PROGRESS FOR EVERY CHILD IN THE SDG ERA

unicef for every child

Are we on track to achieve the SDGs for children?

The situation in 2019

survive+thrive

□ fair chance
□ protection
□ learning



Are we on track to achieve the SDGs for children?

The SDGs are universal in scope. Their call to leave no one behind puts the world's most vulnerable and marginalized people – including children – at the top of the 2030 Agenda.

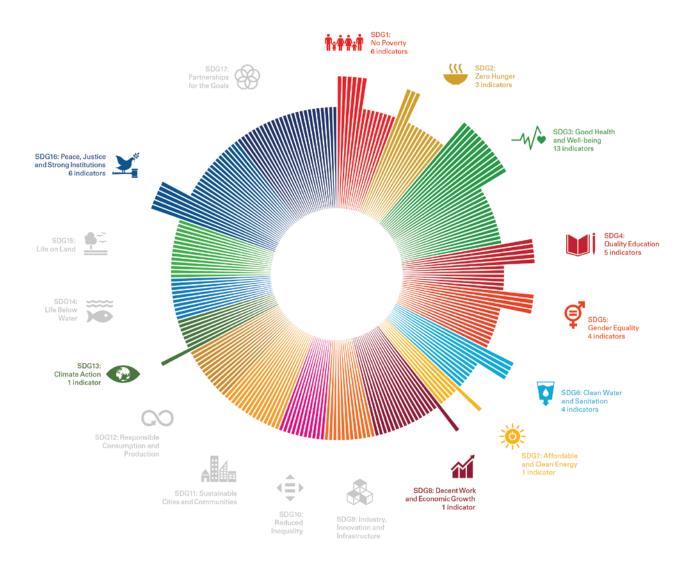
But four years since world leaders committed to achieving the SDGs, are we on track to achieve the goals for children? Do we have enough information to know?

Progress for Every Child in the SDG Era, a report released in March 2018, assessed the world's performance to date, focusing on 44 indicators that directly concern the 2030 Agenda's most vulnerable constituency: children.

This brochure revisits the conclusions of that report, updated with 2018 data for a 2019 perspective. Our assessment is sobering:

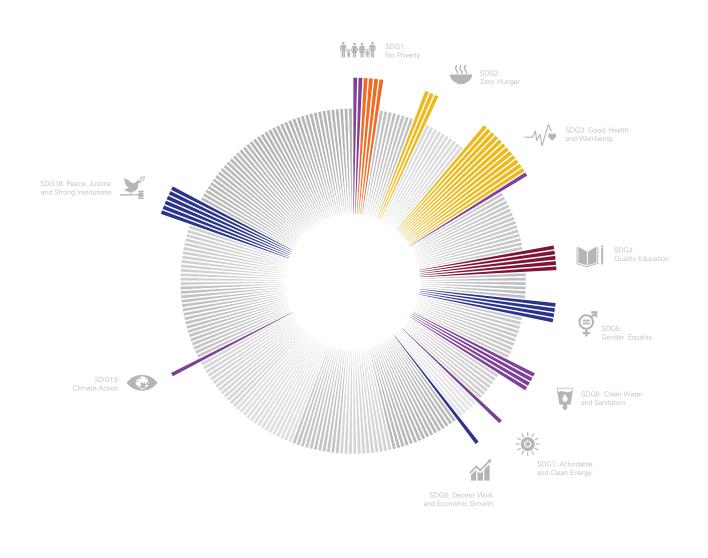
- Almost a billion (945 million) children live in countries where the SDGs remain out of reach. The current trajectory of these countries puts them off track for at least two thirds of the child-related targets on which they can be assessed. Countries are most likely to be off track on goals concerning children's protection from violence. In terms of providing a safe and clean environment for children, countries are faring relatively better but still far short of the progress envisioned by the SDGs.
- Many children remain effectively uncounted given the limited coverage of SDG data, but this situation is improving. All regions have recorded increased data coverage on child SDG indicators since our 2018 report. Over the past year, the likelihood of a country having no or insufficient data to assess its trajectory towards a child SDG target has fallen from 62 to 56 per cent.
- On average, 75 per cent of child SDG indicators in every country either have insufficient data or show insufficient progress to meet global SDG targets by 2030. This brief calls for a step-change – both in assessing the situation of children everywhere, and using data to target our efforts to reach those at greatest risk of being left behind.

44 child-related indicators are integrated across the 17 Sustainable Development Goals



Notes: The official list of SDG indicators includes 232 indicators on which general agreement has been reached. Please note that the total number of indicators listed in the global indicator framework of SDG indicators is 244. However, since nine indicators repeat under two or three different targets, the actual total number of individual indicators in the list is 232 (see <unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list>). While all 44 indicators covered in this report relate to the SDG agenda, some marginally differ from those adopted in the SDG monitoring framework.

These 44 indicators are arranged into 5 dimensions of children's rights



Protection

Environment

Fair chance

Learning

Survive + thrive

5 dimensions of children's rights



Every child survives and thrives



SDG 2: Stunting, wasting, overweight



SDG 3: Births attended by skilled personnel, under-five mortality, neonatal mortality, new HIV infections (children under 5, adolescent girls and boys 10-19 years), essential health services, MCV1, DTP3, maternal mortality ratio, malaria incidence, adolescent birth rate*



Every child



SDG 4: Minimum proficiency in reading and mathematics in lower secondary, children under-five developmentally on track, participation in organized learning one year before primary, proportion of schools with access to WASH



Every child is protected from violence, exploitation and harmful practices



SDG 5: Violence against girls by intimate partner, violence against girls by someone other than intimate partner, child marriage, female genital mutilation/cutting



SDG 8: Child labour



SDG 16: Intentional homicide, *conflict-related deaths**, violence from caregiver, sexual violence on girls and boys under 18, birth registration



Every child lives in a safe and clean environment



SDG 1: Basic drinking water, sanitation and hygiene services



SDG 3: Mortality rate from household/ambient air pollution



SDG 6: Safely managed drinking water, safely managed sanitation services, handwashing facilities, open defecation



SDG 7: Clean fuels used



SDG 13: Deaths from natural disasters*



Every child has a fair chance in life

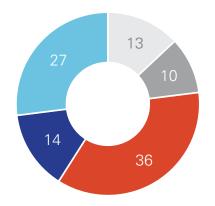


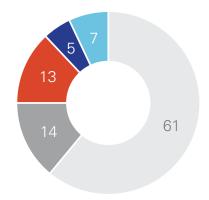
SDG 1: Extreme poverty, below national poverty line, multidimensional poverty, social protection floors/system

^{*} Five italicized indicators are excluded from a full assessment due to methodological or measurement challenges.

Progress towards the global targets

Share of countries assessed on progress towards global SDG targets, averaged across indicators grouped into five dimensions of children's rights.







Survive+thrive

Progress against global 2030 targets is relatively strong, with a majority of targets already met or on track, among those for which there are sufficient trend data. Data coverage is also strongest among the five dimensions - with most countries reporting on most indicators.

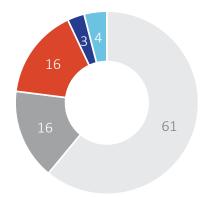
The 12 indicators assessed here include tracking under-five mortality, malnutrition and new HIV infections, alongside interventions such as delivery care and immunization.

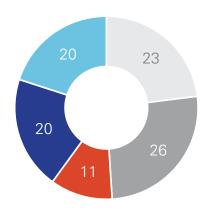


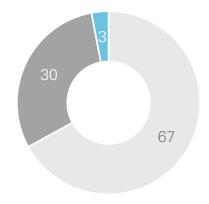
Learning

A minority of countries can claim to be on track. Data are insufficient to draw trends for the bulk of countries and indicators, reflecting the urgent need to institutionalize new measurement methodologies for learning.

The five indicators assessed here include measuring completion of education from pre-primary to secondary, attainment of adequate learning outcomes, and access to WASH in schools.









Protection

Very ambitious global targets and a relatively immature monitoring framework mean that a very small number of countries are on track to achieve only a few of the indicators analysed here. In most cases, data are insufficient to uncover trends.

The 10 indicators assessed include sexual and intimate partner violence against girls, violent discipline, child labour, female genital mutilation or cutting, child marriage, and birth registration.



Environment

Progress on this dimension is mixed, with a majority of indicator targets met or on track, among those countries and indicators with data. Still, many countries have insufficient or no data.

The eight indicators assessed here include reliance on clean fuels, deaths from air pollution and disasters, and access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene.



Fair chance

With many countries only now establishing baselines for standardized child poverty measures, it is almost impossible to assess progress on this dimension, so far.

The four indicators assessed here include monetary and multidimensional poverty rates and social protection coverage.

How to read the dials

The summary 'dials' used in this report illustrate progress in each of the five dimensions of children's rights, by country. Each dial represents a vast aggregation exercise, combining the performance of each country on each indicator in that dimension. For each indicator, countries are assigned to one of five categories, based on their progress towards the global SDG target and availability of data:

- No data data of sufficient quality, international comparability, coverage and recency are not available in UNICEF global databases.
- Insufficient trend data there are not enough datapoints to establish a trend and project to 2030.
- Acceleration needed based on current trends, the global target will not be met by 2030.
- On track based on current trends, the global target will be met by 2030.
- **Target met** the country has already achieved the global SDG target.



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