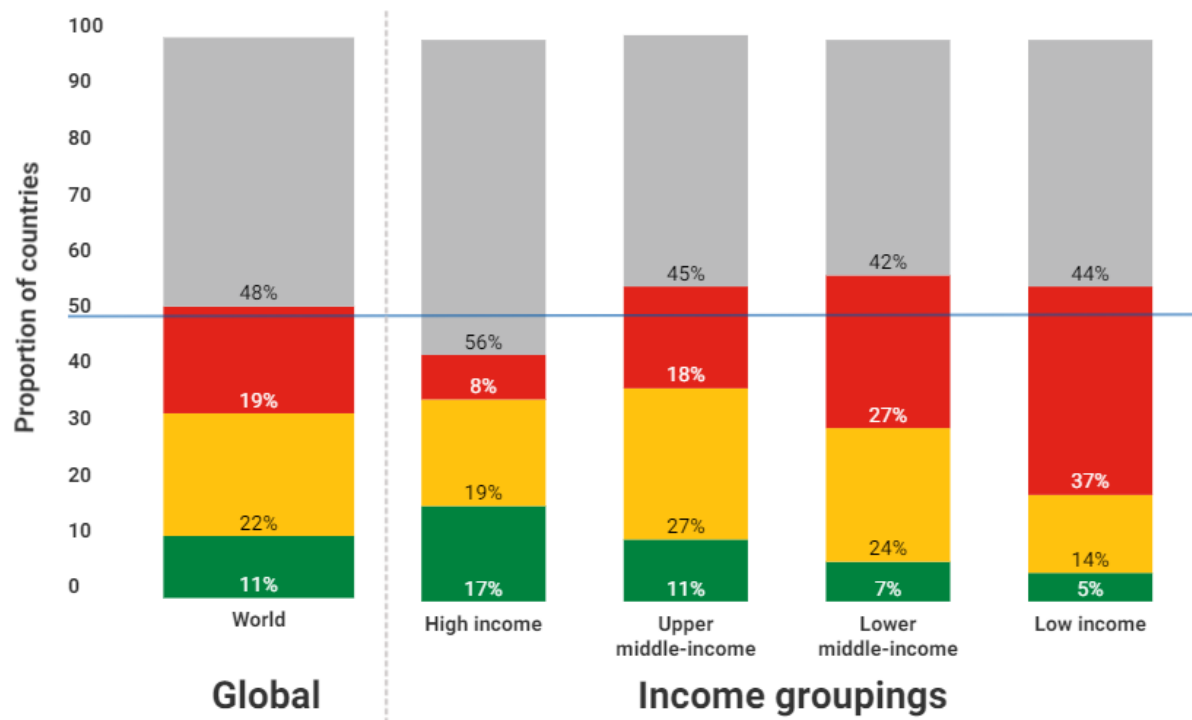
UNICEF released, in September 2023, a global report on the progress of the 48-child-related SDGs, at the mid-point of the Sustainable Development Agenda and 7 years from its deadline.

The assessment makes use of the data available in the global SDG database, <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal> and the Global UNICEF data warehouse.

Along with an assessment of the progress towards the SDG targets and the effort need to meet them, the Report also provide an assessment of SDG data availability.



Status of the 48 child-related SDG targets by country income groupings



To realize the SDGs for children, swift action must be taken.

2 in 3 child-related SDG targets either require acceleration or are not being monitored

Efforts needed to reach the child-SDGs vary by income group and by SDG.

A child born in a low-income country is seven times more likely to live in a country where child-related SDGs require acceleration than a child born in a high-income country.

● Target met ● More than half of the target reached ● Less than half of the target met ● No data

Source: UNICEF Data Warehouse, 2023 < https://data.unicef.org/dv_index/ >

There are critical gaps in child-related SDG data

On average, national-level data are available for nearly half of the child-related SDG indicators.

In high-income countries, there is a greater lack of child-related data that meet international standards when compared to data quality in low-income countries, in part because most monitoring in these countries relies on country-specific administrative data systems.

A widespread lack of data availability combined with a lack of quality data compromises the ability to track children's progress and identify the children being left behind, and inform policies

The role of MICS in monitoring the SDGs

- UNICEF's Flagship Household Survey Programme, developed in the early 1990s
- MICS Wave 7 started in March 2023, with new contents and new business model
- Fully national ownership of the survey, with technical support of UNICEF
- Conducted in around 120 countries
- MICS in Qatar 2012 and 2023 (final stages)
- **MICS 7 allows the measurement of 40 SDGs (out of the 80 SDGs that can be measured through a survey)**

Recent methodological work of UNICEF to measure child-related SDGs

- Early Childhood Development Index – 2030 (to measure SDG 4.2.1)
- Violent Discipline (SDG 16.2.1) United Nations Statistical Commission approved a UNICEF-led international classification of violence against children this year in a landmark decision
- Strengthening the approach to measure Multidimensional Child Poverty (SDG 1.2.2)
- Measurement of the SDG on “Pro-poor public spending” with Save the Children (SDG 1.b.1)

Not SDG related:

New measure of Child Food Poverty

Recommendations and take-aways

- Countries must continue to invest in their data systems, build capacity and implement technology to improve data collection, monitoring and analysis along every child's life-course.

Accurate and timely data are crucial to identify necessary interventions, set ambitious and realistic targets and monitor progress towards reaching these goals.

Data protection practices must also be strengthened nationally, regionally and globally to ensure that as we harness the opportunities of data and data technologies to narrow the digital divide, we also protect children's privacy, safety and integrity.

Some references

UNICEF Data – child statistics - <https://data.unicef.org>

Using data to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for children - <https://data.unicef.org/sdgs/>

Linking Child Rights and the SDGs

<https://www.unicef.org/documents/linking-child-rights-and-sdgs>

Progress on Children's Well-being: Centring child rights in the 2030 Agenda - <https://data.unicef.org/resources/sdg-report-2023/>

UNICEF – MICS Programme - <https://mics.unicef.org/>

Thank you

