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A Generation to Protect

Monitoring violence, exploitation and abuse of children within the SDG framework

Acknowledgements

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Contents

Acronyms

CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRING	Country Reporting on Indicators for the Goals
CRVS	civil registration and vital statistics
DHS	Demographic and Health Surveys
FGM	female genital mutilation
HLPF	High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
IAEG-SDGs	Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators
IAEG-VAC	Inter-agency and Expert Group on Violence against Children
ICCS	International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes
ICLS	International Conference of Labour Statisticians
ILO	International Labour Organization
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SIMPOC	Statistical Information and Monitoring Programme on Child Labour
SNA	System of National Accounts
UN-CTS	United Nations Surveys on Crime Trends and the Operations of Criminal Justice Systems
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
VNR	voluntary national reviews
WHO	World Health Organization

Ten-year-old Hassan quit school in order to earn money selling snacks on the street to support his unemployed father. He often stands with goods on this road median in Rafah, Gaza Strip, State of Palestine.

Introduction

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was unanimously agreed upon by the 193 Member States of the UN General Assembly in September 2015.[1] The 2030 Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. Member States resolved to "end poverty in all its forms", to take bold and transformative steps to "shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path", and to ensure that "no one will be left behind".

The 2030 Agenda establishes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 global targets relating to both development outcomes and means of implementation, designed to be integrated and indivisible and to balance the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. It further seeks to realize the human rights of all, and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. This ambitious new universal agenda is intended to be implemented by all countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership.

A critical component of the 2030 Agenda is that every child is protected from violence, exploitation and harmful practices. This marks the first time that protection of children from these rights violations has formally been included in a global monitoring framework with time-bound targets.

Child protection refers to prevention and response to violence, exploitation and abuse of children in all contexts. This includes child marriage, violence in all forms, female genital mutilation (FGM), child labour, trafficking, and lack of official recording of births. Reaching children who are especially vulnerable to these threats is another important component of child protection, such as those living without family care, on the streets, in detention or in situations of conflict or natural disasters.

The Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) developed a list of indicators designed to measure progress towards the SDGs. Of the 232 indicators, 11 explicitly address child protection issues. But protecting children from violence and exploitation is pivotal to achieving progress not just in these 11 indicators, but also across many different targets within the SDG framework.

For instance, the eradication of child marriage could be instrumental in reducing levels of child mortality. Studies have consistently shown that the younger a girl marries, the more likely she is to have a child at a young age, and infants born to adolescent mothers have a greater mortality rate.[2]

The SDGs represent an incredible opportunity to help protect the world's children from violence and exploitation. At the same time, monitoring countries' progress comes with a unique set of measurement and resource-capability challenges. While significant advancements have been made in the last 15 years in increasing the availability and quality of child protection statistics, only about one in five countries have sufficient data to assess progress towards protection-related SDG targets.[3]

Solid data are needed to shift the invisibility of child protection violations, to capture the true scale and extent of these phenomena, and to identify risk and protective factors. Reliable data are also needed to specify priority areas and support government planning and budgeting for effective interventions and services. They inform the development and implementation of policies, legislation and actions for prevention and response, and also ensure a robust and ongoing monitoring process to assess results. Data enable stakeholders to appropriately identify and address challenges.

This publication summarizes the development and implementation of the SDG global indicator framework and describes how child protection fits within it. Detailed information on each protection-related global SDG indicator under goals 5, 8 and 16 is provided, along with guidance on the collection, analysis, monitoring and reporting on these indicators at national and global levels. Key challenges and strategies for improved monitoring and measurement of child protection are also discussed.

The SDG framework

Measuring the SDGs

The 2030 Agenda mandated the UN Statistical Commission to define global indicators for tracking the SDG goals and targets. To assist implementation of the indicator framework, all indicators are classified into three tiers on the basis of their level of methodological development and the availability of data at the global level. The tier system aims to assist in the development of global implementation strategies and the IAEG-SDGs reviews the indicators on a regular basis. For Tier I and Tier II indicators, the availability of national-level data may not necessarily align with the global tier classification and countries are encouraged to create their own tier classification for implementation.[4]

Table 1: **Tier classification**

Tier I	Indicator is conceptually clear, has an internationally established methodology and standards are available, and data are regularly produced by countries for at least 50 per cent of countries and of the population in every region where the indicator is relevant.
Tier II	Indicator is conceptually clear, has an internationally established methodology and standards are available, but data are not regularly produced by countries.
Tier III	No internationally established methodology or standards are yet available for the indicator, but methodology/standards are being (or will be) developed or tested.

Global standards and coordination mechanisms

The Statistical Commission established the IAEG-SDGs to develop and implement the global indicator framework for the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda. The IAEG comprises a rotating membership of 28 Member States representing all regions of the world, with regional and international agencies as observers. The UN Statistics Division (UNSD) acts as the secretariat and coordinates inputs from the UN system. The IAEG meets in person twice a year to review progress and challenges associated with implementing the global indicator framework.

The IAEG-SDGs has identified custodian agencies for each of the 232 global SDG indicators. These agencies are expected to:[5]
1. Develop internationally agreed standards and methodologies and support their adoption
2. Strengthen national statistical capacities and reporting mechanisms
3. Establish mechanisms for compilation and verification of national data
4. Compute regional and global aggregates
5. Maintain global databases and submit internationally comparable estimates to UNSD for inclusion in the SDG global database

National target setting and monitoring

The 2030 Agenda encourages Member States to develop ambitious national targets and action plans, while also considering differences in national capacities and starting points.

Typical steps in this localization process of the SDGs include:
1. Reviewing the baseline situation and recent trends (based on existing national data sources and other relevant evidence)
2. Reviewing national targets and indicator frameworks (taking into account the SDGs and other internationally agreed targets and indicators)
3. Identifying and prioritizing major issues facing children in a given country context (reviewing the specific nature, magnitude and linkages between different challenges faced)
4. Developing nationally appropriate targets and specific measures to be taken (linked to periodic reviews of policies, plans or strategies at national or subnational level)
5. Defining national indicators and mechanisms for national data collection (promoting global SDG indicators and other priority indicators for children and supporting data collection)
6. Supporting regular and inclusive review processes to assess progress and correct course as necessary (compiling and analysing data and supporting rigorous and participatory review processes to inform decision-making at national and subnational levels)

Reporting on the SDGs

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development emphasizes that national governments have primary responsibility for follow-up and review of progress towards the SDG goals. It encourages Member States to set their own national targets and conduct regular reviews. It also focuses on the need for "high quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data" to measure progress.[6] The UN Development Group has published guidelines for UN country teams on mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda, tailoring SDG targets to national contexts, and reporting on the SDGs. A number of different modalities are envisaged for SDG follow-up and review, including:[7]

1. **Voluntary national reporting** – regular country reviews of progress at the national and local levels
2. **Thematic reporting** – periodic reviews by international agencies, UN commissions and expert panels
3. **Regional reporting** – periodic reviews by regional intergovernmental bodies to promote cooperation and peer review
4. **Global reporting** – reviews by the UN system, including the following mandated reports: annual Secretary-General's SDG progress report, annual Inter-Agency Task Force report on financing for development, and quadrennial global sustainable development report on the science-policy interface. The Secretary-General's report on the SDGs, which includes latest-available country, regional and global estimates, is typically released every year in May/June.

Voluntary national reviews

As part of its follow-up and review mechanisms, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development encourages Member States to "conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and subnational levels, which are country-led and country-driven" (paragraph 79).[8] Voluntary national reviews (VNRs) are to be voluntary, state-led and undertaken by both developed and developing countries.

Reviews should be prepared through an inclusive and participatory process involving all major groups and stakeholders, including all sectors of government, civil society, members of parliament, and the private sector. These VNRs are presented at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).[9] Countries are encouraged to provide information on the progress and status of all SDGs or those of greatest national priority, and not just those under the current review of the HLPF.

The theme of the 2019 HLPF was 'Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality', and the set of goals under review included many with child protection-related targets, such as goals 8 and 16. At the 2019 HLPF in July, 47 countries presented their VNRs, some for the second time.[10]

As of July 2019, 158 countries have submitted VNRs through three rounds (2016 to 2019). While the majority of countries have not reported on child protection indicators or strategies to include child protection in national statistical systems, a few have made progress towards collecting and reporting data on the protection of children.[11]

UNICEF's role in the monitoring of child protection violations

Collecting data

UNICEF supports the collection of nationally representative data on child protection through the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS). This international household survey programme was originally developed in response to the 1990 World Summit for Children as a way to measure progress towards an internationally agreed upon set of mid-decade goals. The first round of MICS (MICS1) was conducted primarily between 1995 and 1997 in over 60 countries. At that time, child protection issues were not covered. For the end-decade assessment (MICS2, 2000), in addition to indicators on child and maternal health and mortality, nutrition and education, MICS included a few questions on birth registration, child labour and FGM.

Since then, MICS has developed into one of the world's largest sources of internationally comparable data on child protection, both in terms of the range of child protection issues covered and the number of countries with available data. MICS has enabled many countries to produce statistically sound estimates on a wide range of child protection topics. Data are collected through specific survey modules developed by UNICEF in consultation with relevant partners.

MICS standard modules for child protection include birth registration, which is defined as the official recording of a child's birth; child labour, which examines the types of work a child performs, whether paid or unpaid, and hours spent, along with the hazards children face at work and engagement in unpaid household services; child marriage, which is defined as marriage or cohabitation before the age of 18; attitudes towards wife-beating; and FGM among girls and women aged 0 to 49 years. MICS also collects data on child discipline, from non-violent forms to severe physical means of punishing children, as well as beliefs about the use of physical punishment to raise and educate children. Therefore, MICS is an important source of data for many of the protection-related SDG indicators.

Developing new tools and methods

UNICEF plays a key role in the development of new data collection and monitoring tools in the area of child protection, including on issues measured by SDG indicators. This work includes the development of questionnaires, indicators and tools for gathering relevant information and reporting on child protection violations. Examples of methodological work in recent years include the development of a survey module on child labour consistent with existing international standards, as well as ongoing work to develop a new methodology for the collection of data on children living in residential care.

Compiling data

UNICEF maintains global databases on key child protection indicators (Figure 1). The main sources of data include nationally representative household surveys, such as the MICS, Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS), Reproductive Health Surveys and AIDS Indicator Surveys, as well as other national surveys, censuses, vital registration systems and other administrative records. These databases are publicly accessible and are updated annually through a process that draws on UNICEF's network of country offices.

Disseminating data

Data collected, compiled or analysed by UNICEF on child protection are disseminated in a variety of ways, including through UNICEF's flagship publication, *The State of the World's Children*, and in several thematic data-driven reports, brochures and country profiles. All the publications, global databases and other resources for child protection statistics can be found on UNICEF's dedicated data website, <data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/overview>.

Figure 1. **Number of countries with available data on child protection-related SDG indicators in UNICEF global databases (2000–2019)**

Legend: 2000 · 2005 · 2010 · 2015 · 2019

SDG 5.3.1 Child marriage: 69, 89, 112, 124, 126

SDG 5.3.2 FGM: 16, 22, 28, 30, 30

SDG 8.7.1 Child labour: 41, 79, 109, 120, 121

SDG 16.2.1 Violent discipline: 0, 13, 49, 77, 85

SDG 16.2.3 Sexual violence in childhood: women: 0, 2, 14, 41, 51

SDG 16.2.3 Sexual violence in childhood: men: 0, 0, 0, 9, 10

SDG 16.9.1 Birth registration: 63, 90, 117, 169, 174
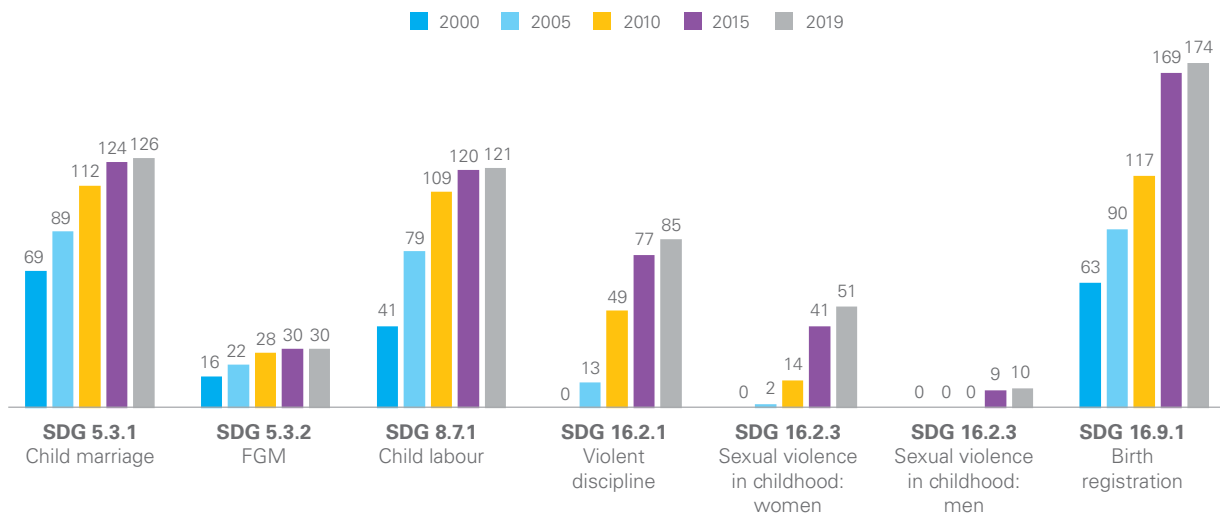
Child protection in the SDG framework

Child protection issues are encompassed in six child-specific SDG indicators, along with five SDG indicators that have a broader age scope but are meant to be disaggregated by age.[12] Child-specific indicators within the SDG framework fall into two categories: (1) those that make explicit reference to children as part of the indicator definition, such as those on child labour, violent discipline and birth registration, and (2) those that make reference to adults but cover violations that occurred in childhood, like FGM, child marriage and sexual abuse.

In recognition of the key role played by UNICEF in supporting the collection, analysis, dissemination and use of child protection data, the IAEG has identified UNICEF as custodian or co-custodian for eight SDG indicators on child protection.

Table 2: **SDG indicators on child protection**

Goal	Target	Indicator	Custodian agency(ies)	Tier
Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	5.2: Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation	5.2.1: Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age	UNFPA UNICEF UNODC UN Women WHO	II
		5.2.2: Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence	UNFPA UNICEF UNODC UN Women WHO	II
	5.3: Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation	5.3.1: Proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18	UNICEF	I
		5.3.2: Proportion of girls and women aged 15–49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age	UNICEF	I
Goal 8: Provide sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	8.7: Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms	8.7.1: Proportion and number of children aged 5–17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age	ILO UNICEF	II
Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	16.1: Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere	16.1.1: Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age	UNODC WHO	I
		16.1.2: Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population, by sex, age and cause	OHCHR	II
	16.2: End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children	16.2.1: Proportion of children aged 1–17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month	UNICEF	II
		16.2.2 Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation	UNODC	II
		16.2.3: Proportion of young women and men aged 18–29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18	UNICEF	II
	16.9: By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration	16.9.1: Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age	UNICEF UNSD	I

Indicator methodology, metadata and resources

GOAL 5	**Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls**

> **TARGET 5.2:** Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

Target overview
SDG target 5.2 is tracked by the following indicators:

- **5.2.1:** Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age
- **5.2.2:** Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence

Broader monitoring context
Although violence against women has been widely researched over the years, particularly in many high-income countries, a lack of comparable data is a serious obstacle to robust monitoring. Many data collection efforts have relied on different study methodologies and used different definitions and diverse age groups, and limited data have been collected on forms such as sexual harassment or unwanted sexual touching.

Collecting reliable data on violence against girls and women is a complex and sensitive undertaking. One key consideration is girls' and women's willingness to disclose that they have been victims of violence and the need to maintain confidentiality, which involves taking careful steps to ensure that data collection is undertaken in a way that safeguards the privacy of respondents and ensures their safety.

In addition to target 5.2, which focuses on violence against women and girls, there are related indicators under other SDG targets, including indicator 16.1.3: Proportion of population subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence in the previous 12 months; and indicator 16.2.3: Proportion of young women and men aged 18 to 29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18.

Indicator 5.2.1 – Intimate partner violence
Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age

Definition
This indicator refers to intimate partner violence, which includes any abuse perpetrated by a current or former partner within the context of marriage, cohabitation or any other formal or informal union.

For the purpose of global monitoring, the indicator is currently being defined as proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 to 49 years who have experienced physical or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months. The rationale for using a proxy indicator is that comparable data are currently only available for a subset of girls and women aged 15 to 49 years and the fact that there is no agreement on a standard operational definition for psychological violence.

SDG indicator
Numerator: Number of ever-partnered women and girls (aged 15 years and above) who have experienced physical, sexual and/or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months
Denominator: Number of ever-partnered women and girls (aged 15 years and above) in the population

Proxy indicator
Numerator: Number of ever-partnered women and girls (aged 15 to 49 years) who have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months
Denominator: Number of ever-partnered women and girls (aged 15 to 49 years) in the population

Key terms

The conceptual definitions of the types of violence covered in the SDG indicator, as defined in the 2014 UN *Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women*, are:

- 'Physical violence' consists of acts aimed at physically hurting the victim and include, but are not limited to acts like pushing, grabbing, twisting the arm, pulling hair, slapping, kicking, biting or hitting with a fist or object, trying to strangle or suffocate, burning or scalding on purpose, or threatening or attacking with some sort of weapon, gun or knife
- 'Sexual violence' is defined as any sort of harmful or unwanted sexual behaviour that is imposed on someone, whether by use of force, intimidation or coercion. It includes acts of abusive sexual contact, forced engagement in sexual acts, attempted or completed sexual acts without consent, non-contact acts such as being forced to watch or participate in pornography, etc. In intimate partner relationships, sexual violence is commonly defined as: being physically forced to have sexual intercourse, having sexual intercourse out of fear for what the partner might do or through coercion, and/or being forced to do something sexual that the woman considers humiliating or degrading
- 'Psychological violence' includes a range of behaviours that encompass acts of emotional abuse and controlling conduct

National data sources

The main sources of intimate partner violence prevalence data are (1) specialized national surveys dedicated to measuring violence against women and (2) international household surveys that include a module on women's experiences of violence, such as the DHS.

The DHS standard module asks all girls and women aged 15 to 49 years who have ever been married or cohabited whether they have ever experienced various forms of physical, sexual or emotional violence perpetrated by a current or former spouse or partner. Questions are also asked in reference to experiences that occurred in the 12 months preceding the survey.

Although administrative data from health, police, courts, justice and social services, among other services used by survivors of violence, can provide information on violence against women and girls, these do not produce prevalence data, but rather incidence data or number of cases received/reported. Many abused women do not report violence and those who do tend to represent only the most serious cases. Therefore, administrative data should not be used as a data source for this indicator.

Interpretation

Violence directed at women and girls represents one manifestation of gender inequality and is symptomatic of the widely held view that girls and women have low status in society and are expected to comply with and conform to certain defined gender roles. Given prevailing social norms that sanction male dominance over women, violence between intimate partners is often perceived as an ordinary or normal element of relationships, particularly in the context of marriage or other unions.

This indicator is intended to characterize current levels of intimate partner violence, regardless of the type of abuse, the type of union, or whether or not the woman is still in union.

Disaggregation

Disaggregation requirements include form of violence and age. Additional standard background characteristics include women's rural or urban residence, geographic location, wealth and education. Additionally, depending on the data source, it may also be possible to disaggregate by ethnicity and/or religion.

Common pitfalls

It is important to note that because of the stigma surrounding intimate partner violence, available data are likely to underestimate the true prevalence. Even in nationally representative surveys with interviewers who are trained to collect these sensitive data, women may be reluctant to report their personal experiences. Willingness to discuss experiences of violence and understanding of relevant concepts may also differ according to how a survey is implemented and the cultural context, and this can affect reported prevalence levels.

The availability of comparable data remains a challenge as many data collection efforts have relied on varying survey methodologies, not used the same definitions of partner or spousal violence and of the forms of violence, utilized different survey questions, and sampled diverse age groups. Quality of interviewer training is also highly variable. Because of this, data should be interpreted with caution. This is particularly true when comparing two or more estimates whether from the same or different countries.

Currently, national data included in the global SDG database are disaggregated only by age (when possible) but not by type of violence, as called for in the indicator definition. This is because, while there is global consensus on how physical and sexual intimate partner violence are generally defined and measured, psychological partner violence is conceptualized differently across cultures and in different contexts.

Efforts are under way by custodian agencies to develop a global standard for measuring and reporting on psychological intimate partner violence that will enable global reporting on the three forms of partner violence in the future.

In addition, the indicator definition makes reference to experiences of intimate partner violence by ever-partnered women aged 15 years and older. However, a majority of the available data have only been collected for a subset of girls and women aged 15 to 49 years, and there is a general lack of consistency in the age range of sample populations across other available sources. Therefore, global reporting on this indicator at this moment only reflects violence experienced by ever-partnered girls and women aged 15 to 49 years. Efforts are under way by custodian agencies to address this issue and to better understand and measure partner violence against women aged 50 years and older.

Monitoring and reporting
National
National statistical offices (in most cases) or line ministries/other government agencies that have conducted national surveys on violence against women and girls

Global
Agencies: UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC, UN Women, WHO

Process: Data are collated from reports published by national statistical offices or other relevant national entities. In a few countries, data are recalculated for harmonization regarding age group (15 to 49) and type of intimate partner violence (any form of physical and/or sexual violence).

Discrepancies with national estimates: In most cases, only figures published by countries are used. However, in a small number of countries, data may be recalculated to enhance comparability. Recalculation is done primarily to reflect the 15-to-49 age group, or to reflect the aggregate of physical and/or sexual partner violence, for countries where this information is gathered but not published. Calculations are done using survey data sets made public by countries or using raw data available in published survey reports.

Key resources
Indicator information and cross-country comparable estimates:
- UNICEF data: <data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/violence/violent-unions>
- SDG global database: <unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database>
- UN Women data: <evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en>

Tools and measurement guidance:
- UNSD Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women, Statistical Surveys: <unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/docs/guidelines_statistics_vaw.pdf>
- DHS module on domestic violence: <dhsprogram.com/publications/publication-DHSQM-DHS-Questionnaires-and-Manuals.cfm>
- SDG metadata: <unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-05-02-01.pdf>
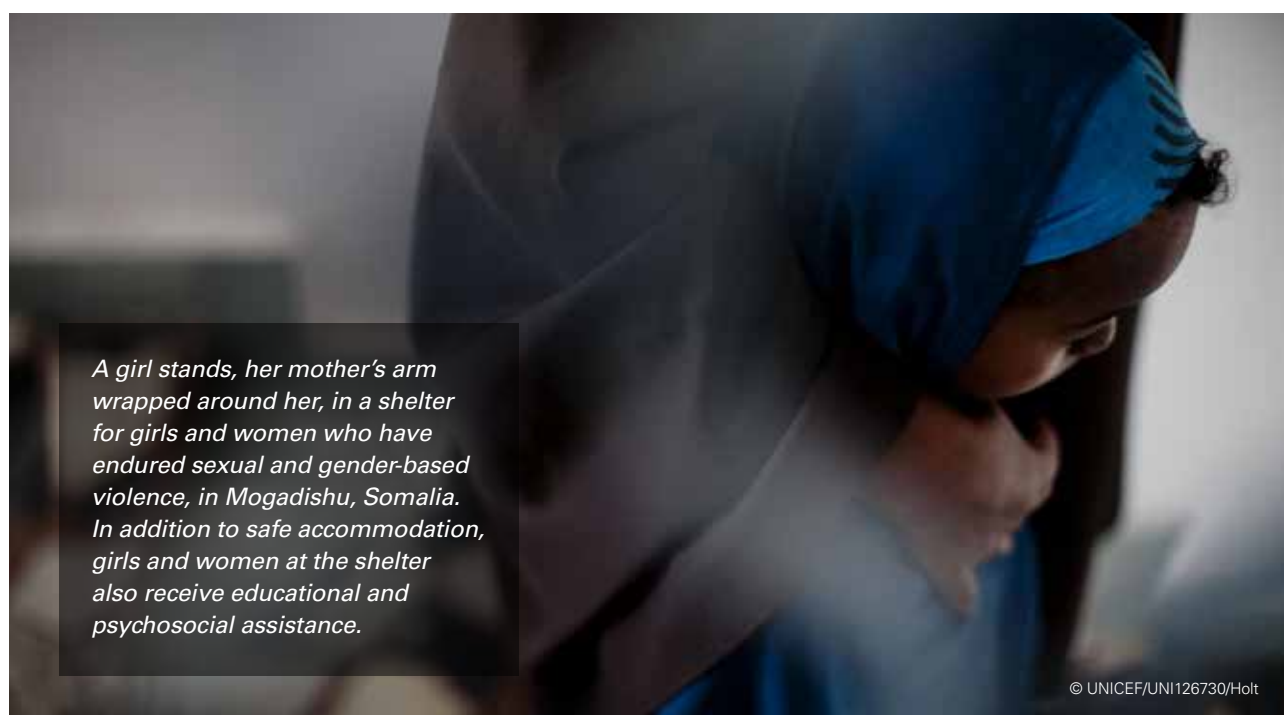
A girl stands, her mother's arm wrapped around her, in a shelter for girls and women who have endured sexual and gender-based violence, in Mogadishu, Somalia. In addition to safe accommodation, girls and women at the shelter also receive educational and psychosocial assistance.

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Indicator 5.2.2 – Non-partner sexual violence

Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence

Definition
This indicator refers to the proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older who have experienced sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner, in the previous 12 months. The indicator is limited to sexual violence perpetrated by individuals other than an intimate partner.

SDG indicator
Numerator: Number of women and girls (aged 15 years and above) who have experienced sexual violence by a non-intimate partner in the previous 12 months
Denominator: Number of women and girls (aged 15 years and above) in the population

Key terms
The conceptual definition of sexual violence covered by the SDG indicator, as defined in the 2014 UN *Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women* is: "Any sort of harmful or unwanted sexual behaviour that is imposed on someone. It includes acts of abusive sexual contact, forced engagement in sexual acts, attempted or completed sexual acts with a woman without her consent, sexual harassment, verbal abuse, threats, exposure, unwanted touching, incest, etc." However, in most surveys that collect data on sexual violence against women and girls by non-partners, the operational definition is limited to forced sexual intercourse or other forced sexual acts and attempted or coerced sexual intercourse or other sexual acts.

National data sources
The main sources of non-partner sexual violence prevalence data are (1) specialized national surveys dedicated to measuring violence against women and (2) international household surveys that include a module on experiences of violence by women, such as the DHS.

The DHS standard module asks all girls and women aged 15 to 49 years whether, in the last 12 months, anyone other than a partner has physically forced them to have sexual intercourse against their will.

Although administrative data from health, police, courts, justice and social services, and other services used by survivors of violence can provide information on violence against women and girls, these do not produce prevalence data, but rather incidence data or number of cases received/reported. Many abused women do not report violence, and those who do tend to represent only the most serious cases. Therefore, administrative data should not be used as a data source for this indicator.

Interpretation
Violence directed at women and girls represents one manifestation of gender inequality and is symptomatic of the widely held view that girls and women have low status in society and are expected to comply with and conform to certain defined gender roles. Having data on this indicator will help to better understand the extent and nature of this form of violence and to inform the development of appropriate policies and programmes for prevention and response.

Disaggregation
Disaggregation requirements include age and place of occurrence. Additional standard background characteristics typically include women's rural or urban residence, geographic location, wealth and education. Additionally, depending on the data source, it may also be possible to disaggregate by ethnicity, religion, disability and relationship with the perpetrator.

Common pitfalls
The availability of comparable data remains a challenge as many data collection efforts have relied on different survey methodologies and used varying definitions of sexual violence as well as survey questions to elicit information. Diverse age groups are also often utilized. Additionally, not all surveys on violence against women collect information on non-partner violence. Respondents' willingness to discuss experiences of violence and understanding of relevant concepts may also differ according to how a survey is implemented and the cultural context, and this can affect reported prevalence levels.

Efforts and investment are required to develop an internationally agreed standard and definition of sexual violence by non-partners that will enable comparison across countries. Monitoring this indicator with certain periodicity may be a challenge if sustained capacities are not built.

Monitoring and reporting
National
National statistical offices (in most cases) or line ministries/other government agencies that have conducted national surveys on violence against women and girls

Global
Agencies: UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC, UN Women, WHO

Process: Data are collated from reports published by national statistical offices or other relevant national entities.

Discrepancies with national estimates: In most cases, data need to be recalculated in order to obtain the relevant estimates as these are not systematically published as part of national survey reports. Calculations are done using survey data sets made public by countries or using raw data in published survey reports (when available).

Key resources

Tools and measurement guidance:

- Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women, Statistical Surveys: <unstats. un.org/unsd/gender/docs/guidelines_statistics_ vaw.pdf>
- DHS module on domestic violence: <dhsprogram. com/publications/publication-DHSQM-DHS- Questionnaires-and-Manuals.cfm>
- SDG metadata: <unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/ files/Metadata-05-02-02.pdf>
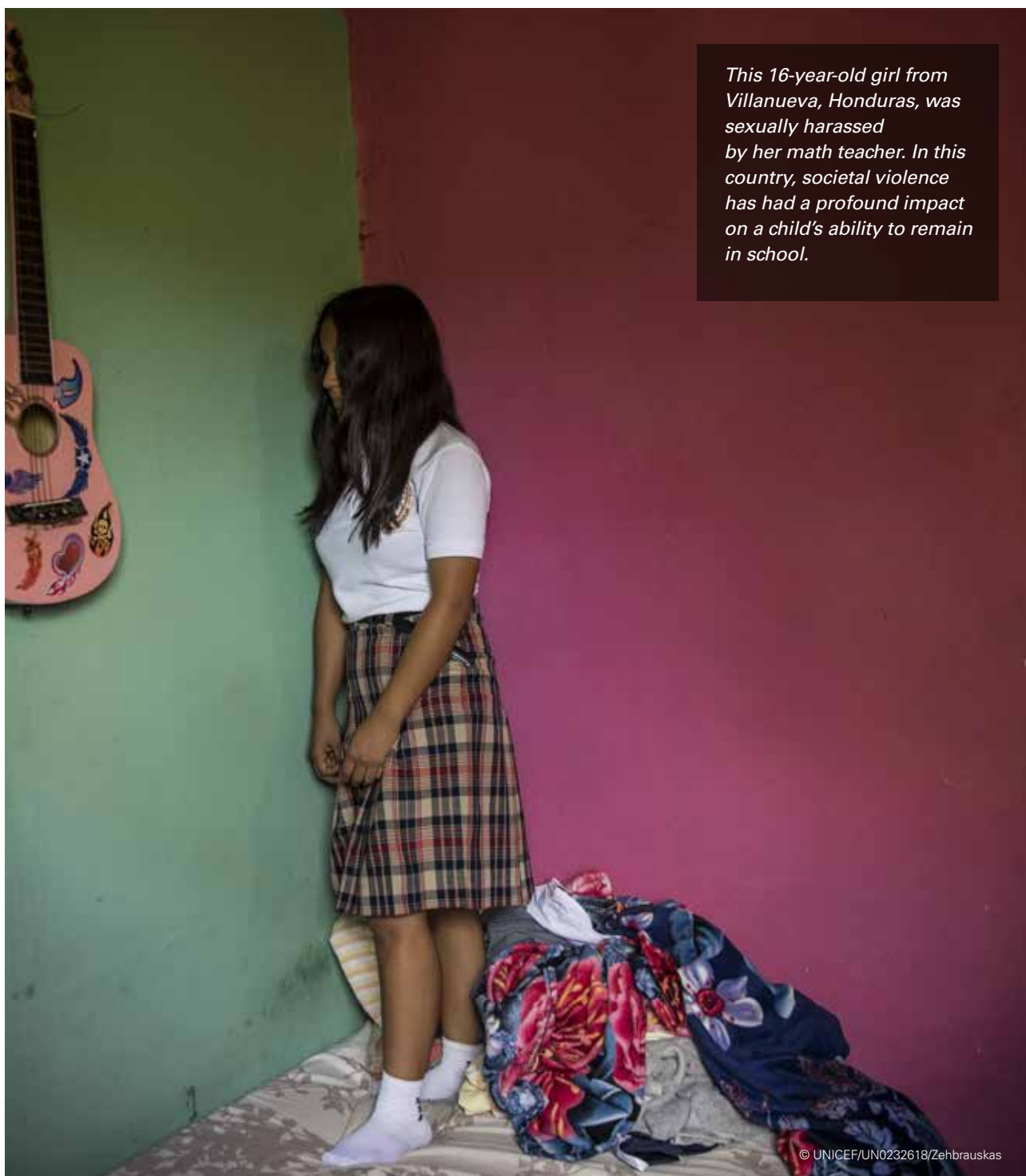
This 16-year-old girl from Villanueva, Honduras, was sexually harassed by her math teacher. In this country, societal violence has had a profound impact on a child's ability to remain in school.

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Target overview

SDG target 5.3 is tracked by the following indicators:

- **5.3.1:** Proportion of women aged 20 to 24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18
- **5.3.2:** Proportion of girls and women aged 15 to 49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age

Broader monitoring context

Child marriage and FGM are harmful practices that violate the rights and impair the well-being of children. In communities where they are practised, both can be seen as a direct manifestation of gender inequality, reflecting societal values that hold girls in low esteem and deprive them of agency. Thus, in the SDG framework the target of eliminating harmful practices is placed under the goal for gender equality.

Both the issues of child marriage and FGM are addressed in a number of international conventions and agreements and are prohibited by national legislation in many countries. The extent to which child marriage and FGM are practised across the population is tracked by the SDG indicators. Data on child marriage have been collected for decades through household surveys such as MICS and DHS, as well as in other population-based data sources that capture demographic information, including age at first marriage.

Data collection on the prevalence of FGM was first done at the national level in the 1990s, prior to which only small-scale anthropological studies were available. Nationally representative data are now available for 30 countries in which the practice is concentrated, primarily from MICS and DHS.

Over the years, the two household survey programmes have worked to standardize data collection on child marriage and FGM, and their modules have been fully harmonized. Importantly, these modules include relevant questions beyond those needed to calculate the SDG indicators.

Given the extent to which harmful practices are upheld by tradition and social norms, measures of the prevalence of these practices are often accompanied by measures of attitudes and beliefs, which may indicate either readiness or resistance to change in practising populations. Efforts are ongoing to establish a conceptual framework on social norms around harmful practices and to set measurement standards.

Indicator 5.3.1 – Child marriage

Proportion of women aged 20 to 24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18

Definition

This indicator is defined as the proportion of women aged 20 to 24 years who were first married or living in a cohabiting union as if married before age 15 and before age 18. The prevalence of child marriage is measured retrospectively among women whose risk of marrying in childhood is complete, i.e., those who are at least 18 years old, and the age group of 20 to 24 years is used by convention to represent the current prevalence of the practice.

SDG indicator

Numerator: Number of women aged 20 to 24 years who were first married or in union before age 15 (or before age 18)

Denominator: Total number of women aged 20 to 24 years in the population

Key terms

- Both formal (i.e., marriages) and informal unions are covered under this indicator. Informal unions are generally defined as those in which a couple lives together as if married but for which there has been no formal civil or religious ceremony (i.e., cohabitation).
- The term child marriage is used to refer to unions in which a girl or boy lives with a partner as if married before the age of 18, though the SDG indicator captures only child marriage among girls.

National data sources

The main sources of such data are national household surveys, predominantly MICS and DHS. The prevalence of child marriage can also be measured in censuses, if the age at first marriage is captured. In a small number of countries, this information is available through marriage registers.

The MICS and DHS survey programmes have worked to harmonize survey questions on child marriage. This standard approach is based on a series of questions asked of all women of reproductive age (15 to 49

years), including if they are currently married or "living together with someone as if married", if they have ever been married, current marital status, and what month and year they started living with their (first) husband/partner. In countries in which marriage and cohabitation do not typically occur at the same time, the age at first marriage and age at first cohabitation should both be included in questionnaires.

Depending on the country, surveys collecting these data may be conducted every three to five years, or possibly at more frequent intervals.

Interpretation

Child marriage violates the rights of children in a way that often leads to a lifetime of disadvantage and deprivation, especially for girls. Child marriage compromises a girl's development by resulting in early pregnancy and social isolation, interrupting her schooling, limiting her life opportunities and increasing her risk of experiencing domestic violence. Typically, child brides have little decision-making power within the household, especially when married to older men.

This indicator is measured by ascertaining when the respondent was first married or began a cohabiting union. Note that this indicator captures only the dimension of age at first marriage and does not reflect all forced marriages or unions, which could include unions occurring among women aged 18 years and older.

Data are also collected on the age of the spouse and whether the spouse has additional partners. This information can be used to shed light on the type of unions child brides are entering, whether they be polygynous and/or with spouses who are substantially older.

MICS and DHS also collect data on the marital status and age at first marriage for boys and men, thus allowing for estimation of the prevalence of child marriage among boys, though the social dynamics and drivers of child marriage among boys are not yet well understood.

Trends in the prevalence of child marriage can be assessed using estimates from successive data sources over time, or by comparing estimates across age groups within a single data source. The age group method is preferred because it minimizes the effect of any variations across surveys. Using this method, the level of child marriage among women aged 20 to 24 years can be considered the most recent estimate, as this is the age group that most recently completed exposure to the risk period. This level can be compared with the same estimate among older women, for example aged 45 to 49 years, which would represent the risk of marrying in childhood 25 years prior to the survey.

Disaggregation

There are no specific disaggregation requirements for this indicator. Disaggregation by various background characteristics may be available for individual data sources and can be reviewed on a country-by-country basis to understand the socioeconomic profile of child brides in each country. Standard background characteristics include women's rural or urban residence, geographic location, wealth and education. Additionally, depending on the data source, it may also be possible to disaggregate by ethnicity and/or religion.

Common pitfalls

The measure of child marriage is retrospective in nature by design, capturing age at first marriage among a population that has completed the risk period (i.e., adult women). While it is also possible to measure the current marital status of girls under age 18, such measures would provide an underestimate of the level of child marriage, as girls who are not currently married may still do so before they turn 18.

Monitoring and reporting
National
National statistical offices (in most cases)

Global
Agency: UNICEF

Process: UNICEF undertakes a wide consultative process of compiling and assessing data from national sources for the purposes of updating its global databases on the situation of children. Up until 2017, the mechanism UNICEF used to collaborate with national authorities on ensuring data quality and international comparability on key indicators of relevance to children was known as Country Reporting on Indicators for the Goals (CRING).

In 2018, UNICEF launched a new country consultation process with national authorities on child-related global SDG indicators for which it is custodian or co-custodian. This measure was taken to meet emerging standards and guidelines on data flows for global reporting of SDG indicators, which place strong emphasis on technical rigour, country ownership and use of official data and statistics. The consultation process solicits feedback directly from national statistical offices and other government agencies responsible for official statistics on the compilation of the indicators, including the data sources used, and the application of internationally agreed definitions, classification and methodologies to the data from that source. Once reviewed, feedback is made available to countries on whether or not specific datapoints are accepted, and if not, the reasons why.

Discrepancies with national estimates: The estimates compiled and presented at global level come directly from nationally produced data and are generally not adjusted or recalculated.

Key resources
Indicator information and cross-country comparable estimates:
- UNICEF data: <data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/child-marriage>
- SDG global database: <unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database>

Tools and measurement guidance:
- SDG metadata: <unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-05-03-01.pdf>
- MICS module on child marriage: <data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/MICS6-Marriage-module_Women.pdf>

Indicator 5.3.2 – Female genital mutilation
Proportion of girls and women aged 15 to 49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age

Definition
This indicator is defined as the proportion of girls and women aged 15 to 49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation.

SDG indicator
Numerator: Number of girls and women aged 15 to 49 years who have undergone FGM
Denominator: Total number of girls and women aged 15 to 49 years in the population

Key terms
- FGM refers to "all procedures involving partial or total removal of the female external genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons."[13]
- The term female circumcision is often used interchangeably with FGM, although some object to this term as it erroneously suggests that female circumcision is analogous to male circumcision.

National data sources
Nationally representative data on FGM are mainly available from MICS and DHS, in a module included by countries in which the practice is concentrated. In some countries, data have been collected through other nationally representative household surveys.

The MICS and DHS programmes have worked to fully harmonize survey questions on FGM. This standard approach is based on a series of questions asked of all women of reproductive age (15 to 49 years), which includes whether the respondent has heard of FGM, whether or not the respondent herself has been cut, the type of FGM performed, and at what age they were cut and by whom. Most surveys include additional questions related to women's – and in some cases, men's – attitudes surrounding FGM. Female respondents are also asked about the FGM status of all of their daughters younger than 15.

Depending on the country, surveys collecting these data may be conducted every three to five years, or possibly at more frequent intervals.

Interpretation
FGM is a violation of girls' and women's human rights and is condemned by many international treaties and conventions, as well as by national legislation in many countries. There is a large body of literature documenting the adverse health consequences of FGM over both the short and long term. The practice of FGM is a direct manifestation of gender inequality. Where it is practised, FGM is performed in line with tradition and social norms to ensure that girls are socially accepted and marriageable, and to uphold their status and honour and that of the entire family.

Data on FGM inform policymakers of critically important variables in an effort to better understand the practice and develop policies for its abandonment. That said, these data must be analysed in light of the extremely delicate and often sensitive nature of the topic. Self-reported data on FGM need to be treated with caution for several reasons. Women may be unwilling to disclose having undergone the procedure because of the sensitivity of the issue or the illegal status of the practice in their country. In addition, women may be unaware that they have been cut or of the extent of the cutting, particularly if FGM was performed at an early age.

Data users should also keep in mind the retrospective nature of these data, which results in this indicator not being sensitive to recent change. In countries where girls are cut before 1 year of age, for example, most girls aged 15 to 19 years are reporting on an event that took place 14 to 18 years earlier. Thus, there is a time lag between when changes in the practice occur and when they are reflected in the data.

The SDG indicator may thus be best interpreted in conjunction with other data including prevalence estimates among daughters younger than 15 (although prevalence among this age group should be considered an underestimate, as additional girls may still be subject to the practice once they reach the customary age of

cutting) and attitudes toward FGM, both of which are included in the standard MICS and DHS modules.

Trends in the prevalence of FGM can be assessed using estimates from successive data sources over time, or by comparing estimates across age cohorts within a single data source. The age cohort method is preferred because it minimizes the effect of any variations across surveys. Using this method, the level of FGM among women aged 15 to 19 years can be considered the most recent estimate, as this is the age cohort that most recently completed exposure to the risk period (assuming all cutting occurs before age 15, which should be assessed on a country-by-country basis). This level can be compared with the same estimate among older women, for example those aged 45 to 49 years, which would represent the prevalence of FGM among young women 30 years prior to the survey.

Disaggregation

The indicator definition calls for disaggregation by age. Possible disaggregations also include women's rural or urban residence, geographic location, wealth, religion and education. Ethnicity is an important determinant for FGM and so data should be disaggregated by this characteristic, if possible.

Common pitfalls

As detailed above, this indicator needs to be viewed with caution. A particular challenge is examining trends, especially when trying to establish a connection between programmatic activities and changes in prevalence levels over time, due to the time lag in reporting and the geographic concentration of both the practice and programming. Furthermore, in terms of understanding the prevalence, it may be misleading to focus on national-level estimates, as in many countries FGM is practised by specific ethnic groups that may be concentrated in certain geographic locations in the country.

In MICS and DHS, questions about FGM are only included in a subset of countries where the practice is concentrated. Thus, it is important to note that even in countries with no FGM data, the practice still may exist. This may include high-income countries that are destinations for migrants from countries where the practice still occurs, as well as certain low- and middle-income countries in which FGM exists among specific population groups.

Monitoring and reporting

National

National statistical offices (in most cases)

Global

Agency: UNICEF

Process: UNICEF undertakes a wide consultative process of compiling and assessing data from national sources for the purposes of updating its global databases on the situation of children. Up until 2017, the mechanism UNICEF used to collaborate with national authorities on ensuring data quality and international comparability on key indicators of relevance to children was known as CRING.

In 2018, UNICEF launched a new country consultation process with national authorities on child-related global SDG indicators for which it is custodian or co-custodian. This measure was taken to meet emerging standards and guidelines on data flows for global reporting of SDG indicators, which place strong emphasis on technical rigour, country ownership and use of official data and statistics. The consultation process solicits feedback directly from national statistical offices and other government agencies responsible for official statistics on the compilation of the indicators, including the data sources used, and the application of internationally agreed definitions, classification and methodologies to the data from that source. Once reviewed, feedback is made available to countries on whether or not specific datapoints are accepted, and if not, the reasons why.

Discrepancies with national estimates: The estimates compiled and presented at global level come directly from nationally produced data and are generally not adjusted or recalculated.

Key resources

Indicator information and cross-country comparable estimates:

- UNICEF data: <data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/female-genital-mutilation>
- SDG global database: <unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database>

Tools and measurement guidance:

- SDG metadata: <unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-05-03-02.pdf>
- MICS module on FGM: <data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/MICS6-FEMALE-GENITAL-MUTILATION-module.pdf>

Seven-year-old Fatima was subjected to FGM when she was 1 year old. The practice is common in her native village of Karenssa, in Ethiopia's Afar region.

GOAL 8	**Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all**

TARGET 8.7: Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms

Target overview

SDG target 8.7 is tracked by the following indicator:

- **8.7.1:** Proportion and number of children aged 5 to 17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age

Broader monitoring context

Reliable, comprehensive and timely data on the nature and extent of child labour provide a basis for determining priorities for national and global action to end child labour in all its forms.

Three principal international legal instruments – ILO Convention No. 138 (Minimum Age) (C138), United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), ILO Convention No. 182 (Worst Forms) (C182) – together set the legal boundaries for child labour and provide the legal basis for national and international actions against it. In accordance with these instruments, child labour is work that children should not be doing because (a) they are too young or (b) the work is likely to harm their health, safety or morals, due to its nature or the conditions in which it is carried out.

The resolutions adopted by the International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS), the world's acknowledged standard-setting body in the area of labour statistics, provide the basis for translating the legal standards governing the concept of child labour into statistical terms for the purpose of measurement.

Indicator 8.7.1 – Child labour

Proportion and number of children aged 5 to 17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age

Definition

In accordance with the ICLS resolutions,[14] child labour can be measured on the basis of the production boundary set by the United Nations System of National Accounts (SNA) or on the basis of the general production boundary. The former limits the frame of reference to economic activity, while the latter extends it to include both economic activity and unpaid household services, that is, the production of domestic and personal services by a household member for consumption within their own household, commonly called household chores.

Following from this, two indicators are used for measuring child labour for the purpose of SDG reporting, the first based on the SNA production boundary and the second on the general production boundary.

Indicator 1: Proportion and number of children aged 5 to 17 years engaged in economic activities at or above age-specific hourly thresholds (SNA production boundary basis):

Child labour for the 5 to 11 age range: children working at least one hour per week in economic activity;
Child labour for the 12 to 14 age range: children working at least 14 hours per week in economic activity;
Child labour for the 15 to 17 age range: children working more than 43 hours per week in economic activity.

Indicator 2: Proportion and number of children aged 5 to 17 years engaged in economic activities and household chores at or above age-specific hourly thresholds (general production boundary basis):

Child labour for the 5 to 11 age range: children working at least one hour per week in economic activity and/or involved in unpaid household services more than 21 hours per week;
Child labour for the 12 to 14 age range: children working at least 14 hours per week in economic activity and/or involved in unpaid household services more than 21 hours per week;
Child labour for the 15 to 17 age range: children working more than 43 hours per week in economic activity.[15]

The concept of child labour also includes the worst forms of child labour other than hazardous (18th ICLS paragraphs 33 to 34) as well as hazardous work (18th ICLS paragraphs 21 to 32). The worst forms of child labour include all forms of slavery or similar practices

such as trafficking and the recruitment and use of child soldiers, the use or procurement of children for prostitution or other illicit activities, and other work that is likely to harm children's health, safety or well-being.

SDG indicator
Numerator: Number of children aged 5 to 17 years reported to be in child labour during the reference period (usually the week prior to the survey)
Denominator: Total number of children aged 5 to 17 years in the population

Key terms
* Economic activity includes all types of establishments or businesses in which persons are engaged in the production and/or distribution of goods and services.
* Household chores refer to services rendered by and for household members without pay. These include activities such as cooking, ironing, housecleaning, shopping, looking after children and small repairs.

National data sources
The main sources of data on child labour are household surveys such as MICS, DHS and ILO-supported Statistical Information and Monitoring Programme on Child Labour (SIMPOC) surveys, as well as national labour force and employment surveys.

The MICS module covers children aged 5 to 17 years and includes questions on the type of work performed and the number of hours a child is engaged in that work. Data are collected on both economic activities (paid or unpaid work for someone who is not a member of the household, work for a family farm or business) and domestic work (household chores such as cooking, cleaning or caring for children). The MICS child labour module also collects information on hazardous working conditions.

In some DHS, the module on child labour was included and data on child labour have been collected.

SIMPOC questionnaires have been developed for use in a variety of data collection methods, including in standalone, household-based, child labour surveys and as a separate module in other household-based surveys. No specific operational definition of child labour is used in SIMPOC surveys across countries, but estimates are calculated on the basis of the definition used in the national legislation of individual countries. As a result, estimates differ markedly among countries.

Interpretation
Children around the world are routinely engaged in various forms of paid and unpaid work that are not harmful to them. However, they are considered to be engaged in child labour when they are either too young to work or are carrying out activities that could compromise their physical, mental, social and/or educational development.

As per the 2008 resolution concerning statistics on child labour, the definition of child labour is based on the number of hours spent working and on working conditions and includes engagement in both economic activities and household chores. From both a programmatic and policy perspective, it is important to examine both components (economic activity and household chores) of the indicator to identify whether child labour prevalence varies according to certain background characteristics of the child and the household.

For all countries, the recommended target for child labour is elimination (0 per cent). National estimates that might be considered low can potentially mask pockets of child labour within certain subpopulations.

Disaggregation
As a minimum, this indicator should be disaggregated by sex and age group (age bands 5 to 11, 12 to 14 and 15 to 17). Additionally, survey data often allow for disaggregation by other standard sociodemographic factors and outcome indicators such as household wealth, rural or urban residence, geographic location and school attendance. This indicator can be usefully disaggregated in some surveys by mother's level of education, ethnicity, religion and the child's disability.

Common pitfalls
While the concept of child labour includes working in activities that are hazardous in nature, to ensure comparability of estimates over time and to minimize data quality issues, work beyond age-specific hourly thresholds is used as a proxy for hazardous work for the purpose of reporting on SDG indicator 8.7.1. Further methodological work is needed to validate questions specifically aimed at identifying children in hazardous working conditions.

Similarly, the worst forms of child labour are not currently captured in regular household surveys given difficulties in accurately and reliably measuring them. Therefore, this element of child labour is not captured by the indicators used for reporting on SDG 8.7.1.

In addition, 'own use production of goods', including activities such as fetching water and collecting firewood, falls within the production boundary set by the SNA. However, for the purpose of SDG reporting of indicator 8.7.1, and with the goal of facilitating international comparability, fetching water and collecting firewood

This boy works as a porter at the border crossing between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Some of the boys working there admitted they did not go to school.

have been classified as unpaid household services (i.e., household chores), a form of production that lies outside the SNA production boundary.

More broadly, child labour estimates based on the statistical standards set out in the ICLS resolutions represent useful benchmarks for international comparative purposes but are not necessarily consistent with estimates based on national child labour legislation. ILO Convention No. 138 contains a number of flexibility clauses left to the discretion of the competent national authority in consultation (where relevant) with workers' and employers' organizations (e.g., minimum ages, scope of application).[16] This means that there is no single legal definition of child labour across countries, and thus, no single statistical measure of child labour consistent with national legislation across countries.

Monitoring and reporting
National
National statistical offices (for the most part) and line ministries/other government agencies that have conducted labour force surveys or other household surveys through which data on child labour were collected

Global
Agencies: ILO and UNICEF

Process: UNICEF undertakes a wide consultative process of compiling and assessing data from national sources for the purposes of updating its global databases on the situation of children. Up until 2017, the mechanism UNICEF used to collaborate with national authorities on ensuring data quality and international comparability on key indicators of relevance to children was known as CRING.

In 2018, UNICEF launched a new country consultation process with national authorities on child-related global SDG indicators for which it is custodian or co-custodian. This measure was taken to meet emerging standards and guidelines on data flows for global reporting of SDG indicators, which place strong emphasis on technical rigour, country ownership and use of official data and statistics. The consultation process solicits feedback directly from national statistical offices and other government agencies responsible for official statistics on the compilation of the indicators, including the data sources used, and the application of internationally agreed definitions, classification and methodologies to the data from that source. Once reviewed, feedback is made available to countries on whether or not specific datapoints are accepted, and if not, the reasons why.

Discrepancies with national estimates: The country estimates compiled and presented in the global SDG database have been reanalysed by UNICEF and ILO in accordance with the definitions and criteria detailed above. This means that the country data values included in the global SDG database may differ from those published in national survey reports.

Key resources
Indicator information and cross-country comparable estimates:
- UNICEF data: <data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/child-labour>
- SDG global database: <unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database>

Tools and measurement guidance:
- SDG metadata: <unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-08-07-01.pdf>
- MICS module on child labour: <data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/MICS6-Child-labour-module.pdf>
- ILO SIMPOC guidance: <www.ilo.org/ipec/childlabourstatisticsSIMPOC/lang--en/index.htm>

A Syrian girl picks olives from a tree. She is amongst many children who have to work long hours.

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TARGET 16.1: Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

Target overview

SDG target 16.1 is tracked by the following indicators:

- **16.1.1:** Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age
- **16.1.2:** Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population, by sex, age and cause
- **16.1.3:** Proportion of population subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence in the previous 12 months
- **16.1.4:** Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live

This section focuses on the first two indicators, which are to be disaggregated by age.

Broader monitoring context

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and WHO are designated as the co-custodian agencies for indicator 16.1.1. Data on intentional homicides are routinely collected by UNODC through the annual United Nations Surveys on Crime Trends and the Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (UN-CTS) data collection. The majority of Member States have an appointed UN-CTS national focal point that delivers data to UNODC. In most cases, these focal points are national institutions responsible for producing data on crime and criminal justice (national statistical offices, ministry of interior, ministry of justice, etc.). When a country does not report to UNODC, other resources such as authoritative websites or publications are used. Data on homicide estimates from the WHO are currently used when no other source is available.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is the custodian agency for indicator 16.1.2. Up until March 2019, indicator 16.1.2 was classified as Tier III, meaning there was no established methodology for collecting data. Following the reclassification to Tier II, a global SDG database will be developed.

Indicator 16.1.1 – Intentional homicide
Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age

Definition
The indicator is defined as the total count of victims of intentional homicide divided by the total population, expressed per 100,000 population.

SDG indicator
Numerator: Number of victims of intentional homicide in a given year
Denominator: Resident population in the same year

Key terms
As per the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS), intentional homicide is defined as the unlawful death inflicted upon a person with the intent to cause death or serious injury.

National data sources
In several countries, two separate sets of data on intentional homicide are produced, respectively, from criminal justice and public health/civil registration systems. When they exist, figures from both data sources are reported. When data are not available from either criminal justice or from public health/civil registration, modelled estimates are used.

Interpretation
Intentional homicides occur in all countries of the world, and as such this indicator has global applicability. Violent death is widely seen at the international and national levels as the most extreme form of violent crime and gives insight into the levels of security in a given country. The ICCS recommends that this indicator be further disaggregated so as to identify the type of violence associated with the homicide: interpersonal (family or partner violence), criminal (including organized crime), or sociopolitical (including terrorism and hate crimes).

The ICCS further clarifies that the following are included under the definition of intentional homicide: murder, honour killing, dowry-related killings, femicide, infanticide, extrajudicial killings, or killings caused by excessive force by law enforcement/state officials.

The ICCS further provides information on how to differentiate between intentional homicides and deaths related to war or other conflict or killing.

Disaggregation
Disaggregation requirements include age and sex.

Common pitfalls
Producing accurate counts on the number and causes of death among children and adolescents is particularly difficult. Such deaths may not be systematically recorded by criminal justice or vital registration systems, or age-disaggregated data may not be available. Data on victims are often compiled in broad age categories that do not allow for the calculation of specific statistics on children.

Additionally, determining cause of death, particularly when victims are very young, can be challenging even in countries with advanced and well-functioning health and registration systems. Registration systems that are operating effectively compile vital statistics on the occurrence of births and deaths during a given period. These data are then combined with figures obtained through medical and police records resulting from the certification of causes of individual deaths and the investigation of criminal cases. However, in many countries, administrative data pertaining to intentional injuries and deaths are not systematically collected, may not be accessible or may not be adequately compiled across sources. Calculating reliable figures from these basic counts is often not possible due to weaknesses in data collection systems, such as incomplete coverage or misrepresentation of the events.

Monitoring and reporting
National
National statistical offices, criminal justice ministries or public health/civil registration systems. If applicable, data from all available sources are reported

Global
Agencies: UNODC and WHO

Process: UNODC collects and publishes data from criminal justice systems annually through the UN-CTS. WHO collects and publishes data produced by public health/civil registration. When neither type of data on homicide are available, modelled estimates produced by WHO are used.

Discrepancies with national estimates:
Discrepancies might exist between country-produced and internationally reported counts of intentional homicides as national data might refer to the national definition of intentional homicide, while data reported by UNODC aim to comply with the definition provided by the ICCS (approved in 2015 by Member States in the UN Statistical Commission and the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice). UNODC makes special efforts to count all killings falling under the ICCS definition of intentional homicide, while national data may still be compiled according to national legal systems rather than the statistical classification. Intentional homicide rates may also differ due to the use of different population figures.

Key resources
Indicator information and cross-country comparable estimates:
- UNODC data: <dataunodc.un.org>
- WHO Global Health Estimates: <www.who.int/healthinfo/global_burden_disease/en>
- SDG global database: <unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database>

Tools and measurement guidance:
- UNODC page: <www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/statistics.html>
- UNODC International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes: <www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/statistics/iccs.html>
- SDG metadata: <unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-16-01-01.pdf>

Indicator 16.1.2 – Conflict-related deaths
Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population, by sex, age and cause

Definition
This indicator is defined as the total count of conflict-related deaths divided by the total population, expressed per 100,000 population.

Key terms
Conflict is defined as armed conflict in reference to a terminology enshrined in international humanitarian law and applied to situations based on the assessment of the UN and other internationally mandated entities.

Conflict-related deaths refer to direct and indirect deaths associated with armed conflict. These deaths may have been caused by (i) the use of weapons or (ii) other means and methods. Deaths caused by weapons include but are not limited to those inflicted by firearms, missiles, mines and bladed weapons. It may also include deaths resulting from aerial attacks and bombardments (e.g., of military bases, cities and villages), crossfire, explosive remnants of war, targeted killings or assassinations, and force protection incidents. Deaths caused by other means and methods may include deaths from torture or sexual and gender-

based violence, intentional killing using starvation, depriving prisoners of access to health care or denying access to essential goods and services (e.g., an ambulance stopped at a checkpoint).

Indirect deaths are deaths resulting from a loss of access to essential goods and services (e.g., economic slowdown, shortages of medicines or reduced farming capacity that result in lack of access to adequate food, water, sanitation, health care and safe conditions of work) that are caused or aggravated by the situation of armed conflict.

By definition, these deaths should be separated from other violent deaths, which are, in principle, not connected to the situation of armed conflict (e.g., intentional and non-intentional homicides, self-defence, self-inflicted), but are still relevant to the implementation and measurement of SDG target 16.1.

Population refers to total resident population in a given situation of armed conflict included in the indicator, in a given year. Population data are derived from annual estimates produced by the UN Population Division.

National data sources
Examples of sources include eyewitnesses; hospital records; community elders and religious and civil leaders; security forces and conflict parties; local authorities; prosecution offices, police and other law enforcement agencies; health authorities; government departments and officials; UN and other international organizations; detailed media reports and other relevant civil society organizations.

Interpretation
The indicator is calculated as the total count of conflict-related deaths, including both documented and undocumented cases.

The number of documented direct deaths is based on all potentially relevant data sources (e.g., UN peace missions, national statistical offices, national human rights institutions, civil society organizations). Depending on the magnitude of conflict-related deaths, capacity of data providers, and other contextual and practical considerations, statistical estimates of undocumented deaths directly linked to the armed conflict can be produced. Further work will be needed to cover deaths indirectly linked to the armed conflict, e.g., loss of access to essential goods and services.

Disaggregation
The required layers of disaggregation for this indicator are sex and age of person killed (adult or 18 and above, and children, below 18), cause of death (i.e., heavy

weapons and explosive munitions; planted explosives and unexploded ordnance; small arms and light weapons; incendiary materials; chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear weapons; electromagnetic weapons; less lethal weapons; denial of access to/destruction of objects indispensable to survival; accidents related to conflict; use of objects and other means). Additional disaggregation by status of the person killed (i.e., civilian, other protected person, member of armed forces, person directly participating in hostilities) is recommended.

Common pitfalls
Discrepancies might exist between national definitions, international statistical and legal standards, coverage and quality of data, according to the mandate, methods and capacity of data providers.

In situations of armed conflict, a large share of deaths may not be reported. Often, normal registration systems are heavily affected by the presence of armed conflict. Additionally, actors on both sides of an armed conflict may have incentives for misreporting, deflating or inflating casualties. In most instances, the number of cases reported will depend on access to conflict zones, access to information, motivation and perseverance of both international and national actors, such as UN peace missions and other internationally mandated entities, national institutions (e.g., national statistical offices, national human rights institutions) and relevant civil society organizations.

Disaggregating data by characteristics of victims and by causes of death is particularly complex and may result in limited data availability for children.

Monitoring and reporting
National
Data will be obtained from mechanisms, bodies and institutions that have the mandate, capacity and independence to document and investigate alleged killings related to conflict. From this perspective, UN entities working on casualty recording in the framework of their operations (e.g., peacekeeping operations, commissions of inquiry, humanitarian operations and human rights offices), national human rights institutions and national statistical offices will generally be prioritized.

Global
Agency: OHCHR

Process: OHCHR will compile data from providers that have been systematically assessed for their application of the methodology for the indicator, including their ability to provide credible and reliable data and apply the verification standard based on the technical guidance.

Emine, 9, is a Syrian refugee. She uses a wheelchair to get around following injuries sustained in a bomb that landed on her home in the Syrian Arab Republic. Here, she sits outside her family's new home in Adana, Turkey, before heading to school.

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Discrepancies with national estimates: A process of validation with key stakeholders will be undertaken to ensure the reliability of country-level data in case of conflicting national estimates.

Key resources
Indicator information and cross-country comparable estimates:
- Currently unavailable

Tools and measurement guidance:
- OHCHR page: <www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Indicators/Pages/SDGindicators.aspx>
- UNODC International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes: <www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/statistics/iccs.html>
- SDG metadata: <unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-16-01-02.pdf>

Target overview

SDG target 16.2 is tracked by the following indicators:

- **16.2.1:** Proportion of children aged 1 to 17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month
- **16.2.2:** Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation
- **16.2.3:** Proportion of young women and men aged 18 to 29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18

Broader monitoring context

All children have the right to protection from all forms of violence inflicted on them by anyone in their lives. The right of children to protection from all forms of violence is enshrined in the CRC and its Optional Protocols. The multifaceted nature of violence against children makes measurement particularly challenging. Violence against children takes many forms, including physical, sexual and emotional abuse. It can occur in many settings, such as the home, school, community and over the Internet, and can be perpetrated by both adults – family members, teachers, neighbours and strangers – and other children.

Two of the indicators selected to monitor target 16.2 cover specific forms of violence against children: the most widespread (violent discipline) and one of the gravest (sexual violence). The availability of comparable data on caregivers' use of violent discipline has significantly increased in the past two decades, mainly through the inclusion of a module on disciplinary methods in MICS. Although household surveys such as DHS have been collecting data on sexual violence in low- and middle-income countries since the late 1990s, comparable, nationally representative data for this indicator are sparse, particularly for young men.

UNICEF is custodian agency for SDG indicators 16.2.1 and 16.2.3 and is undertaking a number of activities to improve the availability, quality, timeliness and use of data on violence against children. These activities include developing tools for the collection of reliable, comprehensive and comparable data on various forms of violence against children within existing data collection efforts; developing a set of methodological and ethical guidelines for the collection of data on violence against children; building/enhancing country capacity

to collect, analyse and use data on violence against children; and increasing data availability by promoting knowledge and through the provision of technical assistance for the collection, analysis and use of data on violence against children. As custodian agency for global reporting on two of the indicators under target 16.2, UNICEF has established an Inter-agency and Expert Group on Violence against Children (IAEG-VAC) to provide technical assistance to countries to support the monitoring of this SDG target. Core members of the IAEG-VAC are national statistical offices and relevant government line ministries. The activities of the IAEG-VAC commenced in 2019.

Indicator 16.2.1 – Violent discipline

Proportion of children aged 1 to 17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month

Definition

This indicator is currently being measured by the proportion of children aged 1 to 14 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression at home in the past month. The rationale for using a proxy indicator is because comparable data are currently only available for a subset of children aged 1 to 14 years.

SDG indicator

Numerator: Number of children aged 1 to 17 years who have experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month

Denominator: Total number of children aged 1 to 17 years in the population

Proxy indicator

Numerator: Number of children aged 1 to 14 years who have experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by any adult household member in the past month

Denominator: Total number of children aged 1 to 14 years in the population

Key terms

The following definitions come from the MICS programme, the principal source of data for this indicator:

- Physical (or corporal) punishment is an action intended to cause physical pain or discomfort, but not injuries. Physical punishment is defined

as shaking a child, hitting or slapping him/her on the hand/arm/leg, hitting him/her on the bottom or elsewhere on the body with a hard object, spanking or hitting him/her on the bottom with a bare hand, hitting or slapping him/her on the face, head or ears, and beating him/her over and over as hard as possible.

- Psychological aggression refers to the action of shouting, yelling or screaming at a child, as well as calling a child offensive names, such as 'dumb' or 'lazy'.
- The term violent discipline encompasses any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression.

National data sources
Household survey programmes such as MICS and DHS have been collecting data on this indicator in low- and middle-income countries since around 2005. In some countries, such data are also collected through other national household surveys.

MICS, the source of the majority of comparable estimates, collects these data through the inclusion of a module on disciplinary methods. The module, developed for use in MICS, is adapted from the parent-child version of the Conflict Tactics Scale, a standardized and validated epidemiological measurement tool that is widely accepted and has been implemented in a large number of countries, including high-income countries.[17] The module includes a standard set of questions covering non-violent forms of discipline, psychological aggression and physical means of punishing children. Data are collected for children ranging from ages 1 to 14 years. Some DHS have included the standard or an adapted version of the MICS module on child discipline.

Interpretation
This indicator captures current levels of violent discipline used at the household level with children. Specifically, it measures the use of a range of violent methods, both physical and psychological, by caregivers or any other adults in the household.

Standard measurement of this indicator does not capture who is administering the discipline or the frequency of use during the preceding month. Neither does it capture violence that may be perpetrated by a non-adult sibling. Furthermore, it does not address the issue of physical punishment or psychological aggression by adults outside the home, such as teachers.

One might expect respondents to underreport the use of violent discipline with children in the household due to a social desirability bias; while this may occur, reported

levels of the use of violent discipline are consistently high across countries, due to the fact that violent disciplinary methods are widely used and often condoned. It is also important to note that the respondent is reporting about the disciplinary methods used by all adult members of the household and not necessarily about the methods he/she used with the subject child.

For all countries, the recommended target for violent discipline is elimination (0 per cent).

Caution should be used when interpreting changes in violent discipline practices over time due to changes in the data collection methods. (See section on common pitfalls below.)

Disaggregation
As a minimum, data should routinely be disaggregated by age and sex, which are key stratifiers for this indicator. Additionally, survey data often allow for disaggregation by other standard sociodemographic factors such as household wealth, rural or urban residence and geographic location. This indicator can be usefully disaggregated in some surveys by mother's level of education and the child's disability.

Common pitfalls
Changes in data collection approaches over time mean that trend data must be interpreted with caution. There are two specific changes to consider:

- Respondent to the child discipline module: When it was first implemented in MICS, the child discipline module was administered only to mothers/primary caregivers, who were asked whether any of the disciplinary methods covered in the module had been used by any adult member of the household during the month preceding the interview. In subsequent rounds of MICS, the methodology was changed: Any adult household member, not just the mother or primary caregiver, could respond to the questions on child discipline. Beginning with the sixth round of MICS, the module forms part of the separate questionnaires for children under age 5 and children aged 5 to 17 years that are administered to mothers/primary caregivers. This means that data on child discipline collected across rounds of surveys are not directly comparable, given changes to the respondent.
- Age range of children: In the third and fourth rounds of MICS, the standard indicator referred to the proportion of children aged 2 to 14 years who experienced any form of violent discipline (physical punishment and/or psychological aggression) within the past month. Beginning with the fifth round of MICS, the age group covered was expanded to capture children's experiences with disciplinary

practices between the ages of 1 and 14 years. Therefore, current data availability does not capture the full age range specified in the SDG indicator since data are not collected for adolescents aged 15 to 17 years. Further methodological work is needed to identify additional items on disciplinary practices relevant to older adolescents.

Monitoring and reporting
National
National statistical offices (for the most part)

Global
Agency: UNICEF

Process: UNICEF undertakes a wide consultative process of compiling and assessing data from national sources for the purposes of updating its global databases on the situation of children. Up until 2017, the mechanism UNICEF used to collaborate with national authorities on ensuring data quality and international comparability on key indicators of relevance to children was known as CRING.

In 2018, UNICEF launched a new country consultation process with national authorities on child-related global SDG indicators for which it is custodian or co-custodian. This measure was taken to meet emerging standards and guidelines on data flows for global reporting of SDG indicators, which place strong emphasis on technical rigour, country ownership and use of official data and statistics. The consultation process solicits feedback directly from national statistical offices and other government agencies responsible for official statistics on the compilation of the indicators, including the data sources used, and the application of internationally agreed definitions, classification and methodologies to the data from that source. Once reviewed, feedback is made available to countries on whether or not specific datapoints are accepted, and if not, the reasons why.

Discrepancies with national estimates: The estimates compiled and presented at global level come directly from nationally produced data and are not adjusted or recalculated.

Key resources
Indicator information and cross-country comparable estimates:
- UNICEF data: <data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/violence>
- SDG global database: <unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database>

Tools and measurement guidance:
- MICS module on child discipline:
  Children under age 5: <data.unicef.org/wp-content/

uploads/2017/12/MICS6-Child-discipline-module-under-5.pdf>
  Children 5 to 17 years: <data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/MICS6-Child-discipline-module-5-17.pdf>
- SDG metadata: <unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-16-02-01.pdf>

Indicator 16.2.2 – Trafficking
Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation

Definition
According to article 3, paragraph (a) of the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol, trafficking in persons is defined as "the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs".

Article 3, (b) states, "the consent of a victim of trafficking in persons to the intended exploitation set forth in subparagraph (a) of this article shall be irrelevant where any of the means set forth in subparagraph (a) have been used";

Article 3, (c) states, "the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation shall be considered trafficking in persons even if this does not involve any of the means set forth in subparagraph (a)".[18]

SDG indicator
Numerator: Number of victims of trafficking in persons detected or living in a country
Denominator: Population resident in the country, expressed per 100,000 population

Key terms
According to the definition given in the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, trafficking in persons has three constituent elements: The Act (recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons), the Means (threat or use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability, or giving payments or benefits to a person in control over another person), and the Purpose (at minimum, exploiting the prostitution of others, sexual

exploitation, forced labour, slavery or similar practices and the removal of organs). The definition implies that the exploitation does not need to be in place, as the intention by traffickers to exploit the victim is sufficient to define a trafficking offence. Furthermore, the list of exploitative forms is not limited, which means that other forms of exploitation may emerge, and they could be considered to represent additional forms of trafficking offences.

National data sources
Data on detected victims of trafficking are typically provided by national authorities competent in detecting trafficking victims, law enforcement institutions, or services assisting the victims.

Interpretation
This indicator is meant to capture both detected and undetected victims of trafficking in persons. The detected part of trafficking victims, as resulting from investigation and prosecution activities of criminal justice systems, is counted and reported by national law enforcement authorities. Methodology to estimate the number of undetected victims of trafficking in persons is under development and there are currently no official estimates on the number of undetected victims.

Disaggregation
Disaggregation requirements include age, sex and form of exploitation.

Common pitfalls
Human trafficking includes both detected and undetected victims. Available data reflect only those victims who are detected by authorities and are therefore severe underestimates of the total victim population.

Additionally, there are increased challenges in accurately measuring trafficking among children. Several international conventions and treaties, including the CRC (article 35) and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, provide explicit protection against trafficking of children for any purposes (including sexual exploitation). This said, there are considerable gaps in the availability of disaggregated data, including further age breakdowns. There are also ongoing concerns about the reliability of information used for age determination to define child victims, particularly in countries where many children lack birth certificates and are unable to provide proof of their age.

Finally, interpretation of trends should be done with caution, as changes in the number of victims of trafficking can be due to actual changes in the intensity of trafficking flows, but also to changes in legislation and law enforcement practices, among other factors.
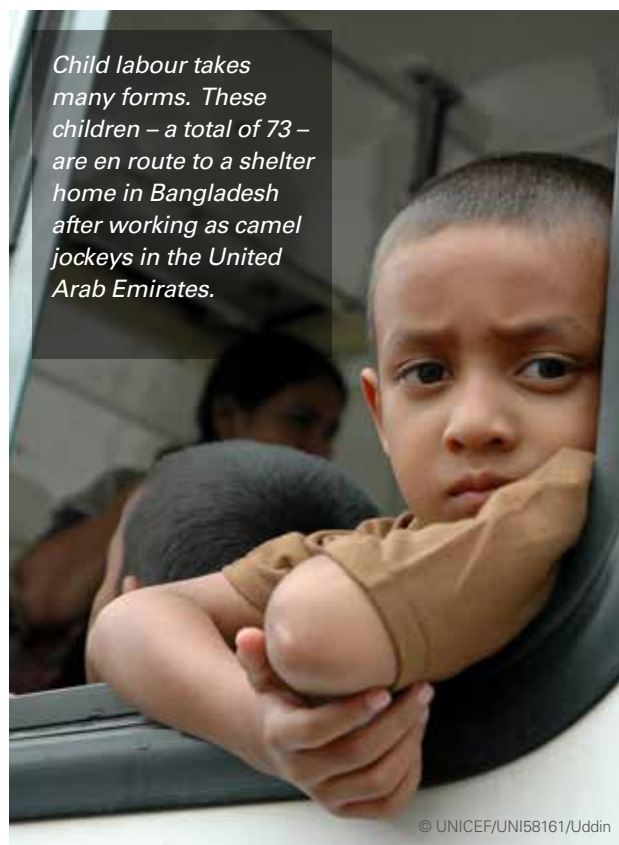
Child labour takes many forms. These children – a total of 73 – are en route to a shelter home in Bangladesh after working as camel jockeys in the United Arab Emirates.

© UNICEF/UNI58161/Uddin

Monitoring and reporting
National
National authorities competent in detecting trafficking victims, law enforcement institutions, and service providers assisting the victims

Global
Agency: UNODC

Process: Data are compiled by UNODC using a questionnaire sent to national authorities through their Permanent Missions to the United Nations in Vienna (or any other competent authority designated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and published in UNODC's *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons* every two years. Data collection is conducted every year, starting in the second quarter.

Discrepancies with national estimates: Data on detected victims of trafficking used at international level correspond to those produced at national level.

Key resources
Indicator information and cross-country comparable estimates:
- UNODC data: <dataunodc.un.org>
- SDG global database: <unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database>

Tools and measurement guidance:
- UNODC International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes: <www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/statistics/iccs.html>
- SDG metadata: <unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-16-02-02.pdf>

Indicator 16.2.3 – Sexual violence in childhood
Proportion of young women and men aged 18 to 29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18

Definition
Proportion of young women and men aged 18 to 29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18. This indicator is always reported on separately for women and men.

SDG indicator
Numerator: Number of young women and men aged 18 to 29 years who report having experienced any sexual violence by age 18
Denominator: Total number of young women and men aged 18 to 29 years in the population

Key terms
- Sexual violence is often used as an umbrella term to cover all types of sexual victimization.[19] According to General Comment No. 13 on the CRC, sexual violence against children "comprises any sexual activities imposed by an adult on a child against which the child is entitled to protection by criminal law".[20] Sexual violence is operationally defined in the indicator as sexual intercourse or any other sexual acts that were forced, physically or in any other way. This indicator captures all experiences of sexual violence that occurred during childhood (i.e., prior to age 18) regardless of the legal age of consent stipulated in relevant national legislation.

National data sources
Household surveys such as DHS have been collecting data on this indicator in low- and middle-income countries since the late 1990s. The DHS includes a standard module that captures information on a few specific forms of sexual violence. Respondents are asked whether, at any time in their lives (as children or adults), anyone ever forced them – physically or in any other way – to have sexual intercourse or to perform any other sexual acts against their will. Those responding 'yes' to this question are then asked how old they were the first time this happened. It is important to flag that the DHS module was not specifically designed to capture experiences of sexual violence in childhood and further methodological work is needed to develop standard questions that can be used to capture child sexual abuse.

Other sources of data exist. However, many data collection efforts have relied on different study methodologies and designs, definitions of sexual violence, samples and questions to elicit information. This has made the aggregation or comparison of data on sexual violence against children extremely difficult.

Interpretation
Experiences of sexual violence in childhood hinder all aspects of development: physical, psychological/emotional and social. Apart from the physical injuries that can result, researchers have consistently found that sexual abuse of children is associated with a wide array of mental health consequences and adverse behavioural outcomes in adulthood.[21] The psychological impact can be severe due to the intense shame, secrecy and stigma that tend to accompany it.[22]

There are several definitional components to this indicator that should be considered when using these data. First, this indicator is not constructed to measure current levels of sexual violence against children but rather is based on retrospective recall spanning a number of years preceding the survey. One implication of such a recall period is that the indicator is not sensitive to rapid changes over time. Note, however, the advantages of asking adults about their experiences, including avoiding ethical issues pertaining to interviewing children and having the potential to capture a more accurate picture of sexual violence in childhood because the period of exposure has been completed (i.e., everyone in the reported age group has completed childhood).

Another important definitional component of the indicator is the term sexual violence. As noted above, existing data are often derived from methods based on differing definitions, so it is essential to have a clear understanding of the data collection instrument when interpreting these data.

For all countries, the recommended target for sexual violence against children is elimination (0 per cent).

Disaggregation
There are no required levels of disaggregation for this indicator. This said, survey data often allow for disaggregation by some sociodemographic factors including respondents' age, household wealth, rural or urban residence and geographic location. In addition to these standard levels of disaggregation, this indicator can be usefully disaggregated in some surveys by marital status, employment status, number of living children and education level.

An eight-year-old girl sits in a shelter in the Philippines. She is one of seven siblings rescued during a cybercrime police raid when their parents were caught forcing the two oldest girls to participate in live streaming of child sexual abuse in their home.

Common pitfalls

The availability of comparable data remains a serious challenge in this area as many data collection efforts have relied on different study methodologies and designs, definitions of sexual violence, samples and questions to elicit information. Data on the experiences of boys are particularly sparse. A further challenge in this field is underreporting, especially when it comes to experiences of sexual violence among boys and men.

Monitoring and reporting

National

National statistical offices (for the most part) and line ministries/other government agencies that have conducted national surveys on violence against women and men

Global

Agency: UNICEF

Process: UNICEF undertakes a wide consultative process of compiling and assessing data from national sources for the purposes of updating its global databases on the situation of children. Up until 2017, the mechanism UNICEF used to collaborate with national authorities on ensuring data quality and international comparability on key indicators of relevance to children was known as CRING.

In 2018, UNICEF launched a new country consultation process with national authorities on child-related global SDG indicators for which it is custodian or co-custodian. This measure was taken to meet emerging standards and guidelines on data flows for global reporting of SDG indicators, which place strong emphasis on technical rigour, country ownership and use of official data and statistics. The consultation process solicits feedback directly from national statistical offices and other government agencies responsible for official statistics on the compilation of the indicators, including the data sources used, and the application of internationally agreed definitions, classification and methodologies to the data from that source. Once reviewed, feedback is made available to countries on whether or not specific datapoints are accepted, and if not, the reasons why.

Discrepancies with national estimates: The country estimates compiled and presented in the global SDG database have been reanalysed by UNICEF in order to obtain estimates for the standard age group for reporting (i.e., ages 18 to 29 years) since data for this age group are not typically available in published survey reports.

Key resources

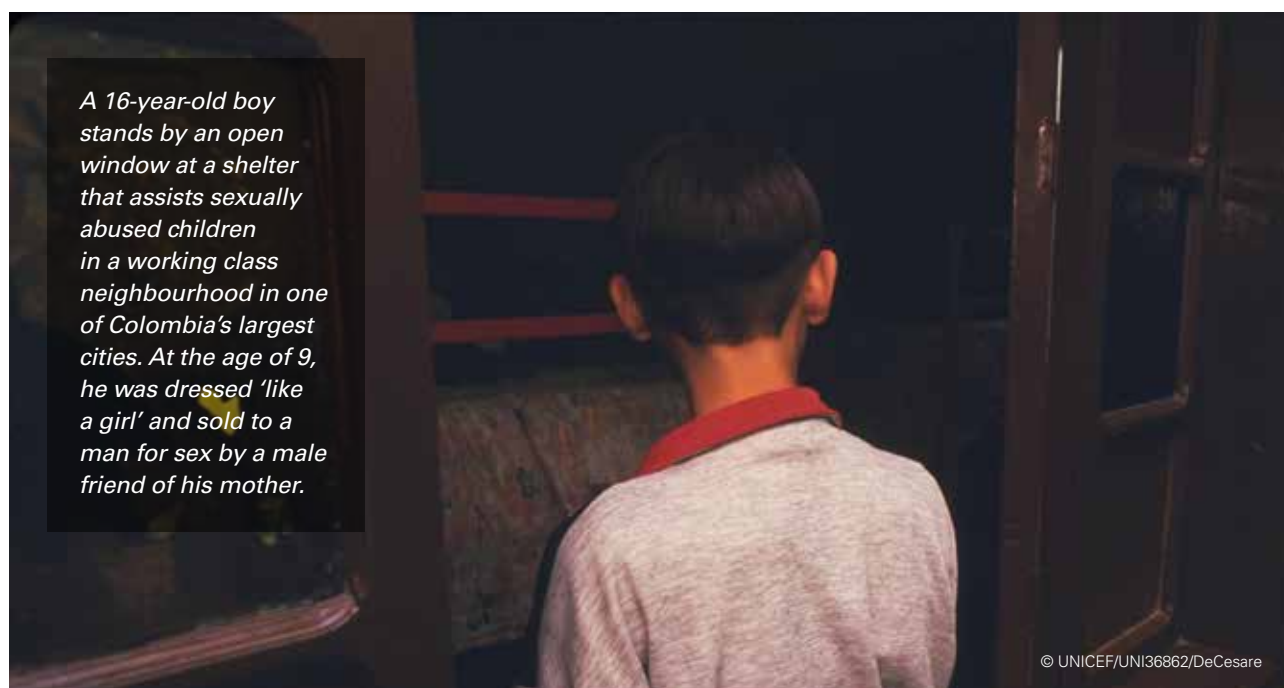Indicator information and cross-country comparable estimates:

- UNICEF data: <data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/violence>
- SDG global database: <unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database>

Tools and measurement guidance:

- DHS module on domestic violence: <dhsprogram.com/publications/publication-DHSQM-DHS-Questionnaires-and-Manuals.cfm>
- SDG metadata: <unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-16-02-03.pdf>

A 16-year-old boy stands by an open window at a shelter that assists sexually abused children in a working class neighbourhood in one of Colombia's largest cities. At the age of 9, he was dressed 'like a girl' and sold to a man for sex by a male friend of his mother.

© UNICEF/UNI36862/DeCesare

Target overview

SDG target 16.9 is tracked by the following indicator:

- **16.9.1:** Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age

Broader monitoring context

Birth registration is a first step towards safeguarding individual rights and providing every person with access to justice and social services. Thus, birth registration is not only a fundamental human right, but also key to ensuring the fulfilment of other rights.

Birth registration is an essential part of a functioning civil registration system that produces vital statistics, which are essential for sound government planning and effective use of resources. In this way, target 16.9 is linked to targets 17.18 and 17.19, both of which concern statistical capacity-building support to developing countries.

Most countries have mechanisms in place for registering births. However, coverage, the type of information obtained and the use of resulting data differ, based on a country's infrastructure, legal frameworks, administrative capacity, barriers to accessing services, availability of funds, accessibility to the population, and technology for data management. Levels of registration vary substantially across countries due to these and other factors, and the availability of data on birth registration is highly uneven across countries.

Interoperability with other services is a key strategy for improving birth registration. Making use of existing health service, education and social protection/welfare infrastructure enables greater access to hard-to-reach populations and the most vulnerable children, who are also least likely to have their births registered. Linking these types of services with civil registration can ensure that people accessing them are also able to access birth registration.

Indicator 16.9.1 – Birth registration

Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age

Definition

Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority

SDG indicator

Numerator: Number of children under age 5 whose births are reported as being registered with the relevant national civil authorities

Denominator: Total number of children under age 5 in the population

Key terms

Birth registration is defined as the official recording of the occurrence and characteristics of births in accordance with the legal requirements of a country. Civil authorities/registrars are the officials authorized to register the occurrence of vital events, including births.

National data sources

Civil registration systems: Civil registration systems that are functioning effectively compile vital statistics, which are used to compare the estimated total number of births in a country with the absolute number of registered births during a given period. These data normally refer to live births registered within a year or the legal time frame for registration applicable in the country.

Population-based surveys: In the absence of reliable administrative data, household surveys have become a key source of data to monitor levels and trends in birth registration. In most low- and middle-income countries, such surveys represent the sole source of this information. The standard indicator used in DHS and MICS to report on birth registration refers to the proportion of children under age 5 (aged 0 to 59 months) with a birth certificate, regardless of whether or not it was seen by the interviewer, or whose birth was reported as registered with civil authorities at the time of survey. Depending on the country, surveys collecting these data may be conducted every three to five years, or possibly at more frequent intervals.

Censuses can also provide data on children who have acquired proof of their legal identity in the form of a birth certificate. However, censuses are conducted only every 10 years and are therefore an inappropriate tool for routine monitoring.

Interpretation

Society first acknowledges a child's existence and identity through birth registration. The right to be recognized as a person before the law is a critical step in ensuring lifelong protection and is a prerequisite for exercising all other rights. Birth certificates are proof

A five-year-old holds up her birth certificate in Baraouéli village, Ségou Region, Mali. Parents in the village understand the importance of registering their children at birth thanks to a UNICEF-supported awareness campaign.

of that legal identity and often the first, and only, such proof, particularly for children. Thus, the recommended target for birth registration is complete coverage (100 per cent), given that anything below indicates some children are not registered. For example, in countries with high levels of birth registration, national prevalence levels can mask disparities within certain subpopulations (geographic, ethnic, religious, etc.).

Birth registration coverage can increase quickly if new initiatives or campaigns are implemented; for this reason, available data should be considered reflective of birth registration coverage at the time of the survey rather than the current situation.

When examining trends in birth registration, several important factors should be considered, including the number of datapoints available for each country, variations in the number of years between datapoints, and the magnitude of change. It is also important to consider the data collection method (i.e., the questionnaire design and implementation), which

can affect findings across consecutive data collection rounds and thus comparability of the estimates.

From both a programmatic and policy perspective, identifying whether the proportion of children whose births are registered is lower in certain subpopulations is crucial to ensuring the most vulnerable children are not left behind.

Birth registration is also an essential component of civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS); levels of coverage are therefore indicative of the functioning of the system.

Disaggregation
Child's age is the only disaggregation requirement for this indicator. This said, survey data often allow for disaggregation by child's sex, household wealth, rural or urban residence and geographic location. In addition to these standard levels of disaggregation, this indicator can be usefully disaggregated in some surveys by mother's level of education, ethnicity, religion and the child's disability. There is typically more potential to disaggregate survey data as opposed to statistics derived from administrative records.

Common pitfalls
Substantial differences can exist between CRVS coverage and birth registration levels as captured by household surveys. The differences are primarily because data from CRVS typically refer to the proportion of all births that have been registered (often within a specific time frame), whereas household surveys often report on the proportion of children under age 5 whose births are registered. The latter (the level of registration among children under 5) is specified in the SDG indicator.

Data from household surveys like MICS or DHS sometimes refer only to children with a birth certificate. UNICEF methodically notes this difference when publishing country-level estimates for global monitoring.

One of the most common pitfalls with questionnaire design involves respondents' misunderstanding of the actual registration process. For example, respondents might be unaware of the specific authorities legally tasked with birth registration and might therefore misinterpret the act of notifying a church or village chief of a birth as formal registration. To address this ambiguity, household survey questionnaires are often customized to include reference to the specific national authority responsible for registration. Similarly, respondents might confuse a birth certificate with a health card or other document and thus inaccurately report children as registered. Despite attempts to resolve such issues, confusion about the process of birth registration might still exist and result in erroneous reporting.

Monitoring and reporting
National
National statistical offices (for the most part) and line ministries/other government agencies responsible for maintaining national vital registration systems

Global
Agencies: UNICEF and UNSD

Process: UNICEF undertakes a wide consultative process of compiling and assessing data from national sources for the purposes of updating its global databases on the situation of children. Up until 2017, the mechanism UNICEF used to collaborate with national authorities on ensuring data quality and international comparability on key indicators of relevance to children was known as CRING.

In 2018, UNICEF launched a new country consultation process with national authorities on child-related global SDG indicators for which it is custodian or co-custodian. This measure was taken to meet emerging standards and guidelines on data flows for global reporting of SDG indicators, which place strong emphasis on technical rigour, country ownership and use of official data and statistics. The consultation process solicits feedback directly from national statistical offices and other government agencies responsible for official statistics on the compilation of the indicators, including the data sources used and the application of internationally agreed definitions, classification and methodologies to the data from that source. Once reviewed, feedback is made available to countries on whether or not specific datapoints are accepted, and if not, the reasons why.

Discrepancies with national estimates: Nationally produced data are not adjusted or recalculated.

Key resources
Indicator information and cross-country comparable estimates:
- UNICEF data: <data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/birth-registration>
- SDG global database: <unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database>

Tools and measurement guidance:
- MICS questionnaire for children under age 5: <mics.unicef.org/tools>
- DHS household questionnaire: <dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/DHSQ7/DHS7_Household_QRE_EN_16Mar2017_DHSQ7.pdf>
- SDG metadata: <unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-16-09-01.pdf>

Thirteen-year-old Susana is one of the 20 students on the Committee for the Prevention of Violence in Centro Escolar Confederacion Suiza, a school in Los Planes de Renderos, city of San Salvador, El Salvador. The committee offers peer support and discusses issues of violence inside and outside the school.

Working Together to Strengthen Monitoring of Child Protection Violations

Millions of children around the globe suffer from violence, exploitation and abuse; many more are at risk of becoming future victims. These widespread human rights violations are often underrecognized and underreported, due in part to persisting limitations in the availability and quality of data.

Reliable data are instrumental to fully document the extent of child protection violations, develop interventions to prevent their occurrence, and fulfil the monitoring requirements of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Increasing the systematic collection of prevalence data, improving data quality and strengthening child protection information management systems should be primary goals for the child protection sector.

National governments, international and national organizations, and civil society actors can all play a critical role in advancing and promoting increased data quality and availability on child protection issues. The stronger and more focused our collective efforts are to generate accurate and reliable data, the more effectively we will be able to ensure accountability and realize the promise of protection for all children within the SDG era, and beyond.

Strategies to improve the availability and quality of child protection data

- **Ensure national legal frameworks and government development strategies and plans prioritize the elimination of violence, exploitation and abuse of children.** The CRC is a binding treaty of international law and, under article 4, requires States Parties to take legal, administrative and other measures to implement its provisions. As Governments have already committed to the 2030 Agenda, it is critically important that its goals and targets are incorporated in national development strategies and plans.

- **Strengthen monitoring and indicator frameworks of national development strategies and plans.** The 2030 Agenda specifies a systematic follow-up and review process at national, regional and global levels to promote accountability, support effective cooperation in achieving the goals and targets, and foster exchanges of best practices and mutual learning. A national monitoring and indicator framework is indispensable to national-level follow-up and review to track progress towards the targets on child protection, among others. A robust monitoring and indicator framework means that relevant institutions have received the mandates, with clear roles and responsibilities as well as adequate resources. The 11 indicators covered in this publication can be used to guide the choice of indicators to measure child protection in the national context.

- **Promote the use of monitoring and indicator frameworks to benchmark progress, planning, advocacy and resource mobilization.** A vigorous monitoring and indicator framework is essential to identifying achievements, challenges, gaps and critical success factors, while also supporting Governments and other stakeholders in making informed policy choices. Such benefits are only possible if the monitoring and indicator framework is used.

- **Specify population groups and issues for intervention**. The 2030 Agenda pledges that no one must be left behind, suggesting that in the national context the goals and targets should be met for all people and for all segments of society. Identifying the most vulnerable population groups will help reach the furthest behind and achieve this vision. Specifying the population groups and issues for intervention will also be the basis for data disaggregation of the indicators to track progress towards the target for these particular groups.

- **Coordinate data collection initiatives at international and national levels to avoid duplication of efforts and overburdening of national partners.** The compilation of indicators on child protection relies on data collected by a variety of national and international institutions. Coordination is essential not only to avoid wasting scarce resources, but also to leverage the strengths of different actors.

- **Develop standards and protocols for the rigorous, safe and ethical collection of data, including for frequently undercounted populations of children, like those living in institutions or on the streets.** The global community has a track record of successful collaboration to advance the measurement agenda, which lays a solid foundation for collectively tackling the existing and emerging challenges.

- **Ensure national ownership of data collection efforts and invest in national capacity to gather, analyse and interpret data.** Governments must retain a leading role in formulating data demands and developing plans to address data needs, which is key to ensuring ownership over the final data products. The urgency to improve national statistical capacity is illustrated by the fact that most of the SDG indicators on child protection are categorized as Tier II, meaning that data are available for less than half of the countries around the world.

- **Mobilize financial resources to ensure that child protection issues are included in routine data collection efforts.** Institutionalizing a robust monitoring and indicator framework for government development strategies and plans will build demand for high quality data and statistics, which in turn is the basis for ensuring the political, institutional and financial support necessary for sustained capacity of national statistical systems.

Endnotes

1. United Nations, 'Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development', UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/70/1, 21 October 2015, <www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E>.

2. Raj, Anita, and Ulrike Boehmer, 'Girl Child Marriage and its Association with National Rates of HIV, Maternal Health, and Infant Mortality across 97 Countries', *Violence Against Women*, vol. 19, no. 4, April 2013, pp. 536-551.

3. United Nations Children's Fund, *Progress for Every Child in the SDG Era: Are we on track to achieve the SDGs for children? The situation in 2019*, UNICEF, New York, 2019.

4. United Nations, 'Report of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators', UN Statistical Commission E/CN.3/2017/2, 15 December 2016, <unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/48th-session/documents/2017-2-lAEG-SDGs-E.pdf>.

5. Ibid.

6. United Nations Development Programme, 'Mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda', <unsdg.un.org/resources/mainstreaming-2030-agenda-sustainable-development-reference-guide-un-country-teams>.

7. United Nations Children's Fund, 'SDG Global Indicators Related to Children', Briefing Note series, <data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/SDG-briefing-note-1_introduction.pdf>.

8. United Nations, 'Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'.

9. For more information on the HLPF, see <sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf>.

10. The 47 countries are: Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Eswatini, Fiji, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Nauru, New Zealand, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Philippines, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Serbia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, and Vanuatu.

11. For more information on voluntary national reviews, see <sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs>.

12. Child protection issues are also covered in four additional SDG indicators under Goal 16 that make general reference to the population of all ages but have no explicit age disaggregation requirement, i.e., 16.1.3 Proportion of population subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence in the previous 12 months; 16.1.4 Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live; 16.3.1 Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms; and 16.3.2 Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population.

13. World Health Organization, *Eliminating Female Genital Mutilation: An interagency statement – UNAIDS, UNDP, UNECA, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCHR, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIFEM, WHO*, WHO, Geneva, 2008.

14. 20th International Conference of Labour Statisticians, *Resolution to amend the 18th ICLS Resolution concerning statistics of child labour*, International Labour Organizaion, Geneva, 2019.

15. No hourly threshold is set for household chores for children aged 15 to 17.

16. Principal areas of flexibility in the Convention include: (a) minimum ages: Members whose economy and educational facilities are insufficiently developed may specify a lower general minimum age of 14 years (art. 2.4) and a lower age range for light work of 12 to 14 years (art. 7.4); and (b) scope of application: Members may exclude from the application of the Convention limited (non-hazardous) categories of employment or work in respect of which special and substantial problems of application arise (art. 4.1). Members whose economy and administrative facilities are insufficiently developed may also initially limit the scope of application of the Convention (art. 5.1) beyond a core group of economic activities or undertakings (art. 5.3).

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19. Interagency Working Group on Sexual Exploitation of Children, *Terminology Guidelines for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse*, ECPAT International and ECPAT Luxembourg, 2016, <www.unicef.org/protection/files/Terminology_guidelines_396922-E.pdf>.

20. United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'General Comment No. 13 (2011): The right of the child to freedom from all forms of violence', United Nations document CRC/C/GC/13, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 18 April 2011.

21. Brown, Jocelyn, et al., 'Child Abuse and Neglect: Specificity of effects on adolescent and young adult depression and suicidality', *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*, vol. 38, no. 12, December 1999, pp. 1490-1496; Dinwiddie, Stephen H., et al., 'Early Sexual Abuse and Lifetime Psychopathology: A co-twin-control study', *Psychological Medicine*, vol. 30, no. 1, February 2000, pp. 41-52; Widom, Cathy Spatz, 'Childhood Victimization: Early adversity, later psychopathology', *National Institute of Justice Journal*, no. 242, January 2000, pp. 3-9.

22. Pinheiro, Paulo Sérgio, *World Report on Violence against Children*, United Nations Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children, Geneva, 2006.

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