

A POST-2015 WORLD FIT FOR CHILDREN

AN AGENDA FOR #EVERYCHILD 2015



World leaders are setting out a roadmap for human progress over the next 15 years. Known as the Sustainable Development Goals, these new global targets will drive investment and action in virtually every country on earth, touching millions of lives. That is why it is vital that every child is included – and that children everywhere are at the heart of the new global agenda.

2015 should be a year of global action for children, engaging everyone – governments, institutions, corporations, communities, families, and individuals in every country – to demand and drive change for every child.

An Agenda for #EVERYChild 2015

- 1. End violence, neglect, exploitation and abuse of children.** In a world where almost one billion children between the ages of 2 and 14 suffer regular physical punishment, and almost 1 in 4 girls between the ages of 15 and 19 experience physical violence, violence against children is a universal problem affecting every community and every country. Violence, conflicts, weak governance and the absence of the rule of law severely undermine development gains made in other areas. Despite its prevalence, violence against children often hides in plain sight. More must be done to encourage people to speak out when they see or suspect violence against children, to raise awareness in schools and communities, and increase investment in social welfare systems and services that protect children from harm and provide support to those who are already victims.
- 2. Put ending child poverty in all its dimensions at the heart of poverty eradication efforts.** Nearly 570 million people aged 18 or younger live below the international poverty line of \$1.25 a day. Children make up nearly half of the world's extreme poor – and poverty in childhood is often the root cause of poverty in adulthood. To break the cycle of poverty, we need to capture the full picture of child poverty in all its dimensions. Poverty measures must go beyond income, examining factors such as access to services and social protection systems, health, nutrition, water and sanitation, shelter, quality education and other issues like discrimination, stigmatization and exclusion. More also needs to be done to reduce the impact of poverty – for example, by reducing the vulnerability of households, tackling the worst forms of child labour, and strengthening the systems that protect poor families.
- 3. Renew the global effort to end preventable child and maternal deaths.** Children in the poorest 20 per cent of homes are twice as likely as those in the richest 20 per cent to die before reaching their fifth birthday, and nearly three times as likely to be underweight and thus more vulnerable. And despite greater public attention to the problem of maternal mortality, we have not made enough progress. To save more lives, we must build better health systems, target resources to increase access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene, reduce childhood stunting, increase rates of breastfeeding, and focus on maternal health to make pregnancy and childbirth safer.



4. Pay more attention to the ‘second decade of life’ – adolescence. Adolescence is a pivotal – and vulnerable – period during which we can either consolidate – or lose – the gains made during early childhood. All too often, adolescents are endangered by violence, limited by a lack of quality education, and unable to access critical health services. To protect adolescents and better prepare them to become productive adults, they must be included in policy planning and service delivery. More focus needs to be placed on providing learning and preparation for the world of work, building healthy lifestyles that reduce non-communicable diseases and improve sexual health, and protecting adolescents from involvement in violence.

5. Leverage the growing ‘Data Revolution’ to support the rights of every child. Timely, credible data are critical to developing and implementing policies that can improve the lives and futures of the most disadvantaged, marginalized, and vulnerable children. Disaggregated data help us to see the children and communities that are being left behind – and left out of policy decision making. Data are also crucial to measuring the results we achieve, so we can track progress and change course where necessary.

6. Increase investments in all children, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized. There is no better investment than investment in our children – through development finance, humanitarian finance, climate finance, and domestic finance. Whether in education, water and sanitation, health care or social protection, sufficient money must be spent not only to deliver results for children but also to reach the children who need it most. This is not only a moral and strategic imperative, it is a practical one: Growing evidence shows that investing in the most disadvantaged children contributes to sustained growth and the stability of societies and nations.

7. Break the cycle of chronic crises affecting children.

With 230 million children living in countries affected by conflicts in 2014, and many others affected by disasters, the world’s response to humanitarian crises – whether natural or man-made – should include investments in safer futures for children. Building resilience – by investing in initiatives to help children, families, and communities to better withstand future shocks – is crucial to ending the terrible cycle of crises that too many endure today.

If the significant gains made for many children in recent years are not to be lost, if growing nations are to continue to thrive, if troubled regions are to become more stable, if the natural environment is to be safeguarded for today’s generations and for those to come, then children must be at the heart of the new global agenda. And children, young people, and people in poverty must have a voice in setting this agenda and helping move it forward.

The global community – led by governments and supported by citizens and partners from every sector – has an historic opportunity to dismantle the barriers that continue to exclude too many children from progress, and to complete the work of building a society in which every child can survive and thrive, learn and grow, participate and contribute fully to society.

It’s not just the right thing to do – it is in everyone’s interests. The world can shape a better future for all children, by coming together and taking action for #EVERYChild.

To read more on UNICEF’s position on the Sustainable Development Goals, please see our set of SDG issue briefs and our analysis of the Open Working Group’s proposed SDGs from a child rights perspective.

http://www.unicef.org/post2015/files/P2015_issue_brief_set.pdf

http://www.unicef.org/post2015/files/Post_2015_OWG_review_CR_FINAL.pdf

For more information

Please see UNICEF’s webpage on Children and the Post-2015 Development Agenda: <http://www.unicef.org/post2015/>

A POST-2015 WORLD FIT FOR CHILDREN

ISSUE BRIEF: Children's Rights



Why children's rights must be at the center of the Post-2015 Agenda

Twenty-five years ago the United Nations General Assembly adopted the most widely ratified human rights treaty and comprehensive legal instrument for the promotion and protection of children's rights: the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). With this, the world made a commitment to all children: That we would do everything in our power to protect and promote their rights – to survive and thrive, to learn and grow, to make their voices heard and to reach their full potential without discrimination.

It should therefore be unacceptable that while fewer children now die before their fifth birthday, **17,000 children under the age of 5 still die every day, often from preventable causes.**¹ Almost 230 million children under the age of 5 have not had their births registered, amounting to 1 in 3 children who do not officially exist and cannot access basic services.² On average, 6 in 10 children experience physical punishment.³ Almost 58 million children of primary school age remain out of school and 250 million still fail to learn basic literacy or numeracy, whether they have been to school or not.⁴ Children are also the most vulnerable to environmental degradation, pollution and climate change impacts. In fact, children make up 80% of deaths attributable to climate-related changes.⁵ In addition, too many children do not have access to adequate drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) which globally remains a leading cause of death among children under 5 years of age.⁶ Furthermore, almost half of the world's people living in extreme poverty are 18 years old or younger. That is nearly 570 million children who are deprived of their needs, their rights and their dignity. When children's rights are neither recognized nor fulfilled, society bears the burden of not only a moral failing to its children but also a costly reality for its future.

The new, universal Post-2015 Development Agenda provides the opportunity, now and in the coming years, to address the implementation gap between universal children's rights and inequitable results, including through addressing issues of governance, policy formulation and service provision. Linking the Post-2015 Agenda with the universal child rights agenda will provide increased accountability and strengthened coherence and alignment among various stakeholders (governmental, intergovernmental, private sector, etc.) that need to work and deliver together on child rights commitments. Conversely, the new Post-2015 Agenda can also make an innovative contribution to the child rights agenda, as it can enhance issues that are important to children, such as climate change, but that were not considered at the time that the CRC and other relevant international human rights instruments were developed.

Human rights and children's rights must therefore be at the center of the Post-2015 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

A people-centered agenda that is grounded in human rights and child rights, that addresses freedom from fear and freedom from want and promotes equity, must be infused throughout all of the goals and targets and the standard by which all implementation activities and progress are measured.

Critical issues for all goals, targets and indicators from a child rights perspective

A universal agenda for all children, everywhere

Human rights and children's rights are universal. A universal agenda that protects the rights of all children everywhere to get the best start in life, to survive and thrive, to receive a quality education, to live free from violence

and abuse and participate in decisions that affect their lives is essential and all countries must commit to pursuing the goals and targets through national action. Investments in early childhood development is one of the most critical and cost-effective ways to give all children an equal opportunity and can break the cycle of poverty to create a more sustainable and prosperous world. Furthermore, advancing child wellbeing depends on a holistic approach by the State in its policy formulation and implementation, and to that end, the CRC provides a key and relevant framework to be leveraged in terms of sustainable, intergenerational development and wellbeing.

Indivisibility of human rights and child rights

Human and children's rights are a comprehensive, mutually reinforcing, interdependent framework of economic, social and cultural rights as well as civil and political rights, and the right to development. The CRC confirms that civil and political rights apply to children, such as the right to freedom of expression and for children's views to be taken seriously. In fact, almost all articles of the Convention include elements which amount to civil and political rights. The new framework should therefore address civil and political rights as much as economic, social and cultural rights. Furthermore, the Post-2015 Development Agenda is an opportunity to insert child rights across all three pillars of development—the social, economic and environmental. While children and young people make significant contributions to society today, they are the future leaders, consumers, producers and inheritors of the earth.

Equitable results for all children: 'leave no one behind'

Dignity and human rights are the birthright of all, without distinction of any kind with regard to sex, age, race, ethnicity, income, location, disability, or other status. Specific measures for prioritizing and accelerating progress for the poorest and most vulnerable children, and to address discrimination, should be pursued to ensure the new sustainable development goals promote equal opportunity for all. Inequalities must be addressed both within and between countries.

Disparities and the 'data revolution'

Disaggregated data will be essential for monitoring equity gaps, strengthening social accountability and ensuring that the gaps between the most and least advantaged groups are narrowing. Data should also be disaggregated by all grounds of discrimination prohibited by international human rights law, including *inter alia* by sex, age, race, ethnicity, income, location, disability, and other grounds most relevant to specific countries and contexts, for example: caste, minority groups, indigenous peoples, migrant or displacement status.

Accountability

The human rights principle of accountability should be implemented via an effective accountability framework, based

on national and international human rights obligations, for governments and other actors—including the private sector. With the active and meaningful participation of civil society, this would allow for transparent monitoring of progress and accountability for action. People-led monitoring, in particular, could change the dynamics of accountability and bring in new voices and ideas about what is working, where and why, and, if things are not working, what is needed to change course. Making sure that all women, men, children and young people – especially those living in poverty – are included in all aspects of development will have an empowering effect as well as contribute to the fulfilment of their right to participation. It also makes development programmes and initiatives smarter and more effective.

Meaningful participation of children and young people, both girls and boys

When adults are making decisions that affect children, children have the right to say what they think should happen and have their opinions taken into account. Member States agreed at Rio+20 that, "sustainable development must be inclusive and people-centered, benefiting and involving all people, **including youth and children.**" They also, "stress[ed] the importance of the **active participation of young people in decision-making processes...** [and noted] the need to promote intergenerational dialogue and solidarity by recognizing their views." In line with the human rights principle of participation, the voices of children and youth have been invaluable for the process of developing the new agenda and will be equally important to monitoring and accountability and the implementation of the new agenda.

Realizing the rights of the child is the foundation of a prosperous society and a sustainable future

Breaking the cycles of intergenerational poverty, violence and environmental degradation requires a future of healthy, safe, protected, well-educated and well-cared for children. When children do not have an equal opportunity to reach their potential as they grow into adulthood, it is not only these children but all of society who suffers the consequences. Child well-being is a direct reflection of the well-being of society as a whole. When we respect, protect and fulfill the rights of all children and invest in their cognitive, emotional, social and physical development, we are investing in the foundation of a sustainable world of progress.

A transformative Post-2015 Development Agenda will fulfil the rights of everyone, everywhere and place those hardest to reach as the highest priority. The tools to recognize the rights of all, including children, exist for governments to live up to standing commitments of the CRC and embed human rights and child rights in the future sustainable development goals, targets and indicators. The universal right to development can be fulfilled through the agenda's proper recognition of all human and child rights.

For more information

Please see UNICEF's webpage on Children and the Post-2015 Development Agenda: <http://www.unicef.org/post2015/>

¹ United Nations Children's Fund, *Committing to Child Survival: A Promise Renewed, Progress Report 2014*, UNICEF, 2014.

² United Nations Children's Fund, *Every Child's Birth Right: Inequities and trends in birth registration*, UNICEF, 2013.

³ United Nations Children's Fund, *Hidden in Plain Sight: A statistical analysis of violence against children*, UNICEF, 2014.

⁴ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Institute for Statistics (UIS), *Out of School Children*, UNESCO, 2014.

⁵ Kumar, Sandhya, *Children Most Vulnerable to Climate Change*, UN Earth News, 22 April 2012.

⁶ WHO, 'Children: reducing mortality – Fact Sheet,' September 2014.

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ISSUE BRIEF: The Rights of Children with Disabilities



Why addressing the rights of children with disabilities is a critical component of the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Around 15 per cent of the world's population, or an estimated 1 billion people, live with disabilities.¹ Poverty and disability are inextricably linked considering that poverty is a major contributing factor leading to disability while disability traps people into poverty. Without explicit references to persons with disabilities, the Millennium Development Goals failed to effectively address the situation of this group, 80 per cent of whom live in developing countries.² A disproportionate number of all persons living in poverty in developing countries are persons with disabilities.³ The future development framework affords us an important opportunity to rectify this and truly ensure a framework that is inclusive of all.

Children with disabilities disproportionately suffer from poverty, exclusion and violence

Boys and girls with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to social and economic exclusion; to exploitation in emergencies, post-conflict and alternative care situations; and to poverty, homelessness, and being marginalized in institutions or orphanages. Children with disabilities are almost four times more likely to experience violence than non-disabled children.⁴ Stigma and prejudice related to disability as well as barriers in the environment make it much more difficult for children with disabilities to go to school, to access healthcare or to participate in the community. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), which has been ratified by more than 150 countries, urges states to take actions to enhance inclusion and address barriers faced by children and adults with disabilities. When boys and girls with disabilities have greater access to information and basic services, they are far more likely to experience inclusion in health, education and other areas throughout life and as adults. Access begins with providing free legal identities to all children, including children with disabilities, and ensuring that all children experience an inclusive environment as well as inclusive legal, economic and social systems.

Suggested Targets

- By 2030 provide legal identity for all including free birth registration
- End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children
- Increase the coverage of nationally appropriate social protection systems for all, with a focus on expanding coverage of the vulnerable and most marginalized
- By 2030 achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value
- By 2030 empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all and their protection under the law, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
- By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding

public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons

- by 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, particularly for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities

Educating all children, including children with disabilities, is a fundamental means to eradicate poverty, boost shared prosperity and enhance inter-generational equity

Attention to early childhood development (ECD) and Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) is important for all children, but it is particularly important for children with disabilities. All children under the age of 5 are more likely to reach their developmental potentials through access to quality ECD and ECCE programs and policies.⁵ The first few years of life provide a special opportunity to foster developmental gains through early intervention programmes that enable boys and girls to develop to their full potential.⁶ Early identification and assessment of a child's disability helps allow parents, healthcare providers, teachers and others to better understand and plan for the needs of children.

Children with disabilities have historically been among the most excluded from all levels of education. Boys and girls with disabilities aged 6–17 years, in comparison with peers without disabilities, are significantly less likely to be enrolled in school; more likely to drop out of school; twice as likely to have never attended school; and half as likely to progress to higher levels of schooling. In turn, children with disabilities exceedingly grow up to be excluded from the workforce, perpetuating cycles of poverty. Furthermore, this exclusion impacts entire families and communities: an increasing number of siblings and children of persons with disabilities, especially girls, are unable to participate in school due to caregiving responsibilities. Similarly, parents of children with disabilities may be unable to participate in employment.

Suggested Targets

- By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and

pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education

- By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal and inclusive access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and children in vulnerable situations
- Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all

Progress for children with disabilities must be mainstreamed and measured

Given the cross-cutting nature of disability, it is important that disability is mainstreamed across goals, targets and indicators. Also, without disaggregation of data on disability, progress for persons with disabilities cannot be measured. One of the main explanations for the difficulty of including persons with disabilities in development plans and frameworks is the lack of data. In the past, many quantitative instruments—especially in developing countries—employed differing methodologies that not only greatly undercounted persons with disabilities but made international comparisons of data difficult. Recent advances in methods of identifying persons with disabilities through surveys, censuses, and administrative data systems are improving the ability to develop, monitor and evaluate policies aimed at promoting inclusion in an internationally comparative way. Therefore **it is crucial to have disaggregation of data by disability across all areas of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.**

Suggested Targets

- By 2020, substantially strengthen capacities for data collection and statistical analysis relevant to sustainable development with a focus on generating timely and high-quality data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, disability, ethnicity, and rural/urban location.

For more information

Please see UNICEF's webpage on Children and the Post-2015 Development Agenda: <http://www.unicef.org/post2015/>

¹ World Health Organization, 'Disability and health – Fact Sheet No. 352,' September 2013.

² World Health Organization, 'Disability and rehabilitation: Global Programming Note,' 2006-2007.

³ World Bank, 'Disability and poverty: a survey of the literature,' 1999.

⁴ World Health Organization, 'Violence against adults and children with disabilities,' 2012.

⁵ The Consultative Group on Early Childhood and Care, Early Childhood Development on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

⁶ United Nations (1989) Convention on the Rights of the Child, G.A. Res. 44/25, U.N. GAOR, 44th Sess., Supp. No. 49, U.N. Doc. A/44/49 (Nov. 20).

A POST-2015 WORLD FIT FOR CHILDREN

ISSUE BRIEF: Child Poverty



Why addressing child poverty is a critical component of the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Children are more likely to be poor

Eradicating poverty in all its dimensions remains one of the world's most important and urgent tasks. More than 1.2 billion people around the world survive on less than \$1.25 a day.¹ Nearly half of them – about 569 million – are 18 years old or less² (Figure 1).

Poverty hits children hardest. Poverty deprives children of the capabilities needed to survive, develop and thrive as well as access to adequate nutrition, safe drinking water, sanitation, healthcare services and education. These deficits often cannot be overcome later. Child poverty denies children the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Child poverty is widespread, and children are vulnerable to poverty anywhere in the world (Figure 2). In fact, approximately 30 million children³ are growing up poor in the world's richest countries.

Child poverty does long-term damage to children and societies

Poverty in childhood is a root cause of poverty in adulthood. Impoverished children often grow up to be impoverished parents who in turn bring up their own children in poverty. While the heaviest cost of growing up in poverty is borne by children themselves, societies also pay a very significant price, with lower levels of education and health and reduced productivity and economic growth.

Despite unprecedented progress through the MDGs, huge inequalities remain with the poorest and most vulnerable often left behind. Children in the poorest quintile are twice as likely to die before the age of five as those in the wealthiest quintile, and are nearly three times as likely to be underweight.⁴ They are also more likely to be out of school and engage in child labour.

How to include child poverty in the Post 2015 goals and targets

Explicitly include child poverty in the Post-2015 agenda

The world has an historic opportunity to end poverty and lay the foundation of a more prosperous, sustainable and equitable future. The Post-2015 Development Agenda should make an explicit commitment towards ending extreme poverty and reducing child poverty within the poverty goals and targets. Recognizing child poverty would be a first step to redress the disproportionate concentration among children, address root causes and intergenerational poverty, and accelerate sustainable development progress.

Prioritize the poorest children across all goals to meet the new goals with equity

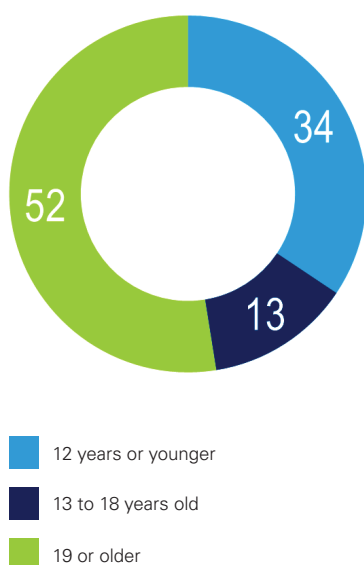
It is widely recognized that equity was not adequately incorporated in the MDGs. To address this and ensure the poorest children are reached, it is crucial to have a standalone goal on equity, as well as a focus on the poorest children across all goal areas. To do this requires consistent monitoring of disaggregated data to assess progress of the poorest children and other vulnerable groups across all goals and targets.

Suggested targets

1. By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day
2. By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions
3. Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable

Figure 1: Children constitute nearly half of the world's people living in extreme poverty

People living on less than \$1.25 a day by age, % of total

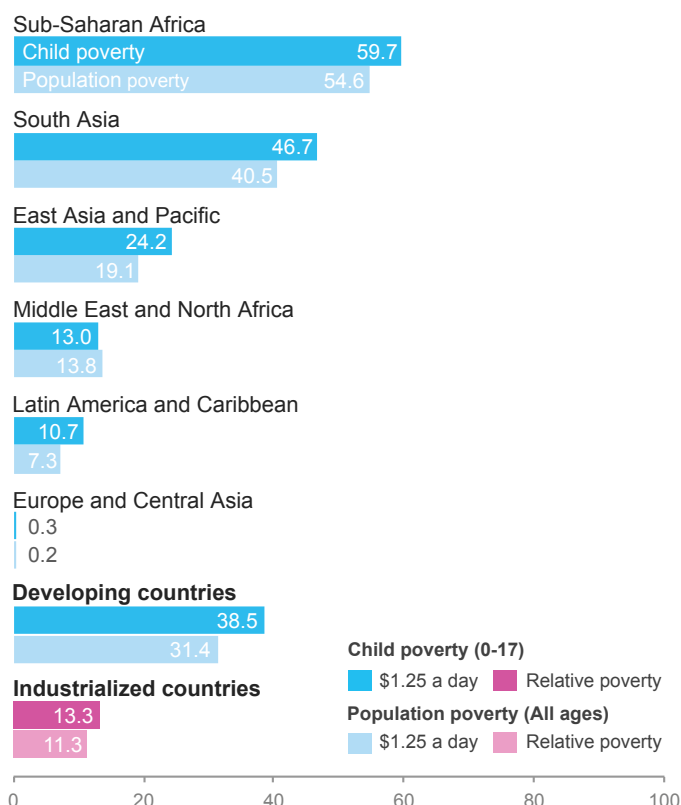


Figures do not add up to 100% due to rounding

4. Build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations, with special attention to households, women, children and those with disabilities, and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters
5. Take immediate and effective measures to secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, eradicate forced labour, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms including recruitment and use of child soldiers

Figure 2: Children are at disproportionate risk of poverty in most regions of the world

Poverty rates among children and the total population by region, %



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¹ World Bank: Extreme poverty is defined as average daily consumption of \$1.25 or less and means living on the edge of subsistence.

² Olinto, P, Beegle, K, Sobrado, C and Uematsu, H, (2013), The State of the Poor: Where Are The Poor, Where Is Extreme Poverty Harder to End, and What Is the Current Profile of the World's Poor?, World Bank – Economic Premise, issue 125, p. 1-8. <http://EconPapers.repec.org/RePEc:wbk:prmeep:ep125>

³ United Nations Children's Fund, 'Measuring Child Poverty: New league tables of child poverty in the world's rich countries', Innocenti Report Card 10, UNICEF Office of Research, 2012.

⁴ United Nations Children's Fund, 'Progress for children: achieving the MDGs with equity', UNICEF 2010.

Figure 1: Source: The World Bank (2013) - Olinto, P, Beegle, K, Sobrado, C and Uematsu, H, (2013), The State of the Poor: Where Are The Poor, Where Is Extreme Poverty Harder to End, and What Is the Current Profile of the World's Poor?, World Bank – Economic Premise, issue 125, p. 1-8. <http://EconPapers.repec.org/RePEc:wbk:prmeep:ep125>

Figure 2: Notes: Relative poverty line: represents the proportion of people living in households with average incomes below 50% of the median income.

Sources:

¹ Batana, Yélé et al, 'Global extreme poverty rates for children, adults and the elderly', Economic Letters, Volume 20, Issue 3, September 2013, pp. 405-407.

² 'OECD Income Distribution Database: Gini, poverty, income, Methods and Concepts' <<http://www.oecd.org/social/income-distribution-database.htm>>, accessed 30 June, 2014.

A POST-2015 WORLD FIT FOR CHILDREN

ISSUE BRIEF: Maternal and Child Nutrition



Why maternal and child nutrition is a critical component of the Post-2015 Development Agenda

All children have the right to optimal nutrition to survive, grow and develop. Optimal nutrition requires that children have access to: (1) appropriate, affordable, diverse and nutrient-rich food; (2) appropriate maternal and child care practices; and (3) adequate health services and a healthy environment including safe water, sanitation and good hygiene.¹

The interdependence between these issues cannot be overstated – while addressing malnutrition requires contributions from many sectors, improving child nutrition brings sustainable dividends to other sectors too. Well-nourished children are healthier, more resistant to disease, more attentive and perform better at school. Investment must start early in life to realize these dividends. Improving maternal and child nutrition gives children the best possible start in life, enabling them to reach their full potential.¹

Globally, 51 million children under 5 years suffer from acute malnutrition,² putting them at immediate risk of death.³ Chronic malnutrition leads to stunting – an irreversible condition that literally stunts the physical and cognitive growth of children, with lifelong consequences that affect everything from school performance to future earnings. In 2013, an estimated 161 million under-five year olds were stunted – approximately 1 in 4 children globally.² Stunting is most prevalent amongst the poorest households, and can trap households in a vicious cycle of poverty and undernutrition.¹ Stunted children are also at greater risk of becoming overweight and suffering from non-communicable diseases later in life.⁴

Yet, proven interventions to reduce stunting exist,⁵ and are among the most cost-beneficial investments to improve global welfare.⁶ These interventions include improving women's nutrition; early and exclusive breastfeeding; timely, safe, appropriate and high-quality complementary food; and appropriate micronutrient interventions. Timing is important – interventions should focus on the critical first 1,000-day window during pregnancy until a child's second birthday to have maximum impact.³

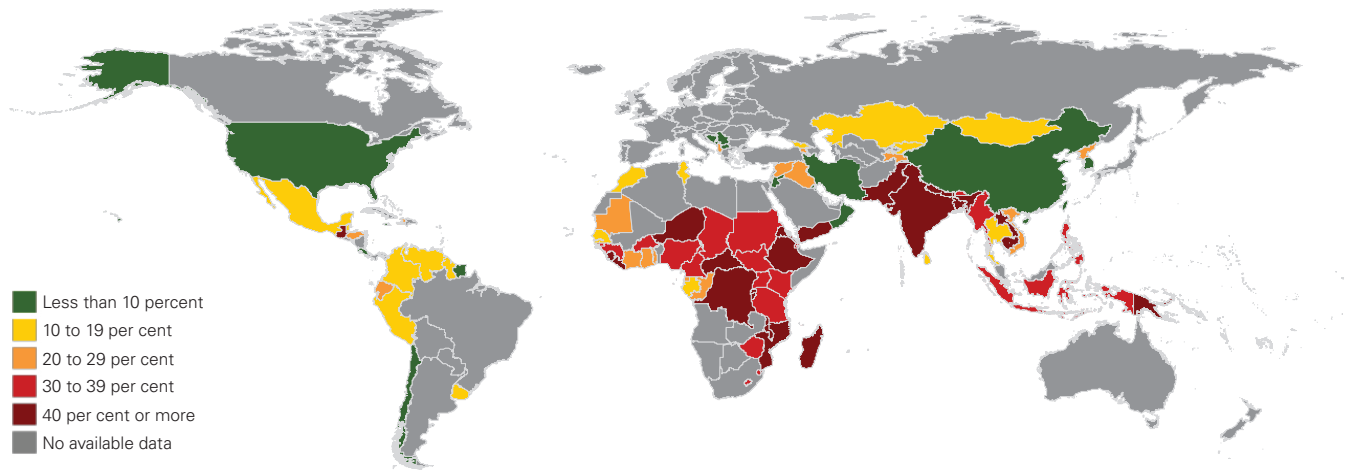
By working together, United Nations organizations, donors, civil society, the private sector and national governments are creating an unprecedented opportunity to equitably address malnutrition through country-led, cross-sectoral actions.⁷ Better nourished children will help build more resilient communities and ensure sustainable development for all.

Recommended targets for 2030 should be derived from the World Health Assembly targets for maternal, infant and child nutrition which are, by 2025

1. 40% reduction in the number of children under-5 who are stunted
2. 50% reduction of anemia in women of reproductive age
3. 30% reduction in low birth weight
4. No increase in children overweight
5. Increase the rate of exclusive breastfeeding in the first 6 months up to at least 50%
6. Reduce and maintain childhood wasting to less than 5%

Figure 1: Globally one in four children are stunted, with highest prevalence rates occurring in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia

Percentage of children under five who are stunted, 2009-2013

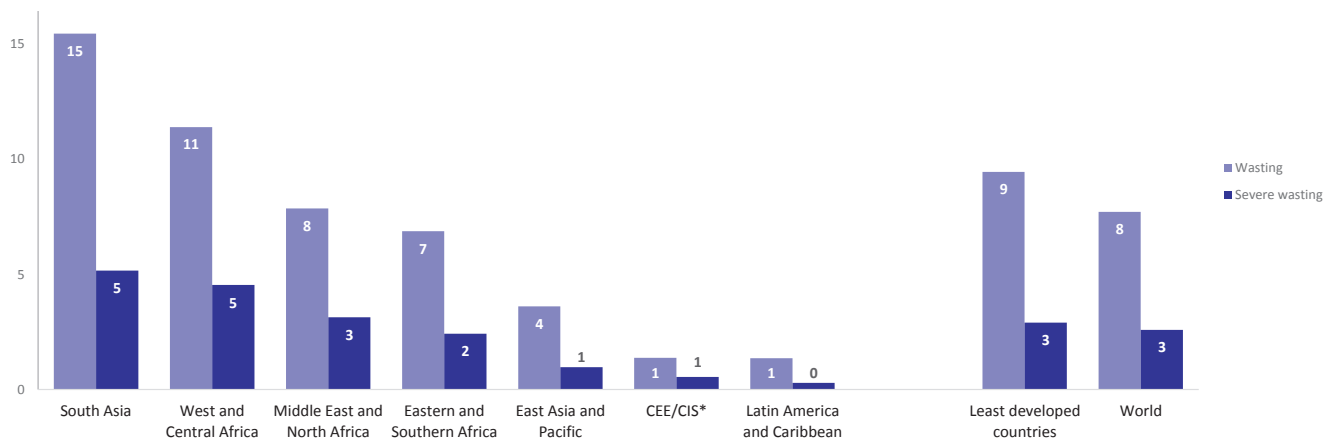


Note: This map is stylized and not to scale. It does not reflect a position by UNICEF on the legal status of any country or territory or the delimitation of any frontiers. The dotted line between Jammu and Kashmir represents approximately the Line of Control agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the Parties. The final boundary between the Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.

Source: UNICEF Global Nutrition Database, 2014, based on Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS), Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) and other national surveys.

Figure 2: Prevalence of wasting is high in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa

Percentage of children under five who are wasted and severely wasted, by region, in 2013



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

Source: United Nations Children's Fund, World Health Organization, The World Bank. UNICEF-WHO-World Bank Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates, 2014.

For more information

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¹ United Nations Children's Fund, 'Improving Child Nutrition: The achievable imperative for global progress' UNICEF, 2013.

² United Nations Children's Fund, World Health Organization, The World Bank, UNICEF-WHO-World Bank Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates, 2014.

³ Black, Robert E., Cesar G. Victora, Susan P. Walker, Zulfiqar A. Bhutta, Parul Christian, Mercedes De Onis, Majid Ezzati et al. "Maternal and child undernutrition and overweight in low-income and middle-income countries." *The Lancet* 382, no. 9890 (2013): 427-451.

⁴ Adair, Linda S., Caroline HD Fall, Clive Osmond, Aryeh D. Stein, Reynaldo Martorell, Manuel Ramirez-Zea, Harshpal Singh Sachdev et al. "Associations of linear growth and relative weight gain during early life with adult health and human capital in countries of low and middle income: findings from five birth cohort studies." *The Lancet* 382, no. 9891 (2013): 525-534.

⁵ Bhutta, Zulfiqar A., Jai K. Das, Arjumand Rizvi, Michelle F. Gaffey, Neff Walker, Susan Horton, Patrick Webb, Anna Lartey, and Robert E. Black. "Evidence-based interventions for improvement of maternal and child nutrition: what can be done and at what cost?" *The Lancet* 382, no. 9890 (2013): 452-477.

⁶ Copenhagen Consensus (2012) Expert panel findings, Copenhagen Consensus Center, 2012.

⁷ State of the SUN Movement Progress Report (September 2013). Scaling Up Nutrition Movement Secretariat. 2013.

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ISSUE BRIEF: Breastfeeding



Why Breastfeeding is a Critical Component of the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Breastfeeding is a cornerstone of child survival, nutrition and early childhood development. Breastfeeding not only provides children with the best start in life, it also benefits maternal health, protects against non-communicable diseases and contributes to environmental sustainability. Yet the world has made slow progress in raising the global breastfeeding rate since 1990. Improvements in breastfeeding rates are critical to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals and require urgent action.

Breastfeeding protects against childhood illness, death and non-communicable disease

Breastfeeding prevents malnutrition and gives children the best start in life whether the child is born in a high-income or low-income country, and to a rich family or a poor one. Suboptimum breastfeeding results in more than 800,000 child deaths annually.¹ Breastfeeding in the first hour of life reduces the risk of dying in the first month by almost 20 per cent.^{2,3} Breastfeeding also improves long-term health, decreasing the risk of non-communicable diseases, including asthma, obesity, diabetes and heart disease.^{4,5,6}

Breastfeeding is essential for early childhood development

It supports healthy brain development which is especially vital in the first years of life considering that neurons form new connections at the astounding rate of 700-1000 per second, a pace that is not repeated again.⁷ Breastfeeding supports long term education benefits as well, including increased I.Q. scores and better school performance.^{8,9}

Breastfeeding protects maternal health

Breastfeeding improves birth spacing and reduces the risk of postpartum hemorrhage.¹⁰ Women who breastfeed have a decreased risk of breast and ovarian cancers^{11,12} and some cardiovascular diseases.¹³

Breastfeeding contributes to environmental sustainability

Breastfeeding is a natural and renewable food that involves no packaging, transportation or fuel to prepare and therefore contributes to environmental sustainability.^{14,15}

Breastfeeding reduces inequities

Breastfeeding interventions can reach populations with limited access to health systems and infrastructure, thus mitigating inequities in access to health services.¹⁶

The majority of infants are not optimally breastfed

Despite the importance of breastfeeding, only 43% of the world's newborns are put to the breast within one hour of birth. And **globally, less than 40 per cent of children under six months of age are exclusively breastfed**—that is, fed only breastmilk with no additional foods or liquids, including water. Rapid progress is possible however, and as shown in Figure 2, some countries have dramatically raised breastfeeding rates, even in the poorest communities. Mothers and families should be empowered, enabled and supported to optimally breastfeed their children.

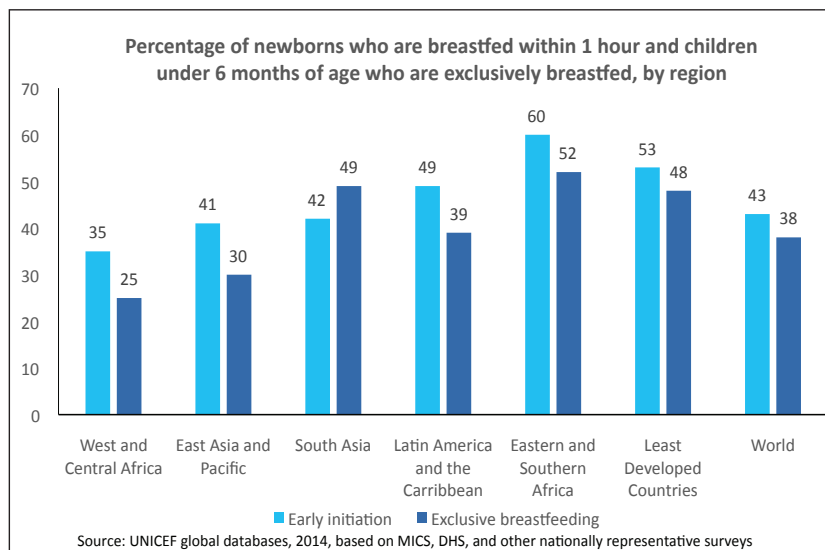
Recommended targets

The World Health Assembly target for breastfeeding* is:

- Increase the rate of exclusive breastfeeding in the first 6 months to at least 50% by 2025.

For 2030, a further aspirational and ambitious breastfeeding target should be set.

Figure 1: Early initiation and exclusive breastfeeding: much more can be done



Percentage of infants under the age of six months who are exclusively breastfed at two points in time in selected countries

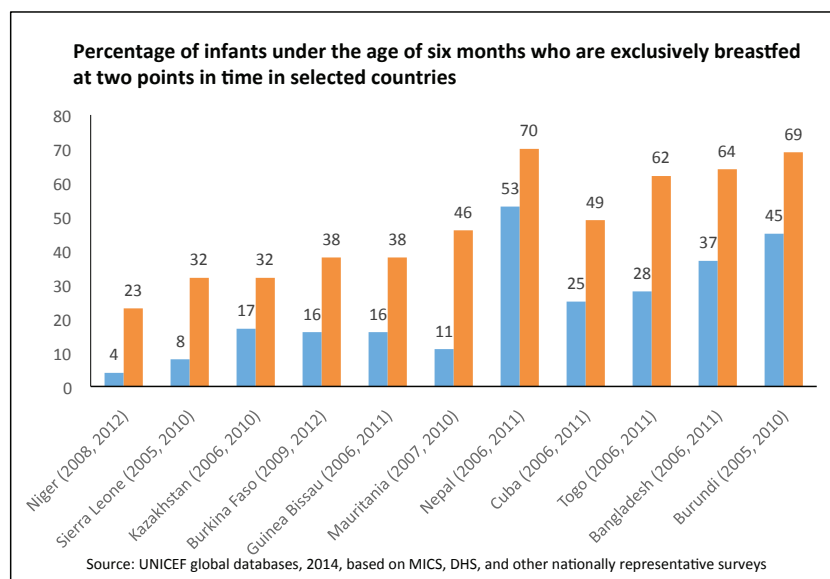


Figure 2: Examples of countries making rapid and significant progress in exclusive breastfeeding rates during five consecutive years

For more information on Post-2015

Please see UNICEF's webpage on Children and the Post-2015 Development Agenda: <http://www.unicef.org/post2015/>

* There are six World Health Assembly targets for maternal, infant and child nutrition which are, by 2025: 1) 40% reduction in the number of children under 5 who are stunted; 2) 50% reduction of anemia in woman of reproductive age; 3) 40% reduction in low birth weight; 4) No increase in child overweight; 5) Increase the rate of exclusive breastfeeding in the first six months up to at least 50%; and 6) Reduce and maintain child wasting to less than 5%.

¹ Black et al., 'Maternal and Child Undernutrition and Overweight in LICs and MICs,' *Lancet*, 2013.

² Edmond et al., 'Delayed Breastfeeding...Increases Risk of Neonatal Mortality,' *Pediatrics*, 2006.

³ Debes et al., '... Initiation of Breastfeeding and Neonatal Mortality and Morbidity,' *BMC Public Health*, 2013.

⁴ Grummer-Strawn, L., & Mei, Z., 'Does Breastfeeding Protect Against Pediatric Overweight...' *Pediatrics*, 2004.

⁵ Jones et al., 'Pre-natal and Early Life Risk Factors for Childhood Onset Diabetes ...' *Int J Epidemiol*, 1998.

⁶ Janet et al., 'Breastfeeding during Infancy and...Cardiovascular Disease in Adulthood,' *Epidemiology*, 2004.

⁷ Knudsen, E.J. (2004). Sensitive periods in the development of the brain and behavior. *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*, 16, 1412-1425.

⁸ Eidelman et al., 'Positive Effect of Human Milk on...Development of Premature Infants, 2004.

⁹ Heikkilä et al., 'Breastfeeding and Educational Achievement at Age 5,' *Maternal and Child Nutrition*, 2014.

¹⁰ Sobhy S.I., et al. Egypt Public Health Association, 2004.

¹¹ Whittemore et al. 'Collaborative Ovarian Cancer Group...' *American Journal of Epidemiology*, 1992.

¹² Collaborative Group on Hormonal Factors in Breast Cancer, *Lancet*, 2002.

¹³ Lobbok, 'Effects of Breastfeeding on the Mother,' *Pediatric Clinic North America*, 2001.

¹⁴ La Leche League International, 'The Womanly Art of Breastfeeding,' 1995.

¹⁵ World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action/International Baby Food Action Network, WABA/IBFAN, 2012.

¹⁶ Roberts et al. 'Can Breastfeeding promote child equity?' *BMC Medicine*, 2013.

A POST-2015 WORLD FIT FOR CHILDREN

ISSUE BRIEF: Early Childhood Development – The Foundation for Sustainable Development



Why Early Childhood Development is a critical component of the Post-2015 Development Agenda

In the first years of life, neurons in human brains form new connections at the astounding rate of 700-1000 per second, a pace that is not repeated again.¹ Therefore, a child's first few years are an unprecedented opportunity in life to ensure early childhood development (ECD) practices and programs set the foundation for life-long thriving. Investing in early childhood development is one of the most critical and cost-effective ways to improve adult health, education and productivity. It also empowers women, reduces violence, promotes environmental sensitivity, and can break the cycle of poverty to create a more sustainable and prosperous world.

Disadvantage and lack of opportunity in this foundational period early in life are accentuated over the lifecycle, and persist throughout adulthood, with serious human, social and economic consequences for both individuals and their societies.

Over 200 million children under 5 years of age in low-income and middle-income countries – and increasing numbers in OECD countries and emerging economies – will face inequalities and not reach their full developmental potential² because they grow up facing a broad range of risk factors, most notably poverty; poor health including HIV/AIDS and malnutrition; high levels of family and environmental stress and exposure to violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation, and inadequate levels of care and learning opportunities. This includes risks that result from emergencies related to conflict, climate change and global demographic shifts through migration and urbanisation.

Therefore, effective ECD requires multidimensional governmental, societal, and familial resources and attention. Due to the role families and particularly mothers have in ECD, the Post-2015 Development Agenda must not ignore the need for there to be an increase in the proportion of children experiencing positive, responsive, sensitive and nurturing childrearing practices in safe and peaceful home environments. Families need to know about the importance of early nutrition, care and stimulation, when to bring a child to a doctor; to not physically punish a child; to recognize the significance of quality early learning programmes, and more.

Suggested Targets

1. Ensure free and universal birth registration of children under 5
2. Increase exclusive breastfeeding rates in the first 6 months of life up to at least 50% by 2025
3. By 2030 end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving by 2025 the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, and older persons
4. By 2030 end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases, and other communicable diseases
5. By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys are ready for primary school through participation in quality early childhood development, care and education, including at least one year of pre-primary education

6. By 2030, achieve universal access to basic drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene for households, schools and health facilities
7. Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies, and the promotion of

shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate

8. Reduce rate of violent injuries and related deaths of boys and girls by x%
9. By 2030 build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations, and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters

ECD SNAPSHOT

Figure 1: Measuring ECD through the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) – in particular the Early Childhood Development Index (ECDI) reveals inequalities between wealth quintiles.

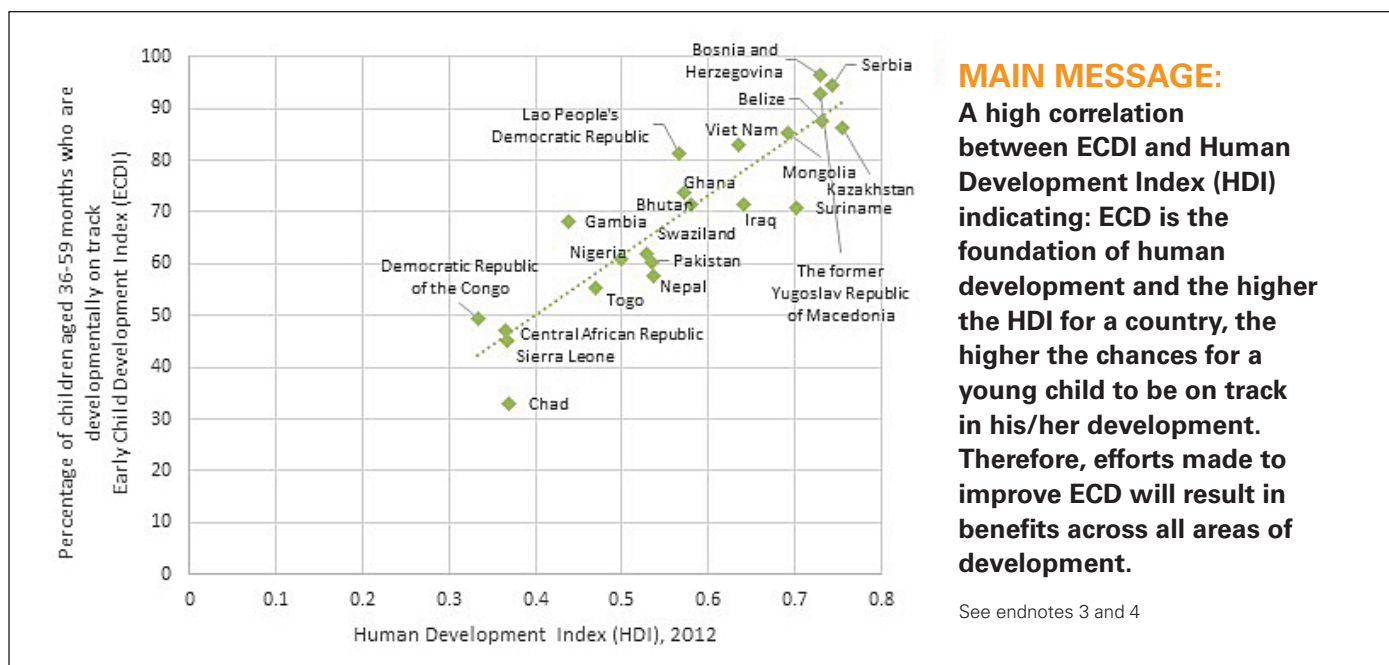
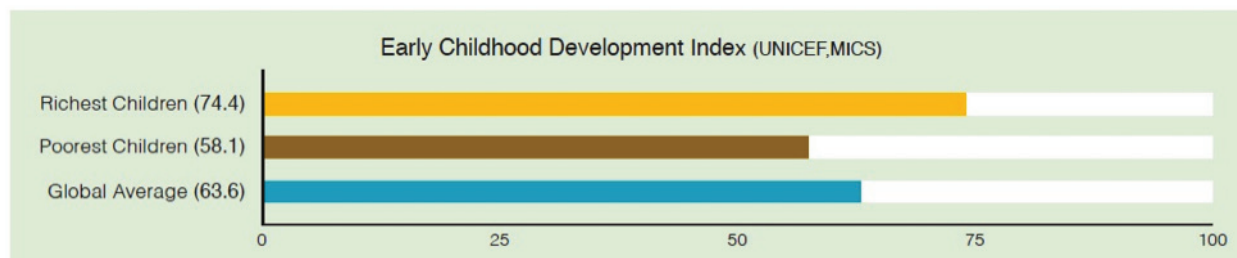


Figure 2: Early Childhood Development Index



For more information on Post-2015

Please see UNICEF's webpage on Children and the Post-2015 Development Agenda: <http://www.unicef.org/post2015/>

For more information on programmatic work in ECD

Please Email: championsforecd@unicef.org or visit www.unicef.org/earlychildhood/

¹ Britto, P.; *Brain development in children: the impact of adversity*; UNICEF Connect Blog; 15 April 2014 <http://blogs.unicef.org/2014/04/15/brain-development-in-children-the-impact-of-adversity/>

² UNICEF, *Inequities in Early Childhood Development: What the Data Say, 2012* http://www.unicef.org/publications/files/Inequities_in_Early_Childhood_Development_LoRes_PDF_EN_02082012.pdf

³ **Notes:** Data for Nepal are not nationally representative but refer only to the mid- and far Western regions of the country. Data for Pakistan are not nationally representative but refer only to Balochistan province. The Early Child Development Index (ECDI) refers to the percentage of children aged 36 to 59 months who are developmentally on track in at least three of the following domains: literacy-numeracy, physical, social-emotional and learning. The Human Development Index (HDI) is a composite index measuring average achievement in three basic dimensions of human development: 1) a long and healthy life; 2) knowledge and; 3) a decent standard of living. The cut-off points are HDI of less than 0.550 for low human development, 0.550–0.699 for medium human development, 0.700–0.799 for high human development and 0.800 or greater for very high human development.

⁴ **Source:** Estimates for the HDI are from: Human Development Report Office calculations, based on data from UNDESA, Barro and Lee, UNESCO Institute for Statistics, United Nations Statistics Division, World Bank and IMF, as cited in: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), *Human Development Report 2014*, UNDP, New York, 2014. Estimates for the ECDI are from: UNICEF global databases, 2014, based on MICS, 2010–2012.

A POST-2015 WORLD FIT FOR CHILDREN

ISSUE BRIEF: Child Survival and Healthy Development



Why ensuring child survival and healthy development is a critical component of the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Ending preventable newborn and child deaths is achievable within a generation

The era of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) has resulted in dramatic and unprecedented progress in reducing child deaths. Compared to 1990, 6.4 million fewer children under-five years old died globally in 2013¹ as a result of more effective and affordable treatments, innovative ways of delivering critical interventions to the poor and excluded, and sustained political commitment – as well as improvements in nutrition and education. Overall, vital child survival interventions have saved more than 99 million lives in the past two decades.¹ Maternal deaths have also decreased by 45 per cent during this time period.² These gains represent tremendous reductions in human suffering, but also substantial economic gains. For example between 2000 and 2011, about 24 per cent of full income growth in low-income and middle-income countries resulted from health improvement.³

Despite these gains, however, most recent data show that over 17,000 children still die each day before their fifth birthday¹ from often preventable causes such as pneumonia, diarrhea, malaria and complications and infections during the newborn period. Forty-four per cent of under-five deaths now occur in the first month of life. Additionally, approximately 800 women still die each day from complications in pregnancy or during child birth.² The necessary knowledge and technology exists to ensure that no child should die of preventable causes and no mother should die giving life through childbirth. Modelling work commissioned by UNICEF and partners,⁴ and corroborated by two other independent groups,^{3,5} confirms that reducing child mortality in every country to levels associated with high-income countries is feasible by 2030.

How to include child survival and healthy development in the Post-2015 goals and targets

Explicitly include ending preventable newborn and child deaths in the Post-2015 Agenda

There is a historic opportunity to see a convergence in child mortality rates so that children reach their fifth birthday regardless of their country of birth. The Post-2015 Development Agenda should make an explicit commitment towards ending preventable newborn and child deaths, and reducing maternal mortality, with clear and explicit numerical targets.

Prioritize the poorest children across all goals to meet the new goals with equity

It is widely recognized that equity was not adequately incorporated in the MDGs. To address this, it is crucial to have a specific focus on the poorest children across all goal areas. To do this requires consistent monitoring of disaggregated data to assess progress of the poorest children and other marginalized groups across all goals and targets.

Suggested Health Targets

- By 2030, end preventable newborn deaths by reducing, in all countries, the newborn mortality rate to 12 or less deaths per 1000 live births
- By 2030, end preventable child deaths by reducing, in all countries, the under-five mortality rate to 25 or less deaths per 1000 live births
- By 2030, end preventable maternal deaths by reducing the global maternal mortality ratio (MMR) to less than 70 per 100,000 live births
- By 2030 end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases, and other communicable diseases*
- Achieve universal health coverage (UHC), including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health care services, and access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all*
- By 2030 ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes*

** To maximise the effectiveness and contribution of the targets in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, UNICEF supports the OWG targets related to health for children, but recommends the inclusion of timelines and measurable numerical targets where these are lacking.*

Suggested Nutrition, WASH and ECD Targets

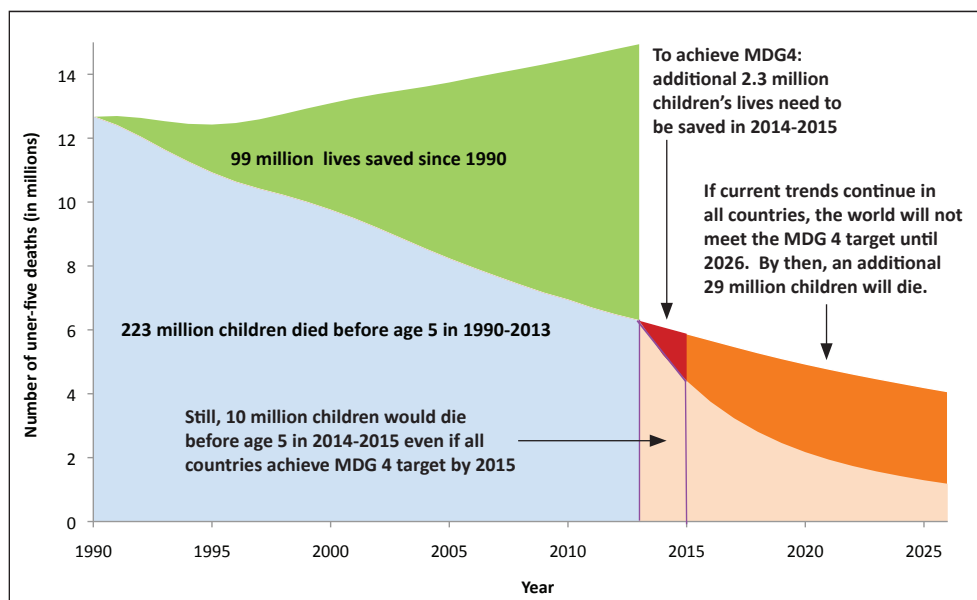
The health of children is inextricably linked to having access to nutritious food, appropriate maternal and childcare practices, early childhood development, clean water, and proper sanitation and hygiene. In addition to the health-related targets, the following must also be included as they are equally essential to ensuring child survival and healthy development. The nutrition targets for the new SDGs should be derived from the World Health Assembly (2012) targets for maternal, infant and child nutrition.

- By 2025, 40% reduction in the number of children under-five who are stunted
- By 2025, 50% reduction of anemia in women of reproductive age
- By 2025, 30% reduction in low birth weight
- By 2025, no increase in children overweight
- By 2025, increase the rate of exclusive breastfeeding in the first 6 months up to at least 50%
- By 2025, reduce and maintain childhood wasting to less than 5%
- By 2030, eliminate open defecation
- By 2030, achieve universal access to basic drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene for households, schools and health facilities
- By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys are ready for primary school through participation in quality early childhood development, care and education, including at least one year of pre-primary education

CHILD HEALTH DATA SNAPSHOT

Figure 1: Number of lives saved and to be saved among children under age 5

Progress in improving child survival has saved 99 million children's lives since 1990; additional 2.3 million children will be saved if all countries were to meet MDG 4 on time



For more information on Post-2015

Please see UNICEF's webpage on Children and the Post-2015 Development Agenda: <http://www.unicef.org/post2015/>

¹ United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation, *Levels and trends in child mortality: Report 2014*, UNICEF, 2014.

² WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank, United Nations Population Division, *Trends in maternal mortality: 1990 to 2013*, 2014.

³ Jamison DT, Summers LH, Alleyne G, et al, *Global health 2035: a world converging within a generation*, Lancet 2013; 382: 1898–955.

⁴ Glass RI, Guttmacher AE, Black RE, *Ending preventable child death in a generation*, JAMA 2012; 308: 141–2.

⁵ Norheim OF, Jha P, Admasu K, et al, *Avoiding 40% of the premature deaths in each country, 2010-30: review of national mortality trends to help quantify the UN Sustainable Development Goal for health*, Lancet 2014, published online Sept 18.

A POST-2015 WORLD FIT FOR CHILDREN

ISSUE BRIEF: Achieving an AIDS Free Generation



Why an AIDS Free Generation is a critical component of the Post-2015 Development Agenda

HIV and AIDS is disproportionately a heavy burden on the world's children and adolescents. Although the annual number of AIDS-related deaths worldwide fell by 35% from 2005 to 2013, deaths among adolescents (ages 10–19) living with HIV have sharply risen, increasing by 50% from 2005 to 2012. In 2012, there were an estimated 300,000 adolescents (aged 15–19) newly infected with HIV, of which 65% were girls.¹ AIDS remains the second leading cause of death among adolescents globally and the leading cause of death among adolescents in sub-Saharan Africa.² Even with continued progress in prevention of mother-to-child transmission, WHO and UNICEF project that 1.9 million children will require HIV treatment in 2020. Globally, an estimated 34 million people were living with HIV in 2012; and over 39 million people have died from the disease since the beginning of the epidemic. In order to achieve an AIDS Free Generation, the prospects for children and adolescents vulnerable to and living with HIV must improve.

Significant gaps in the global HIV/AIDS response for children and adolescents persist, jeopardizing prior gains and necessary progress to end the epidemic. In 2013, while 37% of adults living with HIV worldwide received antiretroviral therapy, only 24% of children living with HIV obtained HIV treatment. Infants who acquire HIV face a 50% chance of dying before their second birthday if they do not receive treatment.³

Global health is contingent on achieving an AIDS Free Generation – a generation of children and adolescents free from HIV infections and HIV-related death and illness. To eradicate this threat and end the epidemic, children and adolescents living with HIV/AIDS must know of their status, receive sustained antiretroviral therapy, achieve viral suppression and be supported by their families and the communities in which they live.

In regard to HIV testing, treatment and follow-up services, adolescents face many challenges. A global consultation convened by UNICEF and UNAIDS on the adolescent treatment challenge found that children and adolescents often struggle with receiving and retaining health care with particular challenges experienced as adolescents transition from pediatric to adult services. Young people often have no access to comprehensive sexuality education and limited information regarding sexual and reproductive health and rights. In addition, age of medical consent laws can either improve, complicate or limit children and adolescent's access to HIV testing and appropriate follow-up services, especially the most marginalized, including adolescent males who have sex with other males, adolescents who inject drugs and adolescents who are sexually exploited/sell sex. Therefore, efforts need to be made to ensure that parents, guardians and caretakers enhance health services of young people as these policies intend.

The social movement around ending the AIDS epidemic has built a foundation for contributing to all health and development goals. Achieving an AIDS free generation will impact efforts to improve maternal health and child survival considering that HIV is the leading killer of women of reproductive age and a significant underlying cause of child morbidity and mortality in high HIV-burdened countries. Improved access to life-long HIV therapies has supported the development of supply chain systems, laboratories and

health information systems, which are essential components of a health care system. Communities of people living with and affected by HIV have formed the core of the AIDS response. The first chronic disease care models, driven by communities in many low- and middle-income countries, are being built and strengthened. Our efforts towards an AIDS Free Generation will secure the health of future generations. To sustainably achieve this, equity is vital. The world will not end the AIDS epidemic unless *all* communities affected by HIV have full and equitable access to treatment and other prevention and social protection services.

Suggested priority Open Working Group Targets*

- By 2030 end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases, and other communicable diseases

HIV AND AIDS DATA SNAPSHOT

Figure 1: 2014 Progress Report on the Global Plan: towards the elimination of new HIV infections among children by 2015 and keeping their mothers alive



Source: UNAIDS, 2014 *Progress Report on the Global Plan towards the elimination of new HIV infections among children by 2015 and keeping their mothers alive*, September 2014.

- Achieve universal health coverage (UHC), including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health care services, and access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all
- By 2030 ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes

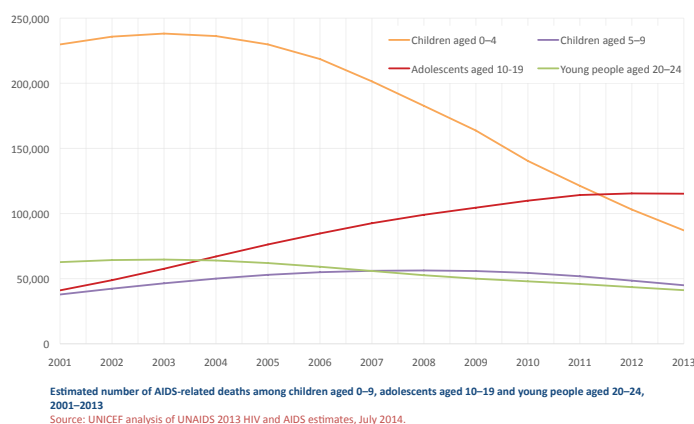
** To maximise the effectiveness and contribution of the targets in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, UNICEF supports the Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to health for children, but recommends the inclusion of timelines and measurable numerical targets where these are lacking.*

Additional Suggested Targets

In addition to the suggested targets derived from the OWG goals and targets, UNICEF, in collaboration with UNAIDS, suggests that we must strive to end adolescent AIDS by driving for the following 90-90-90 UNAIDS goals for children and adolescents:

- By 2020, 90% of all people living with HIV will know their HIV status
- By 2020, 90% of all people with diagnosed HIV infection will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy
- By 2020, 90% of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy will have viral suppression

Figure 2: AIDS-related deaths are declining rapidly for all age groups...except adolescents



Estimated number of AIDS-related deaths among children aged 0-9, adolescents aged 10-19 and young people aged 20-24, 2001-2013
Source: UNICEF analysis of UNAIDS 2013 HIV and AIDS estimates, July 2014.

For more information

Please see UNICEF's webpage on Children and the Post-2015 Development Agenda: <http://www.unicef.org/post2015/>

¹ UNAIDS 2012 HIV and AIDS estimates.

² World Health Organization, *Health for the world's adolescents*, WHO, 2014.

³ Newell ML et al. Mortality of infected and uninfected infants born to HIV-infected mothers in Africa: a pooled analysis. *Lancet*, 2004, 364:1236-43.

A POST-2015 WORLD FIT FOR CHILDREN

ISSUE BRIEF:

Protecting children from violence, exploitation and abuse



Why protecting children from violence, exploitation and abuse is a critical component of the Post-2015 Development Agenda

The vision, goals and objectives for the Post-2015 Agenda cannot be achieved unless children are living free from fear, protected from violence, exploitation and abuse. Protecting children saves lives and allows them to participate positively and contribute to creating the future world we want.

Universal and free birth registration of children under five

Nearly 230 million children worldwide¹ have not been registered at birth. Without a state-issued birth certificate, unregistered children can face obstacles throughout their lives and are far less able to claim the services and protections they deserve. Birth registration also serves a statistical purpose, essential for governments to plan and implement sustainable development policies.

Reduce rates of violent injuries and related deaths

UNICEF supports targeting violent injuries in addition to homicide, as a more comprehensive measure of the level of violence in society. Tracking the rate and incidence of violent injuries will help to reflect multiple forms of violence against children, not only those that result in death. Investing in the collection and aggregation of data on both injuries and death will provide critical information to help reduce violence against children and achieve sustainable development. Data can be collected from public health and other surveillance systems, as well as law enforcement and social welfare mechanisms.

Eliminate physical violence against children at home

Physical punishment at home is the most common form of violence children experience globally² taking forms such as hitting, kicking, shaking, beating, biting, burning, suffocating and strangulating. Children who experience violence are at risk of serious short- and long-term physical, psychological and social consequences, including illness, unwanted pregnancy, psychological distress, stigma and difficulties at school.³

Eliminate sexual violence against children

Violence against children is also expressed through sexual abuse, harassment, touching, incest, rape or exploitation in prostitution or pornography. Around 120 million girls under the age of 20 (about 1 in 10) have been subjected to forced sexual intercourse or other forced sexual acts at some point in their lives.⁴ Boys are also at risk, although a global estimate is unavailable due to the lack of comparable data in most countries.

Eliminate child labour and ensure the protection of the rights and safe working conditions of young workers

Child labour is largely driven by vulnerabilities caused by poverty, social exclusion and deprivation. It leads to serious consequences in children's health, including stunted growth, injuries and other lifelong disabilities.⁵ Eliminating child labour will have a positive influence on education, health and protection from violence.

Ensure universal access for children to independent justice systems that respect their rights and include child-friendly processes

Justice systems and processes must respect children's rights, be equipped to explain legal issues, afford children competent representation and take account of the best interest of the child.

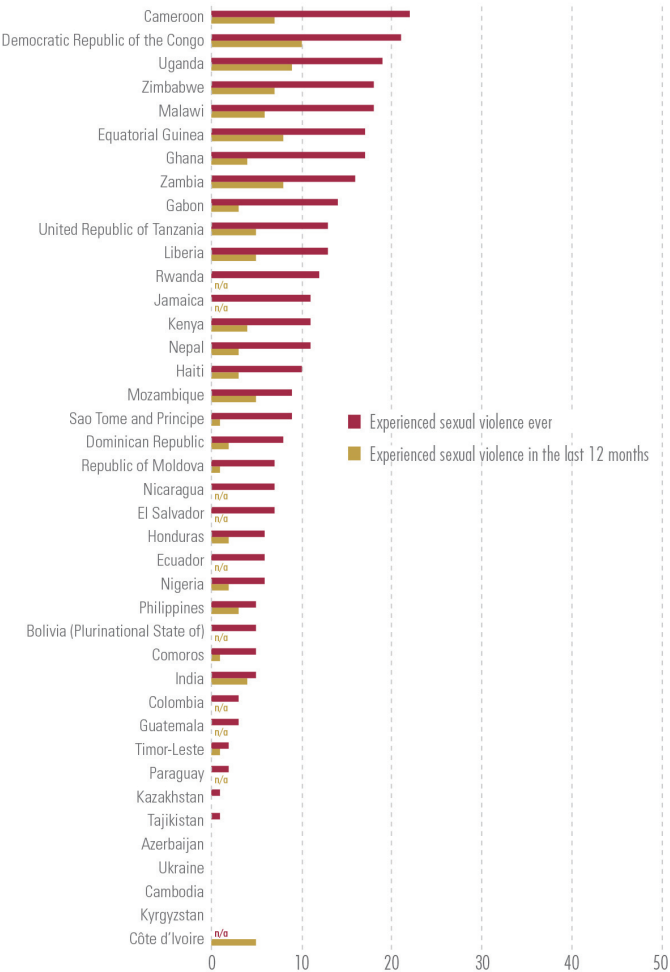
End child marriage

Worldwide, more than 700 million women alive today were married before their 18th birthday. More than one in three (about 250 million) entered into union before age 15.⁶

CHILD PROTECTION DATA SNAPSHOT

Figure 1: Forced sexual intercourse and other forms of sexual coercion are not uncommon in the lives of many girls

Percentage of girls aged 15 to 19 years (or otherwise noted) who ever experienced forced sexual intercourse or any other forced sexual acts (including in childhood), and percentage of girls aged 15 to 19 years (or otherwise noted) who experienced forced sexual intercourse or any other forced sexual acts in the last 12 months



Notes: Data on the proportions of girls who experienced forced sexual intercourse or any other forced sexual acts in the last 1 months are only available for a selection of countries. Data for Democratic Republic of the Congo refer to girls aged 18 to 19 years who experienced only forced sexual intercourse. Data for Côte d'Ivoire refer only to ever-married girls aged 15 to 19 years; there are no lifetime prevalence data available for the country. Data for the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Ecuador include only forced sexual intercourse. In El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Paraguay, sexual violence committed by a spouse or partner among ever-married girls included forced sexual intercourse or agreeing to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to for fear of what their partner might do, sexual violence committed by anyone among all girls and women included only forced sexual intercourse. Data for Colombia include only girls raped by someone other than a spouse or partner. Data for Jamaica refer to girls and women aged 15 to 24 years who experienced only forced sexual intercourse. Zeros appearing in the figure do not necessarily mean that there were no victims of sexual violence in these countries but rather that the estimates came to 0 after rounding.

Source: UNICEF global database, 2014, based on DHS, MICS and other nationally representative surveys, 2004-2013.

Child marriage hinders human progress by perpetuating deprivation, inequality and disadvantage across generations. Child marriage is associated with early pregnancies, poor sexual and reproductive health, higher maternal and infant mortality rates and lower education levels for girls.⁷

Suggested targets

- By 2030 provide legal identity for all including free birth registration
- Significantly reduce all forms of violence, violent injuries and related death rates everywhere
- End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children
- Eliminate all forms of violence against all women, girls and boys in public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation
- Take immediate and effective measures to secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, eradicate forced labour, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms including recruitment and use of child soldiers
- Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and ensure universal and equal access to independent justice systems that include child-friendly processes
- Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilations

Figure 2: Universal and free birth registration

Globally, the births of nearly 230 million children under the age of five have never been recorded

Percentage of children under age five whose births are registered and number of children under age five whose births are not registered, by region

	Percentage of children whose births are registered	Number of children whose births are not registered
CEE/CIS	98	700,000
Latin America and the Caribbean	92	4 million
Middle East and North Africa	87	6 million
East Asia and the Pacific	-	32 million
Sub-Saharan Africa	44	85 million
Eastern and Southern Africa	38	44 million
West and Central Africa	47	39 million
South Asia	39	103 million
Least developed countries	38	81 million
World	65	229 million

Notes: Estimates are based on a subset of 159 countries covering 83 per cent of the global population of children under age five. Regional estimates represent data from countries covering at least half of the regional population. Data coverage was insufficient to calculate the percentage of children under age five whose births are registered in East Asia and the Pacific because comparable data on birth registration are not available for China. Sources: UNICEF global databases, 2013. Based on DHS, MICS, other national household surveys, censuses and vital registration systems, 2005-2012. Data for industrialized countries and the Russian Federation are from: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population and Vital Statistics Report, Statistical Papers, Series A, Vol. LXV, Statistics Division, United Nations, New York, 2013.

For more information

Please see UNICEF's webpage on Children and the Post-2015 Development Agenda: <http://www.unicef.org/post2015/>

¹ United Nations Children's Fund, *Every Child's Birth Right: Inequities and trends in birth registration*, UNICEF, 2013.
² United Nations Children's Fund, *Child Disciplinary Practices at Home*, UNICEF, 2010.
³ United Nations Children's Fund, *Hidden in Plain Sight: A statistical analysis of violence against children*, UNICEF, 2014.
⁴ United Nations Children's Fund, *UNICEF Data: Monitoring the Situation of Children and Women*, Retrieved 30 October 2014: <http://data.unicef.org/child-protection/sexual-violence>
⁵ United Nations Children's Fund, *State of the World's Children: Adolescence an Age of Opportunity*, UNICEF, 2011.
⁶ United Nations Children's Fund, *Ending Child Marriage: Progress and Prospects*, UNICEF, 2014.
⁷ Walker, J.A. *Early Marriage in Africa: Trends, Harmful Effects, and Interventions*, African Journal of Reproductive Health, Volume 16, Number 2, 2012.

A POST-2015 WORLD FIT FOR CHILDREN

ISSUE BRIEF: Equitable and Inclusive Quality Education and Lifelong Learning for All



Why equitable and inclusive quality education and lifelong learning for all are critical to the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Over the last decade, there has been significant progress in expanding access to primary education (MDG 2) and gender parity (MDG 3) with 50 million additional children in school than in 2000, many of whom are girls. However, enormous challenges remain. In 2012, 58 million children of primary school age and 63 million children of lower secondary school age were out of school,¹ over half of whom were girls and over 28 million of whom lived in conflict-affected areas.² Even for those in school, at least 250 million primary school age children were not learning basic skills.³ A 2014 UNESCO reports the number of illiterate adults remains stubbornly high at 774 million⁴ and disparities in both enrollment and achievement persist for children with disabilities⁵ and children from indigenous and other vulnerable groups.⁶

The benefits from investments in education are tremendous and well-documented; they include greater economic growth, improved public health and more resilient and peaceful societies. Education also contributes to reducing inequalities and eradicating poverty, while supporting the expansion of more just, inclusive and sustainable societies. For the last child to learn, education in the Post-2015 Development Agenda must focus on:

- **Equity:** disaggregating results to prioritize the most poor and vulnerable children, youth and adults.
- **Expanding access:** giving all children the skills, competencies, knowledge and values necessary to lead healthy and productive lives through early childhood, basic and secondary education and beyond.
- **Learning:** ensuring success is not defined solely by enrollment rates but also by what a child learns.
- **Enablers:** enabling learning with safe and adequate environments and well-trained teachers.

Education goals and targets for the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Extensive discussions among United Nations Member States, UN organizations and civil society have resulted in two proposals for education goals and targets: one from the inter governmental *Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals*⁷ and the other from the *Global Education for All Muscat Agreement*.⁸ While continued effort is needed to completely align these two proposals, they share a common vision for inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all. As the intergovernmental negotiations unfold over the next several months, UNESCO and UNICEF, alongside partners, will be working with the education community towards a single global education goal in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, '*Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all*', supported by a framework for action that includes relevant and measurable targets and indicators.

Achieving the targets will require a strong commitment by both governments and donors to allocate adequate, equitable and efficient financing to education. This is essential for ensuring all learners are taught by qualified,

professionally-trained, motivated and well-supported teachers and that education facilities are child-, disability- and gender-sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.

EDUCATION DATA SNAPSHOT

Figure 1: Number of out-of-school children of primary school age by region and sex, 2000-2012

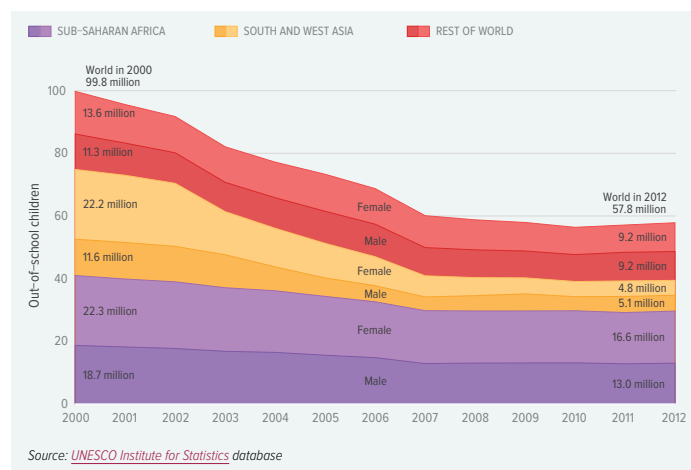
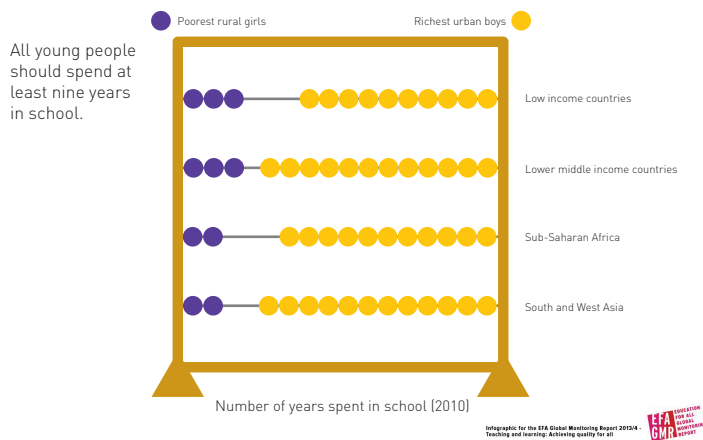


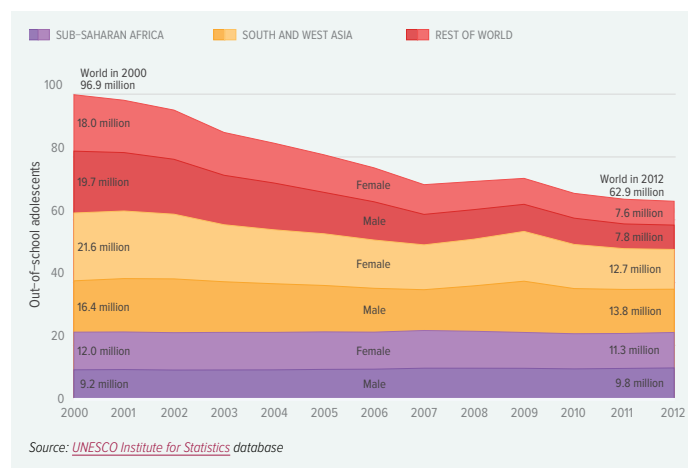
Figure 2: Currently only the richest urban boys spend at least nine years in school



Suggested Targets⁹

- By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys are ready for primary school through participation in quality early childhood development, care and education, including at least one year of pre-primary education
- By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes
- By 2030 ensure equal access for all women and men to quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, and have relevant skills for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship
- By 2030, all youth and adults reach a proficiency level in literacy and numeracy sufficient to fully participate in society
- By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and children in vulnerable situations

Figure 3: Number of out-of-school adolescents of lower secondary school age by region and sex, 2000-2012



For more information on Education and the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Please email: Jordan Naidoo, Senior Education Advisor, jnaidoo@unicef.org or Morgan Strecker, Education Specialist, mstrecker@unicef.org

For more on UNICEF's position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Please see: <http://www.unicef.org/post2015/>

¹ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Institute for Statistics (UIS), *Out of School Children*, UNESCO, 2014, Retrieved 30 October 2014: <http://www.uis.unesco.org/Education/Pages/oosc-2014-progress-stalled-on-reaching-upe.aspx>.

² *Out of School Children*, UNESCO, 2014.

³ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *EFA Global Monitoring Report 2013/14: Teaching and Learning: Achieving Quality for All*, UNESCO, January 2014.

⁴ *Out of School Children*, UNESCO, 2014.

⁵ United Nations Children's Fund, *The State of the World's Children 2013: Children with Disabilities*, UNICEF, May 2013.

⁶ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and United Nations Children's Fund, *The Rights of Indigenous Children*, Challenges Newsletter, Number 14, September 2012.

⁷ *Open Working Group proposal for Sustainable Development Goals*, Retrieved 30 October 2014: <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/focussdgs.html>.

⁸ 2014 Global Education for All Final Statement: The Muscat Agreement, Retrieved 30 October 2014: <http://www.uis.unesco.org/Education/Documents/muscat-agreement-2014.pdf>.

⁹ The targets proposed in this UNICEF document are reflective of UNICEF's mandate, and informed by and aligned with both the Muscat Agreement and the Report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals.

A POST-2015 WORLD FIT FOR CHILDREN

ISSUE BRIEF: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)



Why universal access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene is a critical component of the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Despite significant progress during the MDG era, 748 million people still lack access to improved drinking water sources, 2.5 billion lack access to improved sanitation and of these 1 billion still practise open defecation.¹ Inadequate drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) remains a leading cause of preventable diseases and deaths among children under 5 years of age globally.² Exposure to repeated WASH-related infections also contributes to stunting and prevents children from reaching their full potential.

The linkages between improvements in WASH and the achievement of targets related to poverty, health, nutrition, education, gender equality and sustainable economic growth are well established. Furthermore UN Member States have recognised the human rights to water and sanitation with the passage of a General Assembly resolution in 2010.³

The Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals called on Member States to aim for universal access to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, with a particular focus on women and girls. In addition, we recommend that Post-2015 WASH targets and indicators:

Include hygiene

Benefits associated with improved hygiene, and with washing hands in particular are well established. Post-2015 targets should reflect hygiene alongside drinking water and sanitation in order to maximise the impact on the health and wellbeing of children and their communities.

Go beyond the household

Universal access to water, sanitation and hygiene in homes remains the primary concern, but future targets should also prioritise WASH in settings beyond the household including schools and health facilities. A healthy and dignified school environment is conducive to keeping children in school – especially girls. Hand-washing with soap in birthing centers has proven to greatly reduce sepsis and tetanus.

Address safety and sustainability of services

In addition to extending access to unserved populations, targets should address the challenge of providing reliable supplies of safe drinking water and safely managed disposal of human waste and sustaining those services to ensure lasting benefits.

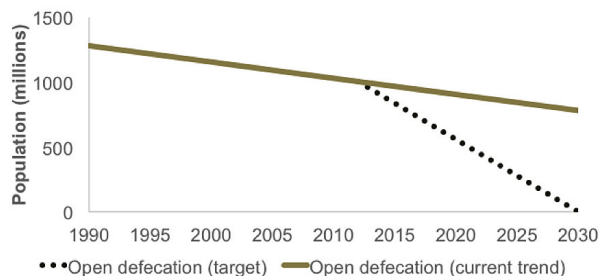
Eliminate inequalities and fulfil the promise of the Human Right to Water and Sanitation

Future targets must aim to progressively eliminate inequalities. Stratifiers of inequality can include sex, race, ethnicity, income, location, disability or any other form of discrimination or marginalisation. Future targets should also promote progressive improvements in the quality of services based on the human right to water and sanitation criteria: availability, safety, acceptability, accessibility and affordability.

Suggested targets for 2030:

1. Eliminate open defecation
2. Achieve universal access to basic drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene for households, schools and health facilities
3. Halve the proportion of the population without access at home to safely managed drinking water and sanitation services
4. Progressively eliminate inequalities in access

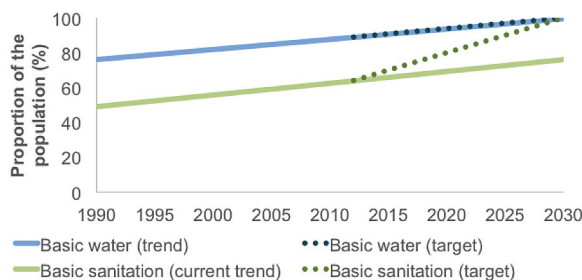
Target 1: Eliminate open defecation by 2030



One billion people still practised open defecation in 2012

In absolute terms the decline has been modest, from 1.3 to 1 billion between 1990 and 2012

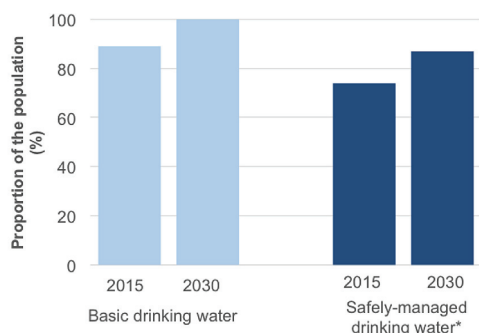
Target 2: Achieve universal access to basic drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene for households, schools and health facilities by 2030



Progress is on track to meet the basic drinking water target for all households by 2030.

Renewed efforts are required to achieve universal access to basic sanitation and hygiene by 2030.

Target 3: Halve the proportion of the population without access at home to safely managed drinking water and sanitation services by 2030

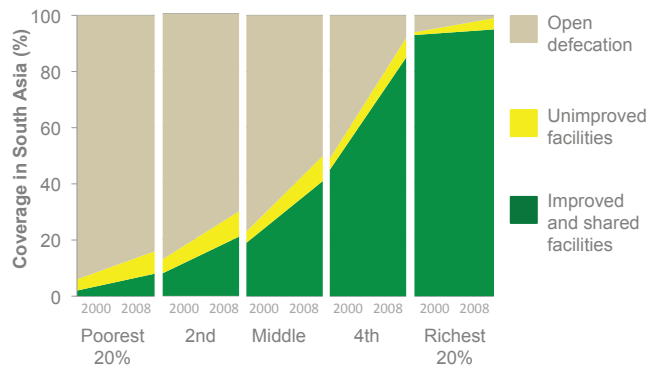


* Approximate based on estimates of the proportion of water sources contaminated

Unless carefully managed, basic drinking water and sanitation does not ensure safety

An estimated 1.8 billion people drink water containing evidence of faecal contamination.

Target 4: Progressively eliminate inequalities in access by 2030



* Figure reflects coverage data in South Asia

Despite progress, pronounced disparities persist in access to drinking water and sanitation such as between rich and poor in South Asia

To meet obligations under the human right to water and sanitation these disparities need to be monitored

For more information:

Please see UNICEF's webpage on Children and the Post-2015 Development Agenda: <http://www.unicef.org/post2015/>

¹ WHO and UNICEF, 'Progress on Drinking Water and Sanitation – 2014 Update.'

² WHO, 'Children: reducing mortality – Fact Sheet,' September 2014.

³ Resolution adopted by the General Assembly, 'The human right to water and sanitation', A/RES/64/292, 28 July 2010.

⁴ Bain, Robert, et al., 'Global assessment of exposure to faecal contamination through drinking water based on a systematic review', Tropical Medicine and International Health, Volume 19, Number 8, August 2014.

A POST-2015 WORLD FIT FOR CHILDREN

ISSUE BRIEF: Gender Equality and Girls' and Women's Empowerment



Why gender equality and girls' and women's empowerment is a critical component of the Post-2015 Development Agenda

To achieve the future we want, a world truly free from fear and want, it is essential to address one of the most fundamental inequalities that exists in all societies – gender inequality. Abundant evidence indicates that gender is amongst the strongest determinants of disparities in child well-being and rights. Advancing gender equality is therefore critical to realizing global development goals across all areas of the Post-2015 Agenda, from reducing poverty to promoting the health, education, protection and well-being of girls and boys and future generations.

Gender inequality affects both girls and boys, but in many cases girls are disproportionately disadvantaged

Inequalities faced by girls can begin right at birth. In some countries, often due to son preference and discrimination against girls, girls are deprived of access to health care or proper nutrition, leading to higher mortality for girls. As girls move into adolescence, gender disparities widen. For example, child marriage affects girls far more than boys. Globally, around 1 in 3, or approximately 70 million young women aged 20-24 in developing countries were married before the age of 18, with one third of them marrying under age 15.¹

In two-thirds of the countries in which there is gender disparity in lower secondary education, it is at the expense of girls.² Absence of private toilets, lack of access to sanitary pads and hygiene-related stigma when girls begin menstruating impact their education including disproportionately higher absenteeism rates among girls and deteriorating educational performance, thus decreasing their chances of entering and completing secondary school. Disadvantages in terms of education also translate into lack of access to skills and limited opportunities in the labour market for young women.

Furthermore, while violence affects both girls and boys, girls more often tend to be victims of sexual violence. Recent household surveys reveal that approximately 27-28% of females and 9-18% males have experienced sexual violence before age 18.³ In addition, girls are more likely to be newly infected with HIV: in 2012, there were an estimated 300,000 adolescents (aged 15-19) newly infected with HIV, of which 65 per cent were girls.⁴ These are areas in which targeted action is needed to address the particular issues girls face and the gender gaps between girls and boys.

Suggested Targets

- Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilations
- Eliminate all forms of violence against all women, girls and boys in public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation
- By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes

- By 2030, increase by x% the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship
- By 2030, ensure all learners acquire knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including among others through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship, and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development
- Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all
- By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases, and other communicable diseases



Women's rights impact children's rights

Around 800 women die each day due to the health risks related to child birth and pregnancy.⁵ In developing countries, more than one third of all girls aged 15 to 19 suffer from anaemia, which causes particular harm in pregnancy.⁶ Preventing maternal deaths and disability not only impacts the lives of mothers-to-be, but the survival of their children. Improving maternal health and nutrition, providing quality reproductive health services and supporting women in the care of their children are pivotal to protecting the rights of women and

children. In addition to supporting all gender-equality related targets from the OWG report, the following are of particular importance to children:

Suggested Targets

- By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births
- By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving by 2025 the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under five years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, and older persons
- Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies, and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate

Lack of access to safe water and sanitation affects whole households and communities, but with particular impacts on the lives of girls and women

Globally, more than 1 billion people still practice open defecation⁷ and lack of access to safe drinking water and sanitation continues to be a critical issue for households and communities around the world. For girls, this can mean less time for their education, as water hauling responsibilities often fall on them. Not having a safe place for their sanitation and hygiene needs also puts girls at greater risk of violence. Ensuring universal access to water, sanitation and hygiene and ending open defecation are critical to fulfilling girls' and women's rights, as well as those of their families and communities.

Suggested Targets

- By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all, and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations

For more information

Please see UNICEF's webpage on Children and the Post-2015 Development Agenda: <http://www.unicef.org/post2015/>

¹ United Nations Children's Fund, *The State of the World's Children 2014 in Numbers: Every Child Counts*, UNICEF, January 2014.

² United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2013/14: Teaching and Learning: Achieving quality for all – Gender Summary*, UNESCO, 2014.

³ UNICEF and Collaborating Centre for Operational Research and Evaluation (CCORE) (2013)

⁴ UNICEF analysis of UNAIDS 2012 HIV and AIDS estimates.

⁵ World Health Organization, *Trends in Maternal Mortality: 1990 to 2013. Estimates by WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, The World Bank and the United Nations Population Division*, WHO, 2014

⁶ United Nations Children's Fund, *Progress for Children: A report card on adolescents (No.10)*, UNICEF, April 2012.

⁷ World Health Organization, *Progress on Sanitation and Drinking-Water 2013 Update*, WHO and UNICEF, 2013.

A POST-2015 WORLD FIT FOR CHILDREN

ISSUE BRIEF: Strengthening Resilience through Disaster Risk Reduction



Why Disaster Risk Reduction is a critical component of the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Shocks – including disasters, armed conflict, epidemics, economic downturns and food price hikes – are increasing inequities, eroding rights and impeding sustainable development. Stresses – including violence, unplanned urbanization, rapid population growth, climate change and environmental degradation – are compounding vulnerability, reducing resilience and increasing the impact of shocks. Strengthening the resilience of children, families, communities and systems to shocks and stresses must be a priority for the Post-2015 Development Agenda, including through the new climate treaty¹ and the Post-2015 Disaster Risk Reduction Framework.²

Disasters negatively impact children's and women's rights, disproportionately affect poor countries and erode development gains. While disasters exacerbate existing vulnerabilities and inequalities, girls and boys also have unique capacities that contribute to preventing and reducing risk. As disasters are a function of hazard, vulnerability, exposure and capacity, they are both a humanitarian and a development concern. UNICEF underscores the need to strengthen local social services as an important means to enhance the resilience of children and communities.

Disasters and disaster risk are on the rise. The number of people affected globally by disasters has been increasing by an estimated 50,000 to 60,000 per decade since the early 1970s, with 250 million affected per year over the last decade.³ As the effects of climate change become more visible and extreme, they are adversely affecting the lives of children and adolescents all over the world. Over 99% of deaths already attributable to climate-related changes occur in developing countries – and children make up over 80% of those deaths.⁴

Suggested Target

- Build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations, with special attention to households, women, children and those with disabilities, and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters

Targets for the Post 2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

Given the close relationship between poverty and disaster risk, UNICEF advocates for the above target to sit within a poverty goal. In further advancing disaster risk reduction, UNICEF together with its partners, Save the Children, Plan International and World Vision is proposing the following tentative targets/indicators to be included in the Post 2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction or "Hyogo Framework 2" (HFA2):

- All targets under the HFA2 are achieved for all girls and boys of different age groups, ethnicity and abilities
- Increase access by the most vulnerable children and risk prone households to quality social services, including education, health,

WASH and protection, developed on the basis of an analysis of risk

- No child dies due to disaster in a school built after 2017 or modified after 2030

- The number of school days missed as a result of shocks or stresses is reduced by 50%
- The number of children living outside family care as a result of shocks and stresses is reduced by 50%
- Children and youth are supported to meaningfully participate in national and local level DRR and development planning processes

DRR DATA SNAPSHOT

Disaster Risks are Growing

Vulnerability remains intractable for billions of people

- 1.29 billion people living on less than US\$1.25 a day (2008)
- 1.15 billion people living in slums (2010)
- 925 million people undernourished (2010)

Exposure is Rapidly Increasing

- Population will increase from 7 to 9.3 billion by 2050
- Population living in urban areas will grow from 3.3 billion to 4.9 billion by 2030
- Developing countries will have 80% of the world's urban population by 2030

Natural Hazards are Global and Increasing Global Scale of Hazards

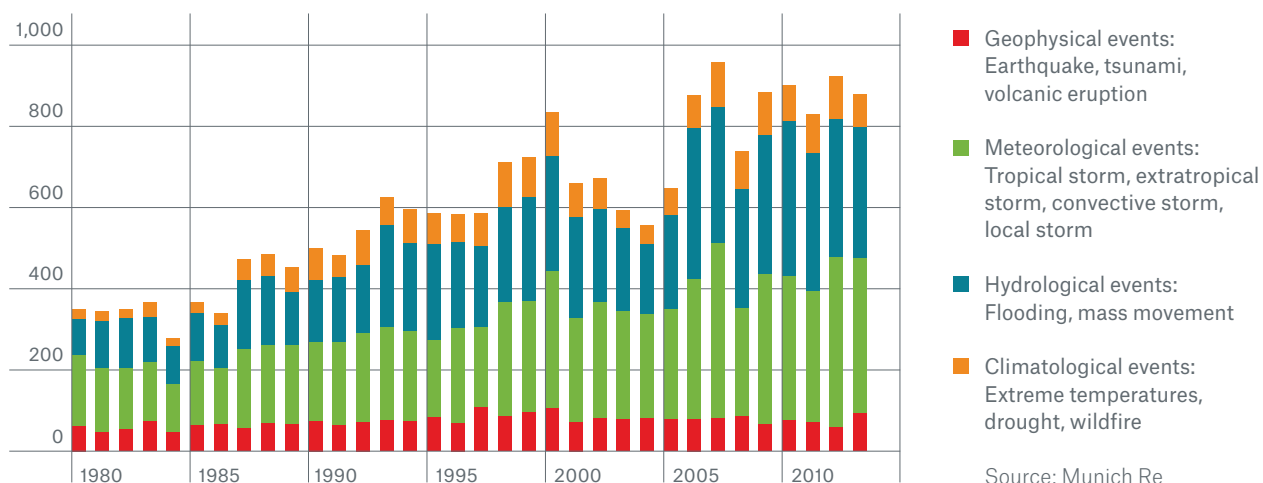
- 179 different countries saw natural hazards become disasters between 2006 and 2010

Climate Hazards Intensifying

- Climate is responsible for ¼ of all disaster events
- Over 99% of deaths already attributable to climate-related changes occur in developing countries – and children make up over 80% of those deaths

The IPCC Special Report on Extreme Events suggests climate change could result in "unprecedented extreme weather and climate events"

Figure 1 Number of loss events 1980–2013



For more information

Please see UNICEF's webpage on Children and the Post-2015 Development Agenda: <http://www.unicef.org/post2015/>

¹ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

² United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, *Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*.

³ Webster, Mackinnon et al. *The Humanitarian Costs of Climate Change*, Tufts University, December 2008.

⁴ Kumar, Sandhya, *Children Most Vulnerable to Climate Change*, UN Earth News, 22 April 2012.

A POST-2015 WORLD FIT FOR CHILDREN

ISSUE BRIEF: Environmental Sustainability



Why pursuing environmental sustainability for the realization of children's rights is a critical component of the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Climate change and environmental degradation are equity issues that undermine the rights of every child, especially the most disadvantaged. Children must be included as stakeholders of policy, programs and investments in environmental sustainability. Children are both agents of change and future decision makers, entrepreneurs, consumers, teachers and parents that will steer on environmental sustainability.

Greenhouse gas emissions. Excessive greenhouse gas emissions are the root cause of climate change, resulting in increasing temperatures, changes in patterns and amounts of precipitation, sea-level rise, and ocean acidification. These changes are impacting our economy, food supply, water resources, infrastructure, ecosystems and health. Current commitments made to reduce greenhouse emissions are unlikely sufficient to holding the increase in global average temperature below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, which is the globally agreed acceptable temperature increase. Therefore, the global community must rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and embark on low carbon economic development. This will have major implications for today's children and future generations. Children and young people must be empowered and actively involved in global and national policy dialogues and decision-making, as stakeholders and agents of change. Furthermore, the many children in developing countries that have little to no access to modern energy services must benefit from investments in sustainable energy to advance their health (e.g. reduce air pollution, ensure electricity at health clinics), education (e.g. safe lighting at home for studying) and protection (safe access to fuel).

Climate change impacts. Children, especially the most disadvantaged, are highly vulnerable to climate change impacts including heat waves, droughts and floods, which are increasing in incidence and frequency. Building programmes to develop policy, raise awareness, build institutional capacity and support communities to adapt to climate change and strengthen their resilience must prioritize the poorest and most marginalized children, families and communities who are disproportionately affected.¹ Such programmes must be a priority for the Post-2015 Development Agenda, including through the new climate treaty² and the Post-2015 Disaster Risk Reduction Framework.³

Environmental degradation. The most disadvantaged children are also the most likely to live in poor and continually degrading environments. Closely related to sustainable energy, every year approximately 534,000 and 127,000 deaths amongst children under five are attributable to household air pollution and to ambient air pollution respectively.⁴ Other issues of continuous concern to children's well-being and future are risks from chemicals, waste, polluted water, and the lack of green and clean areas for children to play safely, particularly in the context of population growth and increasing and urbanization.

Suggested priority Open Working Group targets

In strong support of the Open Working Group targets, we urge the global community to assure all girls and boys, especially the most disadvantaged,

will be firmly included and prioritized in these targets and subsequent indicators and actions to follow.

- Ensure universal access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy services
- Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning
- Improve education, awareness raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction, and early warning
- Promote mechanisms for raising capacities for effective climate change related, planning and management, in LDCs, including focusing on women, youth, local and marginalized communities
- Build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations [with special attention to households, women, children and those with disabilities], and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters
- By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination
- By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous

chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater, and increasing recycling and safe reuse by x% globally

- Provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, particularly for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities

Additional suggested targets for pursuing environmental sustainability for the realization of children's rights

In addition to the suggested targets derived from the Open Working Group goals and targets, UNICEF suggests the following:

- By 2030, the global community has taken action that is projected to hold the increase in global average temperature below 2°C above pre-industrial levels
- Investments in climate change adaptation and sustainable energy prioritize the most disadvantaged children
- Enable and actively involve children and young people in global and national policy dialogue and decision making, as stakeholders and agents of change

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY DATA SNAPSHOT

Figure 1: Actual change in average surface temperature (°C) for the period 1900-2010 plus projected change under scenario RCP 2.6* and RCP 8.5**

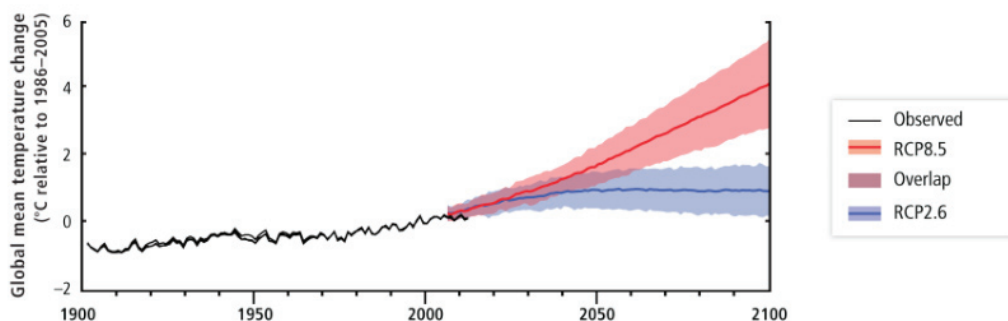
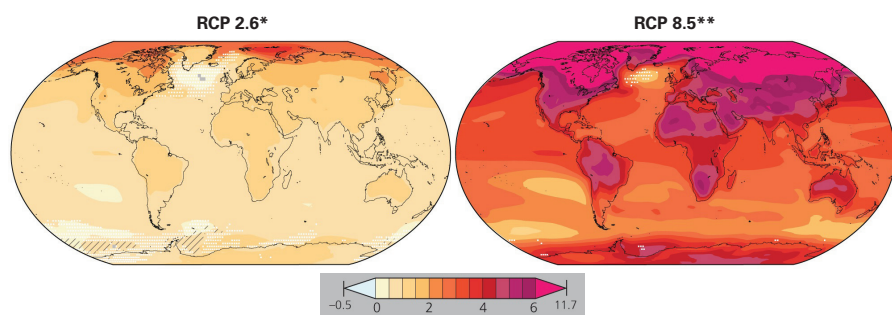


Figure 2: Projected change in average surface temperature (°C) for the period 2081-2100 relative to 1986-2005



Source: IPCC

*RCP (Representative Concentration Pathway) 2.6 assumes that global annual greenhouse gas emissions peak between 2010-2020, with emissions declining substantially thereafter. In other words, it represents a strong mitigation scenario.

**RCP 8.5 assumes that global annual greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise throughout the 21st century. In other words, it represents business as usual.

For more information on Post-2015

Please see UNICEF's webpage on Children and the Post-2015 Development Agenda: <http://www.unicef.org/post2015/>

¹ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation*, IPCC, 2012.

² United Nations *Framework Convention on Climate Change*.

³ United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, *Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*.

⁴ World Health Organization, *Burden of disease from Household Air Pollution*, WHO, 2012.