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2016
70 YEARS FOR EVERY CHILD

THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S CHILDREN 2016

A fair chance for every child

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report is the result of collaboration among many individuals and institutions. The editorial and research team thank all who gave so willingly of their time, expertise and energy, in particular:

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Thank you to Rachel Sabates-Wheeler and Jennifer Yablonski for the background paper, 'Social protection and child poverty: Evidence, practice, and gaps', and to Gonzalo Fanjul for the background paper 'Child poverty and inequality in rich countries'.

Thank you to Ravneet Ahluwalia and Vivek Kumar for their help with the Perspective essays.

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UNICEF country and regional offices and headquarters divisions contributed to this report by taking part in formal reviews or commenting on drafts. Many field offices and UNICEF national committees arranged to translate or adapt the report for local use.

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it's B. Blossoming.it Publication and graphic design
Soapbox, www.soapbox.co.uk Infographics on pages 3, 11, 42, 70 and 90.

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June 2016

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For the latest data, please visit data.unicef.org.
ISBN: 978-92-806-4838-6

THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S CHILDREN 2016

A fair chance for every child

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by Anthony Lake, Executive Director, UNICEF

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The state of the world's children

Inequity imperils millions of children and threatens the future of the world



As we look around the world today, we're confronted with an uncomfortable but undeniable truth: Millions of children's lives are blighted, for no other reason than the country, the community, the gender or the circumstances into which they are born.

And, as the data in this report show, unless we accelerate the pace of our progress in reaching them, the futures of millions of disadvantaged and vulnerable children – and therefore the future of their societies – will be imperilled.

Before they draw their first breath, the life chances of poor and excluded children are often being shaped by inequities. Disadvantage and discrimination against their communities and families will help determine whether they live or die, whether they have a chance to learn and later earn a decent living. Conflicts, crises and climate-related disasters deepen their deprivation and diminish their potential.

But it need not be so. As this report also illustrates, the world has made tremendous progress in reducing child deaths, getting children into school and lifting millions out of poverty. Many of the interventions behind this progress – such as vaccines, oral rehydration salts and better nutrition – have been practical and cost-effective. The rise of digital and mobile technology, and other innovations have made it easier and more cost-effective to deliver critical services in hard-to-reach communities and to expand opportunities for the children and families at

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