

Save the Children

THE MANY FACES OF EXCLUSION

END OF CHILDHOOD REPORT 2018



Six-year-old Arwa and her family were displaced from their home by armed conflict in Iraq.*

CONTENTS

1 Introduction

3 End of Childhood Index Results 2017 vs. 2018

7 THREAT #1: Poverty

15 THREAT #2: Armed Conflict

21 THREAT #3: Discrimination Against Girls

27 Recommendations

31 End of Childhood Index Rankings

32 Complete End of Childhood Index 2018

36 Methodology and Research Notes

41 Endnotes

45 Acknowledgements

* after a name indicates the name has been changed to protect identity.

Published by Save the Children

501 Kings Highway East, Suite 400
Fairfield, Connecticut 06825
United States
(800) 728-3843
www.SavetheChildren.org

© Save the Children Federation, Inc.

ISBN: 1-888393-34-3

Photo: CJ Clarke / Save the Children

INTRODUCTION

The Many Faces of Exclusion

Poverty, conflict and discrimination against girls are putting more than 1.2 billion children – over half of children worldwide – at risk for an early end to their childhood. Many of these at-risk children live in countries facing two or three of these grave threats at the same time. In fact, 153 million children are at extreme risk of missing out on childhood because they live in countries characterized by all three threats.[1]

In commemoration of International Children's Day, Save the Children releases its second annual *End of Childhood Index,* taking a hard look at the events that rob children of their childhoods and prevent them from reaching their full potential.

Compared to last year, the index finds the overall situation for children appears more favorable in 95 of 175 countries. This is welcome news – and it shows that investments and policies are working to lift up many of our children. But the index also shows progress is not happening fast enough, and conditions appear considerably worse in about 40 countries. Lost childhoods are increasingly concentrated among the poorest children and children affected by conflict. These conditions tend to exacerbate gender bias and increase negative experiences that end childhood for girls.

The index compares countries by a set of indicators representing life-changing events that signal the disruption of childhood: poor health, malnutrition, exclusion from education, child labor, child marriage, early pregnancy and extreme violence. These "childhood enders" are most prevalent where poverty, conflict and gender bias overlap to create toxic environments for children. Not surprisingly, the 20 countries characterized by all three of these threats all fall in the bottom third of the index. Half (10 countries) are in the bottom 20, and seven are in the bottom 10.

Lost childhoods are a result of choices that exclude particular groups of children by design or neglect. A child's experience of childhood is largely determined by the care and protection they receive, or fail to receive, from adults.

Children have the right to survival, food and nutrition, health and shelter. Children also have the right to be encouraged and educated, both formally and informally. And they have the right to live free from fear, safe from violence and protected from abuse and exploitation.

In 2015, world leaders gathered at the United Nations to make a bold commitment – to end poverty in all its forms by

WHO ARE THE 1.2 BILLION CHILDREN AT RISK?

THREAT #1

1 billion children live in countries plagued by poverty.[2] Children living in poverty face a higher risk of death before age 5, malnutrition that stunts their growth, being out of school, being forced into child labor or early marriage, and giving birth while they are still children themselves.

THREAT #2

At least 240 million children live in countries affected by conflict and fragility.[3] These children are at heightened risk of death before age 5, stunted growth due to malnutrition, being out of school, being forced to work, and being forced from their homes under dangerous and frightening circumstances.

THREAT #3

575 million girls live in countries characterized by discrimination against girls,[4] often placing them at heightened risk of death before age 5, being denied education, being forced into early marriage, and/or giving birth before they are emotionally and physically ready.

Because of who they are and where they live, these children risk being robbed of their childhoods and future potential. This assault on childhood also deprives nations of energy and talent they need to progress.

2030 and protect the planet for future generations. Taken together, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) they established paint a vision of a future in which all children enjoy their rights to health, education and protection – in short, their right to childhood.[5] Crucially, signatories to the new agreement promised to ensure this would happen for all segments of society – regardless of income, geography, gender or identity. And they promised that those who are furthest behind – the most excluded in society – would be reached first.

This pledge to leave no one behind must be upheld. Only then will we realize its potential to transform the lives of millions of children across the world, guaranteeing every last child the childhood they deserve.

10 major trends that require urgent action

1. **The world is now witnessing the highest levels of displacement on record,** with 20 people newly displaced every minute of every day as a result of conflict or persecution. By the end of 2016, more than 65 million people around the world had been forcibly displaced from their homes, including an estimated 28 million children.[6] The number of children living in conflict zones is also up, from 1 in 10 in the early 1990s to 1 in 6 in 2016.[7]

2. **By 2030, over 150 million more girls will marry before their 18th birthday.**[8] Despite global progress, no region is on track to eliminate child marriage by 2030. All regions need faster progress, but Latin America and the Caribbean – with virtually no progress since the 1990s – needs to speed up its rate of decline enormously. And in sub-Saharan Africa, due to population growth, the number of child brides will rise unless the rate of decline more than doubles.[9]

3. **The global number of adolescent pregnancies is set to increase.** Although the prevalence of pregnancies among adolescent girls appears to be declining in all regions but Latin America and the Caribbean,[10] because the global population of adolescents continues to grow, projections indicate the number of girls under age 18 giving birth each year will increase globally from about 7.8 million today to 8.8 million by 2030. The greatest proportional increases are likely to be in West and Central Africa and Eastern and Southern Africa.[11]

4. **The rich-poor child marriage gap has increased globally.** Over the course of about two decades, the gap in global levels of child marriage between girls from the richest and poorest families roughly doubled. Today, the poorest girls are 4 times as likely as the richest to marry in childhood (41 percent vs. 10 percent); in 1990 they were twice as likely (39 percent vs. 19 percent).[12]

5. **The rich-poor stunting gap has increased in most low-income countries.** For 24 of 27 low-income countries with comparable trend data between around 2000 and around 2014, the stunting gap between the poorest 20 percent and richest 20 percent of children under 5 has either remained the same or increased.[13]

6. **Although rates are declining, the absolute number of stunted children in sub-Saharan Africa is on the rise.** West and Central Africa bears a disproportionate burden of this increase, with the number of stunted children rising from 22.9 million in 2000 to 28.1 million in 2016.[14] While stunting rates are falling steadily across the region, few countries on the continent are on track to meet the SDG nutrition target.[15] Globally, if current inadequate progress continues, there will be 130 million stunted children in 2025 (instead of the target of 99 million) and sub-Saharan Africa will account for more than half of them (compared with about one-third today).[16]

7. **Survival gaps in sub-Saharan Africa have increased,** as progress in saving lives has favored better-off children. And while progress in other regions has favored the poorest, no region is on track to close its child mortality gap by 2030, and most will not achieve equity in under-5 mortality rates between the poorest and richest households even by 2050.[17] Despite the remarkable global progress since 2000, even if current rates of decline are sustained, more than 60 million more children will die before age 5 between now and 2030, mostly from preventable causes. About half will be newborn babies.[18]

8. **Progress ensuring all children receive a full course of primary and secondary school has stalled.** The number of children excluded from education fell steadily in the decade following 2000, but progress has essentially stopped in recent years. And with population growth in lower-performing regions, there will be little reduction in the global number of children out of school in 2030 compared to today (263 million).[19] Also, at least 400 million children are in school but not learning (i.e., they are unable to read or undertake basic mathematics).[20]

9. **Education systems in sub-Saharan Africa are struggling to keep up with population growth.** Across the region, progress reducing out-of-school rates has stagnated and the number of out-of-school children has been steadily increasing for at least the past five years. As a result, the share of the global out-of-school population residing in sub-Saharan Africa has risen to 37 percent, up from 24 percent in 2000.[21]

10. **Child labor rates have risen in sub-Saharan Africa.** From 2012 to 2016, child labor in sub-Saharan Africa rose from 21 to 22 percent, while all other regions achieved declines. The region has also been among those most affected by conflict and poverty, which heighten the risk of child labor.[22]

End of Childhood Index Results 2017 vs. 2018

Save the Children's second annual *End of Childhood Index* compares the latest data for 175 countries and assesses where the most and fewest children are missing out on childhood. Singapore and Slovenia tie for top place in the ranking with scores of 987. Seven other Western European countries also rank in the top 10, attaining very high scores for children's health, education and protection status. Niger ranks last among countries surveyed, scoring 388.

The 10 bottom-ranked countries – eight from West and Central Africa – are a reverse image of the top, performing poorly on most indicators. Children in these countries are the least likely to fully experience childhood, a time that should be dedicated to emotional, social and physical development, as well as play. In these and many other countries around the world, children are robbed of significant portions of their childhoods.

The United States, Russia and China may well be the three most powerful countries in the world – in terms of their combined economic, military and technological strength and global influence – but all three badly trail most of Western

WHAT DO THE SCORES MEAN?

End of Childhood Index scores for countries are calculated on a scale of 1 to 1,000. Countries with higher scores do a better job of protecting childhoods. The scores measure the extent to which children in each country experience "childhood enders" such as death, chronic malnutrition, being out of school and being forced into adult roles of work, marriage and motherhood. Here's a quick guide on how to interpret country scores:

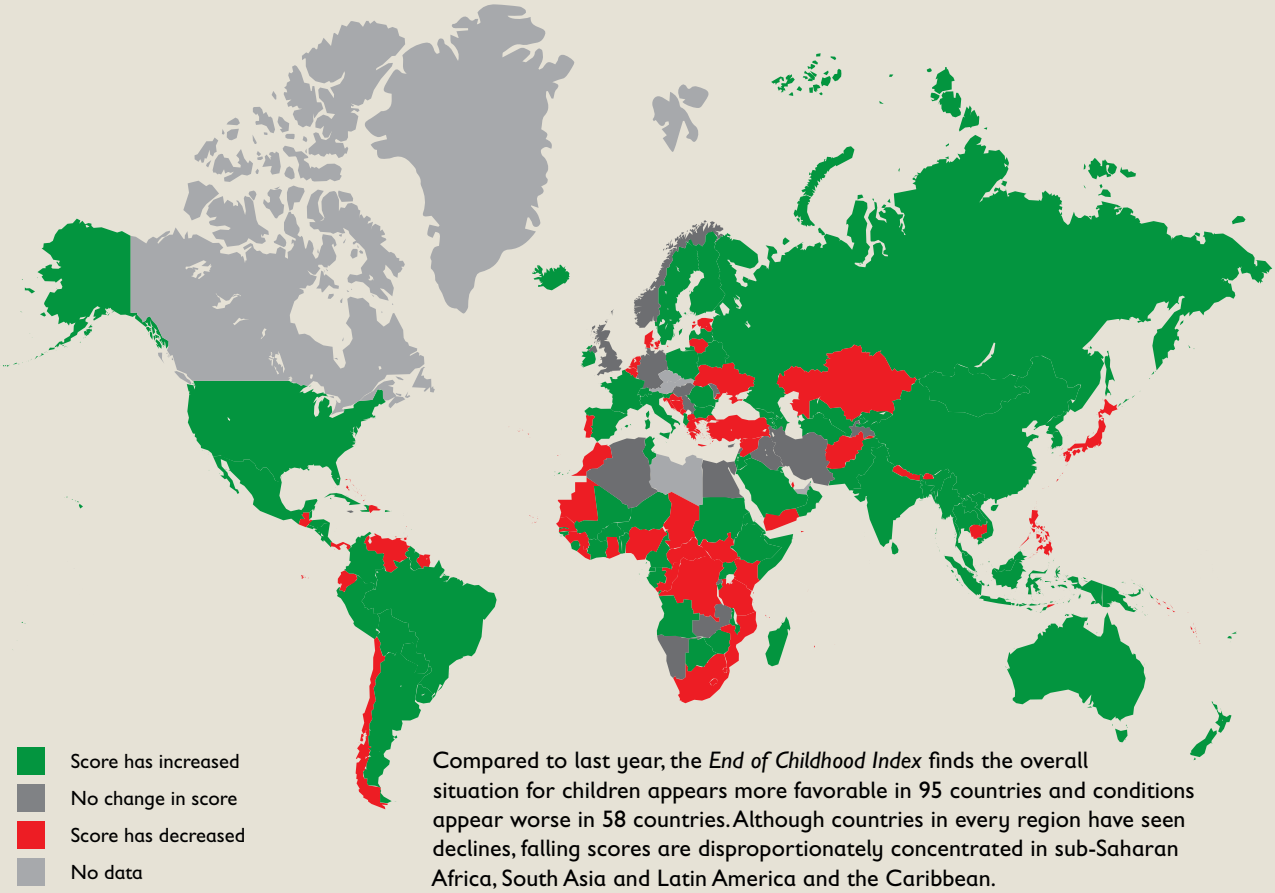
940 or above ... Few children missing out on childhood
760 to 939..... Some children missing out on childhood
600 to 759..... Many children missing out on childhood
380 to 599..... Most children missing out on childhood
379 or below ... Nearly all children missing out on childhood

For more details, see the Methodology and Research Notes beginning on page 36.

2018 END OF CHILDHOOD INDEX RANKINGS

TOP 10		BOTTOM 10	
RANK	COUNTRY	RANK	COUNTRY
1	Singapore	166	DR Congo
1	Slovenia	167	Sierra Leone
3	Norway	168	Guinea
3	Sweden	169	Nigeria
5	Finland	170	Somalia
6	Ireland	171	South Sudan
6	Netherlands	172	Chad
8	Iceland	173	Central African Republic
8	Italy	174	Mali
8	South Korea	175	Niger

IN MOST OF THE WORLD, CONDITIONS FOR CHILDREN HAVE IMPROVED



Compared to last year, the *End of Childhood Index* finds the overall situation for children appears more favorable in 95 countries and conditions appear worse in 58 countries. Although countries in every region have seen declines, falling scores are disproportionately concentrated in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean.

Europe in helping children reach their full potential. The United States ranks 36th, Russia ranks 37th and China ranks 40th. Their scores are 945, 944 and 939, respectively – at least 30 points behind most Western European countries (although it must be noted that China has achieved tremendous progress since the 1980s).

How countries deal with poverty, conflict and gender bias account in large measure for their placement in the index.[23] These three major threats to childhood have a tremendous influence on the presence and severity of the eight key "childhood enders" we use for the index. In fact, nearly 90 percent of countries in the bottom third of the index are facing at least one threat, compared to less than 10 percent of countries in the top third.

A comparison of scores shows that 95 countries have made progress in the past year in creating conditions for children to have full and stable childhoods. These successes show that many relatively poor countries are making progress, and political choices can matter more than national wealth. *End of Childhood Index* scores for 58 countries declined (42 of them more than a point or two), while the scores remain the same for 19 countries.[24]

- In **sub-Saharan Africa**, 25 of 49 countries (51 percent) improved their scores. Uganda achieved a 20-point score increase, from 681 to 701, mostly due to better child nutrition. Somalia increased its score by 13 points, from 470 to 483, signaling that country may be recovering from decades of stagnation and decline. Niger increased its score 4 points (from 384 to 388); Mali is up 6 points (from 414 to 420) and Sierra Leone is up 7 points (from 546 to 553), showing trends are moving in a positive direction even in some of the lowest-ranked countries. Nigeria had the greatest decline in the region, dropping 65 points, from 578 to 513, because malnutrition and child labor rates have been revised upward. Liberia's score dropped 50 points, from 681 to 631, because more children are out of school.
- In **South Asia,** 4 of 8 countries improved their scores. Bangladesh made the most progress in the region,

raising its score 21 points, from 680 to 701, mostly by getting more children into school. India's reduced rate of child marriage helped increase its score 14 points, from 754 to 768. Afghanistan's score fell 10 points, from 602 to 592, because of conflict-related displacement and children out of school.

- In **East Asia and the Pacific**, 16 of 21 countries (76 percent) made progress. China increased its score 11 points, from 928 to 939, mostly by improving enrollment rates and nutritional status of children. Thailand's score is up 11 points, from 852 to 863, due primarily to improved nutrition. The Philippines' score dropped 8 points, from 807 to 799, driven by an increase in stunting.
- In the **Middle East and North Africa**, just under half the countries (8 of 17) made progress. Sudan's score is up 28 points, from 639 to 667, because of fewer children displaced from home, improved child health and more children in school. The scores for Syria and Yemen dropped 12 points and 5 points, respectively – Syria from 668 to 656 and Yemen from 653 to 648 – due to the effects of conflict on children's health, education and safety. Qatar's score dropped 8 points, from 947 to 939, due primarily to more children out of school.
- In **Latin America and the Caribbean**, 61 percent of countries (17 of 28) showed improvement. Progress in protecting children from child labor was the main force behind Peru's 30-point score increase and El Salvador's 24-point rise. Peru's score went from 788 to 818, and El Salvador's from 723 to 747. Scores for Panama and Venezuela dropped the most, 8 points, from 800 to 792 and 724 to 716, respectively. In Panama, the out-of-school rate is up. Venezuela's decline is mostly driven by children out of school, but child mortality and displacement rates are also up.
- In **Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States**, 11 of 21 countries (52 percent) increased scores. Georgia achieved a 36-point increase, rising from 851 to 887, due to reductions in child labor. Uzbekistan's score rose 22 points, from 862 to 884, due to improvements in child survival. Kyrgyzstan is up 9 points, from 816 to 825, because of better school enrollment. And Macedonia fell 10 points, from 910 to 900, because child mortality and out-of-school rates are up.
- Almost all **developed countries** have little or no change in their scores – 25 of 30 countries moved 2 or fewer points in either direction. The biggest movers are Malta (up 8 points from 953 to 961) and Latvia (up 7 points from 956 to 963). Sweden's score rose 3 points, from 982 to 985, making it tied with Norway for third place among all countries in the index.

Overall, the data collected for the *End of Childhood Index* document tremendous gaps between rich and poor countries and the urgent need to accelerate progress for the most vulnerable children. These statistics go far beyond mere numbers. The human despair and lost opportunities represented in these numbers demand children everywhere be given the basic services, protections and opportunities they need to survive and thrive.

See the *Complete End of Childhood Index*, Country Rankings and an explanation of the methodology, beginning on page 31.

Beating the odds in India

Anika has been attending the Save the Children's Mobile Learning Center for three years. Prior to that, she was not in school because her life had been disrupted. Her mother left the family and was working in the sex trade. Her family had to leave the mother's family home and Anika and her sister took responsibility for cleaning the house, washing clothes and cooking all the meals.

A member of the center's team identified Anika and persuaded her to visit the center. After attending for a year, they convinced her father to let her go back to school and helped her enroll. Anika still goes to the center for help with her homework. She loves school. Her favorite subject is science and she wants to be a science teacher when she is older.

Anika is also a member of a children's group set up by Save the Children to campaign for child rights. Her focus is on preventing child marriage. When she hears about a child marriage being planned, she and a group of other children approach the parents and the couple. They explain the harm child marriage can do and educate the girl on her rights. Anika is very proud that she managed to stop a friend's sister's marriage recently.


Photo: CJ Clarke / Save the Children

Anika, age 12, is a successful campaigner against child marriage in Kolkata.

This slum community in Mumbai, India surrounds the Deonar landfill site – the biggest dumping ground in Asia. Many parents in these slums work in the garbage dump, sorting and selling rubbish. Very few children have the opportunity to go to school.



Photo: Souvid Datta / Save the Children

THREAT #1

Poverty

Children raised in poverty start life at a big disadvantage. Being poor means more than just not having money – it means material, social and emotional deprivation, as well as impoverished living conditions and less access to services. Poverty creates obstacles to children's survival, development, protection and participation in decisions that affect their lives.

Children are more likely to be poor than adults, and they experience poverty differently than adults. Being raised in poverty negatively impacts healthy development and learning and increases exposure to risk. These effects can last a lifetime, and be passed on to the next generation.

A quarter of the countries in the *End of Childhood Index* are characterized by widespread poverty (47 of 185 countries).[25] But child poverty exists in all contexts, from the poorest fragile states to the richest and most equal societies. Nearly 20 percent of children in developing countries – an estimated 385 million children – live in extreme poverty.[26] Roughly the same number live in moderate poverty, bringing the global total to at least 750 million. And untold millions more are living on the streets, in institutions, in urban slums and on the move, where they are invisible in household surveys. Then there are some 30 million children living in severe relative poverty in OECD countries,[27] including more than 6 million children living in deep poverty in the United States.[28]

The world's poorest children (those in extreme poverty) are concentrated in rural areas (81 percent). Most live in sub-Saharan Africa (52 percent) and South Asia (36 percent). India alone is home to 30 percent. Children in conflict-affected countries are at greatest risk of poverty.[29] Nearly 6 in 10 children in fragile contexts live in extremely poor households. Worldwide, members of minority ethnic groups, indigenous people, children with disabilities, and those who are migrants, born to immigrants or single mothers, tend to experience greater levels of poverty.[30]

Many of these children are missing out on childhood, not because they are poor but because they are almost certain to be denied a fair start in life. Children from the poorest households experience worse health, including higher rates of malnutrition and death. They struggle to access decent education and, if they are in school, to stay there and to achieve minimum learning standards. Poor children are also much more likely to be involved in child labor, to marry as children and to start childbearing early.

No matter where they live, children living in poverty are exposed to threats of all kinds, including exploitation and abuse. They frequently experience bullying and discrimination, especially at school, which causes anxiety, frustration and anger. Children around the world express feelings of shame, insecurity and hopelessness. In wealthier countries, poor children report stigma and social exclusion around receiving free school meals, having dirty or "uncool" clothes, not having the latest gadgets, lacking money to join school events and other peer group activities, or feeling unable to invite friends to visit overcrowded or sub-standard housing.[31]



Photo: Hedinn Halldorsson / Redd Barna

Living on the streets

Kinfe*, left, and Fiker*, right, both 12, are among thousands of children who live in and around the Merkato bus station in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. "I have been living on the street for four years," says Kinfe. "Today, we'll go to this nearby hotel at 2:30 p.m. That's when they throw out some food. Normally we search for food in trash bins. Sometimes we find enough. Sometimes we don't."

The effects of poverty can last a lifetime and beyond. Deficiencies in childhood lead to stunted development, low levels of skills needed for life and work, limited future productivity as adults, and transmission of poverty down to the next generation. In fact, evidence shows the health, educational and social status of one's parents – especially the mother – is key to determining a child's life chances.[32] Even in wealthy countries, children brought up in poverty are likely to remain poor and raise their own children in poverty.[33] That's why tackling inequity and ensuring equal opportunities for all children is vital to ending extreme poverty by 2030 and ensuring every last child, regardless of parental background, can reach his or her full potential.

POOR HEALTH AND DEATH

Every day, more than 15,000 children die before reaching their fifth birthday, mostly from preventable or treatable causes. A large, and growing, share of them are newborn babies in the first month of life (46 percent). Global action in recent decades has improved coverage and quality of maternal and child health care – including immunizations, treatment of pneumonia, diarrhea, malaria and other diseases. This remarkable progress has saved 50 million children's lives since 2000. But progress is not happening fast enough to reach SDG targets in most of the world's poorest countries.[34]

Today, child deaths are increasingly concentrated in countries with the fewest resources. Low- and lower-middle-income countries now account for 90 percent of all under-5 deaths, but only 65 percent of all births. This is up from 79 percent of child deaths in 1990.[35]

Children from the poorest households are, on average, twice as likely to die before the age of 5 as children from the richest households.[36] According to data tabulated by Save the Children, some of the greatest survival gaps are found in East Asia, where the poorest children are 3 to 10 times as likely to die before age 5 as their wealthiest peers.[37] Large disparities are present in Mongolia, Thailand and Vietnam – all countries that have already reached the SDG target of 25 or fewer deaths per 1,000 live births at the national level, but not among the poorest children.

High-income countries also have large equity gaps in child survival. The 75,000 children who die annually in developed regions come disproportionately from disadvantaged backgrounds and communities. In many European countries, for example, the Roma community lives largely in poverty and their children face lower odds of survival. Data are scarce, but suggest the child mortality rate in Roma communities is around 3 times higher than the general population.[38] And in the United States and Canada, infants from indigenous communities die at higher rates – 40 percent higher than the national average in the U.S.[39] and 20 to 360 percent higher than the rest of Canada.[40]

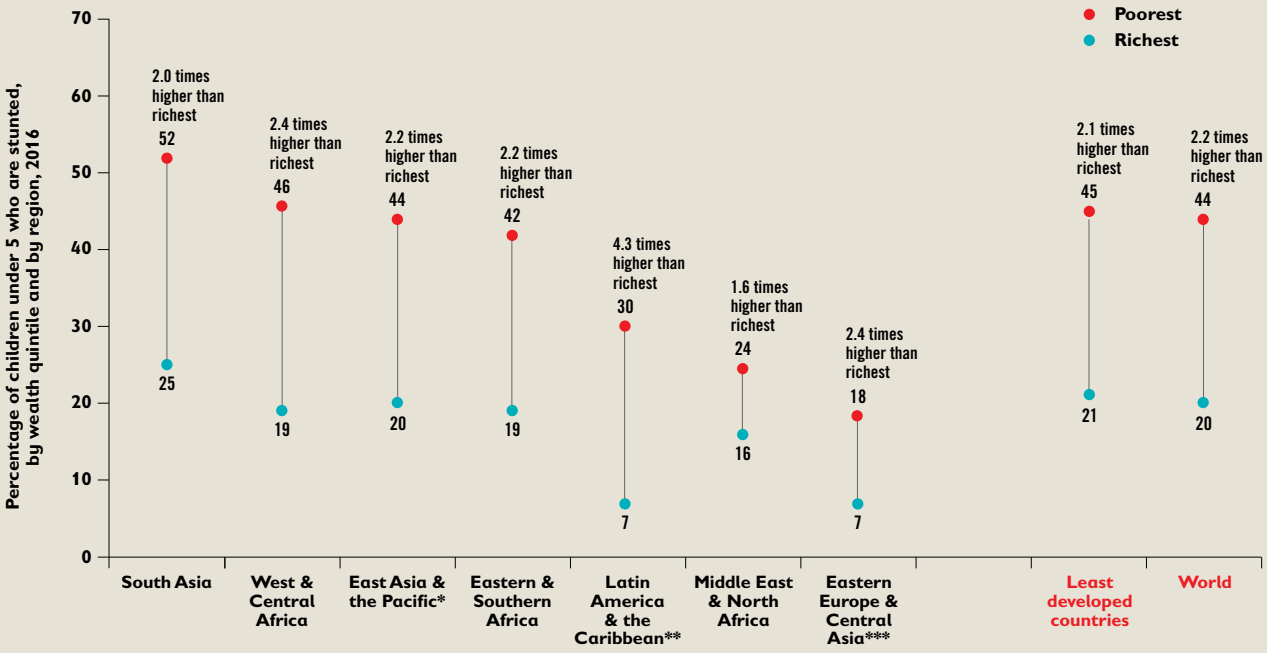
In most regions, child mortality rates have declined substantially faster for the poorest than for the richest households since 2000. As a result, equity gaps are closing. But they are not closing fast enough. No region is on track to



Charlmanta, 8 months old, suffered chronic malnutrition and was at risk for stunted growth. After three weeks of treatment he has started to gain weight and is now more active and playful.

Photo: Save the Children Philippines

THE POOREST CHILDREN ARE TWICE AS LIKELY TO BE STUNTED AS THE RICHEST



Note: This analysis is based on a subset of 92 countries with recent (2011-2017) data by wealth quintile groupings covering 69 percent of the global population. Regional estimates are presented only where adequate population coverage (≥50 per cent) is met. *East Asia and the Pacific does not include China, **Latin America and the Caribbean does not include Brazil and ***Eastern Europe and Central Asia does not include the Russian Federation.

Source: UNICEF <data.unicef.org/topic/nutrition/malnutrition/#> (accessed 25 March 2018), based on Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS), Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) and other nationally representative surveys.

close its child mortality equity gap by 2030, and most will not achieve equity in under-5 mortality rates between the poorest and richest households even by 2050. In sub-Saharan Africa, equity gaps are actually growing because under-5 mortality has declined faster for richer households.[41]

Closing gaps between rich and poor would save millions of young lives. In 2016 alone, some 2 million lives would have been saved had under-5 mortality in the poorest households been as low as it is in the wealthiest households. Closing the gap between countries would produce even more dramatic results. If all countries had at least the same under-5 mortality as the average rate of high-income countries (5.3 deaths per 1,000 live births) nearly 90 percent of all under-5 deaths could be averted, meaning almost 5 million children's lives could have been saved in 2016 alone.[42]

MALNUTRITION THAT CAUSES STUNTING

Globally, 155 million children under age 5 suffer from chronic malnutrition – also known as stunting, or low height for age. Much of this damage happens in pregnancy and the first two years of a child's life. Stunting prevents children from developing to their full potential mentally and physically, and it is largely irreversible. While the *End of Childhood Index* examines stunting, the kind of malnutrition that permanently impairs a child's development, stunting is not the only form of malnutrition that affects children living in poverty. Some 52 million children are acutely malnourished, of which 17 million have severe acute malnutrition, the most serious form that can kill in just a few days. Overweight children are also an increasing cause of concern, and many poor countries now face the twin challenges of undernutrition and obesity.[43]

Stunting is caused by, and contributes to, vicious intergenerational cycles of poverty. Mothers who are undernourished are more likely to have small babies and undernourished children. Stunted children often perform poorly in school and drop out earlier than their better-nourished peers, limiting their future earnings. This type of malnutrition diminishes not only the futures of individuals, but also of nations.

In nearly every region of the world, children from the

poorest families are more than twice as likely to be stunted as children from the wealthiest. Equity gaps are greatest in Latin America and the Caribbean, where stunting rates among the poorest are 4 times those of the richest. In Belize, Haiti, Honduras and Mexico, the poorest children are closer to 5 times as likely to be stunted as their wealthiest peers. In Nicaragua, they're 6 times as likely to be stunted. And in Peru, they're 11 times as likely to be stunted (rates are 32 vs. 3 percent). Equity gaps are also great in Angola, Vietnam, Jordan and Iran, where relative ratios are 7, 7, 8 and 17, respectively.[44]

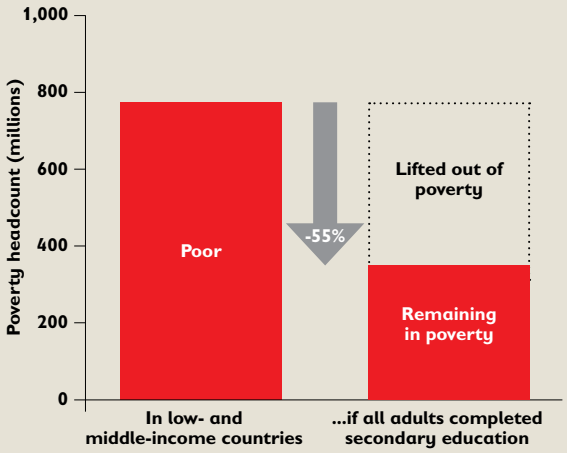
The rich-poor stunting gap is unchanged or increasing in most low-income countries. An analysis of 54 countries with comparable trend data between around 2000 and around 2014 shows that gaps between the poorest 20 percent and richest 20 percent of children under 5 are closing in the majority of upper-middle-income countries. However, in almost all low-income countries (24 of 27 with available trend data), this gap has either remained the same or increased.[45]

Chronic malnutrition is becoming concentrated in countries with the fewest resources, where 1 in 3 children have stunted growth. Today, 9 in 10 stunted children (139 million children) live in low- and lower-middle-income countries.[46] This proportion is up from 7 in 10 in 1990.

New research suggests that in addition to setbacks in physical growth, 1 in every 3 preschool-aged children living in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) – more than 80 million children – are failing to meet basic milestones in their cognitive and/or socio-emotional development.[47] Taken together, the study's authors estimate that roughly half of all 3- and 4-year-old children in LMICs are failing to meet their development potential.

ACHIEVING QUALITY UNIVERSAL PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION COULD CUT GLOBAL POVERTY RATES IN HALF

Estimated effect of universal secondary education completion on poverty headcount



Source: UNESCO UIS and EFA Global Education Monitoring Report. *Reducing Global Poverty Through Universal Primary and Secondary Education.* (2017).

CHILDREN OUT OF SCHOOL

Today more than ever, education remains the key to escaping poverty, while poverty remains the biggest obstacle to education. In developing countries, many of the poorest children never get a chance to go to school. And in all countries, students who live in poverty go to school unprepared for success because they are behind their classmates physically, socially, emotionally or cognitively.

Many children from impoverished families do not attend school because their parents cannot afford school fees or other costs for uniforms, books and supplies. The expenses may be too much for a family to pay, on top of the money the family loses by not sending a child to work or even marrying off a daughter. Especially in rural areas, long distances between home and school can also be an obstacle to education because of transportation cost, time away from other duties at home, or danger of attack.

"I like math and English. I want to be a doctor because I want to help people who are sick. But my mother cannot afford to pay for school. I feel bad because the other kids go to school. I read books I get from my neighbors who go to school." – James, age 12, Uganda

Poor children with disabilities are one of the most excluded groups. Surveys in over a dozen low- and middle-income countries have shown that children with disabilities are significantly less likely to be in school than their peers without disabilities.[48] In fact, by one estimate, around 90 percent of children with disabilities in developing countries do not attend school.[49]

Children in low-income countries are almost 9 times as likely to be out of school as those in high-income countries. About 33 percent of school-aged children in low-income countries are out of school, compared to less than 4 percent in high-income countries.[50]

Poorer countries not only tend to have higher out-of-school rates, they also tend to have larger absolute numbers of out-of-school children. Today, 84 percent of all out-of-school children live in low- and lower-middle income countries, up from 69 percent in 1990 and 77 percent in 2000.[51]

In the majority of countries with data, economic disparities in primary school attendance have narrowed – with the greatest gains among children from the poorest quintile.[52] However, the wealth gap remains large in a number of countries, and in some, the gap has even grown. The largest disparities are in West and Central Africa, where children of primary school age from the poorest wealth quintile are on average 6 times as likely to be out of school as those from the richest (primary out-of-school rates are 54 percent vs. 9 percent, respectively).[53]

Alarming disparities are also seen in learning outcomes. Data reveal significant gaps in children's learning performance between the richest and poorest households. In almost all countries, children from the richest households are far more likely to achieve minimum learning standards in reading than those from the poorest households.[54] The same is true of mathematics, where children in the poorest households systematically record lower test scores than children in the richest households.[55] In high-income countries, the largest achievement gaps in learning between the best-off and worst-off students are consistently found in France, Hungary and Luxembourg.[56]

Universal secondary education could cut global poverty in half. A quality education provides knowledge, skills and self-confidence that increase children's future productivity and wage earnings and makes them less vulnerable to risks. A UNESCO study estimated that if all children completed primary and secondary school, more than 420 million people could lift themselves out of poverty, thereby reducing the number of poor people worldwide by more than half.[57] The effects would be particularly large in sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia, where almost two-thirds of the reductions would be expected.

CHILD LABOR

The global number of child laborers has declined by close to 40 percent since 2000, but an estimated 152 million children are still trapped in child labor, compelled to work to support themselves and their families. Almost half, some 73 million children, are doing hazardous work that directly compromises their physical, mental, social and/or educational development.[58]

Children working to support their families don't just miss out on education. They also miss out on rest, play and recreation. They lose opportunities to participate in their



Photo: Nour Wahid / Save the Children

Working instead of studying

Sultan*, age 11, has the responsibilities of a full-grown adult. He left school before he learned to read and write in order to work and support his mother and three sisters. He goes around the streets of villages in Lebanon selling packs of chewing gum and boxes of tissues. He doesn't return home before he has secured the $5 his family needs, even if that means staying on the street until midnight.

"I think children work because they have to, because they are poor and they make them do it. Children don't like to work, and it's not normal to have children work." – Resul*, a Roma boy displaced from Kosovo to Montenegro

community, religion, cultural activities and sports. The loss of these rights means that, in effect, many working children miss out on their childhood.

In the world's least developed countries, 1 in 4 children are engaged in child labor.[59] Compare this to just 1 percent in high-income countries. Africa is home to nearly half of all child laborers globally (72 million). Asia and the Pacific accounts for another 40 percent (62 million).[60]

Within countries, poor children are much more likely to be forced into work than their wealthier counterparts. An analysis of disaggregated data shows the poorest children are, on average, 3 times as likely as their wealthiest peers to be engaged in child labor. In Nepal and Togo, child labor rates among the poorest children are 5 times those found among the wealthiest. In Vietnam, the poorest children are 8 times as likely to be working, and in Mongolia the rate is 9 times as great.[61]

Child labor is not limited to poorer households or low-income countries. More than half of all child laborers (84 million) live in middle-income countries and 2 million live in high-income countries. These statistics make clear that while poorer countries require special attention, the fight against child labor will not be won by focusing on poorer countries alone.[62]

CHILD MARRIAGE

Child marriage is most common in the world's poorest countries and is often concentrated among the poorest households within those countries. In families with limited resources, child marriage is often seen as a way to provide for their daughter's future. But girls who marry young are more likely to be poor and to remain poor.

Child brides are frequently deprived of their rights to health, education and safety. They are at higher risk of experiencing dangerous complications in pregnancy and childbirth. They are frequently isolated and feel disempowered. And they are vulnerable to sexually transmitted infections and multiple forms of violence.

Ending child marriage could save developing countries trillions of dollars by reducing fertility and population growth and improving earnings and child health. Child marriage not only affects the lives of millions of girls, it also has a huge impact on the economy. According to first-ever estimates from the World Bank and the International Center for Research on Women, by 2030, global gains from ending child marriage could reach more than $500 billion per year.

These effects would be felt by the poorest countries and households in particular. The economic gains from ending child marriage in Niger could reach $1.7 billion annually by the year 2030, solely from the effects of reducing fertility. In Ethiopia, the benefit would be $4.8 billion, while in Nepal it would be almost $1 billion. In Bangladesh, ending child marriage could generate close to $4.8 billion annually in additional earnings and productivity. In Nigeria, the annual economic cost of child marriage as a result of lost earnings and productivity could be up to $7.6 billion. In Pakistan, it could reach $6.2 billion annually.[63]

ADOLESCENT BIRTHS

Teen pregnancy is a global challenge, affecting rich and poor countries alike, but birth rates are highest in resource-poor settings. In sub-Saharan Africa, the adolescent birth rate is more than twice the global average, while Latin America and the Caribbean has the next highest rate.[64]

Around the world, adolescent pregnancies are more likely to occur in marginalized communities, commonly driven by lack of education, unemployment, gender inequality, lack of sexual and reproductive health services, and the low status of women and girls.[65] In the United Kingdom, for example, girls from poor families are 8 times as likely to give birth young as those from wealthier backgrounds.[66] And in Cambodia, 37 percent of girls aged 15-19 with no education are already mothers or pregnant with their first child, compared to 8 percent of girls with secondary or higher education.[67]

The poorest girls have about 3 times as many births as the wealthiest.[68] In all but two countries with available data, the poorest girls are more likely to begin childbearing early. Equity gaps are greatest in Bolivia, Indonesia, Nigeria and Peru, where girls in the bottom wealth quintile are about 6 times as likely to give birth in adolescence as girls in the top quintile. Nigeria also has the largest absolute gap: the fertility rate for the poorest girls is 214 births per 1,000 girls – one of the highest rates found anywhere in the world – compared to 37 per 1,000 girls among the wealthiest. Other countries with especially large relative gaps include Armenia, Azerbaijan, Colombia, Dominican Republic, India, Philippines and Senegal, where poor girls aged 15-19 are 4 to 5 times as likely as their wealthiest peers to give birth.



Photo by Jonathan Hyams / Save the Children

Young, poor and parenting

Brissa, 15, with her 3-month-old son in Sinaloa, Mexico. Teenage pregnancy is very common in this agricultural area, where 76,000 migrant farm workers come each year to harvest corn, potatoes, cucumbers and tomatoes.

Adolescent pregnancy can have negative economic consequences on girls, their families and communities and costs countries billions of dollars each year. An estimated 10 to 30 percent of girls who drop out of school do so because of early pregnancy or marriage, depending on the country. Because of their lower educational attainment, many adolescent mothers have fewer skills and opportunities for employment, often perpetuating cycles of poverty. Nationally, this can also have an economic cost, with countries losing out on the income that young women would have earned over their lifetimes had they not had early pregnancies.

According to new research by the World Bank, the benefits of ending all early childbirths (those occurring both within and outside of child marriage) could exceed $700 billion per year by 2030. Cumulatively, for the period from 2014 to 2030, the welfare gains from ending child marriage and early childbirth could be more than $5 trillion.[69]

Preventing unintended pregnancy is essential to improving adolescents' sexual and reproductive health and their social and economic well-being. Legal reforms, education, mass media and role models can drive changes in social norms, improve the status of girls, and challenge ideas about male sexual entitlement and impunity. For example, Stepping Stones life-skills training programs in Africa and Asia have had success in developing stronger, more equal relationships between males and females.[70]

About half of pregnancies among adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 living in developing regions are unintended, and more than half of these end in abortion, often under unsafe conditions. Meeting the unmet need for modern contraception would reduce unintended pregnancies among this age group by 6 million annually. That would mean averting 2.1 million unplanned births, 3.2 million abortions and 5,600 maternal deaths.[71]

"We were very poor – sometimes we would eat every two or three days. Even though my parents really wanted all three of their daughters to study, it wasn't possible, so they got me married."

– Lucky, age 15, Bangladesh



A man and his child walk through the rubble, having survived an airstrike in Eastern Ghouta, Syria.

Photo: Amer Almohibany / Save the Children

THREAT #2

Armed Conflict

Children are more at risk in armed conflict now than at any time in the last 20 years.[72] There are at least 240 million children living in countries affected by conflict and fragility,[73] and they are often denied their rights to health, education, protection and freedom from fear.

Suffering violence, witnessing violence or fearing violence can cause lifelong disabilities and deep emotional trauma. Separation from family members and economic hardship can expose girls and boys to exploitation in the forms of child labor, child marriage, sexual violence and recruitment into use by armed groups.

But the less visible dangers for children in conflict are caused by lack of food and the collapse of essential services such as health care, sanitation and education. The loss of basic necessities required for a fulfilled childhood threatens both the immediate survival and long-term future of children.

Conflict also tends to exacerbate economic and gender inequalities in poor countries, making a bad situation even worse for the most vulnerable children.

According to new research by the Peace Research Institute in Oslo, the most dangerous countries for children in conflict are: Afghanistan, Nigeria, Somalia, Syria and Yemen. The study also found that denial of humanitarian access has increased 15-fold in recent years.[74]

POOR HEALTH, MALNUTRITION AND DEATH

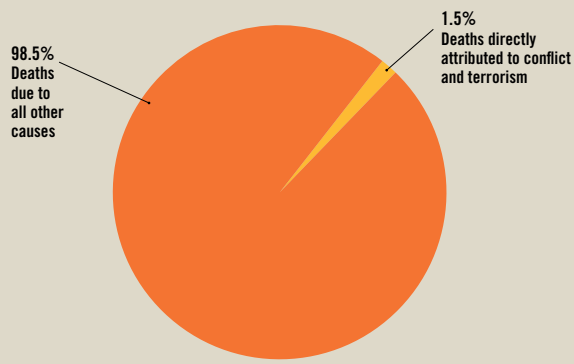
Of all the children under 5 who die worldwide, more than 1 in 5 live in fragile states – a total of 1.2 million deaths in 2016. This share has almost doubled since 1990.[75] The major causes of death in these settings are largely preventable and treatable: pneumonia, diarrheal diseases, malaria and measles. But these illnesses claim more children's lives because the health care and nutritious food that could save them is unavailable or out of reach due to insecurity.

The first day of life is the most dangerous day for anyone, anywhere.[76] But in conflict settings, the risks to mothers and newborns can multiply due to lack of skilled care, medicines and unsanitary conditions.

While the rest of the world is making good progress in reducing child mortality, conflict-affected countries are falling behind. The five countries with the world's highest under-5 mortality rates are all fragile and conflict-affected: Chad, Central African Republic, Mali, Sierra Leone and Somalia. If current trends continue, none of these countries will achieve

MOST CHILD DEATHS IN CONFLICT AREAS ARE CAUSED BY MALNUTRITION, DISEASE AND LACK OF HEALTH CARE

Malnutrition, disease and inadequate health care kill more children in war zones than bombs or bullets. Growing numbers of children now live in countries affected by fragility and conflict, where they face nearly twice the risk of dying before their fifth birthday as children in non-fragile contexts.



Under-5 deaths in fragile and conflict-affected settings, 2016*

*Includes the estimated number of under-5 deaths in 34 of 36 fragile and conflict-affected states, as classified by the World Bank Group for FY2018. Data were not available for Kosovo or Tuvalu. Data source: Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), *Global Burden of Disease Study 2016*.

Note: There are currently no comprehensive, reliable data on child casualties in conflicts. It is not known exactly how many children were killed in conflict-related incidents in Central African Republic, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen and many other countries in 2016. This means countless children are dying unnoticed by the international community, and the number of deaths directly attributed to conflict and terrorism shown in this graphic is likely an underestimate.

THREAT #2

"I feel a pain in my heart when I think about Myanmar and the houses that were burnt and our relatives that were killed. We don't have any money now. I don't want to live like this. I am very worried about the future." – Rajuma*, age 13, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

Displaced from home with nothing to eat

"The violence started early in the morning," said Malika. "The homes in my village were burned and we lost everything we had. So I left with my children and nothing else, and moved around from one part of the bush to another."

Malika's husband was declared missing in action. "It's just me and the children now," she says.

Malika and her children are among more than 13 million people in Democratic Republic of the Congo's Kasai region in need of aid this year. The complex humanitarian situation is the result of decades of conflict, compounded by new rebellions and political tensions.

"The children were losing a lot of weight and their feet started to swell," she explained, as they were treated at a hospital supported by Save the Children. "The care we're receiving here is good and we're seeing an improvement."



Photo: Mike Sunderland / Save the Children

Malika, with her three children: Tina*, 11, Ray*, 5, Mina*, 1, in Saint Joseph Hospital, Kasai Oriental, DR Congo.*

the SDG target for child survival reduction by 2030, and only one (Sierra Leone) will reach the target by 2050.[77]

Malnutrition is an underlying cause in almost half of child deaths each year,[78] with rates of both chronic malnutrition (which causes irreversible stunting in children) and acute malnutrition (which causes wasting and increased risk of mortality) especially high in fragile and conflict-affected settings. The proportion of people who are undernourished is about 2.5 times higher in countries in conflict and protracted crisis than in countries not affected by conflict.[79]

Chronic malnutrition has also become increasingly concentrated in conflict-affected countries. Recent research by the International Food Policy Research Institute found that over the past two decades, the number of stunted children in conflict-affected countries in the developing world increased from an estimated 97.5 million (46 percent of all stunted children in developing countries) to 112.1 million (65 percent).[80] More recent estimates by FAO put the number of stunted children living in countries struggling with conflict, violence and fragility at 122 million – more than three-quarters of the global total in 2016.[81]

While few would question that peace and stability generally improve prospects for children's nutrition, there is some evidence that the reverse may also be true – good nutrition and food security may enhance prospects for peace and stability. More research is needed to better understand how poor nutrition and food insecurity influence conflict and the extent to which these may be causes as well as effects of violence. For example, child malnutrition rates have been found to be 50 percent higher, and under-nutrition rates 45 percent higher, at the point when conflict breaks out in countries.[82] Available evidence also suggests investing in food and nutrition resilience promotes more stability and less unrest.[83]

CHILDREN OUT OF SCHOOL

Violent conflict severely disrupts access to education. In many countries, including Iraq, Libya, Nigeria, Sudan, Syria and Yemen, schools, teachers and students have been targeted for attack.[84] Schools have also been occupied by military and armed groups, making them unsafe for children. Often as a result, schools are closed or parents remove their children for fear of violence, including sexual violence.

"I was in school before we moved here"



Photo: Sussan Akila / Save the Children

Falmata has been out of school since her family fled violence in northern Nigeria when she was 12.*

"We were displaced three years ago when our village was raided," says Falmata. "Our houses were burned down. Many people were killed, but my whole family escaped."

As they were beginning to rebuild their lives in a new location, both of Falmata's parents died, leaving the three children to fend for themselves.

"A man came and said he loves me. He was giving me some money. I needed to support my family, so I was collecting the money. It wasn't much [about a dollar or less each time]. When I realized I was pregnant and informed him, he stopped coming to see me. I was so scared. I didn't know what to do.

"One day, a lady came to the house and told me she works for Save the Children. She took me to the hospital and registered me for prenatal care. Any time I have to go to the hospital, she will come and take me there. She has been so supportive. I talk to her any time I feel unhappy. She told me I can enroll back in school after delivery. I am looking forward to that because I want to be able to support myself and the baby as well. I want to become a good mother."

A May 2017 assessment in Syria showed that dangers traveling to and from school, lack of teaching staff, destroyed facilities, lack of materials and long distances between home and school were the primary reasons children did not attend.[85] In a July-August 2017 survey, more than 80 percent of Syrian communities reported that child labor was preventing school attendance.[86]

A large – and growing – share of the world's out-of-school children live in conflict-affected countries, where progress in education has been slowest.[87] In 2012, 36 percent of the world's out-of-school children were living in conflict-affected countries, up from 30 percent in 1999.[88] Children who miss school during episodes of armed violence tend not to go back.[89] As a result, many conflict-affected countries are the furthest away from achieving global education goals. Only 4 of 34 fragile or conflict-affected states with available data (Burundi, Kiribati, Myanmar and Sierra Leone) have achieved or nearly achieved universal primary education.[90] It is difficult to determine exactly how many displaced children and youth are denied access to schooling, but estimates suggest at least 27 million children are out of school due to conflict.[91]

Disruption of schooling is compounded in many conflict-affected contexts by displacement from home. While education is available in some refugee camps, it is often disorganized, temporary, under-resourced, overcrowded and limited to primary education.[92] Children often cannot access schools outside camps for reasons of security, lack of documentation, restrictions on the movement of certain population groups, cost related to education (e.g., for uniforms, school fees, school lunches, books, transportation) or the lack of language skills needed to participate in schools in new locations. For example, about two-thirds of refugees live in areas where none of the official languages is the official language in their country of origin.[93] Xenophobia and stigmatization are also challenges for many refugee children who miss out on education.

Refugee children are 5 times more likely to be out of school than non-refugee children. UNHCR estimates that, in 2015, over 60 percent of refugee children (some 3.7 of 6 million child refugees of school-going age) were out of school. More than half of these out-of-school refugee children are found in just seven countries: Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lebanon, Pakistan and Turkey.[94]

Without education, displaced children face bleak futures. Especially in times of crisis, education can offer a child stability, protection and the chance to gain critical knowledge and skills. Schools can also serve as social spaces that bring together family and community members, and create bonds

of trust, healing and support. Failing to provide education for displaced children can be hugely damaging, not only for children but also for their families and societies, perpetuating cycles of poverty and conflict.

CHILD LABOR

There is a strong correlation between child labor and conflict. The incidence of child labor in countries affected by armed conflict is 77 percent higher than the global average and the incidence of hazardous work is 50 percent higher.[95] Children in conflict-affected countries are often removed from school to contribute to household income, replace lost household labor (due to recruitment, deaths or injuries) or to help with additional household burdens.

Adolescents are at great risk, as secondary education is a long-term investment whose benefits can be difficult to see for a family that has lost everything. It's difficult for many refugee families to avoid sending adolescents out to earn a wage through child labor, even more so if keeping them in school would present additional financial burdens.[96]

"I didn't want to get married"

Maha, a Syrian refugee living in Jordan, was forced to marry her husband when she was 12. She is now one month pregnant.

"I didn't want to get married." She said. "I am still young and I wanted to finish my studies."

"She was going to register for school, but there were a lot of rapes going on in the camps," says Maha's husband. "Her father was scared something like that would happen to her. Also, he was struggling with bills and rent, so he went ahead and married her off."



Photo: Rosie Thompson / Save the Children

Maha, age 13, with her 23-year-old husband.*

Child labor has been identified as a major barrier to education in many countries currently experiencing conflict or recently emerging from conflict, including Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Tajikistan.[97] It is also reportedly on the rise for both Syrian refugee children and host communities.[98] In Jordan, for example, a recent survey of the resident child population (which included migrants and refugee households) found child labor rates have roughly doubled compared to pre-crisis figures.[99] Similarly, there is anecdotal evidence of a rise in child labor in Yemen as families struggle to survive.[100]

Child labor has risen in sub-Saharan Africa, a region that has been particularly hard hit by conflict. In fact, all but one of the nine countries with "very high" child labor rates (defined as prevalence at or above 40 percent) are in Africa and seven of the nine are current or former fragile and conflict-affected states.

CHILD MARRIAGE

Conflict makes girls more vulnerable to child marriage. The reasons for child marriage vary greatly, depending on the context, but most of them are based in situations that become worse during conflict. Fear of rape and sexual violence, of unwanted pre-marital pregnancies, of family shame and dishonor, of homelessness and hunger or starvation have all been reported by parents and children as reasons for early marriage. In some instances, child marriage has been used to facilitate migration out of conflict-affected countries and refugee camps.[101] In others, it has been used by armed groups, as a weapon of war.[102]

Child marriage is reportedly on the rise for girls in Syria and among Syrian refugee populations.[103] Marriage of children under 18 years old is not a new phenomenon in Syria. However, with the protracted nature of the crisis, child marriage has evolved from a cultural practice to a coping mechanism. Families arrange marriages for girls, believing marriage will protect them and also to ease financial burdens on the family. According to gender-based violence experts, this trend increased in 2017 and girls are being married at younger ages.[104] Among Syrian refugees in Jordan, for instance, the share of registered marriages involving girls under 18 years of age rose from 12 percent in 2011, to 18 percent in 2012, 25 percent in 2013 and then 32 percent in early 2014.[105] In Lebanon today, over 40 percent of young displaced Syrian women were married before 18.[106] There have been similar reports of increases in child marriage among Syrian refugees in Egypt, Iraq and Turkey.[107]

Child marriage rates have risen in Yemen as the conflict has intensified. It is one of the few countries in the world without a legal minimum age of marriage, and more than two-thirds of girls are now married before they reach 18, compared to half of girls before the conflict escalated.[108]

Child marriage is also a growing concern among refugees from Myanmar[109] and Central African Republic.[110]



Rania, age 10, fled violence in Myanmar. Her father was killed and she was shot in the leg. She is now orphaned and lives with her aunt in Bangladesh.*

Photo: Antonia Roupell / Save the Children



Fifteen-year-old Aisha does household chores with her daughter Rayan*, age 2, in the small home where she lives in Somalia. "At the age of 13, I was forced to marry a man who was much older than me," says Aisha. "I tried to run away several times, but every time, my father would return me to him. While I was pregnant, he tried to beat me, and then I left him for good."*

Photo: Colin Crowley / Save the Children

THREAT #3

Discrimination Against Girls

A girl born today has far greater advantages than she would have had decades ago. She has a much better chance of reaching her fifth birthday. She is less likely to be stunted and more likely to go to school. But far too many girls, especially those from the poorest families, still face discrimination and exclusion with respect to basic education, child marriage, early pregnancy, sexual violence and unrecognized domestic work.[111]

Thirty percent of countries in the *End of Childhood Index* are characterized by discrimination against girls (55 of 185 countries).[112] This means staggering numbers of girls worldwide face exclusion on many fronts. Complications during pregnancy and childbirth represent the number one killer of girls aged 15-19 worldwide, and 12 million girls marry each year before they reach the age of 18.[113] Yet boys, too, face exclusion. Boys, for example, have much higher rates of homicide than girls, and they are more likely to be involved in hazardous work.

Most countries characterized by conflict are also characterized by discrimination against girls (23 of 34 countries).[114] There are over 85 million girls living in these countries.

GIRLS OUT OF SCHOOL

The worldwide gender gap in education is narrowing. Of the 263 million children and youth (aged 6 to 17) who were out of school in 2016, there was a nearly even split between girls and boys.[115] But despite efforts made and progress achieved, significant gender disparities persist at younger ages and in certain parts of the world.

Out-of-school girls are a diverse group, held back by barriers related to cultural norms, poverty, early and forced marriage, teen pregnancy, rural residence, refugee conditions, gender-based violence, disability and other causes. Three-quarters of out-of-school girls live in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. Early marriage is one of the most common causes of low educational attainment of girls in these regions. In Latin America and the Caribbean, child labor has been identified as the most significant reason that children withdraw from secondary education.[116] An estimated two-thirds of girls who are out of school worldwide are from ethnic minority groups in their countries.[117] In Lao PDR, for example, Hmong girls are 3 times as likely to be out of primary school as girls belonging to the majority Lao ethnic group.[118]

Girls are more likely than boys to never set foot in a classroom. At last estimate, some 15 million girls of primary school age would never get the chance to learn to read or write in primary school compared to about 10 million boys. Over half of these girls – 9 million – live in sub-Saharan Africa.[119]

In addition to sub-Saharan Africa, stark disparities persist in the Middle East and parts of South Asia. In sub-Saharan Africa, only 92 girls are enrolled in school (primary + secondary) for every 100 boys. The ratio is 94 per 100 in Arab States. The greatest gender gaps are found in Afghanistan, Angola, Somalia and South Sudan. In these countries, there are fewer than 7 girls enrolled in school for every 10 boys.[120]

Regional averages often mask large disparities at the country level. South Asia, for example, has achieved gender parity as a whole; however, girls are disadvantaged in some countries but advantaged in others. Bangladesh, India and Nepal now have many more girls than boys in school. But in neighboring Pakistan, there are still only 8 girls enrolled for every 10 boys.

Conflict, poverty and other forms of social disadvantage magnify gender disparities in education. Girls living in countries affected by conflict, for example, are 2.5 times more likely to be out of school than boys.[121] Girls in low-income countries are also significantly more likely to be out of school than boys. In most sub-Saharan African countries, girls from the poorest households are the most disadvantaged of all in terms of school participation. If current trends continue, these girls are not expected to achieve universal lower secondary completion until 2111.[122]

The effect of overlapping disparities is illustrated on page 23. Across the set of 79 countries with recent data, the poorest girls are, on average, 6 times as likely to be out of primary school as the wealthiest boys.[123] In Nigeria, the country with the largest absolute disparity, nearly 75 percent of the poorest girls are out of school, compared to only 5 percent of the wealthiest boys.

THREAT #3

“It is more difficult for girls. For boys it is easier. Because when you go shopping you get harassed by boys. You are then not allowed to go to the shops or anywhere else.”

– Nour, age 14, Za’atari refugee camp in Jordan

Her journey to become a Golden Girl

Photo: Save the Children Bangladesh



Parul overcame intellectual disability and gender discrimination to win gold medals for Bangladesh in the Special Olympics.

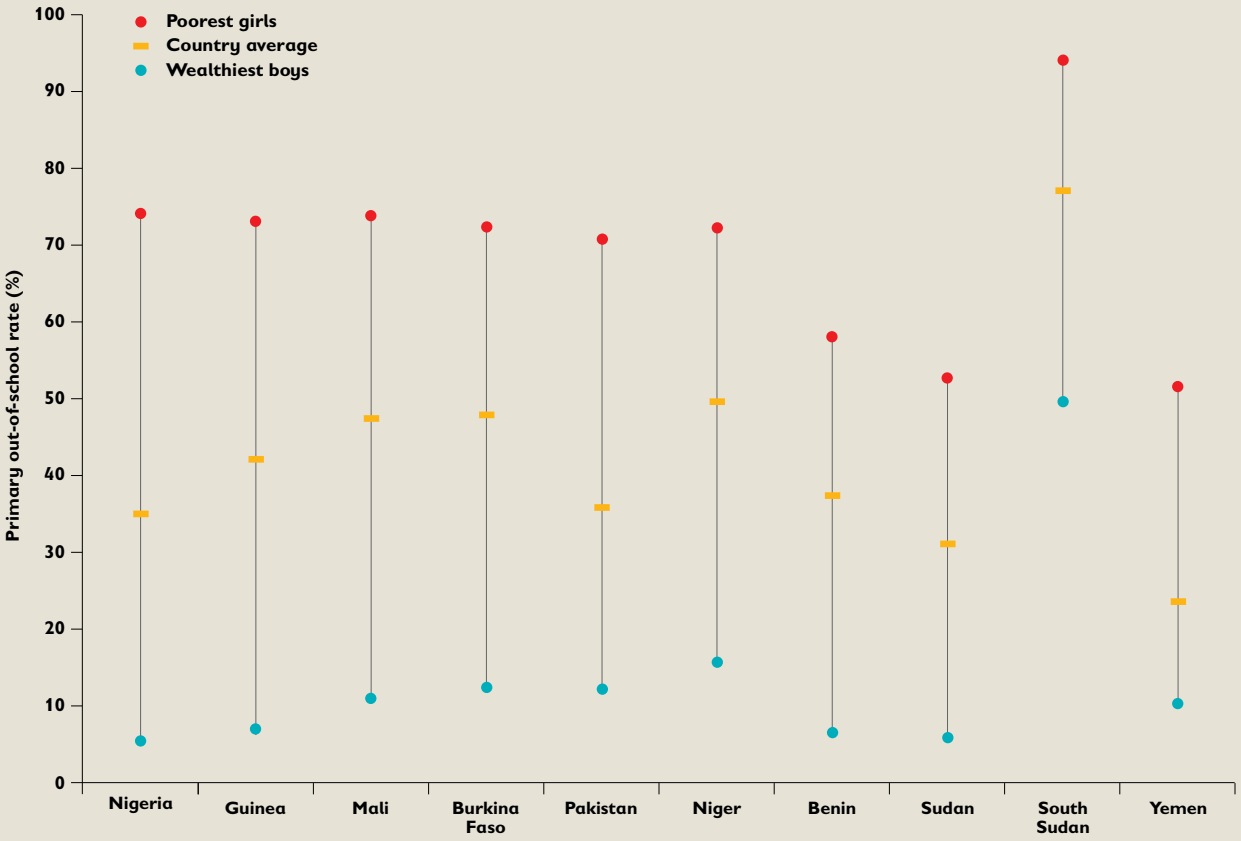
Parul comes from a poor family that struggled to get by. Even before her disability was discovered, she was neglected within her family because she is a girl. At mealtime, her brother got more food, and she became malnourished. When she was 5, a local group supported by Save the Children – Bangladesh Protibondhi Foundation (BPF) – identified Parul’s mild intellectual disability, and her family was even less interested in sending her to school. People in the community blamed Parul’s mother for giving birth to such a girl, and her mother feared divorce.

BPF worked with the family and the community to raise awareness and change attitudes about the rights of children with disabilities. They also provided support to the family to help improve their income.

When Parul started school, she showed a strong interest in games and sports, especially swimming. BPF arranged for her to practice in the local pond and Save the Children supported her participation in national and international swimming competitions. She won a bronze medal in the Special Olympics in Greece in 2011, then gold medals in 2013 in Australia and 2015 in the USA.

Parul continued her studies and completed her primary education. She is now in secondary school. Her mother says: “Before, I was known as a mother of a lunatic girl, but now people know me as the mother of a girl who achieved a gold medal. I am very grateful to Save the Children and BPF.” Parul’s father is also proud: “Now I am not just a van driver, I am Parul’s father.”

GIRLS ARE ESPECIALLY DISADVANTAGED WHERE POVERTY AND GENDER DISPARITIES COMBINE



Out-of-school rates for primary-school-aged children overall, girls from the poorest households and boys from the richest households.

Note: Chart includes the top 10 countries with the greatest difference (i.e., absolute gap) between out-of-school rates for the poorest 20 percent of girls compared to the wealthiest 20 percent of boys out of 79 countries with disaggregated household survey data from 2010-2016. ***Source:*** *UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2018*

UNRECOGNIZED DOMESTIC WORK

While most estimates show little-to-no gender gap in terms of involvement in child labor, gender disparities are observed in the types of work activities children do. Boys are slightly more likely to work in agriculture and industry, while girls are more likely to work in services, especially domestic work. Girls and boys can also be assigned to very different tasks even when working in the same workplace, thereby exposing them to unique risks and hazards. On a family farm, for example, boys often bear greater responsibility for operating machinery, using sharp tools, and spraying chemicals. Girls, on the other hand, often play a role in hauling water and carrying wood.

Girls are much more likely than boys to shoulder responsibility for household chores. They account for two-thirds of all children who perform household chores for at least 21 hours per week, the threshold beyond which research suggests chores begin to negatively impact the ability of children to attend and benefit from school. Girls are also more likely than boys to perform "double work duty," meaning both work in employment and in household chores.

Parents' decisions are often influenced by wider social norms about the different roles that girls and boys should play in the home and in society. For example, in some communities, girls are more likely to be kept at home to help with chores and care work. In Andhra Pradesh, India, girls spend nearly an hour and a half more each day on domestic work than boys.

The dangerous walk for water

"The hardest part about being a girl is going to the well to get water," says Robina, age 9. Like most girls in rural Uganda, she has to go to a distant well every day to fetch water for her family. And every day she faces the threat of violence, and even death, along the way.

Young girls can spend as many as six hours a day fetching water, and they are easy prey when they travel alone – at risk of assault, trafficking and even murder.

Robina lost her best friend, who was taken, tortured and killed while fetching water alone near her school.

Save the Children is working to help communities protect young girls like Robina. One effort is a simple "buddy system" where girls are encouraged to always travel in pairs. Another program enlists parents and others to act as crossing guards to protect commuting students.



Photo: Rick D'Elia / Save the Children

Robina (right) and her friend Charity collect water together in Wakiso, Uganda. Robina had another friend who lost her life while fetching water alone.

In Ethiopia and India, caring for siblings is a primary reason why girls drop out of school early.[124]

CHILD MARRIAGE

More than 80 percent of children married before age 18 are girls. Child brides tend to be poor, under-educated and living in rural areas.[125] Girls living in countries facing humanitarian crises are often most vulnerable of all to child marriage.[126] (For more on this, please turn to page 18.)

Many factors interact to place a girl at risk of early marriage. Poverty, weak laws and enforcement, the perception that marriage will provide "protection," family honor, customs or religious laws that condone the practice, and unequal gender norms that prioritize women's roles as wives, mothers and family caretakers are all major drivers of early marriage.

The prevalence of child marriage is decreasing globally. The most progress in the past decade was seen in South Asia, where a girl's risk of marrying before her 18th birthday dropped from nearly 50 percent to 30 percent, in large part due to the lower child marriage rate in India. Still, an estimated 12 million girls marry in childhood each year. And without further reductions, more than 150 million more girls will marry before their 18th birthday by 2030.[127]

Sub-Saharan Africa is now home to close to 1 in 3 of these child brides, compared to 1 in 5 a decade ago.[128] Across the region, child marriage rates are not declining fast enough to keep up with population growth. This is especially true in West and Central Africa, where it will take over 100 years to end child marriage at the current rate of progress.[129]

The global number of adolescent pregnancies is also up, and 90 percent of births to girls aged 15-19 occur within marriage. Adolescent birth rates are declining, but because the global population of adolescents continues to grow, projections indicate the number of adolescent pregnancies will increase globally by 2030, with the greatest proportional increases in West and Central Africa and Eastern and Southern Africa.[130]

Nearly 100 million girls are not protected by national laws against child marriage and at least 7.5 million marry illegally each year – that's 20,000 per day. In most countries, child marriage is prohibited by national law. But many countries still allow girls to be married before 18 if their parents or judicial bodies give consent. Research by the World Bank and Save the Children found that at least 70 percent of child marriages were illegal under national law even after accounting for parental or judicial consent.[131]

Most child marriages take place in low- and lower-middle-income countries, but it happens in high-income countries too. In the United States, for example, well over 200,000 children under 18 were married between 2000 and 2015. The majority of them were girls and most married adult men. Some were as young as 12 and 13 years old. These girls come from diverse backgrounds: urban and rural, poor and well-off, white and non-white, multigenerational U.S. citizens and recent immigrants, religious and non-religious families.[132]

VIOLENCE AGAINST GIRLS

It is estimated that 1 in 3 women globally have experienced physical or sexual violence in their lifetime, mostly at the hands of their partners.[133] Types of violence experienced by a girl may include: prenatal sex selection (feticide – removal of the female fetus), female infanticide, neglect, female genital mutilation, rape, child marriage, forced prostitution, honor killing and dowry killing.

Rape, sexual assault and forced prostitution, sometimes under the disguise of "marriage," are gross violations of human rights and have been used as weapons of war across

"I was married at 14 and it was very hard. I had to drop out of school. I was really sad and scared. I had to move to a new village where I did not know anyone." – Fatima, age 23, Senegal

all continents, from Syria to Afghanistan to Myanmar, Colombia and Central African Republic.[134]

Children escaping war and persecution are particularly vulnerable to becoming victims of trafficking. Girls and boys are both affected, but twice the number of girls are reported as trafficking victims.[135] While girls tend to be trafficked for forced marriages and sexual slavery, boys are typically exploited in forced labor or as soldiers.[136]

While both boys and girls can be the target of sexual violence, data suggest girls are generally at a heightened risk. Around 120 million girls worldwide (slightly more than 1 in 10) have experienced forced sex or other forced sexual acts at some point in their lives.[137] Still, the suffering of boys who experience sexual violence must not be overlooked, especially in certain parts of the world where it's more prevalent. The majority of cases of sexual violence against children in Afghanistan, for example, relate to boys.[138]

Certain forms of cultural violence – such as dowry-related abuse and acid throwing in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan, for example – only affect girls and women, and carry lifelong health consequences, or even result in death.

Adolescence is a period of pronounced vulnerability, especially for girls. In Bangladesh and Cameroon, more than 20 percent of adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 report having experienced forced sex.[139] Rates above 10 percent are reported in 11 other countries: Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Jordan, Liberia, Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.

In five European countries (France, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Spain and United Kingdom), more than 1 in 10 young women report experiencing at least one incident of sexual violence by an adult perpetrator before age 15.[140]

Girls with intellectual disabilities are particularly vulnerable, with up to two-thirds experiencing sexual abuse by age 18.[141] Children with disabilities in general are disproportionally vulnerable to violence, neglect and abuse. One systematic review of 17 studies from high-income countries found children with disabilities to be 3 to 4 times more likely to be victims of violence than peers without disabilities.[142] However, studies from across the globe show that girls with disabilities are at increased risk compared to those without disabilities and with boys with disabilities.[143]

"When I refused, he took me by force."



Denise was raped when she was 15 and gave birth to a son she named Innocent.*

Alessandro Pavone / Save the Children

Denise's mother runs a "house of tolerance" in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which is like a bar that offers sexual services. From a young age, Denise served alcoholic drinks to her mother's customers.

When she was 15, she came home from school one day and was left alone in the house with a man. "He asked me to have sex with him, and when I refused, he took me by force … I became pregnant."

Denise and her baby son lived with the man until she had a stillbirth when she was 7 months pregnant with her second child. That was 5 months ago and the man abandoned her afterwards. Alone and hungry, Denise eventually returned to her mother. Both she and Innocent were malnourished and she also had tuberculosis. Innocent is 17 months old now, and has developmental problems caused by his malnutrition.

Save the Children helped Denise and Innocent overcome malnutrition and Denise is now part of an income-generation program. She also receives emotional support and guidance from counselors trained by Save the Children.



Photo: Tommy Trenchard / Save the Children

These children participate in a Save the Children-supported nutrition and education program in Nigeria.

Recommendations

In September 2015, world leaders came together and agreed on an ambitious global framework for ending poverty called the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The SDGs promise a future in which all children have a full childhood – free from malnutrition and violence, with access to quality health care and education – and reinforces obligations to children set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Most importantly, this is a future in which no child is left behind.

This year's *End of Childhood Report* report again demonstrates that we are far from realizing the vision where all children survive and thrive. Children continue to be excluded from progress, especially those children living in marginalized, vulnerable populations. In addition, the report highlights how governments need to address further exclusion of children due to three threats – conflict, poverty and gender discrimination – if the world is going to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and reach them in an equitable way. Disabled children are especially vulnerable, especially when disability is combined with one or more of the threats highlighted in this report.

We call on world leaders to value children and their right to survive, thrive and be protected by following through on the commitments made under the SDGs, and by taking immediate steps to implement the pledge to leave no one behind. This pledge is a commitment to ensure that these goals and targets are met for all nations, all people and all segments of society, and to ensure that the furthest behind are reached first.

This will require governments to make three key guarantees to children:

- **Investing in children** – To achieve the SDGs and ensure that all children have access to universal quality basic services (especially education and health), including protection and social protection services, governments (including donors) need to raise the necessary resources. Governments must ensure these resources reach excluded children, particularly girls and refugees, in keeping with the focus on public investment in children outlined by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. Improved public investment in excluded children must go hand in hand with the removal of cost barriers to services and measures to ensure minimum financial security for all children through child-sensitive social protection. Country governments, with support from donor governments, should increase domestic resource mobilization (DRM) – where countries raise and spend their own funds for long-term sustainable finance. This can be done by building efficient tax systems and mobilizing public resources. Country governments should move towards a tax-to-GDP ratio of 20 percent and ensure local citizen engagement in the DRM dialog.

- **Ensuring all children are treated equally** – End discriminatory policies, norms and behaviors such as preventing girls from accessing health services or denying education to a child because of ethnicity or gender. To facilitate children's access to quality services, governments must also put in place systems to register every child at birth. This includes providing functional child protection systems that include all children in all settings, including homes.

- **Counting and including all children, regardless of who they are or where they are from** – Governments must ensure that all children, especially excluded children, are counted in data that are used to measure progress on the SDGs. Data should be collected and disaggregated by age, economic group, sex, race, ethnicity, disability and geography or migratory status, and be reported publicly in accessible formats. Data must be collected on disabled, indigenous and other marginalized populations to close equity gaps. In addition, excluded children – girls and boys – should participate in policy-making and budgeting, and be

supported to monitor progress and hold governments to account. Governments and donors must also invest in improved data, as there is a significant void in availability of data, especially data for the groups mentioned above.

In addition to these cross-cutting global guarantees, specific actions are needed to address poverty, conflict and gender, with a focus on girls and children who are refugees.

THREAT #1 – POVERTY

As shown in this report, poverty is a key barrier to ensuring children survive and thrive. Children experience poverty in different ways than adults do. Child poverty has been more specifically described as "deprivation of the material, spiritual and emotional resources needed for children to survive, develop and thrive, leaving them unable to enjoy their rights, achieve their full potential or participate as full and equal members of society."[144]

Therefore, action must be taken to address child poverty:

- All countries should adopt a National Action Plan to reduce and eliminate child poverty, together with dedicated budgets and monitoring systems that track improvements in poverty-related deprivations among girls and boys of all ages.
- All governments should ensure that children in poverty (and their families) benefit from Universal Social Protection measures, such as child grants, and should expand programme coverage as quickly as possible to reach all children who are poor.
- As malnutrition is both a result and a cause of poverty, donor and country governments must close the financing gap that is needed to reach globally agreed nutrition targets, such as reducing stunting, reducing anemia, and increasing the rate of exclusive breastfeeding through strengthening and/or developing strong national financing plans that address inequities and leveraging the Global Financing Facility to include specific objectives to address nutrition in country investment plans.
- Countries and donors need to include a focus on reaching adolescent girls with nutrition-specific interventions in national and donor nutrition plans. This includes investing in research to understand how to reach adolescents, particularly girls.

THREAT #2 – ARMED CONFLICT

An increasing number of children are affected by conflict, which has long-term effects on a child's ability to survive and thrive. Donor governments must address the needs of children affected by conflict. Specifically they should focus on:



Photo: Sukaina Sharafuddin / Save the Children

Every girl deserves an education

Batool, age 10, had to flee her hometown in Yemen because of the conflict, but she's keeping up with her studies and enjoying activities at a child-friendly space run by Save the Children in Hayel. Despite her losses, she looks forward to a bright future.

Development and protection:

- Donors should fulfill their commitments in the World Humanitarian Summit Grand Bargain agreement for multi-year funding for protracted crises to allow flexible programming that can address the underlying causes of conflict and improve health and other indicators.
- All states and armed actors should abide by their commitments or obligations under International Humanitarian Law, and endorse and implement the Paris Commitments and Paris Principles. Non-state armed actors should sign and implement the "Geneva Call" Deed of Commitment for the protection of children from the effects of armed conflict.
- Donors should increase investment in protection, mental health and psychosocial services, and education in emergencies. Currently less than 5 percent of humanitarian funding goes to these sectors.

Guarantee education:

- Donors and governments should provide financial support and access to a quality education for children affected by conflict.
- Donors and non-state armed actors should endorse and implement the Safe Schools Declaration to prevent education from coming under attack.
- Governments and donors should work together to ensure refugee children are in a learning program within 30 days of crossing a national border.

THREAT #3 – DISCRIMINATION AGAINST GIRLS

As this report illustrates, gender inequality is pervasive in countries across the world, placing poor and marginalized girls at particular risk of being left behind. Save the Children is campaigning against this, with a particular focus on ending child marriage – an issue that strikes to the heart of the gendered discrimination that is holding girls back, undermining their rights to survive, learn and be protected. We are calling for:

- Countries and donors to invest in achieving gender equality, including increasing spending and monitoring budgets designed to close gender gaps. This must include ensuring girls are able to complete their education – including those children who may have been forced to leave school because they are married or pregnant – and that they are safe from sexual and gender-based violence.
- Countries to raise the legal age of marriage to age 18, close legal loopholes, implement costed action plans, and address harmful norms that leave girls vulnerable to child marriage and other forms of gender-based violence.
- Governments and international bodies to establish strong global, regional and national accountability mechanisms to monitor progress towards ending child marriage, including the systematic gathering of data on child marriage in humanitarian crises.
- Donors to invest in girl-sensitive education programs to ensure more refugee girls go to school and stay in school, and to improve refugee girls' access to education by removing economic barriers (through initiatives such as scholarships, free access and transport) and other key push factors, thus reducing the likelihood of early marriage.
- Donors to also increase support to host governments – including funding, technical support and capacity building – to better enable them to address the issue of child marriage in host communities and refugee camps. This includes strengthening the implementation of legal frameworks and procedures related to early marriage, and involving government actors in prevention campaigns on early marriage.
- Increase efforts to reach adolescent girls with sexual and reproductive health services including access to sex education. Sexual and reproductive health services, especially for adolescent girls, need to be embedded in national budgeted health plans.

Saved from child marriage



Photo by Chris de Bode / Save the Children

Masa is now 16 and has her sights set on university.*

Masa and her family fled the war in Syria when she was 11. They arrived in Jordan and she began attending school, but then she started receiving marriage proposals and was excited by the idea of getting married because that's what many of her friends were doing. She dropped out of school and began preparing for her wedding.

Save the Children found out about her plans and tried to change her mind. She refused to do so on their first two visits, asking them to leave. But on the third visit, she listened to what they had to say. "They told me about the risks and disadvantages of early marriage," said Masa. "They told me if I didn't get married now and completed my education, I would be able to build my own future. I liked what they said and understood it.

"Then I started to compare what they said with the lives of my married friends. When I sat down with one of them, she said that she wished time could go back and I shouldn't accept to get married. I decided not to get married and went back to school.

"Right now I want to continue my education and go to university, and I want to become president."



A young girl helps her father plant millet near their home in Niger.

Photo: Jonathan Hyams / Save the Children

2018 End of Childhood Index Rankings

RANK	COUNTRY		SCORE
1	Singapore		987 ^
1	Slovenia		987 ^
3	Norway		985
3	Sweden		985 ^
5	Finland		984 ^
6	Ireland		981 ^
6	Netherlands		981 v
8	Iceland		980 ^
8	Italy		980 ^
8	Republic of Korea		980 ^
11	Portugal		979 v
12	Cyprus		978
12	Germany		978
14	France		977 ^
14	Spain		977 ^
16	Belgium		976 v
17	Australia		975 ^
17	Switzerland		975 ^
19	Israel		973 ^
19	Japan		973 v
19	Luxembourg		973
22	Denmark		971 v
22	United Kingdom		971
24	Canada		970
25	Lithuania		968 v
25	Poland		968 ^
27	Greece		967 v
28	Croatia		965 v
28	Estonia		965 v
28	New Zealand		965 ^
31	Latvia		963 ^
32	Hungary		962
33	Malta		961 ^
34	Bahrain		956
35	Belarus		952 ^
36	United States		945 ^
37	Russian Federation		944 ^
38	Kuwait		943 ^
39	Bosnia & Herzegovina		941 v
40	China		939 ^
40	Qatar		939 v
42	United Arab Emirates	G	936
43	Oman		932 ^
43	Ukraine		932 v
45	Kazakhstan		930 v
46	Serbia		928
47	Saudi Arabia	G	927 ^
48	Bulgaria		925 ^
48	Tunisia		925 ^
50	Lebanon	C G	924
51	Jordan		921 ^
52	Maldives	G	920
53	Montenegro		919 v
54	Mauritius		916 v
54	Romania		916 ^
54	Tonga	G	916 ^
57	Armenia		913 ^
58	Chile		911 v
58	Samoa		911 ^
60	Sri Lanka		908 ^
61	Bahamas		906 v
61	Barbados		906 ^
63	Cuba		905 ^
64	Turkey		904 v
65	Algeria		903
66	TfYR Macedonia	G	900 v
67	Malaysia		898 ^
68	Brunei Darussalam		897 ^
69	Costa Rica		895 ^
70	DPR Korea	P	894 ^
71	Mongolia		891 ^
72	Georgia		887 ^
73	Argentina		884 ^
73	Fiji		884 ^
73	Uzbekistan		884 ^
76	Saint Lucia	G	880 v
77	Albania		878 ^
78	Uruguay		875 ^
79	Jamaica		872
79	Trinidad & Tobago		872 v
81	Moldova		867
82	Seychelles		866 v
82	Turkmenistan		866 ^
84	State of Palestine	C	864 ^
85	Thailand	G	863 ^
86	Iran	G	860
87	Suriname		856 v
88	Morocco	G	850 v
89	Azerbaijan	G	841 ^
90	Cabo Verde		840 v
91	Egypt		830
92	Kyrgyzstan		825 ^
93	Brazil		822 ^
93	Mexico		822 ^
95	Peru		818 ^
96	Vietnam		816 ^
97	Tajikistan	G	812
98	Bhutan		810 v
99	Ecuador		806 v
99	Paraguay		806 ^
101	Belize		805 ^
102	Botswana		800 ^
102	Vanuatu		800 v
104	Philippines		799 v
105	Indonesia	G	794 ^
106	Panama		792 v
107	Myanmar*	C	791 ^
108	Guyana		787 ^
109	Gabon		779 ^
110	Namibia		777
111	Nicaragua		770 ^
111	South Africa	G	770 v
113	India	P G	768 ^
114	Swaziland	P	766 v
115	Sao Tome & Principe	P	760 ^
116	Bolivia		758 ^
117	Rwanda	P	757
118	Colombia		756 ^
119	Cambodia	G	752 v
120	Ghana		749 v
121	El Salvador		747 ^
122	Dominican Republic		740 v
123	Kenya	P G	737 v
124	Haiti	C P	734 ^
125	Djibouti	C G	730 ^
125	Iraq*	C G	730
127	Congo	C P G	719 v
128	Timor-Leste	P	718 v
129	Venezuela		716 v
130	Bangladesh	P	701 ^
130	Uganda	P G	701 ^
132	Lao PDR	P	690 ^
133	Solomon Islands	C P G	688 v
134	Comoros	C P G	687 v
134	Togo	C P G	687 ^
136	Zimbabwe	C P	685 ^
137	Papua New Guinea	C P G	681 ^
138	Nepal	P G	677 v
139	Senegal	P G	668 v
140	Sudan	C	667 ^
141	Ethiopia	P G	663 ^
142	Burundi	C P	656 ^
142	Syria*	C	656 v
144	Honduras		651 ^
145	Yemen*	C P G	648 v
146	Gambia	C P G	646 ^
147	Zambia	P G	633
148	Liberia	C P G	631 v
149	Pakistan	G	630 ^
150	Tanzania	P G	622 v
151	Malawi	P G	620 ^
152	Guatemala	G	619 v
153	Eritrea	C P G	613 ^
154	Côte d'Ivoire	C P G	611 ^
155	Equatorial Guinea	G	609 ^
156	Guinea-Bissau	C P G	608 ^
157	Lesotho	P	605 v
158	Benin	P G	594 ^
158	Cameroon	G	594 ^
160	Afghanistan	C P G	592 v
161	Madagascar	P	589 ^
162	Mauritania		585 v
163	Angola	P G	579 ^
164	Mozambique	C P G	572 v
165	Burkina Faso	P	560 ^
166	DR Congo	C P G	556 v
167	Sierra Leone	C P G	553 ^
168	Guinea	P G	524 v
169	Nigeria	P G	513 v
170	Somalia	C P G	483 ^
171	South Sudan	C P G	475 v
172	Chad	C P G	424 v
173	Central African Republic	C P G	421 v
174	Mali	C P G	420 ^
175	Niger	P G	388 ^

Few children missing out on childhood**
Some children missing out on childhood
Many children missing out on childhood
Most children missing out on childhood

^ Score is up from last year
v Score is down from last year
C Country is characterized by conflict/fragility
P Country is characterized by poverty
G Country is characterized by discrimination against girls

Index scores reflect the average level of performance across a set of eight indicators related to child health, education, labor, marriage, childbirth and violence. The only reason a country was not included in this analysis was insufficient data (i.e., the country was missing values for three or more indicators). To see the underlying dataset, including data gaps, turn to pages 32-35. Performance bands reflect the extent to which children are missing out on childhood. For details, see Methodology and Research Notes.

* Data collection in times of conflict is difficult and dangerous. Latest available data for conflict-affected countries often predate escalations of violence and do not capture the harsh realities for children in these settings. In Syria, for example, recent evidence suggests rates of child labor and child marriage have risen. These trends are not reflected in the data or index ranking.

** Although relatively few children in these countries are missing out on childhood, the absolute number of children missing out likely totals in the millions. This is especially true in more populous countries at the bottom of the performance band (e.g., United States, Russia).

Complete End of Childhood Index 2018

CHILDHOOD ENDER	CHILD DIES	CHILD IS SEVERELY MALNOURISHED		CHILD IS OUT OF SCHOOL		CHILD BEGINS WORK LIFE		CHILD MARRIES		CHILD HAS A CHILD	CHILD IS A VICTIM OF EXTREME VIOLENCE		END OF CHILDHOOD INDEX 2018	
INDICATOR	Under-5 mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	Child stunting (% children aged 0-59 months)		Out-of-school children of primary and secondary school age (%)		Children engaged in child labor (% ages 5-17)		Adolescents currently married or in union (% girls aged 15-19)		Adolescent birth rate (births per 1,000 girls aged 15-19)	Population forcibly displaced by conflict (% of total)		Child homicide rate (deaths per 100,000 population aged 0-19)	
	2016	2012-2017+		2012-2017+		2012-2017+		2012-2017+		2015	2017		2015	Score (out of 1,000)	Rank (out of 175)
Afghanistan*	70.4	40.9		41.8	z	29.4		19.7	x	71.2	14.2	c	2.0	592	160
Albania	13.5	23.1	x	8.5		5.1	x,y	6.5	x	21.8	1.1		1.4	878	77
Algeria	25.2	11.7		…		5.0	y	3.1	a,b	10.5	0.0		1.8	903	65
Angola	82.5	37.6		36.4	x	23.4		18.2	a	161.9	0.1		3.8	579	163
Antigua and Barbuda	8.5	…		19.4		…		…		43.9	0.1		1.4	–	–
Argentina	11.1	8.2	x	2.7		4.4	y	12.7	x	63.8	0.0		2.0	884	73
Armenia	13.4	9.4		5.7	x	8.7	y	4.6	a	22.5	0.8		0.3	913	57
Australia	3.7	2.0	x	2.1		…		0.5	b,x	13.8	0.0		0.3	975	17
Austria	3.5	…		…		…		2.7	x	6.8	0.0		0.3	–	–
Azerbaijan	30.9	18.0		4.6		6.5	x,y	8.9	a,x	61.0	6.4		0.9	841	89
Bahamas	10.6	…		11.2		…		2.4	x	28.7	0.1		6.7	906	61
Bahrain	7.6	…		2.6		…		5.3	b,x	13.4	0.0		0.2	956	34
Bangladesh	34.2	36.1		18.4		4.3	y	44.2	a,b	82.6	0.0		1.6	701	130
Barbados	12.3	7.7		5.5		1.9	y	2.4		39.4	0.1		6.2	906	61
Belarus	3.9	4.5	x	1.7		1.4	y	7.5		17.6	0.1		0.6	952	35
Belgium	3.9	…		1.9		…		2.2	x	8.1	0.0		0.4	976	16
Belize	14.9	15.0		9.2		3.2	y	20.8	a	65.1	0.1		11.1	805	101
Benin	97.6	34.0		23.8		52.5		16.0	a	81.8	0.0		2.3	594	158
Bhutan	32.4	33.6	x	19.0		2.9	x,y	15.2	x	20.2	1.3		0.7	810	98
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	36.9	18.1		11.8		26.4	x,y	11.6		70.4	0.0		6.4	758	116
Bosnia and Herzegovina	6.0	8.9		…		5.3	x,y	0.7		8.2	4.9		0.7	941	39
Botswana	40.6	31.4	x	…		9.0	x,y	…		31.0	0.0		2.2	800	102
Brazil	15.1	7.1	x	8.3		6.6	y	3.9	b,x	66.7	0.0		18.6	822	93
Brunei Darussalam	9.9	19.7	x	9.5		…		…		20.8	0.0		0.2	897	68
Bulgaria	7.6	…		7.9		…		8.4	x	36.8	0.0		0.4	925	48
Burkina Faso	84.6	27.3		40.1		39.2	x,y	31.5	x	107.2	0.0		4.9	560	165
Burundi	71.7	55.9		25.9	x	26.3	x,y	8.6	x	27.9	7.1		2.5	656	142
Cabo Verde	21.4	…		20.5		6.4	y	8.1	x	73.2	0.0		2.8	840	90
Cambodia	30.6	32.4		22.5	x	19.3	y	15.6	a	52.2	0.1		0.9	752	119
Cameroon	79.7	31.7		22.6		47.0		20.1	a	102.4	1.0		5.0	594	158
Canada	4.9	…		2.7		…		2.2	x	9.5	0.0		0.8	970	24
Central African Republic	123.6	40.7	x	49.1		28.5	x,y	54.9	x	90.7	25.1	c	4.9	421	173
Chad*	127.3	39.9		49.1	z	51.5		38.3	a	129.8	1.1		4.8	424	172
Chile	8.3	1.8		6.9		6.6	y	5.7	x	47.5	0.0		2.5	911	58
China*	9.9	8.1		7.6	z	…		3.1	b	7.3	0.0	e	0.5	939	40
Colombia	15.3	12.7	x	7.7		7.8	y	13.3	a	48.7	16.0	c	22.1	756	118
Comoros	73.3	32.1		27.4		22.0	y	16.4		67.1	0.2		2.2	687	134
Congo*	54.1	21.2		10.3	x,z	23.3		16.1	a	116.1	1.9		3.0	719	127
Costa Rica	8.8	5.6	x	5.3		4.1	x,y	9.0		56.0	0.0		3.4	895	69
Côte d'Ivoire	91.8	21.6	a	33.4		31.3	a	18.4	a	135.6	0.3		3.7	611	154
Croatia	4.7	…		6.3		…		2.0	x	9.2	0.8		0.2	965	28
Cuba	5.5	…		8.1		…		15.8	a	45.1	0.1		1.4	905	63
Cyprus	2.6	…		3.0		…		3.1	x	4.9	0.0		0.2	978	12
Czech Republic	3.2	…		…		…		0.9	x	9.7	0.0		0.1	–	–
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	20.0	27.9		1.8	x	…		0.3	b,x	0.5	0.0		2.5	894	70
Democratic Republic of the Congo*	94.3	42.6		18.1	z	38.4		21.3		122.3	5.8	c	6.7	556	166
Denmark	4.4	…		3.8		…		3.5	x	4.0	0.0		0.4	971	22
Djibouti	64.2	33.5		52.9		7.7	x,y	4.2	b,x	21.2	0.3		2.2	730	125
Dominican Republic	30.7	7.1		15.2		12.8		27.5	a	97.3	0.0		11.8	740	122

Shading reflects prevalence: Moderate High Very high

COMPLETE END OF CHILDHOOD INDEX 2018

CHILDHOOD ENDER	CHILD DIES	CHILD IS SEVERELY MALNOURISHED		CHILD IS OUT OF SCHOOL		CHILD BEGINS WORK LIFE		CHILD MARRIES		CHILD HAS A CHILD	CHILD IS A VICTIM OF EXTREME VIOLENCE		END OF CHILDHOOD INDEX 2018	
INDICATOR	Under-5 mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	Child stunting (% children aged 0-59 months)		Out-of-school children of primary and secondary school age (%)		Children engaged in child labor (% ages 5-17)		Adolescents currently married or in union (% girls aged 15-19)		Adolescent birth rate (births per 1,000 girls aged 15-19)	Population forcibly displaced by conflict (% of total)	Child homicide rate (deaths per 100,000 population aged 0-19)	Score (out of 1,000)	Rank (out of 175)
	2016	2012-2017+		2012-2017+		2012-2017+		2012-2017+		2015	2017	2015		
Ecuador	20.9	25.2		5.5		4.9	y	20.0	x	75.6	0.1	3.3	806	99
Egypt	22.8	22.3		7.9		7.0		14.4	b	51.3	0.0	2.8	830	91
El Salvador	15.0	13.6		18.4		8.9	y	16.3	a	64.9	1.7	20.9	747	121
Equatorial Guinea	90.9	26.2	x	…		…		22.0	x	107.5	0.0	0.9	609	155
Eritrea	44.5	50.3	x	59.9		…		…		53.0	10.7	2.4	613	153
Estonia	2.9	…		5.0		…		4.4		12.4	0.0	0.5	965	28
Ethiopia	58.4	38.4		33.6		27.4	x,y	17.4	a	56.6	0.2	3.0	663	141
Fiji	22.0	…		7.8		…		7.6	b,x	45.2	0.1	1.2	884	73
Finland	2.3	…		1.7		…		0.5		6.4	0.0	0.6	984	5
France	3.9	…		0.5		…		2.7	x	8.8	0.0	0.4	977	14
Gabon*	47.4	17.5		9.3	z	13.4	y	13.5		97.7	0.0	2.5	779	109
Gambia*	65.3	25.0		34.5	z	19.2	x,y	23.8		112.5	1.6	4.7	646	146
Georgia	10.7	11.3	x	2.4		4.2	y	10.6	x	38.3	7.6	1.5	887	72
Germany	3.8	1.3	x	…		…		2.0	x	6.4	0.0	0.5	978	12
Ghana	58.8	18.8		22.4		21.8	y	6.4	a	66.1	0.1	4.8	749	120
Greece	3.8	…		7.5		…		1.8	x	7.2	0.0	0.4	967	27
Grenada	16.0	…		3.7		…		…		29.6	0.2	0.5	–	–
Guatemala	28.5	46.5		24.6		25.8	y	19.8	a	80.1	0.4	16.1	619	152
Guinea	89.0	32.4	a	37.8		38.1	a	35.2	a	139.6	0.4	4.7	524	168
Guinea-Bissau*	88.1	27.6		26.1	z	51.1		11.4	a	87.5	0.2	5.4	608	156
Guyana	32.4	12.0		9.5		18.3		13.3	a	87.6	0.1	5.4	787	108
Haiti*	67.0	21.9		9.9	z	24.4	y	12.1		38.9	0.9	10.7	734	124
Honduras	18.7	22.7		27.8		14.1	y	22.6		64.3	2.5	28.9	651	144
Hungary	5.2	…		6.5		…		0.6		17.7	0.0	0.3	962	32
Iceland	2.1	…		5.7		…		0.6		5.7	0.0	0.0	980	8
India	43.0	38.4		20.2		11.8	x,y	15.2	a,b	23.3	0.0	1.0	768	113
Indonesia	26.4	36.4		14.2		6.9	x,y	12.8		49.2	0.0	1.8	794	105
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	15.1	6.8	x	11.9		11.4	x,y	21.1	b,x	26.3	0.2	1.2	860	86
Iraq	31.2	22.6	x	21.9	x	4.7	x,y	20.7	b,x	84.8	13.6	c	6.1	730	125
Ireland	3.6	…		0.3		…		1.1	x	10.1	0.0	0.3	981	6
Israel	3.6	…		2.0		…		2.8	b	9.3	0.0	0.8	973	19
Italy	3.3	…		2.3		…		1.5	x	5.9	0.0	0.2	980	8
Jamaica	15.3	6.2		…		3.3	x,y	3.4	x	58.8	0.1	10.1	872	79
Japan	2.7	7.1	x	1.5		…		0.6	b,x	4.0	0.0	0.2	973	19
Jordan	17.6	7.8		…		1.7	y	5.9	b	22.6	0.1	1.0	921	51
Kazakhstan	11.4	8.0		3.2		2.2	x,y	6.0	a	27.2	0.0	0.9	930	45
Kenya	49.2	26.0		20.5	x	…		11.9	a	90.2	0.0	2.3	737	123
Kiribati	54.3	…		…		…		15.8	x	16.4	0.0	4.3	–	–
Kuwait	8.4	4.9		7.5		…		4.9	b,x	9.4	0.0	0.8	943	38
Kyrgyzstan	21.1	12.9		6.1		25.8		13.9	a	39.2	0.1	1.9	825	92
Lao People's Democratic Republic	63.9	43.8	x	18.8		10.1	x,y	24.8		63.7	0.1	3.9	690	132
Latvia	4.6	…		5.1		…		2.6	x	13.3	0.0	0.8	963	31
Lebanon	8.1	…		20.1		1.9	x,y	3.3	b,x	12.2	0.2	1.7	924	50
Lesotho	93.5	33.2		24.7		…		17.7	a	93.2	0.0	8.7	605	157
Liberia	67.4	32.1		46.9		20.8	x,y	14.3		107.1	0.2	4.1	631	148
Libya	12.9	21.0	x	…		…		…		6.2	5.0	0.9	–	–
Lithuania	5.3	…		3.1		…		2.1	x	10.4	0.0	0.6	968	25
Luxembourg	2.4	…		8.4		…		1.0	x	5.7	0.0	0.1	973	19
Madagascar*	46.4	49.2	x	28.6	x,z	22.9	y	33.7	x	114.8	0.0	5.5	589	161
Malawi	55.1	37.1		17.5		39.3		23.5	a	135.3	0.0	0.4	620	151
Malaysia	8.3	17.7		13.7		…		6.0	b,x	13.7	0.0	1.0	898	67
Maldives*	8.5	20.3	x	1.6	x,z	…		5.0	b,x	6.2	0.0	1.2	920	52

Shading reflects prevalence: Moderate High Very high

COMPLETE END OF CHILDHOOD INDEX 2018

CHILDHOOD ENDER	CHILD DIES	CHILD IS SEVERELY MALNOURISHED	CHILD IS OUT OF SCHOOL	CHILD BEGINS WORK LIFE	CHILD MARRIES	CHILD HAS A CHILD	CHILD IS A VICTIM OF EXTREME VIOLENCE		END OF CHILDHOOD INDEX 2018	
INDICATOR	Under-5 mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	Child stunting (% children aged 0-59 months)	Out-of-school children of primary and secondary school age (%)	Children engaged in child labor (% ages 5-17)	Adolescents currently married or in union (% girls aged 15-19)	Adolescent birth rate (births per 1,000 girls aged 15-19)	Population forcibly displaced by conflict (% of total)	Child homicide rate (deaths per 100,000 population aged 0-19)	Score (out of 1,000)	Rank (out of 175)
	2016	2012-2017+	2012-2017+	2012-2017+	2012-2017+	2015	2017	2015		
Mali	110.6	30.4	46.1	55.8	38.9 a	173.7	1.3 c	6.3	420	174
Malta	6.8	…	5.7	…	0.5 x	16.4	0.0	0.3	961	33
Marshall Islands	35.4	…	23.7	…	21.1 x	82.2 x,z	0.0	…	–	–
Mauritania	81.4	27.9	42.2	37.6	27.8 a,b	77.9	1.0	5.0	585	162
Mauritius	13.7	…	8.8	…	7.0 x	28.3	0.0	0.6	916	54
Mexico	14.6	12.4	10.4	12.4	15.4 a	62.2	0.1	5.6	822	93
Mongolia	17.9	10.8	2.2	17.3	5.3 a	15.0	0.2	1.9	891	71
Montenegro	3.8	9.4	7.8	12.5	2.1	12.0	0.2	0.7	919	53
Morocco	27.1	14.9 x	17.7	8.3 x,y	11.0 b,x	31.4	0.0	0.6	850	88
Mozambique	71.3	43.1 x	26.5	22.2 x,y	43.1 a	136.9	0.1	1.0	572	164
Myanmar	50.8	29.2	21.3	9.3 y	12.6 b	16.2	1.7 c	1.5	791	107
Namibia	45.2	23.1	15.1 x	…	5.4	76.2	0.1	3.7	777	110
Nepal	34.5	35.8	13.8	37.4	27.1 a	71.3	0.1	1.8	677	138
Netherlands	3.8	…	1.4	…	1.9 x	3.9	0.0	0.3	981	6
New Zealand	5.4	…	2.2	…	0.5 b,x	23.3	0.0	0.7	965	28
Nicaragua	19.7	23.0 x	10.4 x	…	24.2 x	88.1	0.1	6.3	770	111
Niger	91.3	42.2	55.1	30.5 y	59.8	201.2	0.7	6.7	388	175
Nigeria*	104.3	43.6 a	31.9 z	50.8 a	22.2 a	109.3	1.5 c	4.9	513	169
Norway	2.6	…	2.1	…	0.1	5.9	0.0	0.2	985	3
Oman	10.7	14.1	2.0	…	3.3 a,b	7.5	0.0	1.4	932	43
Pakistan	78.8	45.0	40.1	…	13.1 b	38.3	0.3	5.4	630	149
Panama	16.4	19.1 x	16.8	2.5 y	14.1 a	73.7	0.0	10.8	792	106
Papua New Guinea	54.3	49.5 x	…	…	14.8 x	54.4	0.0	4.3	681	137
Paraguay	19.9	5.9 a	15.4	26.4 a	16.1 a	56.9	0.0	2.3	806	99
Peru	15.3	14.4	6.3	21.8 y	11.3 a	48.4	0.0	6.2	818	95
Philippines	27.1	33.4	6.1	11.1 x,y	9.7	62.7	0.6 c	2.6	799	104
Poland	4.7	…	5.3	…	1.2 x	13.1	0.0	0.2	968	25
Portugal	3.5	…	2.4	…	0.6 b,x	9.4	0.0	0.3	979	11
Qatar	8.5	…	8.0	…	4.0 a,b	10.5	0.0	3.0	939	40
Republic of Korea	3.4	2.5 x	1.9	…	0.4 b,x	1.6	0.0	0.9	980	8
Republic of Moldova	15.9	6.4	17.9	16.3 x,y	9.9	22.0	0.2	0.4	867	81
Romania	9.0	…	13.9	…	6.7 x	34.0	0.0	0.5	916	54
Russian Federation*	7.7	…	1.3 z	…	7.5 x	22.7	0.1	1.3	944	37
Rwanda*	38.5	36.7	18.8 z	28.5 x,y	3.1 a	25.6	2.5	1.6	757	117
Saint Lucia	13.3	2.5	10.6 x	3.9 y	5.0	53.4	0.7	8.0	880	76
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	16.6	…	4.5	…	…	50.3	1.3	1.7	–	–
Samoa	17.3	4.7	8.8	…	7.8 a	24.3	0.0	1.0	911	58
Sao Tome and Principe	33.8	17.2	10.9	26.0	15.3 a	83.5	0.0	3.5	760	115
Saudi Arabia	12.9	9.3 x	4.0	…	4.5 b,x	8.4	0.0	2.7	927	47
Senegal	47.1	17.0	50.3 x	23.0	24.4 a	76.9	0.3	3.6	668	139
Serbia	5.8	6.0	4.4	9.5	3.1	18.7	3.1 d	0.3	928	46
Seychelles	14.3	7.9	9.5	…	…	56.9	0.0	1.6	866	82
Sierra Leone	113.5	37.9	29.0	37.4 y	18.8	116.7	0.1	6.4	553	167
Singapore	2.8	…	0.1	…	0.4 b,x	3.8	0.0	0.9	987	1
Slovakia	5.9	…	…	…	1.6 x	19.9	0.0	0.2	–	–
Slovenia	2.3	…	2.1	…	0.5 x	3.6	0.0	0.0	987	1
Solomon Islands	25.8	31.6	31.3 x	47.8 y	11.4 a	47.4	0.0	1.3	688	133
Somalia*	132.5	25.3 x	48.7 x,z	49.0 x,y	24.6 b,x	102.6	17.9 c	2.0	483	170
South Africa	43.3	27.4	17.6	…	3.3 x	44.4	0.0	8.9	770	111
South Sudan	90.7	31.1 x	66.7	…	40.1 x	63.4	31.1 c	1.8	475	171
Spain	3.3	…	1.1	…	3.5 x	8.3	0.0	0.2	977	14
Sri Lanka	9.4	17.3	10.1 x	1.0 y	6.0 a	14.2	0.8	0.9	908	60

Shading reflects prevalence: Moderate High Very high

COMPLETE END OF CHILDHOOD INDEX 2018

CHILDHOOD ENDER	CHILD DIES	CHILD IS SEVERELY MALNOURISHED	CHILD IS OUT OF SCHOOL	CHILD BEGINS WORK LIFE	CHILD MARRIES	CHILD HAS A CHILD	CHILD IS A VICTIM OF EXTREME VIOLENCE		END OF CHILDHOOD INDEX 2018	
INDICATOR	Under-5 mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	Child stunting (% children aged 0-59 months)	Out-of-school children of primary and secondary school age (%)	Children engaged in child labor (% ages 5-17)	Adolescents currently married or in union (% girls aged 15-19)	Adolescent birth rate (births per 1,000 girls aged 15-19)	Population forcibly displaced by conflict (% of total)	Child homicide rate (deaths per 100,000 population aged 0-19)	Score (out of 1,000)	Rank (out of 175)
	2016	2012-2017+	2012-2017+	2012-2017+	2012-2017+	2015	2017	2015		
State of Palestine	19.4	7.4	13.7	5.7 x,y	9.3 a,b	58.1	2.2	1.7 z	864	84
Sudan*	65.1	38.2	14.0 z	24.9	21.2 a,b	72.1	7.5 c	3.4	667	140
Suriname	20.0	8.8 x	15.8	4.1 x,y	11.8 x	45.7	0.0	4.4	856	87
Swaziland	70.4	25.5	21.8	7.3 x,y	4.0 a	67.2	0.0	4.0	766	114
Sweden	2.9	…	0.8	…	0.4	5.7	0.0	0.6	985	3
Switzerland	4.1	…	6.1	…	0.4	2.8	0.0	0.3	975	17
Syrian Arab Republic	17.5	27.5 x	45.0	4.0 x,y	9.7 b,x	38.9	68.2 c	1.0	656	142
Tajikistan	43.1	26.8	10.9 x	10.0 x	13.2	37.8	0.0	0.3	812	97
Thailand	12.2	10.5	13.7	8.3 x,y	14.1 a	44.6	0.0	0.9	863	85
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	12.2	4.9 x	15.7 x	12.5 x,y	4.3 x	17.3	0.4	0.5	900	66
Timor-Leste	49.7	50.2	20.1	…	7.7 x	45.5	0.0	3.1	718	128
Togo*	75.7	27.5	17.2 z	27.9	12.7	92.1	0.1	3.9	687	134
Tonga	16.4	8.1	9.8	…	4.6	14.9	0.1	0.9	916	54
Trinidad and Tobago*	18.5	11.0 a	5.4 x,z	2.3 a,y	4.4 a	30.8	0.0	12.1	872	79
Tunisia*	13.6	10.1	15.6 x,z	2.1 y	1.2 b	6.8	0.0	0.6	925	48
Turkey	12.7	9.5	9.3	5.9 y	7.1 a,b	26.8	0.1	0.9	904	64
Turkmenistan	51.0	11.5	…	0.3	6.0 a	16.0	0.0	1.2	866	82
Tuvalu	25.3	10.0 x	17.6	…	8.0 b,x	…	0.0	…	–	–
Uganda*	53.0	28.9	16.6 x,z	16.3 y	19.9 a	108.9	0.4	4.2	701	130
Ukraine	9.1	…	4.9	2.4 y	6.4	23.4	4.6	0.5	932	43
United Arab Emirates	7.7	…	5.1	…	6.7 b,x	30.1	0.0	0.8	936	42
United Kingdom	4.3	…	0.6	…	2.9 x	13.9	0.0	0.7	971	22
United Republic of Tanzania*	56.7	34.4	33.6 z	28.8 y	23.0 a	117.7	0.0	2.6	622	150
United States of America	6.5	2.1	…	…	5.8 x	21.2	0.0	2.5	945	36
Uruguay	9.2	10.7 x	6.9	7.9 x,y	7.4 a	55.8	0.0	3.7	875	78
Uzbekistan	24.1	19.6 x	6.3	…	4.9 x	17.6	0.0	0.6	884	73
Vanuatu	27.6	28.5	16.1	15.2 y	11.3 a	42.7	0.0	0.6	800	102
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	16.3	13.4 x	14.8	…	…	79.1	0.3	26.9	716	129
Vietnam*	21.6	24.6	13.3 z	16.4	10.3 a	39.1	0.3	1.5	816	96
Yemen	55.3	46.5	28.9	22.7 x,y	16.7 b	60.7	10.5 c	2.6	648	145
Zambia*	63.4	40.0	21.0 z	40.6 x,y	16.9	87.9	0.0	2.5	633	147
Zimbabwe	56.4	26.8	24.9	…	19.6 a	108.9	0.4	3.0	685	136
Sub-Saharan Africa§	78.4	33.9	29.4	29.4	23.0	122.0	2.0	4.2	600	–
Eastern and Southern Africa	61.4	34.4	28.3	25.8	20.0	112.8	1.7	3.3	638	–
West and Central Africa	94.7	33.5	31.6	31.9	26.7	129.8	1.9	5.2	562	–
Middle East and North Africa	24.0	15.3	16.0	6.9	12.8	41.0	5.1	2.5	831	–
South Asia	48.1	35.8	22.8	12.4 y,z	29.0 z	44.3	0.3	1.7	719	–
East Asia and Pacific	16.3	9.3	9.7	10.0 y,z**	5.7	21.2	0.1	1.1	897	–
Latin America and Caribbean	17.5	11.0	9.9	10.5	10.9	74.3	1.3	12.6	801	–
CEE/CIS‡	14.4	6.2	6.1	5.4 y,z	7.3	29.0	0.9	0.9	913	–
Developed regions	…	…	…	…	…	…	0.2	1.1	–	–
World	40.8	22.9	17.8	12.6 y,z**	16.0	50.4	0.9 z	3.0	779	–

Shading reflects prevalence: Moderate High Very high

… Data are unavailable or outdated (i.e., pre-2005)
a Estimate from recent MICS or DHS (pending reanalysis)
b Estimate does not include consensual unions
c There is evidence of recruitment and use of children (e.g., as child soliders)
d Includes displaced populations from Serbia and Kosovo
e Includes displaced populations of Tibetan origin
x Data refer to the most recent year available during the period 2005-2011
y Data differ from the standard definition (interpret with caution)
z Data are from the secondary source (interpret with caution)

§ Includes Eastern and Southern Africa, West and Central Africa, Djibouti, Sudan
‡ Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States
+ Data refer to the most recent year available during the reference period
* To include as many countries as possible in the rankings, school attendance data for these 23 countries were sourced from surveys because recent enrollment data were not available
** Excludes China

NOTE: For indicator definitions, primary and secondary data sources, prevalence thresholds and regional classifications, see Methodology and Research Notes.

Methodology and Research Notes

Every child has a right to childhood. The concept of childhood is defined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.[145] It represents a shared vision of childhood: healthy children in school and at play, growing strong and confident with the love and encouragement of their family and an extended community of caring adults, gradually taking on the responsibilities of adulthood, free from fear, safe from violence, protected from abuse and exploitation. This ideal contrasts starkly with the childhood many children experience.

Countries differ greatly in their ability to protect childhood. The *End of Childhood Index* explores this variation across countries, revealing where and how children are being robbed of the childhoods they deserve. The hope is it will stimulate discussion and action to ensure that every last child fully experiences childhood.

CHILDHOOD ENDERS

This index does not capture the full extent of deprivations or hardships affecting children. Instead, it focuses on some key rights or "guarantees" of childhood: life, healthy growth and development, education and protection from harm. If a child experiences all of these, his/her childhood is considered to be "intact."

The index tracks a series of events that, should any one of them occur, mark the end of an intact childhood. These events are called "childhood enders" and include: child dies, malnutrition permanently impairs child's development, child leaves or fails to enter school, child begins work life, child marries, child has a child, and child is a victim of extreme violence.

Ender events erode childhood. Depending on the number and severity of enders experienced, the loss of childhood could be complete or only partial.[146] But once a child experiences an ender, childhood becomes fractured rather than complete.[147] Each event represents an assault on childhood. At some point, as the assaults mount up, childhood ends.

Countries are scored and ranked according to performance across this set of enders, revealing where childhood is most and least threatened.

INDICATORS, DEFINITIONS AND DATA SOURCES

The following eight indicators were selected because they best represent these enders, are available for a large number of countries and are regularly updated.[148] Data were obtained from reliable and reputable sources, almost exclusively UN agencies, and are publicly available to those interested in doing additional analyses.

ENDER	INDICATOR
Child dies	Under-5 mortality rate
Child is severely malnourished	Child stunting (%)
Child is out of school	Out-of-school children, adolescents and youth (%)
Child begins work life	Child labor (%)
Child marries	Adolescents currently married or in union (%)
Child has a child	Adolescent birth rate
Child is a victim of extreme violence	Population forcibly displaced by conflict (%)
Child is a victim of extreme violence	Child homicide rate

Under-5 mortality rate (U5MR): The probability of dying between birth and exactly 5 years of age, expressed per 1,000 live births. Estimates are for 2016. *Source: UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (childmortality.org).*

Child stunting (moderate and severe): Percentage of children aged 0-59 months who are below minus two standard deviations from median height-for-age of the WHO Child Growth Standards. Estimates are for the most recent year available 2005-2017. *Sources: UNICEF, WHO, World Bank Group. Joint Malnutrition Country Dataset, December 2017 Edition (data.unicef.org/topic/nutrition/malnutrition/), updated with data from recent MICS and DHS surveys for five countries (see Complete End of Childhood Index).*

Out-of-school rate (OOSC) for children, adolescents and youth of primary and secondary school age: The number of children, adolescents and youth of official primary and secondary school age who are not enrolled[149] in primary, secondary or higher levels of education, expressed as a percentage of the population of official school age. Children and young people (about ages 6 and over) who are enrolled in pre-primary education are considered to be out of school.[150] Data are for the most recent year available 2005-2017. *Sources: UNESCO's UIS.Stat (data.uis.unesco.org), supplemented with household survey data from UNESCO's World Inequality Database on Education (education-inequalities.org) for 23 countries (see Complete End of Childhood Index).* Note: Household survey data were used to estimate OOSC rates only where official data were unavailable or outdated (i.e., pre 2005). Rates were derived by dividing the number of children, adolescents and youth out of school (calculated as: primary OOSC*primary population + lower secondary OOSC*lower secondary population + upper secondary OOS *upper secondary population) by the total population of official primary and secondary school age. Official school age population data were sourced from UIS.Stat and refer to the same OOSC reference year.

Child labor: Percentage of children 5-17 years old involved in child labor.[151] Data are for the most recent year available 2005-2017. *Sources: UNICEF (data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/child-labour/), updated with data from recent MICS surveys for five countries (see Complete End of Childhood Index).*

Adolescents currently married or in union: Percentage of girls 15 to 19 years of age who have been married and are not either divorced, widowed or separated. Data including consensual unions or other types of customary unions are prioritized. Where unions have not been reported together with currently married, this omission is marked with a "b" in the *Complete End of Childhood Index* table. Data are for 2005-2017. Where more than one data point was available for the same reference year, the lowest value was used. *Sources: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), Population Division. World Marriage Data 2015, updated with data from recent MICS and DHS surveys for 58 countries (see Complete End of Childhood Index).*

Adolescent birth rate: Births to women aged 15 to 19 per 1,000 women in that age group. Estimates are for 2015 for all but Marshall Islands, which is from 2011. *Sources: World Development Indicators, World Bank (data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.ADO.TFRT), supplemented with data for Marshall Islands from the SDG Indicators Global Database (unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/?indicator=3.7.2).*

Population forcibly displaced by conflict or persecution: Total population of concern to UNHCR,[152] by country or territory of origin, expressed as a percentage of the country's or territory's population. Data are for mid-2017. *Sources: UNHCR. Mid-Year Trends 2017. (Geneva: 2018) and UNDESA, Population Division. World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision.*

Evidence of child soldiers: Countries identified as having governmental armed forces, government-supported armed groups or other parties that recruit or use child soldiers. The term "child soldier" includes children who are serving in any capacity, including in a support role, such as a cook, porter, messenger, medic, guard or sex slave. *Sources: Child Soldiers Prevention Act List from Trafficking in Persons Report 2017 (state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/ 2017/271111.htm) and Children and Armed Conflict: Report of the Secretary-General, Annex I and Annex II (undocs.org/A/72/361). Note: This indicator is not factored into the index score but has been noted in the Complete End of Childhood Index table.*

Child homicide rate: Estimated number of deaths caused by interpersonal violence among children and adolescents aged 0 to 19 years (from WHO or IHME), expressed per 100,000 population in that age group (from UNDESA, Population Division). Estimates are for 2015. *Sources: WHO. Global Health Estimates 2015: Deaths by Cause, Age, Sex, by Country and by Region, 2000-2015 (terrance.who.int/mediacentre/data/ghe/) and UNDESA, Population Division. World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision (esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Download/Standard/Population/), supplemented with data for State of Palestine from Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME). Global Burden of Disease Study 2016 (ghdx.healthdata.org/gbd-results-tool).*

CALCULATIONS

As indicators are measured on different scales, each was first normalized using a linear scaling technique:

$$X_N = (X - \text{Worst})/(\text{Best} - \text{Worst})$$

Where:
X_N is the normalized value
X is the actual value
Worst is the highest observed value for the indicator
Best is the lowest possible value for the indicator

This technique ensures scores range between 0 and 1 and that all indicators are coded positively (i.e., higher scores indicate better performance).[153]

ENDER	INDICATOR	BEST	WORST	WEIGHT
Child dies	Under-5 mortality rate	0.0	156.9	1/8
Child is severely malnourished	Child stunting (%)	0.0	57.5	1/8
Child is out of school	Out-of-school children, adolescents and youth (%)	0.0	67.5	1/8
Child begins work life	Child labor (%)	0.0	55.8	1/8
Child marries	Adolescents currently married or in union (%)	0.0	59.8	1/8
Child has a child	Adolescent birth rate	0.0	201.2	1/8
Child is a victim of extreme violence	Population forcibly displaced by conflict (%)	0.0	65.4	1/8
Child is a victim of extreme violence	Child homicide rate	0.0	32.8	1/8

All indicators are weighted equally. The overall index score was calculated by summing across the normalized scores for each indicator and then dividing by eight. Scores were multiplied by 1,000 and rounded to three digits. Countries were sorted from high to low by this overall index score (with 1,000 being the best possible score) and then ranked from 1 to 175.

To help ensure index scores are comparable from year to year and that countries can track progress over time, the best (i.e., minimum) and worst (i.e., maximum) values and the indicator weights have been fixed from the inaugural year onwards as shown in the table above.

MISSING VALUES

The *Complete End of Childhood Index* table includes all 185 countries and areas with recent data (from 2005 and onwards) for at least five of the eight indicators, but not all of them are included in the index rankings.

Countries missing homicide data were dropped from the rankings.[154] Countries missing up to any two of the other seven indicators were allowed to remain in the index. This was the only way to ensure a sufficient number of high-income OECD countries were included, as most do not collect or publish data on stunting or child labor.

In total, 175 countries had sufficient data to be ranked. 97 countries have data for all eight indicators. 30 countries are missing one indicator. 48 countries are missing two indicators, 36 of which are high-income countries.[155]

For countries lacking stunting, out-of-school or child labor data, the normalized score for their under-5 mortality rate was used in place of the missing value(s). Under-5 mortality is the leading indicator of child well-being and is strongly correlated with these three indicators.[156] For countries lacking child marriage data, the normalized score for their adolescent birth rate was ascribed. These two indicators are also highly correlated.[157]

Ascribing fillers for these missing values helped ensure countries were not being rewarded for the lack of data and that data imputations for missing values were based on a country's performance on another, strongly correlated, childhood ender.

PREVALENCE THRESHOLDS AND PERFORMANCE BANDS

Country-level performance on each indicator was assessed according to the thresholds in the table on the next page. Countries with "moderate," "high" or "very high" prevalence of enders were color-coded as shown in the table.

To the greatest extent possible, indicator thresholds were based on international standards. The classification schemes used for under-5 mortality and stunting are established.[158] The same breakdowns for stunting were used for out-of-school, child labor and child marriage. The breakdowns for adolescent births were adapted from those used by the World Bank and the WHO.[159] Those for displacement were based loosely on categories used by UNHCR for a related indicator.[160] The homicide strata were adapted from UNICEF and UNODC.[161]

To establish tiers or "performance bands," the boundary points between threshold levels were normalized for each indicator and then indexed. Index scores were rounded to two

BAND	SHARE OF CHILDREN MISSING OUT ON CHILDHOOD	INDEX SCORES
1	Relatively few children	≥ 940
2	Some children	760 to 939
3	Many children	600 to 759
4	Most children	380 to 599
5	Nearly all children	≤ 379

INDICATOR	VERY LOW	LOW	MODERATE	HIGH	VERY HIGH
Under-5 mortality rate (per 1,000)	< 10	10 to < 25	25 to < 50	50 to < 100	≥ 100
Child stunting (%)	< 5	5 to < 20	20 to < 30	30 to < 40	≥ 40
Out-of-school children and youth (%)	< 5	5 to < 20	20 to < 30	30 to < 40	≥ 40
Child labor (%)	< 5	5 to < 20	20 to < 30	30 to < 40	≥ 40
Child marriage (%)	< 5	5 to < 20	20 to < 30	30 to < 40	≥ 40
Adolescent birth rate (per 1,000)	< 15	15 to < 50	50 to < 100	100 to < 150	≥ 150
Population displaced by conflict (%)	< 1	1 to < 2	2 to < 5	5 to < 20	≥ 20
Child homicide rate (per 100,000)	< 1	1 to < 5	5 to < 10	10 to < 20	≥ 20
PERFORMANCE BAND	≥ 940	760 - 939	600 - 759	380 - 599	≤ 379

decimal places and then multiplied by 1,000 to give the cut-off points for each tier. Countries were placed into one of five bands according to their index scores (see table on bottom of page 38).

COUNTRY CLASSIFICATION

The *End of Childhood Index* presents data for the world as a whole and for various country groupings. Regions are classified as "developing" or "developed," as consistent with the United Nations system.[162] Developing regions are further broken down into the subregions listed at the bottom of the *Complete End of Childhood Index* table on page 35. These groupings are based on UNICEF's nomenclature and regional classification. For a list of countries and territories in each region, see: *UNICEF, The State of the World's Children 2016,* p.112.

Global and regional data were sourced from the UN,[163] with the exception of out-of-school, forced displacement and child homicide rates. Regional averages for these three indicators were calculated by Save the Children, as were global rates for the last two. Each was calculated as a weighted average, with the relevant population used as the weights.[164] All UNICEF program countries with available data were included in these estimates.[165] Population coverage was at or above 90 percent for all region-indicator pairs.[166]

The designations employed in this report do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of Save the Children concerning the legal status of any country or territory or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

LIMITATIONS AND CAVEATS

It would be impossible to include all of the factors that erode childhood in a single index. This index focuses only on the most significant enders for which reliable and comparable data are widely available. Some indicators (e.g., sexual violence, trafficking, hazardous work) would have been included had there been sufficient data. Others (e.g., incarceration, orphanhood, migration, bullying, corporal punishment, substance use) had data but weren't included because they do not necessarily – in and of themselves – signal the end of childhood. A child who is incarcerated, for example, can receive substantial rehabilitation services including counseling, schooling and a reliable network of caring adults. Many potential indicators (e.g., child abuse) were also discarded due to data quality concerns or because they weren't the most relevant indicator for the ender in question (e.g., suicide for child dies).[167]

Save the Children has not independently verified the data used in this report. To ensure the data are of the highest quality, all data are from reputable international sources that closely review and adjust national data to ensure that they are as accurate and comparable as possible.

The index presents the most recent data available as of 15 March 2018. Data are not available for the same reference year for all indicators or for all countries. Of the 175 countries ranked, 97 have very recent data (i.e., 2011-onward) for all indicators; 78 countries have at least one data point from 2005-2010.

For 16 countries without official education data, as well as seven whose most recent official figures predate 2005, household survey data were used to give an indication of the extent of exclusion from education.[168]

TECHNICAL NOTE ON GLOBAL ESTIMATE CALCULATION

In 2017, Save the Children's first *End of Childhood Report* revealed that at least 700 million children worldwide had been robbed of their childhoods. This year's report looks at the number of children **at risk** of a prematurely ended childhood. The number of children at risk of missing out on

childhood are defined as those living in countries characterized by one or more of three grave threats to childhood: conflict, poverty and discrimination against girls.

Countries characterized by conflict or fragility refer to the 36 countries and areas included on the World Bank Group's *Harmonized List of Fragile Situations FY18*: Afghanistan, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Iraq, Kiribati, Kosovo, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Togo, Tuvalu, West Bank and Gaza, Yemen and Zimbabwe.[169] For details see www.worldbank.org/en/topic/fragilityconflictviolence/brief/harmonized-list-of-fragile-situations. This list of countries is imperfect. It does not, for example, include many populous countries with localized conflicts (e.g., Nigeria, Pakistan). As a result, figures resulting from this country set are conservative estimates.

Countries characterized by poverty include (a) low-income countries for FY2018 and (b) countries with over half of their population living below the international poverty line of $3.20 a day (2011 PPP). For (b) the latest available data 2005-2017 were used. Data were sourced from the World Bank (see datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519 and data.worldbank.org/indicator/SI.POV.LMIC?view=chart). All 47 countries meeting one or both of these criteria are noted in the rankings table on page 31.

Countries characterized by discrimination against girls are those that have gender disparities disfavoring girls with regards to a) enrollment in primary or secondary school or b) mortality. For (a) this included countries with a gender parity index (GPI) of less than 0.97 for the primary or secondary net enrollment rate (NER). Where NERs were missing or outdated (24 countries), net attendance rates (NARs) were used. UNESCO Institute for Statistics was the primary source (see data.uis.unesco.org). Where UIS did not report NARs (China, Kiribati, Somalia), UNICEF's data were used (see data.unicef.org/topic/education/overview). Data are the latest available 2005-2017. Six countries lacked education data altogether (Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Libya, Singapore and Slovakia); an additional six countries had incomplete data (Botswana, China, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, Somalia and Trinidad and Tobago). For (b) this set included countries with a male-to-female infant mortality rate (IMR), child mortality rate (CMR) or under-5 mortality rate (U5MR) sex ratio less than 1.0. For IMR and U5MR, this included India and Tonga. For CMR it included Central African Republic, India, Iran, Nepal, Niger and Pakistan.[170] Estimates were for 2016 and sourced from the UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UNIGME) and downloaded from www.childmortality.org. All 55 countries meeting one or both of these criteria are noted in the rankings table on page 31.

An estimated 1.2 billion children live in countries characterized by one or more of these key threats to childhood. To arrive at this total, all children living in countries in either or both of the first two categories were summed, along with girls living in countries exclusively characterized by the third. In other words, in the 18 countries characterized only by discrimination against girls, only the number of girls (i.e., not all children) were included in the global count. The same treatment was used for counting children in countries characterized by at least two threats (i.e., in the 17 countries characterized by discrimination against girls and either conflict or poverty (but not both), only girls were included in the global total).[171]

Breakdowns by threat are included in the table below. Children living in countries facing two of these three threats, some 537 million children, are deemed to be at "high risk" of missing out on childhood. Children living in countries facing all three threats, some 153 million children,[172] are said to be at "extremely high risk" of missing out on childhood.

	COUNTRIES		CHILDREN	
	#	% of total[1]	# (millions)	% of total[2]
Countries characterized by conflict	34	18%	239	10%
Countries characterized by poverty	47	25%	1,008	44%
Countries characterized by discrimination against girls	55	30%	576[3]	51%[3]
Countries characterized by at least 1 threat	76	41%	1,211	53%
Countries characterized by at least 2 threats	40	22%	537	23%
Countries characterized by all 3 threats	20	11%	153	7%

[1]Out of 185 countries included in the *Complete End of Childhood Index 2018*.
[2]Out of the total number of children worldwide (mid-2016).
[3]Analysis was limited to girls only (i.e., figures do not include boys).

Endnotes

[1] An estimated 1.2 billion children are at risk of missing out on childhood. This figure includes all boys and girls living in countries characterized by conflict/fragility or widespread poverty as well as girls living in countries characterized by discrimination against girls (i.e., not also poverty or conflict). The same rules apply to the 537 million children living in countries characterized by two or more of these threats, those deemed to be at "high risk" of missing out on childhood (i.e., boys were counted only in countries facing both poverty and conflict, not in countries facing discrimination against girls and one other threat). The 153 million children at "extreme risk," however, include both boys and girls in countries characterized by all three threats. See Methodology and Research Notes for details.

[2] Countries characterized by poverty (47 in total) include low-income countries and countries with over half of their population living below the international poverty line of $3.20/day. See Methodology and Research Notes for details. All 47 countries are noted in the rankings table on page 31.

[3] Throughout this report, the terms "fragile states," "fragile contexts," "fragile and conflict-affected states" and "conflict-affected countries" are used interchangeably. This set of countries refers to those included on the World Bank Group's *Harmonized List of Fragile Situations FY18*. Fragile situations have either a) a harmonized average Country Policy and Institutional Assessment (CPIA) country rating of 3.2 or less, or b) the presence of a United Nations and/or regional peacekeeping operation or c) presence of a United Nations and/or regional peace-building and political mission. The full list with details can be found at <http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/189701503418416651/FY18FCSLIST-Final-July-2017.pdf> Accessed 10 January 2018. Index data are available for 34 of these 36 countries/areas (all but Kosovo and Micronesia). Note: A recent study put the number of children living in conflict zones (not conflict-affected countries) at 357 million (see endnote 73).

[4] Countries characterized by discrimination against girls (55 in total) are those that have significant gender-based gaps in child mortality or enrollment in primary or secondary school. See Methodology and Research Notes for details. All 55 countries are noted in the rankings table on page 31.

[5] The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) represents a global consensus on the terms of childhood. It recognizes childhood as a separate space from adulthood defined by a specific set of rights. This report shows that for hundreds of millions of children, the promise of childhood that undergirds the Convention is a broken one. For more on the CRC's role in defining the concept of childhood, see UNICEF's *State of the World's Children 2005*.

[6] UNHCR. Figures at a Glance. www.unhcr.org/en-us/figures-at-a-glance.html (accessed 24 March 2018) and UNICEF. *Children on the Move: Key Facts and Figures*. (New York: 2018)

[7] Save the Children. *The War on Children: Time to End Grave Violations Against Children in Conflict*. 2018

[8] UNICEF. "25 million child marriages prevented in last decade due to accelerated progress, according to new UNICEF estimates" <www.unicef.org/media/media_102735.html> Accessed 6 March 2018.

[9] UNICEF. *Progress for Every Child in the SDG Era*. (New York: 2018)

[10] A 2013 study found that over the recent past, Latin America and the Caribbean was the only region where births to girls under age 15 actually rose. In this region, such births are projected to rise slightly through 2030. Source: UNFPA. *Motherhood in Childhood: Facing the Challenge of Adolescent Pregnancy*. (New York: 2013)

[11] UNFPA. *Adolescent Pregnancy: A Review of the Evidence*. (New York: 2013)

[12] UNICEF. *Progress for Every Child in the SDG Era*. (New York: 2018) and UNICEF. *Progress for Children: Beyond Averages – Learning from the MDGs*. (New York: 2015)

[13] UNICEF <data.unicef.org/topic/nutrition/malnutrition/#> (accessed 24 March 2018) and UNICEF. *Progress for Children – Learning from the MDGs*.

[14] UNICEF <data.unicef.org/topic/nutrition/malnutrition/#> Accessed 24 March 2018.

[15] Osgood-Zimmerman, A et al. "Mapping Child Growth Failure in Africa Between 2000 and 2015." *Nature*, vol. 555, pp. 41-47 (1 March 2018) doi:10.1038/nature25760. See also: UNICEF. *Progress for Every Child in the SDG Era*. (New York: 2018)

[16] UNICEF. *Progress for Every Child in the SDG Era*.

[17] UNICEF. *Committing to Child Survival: A Promise Renewed. Progress Report 2015*. (New York: 2015)

[18] UNIGME. *Levels & Trends in Child Mortality: Report 2017*. (UNICEF: 2017)

[19] UNESCO Institute for Statistics. "One in Five Children, Adolescents and Youth is Out of School." UIS Fact Sheet No.48. (Montreal: 2018) and UNICEF. *Progress for Children – Learning from the MDGs*.

[20] UNESCO. *More Than One-Half of Children and Adolescents Are Not Learning Worldwide*. UIS Fact Sheet No. 46. (Montreal: 2017)

[21] Save the Children's analysis of data from UNESCO Institute for Statistics database <UIS.Stat>, Accessed 24 March 2018.

[22] ILO. *Global Estimates of Child Labour: Results and Trends, 2012-2016*. (Geneva: 2017)

[23] In addition to the three "lenses of exclusion" discussed in this report, *End of Childhood Index* data can often be disaggregated by other relevant dimensions of inequality such as geographic location (i.e., urban/rural), age, race/ethnicity, sub-national region, religion and disability. In many cases, some of the most deprived children belong to these other sub-groups. For more on other excluded groups not covered in this report, see, for example: Save the Children. *Every Last Child: The Children the World Chooses to Forget*. (London: 2016)

[24] Only 172 of 175 ranked countries had sufficient data for this analysis (i.e., had two years of index data). The other three countries (Bahrain, Canada and United Arab Emirates) are new additions this year to the *End of Childhood Index*.

[25] Countries characterized by poverty (47 in total) include low-income countries and countries with over half of their population living below the international poverty line of $3.20/day. See Methodology and Research Notes for details. All 47 countries are noted in the rankings table on page 31.

[26] Children living in extreme poverty are defined as anyone under the age of 18 living in households living on $1.90 a day or less per person. Estimates are for 2013. Source: UNICEF and World Bank. *Ending Extreme Poverty: A Focus on Children*. (New York and Washington, DC: 2016). See also Newhouse et al. *Policy Research Working Paper 7845: New Estimates of Extreme Poverty for Children*. (World Bank: Washington, DC: 2016).

[27] Save the Children. *Child Poverty: What Drives it and What it Means to Children Across the World*. (London: 2016)

[28] Data are for 2016. Source: National Center for Children in Poverty. *Basic Facts about Low-Income Children: Children under 18 years, 2016*. (New York: 2018)

[29] UNICEF and World Bank. *Ending Extreme Poverty: A Focus on Children*.

[30] Data are for 2016. Source: National Center for Children in Poverty. *Basic Facts about Low-Income Children: Children under 18 years, 2016*.

[31] Results from background research done for this report and Save the Children. *Child Poverty: What Drives it and What it Means to Children Across the World*.

[32] See, for example: Save the Children. *Child Poverty: What Drives it and What it Means to Children Across the World*. World Bank. *Fair Progress? Educational Mobility Around the World*. (forthcoming) and Bhalotra and Rawlings (2011). "Intergenerational Persistence in Health in Developing Countries: The Penalty of Gender Inequality?" *Journal of Public Economics*, vol. 95, no.3, pp. 286-299.

[33] Lopez Vilaplana, C. *Children at Risk of Poverty or Social Exclusion. Statistics in Focus*. (Brussels: EuroStat: 2013)

[34] UNIGME. *Levels & Trends in Child Mortality: Report 2017*.

[35] Save the Children's analysis based on UNIGME 2017 and UNDESA, Population Division, *World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision* (New York: 2017)

[36] This estimate was calculated by UNIGME and based on data for 99 countries with estimates of under-5 mortality by wealth quintile. Source: UNIGME. *Levels & Trends in Child Mortality: Report 2017*.

[37] Calculations by Save the Children based on data for 89 countries with under-5 mortality rate estimates disaggregated by wealth quintile. Source: Save the Children, Groups-based Inequality Database (GRID) <campaigns.savethechildren.net/grid>

[38] European Union. *Roma Health Report: Health Status of the Roma Population*. Data collection in the Member States of the European Union. (Brussels: 2014)

[39] In 2015, the infant mortality rate for American Indians was 8.2, compared to 5.9 for the United States as a whole. Source: National KIDS COUNT Data Center <datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/21-infant-mortality-by-race?loc=1&loct=2#detailed/1/any/false/573,869,36,868,867/10,11,9,12,1,13/285,284> Accessed 25 March 2018.

[40] Data for First Nations, Métis and Inu/Inuit peoples in Canada are all but absent in national health information systems. Recent peer-reviewed health studies have,

however, reported much higher infant mortality rates among these groups (For examples see: Janet Smylie. "Aboriginal Infant Mortality Rate in Canada." *The Lancet*, vol. 380, issue 9851, 1384). The collection of health data on indigenous peoples is necessary to address these inequities, but it must be collected through processes that support their right of self-determination.

[41] UNICEF. *Committing to Child Survival: A Promise Renewed. Progress Report 2015.* (New York: 2015)

[42] Among the 99 countries with under-5 mortality rate estimates by wealth quintile. Source: UNIGME. *Levels & Trends in Child Mortality: Report 2017*.

[43] UNICEF, WHO and the World Bank Group. *Levels and Trends in Child Malnutrition. UNICEF/ WHO/ World Bank Group Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates: Key Findings of the 2017 edition.* (New York, Geneva and Washington, DC: 2017)

[44] UNICEF. *The State of the World's Children 2017*. Table 11: Disparities by Household Wealth. (New York: 2017)

[45] UNICEF. *Progress for Children: Beyond Averages – Learning from the MDGs*.

[46] Save the Children's analysis of UNICEF, WHO, World Bank Group Joint Malnutrition Estimates, May 2017 edition

[47] McCoy, DC, et al. (2016) "Early Childhood Developmental Status in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: National, Regional, and Global Prevalence Estimates Using Predictive Modeling." *PLoS Med,* vol. 13, no. 6: e1002034

[48] See, for example, Filmer, Deon, "Disability, Poverty, and Schooling in Developing Countries: Results from 14 Household Surveys," *World Bank Economic Review,* vol. 22, no. 1, 2008, pp. 141–163; World Bank. *People with Disabilities in India: From Commitments to Outcomes*. (Washington, DC: 2009); Loeb, M. E., and Arne H. Eide, eds., "Living Conditions Among People with Activity Limitations in Malawi: A National Representative Study," *SINTEF Health Research,* Oslo, 26 August 2004; Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, "2008 Tanzania Disability Survey," United Republic of Tanzania National Bureau of Statistics (Dar es Salaam: 2009).

[49] UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre. *Promoting the Rights of Children with Disabilities*. (Florence: 2007)

[50] Save the Children's analysis of data from UNESCO Institute for Statistics database <UIS.Stat> Accessed 24 March 2018.

[51] Save the Children's analysis of data from UNESCO Institute for Statistics database <UIS.Stat> Accessed 24 March 2018.

[52] UNICEF. *Progress for Children: Beyond Averages – Learning from the MDGs*. (New York: 2015)

[53] Save the Children's analysis of data from UNICEF's global database <data.unicef.org/topic/education/primary-education/#> Accessed 29 January 2018.

[54] UNICEF. *Progress for Children: Beyond Averages – Learning from the MDGs*. (New York: 2015)

[55] World Bank. *Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2016: Taking on Inequality*. (Washington, DC: 2016)

[56] These countries secure the top three spots for greatest absolute difference in average PISA scores between the best-off and worst-off quartiles (as measured by the PISA index of economic, social and cultural status) for reading, math as well as science at age 15. Source: OECD Child Well-Being Data Portal <www.oecd.org/social/family/child-well-being/data/education/> Accessed 4 February 2018.

[57] UNESCO UIS and EFA Global Education Monitoring Report. *Reducing Global Poverty Through Universal Primary and Secondary Education*. Policy Paper 32/Fact Sheet 44. June 2017.

[58] ILO International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC). *Marking Progress Against Child Labour – Global Estimates and Trends 2000-2012*. (Geneva: 2013)

[59] UNICEF <data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/child-labour/#> Accessed 24 January 2018.

[60] ILO. *Global Estimates of Child Labour: Results and Trends, 2012-2016.* (Geneva: 2017)

[61] Only 11 countries with recent DHS have disaggregated data. Among these, the poorest children are, on average, 3 times as likely to be engaged in child labor. 45+ countries have data on children engaged in economic activity; the poorest children are, on average, 3.7 times as likely to be engaged in economic activity.

[62] ILO. *Global Estimates of Child Labour: Results and Trends, 2012-2016.*

[63] The International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) and the World Bank. *Economic Impacts of Child Marriage: Global Synthesis Report.* (Washington, DC: 2017) and ICRW and the World Bank. *Economic Impacts of Child Marriage: Global Synthesis Brief.* (Washington, DC: 2017)

[64] The worldwide rate is 50 births per 1,000 girls aged 15-19. Sub-Saharan Africa's rate is 122 births per 1,000 girls, and in Latin America and the Caribbean, the rate is 74 births per 1,000 girls. See the *Complete End of Childhood Index* on pages 32-35.

[65] UNFPA. *Girlhood, Not Motherhood: Preventing Adolescent Pregnancy*. (New York: 2015)

[66] The Poverty Site. *Underage Pregnancy.*<poverty.org.uk/24/index.shtml> Accessed 4 February 2018.

[67] National Institute of Statistics, Directorate General for Health, and ICF International. *Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey 2014*. (Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and Rockville, Maryland, USA: 2015)

[68] Average based on the latest available disaggregated data for 69 countries. Source: WHO Global Health Observatory Data Repository <apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.nHE-1550?lang=en> See also: UNFPA. *The State of World Population 2017: World's Apart: Reproductive Health and Rights in an Age of Inequality.* (New York: 2017) p.63.

[69] World Bank. *Economic Impacts of Child Marriage: Global Synthesis Report.* (Washington, DC: 2017)

[70] WHO. *Violence Prevention: The Evidence: Promoting Gender Equality to Prevent Violence Against Women*. (Geneva: 2009)

[71] Darroch, J, et al. *Adding It Up: Costs and Benefits of Meeting the Contraceptive Needs of Adolescents.* (New York: Guttmacher Institute: 2016)

[72] Save the Children. *The War on Children: Time to End Grave Violations Against Children in Conflict.*

[73] Roughly 240 million children live in the World Bank's set of 36 fragile and conflict-affected states. See footnote 1. This figure likely underestimates the true number of children affected by conflict. A recent study of children living within 50 km of all conflict incidents in 2016, for example, estimated that 357 million children are living in conflict zones. See: Save the Children. *The War on Children: Time to End Grave Violations Against Children in Conflict.*

[74] Save the Children. *The War on Children: Time to End Grave Violations Against Children in Conflict.*

[75] In 2016, fragile contexts accounted for more than 1 in 5 (22%) child deaths globally, even though they are home to only 1 in 9 (11%) children under age 5. In 1990 these states accounted for 12% of under-5 deaths. Source: Save the Children's analysis of UN IGME (2017) data.

[76] Save the Children. *State of the World's Mothers 2013: Surviving the First Day*.

[77] Save the Children's Analysis of UNIGME (2017) data and <https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-survival/child-survival-sdgs/#>

[78] UNIGME. *Levels & Trends in Child Mortality: Report 2017*.

[79] FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2017. Building Resilience for Peace and Food Security*. (Rome: FAO: 2017)

[80] International Food Policy Research Institute. *2014–2015 Global Food Policy Report.* (Washington, DC: 2015)

[81] FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2017. Building Resilience for Peace and Food Security*.

[82] Pinstrup-Andersen, P, and S. Shimokawa. "Do Poverty and Poor Health and Nutrition Increase the Risk of Armed Conflict Onset?" *Food Policy*, 2008. vol. 33, no. 6. pp.513-520.

[83] Development Initiatives. *Global Nutrition Report 2017: Nourishing the SDGs*. (Bristol, UK: 2017)

[84] UNICEF. *Education Uprooted*. (New York: 2017) and Justino, Patricia. "Barriers to Education in Conflict-Affected Countries and Policy Opportunities." Paper commissioned for *Fixing the Broken Promise of Education for All: Findings from the Global Initiative on Out-of-School Children* (UIS/UNICEF: 2015).

[85] REACH, Humanitarian Situation Overview in Syria (HSOS): Governorate Factsheets, <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/reach_syr_factsheet_hsos_governorate_factsheet_may2017_3.pdf>

[86] Whole of Syria Protection Sector. *2018 Protection Needs Overview V2*. (2017)

[87] UNICEF. *Progress for Children: Beyond Averages – Learning from the MDGs*.

[88] UNESCO. *EFA Global Monitoring Report – Education for All 2000-2015: Achievements and Challenges*. (Paris: 2015)

[89] The Global Initiative on Out-of-School Children <allinschool.org/location/> Accessed 28 January 2018.

[90] That is, they have a net enrollment rate (NER) or net attendance rate (NAR) of more than 95 percent. Net enrollment data are prioritized. Net attendance data from surveys were used when primary net enrollment data were not available. Sources: UNESCO Institute for Statistics <data.uis.unesco.org>, 2018, based on administrative NER data for the most recent year available during the period 2010-2016 and UNICEF <data.unicef.org/topic/education/primary-education/>, 2018, based on NAR data from MICS, DHS and other nationally representative surveys for the most recent year available 2006-2016. Accessed 22 April 2018.

[91] UNICEF. *Education Uprooted: For Every Migrant, Refugee and Displaced Child, Education.* (New York: 2017)

[92] Justino, Patricia. "Barriers to Education in Conflict-Affected Countries and Policy Opportunities."

[93] UNICEF. *Education Uprooted: For Every Migrant, Refugee and Displaced Child, Education.*

[94] UNHCR. *Missing Out: Refugee Education in Crisis*. (Geneva: 2017)

[95] For this analysis, the ILO sourced its countries "affected by armed conflict" from the Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict, submitted to the UN Security Council in 2015. The category "countries affected by armed conflict" includes Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Colombia, Iraq, Mali, Nigeria, Philippines, South Sudan, Ukraine and Yemen. Countries affected by armed conflict for which child labor data are not available in the current global estimates include: Libya, Myanmar, Somalia, Sudan and Syria. Source: ILO. *Global Estimates of Child Labour: Results and Trends, 2012-2016.* (Geneva: 2017)

[96] UNHCR. *Missing Out: Refugee Education in Crisis*. (Geneva: 2017)

[97] Justino, Patricia. "Barriers to Education in Conflict-Affected Countries and Policy Opportunities."

[98] UNICEF. *Preparing for the Future of Children and Youth in Syria and the Region through Education: London One Year On: Brussels Conference Education Report.* (April 2017) p.5.

[99] University of Jordan. *National Child Labour Survey 2016 of Jordan*. (Amman: 2016)

[100] UNICEF. *Falling Through the Cracks: The Children of Yemen*. (2017)

[101] Save the Children. *Too Young to Wed: The Growing Problem of Child Marriage Among Syrian Girls in Jordan*. (2014)

[102] Girls Not Brides. *Child Marriage in Humanitarian Settings*. (2017)

[103] UNICEF. *Preparing for the Future of Children and Youth in Syria and the Region through Education: London One Year On, Brussels Conference Education Report,* April 2017, p. 5.

[104] Whole of Syria Protection Sector. *2018 Protection Needs Overview V2*. (2017)

[105] UNICEF. *A Study on Early Marriage in Jordan 2014*. (Amman: 2014)

[106] Government of Lebanon and the United Nations. *Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2017-2020*. (2017)

[107] Girls Not Brides. "Child Marriage and the Syrian Conflict: 7 Things You Need to Know." <www.girlsnotbrides.org/child-marriage-and-the-syrian-conflict-7-things-you-need-to-know/> Posted Tuesday June 20, 2017 and CARE UK. *To Protect Her Honour: Child Marriage in Emergencies, the Fatal Confusion Between Protecting Girls and Sexual Violence*. (London: 2015)

[108] UNICEF. *Falling Through the Cracks: The Children of Yemen*. (2017)

[109] Latiff, Rozanna and Ebrahim Harris. "Sold Into Marriage – How Rohingya Girls Become Child Brides in Malaysia." Reuters. 15 February 2017.

[110] Guilbert, Kieran. "Child Marriage Threatens Future of Young Central African Republic Refugees in Cameroon." Reuters. 8 November 2016.

[111] Save the Children. *Every Last Child*. (London: 2016) and *Every Last Girl* (London: 2016)

[112] Countries characterized by discrimination against girls (55 in total) are those that have significant gender-based gaps in child mortality or enrollment in primary or secondary school. See Methodology and Research Notes for details. All 55 countries are noted in the rankings table on page 31.

[113] WHO, Adolescent Pregnancy Factsheet <www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs364/en/> Accessed 27 January 2018 and UNICEF. "25 million child marriages prevented in last decade due to accelerated progress, according to new UNICEF estimates" <www.unicef.org/media/media_102735.html> 6 March 2018.

[114] See rankings table on page 31.

[115] In 2016, there were 131.2 million boys and 131.6 million girls out of school. In 2015, there were actually more boys than girls out of school (132.5 vs. 131.9 million). Source: Save the Children's analysis of data from UNESCO Institute for Statistics database <UIS.Stat>, Accessed 24 March 2018.

[116] Stromquist, Nelly P. "Out-of-School Children: Why Gender Matters?" Paper commissioned for *Fixing the Broken Promise of Education for All: Findings from the Global Initiative on Out-of-School Children* (UIS/UNICEF:2015).

[117] World Bank. *World Development Report 2012: Gender Equality and Development* (Washington, DC: 2012)

[118] Primary out-of-school rates are 21 percent and 7 percent, respectively. Source: UNESCO World Inequality Database on Education <www.education-inequalities.org/> Accessed 25 March 2018.

[119] UNESCO Institute for Statistics and Global Education Monitoring Report. *Leaving No One Behind: How Far on the Way to Universal Primary and Secondary Education?* Policy Paper 27/ Fact Sheet 37. (Montreal and Paris: 2016)

[120] Save the Children's analysis of UNESCO Institute for Statistics data, 2018

[121] Nicolai, Susan, et al. *Education Cannot Wait: Proposing a Fund for Education in Emergencies*. (ODI: London: 2016)

[122] UNESCO. *Education for All Global Monitoring Report, 2013/14*.

[123] Average is unweighted. Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics global database, 2018 < data.uis.unesco.org/>

[124] Save the Children. *Every Last Girl: Free to Live, Free to Learn, Free from Harm.* (London: 2016)

[125] UNFPA. *Marrying Too Young: End Child Marriage*. (New York: 2012)

[126] Ibid.

[127] UNICEF. "25 million child marriages prevented in last decade due to accelerated progress, according to new UNICEF estimates" <www.unicef.org/media/media_102735.html> 6 March 2018.

[128] Ibid.

[129] UNICEF. *Achieving a Future Without Child Marriage: Focus on West and Central Africa.* (New York: 2017)

[130] WHO. Adolescent Pregnancy Factsheet <www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs364/en/> Accessed 27 January 2018.

[131] Wodon, Q, et al. *Ending Child Marriage: Legal Age for Marriage, Illegal Child Marriages, and the Need for Interventions.* (London and Washington, DC: Save the Children and World Bank: 2017)

[132] Tahirih Justice Center. *Falling Through the Cracks: How Laws Allow Child Marriage to Happen in Today's America*. (2017)

[133] WHO, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and South African Medical Research Council. *Global and Regional Estimates of Violence Against Women: Prevalence and Health Effects of Intimate Partner Violence and Non-Partner Sexual Violence*. (2013)

[134] CARE UK. *To Protect Her Honour: Child Marriage in Emergencies, the Fatal Confusion Between Protecting Girls and Sexual Violence*. (London: 2015), World Vision UK. *Untying the Knot: Exploring Early Marriage in Fragile States*. (Milton Keynes: 2013) and Save the Children. *The War on Children: Time to End Grave Violations Against Children in Conflict.*

[135] United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *Global Report on Trafficking 2016.* (Vienna: 2016)

[136] Ibid.

[137] UNICEF. *A Statistical Snapshot of Violence Against Adolescent Girls.* (New York: 2014)

[138] Save the Children. *The War on Children: Time to End Grave Violations Against Children in Conflict.*

[139] UNICEF. *A Familiar Face: Violence in the Lives of Children and Adolescents*. (New York: 2017)

[140] Note: Respondents were asked how often before the age of 15 an adult who was 18 years or older did any of the following to them when they did not want them to: exposed their genitals to you; made you pose naked in front of any person or in photos, video or an Internet webcam; touched your genitals or breasts against your will; or forced you to have sexual intercourse. Source: UNICEF. *A Familiar Face: Violence in the Lives of Children and Adolescents*. (New York: 2017)

[141] World We Want. *Addressing Inequalities: Synthesis Report of Global Public Consultation.* Global Thematic Consultation on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. (New York: UNICEF and UN Women: 2013)

[142] Jones Lisa, et al., "Prevalence and Risk of Violence Against Children with Disabilities: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Observational Studies," *The Lancet*, vol.380, no. 9845 (July 2012)

[143] Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights of Girls and Young Women with Disabilities: Note by the Secretary-General. 14 July 2017 <undocs.org/A/72/133>

[144] UNICEF. *The State of the World's Children 2005: Childhood under Threat*.

[145] Childhood means more than just the time between birth and adulthood. It refers to the state and condition of a child's life – to the quality of those years. As the most widely endorsed human rights treaty in history, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1989 and ratified by all but one country, represents a global consensus on the terms of childhood. Although there is not absolute agreement on the interpretation of each and every provision of the Convention, there is substantial common ground on what the standards of childhood should be. Source: UNICEF. *The State of the World's Children 2005*.

[146] In some cases, enders unequivocally signal the end of childhood (e.g., death). Others (e.g., departure from school; child labor) may only chip away at childhood, especially if remedial action is taken (e.g., child re-enrolls in school; child stops working).

[147] This does not mean that children who experience enders are not still children or that they cannot still enjoy some aspects of childhood. A child who is out of school, for example, may still learn other skills at home. Refugee children still play and may study if the right policies and programs are in place. And even though they've taken on adult roles and responsibilities, child brides and teen mothers are still children entitled to protection and support.

[148] Other selection criteria included: reliability, face validity, comparability, policy relevance, news-worthiness, contemporaneity and alignment with SDG targets.

[149] For the 23 countries where household survey data are used, the indicator represents the share of school-age children not attending school.

[150] The current international standard is to treat children of primary age or older enrolled in pre-primary education as out of school because pre-primary education does not meet the same education standards as formal primary or higher education. This may result in an overestimate of the rate of children who are not in school, in particular in countries where pre-primary education is compulsory.

[151] A child is considered to be involved in child labor under the following conditions: (a) children 5-11 years old who, during the reference week, did at least one hour of economic work or at least 28 hours of household chores, (b) children 12-14 years old who, during the reference week, did at least 14 hours of economic work or at least 28 hours of household chores, (c) children 15-17 years old who, during the reference week, did at least 43 hours of economic work or household chores, and (d) children aged 5-17 years old in hazardous working conditions.

[152] Includes refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees (refugees and IDPs) and others of concern who do not necessarily fall directly into any of the other groups but to whom UNHCR may extend its protection and/or assistance services.

[153] Syria's score for displacement is the only exception. Because this year's estimate (68.2 percent) exceeds the "worst" possible score of 65.4, Syria's normalized score is actually negative (-0.04).

[154] In other words, Marshall Islands and Tuvalu would not have been indexed even if they had sufficient data.

[155] The *Complete End of Childhood Index* table indicates the indicator(s) that are missing for the 78 countries missing one or two indicators.

[156] In the inaugural year, correlation coefficients were 0.68, 0.76 and 0.74, respectively.

[157] The correlation coefficient was 0.81.

[158] See, for example, <data.unicef.org/topic/child-survival/under-five-mortality/ and data.unicef.org/topic/nutrition/malnutrition/>

[159] See <gamapserver.who.int/mapLibrary/Files/ Maps/Global_ AdolescentBirthRate_2015.png and data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.ADO. TFRT?view=map>

[160] UNHCR. *Mid-Year Trends 2016*. (Geneva: 2017), p.11

[161] See UNICEF. *Hidden in Plain Sight: A Statistical Analysis of Violence Against Children*. (New York: 2014), p.39 and UNODC. *Global Study on Homicide 2013*. (Vienna: 2014), p.12

[162] This designation is made for the purpose of statistical analysis only. For the list of countries belonging to "developed" and "developing" regions, see: <unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/m49/>. Note that for the comparison of *End of Childhood Index* scores for 2017 vs. 2018 (pages 3-5), the dozen "developed" countries in Central and Eastern Europe were included only in the CEE/CIS regional analysis.

[163] Under-5 mortality rate data were pulled from <data.unicef.org>. All other world and developing subregional averages were pulled from *The State of the World's Children* (SOWC) 2017, with the exception of the global average for child labor, the CEE/CIS average for child labor, and child labor and child marriage rates for South Asia, which were all pulled from SOWC 2015, as well as the child labor rate for East Asia and Pacific, which was pulled from SOWC 2016.

[164] The official primary + secondary school-aged population in 2016 (UIS.Stat), total national population in 2017 (UNDESA) and child population aged 0-19 in 2015 (UNDESA) were used as weights for out-of-school, displacement and child homicide averages, respectively. The only exceptions were school-aged populations for Brazil (2015), Iraq, Libya, Moldova (2015), Ukraine (2014), San Marino, South Korea, Sudan, Vanuatu, which were from 2017 unless otherwise noted. The global average for child homicide was estimated in the same way (i.e., as a weighted average of country rates) but the rate of forced displacement worldwide was calculated directly from the latest global count from UNHCR (unhcr.org/en-us/figures-at-a-glance.html) and world population data from UNDESA, both for the start of 2017.

[165] Even if a country didn't have sufficient data to be included in the *Complete End of Childhood Index* table, if it had indicator-level data, it was included in global and regional rates for that indicator.

[166] Coverage exceeded 99% for all estimates except for school-aged populations in CEE/CIS (97% coverage) and the Middle East and North Africa (90% coverage).

[167] A list of excluded indicators has been compiled and can be provided upon request.

[168] Household surveys measure participation as attendance at any time during the preceding school year – a fairly generous approach that is not substantively dissimilar to formal enrollment. Holding constant other reasons that survey and administrative data may differ (such as attendance in non-formal schools), one would expect attendance to be slightly *lower* than enrollment since children may be officially enrolled but not attend. For the seven countries with old enrollment data, attendance rates are actually higher than enrollment figures, which produced more favorable results.

[169] The World Bank does not distinguish between fragility due to conflict and war and fragility due to political crisis (which is often accompanied by violence). It also refers to this set of countries both as "fragile situations" and "fragile and conflict-affected situations." UNICEF has also referred to these states simply as "conflict-affected countries." These terms are used interchangeably throughout the report to refer to this same set of countries.

[170] Because of the uncertainty of these estimates, only countries with sex ratios below 1.0 were identified. With the exception of Central African Republic, Niger and Tonga, all other countries have been previously identified as having higher-than-expected female mortality (see Alkema et al. "National, Regional, and Global Sex Ratios of Infant, Child, and Under-5 mortality and Identification of Countries with Outlying Ratios: A Systematic Assessment." *Lancet Global Health* 2014; 2: e521–30). Central African Republic and Niger also have large gender disparities in education, meaning they would have made this category anyway.

[171] There are 40 countries that face at least two threats. Of these, 23 countries are characterized by poverty and conflict (some are also characterized by discrimination against girls) and 17 are characterized by discrimination against girls and either poverty or conflict (but not both). Summing all children living in countries in the first category and only girls in countries in the second places 537 million children or nearly 1 in 4 children worldwide at high risk of missing out on childhood.

[172] This figure includes both boys and girls in these 20 countries. Why count all children in countries characterized by conflict, poverty and discrimination against girls instead of only girls in these countries? Counting just girls would miss the inter-generational component. Boys living in conflict-affected countries where poverty is widespread born to mothers who have been discriminated against face a triple threat to their childhoods. In this way, discrimination against girls (e.g., which results in lower levels of maternal education) is also a handicap for boys.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report was written and project-managed by Tracy Geoghegan from Save the Children. The researchers were Beryl Levinger and Nikki Gillette. Production of this report would not have been possible without valuable inputs and feedback from many colleagues across the global Save the Children movement. Special thanks for substantive inputs and support at different stages to: Michel Anglade, Smita Baruah, Anita Bay, George Graham, Carolyn Miles, Richard Morgan, Bernice Romero, Sean Ryan and Patrick Watt.

We are grateful to colleagues from across Save the Children for comments and inputs that have helped improve and enrich the report: Kitty Arie, Yeva Avakyan, Khadija Badri, Claire Blackburn, Misty Buswell, Paul Butcher, Wendy Christian, Rob Doble, Habtamu Fekadu, Jorge Freyre, Gunvor Knag Fylkesnes, Jesse Hartness, Eric Hazard, Joan Jennings, Michael Klosson, Kristen Lacey, Alexis Le Nestour, Tracy Manners, Winifride Mwebesa, Sara Neumann, Taskin Rahman, Vishna Shah, Evan Schuurman, Janine Scolpino, Lene Steffen, Alison Sutton, Eric Swedberg, Devendra Singh Tak, Andrew Wainer, Lisa Wise and Simon Wright.

We thank colleagues who produced case studies for this report who are based in country offices in Bangladesh, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, India, Jordan, Lebanon, Nigeria and Uganda. Special thanks to Angelica Cadavid, Penny Crump, Natasha Dos Santos, Aisling Finneran, Madhu Kalra, Kate Kenny and Mike Sunderland for their leadership in identifying and producing case studies, and to many others across the organization who supported the process.

Many thanks to Tanu Anand, Catherine Bowden, Kandace Doyle, Charlotte Greene and Holly Taylor for global coordination and project management. Thanks also to Judy Cusick, Lois Jensen and Mike Kiernan for editorial support. And to Joe Ansah, Senad Ibrahimbegovic and Maribel Paredes for support on design and production.

Design by Alison Wilkes. Cover design by Joe Ansah.

Save the Children®

Save the Children believes every child deserves a future. Around the world, we give children a healthy start in life, the opportunity to learn and protection from harm. We do whatever it takes for children – every day and in times of crisis – transforming their lives and the future we share.

Save the Children USA
501 Kings Highway East, Suite 400
Fairfield, Connecticut 06825
United States
1 (800) 728-3843
www.SavetheChildren.org

Save the Children International
St Vincent's House
30 Orange Street
London WC2H 7HH
United Kingdom
+44 (0)20 3272-0300
www.SavetheChildren.net

ON THE COVER

Clockwise from upper left: Bdai from Vietnam (photo by Jonathan Hyams); *Kamal*, Arwin* and Sejun* from Nepal* (photo by Oli Cohen); *Gina* from Democratic Republic of the Congo* (photo by Joan Marie del Mundo); *Fatema*, a Rohingya refugee living in Bangladesh* (photo by GMB Akash/Panos Pictures/Save the Children); *Olivia from the United States* (photo by Susan Warner); *Lixi from Nicaragua* (photo by Dorothy Sang); *Farah*, a Syrian refugee living in Lebanon* (photo by Louis Leeson); *Avina* from India* (photo by CJ Clarke); *Saeed* from Syria* (photo by Save the Children) *and Sifa*, a Congolese refugee in Uganda* (photo by Hannah Maule-ffinch).