

STOLEN CHILDHOODS

END OF CHILDHOOD
REPORT 2017

Save the Children



Rony, age 12, works six days a week in a factory making lunch boxes in Bangladesh. The work brings him into direct contact with carcinogenic materials and poses a risk to his health. He is now receiving an education thanks to a Save the Children-supported project.

Photo: Ken Hermann / Save the Children

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STOLEN CHILDHOODS

For at least 700 million children worldwide – and perhaps hundreds of millions more – childhood has ended too soon. The major reasons included poor health, conflict, extreme violence, child marriage, early pregnancy, malnutrition, exclusion from education and child labor.

When taken together, these factors have created a global childhood crisis of massive proportions.

For nearly a century, Save the Children has been fighting to save children from poverty and discrimination. This new report – the first in an annual series – takes a hard look at the events that rob children of their childhoods. These "childhood enders" represent an assault on the future of children.

Childhood should be a safe time of life for growing, learning and playing. Every child deserves a childhood of love, care and protection so they can develop to their full potential. But this is not the experience for at least a quarter of our children worldwide.

The majority of these children live in disadvantaged communities in developing countries, where they have been bypassed by progress that has lifted up many of their peers. Many suffer from a toxic mix of poverty and discrimination – excluded because of who they are: a girl, a refugee, from an ethnic minority or a child with a disability. These threats to childhood are also present in high-income countries. All countries, rich and poor, can do a better job of ensuring every child enjoys the right to a childhood.

In commemoration of International Children's Day, Save the Children is launching a unique index exploring the major reasons why childhood comes to an early end. The *End of Childhood Index* focuses on a set of life-changing events that signal the disruption of childhood. It ranks 172 countries based on where childhood is most intact and where it is most eroded. It shows which countries are succeeding, and failing, to provide conditions that nurture and protect their youngest citizens. The indicators used to measure the end of childhood are: under-5 mortality, malnutrition that stunts growth, out-of-school children, child labor, early marriage, adolescent births, displacement by conflict and child homicide.

Which children survive or die, learn or don't, are protected or harmed, is no accident. Lost childhoods are a result of choices that exclude particular groups of children by design or neglect. Millions of children have their childhoods cut short because of who they are and where they live.

There have been major gains for children in the last 25 years, but recent progress in fighting extreme poverty has often not reached those children who need it most – because of geography, gender, ethnicity, disability or because they are victims of conflict.

Children'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. They 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 2030 and protect the planet for future generations. Taken together, the Sustainable Development Goals they established envision a future in which all children enjoy their rights to health, education and protection – in short, their right to childhood.[1] 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.

HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS* OF CHILDREN WORLDWIDE ARE MISSING OUT ON CHILDHOOD

263 MILLION
children are out of school.

168 MILLION
children are involved in child labor. Half (85 million) are doing hazardous work.

156 MILLION
children under age 5 have stunted growth.

ABOUT 40 MILLION
girls (aged 15-19) are currently married or in union. 15 million are married as children each year (under age 18) and 4 million of those are married under age 15.

NEARLY 28 MILLION
children have been forced to flee their homes (11 million are refugees and asylum-seekers; 17 million are internally displaced).

ROUGHLY 16 MILLION
girls between the ages of 15 and 19 – and 1 million girls under age 15 – give birth each year.

AROUND 8 MILLION
boys and girls aged 0-19 die each year; 75% (6 million) are children under age 5.[2]

75,000+
boys and girls under the age of 20 were murdered in 2015.

*Children often experience more than one childhood ender at a time. In total, some 700 million children worldwide are estimated to have experienced at least one ender. This estimate is conservative. It likely underestimates the global number of children missing out on childhood. See Methodology and Research Notes for details.

[1] 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 *The State of the World's Children 2005*.

[2] WHO. *Global Health Estimates 2015: Deaths by Cause, Age, Sex, by Country and by Region, 2000-2015.* (Geneva: 2016)

Zeinabou, 9, from a remote village in Burkina Faso, has a disability that prevents her from attending school. Her family cannot afford the medical care she needs and there is no system to help families that cannot pay. She spends her days at the family home looking after her little brother and making straw brooms to sell for income.

Photo: Clement Tardif / Save the Children

INTRODUCING THE END OF CHILDHOOD INDEX

Save the Children's first annual *End of Childhood Index* compares the latest data for 172 countries and assesses where the most and fewest children are missing out on childhood. Norway, Slovenia and Finland top the rankings. The top ten countries attain very high scores for children's health, education and protection status. The United States ranks 36th. Niger ranks last among the countries surveyed.

The 10 bottom-ranked countries – seven 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.

Although challenges to childhood are most pronounced in West and Central Africa, there are some signs of progress. The region, for example, has cut under-5 mortality in half since 1990. Despite their relative poverty, two countries (Liberia and Niger) have reduced child mortality rates by more than two-thirds. Nine other countries in the region have at least tripled their pace of progress from the 1990s or reversed a trend toward increasing child deaths: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Mauritania, Senegal and Sierra Leone.[3] These successes show that political choices can matter more than national wealth, and poverty does not have to be a barrier to progress.

Still, 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 29.

2017 END OF CHILDHOOD INDEX RANKINGS

TOP 10

Where childhood is least threatened

Rank	Country
1	Norway
1	Slovenia
3	Finland
4	Netherlands
4	Sweden
6	Portugal
7	Ireland
8	Iceland
8	Italy
10	Belgium, Cyprus, Germany, South Korea

BOTTOM 10

Where childhood is most threatened

Rank	Country
163	Guinea
163	Sierra Leone
165	Burkina Faso
166	South Sudan
167	Chad
168	Somalia
169	Central African Republic
170	Mali
171	Angola
172	Niger

[3] United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME). *Levels and Trends in Child Mortality: Report 2015.* (New York: 2015)

PREVENTABLE CAUSES KILL MILLIONS OF CHILDREN EACH YEAR

Worldwide, half as many children under age 5 now die from preventable causes compared to the year 1990, thanks to global action that has improved coverage and quality of maternal and child health care, immunizations, treatment of pneumonia, diarrhea, malaria and other deadly diseases. Improved nutrition and access to family planning have also saved many lives.

Every day, more than 16,000 children die before reaching their 5th birthday, mostly from preventable or treatable causes.

Yet many of the poorest children are still vulnerable to all of these conditions and more. Lack of universal health coverage, inadequate diets and unsafe water put the most disadvantaged children at the highest risk of death. Birth complications and newborn infections also factor heavily. Of the estimated 5.9 million child deaths in 2015, almost 1 million occurred on the day of birth, and close to 2 million took place in the first week.[4]

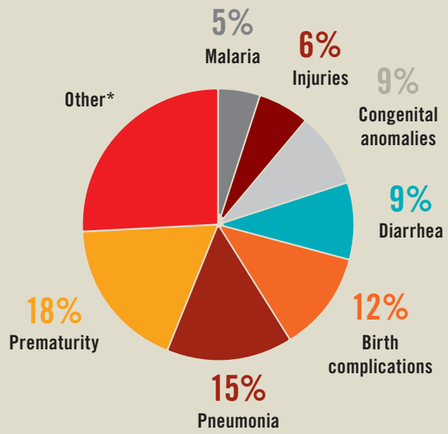
Growing numbers of children now live in countries affected by fragility and conflict,[5] where they face nearly twice the risk of dying before their fifth birthday as children in non-fragile contexts.[6] These deaths are more often caused by disease, malnutrition and inadequate health care than by bombs or bullets.[7] The conflict in Yemen, for example, has directly claimed the lives of over 1,500 children since March 2015,[8] and indirectly contributed to the deaths of 63,000 in 2016 alone.[9]

The *End of Childhood Index* shows that the highest rates of child mortality are found in sub-Saharan Africa, where basic medical care is often unavailable, too far away or too expensive. In Angola, Central African Republic, Chad, Mali, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Somalia, more than 10 percent of children do not live to see their fifth birthday. That is at least 40 times the rate found in Finland, Japan, Norway and Singapore, where less than 0.3 percent of children die before age 5.

Within countries, higher rates of child mortality are usually found among disadvantaged groups, especially poor families and ethnic minorities.[10] In Indonesia, Philippines and Senegal, for example, the poorest children are 3 times as likely to die before age 5 as the wealthiest. And in Cambodia, the poorest are 4 times as likely to die as the wealthiest.[11] In Vietnam, under-5 mortality rates among ethnic minorities are more than 4 times those found among the majority Kinh ethnic group (53 vs. 12 deaths per 1,000 live births).[12]

Children born to mothers with low levels of education also die at higher rates.[13] For example, in Nigeria, children of mothers with no formal education are about 3 times as likely to die before age 5 as children whose mothers have higher than a secondary education.[14]

LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH FOR CHILDREN UNDER AGE 5



*Includes newborn sepsis, meningitis/ encephalitis, HIV/AIDS, measles, pertussis, tetanus and others

Source: WHO-MCEE estimates for child causes of death, 2015.

[4] Ibid.
[5] World Bank. Population total: Fragile and conflict affected situations. http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL?locations=F1&view=chart
[6] UNICEF. *Committing to Child Survival: A Promise Renewed. Progress Report 2015*. (New York: 2015)
[7] Save the Children. *State of the World's Mothers 2014: Saving Mothers and Children in Humanitarian Crises*. (Westport, Connecticut: 2014)
[8] UNICEF, Yemen Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism figures, from March 10, 2015 to February 3, 2017 confirmed via correspondence with UNICEF on March 14, 2017
[9] UNICEF press announcement by Meritxell Relano, Sana'a, Yemen, January 11, 2017
[10] Save the Children. *The Lottery of Birth: Giving All Children an Equal Chance to Survive*. (London: 2015)
[11] ICF International, 2015. The DHS Program STATcompiler. Funded by USAID. http://www.statcompiler.com. March 25, 2017
[12] General Statistics Office and UNICEF. *Viet Nam Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2014, Final Report*. (Hanoi, Vietnam: 2015)
[13] UNICEF. *Committing to Child Survival: A Promise Renewed. Progress Report 2015*.
[14] National Population Commission (NPC) [Nigeria] and ICF International. 2014. Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey 2013. (Abuja, Nigeria and Rockville, Maryland: 2014)

CASE STUDY: NIGERIA

Amina is from a very remote village in northeast Nigeria. She is 30 years old and had no formal education. She lost two of her four children to illnesses that are preventable and treatable with medical care, good nutrition and healthy practices such as hygiene and breastfeeding.

"My first child died due to ill health in 2009 when he was 6 months old," said Amina. "I don't know why he died, but he was suffering from severe diarrhea and was very malnourished. I had no idea how to help him because our village had no clinic, hospital or dispensary. When he died I felt so sad. My second child, a little girl, died four years ago."

Amina and her family had to flee their village three years ago when it was attacked by insurgents. "We grabbed what we could and ran to another village. We have been there ever since. We are too scared to go back to our own homes. The insurgents stole all our food and livestock so we have nothing to return to."

"I have two daughters now. Aisha is the youngest. Once a week I get food for my children at a Save the Children clinic. They weigh the children and check their health." A few weeks ago, Aisha became very sick and Amina worried she might lose yet another child. "Save the Children brought me here [to its child stabilization center] so they could treat her properly. We've been here for five days now and she has improved a lot. I'm so happy to be here. I am given three meals a day and drugs for my baby. I am very grateful Aisha is still alive."

1-year-old Aisha almost became the third child in her family to die, but timely medical care saved her life.

Photo: Mike Sunderland / Save the Children

MALNUTRITION ROBS CHILDREN OF THE FUTURE THEY DESERVE

A young child who does not get enough food and nutrients cannot grow properly and can become too short for his/her age. This condition is called "stunting" and it prevents children from developing to their full potential, both mentally and physically.

156 million children under age 5 have stunted growth due to malnutrition –that's about a quarter of all children in that age group.

Stunted growth is caused by chronic malnutrition in the first 1,000 days of a child's life (from the start of pregnancy to age 2). Chronic malnutrition at this stage of life is largely irreversible, and stunted children face a lifetime of lost opportunities in education and work. They are also more likely to succumb to illness and disease, and can die as a result. Nearly half of all deaths in children under 5 are attributable to undernutrition.[15] Chronic malnutrition is often referred to as "hidden" hunger because it doesn't garner headlines in the same way that severe acute malnutrition does in a food crisis.

Undernourished children do not engage in play or interact with caregivers as much as well-nourished children do. Thus, stunting undermines the healthy development of their brains as well as their bodies. Children with inadequate diets are deprived of the critical interactions that lead to stimulation and learning.[16]

Stunting is caused by, and contributes to, vicious intergenerational cycles of poverty. Mothers who are undernourished are more likely to have undernourished children. Stunted children often perform poorly in school and have fewer professional opportunities later in life, so they earn less, and perpetuate poverty in their families. Low income, lack of health care and reduced access to proper nutrition will continue to impact their children.

156 million children under age 5 in the world are stunted.[17] In Kenya, 26 percent of children are stunted, in Uganda 34 percent, in Malawi 37 percent, in India 39 percent and in Yemen 47 percent. Malnutrition costs countries billions of dollars in lost productivity[18] and creates serious economic challenges for developing countries like these that struggle to compete with large portions of their workforces stunted.

The prevalence of stunting among children under age 5 worldwide is steadily declining – from 40 percent in 1990 to 23 percent in 2015. But children from poor families remain much more likely to be stunted than their wealthiest counterparts.[19] For example, in Myanmar, 29 percent of children under age 5 are suffering from stunted growth (1.3 million children). But the highest rates are found in the poorest areas, mostly populated by ethnic minority groups, where up to 40 percent of children are stunted.[20]

In almost all countries with available data, stunting rates are higher for boys than for girls.[21] But cultural factors – such as a preference for the eldest son in many South Asian countries – can lead to differences in the nutritional status of older girls. Up to half of all adolescent girls are stunted in some countries.[22] In India, one-third of girls aged 15-19 are stunted. In Bangladesh, it's 44 percent. And in Guatemala, 52 percent.

Looking at worldwide trends, stunting inequalities persist or are increasing in most countries. An analysis of developing countries with comparable trend data since 2000 shows that gaps between the poorest 20 percent and richest 20 percent of children under 5 have widened in 21 out of 35 countries.[23]



Saida is 18, but looks more like an 8-year-old. Her family says she was undernourished when she was very young and her growth was stunted. Her nutrition improved after that, but when the war started in Yemen two years ago she became malnourished again. She is being treated at the Save the Children-supported Al-Sabeen hospital in Sana'a.

Photo: Save the Children

[15] UNICEF. *Committing to Child Survival: A Promise Renewed. Progress Report 2015.*
[16] Levinger, Beryl. *Nutrition, Health and Education for All* (New York: UNDP: 1994)
[17] UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates, 2016 edition
[18] Fink et al. "Schooling and Wage Income Losses Due to Early-Childhood Growth Faltering in Developing Countries: National, Regional, and Global Estimates." *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition.* 2016. pp.104-112
[19] UNICEF. Nutrition: Malnutrition. https://data.unicef.org/topic/nutrition/malnutrition/#
[20] Ministry of Health and Sports (MOHS) and ICF International. *Myanmar Demographic and Health Survey 2015-16: Key Indicators Report.* (Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar and Rockville, Maryland: 2016); UN DESA, Population Division. *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision* (New York: 2015)
[21] Save the Children, Groups-based Inequality Database (GRID). https://campaigns.savethechildren.net/grid
[22] Black et al. "Maternal and Child Undernutrition and Overweight in Low-Income and Middle-Income Countries." *Lancet,* vol. 382, no. 9890. 2013. pp.427-451
[23] Save the Children. *Unequal Portions: Ending Malnutrition for Every Last Child.* (London: 2016)

OVER TWO-THIRDS OF THE WORLD'S STUNTED CHILDREN LIVE IN 10 COUNTRIES

Rank		Stunting prevalence	Estimated number of stunted children (millions)*
1	India	39%	48.2
2	Pakistan	45%	10.7
3	Nigeria	33%	10.0
4	Indonesia	36%	8.8
5	China	9%	7.4
6	Ethiopia	38%	5.7
7	DR Congo	43%	5.6
8	Bangladesh	36%	5.5
9	Philippines	30%	3.3
10	Tanzania	34%	3.2

These 10 countries are home to the largest numbers of children under age 5 who are moderately or severely stunted.

*Figures estimated by Save the Children. Analysis was limited to countries with stunting data from 2010-onward. Sources: UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates, September 2016 edition, updated with data from recent MICS and DHS (available as of March 1, 2017), and population data from UN Population Division, World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision.

CASE STUDY: PHILIPPINES

Stunting is often impossible to correct, but it can be prevented. In the Philippines, where 30 percent of children under 5 are stunted, it looked like baby Janice was destined to fall short of her potential due to undernutrition. Janice's mother Jenelyn had a poor diet during her pregnancy, and Janice was born frail and underweight.

The family of five struggled to feed themselves due to Jenelyn's husband's unsteady income. Baby Janice remained sickly and lethargic. "My other two children are also thin, but Janice is the only one who was always sluggish," said Jenelyn.

A Save the Children health worker diagnosed Janice's undernutrition during a community assessment. She was immediately enrolled in a program that provided regular rations of high-energy therapeutic food specially formulated to treat her condition. At the same time, Janice's parents were provided trainings on proper child care, hygiene, nutrition and breastfeeding, among other lifesaving practices. Jenelyn says she learned important lessons from the sessions. "I learned that it's important to choose what's nutritious. Don't neglect your children. Take care of them."

A few weeks into the treatment, baby Janice's health had improved remarkably. Her appetite increased and her weight became normal. She was sharper and more energetic. "I didn't expect that she would grow this much and that she would still be alive today," said Jenelyn.



Nutrition interventions reached 1-year-old Janice just in time to prevent lifelong problems.

Photo: Save the Children

LACK OF EDUCATION TRAPS CHILDREN IN POVERTY

Educating children gives the next generation the tools to fight poverty and prevent disease. It builds confidence, literacy and dignity. It builds a stronger foundation for the future we all share. And it's every child's right.

263 million children are out of school– that's more than 1 in 6 school-aged children worldwide.

In 2000, there were 375 million children and youth out of school. Today, that number has been reduced to 263 million.[24] Many children who are out of school come from excluded groups. They are children from disadvantaged backgrounds, often girls, who live in conflict-afflicted countries, in slums and in remote communities, who are from ethnic minority or lower caste families, or who are disabled.

Some out-of-school children have attended school in the past but dropped out, some will attend school in the future, and some will never go to school. Many who are in school are not learning the basics of reading and math. To fully address the global education crisis – and reap vast social and economic rewards – equal, quality education must be made available to all.

Girls are more likely than boys to be excluded from education. About 15 million girls will never have the opportunity to learn to read and write in primary school, compared to about 10 million boys. Across sub-Saharan Africa, 9 million girls will never attend school, compared to 6 million boys. The gender gap is even wider in South Asia, where 4 out of 5 out-of-school girls will never enter the formal education system, compared to 2 out of 5 out-of-school boys.[25]

Children with disabilities, especially girls with disabilities, are less likely to start and stay in school than their peers without disabilities. This pattern is more pronounced in poorer countries.[26]

Refugee children are 5 times more likely to be out of school than non-refugee children. UNHCR estimates that half of refugee children and over three-quarters of refugee adolescents are not in school, compared to 9 percent and 16 percent of children and adolescents globally.[27] In Lebanon, which hosts over 1 million Syrian refugees, over 60 percent of Syrian children – more than 225,000 – were not enrolled in school during the 2015/16 school year.[28]

Attacks on schools also prevent children from accessing education. In Syria, for example, there have been more than 4,000 attacks on schools over the course of the conflict,[29] and 1 in 3 schools are out of use, having been damaged by bombs, used as shelters for internally displaced people or occupied by armed groups.[30]

The highest rates of out-of-school children are found in sub-Saharan African countries at the bottom of the *End of Childhood Index*, where schools are often too far away and families are too poor to support their children's education. In Chad and Somalia, about half of primary and secondary school-aged children are not in school. In Niger 55 percent are out of school. In Djibouti 61 percent. In Eritrea 63 percent. And in South Sudan two-thirds of children are out of school.[31]



Ruksana, 16, lives in a small shanty in a slum area of New Delhi, India. Like her parents, she did not attend school. Instead she worked making shoes and helped her mother raise the family after her father died. Two years ago, Ruksana began attending classes at a Save the Children learning center called "Jigyasa" which means the quest for knowledge. In the mornings she does academic work and three afternoons a week she does vocational training.

Photo: CJ Clarke / Save the Children

[24] UNESCO. *Leaving No One Behind: How Far on the Way to Universal Primary and Secondary Education?* Policy Paper 27 / Fact Sheet 37. July 2016
[25] Ibid.
[26] WHO and the World Bank. *World Report on Disability 2011* (Geneva: 2011)
[27] UNHCR. *Missing Out: Refugee Education in Crisis.* (Geneva: 2016)
[28] Assessment includes primary and secondary school-aged children reached by formal education only. Inter-Agency Coordination Lebanon. *Education Jan-May 2016 Dashboard.* data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=11514
[29] UNICEF. *Children in war-torn Syria risk their lives to go to school, news note 21 October 2016.* https://www.unicef.org/media/media_92943.html
[30] More than 7,400 of the 22,000 schools that were running before the conflict are now closed or inaccessible. Source: OCHA. *2017 Humanitarian Needs Overview – Syrian Arab Republic.* (2016)
[31] Out-of-school rates for Chad, Somalia and South Sudan were estimated using attendance data from UNICEF's Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) as recent enrollment data from UNESCO were not available. See Methodology and Research Notes for details.

THE HIGH ECONOMIC COST OF OUT-OF-SCHOOL CHILDREN

Country	Out-of-school children[1]	Economic cost as a % of GDP[2]	Economic cost in US$ (millions)[3]
Bangladesh	5%	1.5%	$2,830
Cambodia	11%	1.9%	$340
Côte d'Ivoire	21%	14.1%	$4,470
Indonesia	7%	2.0%	$17,240
Lao PDR	7%	1.6%	$200
Mali	39%	14.2%	$1,810
Nigeria	34%	15.2%	$72,980
Pakistan	26%	5.4%	$14,500
Vietnam	2%	0.3%	$580
Yemen	15%	3.4%	$1,270

Children who are excluded from primary education will earn significantly less over their lifetimes than their educated peers. The economic cost of not educating these out-of-school children – estimated at 0.3 to 15.2 percent of GDP in these countries – is far greater than what it would cost to achieve universal primary education.

[1] Out-of-school rate for children of primary school age, latest year available 2010-2015. Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS), 2017
[2] GDP losses are reported on a macroeconomic scale and are given for the cohort of primary school-aged children out of school. Estimates for Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR and Vietnam are from: Thomas and Burnett. The Economic Cost of Out-of-School Children in Southeast Asia. (Bangkok: UNESCO: 2015). Estimates for all other countries are from: Thomas and Burnett. Exclusion from Education: The Economic Cost of Out-of-School Children in 20 Countries. (Doha, Qatar: Educate A Child: 2014)
[3] Estimates are rounded to the nearest 10 million. They are approximated by multiplying the cost as a % of GDP by the country's total GDP in 2015 and are used for the purpose of illustration only. Source: World Bank, World Development Indicators, 2017

CASE STUDY: NIGER

Yassira's brothers go to school, but their family is very poor, so Yassira stayed home to help her parents sell bean curd for income. Her situation is not uncommon in Niger, where an ongoing food crisis is stretching family resources to the limit. When tough choices must be made, many families decide to educate their sons and not their daughters. Nationwide in Niger, 39 percent of primary school-aged girls are out of school, compared to 29 percent of boys.[32]

Save the Children staff became aware of Yassira's situation last year. They worked with the school director and local leaders to convince Yassira's father to enroll her in school. He agreed, and Yassira entered third grade in October. But after a few months, Yassira had to leave school again and return to work helping the family. She missed school and she missed her friends. "Now they are ahead of me," she said. "They have left me behind."

To address the root of the problem keeping Yassira out of school, Save the Children staff knew they had to help improve the family's economic stability. Yassira was given a scholarship to cover the remaining four months of the school year. To improve the family's diet and income-earning potential, they were given three goats and Yassira's mother joined a group of women growing moringa (a drought-resistant tree with nutritious leaves). Yassira returned to school in February, and she has a tutor helping her at home to make up for the classes she missed.

She is happy to be back in school, catching up with academics and with friends. "My favorite subject is reading," she says. "When I grow up I want to be a teacher."



11-year-old Yassira is back in school now after she and her family got support from Save the Children.

Photo: Talitha Brauer / Save the Children

[32] Ministry of Primary Education of Niger, year 2015-2016 (Annuaire statistique MEP/A/PLN/EC 2015-2016)

CHILDREN FORCED INTO EXPLOITATIVE AND HAZARDOUS WORK

The global number of child laborers has declined by one-third since 2000, but an estimated 168 million children are still trapped in child labor, compelled to work to support themselves and their families. More than half, some 85 million children, are doing hazardous work that directly compromises their physical, mental, social and/or educational development.[33]

168 million children worldwide are involved in child labor – that's more than all the children in Europe.

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

Poor children are much more likely to be forced into work than their wealthier counterparts.[34] In Nepal, for example, 37 percent of children aged 5-17 are engaged in child labor (some 3.2 million children),[35] mostly in agriculture, but also in industry and commercial sex work. The highest rates of child labor are found among the poorest Nepali children, where rates exceed 60 percent, with nearly 9 out of 10 child laborers working under hazardous conditions.[36]

Higher rates of child labor are often found in rural areas. In Haiti, 22 percent of children in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area are involved in child labor, compared to 61 percent in rural areas.[37]

The highest national rates of child labor are found in sub-Saharan Africa. In Cameroon, 47 percent of children are engaged in child labor. In Somalia, 49 percent are working. In Guinea-Bissau and Benin, it's 51 and 53 percent, respectively. And in Mali, it's 56 percent. Not surprisingly, these countries have some of the lowest scores on the *End of Childhood Index*.



Monzu works as a garbage collector in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Photo: Ken Hermann / Save the Children

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

[34] In 55 of 59 countries with available data, child labor rates are higher among the poorest 20 percent of children compared to the richest 20 percent of children. In 38 of these 55 countries, the poorest children are at least twice as likely to be engaged in child labor as the richest children. Source: UNICEF, data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/child-labour/# (Accessed March 26, 2017)

[35] Calculated using 2015 population estimates for Nepali children aged 5-17 from UN DESA, Population Division. *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision.*

[36] Central Bureau of Statistics [Nepal] and UNICEF Nepal. *Nepal Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2014, Final Report.* (Kathmandu, Nepal: 2015)

[37] Cayemittes, Michel, et al. *Enquête Mortalité, Morbidité et Utilisation des Services, Haïti, 2012.* (Calverton, Maryland: ICF International and MSPP, IHE: 2013)



At 12 years old, Omar suddenly found himself responsible for his family and having to work to support his mother and younger brother after his father was killed in the Syrian conflict and his elder brother joined an armed group.*

** name changed to protect identity*

Photo: Ahmad Baroudi / Save the Children

EXAMPLES OF HAZARDOUS FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

- **Domestic servitude**
- **Military service**
- **Deep water fishing**
- **Textile factory work**
- **Cotton picking**
- **Stone quarrying**
- **Construction**
- **Carpet weaving**
- **Mining**
- **Waste site scavenging**
- **Brick making**

For specific tasks, hazards, injuries and potential health consequences associated with this work for children, see: ILO. *Children in Hazardous Work: What We Know, What We Need to Do.* (Geneva: 2011).

CASE STUDY: INDIA

Kamal was forced to leave school at age 11 because of poverty. His father is an addict, and Kamal grew up in a violent environment where physical and verbal abuse were common.

His parents forced him to take a job in a roadside restaurant. For two years, Kamal endured 24-hour shifts and an unending cycle of cooking, cleaning and waiting tables. The $73 a month he earned was his family's only income.

A Save the Children-supported group called "Lucky" became aware of Kamal's situation. Children from the group confronted Kamal's parents and urged them to let him go back to school. They met stiff resistance, as the family needed the money Kamal was earning.

So the children turned to the community's Child Protection Committee, which is also supported by a Save the Children initiative. It took a month of discussions with Kamal's parents and his employer, but eventually they were persuaded. The next hurdle was convincing school authorities, who were reluctant to accept him back. Kamal's advocates pointed to a 2009 right to education law, and Kamal was re-enrolled.

Kamal is now 14 and thriving in school. The children's groups and a few motivated teachers continue to ensure he has equal opportunities. The school discovered his athletic potential and trained him in running. Kamal has begun winning races and recognition from his school. His talent was spotted by local authorities who asked him to represent his area in an inter-district championship, where he won a trophy.

"I was working and never thought I could study again or represent my district in sports," said Kamal. "Sometimes, I feel this is all a dream. I am lucky to have been found by the Lucky children's group."



Kamal used to work 24-hour shifts in a roadside restaurant. Now he is 14, back in school, and excelling as an athlete. He earned a trophy for his district in a 400 meter race, making his parents, school, community and district proud.

Photo: Nilesh Nikade / Save the Children



Alhaji, 11, doesn't go to school but instead works as an ironmonger to help support his family in Kroo Bay, Freetown, Sierra Leone. About 37 percent of children aged 5-14 in Sierra Leone are engaged in child labor (some 621,000 children).[38]

Photo: Jonathan Hyams / Save the Children

[38] Calculated using 2013 population estimates for children aged 5-14 in Sierra Leone sourced from UN DESA, Population Division. *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision*. Custom data acquired via website (https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/DataQuery/)

THE DEVASTATING IMPACTS OF CHILD MARRIAGE

Marriage before age 18 is a violation of children's rights, and illegal in a growing number of countries. Yet about 40 million girls aged 15-19 worldwide are currently married or in union.[39] Each year, some 15 million more girls marry before reaching age 18.[40] Of those, 4 million are married before age 15.[41] Many are forced into marriage by their parents and are wed to men who are significantly older.

Globally, one girl under 15 gets married every seven seconds.

Early marriage has devastating consequences for a girl's life, effectively ending her childhood by forcing her into adulthood and motherhood before she is physically and mentally ready. Child brides are often isolated, with their freedom curtailed. They frequently feel disempowered and are deprived of their rights to health, education and safety.

Child brides are at greater risk of experiencing dangerous complications in pregnancy and childbirth, contracting HIV/AIDS and suffering domestic violence. With little access to education and economic opportunities, they and their families are more likely to live in poverty.[42]

Child marriage is a global problem that cuts across countries, cultures, religions and ethnicities. Child brides can be found in every region in the world, from the Middle East to Latin America, South Asia to Europe and North America. Many factors interact to place a girl at risk of marriage, including poverty, the perception that marriage will provide "protection," family honor, social and religious norms, and inadequate legal protections.

Girls from poor families are more likely to be forced into early marriage. In Vietnam and the Philippines, girls are at least 7 times more likely to be married if they are poor than if they come from the richest families.[43] Child marriage tends to be more prevalent in rural areas. For example, in Indonesia, 25 percent of rural girls are married before age 18, compared to 10 percent in urban areas. And in Peru, 35 percent of rural girls are married, compared to 14 percent of urban girls.[44]

The highest rates of child marriage are found in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. In Mali, 39 percent of girls aged 15-19 are married. In South Sudan, 40 percent are married. In Bangladesh, 44 percent. In Central African Republic, 55 percent. And in Niger, 60 percent. In these countries, disparities are also great. In Niger, for example, 1 in 3 girls in the capital Niamey are married by 18, compared to nearly 9 in 10 in the poorest regions.[45]

Child marriage also affects boys, but to a much lesser degree than girls. Data on the share of boys married by age 18 are limited, but suggest some of the highest rates are found in: Central African Republic (28 percent), Madagascar (13 percent), Lao PDR (13 percent), Honduras (12 percent), Nepal (11 percent) and Cuba (11 percent).[46]



In Bangladesh, Save the Children is fighting child marriage through awareness campaigns and advocacy.

[39] Calculated by multiplying the global share of girls 15-19 currently married or in union (14%) by the total number of girls aged 15-19 worldwide (285 million). Sources: data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/child-marriage/; UN DESA, Population Division. *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision*

[40] UNICEF. *Ending Child Marriage: Progress and Prospects.* (New York: 2014)

[41] According to the latest global estimates, 25.9 percent of girls are married by age 18 and 7.5 percent are married by age 15. If 29 percent of girls who marry are married by 15 (7.5/25.9), then around 4.3 of the 15 million girls who marry each year are under age 15. Sources: Ibid and SDG Indicators Global Database, Indicator: 5.3.1 – Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18 (Accessed March 22, 2017)

[42] Girls Not Brides. http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/what-is-the-impact/

[43] Save the Children, Groups-based Inequality Database (GRID). https://campaigns.savethechildren.net/grid

[44] Ibid.

[45] Ibid.

[46] UNICEF. Child protection: Child marriage. https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/child-marriage/



Majerah saw firsthand the challenges women in her community faced because there was no female doctor. Her dream to become a doctor and help other women was shattered at age 14 when she was married against her will to a man 10 years older.

Photo: Save the Children

CASE STUDY: AFGHANISTAN

Majerah, now 17, was forced into early marriage three years ago. "I was studying and working hard with the hope to become a doctor," she said. "I wanted to be able to help other women. Even though my family was poor, I always focused on my studies, disregarding the difficulties of my life. I never had a chance to enjoy my childhood. I was forced into an adult life way too early."

She had to leave school when she got married. She was in 8th grade and earned the highest scores in her class. "When my father decided to marry me off, I was heartbroken. Nobody asked or cared."

Majerah's husband is 10 years older. She lives with him and a large number of his family members in a small house. Her in-laws treat her like a slave, making her do all the housework. The family disrespects her because she has not been able to have a child. She has been hit by her husband several times. He tells her if she is unable to have a baby within the next couple of months, he will remarry.

"All my dreams have been shattered forever," said Majerah. "I feel I am not alive anymore. One cannot live without hopes and dreams."

About 20 percent of Afghan girls aged 15-19 are married or living in union. Afghanistan's legal age of marriage is 16 for girls and 18 for boys, but there is limited enforcement of this law.[47]

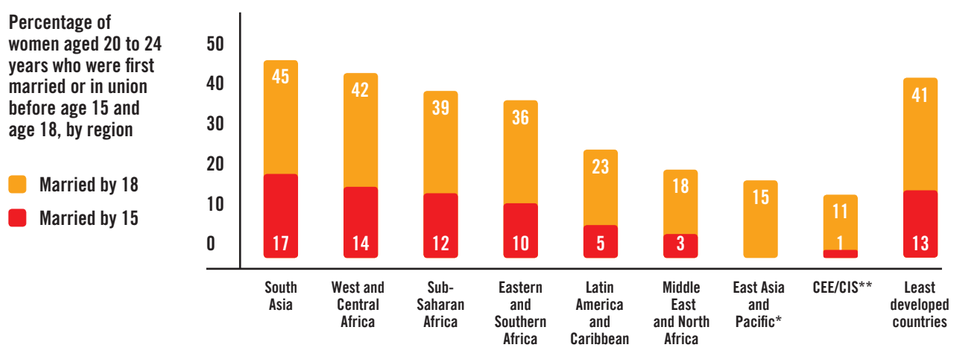
[47] WHO. *Global Status Report on Violence Prevention 2014*. (Geneva: 2014)



Tulasa, 14, was married when she was 13 and gave birth to a stillborn baby about a year later. She lives in a remote village in Nepal.

Photo: Suzanne Lee / Save the Children

ALARMING PERCENTAGES OF GIRLS ARE MARRIED AS CHILDREN



* Excluding China ** CEE/CIS: Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States

Note: Graphic adapted from data.unicef.org and based on DHS, MICS and other nationally representative surveys, 2008-2014. Global estimates, regional averages for South Asia and the share of women married before age 15 in East Asia and the Pacific were not available as of the last online update (February 2017). For this reason, data for South Asia was pulled from: UNICEF. The State of the World's Children Report 2015 Satistical Tables. (New York: 2014)

CASE STUDY: SOMALIA

Amal grew up in a rural village and never attended school. When she reached 13, her father told her he had accepted a dowry from a man who wanted to marry her. "I tried to refuse, but I was forced to accept it," said Amal. "I had no choice." Preparations began for the wedding.

Amal was sent to the home of the man, who was more than 30 years older. After two days of wedding celebrations, she began to fear what was in store for her. "I decided to leave. Everyone in his family was around, but I ran away anyway. They all shouted after me, but I just kept running. I walked for two hours to the nearest village. Finally I boarded a bus full of many other people and I got a ride all the way to the city."

Amal sought refuge with her aunt, a member of a Child Welfare Committee that partners with Save the Children. Her aunt says she will never force her niece back into that situation.

"I don't want to go back. I want to stay here," says Amal. "I will try to find some work here in the city and I also want to go to school if it's possible. It's wrong for parents to force young girls to marry men who are older. Girls should not be forced against their will, they should have a chance to go to school."

Amal was 13 when her family decided to marry her off to a man in his 40s. She managed to escape and is working to rebuild her life.

Photo: Colin Crowley / Save the Children

THE PERILS OF TEENAGE CHILDBEARING

Every year, around 17 million girls give birth, forcing them to assume adult responsibilities and putting their health, education and economic prospects at risk.[48] Most births to adolescents (95 percent) occur in developing countries, and 9 in 10 of these births occur within marriage or a union.[49]

Every two seconds, a girl gives birth.

Childbearing at a young age, when a girl's body is not physically mature enough to deliver without complications, often leads to devastating consequences. Complications from pregnancy and childbirth are the second leading cause of death for adolescent girls between the ages of 15 and 19 globally.[50] And babies born to adolescent mothers face a substantially higher risk of dying than those born to women aged 20 to 24.[51]

Young mothers are less likely to be in school and more likely to struggle economically. This puts them and their children at risk of exploitation, ill health and perpetuating cycles of poverty.

Early childbearing also severely impacts the economies of communities and nations. For example, if all adolescent girls in Kenya completed secondary school, and if the more than 200,000 adolescent mothers there were employed instead of having become pregnant, $3.4 billion could have been added to the economy. This is equivalent to the value of Kenya's entire construction sector. If adolescents in Brazil and India had been able to wait until their early 20s to become mothers, those countries would have greater economic productivity equal to over $3.5 billion and $7.7 billion, respectively.[52]

Most teenage girls in developing countries do not want to have babies,[53] but many are unable to avoid getting pregnant. They may lack knowledge about contraception, or be afraid to seek contraception services. Contraceptives may be too expensive or not widely or legally available. Girls may also be unable to refuse unwanted sex or resist coerced sex, which tends to be unprotected.

While very early childbearing (before age 15) appears to be declining in all regions, childbearing among older adolescents (ages 15 to 17) has remained steady.[54]

The proportion of births that take place during adolescence is about 2 percent in China, 18 percent in Latin America and the Caribbean and more than 50 percent in sub-Saharan Africa.[55]

Half of all adolescent births occur in just seven countries: Bangladesh, Brazil, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria and the United States.[56] The *End of Childhood Index* shows how the contexts of these births differ. The link between early marriage and early motherhood is strong in Asia and parts of Africa, but having a child outside of marriage is not uncommon in many high-income or Latin American and Caribbean countries.

Adolescent pregnancies are more common in poor, uneducated and rural communities. The poorest 20 percent of girls in Indonesia have birth rates 6 times those of the wealthiest 20 percent. Similar poverty-related disparities are found in Nigeria and Peru.[57] Girls in Rwanda with no formal education have birth rates 5 times those of girls with at least some secondary education. And in Tanzania, uneducated girls give birth at 8 times the rate of those with secondary education.[58] In rural areas of many countries, adolescent birth rates are double those seen in urban areas. In Cambodia and Ethiopia, birth rates in rural areas are 3 and 5 times those in urban areas, respectively.[59]



Marta, 16, with her 1-month-old son Carlo in Sinaloa, Mexico. Teenage pregnancy is common in this agricultural area, as is poverty. Marta met her baby's father while she was working in the fields harvesting vegetables and hay. She had to leave school during her pregnancy. "I worry about going back to school and leaving my child alone," she says. "I do not know how I would be able to feed him."

Photo: Jonathan Hyams / Save the Children

[48] Of the approximately 17 million girls that give birth each year, 16 million are aged 15-19 and 1 million are under age 15. Source: WHO. Adolescent Pregnancy Fact Sheet. Updated September 2014. http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs364/en/

[49] UNFPA. *State of World Population 2013: Motherhood in Childhood: Facing the Challenge of Adolescent Pregnancy. (New York: 2013)*

[50] WHO. *Health for the World's Adolescents: A Second Chance in the Second Decade.* (Geneva: 2014)

[51] WHO. Adolescent Pregnancy. http://www.who.int/maternal_child_adolescent/topics/maternal/adolescent_pregnancy/en/

[52] UNFPA. *State of World Population 2013: Motherhood in Childhood: Facing the Challenge of Adolescent Pregnancy.*

[53] Ibid.

[54] UNICEF. Maternal Health. https://data.unicef.org/topic/maternal-health/adolescent-health/

[55] WHO. Adolescent Pregnancy. http://www.who.int/maternal_child_adolescent/topics/maternal/adolescent_pregnancy/en/ (Accessed March 26, 2017)

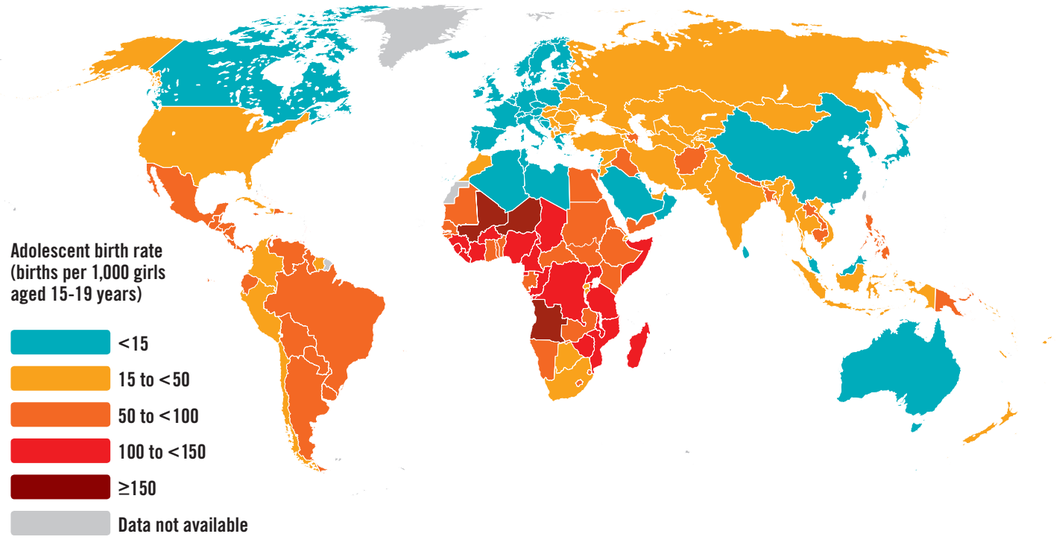
[56] Ibid.

[57] WHO, Health Equity Monitor Database, apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.nHE-1550?lang=en (Accessed March 26, 2017)

[58] Ibid.

[59] National Institute of Statistics, Directorate General for Health and ICF International. *Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey 2014.* (Phnom Penh, Cambodia and Rockville, Maryland: 2015) and Central Statistical Agency (CSA) [Ethiopia] and ICF International. *Ethiopia Demographic and Health Survey 2016: Key Indicators Report.* (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and Rockville, Maryland: 2016)

ADOLESCENT BIRTH RATES WORLDWIDE



Source: World Bank, World Development Indicators, 2017

CASE STUDY: SIERRA LEONE

Tawa* dropped out of school because she couldn't afford the fees, which was around the time of the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone. During the outbreak, all the schools were closed. Towards the end of the outbreak, a teenage boy started visiting her.

Tawa didn't have much support from her parents, as her father died when she was young and her mother is elderly. She refused the boy's advances at first, but was eventually persuaded to have sex with him. They had sex just one time and Tawa became pregnant.

When the boy heard about the pregnancy, he fled to Liberia and she has not seen or heard from him since.

During the pregnancy, people in the community would mock her and gossip about her. They would say: "Look at this child who is so small and already pregnant. She will not be able to deliver the baby on her own." Tawa delivered her baby by Cesarean section at the hospital.

She does not want another pregnancy until she finishes her education, but paying for school is a challenge. "I am really stressed, sometimes when my child is sick, even money to take her to the hospital is hard to come by. Even to have food to give her is difficult."

Asked if she has a message for other girls, Tawa said: "Education is the key to success. Let us focus on continuing school. And let us become nurses, doctors and engage in any other good types of jobs available in this world."



Tawa, 17, and her 10-month-old daughter Mary.*

Photo: Michael Duff / Save the Children

*names changed to protect identities

THE GROWING CRISIS OF CHILDREN DISPLACED BY CONFLICT

More people are fleeing war and persecution than ever in history. Worldwide, nearly 28 million children have been forcibly displaced. This number includes some 10 million child refugees, approximately 1 million asylum-seeking children and an estimated 17 million children displaced within their own countries by violence and conflict.[60]

Conflict has forced nearly 1 child in 80 from their homes, and some even onto the front lines.

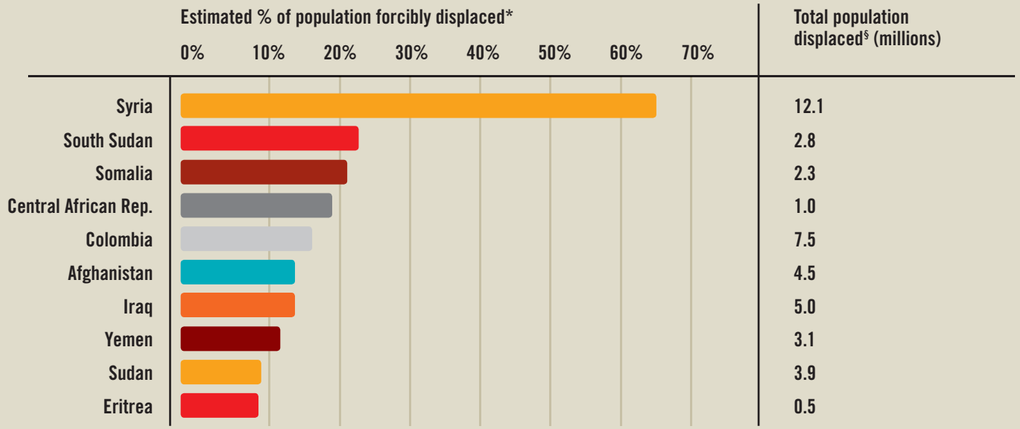
These children are often denied their rights to health, education, protection and freedom from fear. Many will spend their entire childhoods away from home, sometimes separated from their families. They may have witnessed or experienced violent acts and are at risk of abuse, neglect, violence, exploitation, trafficking or military recruitment.

Though many communities and people around the world have welcomed refugee and migrant children, xenophobia, discrimination and exclusion pose serious threats to their lives and futures. Language barriers often make it difficult for children and their families to receive the help they need. Legal barriers can prevent them from accessing education, health care and other services.

In too many cases, children are subject to immigration detention while their status is being assessed and resolved. This has a devastating impact on their psychological, social and educational development. In addition, policies around family reunification and returns are becoming more restrictive with a potential negative impact on children.

Many of the youngest refugees have known only conflict and deprivation in their short lives. To recover and contribute positively to their societies, they must have opportunities for education and help to overcome traumatic experiences. If the world community fails to provide this, we will pay an enormous collective price.

10 COUNTRIES WHERE CHILDREN SUFFER MOST FROM CONFLICT



*Number of persons of concern to UNHCR§ by origin, as a share of their country of nationality's population, mid-2016. Calculations by Save the Children. Sources: UNHCR. Mid-Year Trends 2016. (Geneva: 2017); UN DESA, Population Division. World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision. (New York: 2015). For the purpose of this analysis, 2016 population projections have been used.

§ Includes refugees, people in refugee-like situations, asylum-seekers, returned refugees, IDPs protected/assisted by UNHCR, including those in IDP-like situations, returned IDPs and others of concern to UNHCR.

[60] UNICEF. *Uprooted: The Growing Crisis for Refugee and Migrant Children*. (New York: 2016)



Ahlam (second from left) and her family have been forced to flee twice. They left their home in Baiji – in northern Iraq – for the first time three years ago when IS took over the town. Two years later, they had to escape again when IS spread their control to Hawija.

Photo: Gabriela Casin / Save the Children

CASE STUDY: IRAQ

Ahlam* and her family endured months of airstrikes and hunger before they fled their home in northern Iraq. "My children have had psychological problems," says Ahlam's mother. "Ahlam wouldn't sleep. She would tell me `mom, take me out.' But we had nowhere to go. War was everywhere."

The family stayed in Hawija for about two years before they were displaced by conflict a second time. "We walked for seven hours in the night through the mountains," says 12-year-old Ahlam. "We were on the road and there were explosions. There were landmines that exploded. We saw them."

"We were scared all the time," says her mother. "Worried and exhausted. We spent two days without eating or drinking anything."

During this time, Ahlam was out of school for two years. She and her family now live in a displacement camp in Qayyara, about 40 miles south of Mosul. "I left behind my toys…. My school…. I had everything. Here I don't have toys. I prefer to go back home. It has been a long time since we saw our home…. I also had a swing. We had a TV at home. I used to watch cartoons."

Despite her trauma and losses, Ahlam's mother says the girl "has now gained some freedom and comfort." She enjoys going to a school supported by Save the Children, where she is now in fifth grade. "Today we learned about creatures," said Ahlam. "The places where creatures live and fill their needs for water, oxygen and nutrients.

"I like to go to school to learn," she added. "I want to become an engineer or a doctor. I should read and write to become a doctor."

*name changed to protect identity

YOUNG LIVES CUT SHORT OR DEEPLY SCARRED BY VIOLENCE

Suffering violence, witnessing violence or fearing violence should not be part of growing up. In 2015 alone, more than 75,000 boys and girls under the age of 20 were murdered – 59 percent were adolescents aged 15 to 19.[61] Each of these deaths represents hundreds or even thousands more children who are living in violent or abusive environments where they face repeated threats to their survival and healthy development.

Every day, more than 200 boys and girls around the world are murdered.

Physical violence against children can be committed by anyone, although adults in positions of trust and authority (such as caregivers and teachers) are often cited as perpetrators. Acts of physical force against children are also common among peers. Chronic community violence – frequent and continual exposure to the use of weapons, drugs and random violence – is most common where government protections for children are weak.

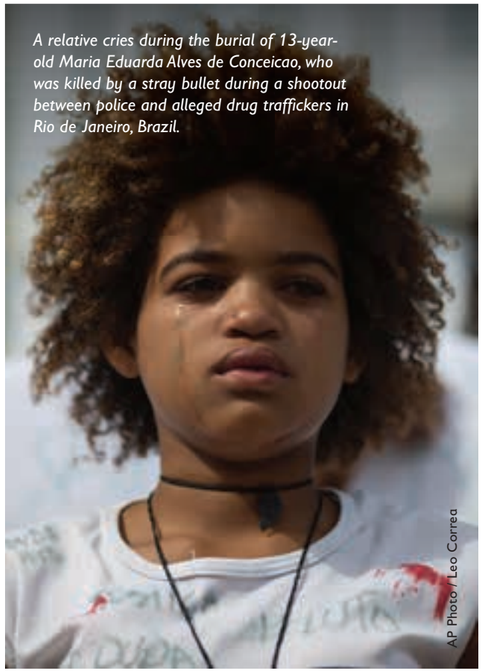
Exposure to violence may disrupt a child's normal development and affect well-being in both the short and long term. Consequences may include behavioral disorders such as aggression and an inability to relate to others, emotional disorders such as depression and anxiety, and health-related disorders such as sleep disruption and nightmares.

Child homicide and child abuse exist in every country, rich and poor, but child homicide rates are highest in Latin America and the Caribbean, where violent criminal activity has been on the rise for the past decade. The surprisingly low *End of Childhood Index* rankings for some Latin American countries, especially considering their relative national wealth, are a reflection of high levels of societal violence.

In communities where gang activity is prevalent, fear of gangs can prevent students from going to school and young people from holding jobs. According to one report, nearly 40,000 children in El Salvador dropped out of school in 2015, primarily out of concern for their own safety.[62]

In every region of the world, homicide rates among boys are higher than those among girls. The difference between the two sexes is especially striking in Latin America and the Caribbean, where boys are almost 7 times more likely to be murdered than girls.[63]

Violence against children also inflicts damage at the societal level, including direct and indirect costs due to increased social spending and lost economic productivity. A recent study estimated the lifetime economic costs of new cases of child abuse in the United States at $124 billion. The calculation included lifetime costs of $210,012 per abuse victim who survived and $1.3 million per victim who died.[64] The same authors estimated the economic cost of child abuse in East Asia and the Pacific to exceed $160 billion based on economic losses due to death, disease and health risk behaviors attributable to child abuse.[65]

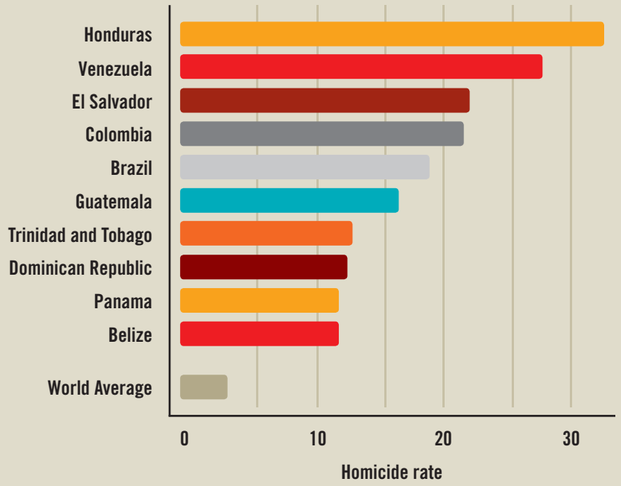


A relative cries during the burial of 13-year-old Maria Eduarda Alves de Conceicao, who was killed by a stray bullet during a shootout between police and alleged drug traffickers in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

AP Photo / Leo Correa

[61] WHO. *Global Health Estimates 2015: Deaths by Cause, Age, Sex, by Country and by Region, 2000-2015.* (Geneva: 2016)
[62] Madeleine Schwartz. "El Salvador: A Town Without Violence?" *NYR Daily*, January 27, 2017. nybooks.com/daily/2017/01/27/el-salvador-a-town-without-violence/
[63] UNICEF. *Hidden in Plain Sight: A Statistical Analysis of Violence Against Children.* (New York: 2014)
[64] Fang, X., et al. "The Economic Burden of Child Maltreatment in the United States and Implications for Prevention." *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol. 36, no. 2, 2012, pp. 156-165
[65] Fang, X., D. Brown and P. Corso. Analytical Report for the Project "Development of Regional Costing Model to Estimate the Economic Burden of Child Maltreatment in the East Asia and Pacific Region." Bangkok, 2013 (unpublished) cited in: UNICEF. *Hidden in Plain Sight: A Statistical Analysis of Violence Against Children.*

THE 10 COUNTRIES WITH THE HIGHEST CHILD HOMICIDE RATES ARE ALL IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



Estimated number of homicide victims among children and adolescents aged 0-19, per 100,000 population in 2015.

Rates calculated by Save the Children. Data sources: WHO. Global Health Estimates 2015: Deaths by Cause, Age, Sex, by Country and by Region, 2000-2015. (Geneva: 2016); UN DESA, Population Division. World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision

CASE STUDY: EL SALVADOR

Thirteen-year-old Juan* lost his cousin to gang violence just over a year ago. "He was like my brother," says Juan. "It brings me misery and a feeling I cannot express, to know that from one day to the next, he's not here.

"I came home and found another cousin and my brother crying and I had a strange feeling, my mind was racing. I asked my cousin what was going on and she did not answer, she only cried. My cousin told me, 'They killed him.' I felt that my heart was crushed very badly, in the cruelest way. I began to remember many times spent with him. I couldn't believe that it had only been a few hours since I had last seen him alive. That day I sat alone, far away, in a place that only I know.

"I had never known this pain. Sometimes I would see in the news that someone was killed – that's normal these days. I hope I'm forgiven for saying this, but that's the cruel joke, that every day there are dead people – young people disappear or they kill them.

"I have dreamed of him three times. He hugs me in the dream and tells me that he will always be with me. He arranges a suitcase, takes a bath, and tells me that he is going on a long journey from which he will not return. I woke up from that dream and felt I wanted to share my sorrows. I decided I would never self-harm like others do when they have problems, because I think it's not good."

Juan believes he will never fully recover from the psychological impact of his cousin's death, but by participating in Save the Children art therapy and youth development programs he has found help in processing his feelings and finding hope for the future. "The teacher makes us relax, tells us to feel the wind and imagine a cloud touching our skin. We painted there too. I drew two masks. One laughing and one crying. I explained that I've had to laugh and I am funny, but I have also cried. With my happiness, I hide my sadness."

*name changed to protect identity



Photo: Angie Montes / Save the Children



Above: A small memorial marks the spot where 15-year-old Estuardo Samuel Ochoa was killed outside his school in Guatemala City. The school is located in the notorious gang-run neighborhood of Canalitos and has seen rising drop-out rates. Two teachers and three students have been killed since 2010.

At right: With support from Save the Children, students in the same school organize peace-building workshops. The sign behind them says "Peace is in you. Pass it on."

Photos: Souvid Datta / Save the Children





16-year-old Rosy had escaped her abusive past. She was living in a shelter, caring for her baby, attending night classes and was optimistic about her future. A few months later she was murdered.

Photo: Susan Warner / Save the Children

CASE STUDY: BOLIVIA

Rosy* ran away from home when she was 13 to escape a life of abuse. With nowhere to go, she ended up living on the streets. "I was always scared and I was always cold," she said. Eventually, she got a job in construction, which was hard work for a young girl, but it was better than the alternatives.

By age 15, she was pregnant. A caring doctor helped her get off the street and mobilized social services to place her in a shelter for pregnant teens that Save the Children supports with complementary programs. There, she and her baby got the support they needed. Her son Diego* became her inspiration. "My baby makes me smile and gives me strength," she told an interviewer at the shelter in October 2015. Rosy, who was 16 at the time, was building the foundation of a brighter future, eating well, nursing her baby, and studying hard to get ahead. "I hope I will be able to have a house and a normal life," she said.

A few months later, Rosy left the shelter, eager to begin her new life. She moved in with the father of her baby. Many details about what happened next are unknown. In August 2016, television news reported Rosy was dead after being thrown from a minibus by her boyfriend. Her friends confirmed this story. Save the Children staff have been unable to learn what happened to Rosy's son Diego. It is also unclear if an investigation is underway, or if charges were brought against Rosy's boyfriend. The lack of follow-up is sadly common in cases like Rosy's. Too often, the most vulnerable children are also the most invisible.

*names changed to protect identities

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 (known as the SDGs or the Global 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.

As this report shows, we have a long way to go to realize this vision. Millions of children around the world are left behind, either by design or neglect. They are missing out on quality health care and basic learning simply because of who they are or where they live. Girls, child refugees, street children, children from certain ethnic or religious backgrounds, children with disabilities and from poor and disadvantaged regions within countries, and children affected by crisis, conflict or fragility – all face discrimination that prevents them from fulfilling their full potential. Leaving children behind, especially the most excluded, will hinder the world's ability to meet the SDGs within a generation.

That is why Save the Children committed to work with governments and other stakeholders to ensure progress is made on meeting the SDGs. Save the Children is committed to reaching *every last child* by tackling the obstacles that exclude millions of children from surviving, learning and being protected. As per the Global Goals pledge to leave no one behind, the rights of children from all segments of society must be upheld, and those furthest behind must be reached first. All children deserve a childhood.

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, especially not children. This pledge is a commitment to ensure that the SDG targets should be met for all nations, all people and all segments of society.

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

1. Investing in children

To achieve the SDGs and ensure that all children have access to quality basic services, including protection and social protection services, governments (including donors) need to raise the necessary resources. Governments must ensure these resources reach excluded children 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.

2. 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 her or his ethnicity or gender. To facilitate children accessing quality services, governments must also put in place systems to register every child at birth.

3. Counting and including all children, regardless of who they are or where they are from

Governments need to ensure that all children, especially excluded children, are counted in data that are used to measure progress on the SDGs. Data should be collected by age, economic group, gender, sex, race, ethnicity and geography or migratory status, and be reported publicly in accessible formats. Governments should set stepping stone equity targets to help children who are furthest behind catch up to their peers. 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.

In addition to these cross-cutting global guarantees, specific actions are needed to address each of the childhood "enders" examined in this report, making every effort possible to follow through on commitments made under the SDGs. We therefore call on all governments to ensure:

No child dies from preventable or treatable causes:

- Governments need to prioritize essential services for women's, children's and adolescents' health in their efforts to achieve universal health coverage as a key component of their national health systems by 2030. Donor governments should support countries in achieving universal health coverage.

- In fragile, disaster-prone and humanitarian settings, governments need to guarantee the provision of an essential package of health and nutrition services that saves lives, and protects and promotes the health of women, children and adolescents, taking into account their particular contexts and specific needs and vulnerabilities.

- Governments should guarantee, in their national health plans, an essential package of good-quality reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health and nutrition services including access to quality care, medicines and vaccines, accessible to their whole population and free at the point of use, with a strong focus on primary health care.

No child is robbed of a future due to malnutrition:

- For those governments without national targets in place, national governments and donor governments need to develop these targets to demonstrate progress towards meeting the globally agreed World Health Assembly nutrition targets.

All children have access to quality education:

- Government plans should ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable, safe and quality basic education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.

- All girls and boys should have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education.

- Governments must work together to ensure that no child's learning stops because he or she is caught up in a crisis situation.

- Governments should guarantee that no refugee or migrant child is out of school for more than 30 days and uphold commitments made in the 2016 *New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants* and the summit on refugees hosted by the United States.

No child is robbed of childhood due to marriage or pregnancy:

- Governments should develop and implement necessary legal reforms, such as increasing the legal age to marry, and tackle harmful social norms and poverty, which drive child marriage.

- Governments, as a part of universal health coverage, should include access to good quality sexual and reproductive health information and services as a part of national health plans and systems.

No young life is cut short due to violence or forced labor:

- Governments should develop and implement laws, policies, services and other administrative measures to prevent and respond to all forms of violence, abuse and neglect against all children.

- Governments should foster income-generating activities for families and communities to increase household and community resources, and guarantee minimum financial security for all children.



Children race on the rooftop of a community school for Syrian refugees in the Obour district of Cairo, Egypt.

Photo: Sima Diab / Save the Children



Sanjana, 5, collects rubbish to be sold for recycling in a slum on the outskirts of New Delhi, India. Save the Children provides help to this community through its Mobile Health Unit.

Photo: CJ Clarke / Save the Children

END OF CHILDHOOD INDEX RANKINGS

Rank	Country	Score
1	Norway	985
1	Slovenia	985
3	Finland	983
4	Netherlands	982
4	Sweden	982
6	Portugal	981
7	Ireland	980
8	Iceland	979
8	Italy	979
10	Belgium	978
10	Cyprus	978
10	Germany	978
10	Republic of Korea	978
14	France	976
14	Spain	976
16	Japan	974
16	Switzerland	974
18	Australia	973
18	Greece	973
18	Luxembourg	973
21	Denmark	972
21	Israel	972
23	United Kingdom	971
24	Lithuania	970
25	Croatia	969
26	Estonia	967
26	Poland	967
28	New Zealand	964
29	Hungary	962
30	Latvia	956
31	Malta	953
32	Belarus	951
33	Singapore	949
34	Qatar	947
35	Bosnia & Herzegovina	942
36	United States	941
37	Russian Federation	940
38	Kuwait	938
39	Ukraine	937
40	Kazakhstan	935
41	China	928
41	Serbia	928
43	Oman	927
44	Montenegro	926
45	Lebanon	924
45	Tunisia	924
47	Saudi Arabia	922
48	Maldives	920
49	Bulgaria	917
49	Mauritius	917
51	Jordan	915
52	Romania	914
53	Chile	913
54	Armenia	912
54	Bahamas	912
56	TfYR Macedonia	910
56	Tonga	910
58	Samoa	909
59	Barbados	905
59	Turkey	905
61	Algeria	903
61	Cuba	903
61	Sri Lanka	903
64	Brunei Darussalam	896
65	Malaysia	894
66	Costa Rica	892
67	Argentina	883
67	Fiji	883
67	Saint Lucia	883
70	Mongolia	880
71	Albania	877
71	Trinidad & Tobago	877
73	Jamaica	872
74	Seychelles	871
74	Uruguay	871
76	Moldova	867
77	Turkmenistan	865
78	DPR Korea	862
78	Uzbekistan	862
80	Iran	860
81	Suriname	859
82	State of Palestine	858
83	Morocco	853
84	Thailand	852
85	Cabo Verde	851
85	Georgia	851
87	Azerbaijan	835
88	Egypt	830
89	Brazil	821
90	Mexico	819
91	Kyrgyzstan	816
92	Vietnam	815
93	Bhutan	813
94	Tajikistan	812
95	Ecuador	808
96	Philippines	807
96	Vanuatu	807
98	Belize	801
99	Panama	800
100	Botswana	796
101	Indonesia	793
102	Paraguay	790
103	Peru	788
103	South Africa	788
105	Namibia	777
105	Swaziland	777
107	Gabon	775
108	Guyana	771
109	Nicaragua	766
109	Solomon Islands	766
111	Ghana	761
112	Myanmar	757
112	Rwanda	757
114	Bolivia	756
114	Sao Tome & Principe	756
116	India	754
117	Cambodia	753
118	Colombia	752
119	Kenya	750
120	Dominican Republic	741
121	Haiti	733
122	Timor-Leste	732
123	Iraq	730
124	Congo	728
125	Venezuela	724
126	El Salvador	723
127	Djibouti	715
128	Senegal	699
129	Comoros	688
130	Lao PDR	684
130	Togo	684
132	Liberia	681
132	Uganda	681
134	Bangladesh	680
134	Nepal	680
136	Papua New Guinea	674
137	Syrian Arab Republic*	668
138	Zimbabwe	664
139	Ethiopia	657
140	Yemen*	653
141	Burundi	650
142	Honduras	648
143	Gambia	645
144	Sudan	639
145	Tanzania	635
146	Zambia	633
147	Guatemala	624
148	Pakistan	621
149	Malawi	619
150	Lesotho	611
151	Eritrea	608
152	Afghanistan	602
153	Equatorial Guinea	601
154	Benin	592
155	Mauritania	591
156	Guinea-Bissau	589
157	Madagascar	587
158	Côte d'Ivoire	586
159	Cameroon	585
160	Mozambique	578
160	Nigeria	578
162	DR Congo	558
163	Guinea	546
163	Sierra Leone	546
165	Burkina Faso	541
166	South Sudan	488
167	Chad	473
168	Somalia	470
169	Central African Rep.	428
170	Mali	414
171	Angola	393
172	Niger	384

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 (e.g., the country was missing values for three or more indicators). To see the underlying dataset, including data gaps, turn to pages 30-34. 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.

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

COMPLETE END OF CHILDHOOD INDEX 2017

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 2017	
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 5-14)	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 172)
	2015	2011-2016+	2011-2016+	2011-2016+	2011-2016+	2015	2016	2015		
Afghanistan	91.1	40.9	28.0	29.4 y	19.7	71.2	13.5 c	2.1	602	152
Albania	14.0	23.1 x	8.3	5.1 x,y	6.5 x	21.8	1.3	1.3	877	71
Algeria	25.5	11.7	…	5.0	3.1 a,b	10.5	0.0	1.8	903	61
Angola	156.9	37.6 a	31.1 x	…	…	161.9	0.2	4.2	393	171
Antigua and Barbuda	8.1	…	11.0	…	…	43.9	0.1	1.6	–	–
Argentina	12.5	8.2 x	3.1	4.4	12.7 x	63.8	0.0	2.0	883	67
Armenia	14.1	9.4 a	7.8 x	3.9 x	7.9 x	22.5	0.7	0.3	912	54
Australia	3.8	2.0 x	2.8	…	0.5 b	13.8	0.0	0.3	973	18
Austria	3.5	…	…	…	2.7	6.8	0.0	0.4	–	–
Azerbaijan	31.7	18.0	6.4	6.5 x,y	9.9 x	61.0	6.4	0.9	835	87
Bahamas	12.1	…	5.7 x	…	2.4 x	28.7	0.1	6.6	912	54
Bahrain	6.2	…	…	…	5.3 b,x	13.4	0.0	0.2	–	–
Bangladesh	37.6	36.1	28.0	4.3 y	44.2 a,b	82.6	0.0	1.6	680	134
Barbados	13.0	7.7	5.5	1.9	2.4	39.4	0.1	6.2	905	59
Belarus	4.6	4.5 x	1.9	1.4	7.5	17.6	0.1	0.6	951	32
Belgium	4.1	…	0.8	…	2.2	8.1	0.0	0.4	978	10
Belize	16.5	15.0 a	10.8	3.2 y	20.8 a	65.1	0.1	11.1	801	98
Benin	99.5	34.0	24.1	52.5 a	16.0 a	81.8	0.0	2.2	592	154
Bhutan	32.9	33.6 x	16.3	2.9 x	15.2 x	20.2	2.0	0.7	813	93
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	38.4	18.1	12.1	26.4 x,y	11.6	70.4	0.0	6.4	756	114
Bosnia and Herzegovina	5.4	8.9	…	5.3 x	0.7	8.2	4.6	0.7	942	35
Botswana	43.6	31.4 x	…	9.0 x,y	…	31.0	0.0	2.1	796	100
Brazil	16.4	7.1 x	7.3	8.1 y	3.9 b,x	66.7	0.0	18.2	821	89
Brunei Darussalam	10.2	19.7 x	9.6	…	…	20.8	0.0	0.2	896	64
Bulgaria	10.4	…	8.6	…	8.4	36.8	0.0	0.4	917	49
Burkina Faso	88.6	32.9	42.0	39.2 x	31.5	107.2	0.0	4.9	541	165
Burundi	81.7	57.5 x	25.4	26.3 x	8.6 x	27.9	4.9	2.3	650	141
Cabo Verde	24.5	…	11.6	6.4 y	8.1 x	73.2	0.0	3.0	851	85
Cambodia	28.7	32.4	22.8 x	19.3 y	15.6 a	52.2	0.1	0.9	753	117
Cameroon	87.9	31.7	24.1	47.0 y	20.1 a	102.4	0.9	4.9	585	159
Canada	4.9	…	…	…	2.2	9.5	0.0	0.8	–	–
Central African Republic	130.1	40.7 x	48.4	28.5 x	54.9 x	90.7	19.3 c	5.0	428	169
Chad*	138.7	39.9	48.7 x,z	26.1 x	38.3 a	129.8	0.8	4.8	473	167
Chile	8.1	1.8	5.6	6.6 y	5.7	47.5	0.0	2.6	913	53
China*	10.7	9.4 x	11.6 x,z	…	3.1 b	7.3	0.0	0.6	928	41
Colombia	15.9	12.7 x	7.3	9.7 y	13.7 x	48.7	15.4 c	22.1	752	118
Comoros	73.5	32.1	26.9	22.0	16.4	67.1	0.1	2.2	688	129
Congo*	45.0	21.2	10.4 z	23.3 y	16.1 a	116.1	0.4	3.2	728	124
Costa Rica	9.7	5.6 x	6.7	4.1	9.0	56.0	0.0	3.4	892	66
Côte d'Ivoire*	92.6	29.6	38.4 z	26.4	20.7	135.6	1.7	3.8	586	158
Croatia	4.3	…	4.3	…	2.0	9.2	0.9	0.2	969	25
Cuba	5.5	…	9.5	…	15.8 a	45.1	0.1	1.4	903	61

… Data are unavailable or outdated (i.e., pre-2005)
x Data refer to the most recent year available during the period 2005-2010.
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.
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
** Excludes China

Shading reflects prevalence:
Moderate
High
Very High

*To include as many countries as possible in the rankings, school attendance data for these 27 countries were pulled from surveys because recent enrollment data were not available.
Note: For indicator definitions, primary and secondary data sources, prevalence thresholds and regional classifications, see Methodology and Research Notes.

COMPLETE END OF CHILDHOOD INDEX 2017

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 2017	
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 5-14)	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 172)
	2015	2011-2016+	2011-2016+	2011-2016+	2011-2016+	2015	2016	2015		
Cyprus	2.7	…	3.0	…	3.1	4.9	0.0	0.2	978	10
Czech Republic	3.4	…	…	…	0.9	9.7	0.0	0.1	–	–
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	24.9	27.9	15.0	…	0.3 b,x	0.5	0.0	2.5	862	78
Democratic Republic of the Congo*	98.3	42.6	18.1 z	38.4 y	21.3	122.3	3.0 c	6.6	558	162
Denmark	3.5	…	4.2	…	3.5	4.0	0.0	0.4	972	21
Djibouti	65.3	33.5	60.5 x	7.7 x	4.2 b,x	21.2	0.2	2.3	715	127
Dominican Republic	30.9	7.1	14.6	12.8 y	27.5 a	97.3	0.0	11.8	741	120
Ecuador	21.6	25.2	6.2	3.0 y	20.0 x	75.6	0.1	3.3	808	95
Egypt	24.0	22.3	7.2	7.0 y	14.4 b	51.3	0.0	2.9	830	88
El Salvador	16.8	14.0	10.1	19.0 y	21.0 a	64.9	1.1	22.4	723	126
Equatorial Guinea	94.1	26.2 x	…	…	22.0	107.5	0.0	1.2	601	153
Eritrea	46.5	50.3 x	63.1	…	…	53.0	9.2	2.2	608	151
Estonia	2.9	…	3.7	…	4.4	12.4	0.0	0.5	967	26
Ethiopia*	59.2	38.4 a	34.8 z	27.4	19.0	56.6	0.2	3.0	657	139
Fiji	22.4	…	7.8	…	7.6 b,x	45.2	0.1	1.2	883	67
Finland	2.3	…	2.0	…	0.5	6.4	0.0	0.6	983	3
France	4.3	…	0.3	…	2.7	8.8	0.0	0.4	976	14
Gabon*	50.8	17.5	9.3 z	13.4	13.5	97.7	0.0	2.7	775	107
Gambia*	68.9	24.5	34.5 z	19.2 x	23.8	112.5	1.3	4.6	645	143
Georgia	11.9	11.3 x	4.0	18.4 x	10.6 x	38.3	7.2	1.6	851	85
Germany	3.7	1.3 x	…	…	2.0	6.4	0.0	0.5	978	10
Ghana	61.6	18.8	14.5	21.8 y	6.4 a	66.1	0.1	4.8	761	111
Greece	4.6	…	3.6	…	1.8	7.2	0.0	0.4	973	18
Grenada	11.8	…	6.2	…	…	29.6	0.3	0.5	–	–
Guatemala	29.1	46.5	22.5	25.8 y	19.8 a	80.1	0.3	16.0	624	147
Guinea	93.7	31.3	39.9	28.3	33.2	139.6	0.3	4.5	546	163
Guinea-Bissau*	92.5	27.6	34.5 x,z	51.1 a,y	11.4 a	87.5	0.2	5.3	589	156
Guyana	39.4	12.0	15.0	18.3 y	13.3 a	87.6	0.1	5.3	771	108
Haiti*	69.0	21.9	9.9 z	24.4	12.1	38.9	0.5	10.7	733	121
Honduras	20.4	22.7	19.0	15.3 y	22.6	64.3	2.6	32.8	648	142
Hungary	5.9	…	5.3	…	0.6	17.7	0.0	0.3	962	29
Iceland	2.0	…	6.4	…	0.6	5.7	0.0	0.0	979	8
India	47.7	38.7	18.6	11.8 x	21.1 b	23.3	0.0	1.0	754	116
Indonesia	27.2	36.4	14.3	6.9 x,y	12.8	49.2	0.0	1.8	793	101
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	15.5	6.8	11.9	11.4 x,y	21.1 b	26.3	0.2	1.2	860	80
Iraq	32.0	22.6	22.0 x	4.7	20.7 b	84.8	13.2 c	6.0	730	123
Ireland	3.6	…	0.8	…	1.1	10.1	0.0	0.3	980	7
Israel	4.0	…	2.0	…	2.8 b	9.3	0.0	0.8	972	21
Italy	3.5	…	2.8	…	1.5	5.9	0.0	0.2	979	8
Jamaica	15.7	5.7	…	3.3	3.4	58.8	0.1	10.3	872	73
Japan	2.7	7.1 x	1.1	…	0.6 b,x	4.0	0.0	0.2	974	16

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High
Very High

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COMPLETE END OF CHILDHOOD INDEX 2017

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 2017	
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 5-14)	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 172)
	2015	2011-2016+	2011-2016+	2011-2016+	2011-2016+	2015	2016	2015		
Jordan	17.9	7.8	10.2	1.6 x,y	5.9 b	22.6	0.1	1.2	915	51
Kazakhstan	14.1	8.0	1.0	2.2 x	4.6	27.2	0.0	0.9	935	40
Kenya	49.4	26.0	13.2	…	11.9 a	90.2	0.0	2.4	750	119
Kiribati	55.9	…	…	…	15.8 x	16.4	0.0	4.3	–	–
Kuwait	8.6	5.8	9.0	…	4.9 b,x	9.4	0.0	0.7	938	38
Kyrgyzstan	21.3	12.9	11.0	25.8 y	13.9 a	39.2	0.1	1.9	816	91
Lao People's Democratic Republic	66.7	43.8	21.2	10.1 x,y	24.8	63.7	0.1	3.7	684	130
Latvia	7.9	…	4.5	…	2.6	13.3	0.0	0.8	956	30
Lebanon	8.3	…	20.1	1.9 x	3.3 b,x	12.2	0.2	1.7	924	45
Lesotho	90.2	33.2	24.1	…	17.7 a	93.2	0.0	8.8	611	150
Liberia*	69.9	32.1	18.8 z	20.8 x	14.3	107.1	0.2	4.1	681	132
Libya	13.4	21.0 x	…	…	…	6.2	7.1	0.9	–	–
Lithuania	5.2	…	2.1	…	2.1	10.4	0.0	0.6	970	24
Luxembourg	1.9	…	8.8	…	1.0	5.7	0.0	0.1	973	18
Madagascar*	49.6	49.2 x	28.7 x,z	22.9 y	33.7 x	114.8	0.0	5.5	587	157
Malawi	64.0	37.1 a	14.5	39.3 y	23.5 a	135.3	0.0	0.4	619	149
Malaysia	7.0	17.7	17.0	…	6.0 b,x	13.7	0.0	1.1	894	65
Maldives*	8.6	20.3 x	1.6 x,z	…	5.0 b,x	6.2	0.0	1.2	920	48
Mali	114.7	30.4 a	47.3	55.8 a,y	38.9 a	173.7	1.3 c	6.2	414	170
Malta	6.4	…	10.4	…	0.5	16.4	0.0	0.3	953	31
Marshall Islands	36.0	…	22.7	…	21.1 x	85.0 z	0.0	…	–	–
Mauritania	84.7	27.9 a	36.7	37.6 a,y	27.8 a	77.9	1.1	5.2	591	155
Mauritius	13.5	…	8.5	…	7.0	28.3	0.0	0.6	917	49
Mexico	13.2	12.4 a	15.2	10.4 a	15.4 a	62.2	0.1	5.5	819	90
Mongolia	22.4	10.8	8.6 x	15.2 y	5.3 a	15.0	0.2	2.0	880	70
Montenegro*	4.7	9.4	3.3 z	12.5 y	2.1	12.0	0.4	0.7	926	44
Morocco	27.6	14.9	15.9	8.3 x	11.0 b	31.4	0.0	0.6	853	83
Mozambique	78.5	43.1	27.1	22.2 x	37.1	136.9	0.0	0.9	578	160
Myanmar	50.0	29.2 a	29.4	…	12.5 b	16.2	1.8 c	1.5	757	112
Namibia	45.4	23.1	14.9 x	…	5.4	76.2	0.1	3.7	777	105
Nauru	35.4	24.0 x	18.9	…	18.3 x	105.3 z	0.0	…	–	–
Nepal	35.8	37.4	13.4	37.4 y	24.2	71.3	0.1	1.8	680	134
Netherlands	3.8	…	1.0	…	1.9	3.9	0.0	0.3	982	4
New Zealand	5.7	…	2.0	…	0.5 b,x	23.3	0.0	0.7	964	28
Nicaragua	22.1	23.0 x	10.4 x	…	24.2 x	88.1	0.1	6.3	766	109
Niger	95.5	43.0	54.6	30.5	59.8	201.2	0.8	6.7	384	172
Nigeria*	108.8	32.9	32.0 z	24.7	28.8	109.3	1.4 c	4.9	578	160
Norway	2.6	…	2.3	…	0.1	5.9	0.0	0.2	985	1
Oman	11.6	14.1	3.7	…	3.3 a,b	7.5	0.0	1.4	927	43
Pakistan	81.1	45.0	42.9	…	13.1 b	38.3	0.7	5.4	621	148
Panama	17.0	19.1 x	7.7	5.6 y	14.1 a	73.7	0.0	11.1	800	99

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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 2017	
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 5-14)	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 172)
	2015	2011-2016+	2011-2016+	2011-2016+	2011-2016+	2015	2016	2015		
Papua New Guinea	57.3	49.5 x	…	…	14.8 x	54.4	0.0	4.4	674	136
Paraguay	20.5	10.9	15.4	27.6 y	…	56.9	0.0	2.3	790	102
Peru	16.9	14.6	7.6	33.5 x,y	11.3 a	48.4	0.0	6.2	788	103
Philippines	28.0	30.3	5.2	11.1 y	9.7	62.7	0.3 c	2.7	807	96
Poland	5.2	…	5.0	…	1.2	13.1	0.0	0.2	967	26
Portugal	3.6	…	1.2	…	0.6 b	9.4	0.0	0.3	981	6
Qatar	8.0	…	4.0	…	4.0 a,b	10.5	0.0	2.9	947	34
Republic of Korea	3.4	2.5 x	3.4	…	0.4 b,x	1.6	0.0	0.9	978	10
Republic of Moldova	15.8	6.4	17.9	16.3 x	9.9	22.0	0.2	0.4	867	76
Romania	11.1	…	12.1	…	6.7	34.0	0.0	0.5	914	52
Russian Federation*	9.6	…	1.3 z	…	7.5 x	22.7	0.1	1.3	940	37
Rwanda*	41.7	37.9	16.1 x,z	28.5 x	3.1 a	25.6	2.6	1.6	757	112
Saint Lucia	14.3	2.5	10.8 x	3.9	5.0	53.4	0.7	6.9	883	67
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	18.3	…	4.9 x	…	…	50.3	1.8	1.7	–	–
Samoa	17.5	…	8.4	…	7.0 x	24.3	0.0	1.0	909	58
Sao Tome and Principe	47.3	17.2	7.2	26.0 y	15.3 a	83.5	0.0	3.6	756	114
Saudi Arabia	14.5	9.3 x	5.6	…	4.5 b,x	8.4	0.0	2.5	922	47
Senegal	47.2	20.5 a	43.3	14.5	21.3 a	76.9	0.2	3.5	699	128
Serbia	6.7	6.0	3.9	9.5 y	3.1	18.7	3.3 d	0.3	928	41
Seychelles	13.6	7.9	7.4	…	…	56.9	0.0	1.4	871	74
Sierra Leone*	120.4	37.9	28.2 z	37.4	18.8	116.7	0.2	7.3	546	163
Singapore	2.7	…	20.8 x	…	0.4 b,x	3.8	0.0	0.9	949	33
Slovakia	7.3	…	…	…	1.6	19.9	0.0	0.3	–	–
Slovenia	2.6	…	2.8	…	0.5	3.6	0.0	0.0	985	1
Solomon Islands	28.1	32.8 x	31.2 x	…	12.5 x	47.4	0.0	1.3	766	109
Somalia*	136.8	25.9 x	48.8 x,z	49.0 x	24.6 b,x	102.6	20.8 c	2.5	470	168
South Africa	40.5	23.9 x	14.4 x	…	3.3	44.4	0.0	9.0	788	103
South Sudan*	92.6	31.1 x	67.5 x,z	…	40.1 x	63.4	22.2 c	1.7	488	166
Spain	4.1	…	0.7	…	3.5	8.3	0.0	0.2	976	14
Sri Lanka	9.8	14.7	10.1	2.5 x,y	9.0 x	14.2	0.9	0.9	903	61
State of Palestine	21.1	7.4	14.3	5.7 x	9.3 a,b	58.1	2.2	2.5 z	858	82
Sudan*	70.1	38.2	25.0 x,z	24.9 y	21.2 a,b	72.1	9.6 c	3.3	639	144
Suriname	21.3	8.8 x	13.8	4.1 x	11.8 x	45.7	0.0	4.5	859	81
Swaziland	60.7	25.5	19.7	7.3 x	4.3 x	67.2	0.0	4.1	777	105
Sweden	3.0	…	2.1	…	0.4	5.7	0.0	0.6	982	4
Switzerland	3.9	…	6.9	…	0.4	2.8	0.0	0.3	974	16
Syrian Arab Republic	12.9	27.5 x	43.1	4.0 x	9.7 b,x	38.9	65.4 c	1.0	668	137
Tajikistan	44.8	26.8	10.5	10.0 x	13.2	37.8	0.0	0.3	812	94
Thailand	12.3	16.3	10.1	8.3 x	16.3 a	44.6	0.0	0.9	852	84
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	5.5	4.9	13.1 x	12.5	4.3	17.3	0.5	0.5	910	56

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	2015	2011-2016+	2011-2016+	2011-2016+	2011-2016+	2015	2016	2015		
Timor-Leste	52.6	50.2	9.5	…	7.7 x	45.5	0.0	3.4	732	122
Togo*	78.4	27.5	17.3 z	27.9 y	12.7	92.1	0.2	3.9	684	130
Tonga	16.7	8.1	12.6	…	4.6	14.9	0.1	0.9	910	56
Trinidad and Tobago*	20.4	…	5.4 x,z	0.7 x	6.3 x	30.8	0.0	12.1	877	71
Tunisia*	14.0	10.1	15.6 z	2.1	1.2 b	6.8	0.0	0.6	924	45
Turkey	13.5	9.5	9.0	5.9 y	6.6 b	26.8	0.1	0.9	905	59
Turkmenistan	51.4	11.5 a	…	0.3 a,y	6.0 a	16.0	0.0	1.3	865	77
Tuvalu	27.1	10.0 x	17.4	…	8.0 b,x	42.0 x,z	0.0	…	–	–
Uganda	54.6	34.2	20.3 x	16.3 y	20.0	108.9	0.5	4.3	681	132
Ukraine	9.0	…	2.7	2.4	6.4	23.4	4.4	0.5	937	39
United Arab Emirates	6.8	…	…	…	6.7 b,x	30.1	0.0	0.8	–	–
United Kingdom	4.2	…	0.7	…	2.9	13.9	0.0	0.7	971	23
United Republic of Tanzania*	48.7	34.4	30.2 x,z	28.8 y	23.0 a	117.7	0.0	2.6	635	145
United States of America	6.5	2.1	5.1	…	5.8 x	21.2	0.0	2.5	941	36
Uruguay	10.1	10.7	8.5	7.9 x,y	7.4 a	55.8	0.0	3.7	871	74
Uzbekistan	39.1	19.6 x	5.0	…	4.9 x	17.6	0.0	0.7	862	78
Vanuatu	27.5	28.5	…	15.2 y	11.5 x	42.7	0.0	0.6	807	96
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	14.9	13.4 x	12.0	…	…	79.1	0.1	27.0	724	125
Vietnam*	21.7	24.9	13.3 z	16.4 y	10.3 a	39.1	0.3	1.5	815	92
Yemen	41.9	46.5	31.1	22.7 x	16.7 b	60.7	11.4 c	2.7	653	140
Zambia*	64.0	40.0	21.0 z	40.6 x,y	16.9	87.9	0.0	2.5	633	146
Zimbabwe	70.7	26.8 a	24.0	…	19.6 a	108.9	0.4	3.0	664	138
Global and Regional Averages+										
Sub-Saharan Africa§	83.1	35.2	29.0	27.5	24.0	122.0	1.8	4.2	596	–
Eastern and Southern Africa	66.5	35.7	27.0	26.2	20.7	113.8	1.4	3.4	631	–
West and Central Africa	98.7	34.4	31.2	28.5	27.1	130.0	1.5	5.1	565	–
Middle East and North Africa	28.9	17.9	17.2	10.1	14.1	52.0	5.4	2.5	802	–
South Asia	52.5	36.2	22.4	12.4 z	29.0 z	44.3	0.3	1.7	715	–
East Asia and Pacific	17.8	10.2	12.5	10.0 **	5.9	22.3	0.1	1.1	887	–
Latin America and Caribbean	17.9	10.1	10.1	8.5	10.6	74.3	1.3	12.6	807	–
CEE/CIS‡	17.1	9.6	5.6	5.4 z	7.2	29.5	0.9	0.9	904	–
Developed regions	5.8	4.2 z	3.2	…	…	15.6 z	0.2	1.1	952	–
World	42.5	23.2	17.8	12.6 z**	14.4	50.4	0.9 z	3.0	780	–

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.

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A few years ago, Remember went to stay with her uncle in Monrovia, Liberia, so she could go to school there. But her uncle made her stay at home and work as a servant. Four days after she arrived, he raped her, and she became pregnant. She is now 17 and lives with her daughter at a home supported by Save the Children.*

** name changed to protect identity*

Photo: Hannah Maule-Ffinch / Save the Children

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 (CRC).[66] 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.[67] But once a child experiences an ender, childhood becomes fractured rather than complete.[68] 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 8 indicators were selected because they best represent these enders, are available for a large number of countries and are regularly updated.[69] Data were obtained from reliable and reputable sources, almost exclusively UN agencies, and are publicly available to those interested in doing additional analyses.

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 2015. *Source: UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (childmortality.org).*

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

[66] 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 two countries, 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*.

[67] 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).

[68] 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.

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

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 2005-2016. *Sources: UNICEF, WHO, World Bank Group. Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates 2016 edition (data.unicef.org/topic/nutrition/malnutrition/#), updated with data from recent MICS and DHS surveys for 12 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[70] 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.[71] Data are for the most recent year available 2005-2016. *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 27 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 aged 5-14 years engaged in child labor.[72] Data are for the most recent year available 2005-2016. *Sources: UNICEF (data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/child-labour), updated with data from recent MICS and DHS surveys for six 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 index table. Data are for 2005-2016. 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 38 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 three countries that have data from the most recent year available 2005-2015. *Sources: World Development Indicators, World Bank (data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.ADO.TFRT), supplemented with data for three countries (see Complete End of Childhood Index) 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,[73] by country or territory of origin, expressed as a percentage of the country's or territory's population. Data are for mid-2016. *Sources: UNHCR. Mid-Year Trends 2016. (Geneva: 2017) and UNDESA, Population Division. World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision.* Note: For the purpose of this analysis, 2016 population projections were used.

Evidence of child soldiers: Countries identified as having parties to conflict that engaged in the recruitment and use of child soldiers in 2015. The term "child soldier" refers to any person below 18 years of age who is, or who has been, recruited or used by an armed force or armed group in any capacity, including in a support role, such as a cook, porter, messenger, medic, guard, spy or sex slave. *Source: Children and Armed Conflict: Report of the Secretary-General, Annex I and Annex II (childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/countries-caac).* Note: This indicator is not factored into the index score but has been noted in the 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 and UNDESA, Population Division. World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision, supplemented with data for State of Palestine from Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME). Global Burden of Disease Study 2015 (ghdx.healthdata.org/gbd-results-tool).*

[70] For the 27 countries where household survey data are used, the indicator represents the share of school-age children not attending school.

[71] 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.

[72] 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 activity or at least 28 hours of household chores, or (b) children 12–14 years old who, during the reference week, did at least 14 hours of economic activity or at least 28 hours of household chores. Many MICS now include data on child laborers aged 15-17: at least 43 hours of economic or unpaid household services per week.

[73] 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.

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).

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 172.

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 will be fixed from this inaugural year onwards as follows:

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

Missing Values

The *End of Childhood Index* includes all 186 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.[74] 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, 172 countries had sufficient data to be ranked. 92 countries have data for all eight indicators. 34 countries are missing one indicator. 46 countries are missing two indicators, 33 are high-income countries.[75]

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.[76] For countries lacking child marriage data, the normalized score for their adolescent birth rate was ascribed. These two indicators are also high correlated.[77]

Ascribing fillers for these missing values helped ensure countries weren't 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.

[74] Nauru and Tuvalu
[75] The *End of Childhood Index* table indicates the indicator(s) missing for these 80 countries.
[76] Correlation coefficients are 0.68, 0.76 and 0.74, respectively.
[77] The correlation coefficient is 0.81.

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

Prevalence Thresholds and Performance Bands

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

To the greatest extent possible, indicator thresholds were based on international standards. The classification schemes used for U5MR and stunting are established.[78] 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.[79] Those for displacement were based loosely on categories used by UNHCR for a related indicator.[80] The homicide strata were adapted from UNICEF and UNODC.[81]

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 decimal places and then multiplied by 1,000 to give the cut-off points for each tier. Countries were placed into one of 5 bands according to their index score:

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

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.[82] Developing regions are further broken down into the subregions listed at the bottom of the index table on page 34. 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.

Regional data were sourced from the UN,[83] with the exception of out-of-school, forced displacement and child homicide rates. Global and regional averages for these three indicators were calculated by Save the Children. Each was calculated as a weighted average, with the relevant population used as the weights.[84] All UNICEF countries with available data were included in these estimates.[85] Population coverage was at or above 89 percent for all region-indicator pairs.[86]

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.

[78] See, for example, data.unicef.org/topic/child-survival/under-five-mortality/ and data.unicef.org/topic/nutrition/malnutrition/
[79] See gamapserver.who.int/mapLibrary/Files/ Maps/Global_AdolescentBirthRate_2015.png and data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.ADO.TFRT?view=map
[80] UNHCR. *Mid-Year Trends 2016*. (Geneva: 2017), p.11
[81] 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
[82] 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/sdgs/indicators/regional-groups/
[83] U5MR and stunting data were pulled from data.unicef.org. Data for developed regions were pulled from the SDG Indicators Global Database (unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/). All other world and developing sub-regional averages were pulled from SOWC 2016, 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; results for 2016 were not available.
[84] The official primary + secondary school-aged population in 2015 (UIS.Stat), total national population in 2016 (UN DESA) and child population aged 0-19 in 2015 (UN DESA) were used as weights for out-of-school, displacement and child homicide averages, respectively. The only exceptions were school-aged populations for Brazil (2014), Ukraine (2014) and South Korea (2016). Global aggregates were estimated in the same way for out-of-school and child homicide (i.e., as weighted averages 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 UN DESA, both for the start of 2016.
[85] Even if a country didn't have sufficient data to be included in the *End of Childhood Index* or if it had indicator-level data, it was included in global and regional rates for that indicator.
[86] Coverage exceeded 99% for all estimates except for school-age populations in developed regions (89% coverage) and the Middle East and North Africa (90% coverage).

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.[87]

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 March 1, 2017. Data are not available for the same reference year for all indicators for all countries. Of the 172 countries ranked, 111 have very recent data (i.e., 2010-2016) for all indicators. 61 countries have at least one data point from 2005-2009.

For 19 countries without official education data, as well as eight whose most recent official figures predate 2005, household survey data were used to give an indication of the extent of exclusion from education.[88]

Technical Note on Global Estimate Calculation

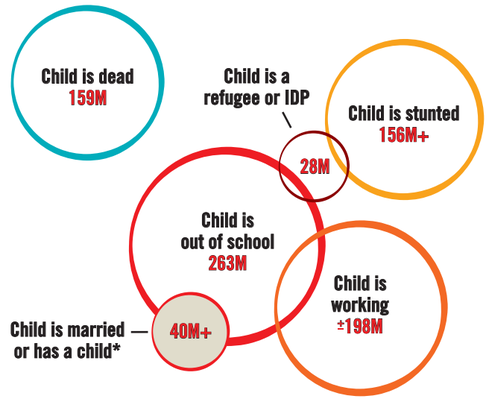
Between 701 million and 734 million children are missing out on childhood (i.e., they have experienced one or more childhood ender events).

These estimates include three discrete groups of children: children aged 0-17 who have died (159 million[89]), children aged 0-5 who are stunted (171 or 186 million[90]) and children aged 6-17 who are out of primary or secondary school (263 million[91]). They also include a subset of child refugees and child IDPs (14 million[92]) and a subset of child laborers (94 or 112 million[93]) who are not likely to already be accounted for in the other groups.

To reach this number, a series of reasonable assumptions were made based on evidence of overlap between these groups of children, as outlined in the footnotes and illustrated in the following graphic.

Unfortunately, avoiding the problem of double counting leads to undercounting the number of children missing out on childhood. This figure does not, for example, include stunted school-aged children who are in school, young wives or mothers who are in school or children who have witnessed or survived extreme violence. If and when these populations can be controlled for, they will be added to the global estimate.

Major sources of overlap between childhood enders
Note: Population circles are to scale; the overlap between them is not.



*41 million girls aged 15-19 are currently married; many are already mothers. Millions more are likely to be unmarried mothers. A majority of these girls are out of school. Once these overlaps can be reliably quantified, these populations will be included in the global estimate.

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

[88] 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 8 countries with old enrollment data, attendance rates are actually higher than enrollment figures, which produced a more favorable outcome.

[89] Estimated by subtracting the total population aged 0-17 alive in mid-2015 from the total number of births mid-1997 to mid-2015. Source: UN DESA, Population Division. *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision.*

[90] Total includes 156 million children under age 5 and an estimated 15 or 30 million children aged 5. For the higher estimate, children aged 5 were assumed to be as likely as children aged 0-4 to be stunted (i.e., the global under-5 stunting rate of 23.2% was applied to the 130 million children aged 5 worldwide). For the lower estimate, children aged 5 were assumed to be half as likely to be stunted (i.e., a rate of 11.6% was used). Sources: UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates, September 2016 edition; UN DESA, Population Division. *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision*

[91] Total includes 61 million primary school-aged children (6-11 years), 60 million lower secondary school-age children (12-14 years) and 142 million upper secondary school-age children (15-17 years). Source: data.uis.unesco.org (Accessed April 2017)

[92] Total includes displaced children aged 0-5 who are not likely to be stunted (an estimated 7 million) and displaced children 6-17 who are likely to be in school (an estimated 7 million), or 14 million of the 28 million displaced children worldwide. To derive these figures, a number of assumptions were made: 1) IDP children were assumed to have the same age breakdown as refugee children (i.e., 29% aged 0-4; 43% aged 5-11 and 29% aged 12-17); 2) Displaced children were assumed to be just as likely to be stunted as children in their respective countries of origin (i.e., the stunting rate among displaced children was estimated as a weighted average of country-level stunting rates, with the total displaced population in each country used as the weight); 3) IDP children were assumed to be in school at the same rate as refugee children are (i.e., 50% of primary school-age children; 25% of secondary school-age children). Sources: UNICEF. *Uprooted: The Growing Crisis for Refugee and Migrant Children. (New York: 2016)*; UNHCR. *Global Trends 2015.* (Geneva: 2016); popstats.unhcr.org/en/demographics (Accessed April 2017); UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates, September 2016 edition; UNESCO and UNHCR. *No More Excuses: Provide Education to all Forcibly Displaced People.* (Paris: 2016)

[93] The higher estimate includes 100 million child laborers aged 5 to 14 and 12 million aged 15-17 who are likely to be in school, out of the 150 million (according to UNICEF) and 48 million (according to ILO) laborers in these age groups, respectively. Two-thirds of laborers aged 5-14 were assumed to be in-school, as were one-quarter of laborers aged 15-17. The lower estimate includes 82.5 million laborers aged 5-14 and 12 million aged 15-17, assuming a 55 and 25 percent in school rate, respectively. These assumptions were based on the recent literature, including: UIS and UNICEF. *Fixing the Broken Promise of Education for All: Findings from the Global Initiative on Out-of-School Children*; Guarcello, Lyon and Rosati. "Child Labour and Out-of-School Children: Evidence from 25 Developing Countries," a background paper for Fixing the Broken Promise of Education for All; Guarcello et al. *Adolescents in Hazardous Work: Child Labour Among Children aged 15-17 years.* (UCW: Rome: 2016); Understanding Children's Work. *Evolution of the Relationship Between Child Labour and Education Since 2000: Evidence of 19 Developing Countries.* (UNESCO: Paris: 2015); US Department of Labor, Bureau of International Labor Affairs. *2015 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor.* (Washington, DC: 2016)

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Save the Children believes every child deserves a future. In more than 120 countries around the world, we work every day to give children a healthy start in life, the opportunity to learn and protection from harm. When crisis strikes, and children are most vulnerable, we are always among the first to respond and the last to leave. We ensure children's unique needs are met and their voices are heard.

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ON THE COVER:
Seven-year-old Annie lives with her 18-year-old brother in a town in Liberia. Their mother and sisters died from Ebola. They receive food assistance and psychosocial support from Save the Children.*

**name changed to protect identity*

Photo: Aubrey Wade / Save the Children