



Save the Children®

# THE HARDEST PLACES TO BE A CHILD

GLOBAL CHILDHOOD REPORT 2020



*Aziz, age 8, lives in a Rohingya refugee camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. As he was fleeing violence in Myanmar, he was separated from his family and was shot twice in the leg, which later became infected and needed to be amputated. Now he is reunited with his family and is able to be a child again in one of the 90 child-friendly spaces run by Save the Children in the Rohingya refugee camps.*

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Some names of children have been changed to protect identities.

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# Introduction

For hundreds of millions of children worldwide, childhood has ended too soon. The major reasons include ill-health, malnutrition, exclusion from education, child labor, child marriage, early pregnancy, conflict and extreme violence. This report takes a hard look at these events that rob children of their childhoods and reveals where greater investments are needed to save children from poverty, discrimination and neglect.

The *End of Childhood Index* compares the latest data for 180 countries – the most ever – and assesses where the most and fewest children are missing out on childhood. Singapore tops the ranking this year with a score of 989 out of 1,000. Eight Western European countries rank in the top 10, attaining very high scores for children’s health, education and protection status. Niger ranks last among countries surveyed, scoring 375.

The 10 bottom-ranked countries – all from sub-Saharan Africa – are a reverse image of the top, performing poorly on most indicators. Children in these countries are the least likely to fully experience childhood, a time that should be dedicated to emotional, social and physical development, as well as play. In these and many other countries around the

world, children are robbed of significant portions of their childhoods.

The United States badly trails nearly all other advanced countries in helping children reach their full potential. The U.S. score of 942 puts it tied with China and Montenegro for 43rd place – at least 30 points behind most Western European countries. Other countries with similar scores include Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kuwait, Qatar and Russia.

Compared to last year, the index finds the overall situation for children appears more favorable in 121 out of 180 countries. This is welcome news – and it shows that investments and policies are working to lift up many of our children. But the index also shows progress is not happening fast enough and conditions appear considerably worse in 19 countries.<sup>1</sup>

## WHAT DO THE SCORES MEAN?

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

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

For more details, see the Methodology and Research Notes beginning on page 8.

## 2020 END OF CHILDHOOD INDEX RANKING

TOP 10 Where childhood is most protected		BOTTOM 10 Where childhood is most threatened	
RANK	COUNTRY	RANK	COUNTRY
1	Singapore	171	Burkina Faso
2	Slovenia	172	Guinea
3	Finland	173	Madagascar
3	Sweden	174	Nigeria
5	Norway	175	Somalia
6	Ireland	176	South Sudan
6	Netherlands	177	Mali
8	Italy	178	Chad
8	Portugal	179	Central African Republic
8	South Korea	180	Niger



*Buthaina, age 10, stands outside her family's tent in a displaced person camp in Syria. She and her family fled Raqqa after the house opposite theirs was bombed. She told Save the Children she had seen fighters beheading people.*

# End of Childhood Index Ranking 2020

RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE
1	Singapore	989	60	Sri Lanka	915	121	Cambodia	771 ^
2	Slovenia	988 ^	60	Tonga	915 ^	122	Kenya	768 ^
3	Finland	987 ^	63	Maldives	914 v	122	Sao Tome and Principe	768 ^
3	Sweden	987 ^	63	Turkey	914 ^	124	Gabon	767 v
5	Norway	986 ^	65	Algeria	913 ^	125	Ghana	763
6	Ireland	985 ^	66	Albania	912 ^	126	Colombia	761
6	Netherlands	985	66	Costa Rica	912 ^	127	Eswatini	757 ^
8	Italy	982 ^	66	Cuba	912 v	128	Timor-Leste	748 ^
8	Portugal	982 ^	69	Bulgaria	910 v	129	El Salvador	747 ^
8	South Korea	982 ^	70	North Korea	909 ^	130	Djibouti	741 ^
11	Belgium	981 ^	71	Brunei Darussalam	908 ^	131	Solomon Islands	738 ^
11	Iceland	981 ^	72	Uzbekistan	905 ^	132	Congo	735 ^
13	Czechia	980	73	Turkmenistan	904 ^	133	Nepal	728 ^
13	Denmark	980 ^	74	Georgia	901 ^	134	Bangladesh	723 v
15	Cyprus	979 ^	75	Malaysia	890	135	Marshall Islands	715 v
16	Australia	978 ^	76	Uruguay	889 ^	136	Papua New Guinea	701 ^
17	France	977 ^	77	Saint Lucia	886 ^	137	Venezuela	698 v
18	Luxembourg	976 ^	78	Argentina	883 ^	138	Gambia	695 ^
18	Spain	976 v	79	Mongolia	880 ^	139	Haiti	691 v
18	Switzerland	976 ^	80	Jordan	878 v	139	Senegal	691
21	Austria	975	81	Fiji	873 v	141	Zimbabwe	690 ^
21	Estonia	975 ^	82	Morocco	872 ^	142	Liberia	683 ^
21	Israel	975 ^	83	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	869	143	Comoros	680 v
21	Japan	975 ^	84	Moldova	868	144	Honduras	678 v
25	Germany	974 v	84	Seychelles	868 ^	145	Uganda	670 v
25	Greece	974 ^	86	Bahamas	866 v	146	Malawi	669 ^
25	Lithuania	974 ^	87	Thailand	864 ^	147	Pakistan	667 ^
28	Canada	973 ^	88	Trinidad and Tobago	862 ^	148	Zambia	660 ^
29	Poland	971 ^	89	Iran	859 v	149	Burundi	652 v
29	United Kingdom	971 v	90	Azerbaijan	857 ^	150	Laos	651 ^
31	Latvia	968 ^	91	Mexico	852 ^	151	Syria*	647 ^
32	New Zealand	967 v	91	State of Palestine	852 v	151	Togo	647 v
33	Croatia	965	93	Cabo Verde	849 ^	153	Guatemala	646 ^
34	Malta	964 ^	93	Peru	849 ^	154	Yemen*	645 v
35	Hungary	961 v	95	Bhutan	845 ^	155	Benin	632 ^
36	Lebanon	957 ^	96	Kyrgyzstan	844 ^	156	Sudan	630 ^
37	Bahrain	955 v	97	Jamaica	841 v	157	Côte d'Ivoire	628 ^
38	Slovakia	954	98	Vietnam	839 ^	158	Eritrea	625 ^
39	United Arab Emirates	951 ^	99	Tajikistan	829 v	159	Afghanistan	624 ^
40	Belarus	950 v	100	Egypt	816 v	159	Tanzania	624 ^
41	Qatar	947 ^	101	Indonesia	815 ^	161	Guinea-Bissau	622 ^
41	Russia	947 ^	102	Guyana	814 ^	162	DR Congo	621 ^
43	China	942 ^	102	Paraguay	814 ^	162	Mauritania	621 ^
43	Montenegro	942 ^	104	Brazil	812 ^	164	Cameroon	607 ^
43	United States	942 ^	105	Ecuador	811 v	164	Lesotho	607 ^
46	Kuwait	941 v	105	Philippines	811 ^	166	Angola	603 ^
47	Bosnia and Herzegovina	940	107	Dominican Republic	807 ^	167	Ethiopia	602 v
48	Saudi Arabia	936 ^	108	Belize	799 v	168	Equatorial Guinea	593 ^
49	Serbia	935 ^	109	Vanuatu	797 v	169	Sierra Leone	582 v
50	Kazakhstan	933	110	Suriname	796 v	170	Mozambique	574 ^
51	Ukraine	931 v	111	Myanmar*	792 ^	171	Burkina Faso	572 ^
52	Tunisia	930 ^	112	Nicaragua	791 v	172	Guinea	564 ^
53	Oman	927 ^	113	Botswana	786 v	173	Madagascar	562 v
54	Chile	926 ^	113	Panama	786 v	174	Nigeria	546 ^
55	Barbados	925 ^	115	India	784 ^	175	Somalia	472 ^
56	Armenia	921 ^	116	Namibia	783 ^	176	South Sudan	466 ^
56	Romania	921 ^	117	Rwanda	777 ^	177	Mali	464 ^
56	Samoa	921 ^	118	Bolivia	776 ^	178	Chad	441 ^
59	North Macedonia	916 ^	119	South Africa	775 ^	179	Central African Republic	380 v
60	Mauritius	915 v	120	Iraq*	774 ^	180	Niger	375 v

Few children missing out on childhood\*\*

Some children missing out on childhood

Many children missing out on childhood

Most children missing out on childhood

Nearly all children missing out on childhood

^ Score is up from last year

v Score is down from last year

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 4-7. 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 and Yemen, for example, recent evidence suggests rates of child labor and child marriage have risen. These trends are not reflected in the data or index ranking.

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

# Complete End of Childhood Index 2020

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 2020	
		INDICATOR	Under-5 mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	Child stunting (% children aged 0-59 months)	Out-of-school children of primary and secondary school age (%)	Children engaged in child labor (% ages 5-17)	Adolescents currently married or in union (% girls aged 15-19)	Adolescent birth rate (births per 1,000 girls aged 15-19)	Population forcibly displaced by conflict (% of total)†	Child homicide rate (deaths per 100,000 population aged 0-19)	Score (out of 1,000)	Rank (out of 180)			
	2018	2014-2019*	2014-2019*	2014-2019*	2014-2019*	2014-2019*	2017	2019	2016						
Afghanistan*	62.3	38.2	42.0 z	21.4	16.9 b	69.0	14.9 c	2.9	624	159					
Albania	8.8	11.3	6.9	3.3 x,y	6.7	19.6	1.0	2.0	912	66					
Algeria*	23.5	11.7 x	7.6 x,z	4.3 x,y	3.1 b,x	10.1	0.0	1.6	913	65					
Angola	77.2	37.6	33.0 x	18.7	18.2	150.5	0.1	5.0	603	166					
Antigua and Barbuda	6.4	...	3.0	...	...	42.8	0.1	0.8	-	-					
Argentina	9.9	7.9	2.8	4.4 x,y,z	12.7 x	62.8	0.0	3.1	883	78					
Armenia	12.4	9.4	7.1 x	4.1	4.6	21.5	0.7	0.6	921	56					
Australia	3.7	2.0 x	1.0	...	0.5 b	11.7	0.0	0.4	978	16					
Austria	3.5	...	3.1	...	2.7 x	7.3	0.0	0.2	975	21					
Azerbaijan	21.5	17.8 x	2.0	6.5 x,y,z	8.9 a,x	55.8	6.4	0.9	857	90					
Bahamas	10.2	...	27.4	...	2.4 x	30.0	0.2	9.1	866	86					
Bahrain	7.1	...	3.7	...	5.3 b,x	13.4	0.0	0.3	955	37					
Bangladesh	30.2	28.0 a	28.1 x	6.8 a	32.4 x	83.0	0.0	1.5	723	134					
Barbados	12.2	7.7 x	3.0	1.4 x,y	1.4 a,x	33.6	0.1	4.1	925	55					
Belarus	3.4	4.5 x	1.2	4.0 a	7.4 x	14.5	0.1	0.5	950	40					
Belgium	3.7	...	0.6	...	2.2 x	4.7	0.0	0.4	981	11					
Belize	13.0	15.0	10.3	3.3 x	20.8	68.5	0.1	12.0	799	108					
Benin	93.0	32.2	23.8 x	32.9 a	18.4	86.1	0.0	3.8	632	155					
Bhutan	29.7	33.5 x	12.6	3.5 x,y	4.9	20.2	1.0	0.6	845	95					
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	26.8	16.1	12.6	26.4 x,y,z	10.7	64.9	0.0	6.0	776	-					
Bosnia and Herzegovina	5.8	8.9 x	...	5.3 x,y,z	0.6 x	9.6	5.0	0.7	940	47					
Botswana	36.5	28.9 x	...	9.0 x,y,z	12.8	46.1	0.0	4.5	786	113					
Brazil	14.4	7.0 x	7.1	5.4	15.1 x	59.1	0.0	17.9	812	104					
Brunei Darussalam	11.6	19.7 x	7.8	...	3.1 b,x	10.3	0.0	1.0	908	71					
Bulgaria	7.1	7.0	10.5	...	8.4 x	39.9	0.0	0.4	910	69					
Burkina Faso	76.4	24.9	36.3	42.0 x,y	31.5 x	104.3	0.9	5.0	572	171					
Burundi	58.5	54.2	23.7	30.9	5.9	55.6	4.3	4.1	652	149					
Cabo Verde	19.5	...	13.1	6.4 x,y,z	8.1 x	73.8	0.0	4.8	849	93					
Cambodia	28.0	32.4	22.4 x	12.6 x	15.6	50.2	0.1	0.7	771	121					
Cameroon	76.1	28.9	23.1	38.9	20.1	105.8	4.4	6.1	607	164					
Canada	5.0	...	2.1	...	1.7	8.4	0.0	0.7	973	28					
Central African Republic	116.5	40.8	50.0 x	30.5 x,y	54.8 x	129.1	28.4 c	7.5	380	179					
Chad	119.0	39.8	46.6	39.0	38.3	161.1	1.2	5.6	441	178					
Chile	7.2	1.8	3.7	5.9 x	5.7 x	41.1	0.0	1.9	926	54					
China*	8.6	8.1 x	7.6 z	...	2.1 b	7.6	0.0 e	0.5	942	43					
Colombia	14.2	12.7	7.3	3.6	12.7	66.7	16.9 c	20.6	761	126					
Comoros	67.5	31.1 x	24.9	28.5 x,y	16.4 x	65.4	0.1	3.7	680	143					
Congo*	50.1	21.2	11.1 x,z	14.1	16.1	112.2	3.0	4.6	735	132					
Costa Rica	8.8	5.6 x	2.9	1.7	6.5	53.5	0.0	3.3	912	66					
Côte d'Ivoire	80.9	21.6	29.4	31.3 a	17.6	117.6	0.2	6.7	628	157					
Croatia	4.7	...	6.4	...	2.0 x	8.7	0.7	0.2	965	33					
Cuba	5.0	...	8.0	...	11.1	51.6	0.3	1.3	912	66					
Cyprus	2.4	...	2.2	...	3.1 x	4.6	0.0	0.5	979	15					
Czechia	3.4	...	0.8	...	0.9 x	12.0	0.0	0.2	980	13					
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	18.2	19.1	...	4.3	0.0 a,b	0.3	0.0	2.7	909	70					
Democratic Republic of the Congo*	88.1	41.8 a	16.6 x,z	14.7 a	18.0 a	124.2	6.3 c	7.3	621	162					
Denmark	4.2	...	3.1	...	0.1	4.1	0.0	0.3	980	13					
Djibouti	59.3	33.5 x	48.8	7.7 x,y,z	2.6 b,x	18.8	0.3	3.6	741	130					
Dominican Republic	28.8	7.1 x	11.6	7.0	18.1	94.3	0.0	5.6	807	107					

Coloring reflects prevalence: Moderate High Very high

## COMPLETE END OF CHILDHOOD INDEX 2020

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 2020	
							Population forcibly displaced by conflict (% of total)†	Child homicide rate (deaths per 100,000 population aged 0-19)			
INDICATOR	Under-5 mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	Child stunting (% children aged 0-59 months)	Out-of-school children of primary and secondary school age (%)	Children engaged in child labor (% ages 5-17)	Adolescents currently married or in union (% girls aged 15-19)	Adolescent birth rate (births per 1,000 girls aged 15-19)	2019	2016	Score (out of 1,000)	Rank (out of 180)	
	2018	2014-2019*	2014-2019*	2014-2019*	2014-2019*	2017	2019	2016			
Ecuador	14.2	23.9	6.8	4.9 y,z	20.0 x	79.3	0.1	2.8	811	105	
Egypt	21.2	22.3	6.9	4.8	25.4 b	53.8	0.0	2.2	816	100	
El Salvador	13.7	13.6	19.8	10.0	16.3	69.5	4.4	17.8	747	129	
Equatorial Guinea	85.3	26.2 x	...	...	22.0 x	155.6	0.0	1.0	593	168	
Eritrea	41.9	52.5 x	44.9	...	...	52.6	14.5	4.7	625	158	
Estonia	2.6	...	1.9	...	4.4 x	7.7	0.0	0.3	975	21	
Eswatini	54.4	25.5	12.7	7.8 x,y	3.7	76.7	0.0	12.6	757	127	
Ethiopia	55.2	36.8	33.8	48.6 x,y	17.4	66.7	4.5	4.1	602	167	
Fiji	25.6	...	7.5 x	...	7.6 b,x	49.4	0.2	1.4	873	81	
Finland	1.7	...	1.8	...	0.3	5.8	0.0	0.5	987	3	
France	4.0	...	1.7	...	2.7 x	4.7	0.0	0.4	977	17	
Gabon*	44.8	17.0 x	7.8 x,z	19.6 x,y	13.5 x	96.2	0.0	3.7	767	124	
Gambia*	58.4	13.6	36.3 x,z	24.7 a	17.1 a	78.2	1.2	5.3	695	138	
Georgia	9.8	5.8 a	2.0	1.6	11.2 a	46.4	7.7	1.1	901	74	
Germany	3.7	1.7	5.2	...	0.3	8.1	0.0	0.3	974	25	
Ghana	47.9	17.5	12.9	27.9 a	7.3 a	66.6	0.1	4.5	763	125	
Greece	4.5	...	3.2	...	1.8 x	7.2	0.0	0.2	974	25	
Grenada	15.2	...	5.2 x	...	...	29.2	0.1	2.0	—	—	
Guatemala	26.2	46.7	28.3	25.8 x,y,z	17.2	70.9	0.6	10.4	646	153	
Guinea	100.8	30.3	38.9	24.2	28.1 a	135.3	0.4	5.2	564	172	
Guinea-Bissau*	81.5	27.6	30.6 z	36.2	11.4	104.8	0.2	6.9	622	161	
Guyana	30.1	11.3	8.7 x	10.8	13.3 a	74.4	0.1	6.1	814	102	
Haiti*	64.8	21.9	14.3 x,z	35.5 x,y	6.9	51.7	0.6	14.7	691	139	
Honduras	17.6	22.6 x	31.6	14.1 y,z	22.6 x	72.9	4.7	17.6	678	144	
Hungary	4.3	...	6.1	...	0.8	24.0	0.0	0.3	961	35	
Iceland	2.0	...	3.9	...	0.4	6.3	0.0	0.7	981	11	
India	36.6	34.7	20.3 x	11.8 x,y,z	16.2	13.2	0.0	1.3	784	115	
Indonesia	25.0	30.5	12.6	6.9 x,y,z	9.4	47.4	0.0	2.8	815	101	
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	14.4	6.8 x	7.4	11.4 x,y,z	21.0 b	40.6	0.3 c	1.4	859	89	
Iraq	26.7	12.6	21.4 x	7.3 a	18.4 a	71.7	6.3 c	7.0	774	120	
Ireland	3.7	...	0.2	...	0.3	7.5	0.0	0.3	985	6	
Israel	3.7	...	0.6	...	2.2 b	9.6	0.0	0.8	975	21	
Italy	3.0	...	3.4	...	0.2	5.2	0.0	0.2	982	8	
Jamaica	14.4	6.0	18.0	2.9	3.4 x	52.8	0.1	14.4	841	97	
Japan	2.5	7.1 x	...	...	0.5 b	3.8	0.0	0.1	975	21	
Jordan	16.2	7.8 x	27.4	1.7	7.6 b	25.9	0.1	1.5	878	80	
Kazakhstan	9.9	8.0	0.7 x	2.2 x,y,z	6.0	29.8	0.0	1.3	933	50	
Kenya	41.1	26.2	15.4 x	...	12.0	75.1	0.0	2.4	768	122	
Kiribati	52.5	15.2 a	...	25.4 a	10.7 a	16.2	...	7.0	—	—	
Kuwait	7.9	6.4	7.0	...	5.3 b,x	8.2	0.1	0.9	941	46	
Kyrgyzstan	18.9	11.8	6.0	26.7 a	9.1 a	32.8	0.1	1.2	844	96	
Lao People's Democratic Republic	47.3	33.1	21.5	42.5 a	23.5	65.4	0.1	3.9	651	150	
Latvia	3.9	...	2.1	...	2.6 x	16.2	0.0	0.9	968	31	
Lebanon	7.4	...	...	1.9 x,y,z	3.3 b,x	14.5	0.2	1.2	957	36	
Lesotho	81.1	34.6	13.1	26.2 a	13.9 a	92.7	0.0	21.9	607	164	
Liberia	70.9	30.1	14.2	14.0 x	14.3 x	136.0	0.2	6.0	683	142	
Libya	12.0	38.1	...	...	...	5.8	4.3	0.9	—	—	
Lithuania	4.0	...	0.7	...	2.1 x	10.9	0.0	1.0	974	25	
Luxembourg	2.4	...	7.8	...	0.4	4.7	0.0	0.1	976	18	
Madagascar	53.6	41.6	23.8	47.0 a	33.7 x	109.6	0.0	4.4	562	173	
Malawi	49.7	39.0	15.0	19.4	23.5	132.7	0.0	0.9	669	146	
Malaysia	7.8	20.7	13.4	...	6.0 b,x	13.4	0.1	1.9	890	75	

Coloring reflects prevalence: Moderate High Very high

# COMPLETE END OF CHILDHOOD INDEX 2020

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 2020	
							Population forcibly displaced by conflict (% of total)†	Child homicide rate (deaths per 100,000 population aged 0-19)			
INDICATOR	Under-5 mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	Child stunting (% children aged 0-59 months)	Out-of-school children of primary and secondary school age (%)	Children engaged in child labor (% ages 5-17)	Adolescents currently married or in union (% girls aged 15-19)	Adolescent birth rate (births per 1,000 girls aged 15-19)	2019	2016	Score (out of 1,000)	Rank (out of 180)	
	2018	2014-2019*	2014-2019*	2014-2019*	2014-2019*	2017	2019	2016			
Maldives*	8.6	15.3 a	11.3 x,z	...	3.9	7.8	0.0	1.3	914	63	
Mali	97.8	26.9	50.7	37.1	42.2	169.1	1.7 c	7.0	464	177	
Malta	7.0	...	4.5	...	0.5 x	12.9	0.0	0.4	964	34	
Marshall Islands	33.1	34.8	29.2	...	21.1 x	84.5 x,z	0.0	1.6 z	715	135	
Mauritania	75.7	22.8	33.8	37.6 a	23.4 b	71.0	1.0	7.2	621	162	
Mauritius	15.5	...	8.7	...	7.0 x	25.7	0.0	0.5	915	60	
Mexico	12.7	10.0	8.4	4.9	15.5	60.4	0.1	5.1	852	91	
Mongolia	16.3	9.4	8.5 x	16.7 a	3.9 a	31.0	0.2	1.4	880	79	
Montenegro	2.5	7.2 a	6.6	7.7 a	1.1 a	9.3	0.2	0.5	942	43	
Morocco	22.4	15.1	9.7	8.3 x,y,z	8.8 b	31.0	0.0	0.7	872	82	
Mozambique	73.2	42.3	24.9	22.2 x,y,z	38.7	148.6	0.0	1.7	574	170	
Myanmar	46.2	29.4	16.8	9.3 y,z	11.9 b	28.5	2.9 c	1.9	792	111	
Namibia	39.6	22.7 x	12.2 x	...	3.5	63.6	0.1	9.2	783	116	
Nauru	31.8	24.0 x	13.4	...	18.3 x	94.0 z	0.0	...	-	-	
Nepal	32.2	36.0	9.0	21.7	27.1	65.1	0.1	1.6	728	133	
Netherlands	3.9	...	1.0	...	0.1	3.8	0.0	0.3	985	6	
New Zealand	5.7	...	1.9	...	0.5 b,x	19.3	0.0	0.7	967	32	
Nicaragua	18.3	17.3 x	11.8 x	...	22.4 x	85.0	1.3	5.0	791	112	
Niger	83.7	48.5	52.0	34.4 x,y	63.9	186.5	0.9	7.4	375	180	
Nigeria*	119.9	36.8	38.0 z	31.5	22.8 a	107.3	1.3 c	5.4	546	174	
North Macedonia	9.9	4.9 x	15.2 x	7.6 x,y	4.3 x	15.7	0.2	0.4	916	59	
Norway	2.5	...	2.0	...	0.1	5.1	0.0	0.2	986	5	
Oman	11.4	11.4	4.2	...	3.3 a,b	13.1	0.0	2.0	927	53	
Pakistan	69.3	37.6	35.2	...	13.5 b	38.8	0.1	6.0	667	147	
Panama	15.3	19.0 x	20.3	2.6	14.1 x	81.8	0.0	9.6	786	113	
Papua New Guinea	47.8	49.5 x	20.5	...	13.7 a	52.7	0.0	4.3	701	136	
Paraguay	20.2	5.6	15.7 x	17.9	16.1	70.5	0.0	3.0	814	102	
Peru	14.3	12.2	4.4	14.5	10.9	56.9	0.0	3.8	849	93	
Philippines	28.4	30.3	5.7	11.1 x,y,z	8.5	54.2	0.3 c	3.5	811	105	
Poland	4.4	2.6	3.4	...	1.2 x	10.5	0.0	0.2	971	29	
Portugal	3.7	...	0.7	...	0.6 b,x	8.4	0.0	0.4	982	8	
Qatar	6.8	...	4.1 x	...	4.0 b,x	9.9	0.0	3.8	947	41	
Republic of Korea	3.2	2.5 x	2.6	...	0.2 b	1.4	0.0	0.4	982	8	
Republic of Moldova	15.8	6.4 x	16.5	16.3 x,y,z	9.9 x	22.4	0.2	0.8	868	84	
Romania	7.3	...	13.1	...	6.7 x	36.2	0.0	0.3	921	56	
Russian Federation	7.2	...	0.8	...	7.5 x	20.7	0.1	1.5	947	41	
Rwanda	35.3	36.9	14.1	19.0 y	3.0	39.1	2.2	3.0	777	117	
Saint Lucia	16.6	2.5 x	7.8	3.3 x,y	14.0 x	40.5	0.1	5.1	886	77	
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	16.4	...	4.7	...	16.7 x	49.0	0.1	4.5	869	83	
Samoa	15.8	4.9	4.0	...	7.8 a	23.9	0.0	1.2	921	56	
Sao Tome and Principe	31.2	17.2	12.1	18.2	15.3	94.6	0.0	4.0	768	122	
Saudi Arabia	7.1	9.3 x	3.3	...	3.0 b	7.3	0.0	4.1	936	48	
Senegal	43.6	18.8	38.3	22.8	23.3	72.7	0.2	4.5	691	139	
Serbia	5.5	6.0	5.0	7.0	3.1	14.7	2.9 d	0.3	935	49	
Seychelles	14.5	7.9 x	5.3	...	...	62.1	0.0	1.4	868	84	
Sierra Leone	105.1	29.5	29.7	39.0 a	15.3 a	112.8	0.2	6.5	582	169	
Singapore	2.8	...	0.0	...	0.4 b,x	3.5	0.0	0.2	989	1	
Slovakia	5.6	...	6.7	...	1.6 x	25.7	0.0	0.3	954	38	
Slovenia	2.1	...	1.4	...	0.4	3.8	0.0	0.2	988	2	
Solomon Islands	20.0	31.7	31.3 x	17.9 y	11.3	78.0	0.0	1.8	738	131	
Somalia	121.5	25.3 x	...	49.0 x,y,z	24.6 b,x	100.1	23.2 c	3.1	472	175	
South Africa	33.8	27.4	11.5	3.6 y	3.1	67.9	0.0	15.8	775	119	

Coloring reflects prevalence: Moderate High Very high



# COMPLETE END OF CHILDHOOD INDEX 2020

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 2020	
							Population forcibly displaced by conflict (% of total)†	Child homicide rate (deaths per 100,000 population aged 0-19)			
INDICATOR	Under-5 mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	Child stunting (% children aged 0-59 months)	Out-of-school children of primary and secondary school age (%)	Children engaged in child labor (% ages 5-17)	Adolescents currently married or in union (% girls aged 15-19)	Adolescent birth rate (births per 1,000 girls aged 15-19)	2017	2019	2016	Score (out of 1,000)	Rank (out of 180)
South Sudan	98.6	31.3 x	61.9	...	35.2 x	62.0		37.4 c	2.7	466	176
Spain	3.0	...	2.3	...	3.5 x	7.7		0.0	0.2	976	18
Sri Lanka	7.4	17.3	5.0	1.0 y,z	6.0	20.9		0.8	0.8	915	60
State of Palestine	20.3	7.4	8.4	9.4 x,y	15.1 b	52.8		2.2	2.7 z	852	91
Sudan	60.5	38.2	47.5 x	18.1	22.1 x	64.0		6.2 c	3.1	630	156
Suriname	18.9	8.3 a	18.1	6.1 a	34.6 a	61.7		0.0	3.4	796	110
Sweden	2.7	...	0.6	...	0.3	5.1		0.0	0.6	987	3
Switzerland	4.1	...	6.0	...	0.3	2.8		0.0	0.3	976	18
Syrian Arab Republic	16.7	27.9 x	41.1 x	4.0 x,y,z	9.7 b,x	38.6		75.9 c	1.2	647	151
Tajikistan	34.8	17.5	10.3 x	10.0 x,z	12.6	57.1		0.1	0.5	829	99
Thailand	9.1	10.5	12.2 x	8.3 x,y,z	14.1 a	44.9		0.0	2.0	864	87
Timor-Leste	45.8	45.6 a	11.6	...	8.2	33.8		0.0	5.3	748	128
Togo	69.8	23.8	21.1	48.5 a	11.2 a	89.1		0.1	4.9	647	151
Tonga	15.6	8.1 x	7.6	...	4.6 x	14.7		0.2	2.3	915	60
Trinidad and Tobago*	18.3	9.2 x	4.2 x,z	0.8 x,y	6.3 x	30.1		0.1	16.3	862	88
Tunisia*	17.0	8.4	13.3 x,z	2.3 x,y	0.6 a	7.8		0.0	0.6	930	52
Turkey	10.6	6.0	9.6	5.9 x,y,z	6.5 b	26.6		0.1	0.9	914	63
Turkmenistan*	45.8	11.5	0.4 z	0.3	6.0	24.4		0.0	1.5	904	73
Tuvalu	24.4	10.0 x	27.0	...	8.0 b,x	28.0 x,z		0.0	...	-	-
Uganda*	46.4	28.9	23.3 z	18.1	19.9	118.8		2.6	6.7	670	145
Ukraine	8.7	...	5.7	3.2 x,y	6.5 x	23.7		3.7	0.6	931	51
United Arab Emirates	7.6	...	3.4	...	6.7 b,x	6.5		0.0	1.7	951	39
United Kingdom	4.3	...	1.3	...	2.9 x	13.4		0.0	0.6	971	29
United Republic of Tanzania	53.0	31.8	39.7	24.3	22.3	118.4		0.0	4.3	624	159
United States	6.5	3.5	1.5	...	5.8 x	19.9		0.0	3.4	942	43
Uruguay	7.6	10.7 x	3.3	4.2 x	7.4 x	58.7		0.0	3.6	889	76
Uzbekistan	21.4	10.8	5.8	...	4.9 x	23.8		0.0	0.5	905	72
Vanuatu	26.4	28.9 x	13.5	15.6 x,y	11.3 a,x	49.4		0.0	1.2	797	109
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	24.5	13.4 x	13.2	...	15.8 x	85.3		14.6	25.1	698	137
Vietnam*	20.7	23.8	10.2 z	13.1	9.7	30.9		0.4	1.2	839	98
Yemen	55.0	46.4 x	28.1	22.7 x,y,z	16.7 b,x	60.4		12.7 c	2.8	645	154
Zambia*	57.8	34.6	22.1 x,z	23.0 x	14.6 a	120.1		0.0	5.5	660	148
Zimbabwe	46.2	23.5	14.1 x	27.9 a	21.2 a	86.1		0.2	9.3	690	141
GLOBAL AND REGIONAL AVERAGES*											
Sub-Saharan Africa§	77.5	32.7	30.1	28.9	23.0	102.8		2.7	5.4	609	-
Eastern and Southern Africa	57.0	32.7	26.5	26.6	20.0	92.1		2.9	5.2	650	-
West and Central Africa	96.7	32.7	32.2	30.6	26.7	114.7		2.2	5.9	570	-
Middle East and North Africa	21.8	14.3	16.9	4.7	12.8	40.0		4.6	2.6	839	-
South Asia	42.1	33.2	23.2	12.4 y,z	29.0 z	25.5		0.3	2.0	739	-
East Asia and Pacific	15.0	11.0	9.2	10.0 y,z**	5.7	20.5		0.1	1.3	895	-
Latin America and Caribbean	16.4	9.0	9.3	10.5 z	10.9	63.0		2.2	11.6	817	-
CEE/CIS‡	12.7	7.7	5.5	5.4 y,z	7.3	26.2		0.8	1.0	914	-
World	38.6	21.3	17.1	12.6 y,z**	16.0	44.0		0.9 z	3.3	788	-

Coloring reflects prevalence: **Moderate High Very high**

... Data are unavailable or outdated (i.e., pre-2005)

+ 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 soldiers)

d Includes displaced populations from Serbia and Kosovo

e Includes displaced populations of Tibetan origin

x Data refer to the most recent year available during the period 2005-2013

y Data differ from the standard definition (interpret with caution)

z Data are from a 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

\* To include as many countries as possible in the ranking, school attendance data for these 17 countries were sourced from surveys because recent enrollment data were not available

\*\* Excludes China

† Includes refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees (refugees and IDPs) and others of concern to UNHCR

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

# Methodology and Research Notes

Every child has a right to childhood. The concept of childhood is defined in the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*.<sup>2</sup> 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 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.<sup>3</sup> But once a child experiences an ender, childhood becomes fractured rather than complete.<sup>4</sup> Each event represents an assault on childhood. At some point, as the assaults mount up, childhood ends.

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

## INDICATORS, DEFINITIONS AND DATA SOURCES

The following eight indicators were selected because they best represent these enders, are available for a large

number of countries and are regularly updated.<sup>5</sup> 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 2018. 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

**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 2005-2019. Sources: UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates, March 2020 Edition, updated with data from recent MICS and DHS surveys for 8 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<sup>6</sup> 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.<sup>7</sup> Data are for the most recent year available 2005-2019. 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 17 countries (see Complete End of Childhood Index). Note: Household survey data were used to estimate OOSC rates only where official data were unavailable or outdated (i.e., pre 2005). Rates were derived by dividing the number of children, adolescents and youth out of school (calculated as: primary OOSC\*primary population + lower secondary OOSC\*lower secondary population + upper secondary OOS\*upper secondary population) by the total population of official primary and secondary school age. Official school age population data were sourced from UIS.Stat and refer to the same OOSC reference year.

**Child Labor:** Percentage of children 5-17 years old involved in child labor.<sup>8</sup> Data are for the most recent year available 2005-2017. Sources: UNICEF (data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/child-labour/), supplemented with data from UNICEF's The State of the World's Children 2017 for 27 countries and from recent MICS and DHS surveys for 20 countries (see Complete End of Childhood Index).

**Adolescents currently married or in union:** Percentage of girls 15-19 years of age who have been married and are not 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. To help ensure these countries are not rewarded for missing data, child marriage rates are adjusted upward by 20% for the five countries where cohabitation before marriage is common (Australia, China, Israel, New Zealand and Portugal).<sup>9</sup> Data are for 2005-2019. 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 2019, updated with data from recent MICS and DHS surveys for 27 countries (see Complete End of Childhood Index).

**Adolescent birth rate:** Births to women aged 15-19 per 1,000 women in that age group. Estimates are for 2017 for all but the three countries with supplemental data. Sources: World Development Indicators, World Bank (data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.ADO.TFRT), supplemented with data for Marshall Islands, Nauru and Tuvalu 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,<sup>10</sup> by country or territory of origin, expressed as a percentage of the country's or territory's population. Data are for mid-2019. Sources: UNHCR. Mid-Year Trends 2019. (Geneva: 2020) and UNDESA, Population Division. World Population Prospects: The 2019 Revision.

**Evidence of child soldiers:** Countries identified as having governmental armed forces, government-supported armed groups or other parties that recruit or use child soldiers. The term "child soldier" includes children who are serving in any capacity, including in a support role, such as a cook, porter, messenger, medic, guard or sex slave. Sources: CSPA List from Trafficking in Persons Report 2019 (state.gov/reports/2019-trafficking-in-persons-report/) and Children and Armed Conflict: Report of the Secretary-General, Annex I and Annex II (undocs.org/A/73/907). Note: This indicator is not factored into the index score but has been noted in the Complete End of Childhood Index table.

**Child homicide rate:** Estimated number of deaths caused by interpersonal violence among children and adolescents aged 0-19 years (from WHO), expressed per 100,000 population in that age group (from UNDESA, Population Division). Estimates are for 2016. Sources: WHO. Global Health Estimates 2016: Deaths by Cause, Age, Sex, by Country and by Region, 2000-2016 (terrance.who.int/mediacentre/data/ghe/) and UNDESA, Population Division. World Population Prospects: The 2019 Revision (esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Download/Standard/Population/), supplemented with rates for State of Palestine and Marshall Islands from Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME). Global Burden of Disease Study 2017 (ghdx.healthdata.org/gbd-results-tool).

## CALCULATIONS

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

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

Where:

$X_N$  is the normalized value

$X$  is the actual value

Worst is the highest observed value for the indicator

Best is the lowest possible value for the indicator

This technique ensures scores range between 0 and 1 and that all indicators are coded positively (i.e., higher scores indicate better performance).<sup>11</sup>

All indicators are weighted equally. The overall index score was calculated by summing across the normalized scores for

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

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 180.

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

## MISSING VALUES

The *Complete End of Childhood Index* table includes all 186 countries 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 ranking.

Countries missing violence data were dropped from the ranking.<sup>12</sup> Countries missing up to any two of the other six 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, 180 countries had sufficient data to be ranked. 103 countries have data for all eight indicators. 31 countries are missing one indicator. 46 countries are missing two indicators, of which 37 are high-income countries.<sup>13</sup>

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.<sup>14</sup> For countries lacking child marriage data, the normalized score for their adolescent birth rate was ascribed. These two indicators are also high correlated.<sup>15</sup>

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.

## PREVALENCE THRESHOLDS AND PERFORMANCE BANDS

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

To the greatest extent possible, indicator thresholds were based on international standards. The classification schemes used for under-5 mortality and stunting are established.<sup>16</sup> The same breakdowns for stunting were used for out-of-school children, child labor and child marriage. The breakdowns for adolescent births were adapted from those used by the World Bank and the WHO.<sup>17</sup> Those for displacement were based loosely on categories used by UNHCR for a related indicator.<sup>18</sup> The homicide strata were adapted from UNICEF and UNODC.<sup>19</sup>

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

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

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

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

## COUNTRY CLASSIFICATION

The *End of Childhood Index* presents data for the world as a whole and for various country groupings. These groupings are based on UNICEF's nomenclature and regional classification. For a list of countries and territories in each region, see: UNICEF, *The State of the World's Children 2016*, p. 112.

Global and regional data were sourced from the UN,<sup>20</sup> with the exception of out-of-school, forced displacement and child homicide rates. Regional averages for these three indicators were calculated by Save the Children, as were global rates for the last two. Each was calculated as a weighted average, with the relevant population used as the weights.<sup>21</sup> All UNICEF countries with available data were included in these estimates.<sup>22</sup> Population coverage was above 95% for all region-indicator pairs.<sup>23</sup>

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

## LIMITATIONS AND CAVEATS

It would not be possible to include all the factors that erode childhood in a single index. This index focuses only on the most significant enders for which reliable and comparable data are widely available. Some indicators (e.g., sexual violence, trafficking, hazardous work) would have been included had there been sufficient data. Others (e.g., incarceration, orphanhood, migration, bullying, corporal punishment, substance use) had data but weren't included because they do not necessarily – in and of themselves – signal the

end of childhood. A child who is incarcerated, for example, can receive substantial rehabilitation services including counseling, schooling and a reliable network of caring adults. Many potential indicators (e.g., child abuse) were also discarded due to data quality concerns or because they were not the most relevant indicator for the ender in question (e.g., suicide for child dies).<sup>24</sup>

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 8 April 2020. Data are not available for the same reference year for all indicators or for all countries. Of the 180 countries ranked, 67 have very recent data (i.e., 2013-onward) for all indicators. 113 countries have at least one data point from 2005-2012.

For 12 countries without official education data, as well as five whose most recent official figures predate 2005, household survey data were used to give an indication of the extent of exclusion from education.<sup>25</sup>

Using the total population of concern to UNHCR can over-estimate the share of national population forcibly displaced by conflict because "others of concern" can include host communities who are affected by conflict but aren't necessarily displaced persons.<sup>26</sup>

# Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Index scores for 19 countries have fallen by 10 points or more since last year. Scores have fallen by more than 30 points in seven countries: Bahamas, Ethiopia, Jordan, Madagascar, Marshall Islands, Suriname and Togo.

<sup>2</sup> Childhood means more than just the time between birth and adulthood. It refers to the state and condition of a child's life – to the quality of those years. As the most widely endorsed human rights treaty in history, the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1989 and ratified by all but one country, represents a global consensus on the terms of childhood. Although there is not absolute agreement on the interpretation of each and every provision of the Convention, there is substantial common ground on what the standards of childhood should be. Source: UNICEF. *The State of the World's Children 2005*.

<sup>3</sup> 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).

<sup>4</sup> 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 have taken on adult roles and responsibilities, child brides and teen mothers are still children entitled to protection and support.

<sup>5</sup> Other selection criteria included: reliability, face validity, comparability, policy relevance, news-worthiness, contemporaneity and alignment with Sustainable Development Goal targets.

<sup>6</sup> For the 20 countries where household survey data are used, the indicator represents the share of school-aged children not attending school.

<sup>7</sup> The current international standard is to treat children of primary school 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.

<sup>8</sup> A child is considered to be involved in child labor under the following conditions: a) children aged 5-11 who, during the reference week, did at least one hour of economic work or at least 28 hours of household chores; b) children aged 12-14 who, during the reference week, did at least 14 hours of economic work or at least 28 hours of household chores; c) children aged 15-17 who, during the reference week, did at least 43 hours of economic work or household chores; and d) children aged 5-17 years old in hazardous working conditions.

<sup>9</sup> The adjustment rate was derived from an analysis of 63 countries with data points for the same reference year that include and exclude unions. The effect of this data treatment is minimal. Scores fall 1 point for China and Israel. Child marriage rates for the other 30 countries excluding unions were left unadjusted. Most of these countries are more conservative societies where living together outside of marriage is not socially acceptable.

<sup>10</sup> 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.

<sup>11</sup> Syria's score for displacement is the only exception. Because this year's estimate (74.5%) exceeds the "worst" possible score of 65.4, Syria's normalized score is actually negative (-0.14).

<sup>12</sup> This affected only three countries: Kiribati, Nauru and Tuvalu.

<sup>13</sup> The *Complete End of Childhood Index* table indicates the indicator(s) that are missing for these 78 countries.

<sup>14</sup> In the inaugural year, correlation coefficients were 0.68, 0.76 and 0.74, respectively.

<sup>15</sup> The correlation coefficient was 0.81.

<sup>16</sup> See, for example, [data.unicef.org/topic/child-survival/under-five-mortality/](http://data.unicef.org/topic/child-survival/under-five-mortality/) and [data.unicef.org/topic/nutrition/malnutrition/](http://data.unicef.org/topic/nutrition/malnutrition/)

<sup>17</sup> See [gamapserver.who.int/mapLibrary/Files/Maps/Global\\_AdolescentBirthRate\\_2015.png](http://gamapserver.who.int/mapLibrary/Files/Maps/Global_AdolescentBirthRate_2015.png) and [data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.ADO.TFRT?view=map](http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.ADO.TFRT?view=map)

<sup>18</sup> UNHCR. *Mid-Year Trends 2016*. p11

<sup>19</sup> See UNICEF. *Hidden in Plain Sight: A Statistical Analysis of Violence Against Children*. (New York: 2014) p39 and UNODC. *Global Study on Homicide 2013*. (Vienna: 2014) p12

<sup>20</sup> Under-5 mortality rates and stunting data were pulled from [data.unicef.org](http://data.unicef.org). World and regional averages for child labor and adolescent childbearing were pulled from UNICEF's *The State of the World's Children (SOWC) 2019*, while child marriage rates are from SOWC 2017, with the following exceptions: the global average for child labor, the CEE/CIS average for child labor and child labor and child marriage rates for South Asia are all from SOWC 2015, the child labor rate for East Asia and Pacific is from SOWC 2016 and the child labor rate for Latin America and Caribbean is from SOWC 2017.

<sup>21</sup> The official primary and secondary school-aged population in 2018 (UIS.Stat), total national population in 2019 (UN DESA) and child population aged 0-19 in 2016 (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 and Singapore (both 2017) and Ukraine (2014). The global average for child homicide was estimated in the same way (i.e., as a weighted average of country rates) but the rate of forced displacement worldwide was calculated directly from the latest global count from UNHCR ([unhcr.org/en-us/figures-at-a-glance.html](http://unhcr.org/en-us/figures-at-a-glance.html)) and world population data from UN DESA, both for the start of 2019.

<sup>22</sup> Even if a country did not have sufficient data to be included in the *Complete End of Childhood Index* table, if it had indicator-level data, it was included in global and regional rates for that indicator.

<sup>23</sup> Coverage was at or above 99% for all estimates except for school-aged populations in the Middle East and North Africa (97% coverage), Eastern and Southern Africa (97%) and sub-Saharan Africa (98%).

<sup>24</sup> A list of excluded indicators has been compiled and can be provided upon request.

<sup>25</sup> Household surveys measure participation as attendance at any time during the preceding school year – a fairly generous approach that is not substantively dissimilar to formal enrollment. Holding constant other reasons that survey and administrative data may differ (such as attendance in non-formal schools), one would expect attendance to be slightly lower than enrollment, since children may be officially enrolled but not attend. For the seven countries with old enrollment data, attendance rates are actually higher than enrollment figures, which produced more favorable results.

<sup>26</sup> This is especially true in Uganda.



*Ibrahim, 7, hugs his mother outside their home in an informal settlement in Colombia. The family fled the crisis in Venezuela, leaving everything behind.*

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#### ON THE COVER

*Nissaifa, from Niger, carries wood home for her family. Niger is the lowest ranked country in the 2020 End of Childhood Index.*

Photo: Sponsorship / Save the Children